Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd presents... Cultural Treasures of Japan

May 18 – 31, 2025



Danwels

For more information contact Vincent Sacilotto Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd (519) 753-2695 or (519) 727-8810 vincejan@pauwelstravel.com



14 Days • 18 Meals: 12 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Tokyo, Asakusa Sensoji Shrine, Tea Ceremony, Ginza, Hakone, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Sake Tasting and Hida Beef Dinner, Shirakawa-go, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Bullet Train, Hiroshima, *Kaiseki* Dinner & Maiko Show

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight		
Days 2 – 4	Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, Tokyo		
Day 5	Odakyu Hotel de Yama, Hakone		
Days 6, 7	Takayama Green Hotel, Takayama		
Days 8, 9	Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel, Kanazawa		
Days 10 – 13	Nikko Princess Hotel Kyoto, Kyoto		
	On some dates alternate hotels may be used.		

Day 1: Sunday, May 18, 2025 Overnight Flight

Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty.

Day 2: Monday, May 19, 2025 Tokyo, Japan - Tour Begins

Welcome to Japan, the "Land of the Rising Sun." Begin in the electrifying city of Tokyo, where pop culture is turned all the way up and traditions are rich and long-kept.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 Tokyo

Begin the day exploring Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest Geisha district. Visit the famous Buddhist temple, Senso-ji, the colourful temple famous for the red chochin (lantern) hanging at the entrance gate. Experience the long standing tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony, dating back to the 15th century. During your free time, explore the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and feel the energy of the oldest shopping street in Japan. Then, head to Tokyo National Museum to learn about the fascinating history and culture of Tokyo. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area. Tonight, join your fellow travellers at a welcome dinner. (B, D)

Day 4: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Tokyo

Amid a lush forest outside of Tokyo, visit the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Feel the excitement start to build as you pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace and see the Niju Bridge, the well-known symbol of the Imperial Palace. Later, walk through Ginza, one of the most elegant and luxurious streets in the world, where modern landscape meets rich history. Enjoy shopping at some of the most renowned "department stores" in Japan. (B)

Day 5: Thursday, May 22, 2025 Tokyo - Hakone

Journey to the lakeside resort of Hakone, renowned for its hot springs. In the shadow of Mt. Fuji (UNESCO), this scenic town hugs the shorelines of Lake Ashi. Make a stop at Owakudani, located in an active volcanic zone. The Owakudani crater was created some 3,000 years ago, when Mt. Hakone erupted. Climb aboard the Hakone Ropeway, an aerial cable car descending from Owakudani for a breathtaking view* of Mt. Fuji. Next, take to the deep-blue waters of Lake Ashi on a cruise where you'll see epic views of the local mountains before stopping in the charming town of Moto-Hakone. Tonight, experience a traditional *kaiseki* dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 6: Friday, May 23, 2025 Hakone - Matsumoto - Takayama

This breathtaking day begins in Matsumoto at Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" because of its striking black exterior. Later, you'll step back in time in the rural Edo-period town of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps. Well known to the locals for its connection to *sake*, this is the perfect place to gather for a visit to one of Japan's 200-year-old sake breweries. Afterward, experience a true Japanese epicurean treat – traditional rice wine paired with a special Hida beef dinner. (*B*, *D*)

Day 7: Saturday, May 24, 2025 Takayama

The ancient cultures of Takayama come alive this morning in the town's historic district. Take a walk through the past and glimpse the 19th-century Jinya government building. Stroll through the morning market, a 600-year-old open air market with locally grown and produced products, located along the Miyagawa River. Circuit the winding streets, where the town's traditional charms are preserved in the inns and houses. This afternoon, relish some free time to continue your exploration of Takayama on your own before enjoying a traditional multi-course 'kaiseki' dinner. (*B*, *D*)

Day 8: Sunday, May 25, 2025 Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa

Today, embrace the unique charms of Shirakawa-go (UNESCO). Hidden away in the mountain, this harmonious village is famous for its *gassho-zukuri*-style houses – thatched-rooftops designed to





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Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Toronto Intl Airport or Detroit Metro Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges of \$180 per person (subject to increase until paid in full), Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$599 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from YYZ

resemble two hands joined in prayer. Journey to Kanazawa, the origin of gold-leaf making since the 16th century. Visit the Geisha quarters of Kanazawa, the Higashi Tea district, and then onto the beauty of Japan's most stunning gardens, where more than 25 acres of absolute beauty awaits you at *Kenroku-En* – Garden of Six Qualities. (*B*)

Day 9: Monday, May 26, 2025 Kanazawa

Visit the Samurai district where we will enter the former home of the Nomuras, a wealthy samurai family who served the ruling Maeda family. Dive into the ancient craft of gold leaf making during a handson lesson in decorating your own lacquer box! In the centre of town, take in the action of the Omicho fish market before venturing out on your own to really immerse yourself in Kanazawa's dynamic culture. (B)

Day 10: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Kanazawa - Kyoto

Explore Fushimi Inari Taisha for a tour of the most revered shrine of Inari. Follow the spectacular rows of orange torii (made famous in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*) that weave through the forest, leading you to the inner shrine. Then Kyoto awaits! The former Imperial capital of Japan is now one of the nation's top cosmopolitan cities. At the same time, Kyoto's connection with its past is strong; you won't need to look far to see one of its 2,000 temples and shrines. Later, visit the Women's Association of Kyoto in a traditional Kyoto town house. Here, delve into a wide array of enlightening Japanese activities, guided by your knowledgeable hostess. Sip different sakes, try your hand at making sushi, fold intricate origami shapes, and speak to your hostess about Japan, its culture, and women's roles in this complex society. (B, D)

Day 11: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 Kyoto - Bullet Train -Hiroshima - Kyoto

All aboard the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima. Upon arrival, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). Afterwards, head into Hiroshima city to visit the Peace Memorial Park, and pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO). Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. As this long and moving day comes to a close, return to Kyoto by the Shinkansen bullet train. (*B*)

Day 12: Thursday, May 29, 2025 Kyoto

This morning, visit Kinkakuji (UNESCO), the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure. (B)

Day 13: Friday, May 30, 2025 Kyoto

Today, visit the home of the first Shogun, Nijo Castle (UNESCO), and see intricate woodcarvings, wall paintings, and the Ninomaru Garden, designed by Kobori Enshu, a landscape architect and tea master. Next, learn about the ancient craft of stenciling during a hands-on lesson. This afternoon, spend some time relaxing or set out to explore Kyoto on your own. Fully immerse yourself in Japanese

Experience It! Maiko Performance in Kyoto

Step back in time when you witness an important aspect of Japan's culture during a Maiko Show in Kyoto. Literally meaning "dancing child," the maiko is an apprentice geisha, typically under 20 years old. They live in Okiya, under the supervision of seasoned geiko (or "geisha"). They are considered the successors of beauty throughout all of Japan, entertaining guests with traditional Japanese dances, shamisen plays, short songs called "kouta" and in Kyoto they master its unique dialect as well. These young performers work hard to preserve Japan's traditions and customs, creating a dream-like world that feels detached from the daily grind for visitors. This tradition is unique to Kyoto, though it showcases a fascinating history that is traced throughout all of Japan. Be a part of Japan's rich traditions, history and hospitality during this truly unforgettable experience.

For more information visit https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1253447

culture tonight during a special farewell dinner and maiko show. (B, D)

Day 14: Saturday, May 31, 2025 Kyoto - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close in this fascinating land. As you depart, reflect on its beauty and all you have learned about its rich history and culture. (B)

PLEASE NOTE:

Book Now rates valid until Oct 19, 2024, valid on air inclusive packages only.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travellers who require mobility assistance devices.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Museum visits and shopping may be affected by the observance of religious or local holidays.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

To complete your tour, we <u>include</u> roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your <u>own air</u>, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

This tour provides authentic dining experiences. Vegan, vegetarian, and even glutenfree diets are uncommon in Japan and not widely catered to. If you have any dietary restrictions, please notify us at time of booking so we can accommodate you as best as possible.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Flights arrive into Tokyo and depart from Osaka.

Our air passengers will be departing from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport (depending upon your flight schedule). All transfers will depart from the Kyoto hotel for either Kansai Airport or Itami Airport.

Return flights should not be booked from Kansai Airport or Itami Airport prior to 9:00 a.m.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Documentation is required by foreign governments for all trips outside Canada. You should visit Global Affairs Canada at <u>https://travel.gc.ca/</u> for general information about passports and visa requirements. Some countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry, so it is important that you check with the appropriate foreign consulate or embassy for specific entry requirements and details you need to know regarding how and when to obtain the visa. Please remember the possession of valid passports and necessary visas are the responsibility of each client/passenger. If you would like assistance in ensuring you have the proper visa(s) for your trip outside of Canada, we would be happy to refer you to a company that can assist you.

We strongly recommend that you have a valid passport (with seven-month validity) for all travel outside Canada.

Please be advised transit visas may be required if connecting through a country on route to your final destination.



INSURANCE

When travelling outside Canada, health insurance is required. Contact your booking agent for more details.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

There may be different living standards and practices and different standards and conditions with respect to the provision of services and accommodations outside of Canada.

Each traveller is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal doctor for specific details on the destinations you are travelling to and from.

Please be aware that if your flight schedule is via Dubai or if you are stopping over in Dubai and are carrying narcotic drugs, controlled or semi-controlled drugs, then you will be required to complete an electronic form prior to entering the country, to obtain approval to carry medication. Please use the link

<u>https://mohap.gov.ae/en/services/issue-of-permit-to-import-medicines-for-personal-use</u> to view the guidelines. A user's guide is available to explain the application and the supporting documents required.

Some venues, such as temples and shrines, require guests to remove their shoes in order to enter. We recommend wearing footwear that is easily removed for sightseeing on these days.

*The view of Mt. Fuji from the Hakone Ropeway is weather dependent.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more travelling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of October 12, 2024 are based upon availability. Final payment due by March 20, 2025. Deposits are refundable up until October 19, 2024.

BC Reg. #23337; Travel Industry Council of Ontario Reg. # 3206405

For important reservation information visit https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1253447. You can also find this information on your tour documents.



If paying by credit card, please complete this form and return to Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. We can only charge your credit card for the amount noted if the signature, address and phone number are listed below. Thank you!

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

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For Reservations Contact: Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd, 1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	· · ·		ejan@pauwelstravel	.com	
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