

# SKYLIGHT

## TRAVEL & TOURS INC.

### 15 days South Korea and Japan Tour

#### Itinerary:

#### 25 APR, Thu Day 1: North America to Seoul

Enjoy an overnight flight to Seoul.

#### 26 APR, Fri Day 2: Arrive in Seoul

After arrival, transfer to the hotel, and the rest of the day is on your own.

#### 27 APR, Sat Day 3: Seoul – Nami Island – Garden of Morning Calm – Gangchon Rail Bike

After breakfast, transfer to **Nami Island**. No matter the season, Nami Island is a beautiful destination to visit all year round. Known for appearing in many Korean dramas, the island has numerous lanes lined with pine trees, ginkgo trees, redwood giants and more. Then proceed to **Garden of Morning Calm**, a massive botanical garden boasting 20 different themed sections. Then continue to Gangchon Rail Bike Park. It was a fully functioning train line before being converted into the famous attraction, which allows visitors an opportunity to take in the beautiful Korean countryside in a unique and fun way. Later return to hotel, overnight at Seoul.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

#### 28 APR, Sun Day 4: Seoul - Gyeongbokgung Palace – Bukchon Hanok Village – GwangjangMarket – Myeong Dong

After breakfast, visit **Gyeongbokgung Palace**, located north of Gwanghwamun Square, is one of the most iconic sights in all of Korea thanks to its long and storied history. You will have opportunity to visit Ginseng Center and Comestic shop for souvenirs. Continue to **Bukchon Hanok Village** is home to hundreds of traditional houses, called hanok, that date back to the Joseon dynasty. Today, many of these hanoks operate as cultural centers, guesthouses, restaurants, and tea houses, providing visitors with an opportunity to experience, learn and immerse themselves in traditional Korean culture. Continue to **Gwangjang Market**, which was the first permanent market in Korea and continues to thrive as a popular tourist destination today. This market is actually a foodie's dream. Gwangjang offers a cornucopia of cheap, traditional Korean snacks and "street foods." Later visiting **Myeong Dong**, one of Seoul's main commercial districts.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

### **29 APR, MON Day 5: Seoul DMZ Tour**

After pickup at your Seoul hotel in the morning, drive to the **Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**. En route, we will visit Imjingak Park to see artillery and war artifacts before proceeding to Freedom Bridge, where nearly 13,000 Korean POWs crossed on their return home to South Korea. If permitted, we'll venture into the mysterious **3rd Tunnel**. Descend deep underground and explore this secret passage, discovered in 1978, that was designed by North Korea for a potential invasion of the South. See where the South Koreans have blocked the actual Military Demarcation Line with concrete barricades and browse photographs and war artifacts at the DMZ exhibition hall. At Dora Observatory, prepare for a breathtaking panoramic view of the Demilitarized Zone. Peer through telescopes and catch a glimpse of the North Korean border, witnessing firsthand the stark contrast between the two Koreas. – Provence Village, a southern French culture town with beautiful pastel-like buildings for your perfect Instagram pictures. Stop by the Gamakasan Chulleong Suspension Bridge. Back to Seoul in the afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch,

### **30 APR, TUE Day 6: Seoul – Hiroshima, Japan**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and fly to Hiroshima. Upon arrival at Hiroshima Airport, you will meet our representative with the name board at the airport exit. Private transfer to hotel. After hotel check-in, the rest of the day is at leisure on your own.

Meals: Breakfast

### **01 MAY, WED Day 7: Hiroshima - Miyajima island - Hiroshima**

Visit **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Museum** is one of the most prominent features of the city. Even visitors not looking for it will likely stumble upon the large park of over 120,000 square meters. Its trees, lawns, and walking paths are in stark contrast to the surrounding downtown area. Then we will visit the **Atomic Bomb Dome**. Before the bomb, the area of what is now the Peace Park was the political and commercial heart of the city. For this reason, it was chosen as the pilot's target. Four years to the day after the bomb was dropped, it was decided that the area would not be redeveloped but instead devoted to peace memorial facilities. Enjoy your free time at **Hondori Street** with various choices of local food.

In the afternoon, Proceed to Miyajima-Guchi Port, taking boat to Miyajima island. We will visit **Itsukushima Shrine** with Floating Torii Gate. Formally named Itsukushima, the island is more popularly known as "Miyajima", literally "shrine island" in Japanese, thanks to its star attraction. The shrine is known worldwide for its iconic "floating" torii gate. The shrine and its torii gate are unique for being built over water, seemingly floating in the sea during high tide. The shrine consists of multiple buildings, including a prayer hall, main hall and noh theater stage, which are connected by boardwalks and supported by pillars above the sea. Return to your hotel in the city in the evening. Overnight in Hiroshima.

Meal: Breakfast

## 02 MAY, THU Day 8: Hiroshima – Osaka

After breakfast, we will proceed to **Kurashiki-Bikan district** and enjoy your free time to explore river old town, from where you will experience time travel and merge yourself in the beautiful natural and ancient view of Japan. In the afternoon, Continuing proceeds to Osaka, the journey takes around 4 hours with a few times short break at services area on the highway. Overnight in Osaka.

Meals: Breakfast

## 03 MAY, FRI Day 9: Osaka-Nara

This morning, you will move to Nara, now known as Nara remains full of iconic sites. Then see **Todai-ji Temple**, one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples, constructed in the 8th century. In its huge area houses various national treasures of Japan. Step foot in the **Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall)**, housing the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through Nara Park, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling back to Osaka. Visit the **Osaka Castle**, which played a major role in the unification of Japan during the Azuchi-Momoyama period in the sixteenth century, before being dropped off at **Dotonbori**, which exemplifies Osaka's vibrant food culture. Dinner at local restaurant to taste local delicacies.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## 04 MAY, SAT Day 10: Osaka

*Today's highlight is Kansai Culture Tour with lunch.* Which consist of visit the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, a mesmerizing grove of thousands of tall bamboo plants. A paved walkway runs through the middle of both sections, forming the famous "Bamboo Alley," one of Kyoto's most photographed sights. Lunch will be included at a local Japanese restaurant. After that, we will visit one of the most sacred and impressive destinations – Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shrine and walk through the famous vermilion Torii Gates, the most picturesque location on tour and explore great photo opportunities along the ancient street in Japan's beautiful national dress (*optional Kimono Rental US\$55*). In the afternoon, you will get a chance to experience a unique Tea ceremony and Wakashi making, which will make your travel memorable. You will make Japanese sweets called nerikiri perfect for the tea ceremony and ideal for taking back home as a souvenir. Then return to your comfortable vehicle for the relaxing journey back to your hotel.

Meal: Breakfast

## 05 MAY, SUN Day 11: Osaka-Kyoto - Nagoya – Hamamatsu

This morning experiences a true modern marvel by riding the **Shinkansen (bullet train)** to Kyoto Station. Kyoto was Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. Countless temples, shrines, and other historically priceless structures survive in the city today.

Visiting **Higashi Hongan-ji**, which is a religious complex of the Pure Land (Jodo Shinshu) Buddhism. Its monumental architecture renowned for being sheltered by the largest wooden roof in the world. Here we can also take a great picture of Kyoto tower. Visit **Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion)**, World Cultural Heritage featuring a shining golden pavilion and a pond-centered garden. Visit the shining **Kinkaku** with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold and detailed architecture incorporating three distinct styles of Shinden, Samurai, and Zen.

Then we will travel to Nagoya to visit **Toyota Commemorative Museum** of Industry and Technology. Here you will learn about the history of Toyota which started out as a textile machinery manufacturer and how it became a successful mass exporter and manufacturer of automotive technology, including robots. Continue our trip to Hamamatsu and stay overnight.

Meal: Breakfast

### **06 MAY, MON Day 12: Hamamatsu - Mt. Fuji**

Today, visit **Gotemba Peace Park** to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, **Oshino Hakkai**. Known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Afterwards, visit **Sengenjinja Shrine**. Enjoy the picturesque view of Mount Fuji from a distance onboard the **cruise on Lake Kawaguchi**, a crater lake famous for its views of the famous peak. Finish the day with a true cultural experience in our hot spring hotel. Dress in Yukata bath robes and enjoy a traditional dinner.

Meal: Breakfast, Dinner

### **07 MAY, TUE Day 13: Mt. Fuji – Tokyo**

Visit **Meiji Shrine** in the morning, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Your next stop today is **Tokyo Tower** to enjoy a panoramic view of enormous Tokyo city. Later, stroll through the **Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon Temple)**, one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular temples. Then walk along the famous 820-ft long **Nakamise shopping street** where you can explore the lines of stalls selling different Japanese-styled goods and souvenirs. Experience the busiest Shibuya Crossing, is a world famous and iconic intersection in Shibuya.

Meal: Breakfast

### **08 MAY, WED Day 14: Tokyo**

After breakfast, start your day trip to **Kamakura and Yokohama**. Explore two of Japan's most captivating cities on a full-day Kamakura and Yokohama trip from Tokyo. After pickup from your Tokyo hotel, travel southwest by coach to Kamakura, a picturesque seaside city nestled in forested hills on Sagami Bay renowned for its Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and rich history. Next, continue to Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city. Visit Sankeien garden and the Red Brick Warehouse, where early-20th century custom buildings now house stylish shops, and stroll in waterside Yamashita Park and China town.

Meal: Breakfast

## **09 MAY, THU Day 15: Tokyo - North America**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board your flight to Canada.

Meal: Breakfast

### **Package Quotation:**

- Basic Package Price- CAD 5895 per person
- Land only price- CAD 5150 per person (including Seoul to Hiroshima flight)
- Fare with Dinner in Osaka & Admission to Tokyo Tower- CAD 6160
- Price with optional Excursions including Kansai Cultural Day Tour & Kamakura and Yokohama Tour- CAD 6585
- Upgrade to Premium Economy cost- Additional CAD 2500
- Upgrade to Business Class cost- Additional CAD 5800

### **Special Notes:**

- Prices are in Canadian dollars, unless specified;

### **Price Include:**

- Return international airfares from Toronto. (package price)
- Intra-flight included: Seoul - Hiroshima
- 13 nights 4 star First Class accommodations
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Shinkansen ticket from Osaka to Kyoto (bullet Train)
- Lake Kawaguchi Cruise
- Japan airport shuttle bus arrangements and all transfers
- Meals and featuring regional delicacies mentioned in the itinerary
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour guides
- Entrance fees per itinerary

**Price DOES NOT Include:**

- Visa Fee
- Prepaid Tipping: USD\$200/person for the entire trip (for drivers, local guides)
- Travel insurance.
- Personal expenditures