

## **Brews, Blends & Spirits of Japan**

**Tokyo – Yamanashi – Kanazawa – Kyoto – Hiroshima – Osaka**

**(13 nights 14 days)**

**Designed for Your Clients**

Once mostly famed for its Sake, Japan has recently garnered attention from the rest of the world for learning how to produce high-quality "western" alcoholic beverages & spirits.

Always striving for perfection, passionate Japanese makers have perfected their skills in elaborating fine Wines, elaborate craft beers, sophisticated indigenous Gin, and even the "World's best whisky" in international competitions.

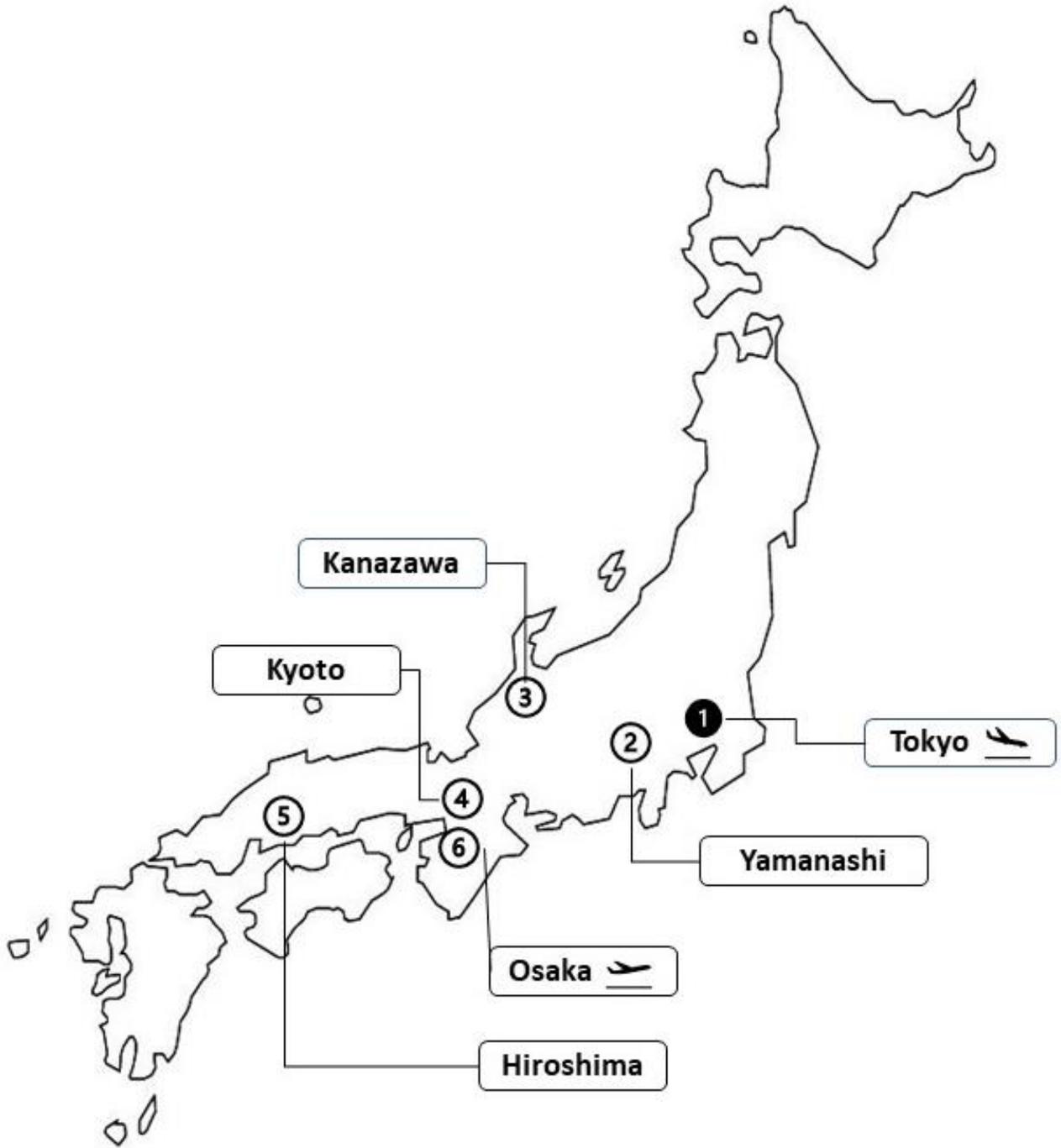
Through private tastings with experts, visits of Sake breweries, whisky distilleries and various producers, you will discover the high quality and variety of Japan's sake, wine, whisky, gin and beer. From bustling Tokyo to rural Yamashiro, from ancient Kyoto to present Hiroshima and Osaka, enjoy an harmonious blend of essential sightseeing while savouring the "Spirits of Japan".



### Itinerary at a Glance

Date	Program	Accommodation
Day - 1	Arrival in HND/NRT	Mandarin Oriental Tokyo
Day - 2	Tokyo	Mandarin Oriental Tokyo
Day - 3	Tokyo	Mandarin Oriental Tokyo
Day - 4	Move to Yamanashi	Ryokan Zabou
Day - 5	Move to Kanazawa	Hyatt Centric Kanazawa
Day - 6	Kanazawa	Hyatt Centric Kanazawa
Day - 7	Move to Kyoto	The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto
Day - 8	Kyoto	The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto
Day - 9	Kyoto	The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto
Day - 10	Move to Hiroshima	Sheraton Grand Hotel Hiroshima
Day - 11	Hiroshima	Sheraton Grand Hotel Hiroshima
Day - 12	Move to Osaka	The Ritz-Carlton, Osaka
Day - 13	Osaka	The Ritz-Carlton, Osaka
Day - 14	Departure from KIX	N/A

Your Travel Map



## Detailed itinerary

### Day – 1, Arrival in Narita/Haneda International Airport

After arriving at **Narita/Haneda International Airport** and completing immigration formalities, you will be greeted by your **English Speaking Chauffeur** at the arrival hall and transfer by **Private Chartered Car** to the hotel.



### 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

At **10:00**, meet with your **English Speaking Guide** in the hotel lobby and leave for Tokyo excursion by Private Chartered Car.

First, visit the huge **Meijijingu Shrine**, constructed in 1920 by more than 100,000 volunteers to honor Emperor Meiji, the first emperor of modern Japan at the outset of the Meiji period.



Move onto the busy streets of **Omotesando and Aoyama**, lined with fashionable shops and architectural wonders – it is a great area to stroll around! Not only International brands, also countless smaller boutiques and designer shops tucked away in smaller streets of this area.



Transfer to **Roppongi** to go up to the **observation deck** to enjoy the wide view of the Tokyo metropolis!

Move to Museum of **YEBISU BEER**, opened in 2010 to celebrate 120 years of the brand. The Museum displays exhibits about the history and science of beer brewing in Japan and also includes a tasting salon and museum shop.

Interestingly, it was the beer brand which gave the later developing town and railway station of Ebisu its name, and not the other way around.

Then, you will visit to the **Japanese Craft Beer Brewery**. It is not so difficult to find famous Japanese brands of beer like Asahi or Kirin in any places in Tokyo, but if you are aiming for something a bit more unique, you can try tasting Japanese craft beer!

### Recommendable Craft Beer Breweries

- **SPRING VALLEY BREWERY Tokyo** – There is a brewery inside the store, where you can enjoy the original craft beer made at the brewery and beer pairings as well.
- **T.Y. HARBOR** – A restaurant with a brewery, which has been renovated from a warehouse. This brewery features a beer bar and a floating lounge.



Come back to the hotel by **18:00**.

**Overnight at Mandarin Oriental Tokyo**

### Day - 3, Tokyo

At 10:00, meet with your **English Speaking Guide** in the hotel lobby and leave for Tokyo excursion by Private Chartered Car.

First, visit at the **Imperial Palace**, the celebrated residence of Japan' s imperial family. Located on the former site of the Edo Castle, the huge park area is surrounded by moats and massive stone walls. **(Only the area you can visit without prior permission)**



Then, transfer to the district near the former **Tsukiji Market**. Although the Wholesale market has closed, the large area around it – often overlooked by visitors – has remained intact and is a real treasure trove for adventurous gourmets. Occupying several blocks, you will find here everything from kelp and seaweed to dried bonito, from pickled vegetables to tea, herbs & spices. This is an ideal place to stock-up on Japanese ingredients or useful kitchen utensils.



## THE REAL JAPAN

Your guide will show you the small streets of **Asakusa**, one of Tokyo oldest and well preserved districts where you can still feel the presence of Ancient Japan. Walk along the Nakamise dori street, dating back to the Edo period when the temple's neighbors were given special right to open their shops in the approach to the temple and arrive at the Sensoji Temple, with its huge lantern.



You will transfer to **Japanese Gin Tasting Session Venue!** You will visit one of the Bars to taste several kinds of Japanese Craft Gin by having explanation from Gin Master. You can enjoy the differences of Japanese Gin!



Come back to the hotel by **18:00**.

**Overnight at Mandarin Oriental Tokyo**

## Day - 4, Move to Yamanashi

At 9:30, check-out of the Hotel, meet your **English Speaking Guide** in the hotel lobby and transfer by Private Chartered Car to **Shinjuku Station**.

### [Suggested Schedule]

Limited Express Kaiji #15 / Shinjuku 10:30 - 11:50 Enzan



Head to **Katsunuma area**, where is famous for its grape and Japanese Wine. Most wineries are open for the public for viewing, sales and tastings. You might think, "Wine in Japan?" But the history of winemaking in Japan started in the 19th century, and now wine is produced in various regions in Japan. High-quality wines are produced in Japan and some labels have won the gold medal at an international wine competition in France.

You will visit to **L'orient Winery**, which was established in 1938. You can try tasting and learn about Japanese wine. Lorient (L'ORIENT) means "Orient" in French as their aim is a high level of wine making which is not inferior to Europe. You can look around the winery and taste their wine.

Fresh wine bottling and making original label experience is also available. **(Advance reservation is required and the fee is needed to pay on spot.)**



(Images Only)

Move to **Chateau Mercian Katsunuma Winery**, it was built in 1904 and known as the oldest wooden winery in existence in Japan. This Brewery has not only their own vineyards and a wine making area, but also a wine Museum, café, tasting counter and shop. Here you can learn about the birth and evolution of Japanese wine and the history of Chateau Mercian. You can appreciate the trajectories and achievements of the predecessors who founded today's Chateau Mercian and see precious winemaking equipment that has actually been used here for over 100 years, the oldest bottles of Japan wine transition of labels, and so on.



After the touring, you will transfer to your accommodation and check-in by 17:00.

### Ryokan Zabou



Ryokan Zabou, an authentic Japanese Onsen Ryokan, is located on the riverside of Fuefuki River. You can have an exclusive luxury experience as they stroll around the vast gardens and enjoy in-season local ingredients with local wine.

### **Overnight at Zabou**

### Day - 5, Move to Kanazawa via Kobuchizawa

At 9:00, check-out of the Ryokan, meet your **English Speaking Guide** at the Ryokan and left for Kobuchizawa excursion by Private Chartered Car.

Transfer by Private Chartered Car to **Suntory Hakushu Whisky Distillery**, also called & quitted “Forest Distillery” because of its unique location, which produces world-renowned, highquality whiskies. You can enjoy a visit of the Whiskey Distillery with Whisky tasting. (Joint tour only, Maximum: 25 participants, Duration: 80min - time depends on availability)



Then move to **Miyasaka Sake Brewery**, produces one of Japan’s premier Sake brand “Masumi”. This brewery not only holds a distinguished award-winning history at Sake fairs, but they have made their name for their original superior sake yeast called “Kyokai No. 7” that is used even today among half of the Sake brewers nation-wide in Japan. You will join Sake Brewery tour and taste different sake labels by Masumi.

(Need to make appointment in advance, it depends on the availability and situation.)



You will transfer to **Nagano Station** to take a bullet train bound for Kanazawa.

(It takes around 1.5 hour with normal traffic condition)

**[Suggested Schedule]**

**Bullet Train Hakutaka #569 / Nagano 16:54 – 18:22 Kanazawa**



Upon arrival at **Kanazawa Station**, you will be welcomed by **English Speaking Assistant** and walk to the hotel together. (It takes only 3 minutes from Kanazawa Station on foot.)

**Hyatt Centric Kanazawa**



Situated just seconds from the Kanazawa station, Hyatt Centric Kanazawa is the perfect spot from which to explore the authentic art, shops, restaurants and culture of Kanazawa. Experience this well-preserved historical city; renowned for its geisha and samurai districts as well as wonderful cuisine.

**Overnight at Hyatt Centric Kanazawa**

### Day - 6, Move to Yamashiro via Kanazawa

At **9:00**, meet your **English Speaking Guide** and leave for Kanazawa excursion by Private Chartered Car.

Start your visit in the ancient district of **Higashiyama Geisha District**. Built in 1820, it still preserves Kanazawa's feudal heritage with wooden lattice fronts of old geisha houses. There are some Japanese Sake shops and tasting bars in this area.



Then, You will first visit the magnificent **Kenrokuen garden**, reputedly one of the three most beautiful landscape gardens in Japan. Admire the harmonious coexistence of six Chinese attributes of perfection, evolving as the different seasons unfold. Kenrokuen Garden is beautiful in all seasons.

Then you will transfer to **Shata Sake Brewery**, they have been brewing sake by traditional brewing process since 1823 (Edo period). Their primary brand is named 'Tengumai' and it is loved by local sake lovers.



Transfer to **NOGUCHI NAOHIKO Sake Institute**. The Sake master of this brewery is Mr. Noguchi Naohiko, who is known as a legendary toji (head brewer). He started working as a sake brewer when he was 16. In 2017, Mr Noguchi founded a new Shuzo – the revolutionary Noguchi Naohiko Sake Institute, with hopes of passing on his craft to the next generation and brewing new sakes that could top his previous creations.

There is not only brewery but also gallery and Tasting Room named 'Toan', inspired by tea room design. You can enjoy tasting in many ways, finding new flavors and aromas with well-paired nibbles. (prior reservation is required)



Come back to the hotel by **18:00**.

**Overnight at Hyatt Centric Kanazawa**

## Day - 7, Move to Kyoto

At 11:30, check out of the hotel and meet with **English Speaking Assistant** and walk to **Kanazawa Station** together. (It takes only 3 minutes to Kanazawa Station on foot.)

### **[Suggested Schedule]**

Limited Express Thunderbird #22 / Kanazawa 12:14 - 14:37 Kyoto



Upon arrival at **Kyoto Station**, you will be greeted by **English Speaking Chauffeur** and transferred to the hotel.

## 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 - 8, Kyoto

At **9:00**, meet with your **English Speaking Guide** in the hotel lobby and leave for Kyoto excursion by Private Chartered Car.

Transfer to **Fushimi Inari-taisha shrine**. The magical, seemingly unending path of over 5000 vibrant orange torii gates that wind through the hills behind Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine makes it one of the most popular shrines in Japan. The walk around the upper precincts is a pleasant day hike. It also makes for a delightfully eerie stroll in the late afternoon and early evening, when the various graveyards and miniature shrines along the path take on a mysterious air.



### **【Special Japanese Sake Program】**

Visiting local Sake Brewery in Fushimi area and having explanation by Sake making experts directory. **(Upon availability)** Fushimi has been a leading sake brewing district in Japan alongside Nada district in Kobe as Fushimi's groundwater includes the perfect amount of minerals. There are nearly 20 sake breweries in this area so you will be able to dive into the world of Sake...!

You will transfer to **Sake Tasting Session Venue!** You will visit one of the Bars to taste several kinds of Japanese Sakes by having explanation from Sake Master. You can enjoy the differences of Sakes!



Come back to the hotel by **17:00**.

**Overnight at The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto**

## Day – 9, Kyoto – Day Trip to Yamazaki

At **9:00**, meet your **English Speaking Guide** and leave for Yamazaki by Private Chartered Car.

First, you will visit to the **Suntory Yamazaki Whiskey Distillery**, opened in 1923, the distillery produces Suntory's flagship line of Yamazaki single malt whiskies, which have won many international awards. The Yamazaki Distillery is surrounded by nature and greenery in a quiet and serene district that has long been known for its quality water, a key ingredient to great tasting whisky. **(Joint tour only, Maximum: 25 participants, Duration: 80min – time depends on availability)**



You will move to **Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art**, the core of the museum's exhibits are artworks from the collection of Tamesaburo Yamamoto, who was the first president of Asahi Breweries, which is one of the biggest beer brand in Japan. This museum holds exhibits and displays collections of artists associated with the folk art movement. The art museum is located in a 100-year-old Western style building and in a new building by the Japanese famous architect Tadao Ando.



Come back to the hotel by **16:00**.

**Overnight at The Ritz–Carlton Kyoto**

**Day - 10, Move to Hiroshima**

At 9:00, check out the hotel, meet your **English Speaking Chauffeur** and transfer to **Kyoto Station** by Private Chartered Car.

**[Suggested Schedule]**

**Nozomi #13 / Kyoto 10:07 - 11:44 Hiroshima**



Upon arrival at **Hiroshima Station**, you will be welcomed by your **English Speaking Guide** and leave for excursion by Private Chartered Car.

You will visit to **Saijo**, where is known as the home of one of the best sake-brewing communities in Japan. Saijo has eight breweries, seven of which are situated along **Sakagura-dori** (Sake Brewery Street) so you can stroll through a historic district and discover your favorite tastes of Sake!



You will transfer to the hotel to check in by 16:00.

**Sheraton Grand Hotel Hiroshima**



Sheraton Hiroshima Hotel is conveniently located in the city next to JR Hiroshima Station, with direct access to the bullet train and bus terminals. You'll be in the middle of the energy and excitement of Hiroshima, along with its historic sites and architecture. Find total comfort in our 238 guest rooms, including five Suites, all of which feature The Sheraton Sweet Sleeper™ Bed.

**Overnight at Sheraton Grand Hotel Hiroshima**

## Day - 11, Hiroshima

At **9:00**, meet your **English Speaking Guide** in the hotel lobby and leave for Hiroshima excursion by Private Chartered Car.

First you will visit **Sakurao Distillery**. In 1918, Chugoku Jozo began sake brewing in Hanao district in Hatsukaichi city. Up until now, the distillery has mainly produced shochu, mirin, and sake. In 2018, they created a brewery named SAKURAO DISTILLERY, and introduced German-made hybrid brewing equipment. Accompanying the worldwide craft gin boom, the brewery began using the brewing techniques it had cultivated over more than 100 years since its founding to make gin and whiskey. **(The craft gin brewery tour includes a tasting is available and needs advance reservation.)**



Transfer to **Miyajima Island** - "Miyajima" means "shrine-island" in Japanese, referring to the island's cause of fame: **the dramatic gate of Itsukushima shrine and red O-Torii gate**, which appears to be floating on the water. People have felt divine power since the ancient times and the whole island was an object of their faith. Originally constructed in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. Itsukushima Shrine and Otorii are sprawling work of ancient Japan. **(Please note that Red O-Torii gate is under renovation and covered.)**



Come back to your hotel by **17:00**.

**Overnight at Sheraton Grand Hotel Hiroshima**

## Day - 12, Move to Osaka

After checking out the hotel at **12:00**, you will meet **English Speaking Assistant** and be escorted to **Hiroshima Station** to take a train for Osaka.

### **[Suggested Schedule]**

**Sakura #550 / Hiroshima 12:50 - 14:28 Shin-Osaka**



Upon arrival at **Shin-Osaka Station**, you will be welcomed by **English Speaking Assistant** and transfer to the Hotel by Private Chartered Vehicle.

## The Ritz-Carlton, Osaka



Located in the prestigious business and shopping district of Nishi-Umeda, The Ritz-Carlton, Osaka has the look and feel of 18th century English nobleman's Georgian home. A place of elegant serenity, unparalleled personal service and a wide selection of highly-rated restaurants and bars, the hotel also features a 450-piece art and antique collection, a fitness center, elegant event space and one of the largest guest rooms in Japan.

## **Overnight at The Ritz-Carlton, Osaka**

## Day - 13, Osaka

At 9:00, meet your **English-Speaking Guide** and leave for Nada, where is Japan's top Sake producing region by Private Chartered Car.

Start from the **Kiku-Masamune Sake Brewery Museum**, is an ideal venue for understanding the true concept of the joy of discovery, for you will learn about all of Japanese Sake. Kiku-Masamune was founded in 1659 and boasts a history of over 350 years. Built under a theme of "presenting the origin of sake," this sake brewery museum with a longestablished brand displays a large number of exhibits, most of which are designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan.



Continue to **Kobe Shushinkan Brewery**. Awarded the highest Gold Prize in the International SAKE Challenge 2017 (a world-renowned sake contest) was the junmai ginjo Fukuju. It was served at the Nobel Prize banquet held in the same year and established its global status. Here at Kobe Shu-Shin-Kan, you will learn about the history of this great sake Fukuju and the brewery's insistency to produce great sake.



Move to **Sawanotsuru Sake Brewery**, a long-established sake brewery. By continuing to use traditional sake brewing methods and fine raw materials without pursuing volume and low prices, they have been producing a variety of precious junmaishu. Brewery buildings originally constructed in the late Edo period were precisely restored and converted into a museum. Here, exhibits such as huge vats and tools are displayed with easy-to-understand commentaries. The museum is designated as one of the Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties of Hyogo Prefecture



Come back to the hotel by 17:00.

**Overnight at The Ritz Carlton, Osaka**

**Day - 14, Osaka - Kansai International Airport**

After checking out the hotel, meet with **English Speaking Chauffeur** in the hotel lobby to transfer to **Kansai International Airport** by chartered car. Check in at the counter by yourself to board your international flight. Have a safe flight!



**\*\*\* END OF YOUR JAPAN JOURNEY \*\*\***