

CHERRY BLOSSOM SPECIAL DEPARTURE JAPAN

Mount Fuji

12 Days / 11 Nights

With 6852 islands, Japan is a land covered with 70% of mountains, over 200 of them being volcanoes. Our Japan tour displays an iconic land that has beautifully blended traditions with modern life, co-existing together. Known as the Land of the Rising Sun, Japan is known for out-of-the-box fashion trends and also for its culinary experiments which can be lived along. Even though Japan is a relatively small country, the depth of its culture and colour is immeasurable. The lively ambiance of this country is noteworthy. The high-tech amenities and anime culture have made an insuperable part of Japan's identity! Notice this remarkable drift in the culture along with our Japan tour.

Highlights: Tokyo Tower Observations Deck • Fuji World Heritage Centre
• Shinkansen Experience • Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park • Todaiji Arcade



Day 1: LONDON - JAPAN

We set off for a great and memorable holiday with **"CITIBOND's – Cherry Blossom Special Departure."**

Day 2: TOKYO (D)

Arrive at Narita International Airport. After clearing customs and immigration, proceed to check-in at the hotel in Tokyo. check-in, Free time to get fresh and relax.

Day 3: TOKYO (B/D)

After breakfast, head for a Tokyo city tour. Visit Tokyo Skytree - a broadcasting tower that was recognized by the Guinness World Records Company as the world's tallest building in 2011. From Tokyo Skytree's observation deck, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Tokyo and the entire Kanto region. The surrounding area of Sumida Ward is where Tokyo's shitamachi (old downtown) culture flourished in districts like Asakusa, Kinshicho, and Ryogoku. Next is a photo stop at Imperial Palace's east garden. It is the residence of Japan's Imperial Family. You can only visit the palace up to the Nijubashi Bridge. The next visit is to the Meiji Jingu Shrine - this shrine is dedicated to the divine souls of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken. Drive by from the Shibuya Crossing Intersection, where vehicles stop in all directions to allow pedestrians to inundate the entire intersection at one time.

Visit Sensō-ji, an ancient Buddhist temple located in Asakusa, Tokyo. It is one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples. A shopping street of over 200 meters called Nakamise has typical Japanese souvenirs such as yukata and folding fans, and various traditional local snacks from the Asakusa area are sold along the Nakamise. Free time to stroll and shop around Ginza district, the shopping paradise.

Day 4: TOKYO (B/D)

Visit Uneo Park - This park has been famous as a cherry blossom viewing spot from the Edo Period. Experience Meguro River cruise - This alley along Meguro River is one of the most beautiful places to view the cherry blossoms in Tokyo. Next, we visit Chidori-ga-fuchi Moat for pastel pink views! Chidorigafuchi, a road that runs along the west side of the Imperial Palace, is home to an assortment of cherry trees that truly speak to the Japanese spirit. Shinjuku Gyoen park is a large garden, originally built for the Imperial Family. There are 65 types of cherry blossoms, about 1,100 trees in all, planted in the garden, and it might be fun to try and find out the differences between them.

Day 5: TOKYO - HAKONE - MATSUMOTO (B/D)

Visit the highlight of the tour, Mt. Fuji, one of Japan's three sacred mountains, an active

volcano commonly called "Fuji-san" (sacred to Japanese). It is the country's tallest peak - 3,776 meters (12,380 feet). We visit Mt. Fuji's 5th Station to have a closer look at this spectacular mountain (weather permitting). Our next visit is to Owakudani Boiling Valley - a volcanic valley with active sulfur vents and hot springs in Hakone. Lake Ashi, or Hakone Lake, is a scenic lake in the Hakone area of Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan. The lake is known for its views of Mt. Fuji and its numerous hot springs. Later, we head towards Nagano Prefecture's Matsumoto City, a cultural heritage centre brimming with rich history and art.

Day 6: MATSUMOTO - TAKAYAMA (B/D)

Visit Takayama Jinya, serving as the local government office headed by the officials dispatched from Edo (present-day Tokyo). Sanmachi Suji - entry to Sake Breweries - Sake is one of Takayama's specialties. Takayama has some of Japan's oldest sake breweries, and the Sanmachi Suji area is where you will find several of them.



Day 7: TAKAYAMA - FULL DAY TOUR TO SHIRAKAWA-GO - TAKAYAMA (B/D)

Day tour to Shirakawa Go – Declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1995, they are famous for their traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old. Gassho-zukuri means “constructed like hands in prayer”, as the farmhouses’ steep thatched roofs resemble the hands of Buddhist monks pressed together in prayer. The architectural style developed over many generations and is designed to withstand the large amounts of heavy snow that falls in the region during winter. The roofs are made without nails, and they provide a large attic space used for cultivating silkworms. Ogimachi-Shirakawa is its largest village and main attraction, making a good day trip from Takayama.

Day 8: TAKAYAMA - KYOTO (B/D)

Visit Kinkaku Ji Temple, which was built to echo the extravagant Kitayama culture that developed in the wealthy aristocratic circles of Kyoto. The next visit is to Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine - an important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto. It is famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates.

Day 9: KYOTO - NARA - KYOTO (B/D)

Visit Arashiyama Bamboo Groves, a pleasant, touristy district in the western outskirts of Kyoto. The area has been a popular destination. Arashiyama is particularly popular during the cherry blossom and falls colour seasons. Next, we visit the Kiyomizudera Temple, one of the most celebrated temples in Japan. Later, we enjoy a Japanese-style Tea Ceremony and proceed to Nara. We arrive at Nara and visit Todaiji Temple (Daibutsuden Hall) and Nara Deer Park. Toda Ji Temple is one of Japan’s most famous and historically significant temples and a landmark of Nara. Nara Deer Park is a large park in central Nara. It is also home to hundreds of freely roaming deer. Considered the messengers

of the gods, Nara’s over 1000 deer have become a symbol of the city and have even been designated as a natural treasure. Later in the evening, you’ll have free time to stroll around the Gion district. Gion Corner is Kyoto’s most famous geisha district. It is filled with restaurants and ochaya, where geiko (Kyoto dialect for geisha) and maiko (geiko apprentices) entertain. Gion attracts tourists with its high concentration of traditional wooden machiya merchant houses.

Day 10: KYOTO - OSAKA (B/D)

Visit Osaka Castle (outside view) - The castle is one of Japan’s most famous landmarks and it played a major role in the unification of Japan. It is the country’s pride, a great symbol of Japan, and it took around 16 years to fully construct. The area surrounding Osaka Castle has a lot to talk about the vast and rich Japanese history. It is surrounded by a moat and a park with plum, peach, and cherry blossom trees. After lunch, visit the Umeda Sky Building “Floating Garden Observatory “. The Umeda Sky Building is a famous skyscraper and sightseeing destination. Visitors can not only enjoy an amazing view but also the building’s unique architecture and the Floating Garden Observatory located on its highest floor, where guests can take in the surrounding areas on a spacious deck with beautifully landscaped flowers and trees. The doughnut shape roof offers an unobstructed 360-degree view of Osaka city. Later in the evening, enjoy free time for shopping at Shinsaibashi. Shop for high-end stuff at a very reasonable price.

Day 11: OSAKA - HIROSHIMA - OSAKA (B/D)

After breakfast, drop at Shin-Osaka station and transfer to Hiroshima by bullet train (Shinkansen) - Japan’s high-tech train. The highest speed is 300kph. Arrive at Hiroshima and visit Peace Memorial Park and Atomic Bomb Dome. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was built right in the area where the atomic bomb exploded, which is a

World Heritage Site. Visit the Atomic Bomb Dome - one of the only structures that wasn’t completely levelled. It has been preserved untouched, and though fenced off from the public, is in clear view and illuminated at night. It was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996. The Memorial Mound contains the cremated ashes of 70,000 unidentified victims.

Day 12: DEPART TO LONDON (B)

And just like that our fabulous journey of our “Citibond’s - Cherry Blossom Special Departure” comes to an end, sooner than we would have liked. With our bags neatly packed and our souvenirs all stacked up, with wonderful memories of the trip and renewed plans of another visit, we head to the airport to board our flight back home.

Departure dates

| Departure | Number of days | Price per person |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------|
| 16-Apr-24 | 12 days / 11 nights | from £4699 |
| 21-May-24 | 12 days / 11 nights | from £4699 |
| 17-Mar-25 | 12 days / 11 nights | from £4699 |
| 3-Apr-25 | 12 days / 11 nights | from £4699 |

What’s Included in Your Tour?

- International & domestic airfares (Economy Class)
- Accommodation as specified in the itinerary.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary.
- English speaking Tour manager throughout the tour.
- All transportation in an air-conditioned private vehicle.

Tour Ref: PCT24_JPN

