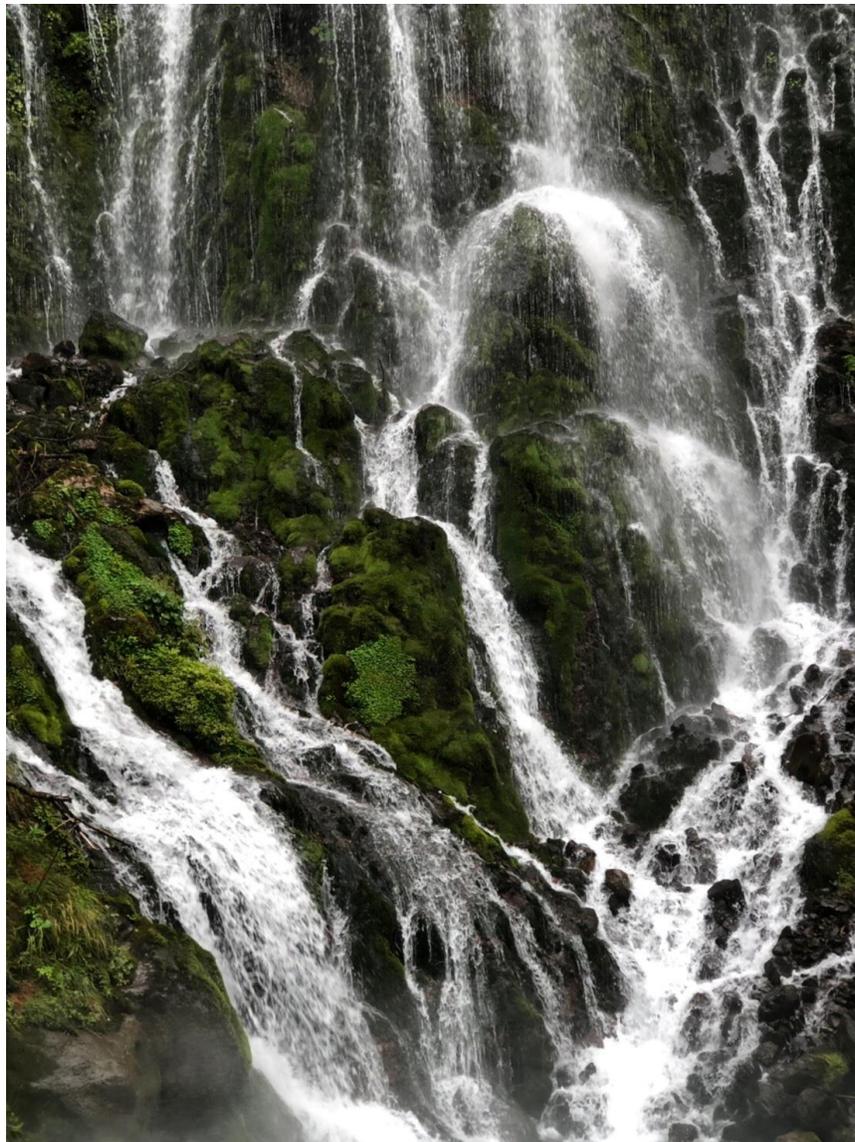


From Tokyo to Yakushima – Selected Walks in Japan

**Tokyo – Kawaguchiko – Kobuchizawa – Kiso Valley – Takayama & Hida
– Beppu – Yakushima Island – Kyoto**

(16 nights 17 days)



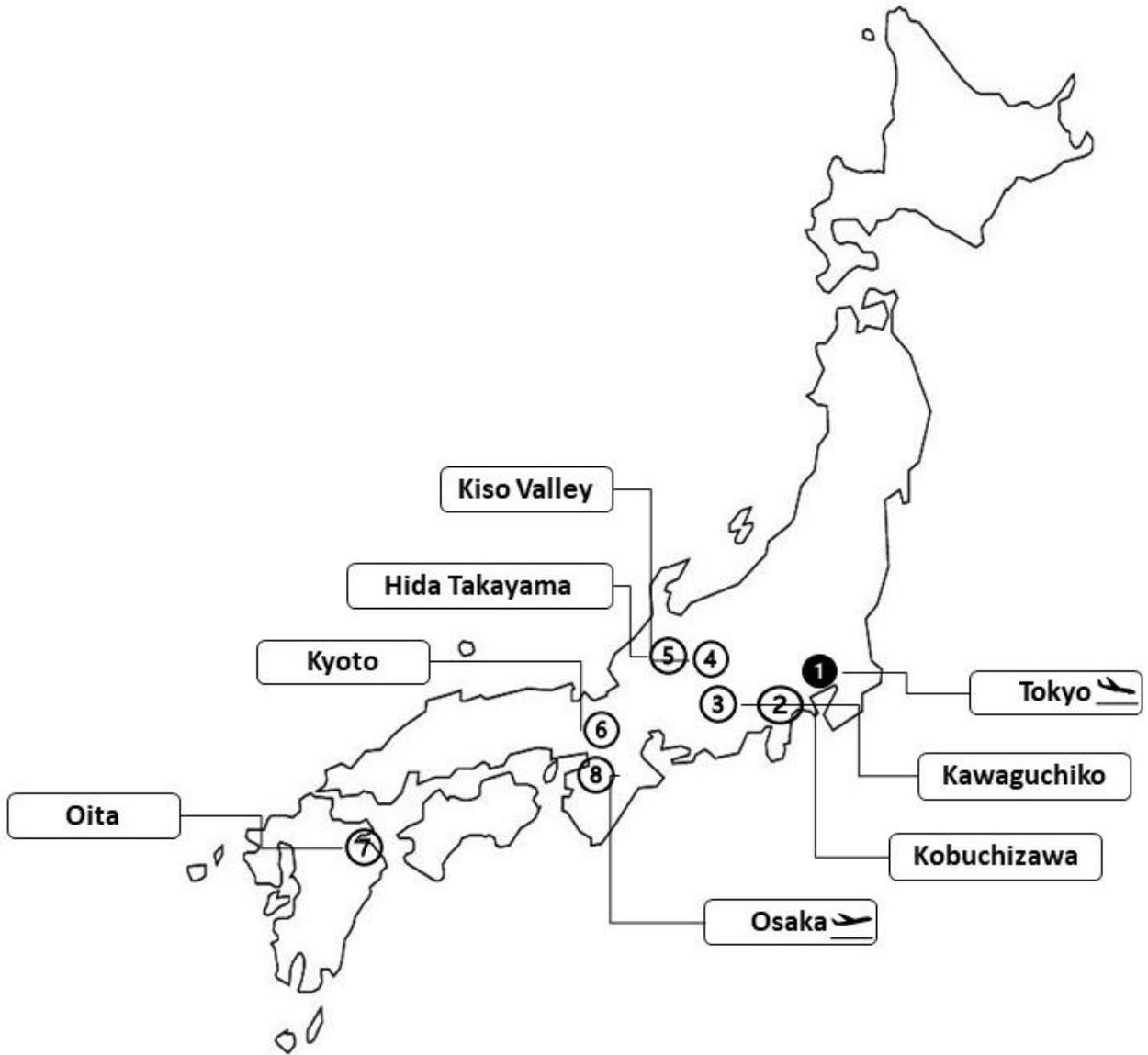


Your itinerary at a Glance

Date	Program	Accommodation
Day 1	Arrive in NRT	Mandarin Oriental Tokyo
Day 2	Tokyo	Mandarin Oriental Tokyo
Day 3	Move to Kawaguchiko area	Fufu Kawaguchiko
Day 4	Move to Kobuchizawa	Hotel Key Forest Hokuto
Day 5	Kobuchizawa	Hotel Key Forest Hokuto
Day 6	Move to Kiso Valley	Yamamizuki Urara
Day 7	Move to Takayama	Wanosato
Day 8	Takayama	Wanosato
Day 9	Move to Kyoto	The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto
Day 10	Kyoto	The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto
Day 11	Move to Beppu	ANA Intercontinental Beppu Resort & Spa
Day 12	Beppu	ANA Intercontinental Beppu Resort & Spa
Day 13	Move to Yakushima Island	Sankara Resort & Spa
Day 14	Yakushima Island	Sankara Resort & Spa
Day 15	Move to Osaka	St. Regis Hotel Osaka
Day 16	Departure	

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Your Travel Map



List of walks

Date	Destination	Place
Day 2	Tokyo	Mt. Takao
Day 4	Yamanashi	Aokigahara Forest, at the foot of Mt. Fuji
Day 5		Mt. Hinata in Kobuchizawa
Day 6	Nagano	Nakasendo Trail in Kiso Valley
Day 7	Gifu	Goshikigahara Forest in Hida Takayama
Day 9	Kyoto	The pilgrimage route around Fushimi Inari Shrine
Day 12	Oita	Kunisaki Peninsula Trail
Day 14	Kagoshima	<i>Train in Yakushima Island</i>

Detailed itinerary

Day 1, Arrival in Narita International Airport

After arriving at **Narita International Airport** and completing immigration formalities, you will be greeted by your **English Speaking Driver** at the arrival hall, and then transfer in a private vehicle to your accommodation in Tokyo.



Mandarin Oriental Tokyo



Upon arrival at Mandarin Oriental Tokyo, you will be overwhelmed by the dramatic first impression. The extraordinary lobby surrounded by glass and the futuristic luxury of the interiors illustrates the hotel's defining style; extreme comfort whilst reflecting Japan's characteristics.

Overnight at Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

Day 2, Tokyo

Meet with your **English Speaking Guide** at 9:00 am and head to **Mt. Takao** which has the biggest number of climbers in the world. (about 1.5 hours drive in a normal traffic condition).

Mt. Takao is one of the closest natural recreation areas to central Tokyo, offering beautiful scenery, an interesting temple and attractive hiking opportunities. Within Mt. Takao, you can find over 1,600 different kind of native plants which is equivalent amount to plants find in all over UK. There are several different hiking routes, including the most popular course that everyone can easily enjoy walking to the top with sneakers. It is also possible to combine two or three courses to enjoy Mt. Takao hiking in your original way!



TAKAO 599 MUSEUM is a museum allows for a new way to enjoy Mount Takao with its concept of “sharing Mt. Takao” through several elements.



You will come back to the central Tokyo and finish the touring by **17:00**.

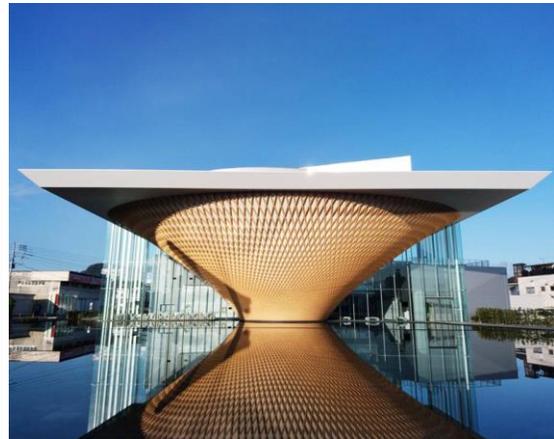
Overnight at Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

Day 3, Move to Kawaguchiko area via Hakone

Check-out the hotel and you will meet with your **Private Guide** at the hotel at **9:00am**. You will then move to Hakone area by a private chartered vehicle (1.5 hours drive in a normal traffic condition).

Hakone is a volcanic national park near Mt. Fuji, the tallest and most famous mountain in Japan attracting more than 200,000 climbers every year.

Take a ropeway ride to **Owakudani valley**, the area around a crater created in the last eruption of Mt. Hakone, 3,000 year ago. You will smell sulfurous fumes, and see hot springs and rivers while walking around the area.



Then you will move to **The Mt. Fuji World Heritage Centre, Shizuoka**, performs both scientific and educational functions as a key facility to ensure the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of world heritage, as set forth in the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which is the basis for its recognition..

After touring, you will move to accommodation in your next destination in Hakone (about an hour drive in a normal traffic condition). Check-in and finish the touring by 17:00.

Overnight at Fufu Kawaguchiko

Day 4, Walking at the foot of Mt. Fuji, move to Kobuchizawa area

Check-out the accommodation at **10:00**, meet with your Private Guide and transfer by Private Chartered Car to meeting point with your **Nature Guide**.

Arrive meeting point by 10:30, and start trekking at **Aokigahara, at the foot of Mt. Fuji** with your guides. Total duration of the experience is about 5 hours.

The mysterious Aokigahara Forest, an untouched natural forest known for the dense woods and lava trails. Folk tales and legends tell of ghosts and goblins haunting the forest. In addition, the wind-blocking density of the trees and absence of wildlife makes this an eerie experience.

Please note there is no toilet in the forest and if you purchase "portable toilet" in advance, would be useful in emergency situation occurred.



After trekking, you will move to Kobuchizawa area, your next destination (about 2 hours drive in a normal traffic condition). Check-in by **18:00**.

Hotel KEYFOREST Hokuto



Designed by award-winning architect Atsushi Kitagawara, Hotel Keyforest Hokuto is inspired from the works of artist Keith Haring and the primitive artworks excavated in Yamanashi Prefecture. The Avant-garde architecture and carefully selected furniture offer a time-transcending space while breath-taking view of the Yatsugatake Mountains from the window is an inspiring work of art throughout four seasons.

Overnight at Hotel Keyforest Hokuto

Day 5, Kobuchizawa area

Meet with your **Private Guide** at **9:00**. Today, you will experience **Mt Hinata** – “**Secret**” **Mountain Trail**.

After meeting with your specialist guide and transferring by private chartered vehicle, set out on a unique and exclusive trail developed by your Nature Guide as an alternative to the “beaten tracks”. The hike starts in easy forested settings, progressing through Bamboo grass and steeper portions, before reaching the summit of Mt Hinata at 1660m and enjoying sweeping views of the surroundings. Total walking duration is about 6 hours in total.



After hiking, you will go back to the accommodation by **17:00**.

Overnight at Hotel Keyforest Hokuto

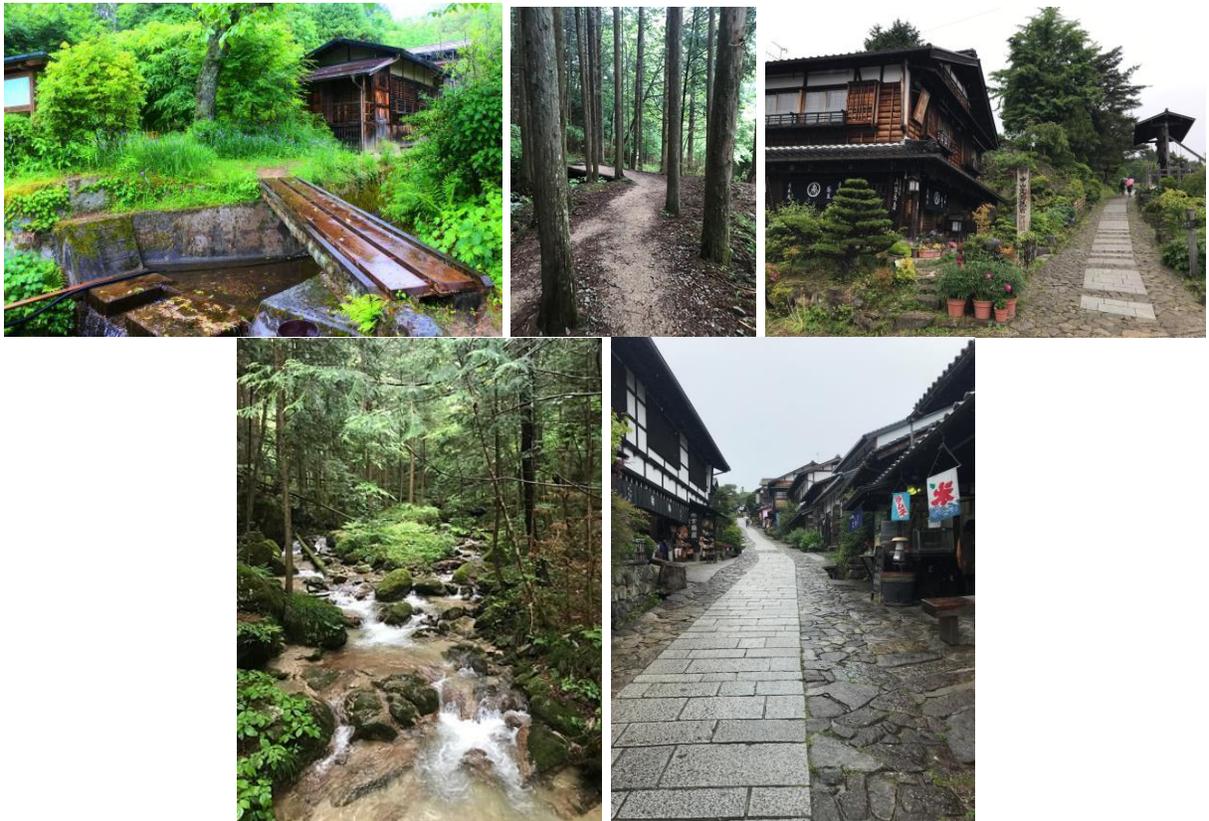
Day 6, Move to Kiso Valley

Check out the hotel and meet your **Private Guide** at **9:00**. Today, you will move to Kiso Valley by a private chartered vehicle (about 2.5 hours drive in a normal traffic condition).

The Kiso Valley (Kisoji) is located in Nagano Prefecture, and runs alongside the mountains of the Central Alps. An ancient 70 km trade route called the Kisoji was developed along the valley and served as a very important means of commerce in the area.

Upon arrival in the area, start your walking excursion of the **Nakasendo Trail**. You will enjoy **scenic trail from Tsumago to Magome**, which takes about 3 hours in total and also have time to explore these two post towns which have preserved the atmosphere of Japan in the ancient Edo era.

Tsumago was the forty-second of the sixty-nine stations of the Nakasendō. It is located in Nagiso, Kiso District. It has been restored to its appearance as an Edo-era post town.



Magome-juku was the forty-third of the sixty-nine stations of the Nakasendō, an ancient road that connected Kyoto and Edo during the Edo period. This well-preserved section of the old route is in the present-day city of Nakatsugawa, Gifu Prefecture.

After exploration, you will move to your accommodation in the destination and check-in by 17:00.

Yamamizuki Urara Tsutaya



***Actual presentation may differ from what you see in the photos**

Conveniently located in the town just in front of JR Kiso Fukushima Station for your Kiso area exploration, Yamamizuki Urara Tsutaya is a small and quiet ryokan with only 11 rooms in total. Our recommended rooms have private bath and an exquisite Kaiseki Dinner is included in your stay.

Overnight at Yamamizuki Urara Tsutaya

Day 7, Move to Hida-Takayama

After checking out the accommodation, you will meet with your **Private Guide** at **10:00am**. You will head to Kamikochi area by a private chartered vehicle (about 1.5 hours drive in a normal traffic condition).

Komikochi – tucked away in the Azusa valley at an altitude of 1500m is the beautiful mountaineering and hiking resort of Kamikochi as defined as ‘where the god lives’, has some stunning alpine scenery which can be only be viewed between late April and the end of October because of the snow. British missionary Walter Weston helped popularize the area as a base for climbing the craggy peaks known as the Northern Alps, the highest mountain is the 3190m Hotakadake Mt.



After Kamikochi visit, you will continue to Takayama town (about an hour drive in a normal traffic condition). Arrive in Takayama and your ryokan by **17:00**, and check-in.

Wanosato



***Actual presentation may differ from what you see in the photos**

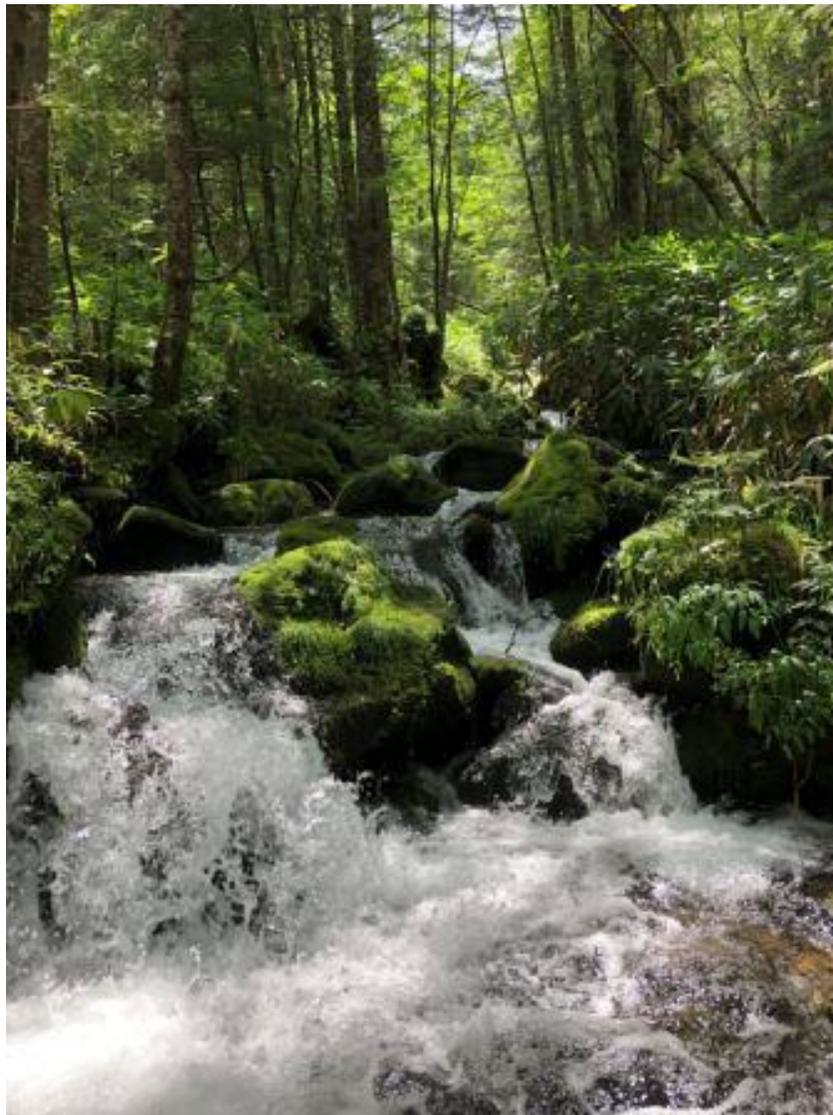
Wanosato is located in the countryside close to Hida-Takayama, in the heart of Gifu prefecture. This Luxurious Ryokan has only 8 Japanese-style rooms, making for a very personal experience. The thatched-roofed houses, the big garden and the adjacent river running through the property are perfect elements for the traveller seeking a peaceful experience. All rooms have private toilets and baths. In addition, there are two indoor onsen baths, with thermal spring water.

Overnight at Wanosato

Day 8, Takayama

Meet with **Private Guide** at **6:00am** and move to meeting point of your today's hiking experience in Norikura Kogen highlands of Mount Norikuradake, is one of Japan's top 100 mountains and the southernmost peak of the Northern Japan Alps! (Approximate duration is about 7 or 8 hours) Start the hiking from 7:00am.

Goshikigahara forest – This is a vast 3,000 hectare forestry area located at the south end of Chubu-Sangaku National Park. It is truly a "treasure box" of nature with clear rivers, waterfalls, wetlands, lakes, ponds, plants, flowers, native trees, wild birds and animals.



After the experience, you will come back to your accommodation in Takayama town by **17:00**.

Overnight at Wanosato

Day 9, Move to Nagoya

Check out the ryokan and meet with **Private Guide** at **9:30am**. You will leave for Hida-Takayama exploration by a private chartered vehicle.

You will start from **Morning market**. You can find home-made fresh vegetable, fruit, flower and even handy crafts which are made by local people.



Then move to **Shirakawago**, a secluded mountain village designated as a World Heritage in 1995, where the **Gassyo-zukuri** farmhouses still remain alive (about an hour drive in a normal traffic condition). They are traditional buildings with steeply sloped roofs still kept alive in the beautiful nature of Shirakawago. The ancestors built those houses according to their lifestyles, using their highly developed skill. There are four stories inside the huge building.

After the visit to Shirakawa-go district, you will come back to Takayama city and resume the exploration...

Also visit **Takayama Yatai Kaikan** - float festival museum, many of the floats are from the 17th Century and are true works of art on a grand scale.



You continue enjoying the central area of Takayama by strolling around **Sanmachi area** - most of the former merchant houses have been turned into museums or shops selling antiques lacquerware and potter etc.

Then you will move to Takayama station to catch a train bound for Nagoya. Say good bye to your guide.

(Suggested Train Schedule)

Limited Express Wideview Hida #16 / Takayama 15:38 – 18:06 Nagoya

At Nagoya station, you will change train to...

Bullet Train Nozomi #51 / Nagoya 18:32 – 19:06 Kyoto

Upon arrival at Kyoto station, you will be greeted by **English speaking driver** and transferred to the accommodation in Kyoto by a private chartered vehicle.

The Ritz–Carlton Kyoto



The Ritz–Carlton, Kyoto sits serenely on the banks of the Kamogawa River, in a prime location with expansive views of the famous Higashiyama *Sanju–Roppo* (36–mountain range). The hotel is also close to Kyoto’s famous downtown districts such as Gion, Kawaramachi and Pontocho streets, convenient locations for both sightseeing and business. Here, you can experience quality time that is only available in the world’s finest hotels, in a luxurious space that is steeped in the ancient traditions and culture of Kyoto.

Overnight at The Ritz–Carlton Kyoto

Day 10, Kyoto

Meet with your **Private Guide** at **9:00am** and leave for full day Kyoto exploration by a private chartered vehicle!

Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine, the head shrine of Inari, sitting at the base of a mountain also named Inari, and includes trails up the mountain to many smaller shrines. Merchants and manufacturers worship Inari for wealth & success. It is also possible to enjoy **short walking** here on the pilgrimage route around the shrines with passing through hypnotic arcades of vermilion torii (Shinto shrine gates).



After scenic moments, you will continue your Kyoto city exploration and visit **Sanjusangendo Hall**, founded in 1164 and Famed for its 1001 statues of Kannon, the goddess mercy. Entering the main hall, guests can notice a centrally located large Kannon, flanked on each side by 500 smaller statues, standing in neat rows side by side, each as tall as a human being.



Move to **Kiyomizu-dera Temple** where you can also see the city of Kyoto. With its magnificent views of the city from its main hall attracting visitors throughout Japan, Kiyomizu-dera Temple was originally founded in 798. The common Japanese idiom “jumping from the veranda of Kiyomizu Temple” means that they are about to undertake some particularly bold or daring adventure *(Please note that the temple is under maintenance and some part is covered).*

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Continue to **Sannenzaka** – A nice and relaxing stroll from Kiyomizudera Temple down to Gion district will take you through this old neighbourhood, now lined with little shops and cafés. Take your time to try the delicious delicacies offered on the way.



Move to **Nishiki**, a narrow shopping arcade only 400 meters in length with just over 100 vendors, guests can discover Kyoto's distinctive culinary delicacies and be surprised by the sights, the sound and the smells. Aritsugu, which features a variety of excellent kitchen tools, is a recommended shop to visit.

Finish the touring by 17:00

Overnight at The Ritz–Carlton Kyoto

Day 11, Move to Oita

At **8:30am**, check out the hotel and meet your **English Speaking Chauffeur** at car porch of the hotel and transfer to **Osaka Itami Airport** by Private Chartered Car (about an hour drive in a normal traffic condition). Catch a flight to Oita.

[Suggested flight Schedule]

ANA #1687 / Itami 10:05 - 11:05 Oita



Upon arrival at **Oita Airport**, you will be greeted by **Private Guide** and leave for **Beppu** of Oita prefecture, which is one of Japan's most famous hot spring resorts, producing more hot spring water than any other resort in the country (about an hour drive in a normal traffic condition) by a private chartered vehicle.

Beppu is well-known for **Jigoku Meguri - Hell tour...**! There are series of pools and wells spitting out water, mud and belching gas. They each have their own particular character so you might enjoy



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After Beppu exploration, you will move to the accommodation in the destination and check-in by 17:00.

ANA InterContinental Beppu Resort & Spa



Escaping the busyness of everyday life, ANA InterContinental® Beppu Resort & Spa introduces a rare combination of Japan's hot spring heritage and international, world-class experience. Trend-setting restaurants and bars will make you want to try more of Chef's unique blend of seasonal creations, spacious rooms and suites with breathtaking views will leave you in awe and the inviting infinity pool, Beppu hot spring water and rejuvenating spa treatments will sooth your body and soul.

Overnight at ANA InterContinental Beppu Resort & Spa

Day 12, Beppu - Day Trip to Kunisaki Peninsula

This morning at **8:00am**, you will meet your **German Speaking Guide** and leave for Kunisaki Peninsula by Private Chartered Vehicle (about 1.5-2 hours in normal traffic condition). Upon arrival at the meeting point, encounter with your **Nature Guide** and leave for nature trekking.

Since ancient times, the Kunisaki Peninsula has been a training ground for Shinto religion, dating back to as far as 660 BC. After the introduction of Buddhism and influence into Shinto, rituals and practices were combined and one of these became Shugendo, the practice of hiking mountains and visiting sacred places along the way, performing seclusion, fasting, meditation, or acts of endurance such as standing / sitting in extreme cold under waterfalls or in the snow, while chanting sutras. The Kunisaki Peninsula once flourished as a center for Shinto-Buddhist beliefs producing thousands of statues that can be found in some of the most unexpected places.



The **Kunisaki Peninsula Long Trail** consists of 10 courses ranging 11~18 km (7~11mi) and suitable for all ages or fitness level, allowing everyone to enjoy the peaceful and natural environment [\(your guide will decide the right course for you\)](#).



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A locally made “Bento Box” with simple lunch will be provided during or after the trekking, depending on the course.

After the trekking, transfer to **Monjusen-ji Temple**, believed to have been founded in 648 by the Father of Shugendo, En no Gyoja. It prospered in the Edo period as a place of worship for Kitsuki’s feudal clan lord Matsudaira Nomi. There are two large Nio (Guardians) statues built before the 600’s standing at the bottom of the 300+ stairs leading up to the main hall.



Move on to **Futago-ji Temple** – a prominent temple with a history of more than 1300 years, covering a wide area on the forested slopes of the mountain, with paths and stairs connecting several halls. A pair of stone Nio stand at the start of the traditional temple approach, from where a ten minute ascent up a flight of steps takes you to the main temple buildings.



Come back to the hotel by 17:00.

Overnight at ANA InterContinental Beppu Resort & Spa

Day 13, Move to Yakushima Island

Check out the hotel, meet your **English Speaking Assistant** at the hotel at **10:00am** and transfer to **Fukuoka Airport** by Private Chartered Car (about 2hours drive in a normal traffic condition). Catch a domestic air to **Yakushima Island**.

[Suggested Domestic Air Schedule]

JL #3673 / Fukuoka 13:00 -14:10 Yakushima



Upon arrival in **Yakushima Airport**, you will transfer to the hotel by courtesy car of Sankara Resort & Spa Yakushima.

Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima

A magnet for nature lovers, Sankara Hotel & Spa is a secluded retreat set between mountains, cedar forests and the sea. An idyllic spot perfectly placed for exploring this unique island or for simply relaxing, Sankara has a wonderfully indulgent spa and a superb French restaurant with an award winning French Chef.



Yakushima Island has some of the highest mountains seen throughout Kyushu, rising nearly straight up from the coast. With this steep geographical formation, Yakushima has come to be known as "the Alps of the sea." Warm ocean currents surround the island, yet in winter the mountains are capped in snow. Diverse flora and fauna have developed as a result of the climate fluctuations that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Overnight at Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima

Day 14, Yakushima - Day at Leisure

You can spend a day at your own pace - day at leisure!



Overnight at Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima

Day 15, Move to Osaka

Check out the hotel, transfer to **Yakushima Airport** by courtesy car of Sankara Resort & Spa Yakushima. Catch a domestic flight to Osaka.

[Suggested Domestic Air Schedule]

JAC #2450 / Yakushima 14:30 – 16:05 Osaka



Upon arrival in **Osaka (Itami) Airport**, you will be greeted by **English Speaking Chauffeur** and transfer to the accommodation in the destination (about 30mins drive in a normal traffic condition) by a private chartered vehicle.

Upon arrival at the accommodation, you check-in.

St. Regis Osaka



The hotel features a 12th-floor lobby that opens to an expansive outdoor garden and 160 guest rooms, all discreetly served by individual butler service – the distinctive mark of St Regis brand. Amenities in all rooms include: Wireless High Speed Internet Access, a high-definition 42-inch flat panel TV, Pioneer Blu-ray DVD/CD player, a premium mini-bar and Nespresso coffee maker, and in the bathrooms, a double vanity, a rainforest shower and separate tub with a built-in flat screen TV as well as SOTHYS bath amenities.

Overnight at St. Regis Osaka

Day 16, Osaka - Kansai International Airport

Check out the hotel and meet with **English Speaking Driver** at car porch of the hotel. You will then be transferred to **Kansai International Airport** in a chartered vehicle (about an hours drive in a normal traffic condition).

Board your international flight for your journey back home & depart Japan. Have a safe flight!



*****End of your Japan trip*****