THE PRIVATE COLLECTION



The willow-lined canal at Kinosaki Onsen, at dusk

Photograph: Mypom9, CC BY-SA 4.0, cropped

a private journey through japan

Classic Japan

Eleven days, and two nights in Kinosaki Onsen

3	3	2	2
TOKYO	KYOTO	KINOSAKI	OSAKA

$22,000

per person, twin share · eleven days

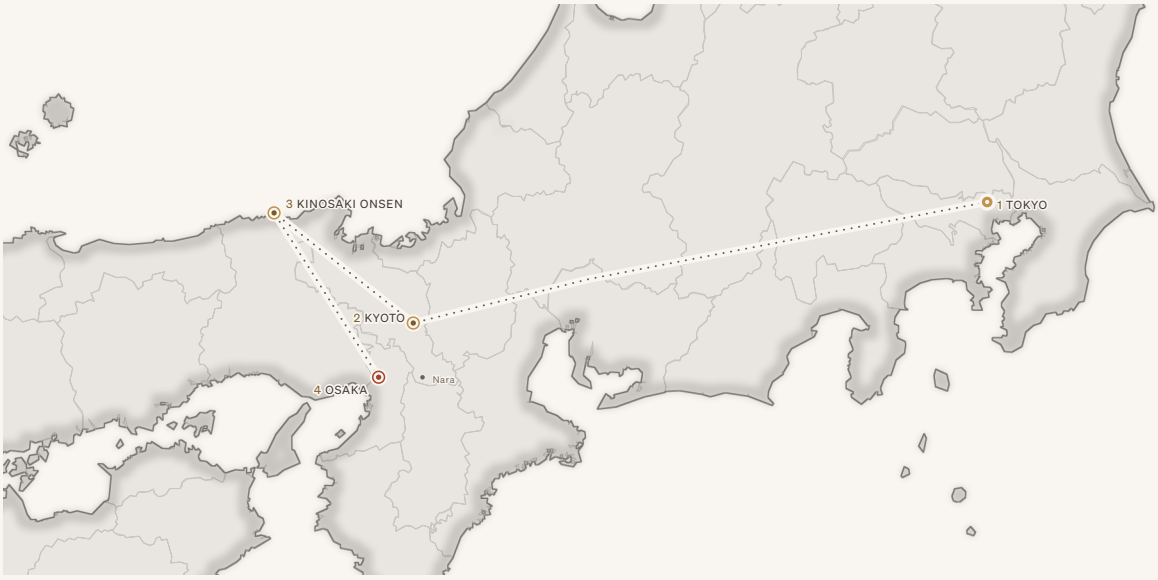
the route

From Tokyo to Osaka, by way of *Kinosaki*

Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka in eleven days, with two nights at a *ryokan* in Kinosaki Onsen between them, and a Tour Director to take care of every arrangement.

Classic Japan is Essential Japan with the two nights a first visit tends to miss: a ryokan at Kinosaki Onsen, the hot spring town near the Sea of Japan coast where guests walk the canal in yukata from one public bathhouse to the next. Three nights in Tokyo and three in Kyoto come first; two in Osaka close it. The shinkansen carries you in first class from Tokyo to Kyoto, the limited express crosses the Tamba hills to Kinosaki and on to Osaka, and a private luxury car and chauffeur for each couple takes you to and from the airport.

Nara is taken as a day from Kyoto, paired with Fushimi Inari on the same road south. Two evenings in Kyoto are left open, with your Tour Director's recommendations booked on request.



THE ROUTE BY NIGHT, TOKYO, KYOTO, KINOSAKI ONSEN, OSAKA

Tokyo

THREE NIGHTS

Nihonbashi, the merchant quarter from whose bridge every road in Japan was once measured.

Kinosaki Onsen

TWO NIGHTS

A ryokan on the canal, in a town that has bathed in its springs since the eighth century.

Kyoto

THREE NIGHTS

Gion, the geiko district below the eastern hills, with Kiyomizu-dera a short walk above it.

Osaka

TWO NIGHTS

Beside the castle park, in the city the Edo period called the kitchen of the nation.



DAYS ONE TO THREE · THREE NIGHTS

Tokyo

Nihonbashi, the merchant quarter from whose bridge every road in Japan was once measured.

The Wako clock tower at the Ginza crossing, at dusk

DAY *one*

From the moment you clear arrivals at Narita or Haneda, nothing is yours to carry: a private chauffeur takes every bag and drives you into Nihonbashi, the old merchant quarter at the heart of Tokyo. In the evening your Tour Director receives you at the welcome dinner, and the days ahead are laid out over it in conversation.

DAY *two*

Edomae sushi tonight, omakase at the counter: the chef decides the order, and each piece is pressed in the palm and set before you with the rice still warm and the fish cured or aged in the Edo way. Before it, the Tsukiji Outer Market with your Tour Director, eating as you go, the Imperial Palace East Gardens on the ground of Edo Castle, and Ginza.

DAY *three*

Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest temple, and in the lanes behind it a studio where you watch one of the crafts of old Edo still made by hand at the bench. Meiji Jingu in its forest of a hundred thousand trees, Shibuya Crossing as the lights come on, and an izakaya evening of small plates and cold sake, your Tour Director ordering in Japanese.



DAYS FOUR TO SIX · THREE NIGHTS

Kyoto

Gion, the geiko district below the eastern hills, with Kiyomizu-dera a short walk above it.

The lanterns of Yasaka Shrine, at the top of Gion

DAY *four*

Kiyomizu-dera on its wooden stage above the valley, the stone lanes of Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka down to your hotel, and Gion with your Tour Director as the lanterns are lit: your first afternoon in Kyoto. The shinkansen brings you there from Tokyo in first class in a little over two hours.

DAY *five*

Kaiseki tonight at a two-Michelin-star restaurant in Kyoto, the season told in a procession of small courses, and in the afternoon a private tea ceremony, the bowl set down before you with its front turned towards you. The morning is Kinkaku-ji, leafed in gold above its pond, and the bamboo grove of Arashiyama, where the wind in the stems sounds like rain.

DAY *six*

The ten thousand vermilion gates of Fushimi Inari, then Nara for the Great Buddha of Todai-ji and the deer among the stone lanterns, with lunch in Nara. Sake tasted where it is brewed in Fushimi on the way back, and the evening yours, with your Tour Director's recommendations booked on request.



DAYS SEVEN AND EIGHT · TWO NIGHTS

Kinosaki Onsen

A ryokan on the canal, in a town that has bathed in its springs since the eighth century.

The garden of Nishimuraya Honkan, Kinosaki Onsen. Photograph: Nishimuraya Honkan, Kinosaki

DAY *seven*

Tonight you change into yukata, walk to the first of Kinosaki's seven bathhouses in wooden geta, and come back to kaiseki at the ryokan, made from what the Sea of Japan and the Tajima hills give that month. The morning is Nishiki Market with your Tour Director, tasting as you go along the covered street Kyoto has shopped in for four centuries: pickles from wooden tubs, grilled skewers, rolled omelette sliced from the block; then first class north over the Tamba hills.

DAY *eight*

A day among the seven bathhouses, walked in yukata along the willow-lined canal and over its stone bridges, with your Tour Director for as much of it as you wish. In the evening a second kaiseki at the ryokan, and from November to March the Matsuba crab landed at Tsuiyama, just up the coast.



DAYS NINE TO ELEVEN · TWO NIGHTS

Osaka

Beside the castle park, in the city the Edo period called the kitchen of the nation.

Dotonbori at night, Osaka

DAY *nine*	Sushi omakase at a counter in Osaka tonight, each piece set down in front of you the moment it is made. Before it, first class south to Osaka, the castle on its Tokugawa walls a walk through the park from your hotel, and Dotonbori on foot with your Tour Director.
DAY *ten*	Wagyu teppanyaki for the farewell dinner, seared and carved on the steel in front of you. Before it, Kuromon Market late in the morning, lunching from stall to stall on scallops grilled in their shells and wagyu on skewers, and the afternoon at your leisure.
DEPARTURE *eleven*	A last breakfast, and a private chauffeur to Kansai or Itami for your flight.



THE EXTENSION · THREE NIGHTS

Hiroshima and Miyajima

Three days added after the last day, with three nights at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima, breakfast every day, and the meals named here. With the extension, Classic Japan is fourteen days. Ask us when you enquire.

The great torii of Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima

EXTENSION *one*

First class to Hiroshima, and the Peace Memorial Park. On the last morning of the journey you take the shinkansen west in first class from Osaka to Hiroshima instead of flying home, a little under ninety minutes. The afternoon is given to the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, laid out beside the Motoyasu River around the dome that has been left as it stood in 1945, and your Tour Director walks it with you.

EXTENSION *two*

Miyajima and Itsukushima Shrine. The ferry crosses to Miyajima in ten minutes. Itsukushima Shrine is built out over the tidal flats, so that at high water its vermilion halls stand in the sea, and its great torii, some sixteen metres tall, is kept upright by its own weight alone. The afternoon is for the lanes of the island, and lunch and dinner are included.

EXTENSION *three*

Shukkei-en, and the farewell dinner. Shukkei-en, the garden laid out for the Asano lords in 1620 around a pond of islands and small bridges, fills the morning. The afternoon is at your leisure, and a farewell dinner closes the journey. The next morning a private chauffeur takes you to Hiroshima Airport, or the shinkansen returns you to Osaka or Tokyo for your flight, in first class.

where you sleep

The hotels and *ryokan*

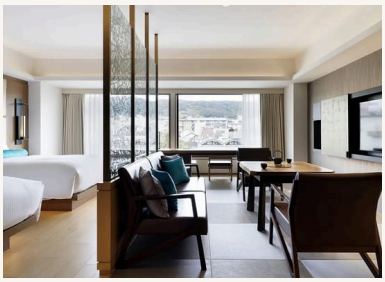


Nihonbashi bridge, a short walk from Nihonbashi Premier, a Mitsui Garden Hotels property

TOKYO · THREE NIGHTS

Nihonbashi Premier

Nihonbashi Premier stands in Nihonbashi, the quarter where the Mitsui family opened its first kimono shop in 1673, a few minutes on foot from the bridge from which the roads of Japan are still measured. Mitsukoshi is a few minutes away, Ginza a quarter of an hour on foot and Tokyo Station about ten, and the hotel keeps a large bath of cypress on its ninth floor.



Photograph: Hotel The Celestine Kyoto Gion

KYOTO · THREE NIGHTS

Hotel The Celestine Kyoto Gion

Hotel The Celestine Kyoto Gion stands on Yasaka-dori in Higashiyama, between the temple of Kennin-ji and the Yasaka pagoda, so that Gion, Kiyomizu-dera and the stone lanes of the old city are all within an evening's walk of its door, and it keeps a large public bath for its guests.



Photograph: Nishimuraya Honkan, Kinosaki

KINOSAKI ONSEN · TWO NIGHTS

Nishimuraya Honkan or Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei

Nishimuraya Honkan stands at the centre of the town, a ryokan kept by the same family for more than six generations, its tatami rooms turned to a garden of moss, stone and water, with its own onsen. Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei, kept by the same family, stands among the trees of its own forest garden on the edge of the town.



Photograph: Hotel New Otani Osaka

OSAKA · TWO NIGHTS

Hotel New Otani Osaka

Hotel New Otani Osaka stands on the edge of Osaka Castle Park, and its upper floors look across the trees to the keep. The castle is a walk through the park, and Dotonbori and Kuromon are a short drive away.

what is included

What the price *covers*

TEN NIGHTS	Nihonbashi Premier, Tokyo, three nights Hotel The Celestine Kyoto Gion, Kyoto, three nights Nishimuraya Honkan or Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei, Kinosaki Onsen, two nights Hotel New Otani Osaka, Osaka, two nights
MEALS	Breakfast every day. Eight dinners: the welcome dinner, Edomae sushi omakase at a counter in Tokyo, an izakaya evening, kaiseki at a two-Michelin-star restaurant in Kyoto, two kaiseki dinners at Nishimuraya in Kinosaki, sushi omakase at a counter in Osaka, and a farewell of wagyu teppanyaki. Three lunches, at Tsukiji, in Nara and at Kuromon, and the tastings at Nishiki.
TRAVEL	A private luxury car and chauffeur for each couple to and from the airport. First class on the shinkansen from Tokyo to Kyoto, and on the limited express from Kyoto to Kinosaki and from Kinosaki to Osaka. A private car and driver on the days in Tokyo, Kyoto and Nara that the rail cannot do. Luggage sent ahead between hotels.
EXPERIENCES	A private tea ceremony in Kyoto. A sake tasting in Fushimi. A craft studio visit in Asakusa. The market walks at Tsukiji, Nishiki and Kuromon with your Tour Director. The seven public bathhouses of Kinosaki. Every entry on the plan.
YOUR TOUR DIRECTOR	A Tour Director who takes care of every arrangement, fluent in Japanese and English, who speaks for you at every door, desk and counter.
THE EXTENSION HIROSHIMA AND MIYAJIMA	Three days in Hiroshima and on Miyajima, set out in full after the last day of the journey.

The *price*

$22,000

per person, twin share · eleven days

$22,000 per person, twin share. One inclusive price: all breakfasts, and all other meals as detailed in the itinerary. The journey is for one guest, a couple, or a party of up to four in two rooms, and four in two rooms pay the twin-share price each. Prices are per person.

BOOKING	A deposit of $3,500 per person confirms your dates; the balance is due 95 days before you travel. The journey is taken on dates of your choosing. Tell us when you would like to travel, and we confirm your dates with you and advise on the flights that land you right for the welcome dinner. Tipping is not customary in Japan. In restaurants and hotels the service is in the bill. A gratuity for your Tour Director at the end is standard practice and welcomed.

Your enquiry

Write to us at bookings@luxuryjapantravel.com with the dates you have in mind, or enquire from the journey's page at luxuryjapantravel.com/private-collection/classic-japan. We reply in person.

A guest who would like a journey shaped around them is welcome on the Custom Tour of Japan.

With our compliments,

Luxury Japan Travel

Kyoto | Japan · bookings@luxuryjapantravel.com



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Lanterns of Gion Higashi, Kyoto