

Exploring the Charm of Japan's Main Island: A Comprehensive Guide to the Golden Route

Welcome to this detailed 7-day itinerary for Japan's main island, designed specifically for travelers planning to visit Osaka and Kyoto. This guide covers the highlights of the trip, accommodation information, food recommendations, and practical travel tips to help you fully experience the cultural charm and natural beauty of Japan.

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7-Day 6-Night Cultural Exploration Itinerary

Upon arrival at Kansai International Airport in Osaka, we will immediately begin our exploration journey. The itinerary includes the bustling commercial district of Osaka, the historic temples of Kyoto, the hot spring town of Gero, the old streets of Takayama, and the natural scenery of Yamanashi. Finally, we will have free time for shopping and dining in Tokyo before returning from Narita Airport.

- Day 1: Arrive in Osaka, visit Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori, then head to Kiyomizudera Temple in Kyoto.
- Day 2: Arashiyama Park and bamboo grove in Kyoto, experience food sample making in Gujo, stay at a hot spring hotel in Gero.
- Day 3: Visit the World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go, stroll through the old streets of Takayama, stay at a hot spring hotel in Takayama.
- Day 4: Visit the Miyagawa Morning Market and Matsumoto Castle, experience watch assembly, stay at a hot spring hotel in Yamanashi.
- Day 5: View Mount Fuji from Kawaguchiko Oishi Park, visit Fujisan Hongu Sengen Shrine, pass through Shinjuku Kabukicho, stay at a hotel in Tokyo.
- Day 6: Free time for shopping and dining exploration in Tokyo.
- Day 7: Return from Narita Airport or Haneda Airport in Tokyo.



Osaka: A Paradise for Food and Shopping

Upon arriving in Osaka, we will first head to Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori. Shinsaibashi is one of the most popular shopping areas in Osaka, with a variety of stores, boutiques, and department stores. Dotonbori is known for its cuisine and nightlife, with numerous restaurants, food stalls, and bars. Be sure to try local specialties such as Okonomiyaki, Takoyaki, and Ramen.

Strolling through Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori, you can feel the energy and enthusiasm of Osaka. You can find a wide range of products here, from fashionable clothing to souvenirs. In the evening, you can choose to dine at a restaurant in Dotonbori or experience the nightlife of Osaka.



Kyoto: A Peaceful Journey Through Ancient Temples and Bamboo Groves

Kyoto is renowned for its ancient temples, shrines, and gardens. Kiyomizudera Temple is one of Kyoto's most famous temples and a UNESCO World Heritage site. From Kiyomizudera, you can enjoy a panoramic view of the city of Kyoto. Arashiyama Park is famous for its beautiful natural scenery, especially the Sagano Bamboo Grove, where you can stroll and experience the tranquility and mystery of the bamboo forest.

In addition to Kiyomizudera and Arashiyama Park, Kyoto has many other sights worth visiting, such as Kinkakuji, Ginkakuji, and Fushimi Inari Taisha. You can experience traditional Japanese culture in Kyoto, such as tea ceremony, kimono, and Zen gardens.



Gero Onsen: Enjoy a Japanese-style Onsen Spa

Gero Onsen is one of the three most famous hot springs in Japan, known for its high-quality spring water and beautiful natural scenery. Here, you can fully enjoy a Japanese-style onsen spa, relax your body and mind, and relieve fatigue. Stay at a Gero Onsen hotel, savor a luxurious kaiseki cuisine, and experience traditional Japanese hospitality.

In addition to the hot springs, Gero also has some other attractions, such as the Onsen Museum and Onsen Temple. You can learn about the history and culture of hot springs here, or pray at the Onsen Temple. Gero is a destination suitable for relaxation and leisure.





Takayama: A Journey Through Ancient Streets and Gassho-zukuri Villages

Takayama is renowned for its well-preserved ancient streets and the nearby Shirakawa-go Gassho-zukuri villages. The historic streets of Takayama retain the atmosphere of the Edo period, allowing visitors to step back in time. Shirakawa-go Gassho-zukuri village is a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring unique thatched-roof houses that exemplify traditional Japanese architecture.

In Takayama, you can also visit the Miyagawa Morning Market, where you can find a variety of local specialties and handicrafts. Stay at a Takayama hot spring hotel and savor local delicacies such as Hida beef and Hoba miso.





Yamanashi: A Natural Journey of Mount Fuji and Lakeside Scenery

Yamanashi Prefecture is one of the best places to view Mount Fuji. Kawaguchiko Oguchi Park is an excellent spot to capture beautiful photos of Mount Fuji. The Kitaguchi Hongu Fuji Sengen Shrine is the center of Mount Fuji worship and a historic shrine.

In Yamanashi, you can also experience the joy of assembling watches. Stay at a Yamanashi hot spring hotel, enjoy the hot springs and cuisine, and admire the magnificent views of Mount Fuji.



Tokyo: Shopping, Dining, and Free Exploration

Tokyo is the capital of Japan and a vibrant and charming city. Here, you can freely shop, enjoy various cuisines, and experience Tokyo's modern culture and lifestyle. You can visit shopping districts such as Shinjuku, Shibuya, and Ginza to purchase a wide range of products, from fashionable clothing to electronic devices. You can also savor various delicacies, such as sushi, tempura, and unagi (grilled eel) rice bowls.

Tokyo also has many other attractions, such as the Tokyo Tower, Sensoji Temple, and the Imperial Palace. You can choose to visit them based on your interests. Tokyo is a city full of surprises and delights.



Fees and Considerations



Adults (double occupancy)	Adjusted based on number of people and season
Children (with bed)	100% of adult price
Children (without bed)	60% of adult price
Single room supplement	Adjusted based on season
Gratuities	600 yen per person per day

Additional Fees: There may be additional fees during peak seasons such as the Osaka Expo, summer vacation, and Obon festival. Please purchase international travel insurance in advance and be mindful of meal and accommodation arrangements during your itinerary. If you have any special requests, please inform us in advance.

Reservations and Payment

Please send an email to soyoka.u@ojdmc.com to make a reservation. OJ will respond with a confirmation within 24 hours of receiving your reservation email. We will notify you immediately after confirming all hotel accommodations. To ensure a smooth trip arrangement, please provide the following information by the specified deadlines:

- One month or more before arrival date: Submit preliminary name list (room list)
- During peak season: Provide final room list at least three weeks before departure
- During off-peak season: Provide final room list at least two weeks before departure

OJ will send the final travel confirmation with detailed itinerary, transfer information, and emergency contact details 7-10 business days before your arrival. If you need to modify the itinerary or have any special requests, please inform us within 48 hours of receiving the confirmation.

Regarding the payment process: OJ will send you a detailed invoice based on the final name list. Please complete the full payment at least 5 business days before the group's arrival in Japan, and send us the wire transfer (TT) receipt. The bank account details will be provided in the invoice. We will immediately finalize your group travel arrangements upon receiving the bank's payment confirmation.

Cancellation policy:

- Cancellation 30 days or more before departure: 10% of total cost
- Cancellation 15-29 days before departure: 30% of total cost
- Cancellation 8-14 days before departure: 50% of total cost
- Cancellation 7 days or less before departure: 100% of total cost

If you have any questions, you can contact us through the following channels:

- Email: soyoka.u@ojdmc.com
- Business hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00-18:00 (Japan time)
- Emergency contact number: Will be provided in the confirmation

