

## DELUXE Fully Escorted Tour Package

# Samurai, Gardens & Arts

## DATES & PRICES

Please see website



### DEPARTURE MONTHS

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

### INCLUDES

- Excellent mix of Western and Japanese style accommodations
- Meet and greet and airport transfers
- Breakfast everyday, lunches & dinners as listed in the itinerary
- All entry fees to sites, activities listed in the itinerary
- Comprehensive guided service, escorted by AJT professional English speaking guide
- Travelers who arrive on the first day of the tour after 11AM, and then stay at the designated hotel.

### TOUR DURATION

10 Day

### DESTINATIONS

TAKAMATSU, NAOSHIMA, KURASHIKI, HIROSHIMA, IWAKUNI, YAMAGUCHI, NAGATO, HAGI, IWAMI GINZAN, IZUMO, MATSUE, TOTTORI, KINOSAKI ONSEN, ASAGO, HIMEJI, KOBE

## Discover Japan's unique art culture and history, with visits to an island devoted to art, historic samurai villages, and Japan's most famous gardens.

All Japan Tours takes you on a 10 day excursion, from lush gardens to ever-changing sand dunes, you will experience historical sites and stunning works of art. This tour offers visits to the best castles, gardens, and art locations in Japan, providing an escape from the typical touristy places. This tour also includes several chances to experience bathing in an onsen (hot spring) while staying at your Japanese-style accommodations and the chance to try the world-famous Kobe Beef. With hassle-free transportation on private coach bus and an English-speaking guide at your side, you can relax and fully enjoy your time with us in Japan.

Art comes in a wide range of style and media in Japan, such as ancient pottery, kabuki theater, calligraphy, and even today's popular manga comics. With Japan's long history, it's no surprise that art has also developed with the country over time. On this tour, visit the famous Naoshima Island, best known for its sculptures of the giant, colorful pumpkins. The renowned Benesse House on the island is home to several modern works of art. Along your travels, visit the Ohara Museum of Art, which will feature works of art by famous artists, such as Picasso, Pollock, and many more. For those interested in pottery, you will also visit Hagi, a town known for its famous pottery used for tea ceremonies. Then, visit the Adachi Museum of Art, which was founded with hopes that viewing the gardens and artwork together would expand appreciation and interest in Japanese art.

Samurai, once the warriors of Japan, lived long ago in castle towns where they would fight for their feudal lords, protecting the land. Today, samurai attractions, museums, and even amusement parks, can be found all around Japan. On this tour, you will have the opportunity to visit Hagi, a former castle town and once capital of the Mori Clan, one of the most powerful clans during the Edo Period. Visit the preserved residence of the Kikuya Family to see how the samurai family lived long ago. Another notable location is Matsue, where many of the buildings and homes in this district once belonged to samurai families and have since been preserved. The castle that stands in Matsue is also one of twelve original castles in Japan, meaning it has never been destroyed in its history since completion. You will also visit one other original castle, Himeji Castle, known as "White Heron Castle" for its opulent white exterior.

Gardens in Japan are an important part of everyday life. Even in large cities, gardens and parks can be found providing a break from busy lives and a moment of tranquility. Japanese gardens also capture aspects of the traditional Shinto religion and Buddhism, with each garden having their own meaning, characteristics, and representations. You will have the chance to visit botanical gardens, a limestone cave, and even gardens designed for nobles. The Kiseki no Hoshi Botanical Museum has various exhibits that are meant to be experienced by your 5 senses, while the Ritsurin Koen Park is most notable for its beauty. The Adachi Museum of Art's garden has won "Journal of Japanese Gardening's" award for best garden every year since 2003 and shows a different character depending on the season. Join us as we explore the history of samurai, amazing art structures, and the beauty behind every garden.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Himeji: Himeji Castle



Tottori: Tottori Sand Dunes



Matsue: Adachi Museum of Art



Matsue: Matsue Samurai District



Izumo: Izumo Grand Shrine



Hagi: Hagiyaiki-Kaikan



Nagato: Motonosumi-Inari Shrine



Iwakuni: Kintaikyo Bridge



Naoshima Island: Chichu Art Museum



Takamatsu: Ritsurin Garden



Hiroshima: Hiroshima Peace Park



Miyajima Island: Itsukushima Shrine

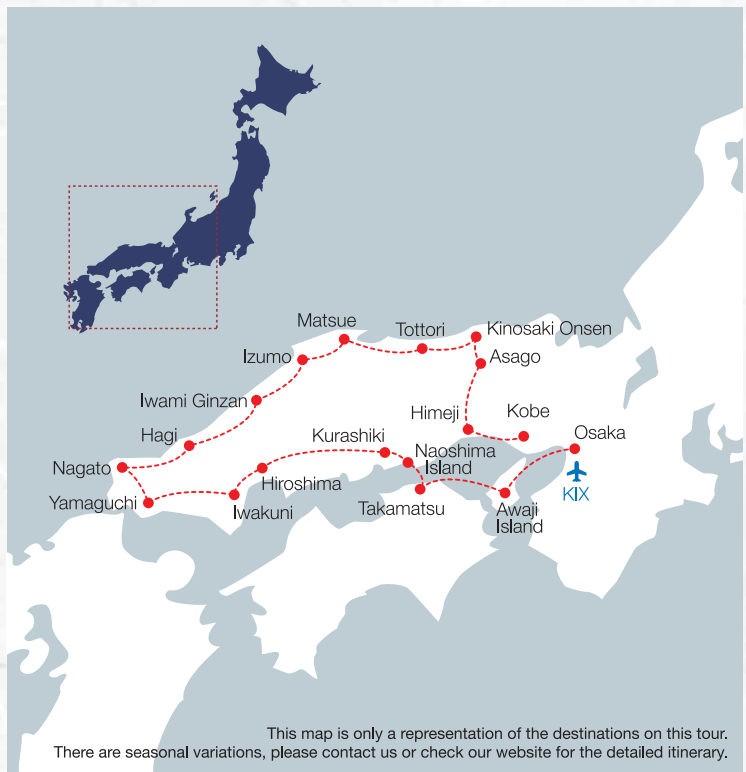


Awaji Island: Water Temple



Awaji Island: Kiseki-no-Hoshi Botanical Museum

## ITINERARY IN BRIEF



|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Day 1  | Arrive in Osaka                   |
| Day 2  | Takamatsu                         |
| Day 3  | Naoshima                          |
| Day 4  | Kurashiki - Hiroshima             |
| Day 5  | Hiroshima - Iwakuni - Yamaguchi   |
| Day 6  | Nagato - Hagi - Iwami Ginzan      |
| Day 7  | Izumo - Matsue                    |
| Day 8  | Matsue - Tottori - Kinosaki Onsen |
| Day 9  | Asago - Himeji - Kobe             |
| Day 10 | Tour ends                         |



\* We plan our tours based on seasonal attractions, with must-see sites in every tour.  
\* Please contact us or check our website for detailed itineraries with seasonal changes.

## WHAT MAKE THIS TOUR DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Explore and learn more about Japan's art culture and its hidden gems.
- ✓ Includes several sites from CNN's "Japan's 34 Most Beautiful Places".
- ✓ Perfect for art and history enthusiasts interested in seeing Japan's best gardens and museums.
- ✓ Visit some of Japan's few remaining, original-standing castles.
- ✓ Travel to Naoshima, an island dedicated to modern art and architecture.
- ✓ Receive insider knowledge and insight from your experienced, English-speaking guide.
- ✓ Taste the delectable Kobe beef during your last night in Japan.
- ✓ Learn about the history of the samurai and visit former samurai districts.

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Contact All Japan Tours for your dream vacation today at

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