

The stage of Kiyomizu-dera above the city, Kyoto, at dusk

a private journey through japan

# Definitive Japan

*Thirteen days, the most complete journey we make*

| 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOKYO | MOUNT FUJI | KYOTO | KINOSAKI | OSAKA |

$26,000

per person, twin share · thirteen days

the route

# By way of Mount *Fuji* and Kinosaki

## Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Kinosaki Onsen and Osaka in thirteen days: the *complete* first journey through Japan, with a Tour Director to take care of every arrangement.

Definitive Japan adds to Classic Japan the two nights that make the journey whole: a ryokan at the northern foot of Mount Fuji, beside Lake Kawaguchi, taken between Tokyo and Kyoto. Three nights in Tokyo open the journey; three in Kyoto, two at Kinosaki Onsen and two in Osaka follow. The shinkansen carries you in first class, a private car and driver takes you up to the lake and back, the limited express crosses the Tamba hills to Kinosaki, 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, MOUNT FUJI, KYOTO, KINOSAKI ONSEN, OSAKA

### Tokyo
THREE NIGHTS

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

### Mount Fuji
TWO NIGHTS

A ryokan at the northern foot of Mount Fuji, with its own onsen and kaiseki at its table.

### Kyoto
THREE NIGHTS

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

### Kinosaki Onsen
TWO NIGHTS

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

### 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 AND FIVE · TWO NIGHTS

# Mount Fuji

A ryokan at the northern foot of Mount Fuji, with its own onsen and kaiseki at its table.

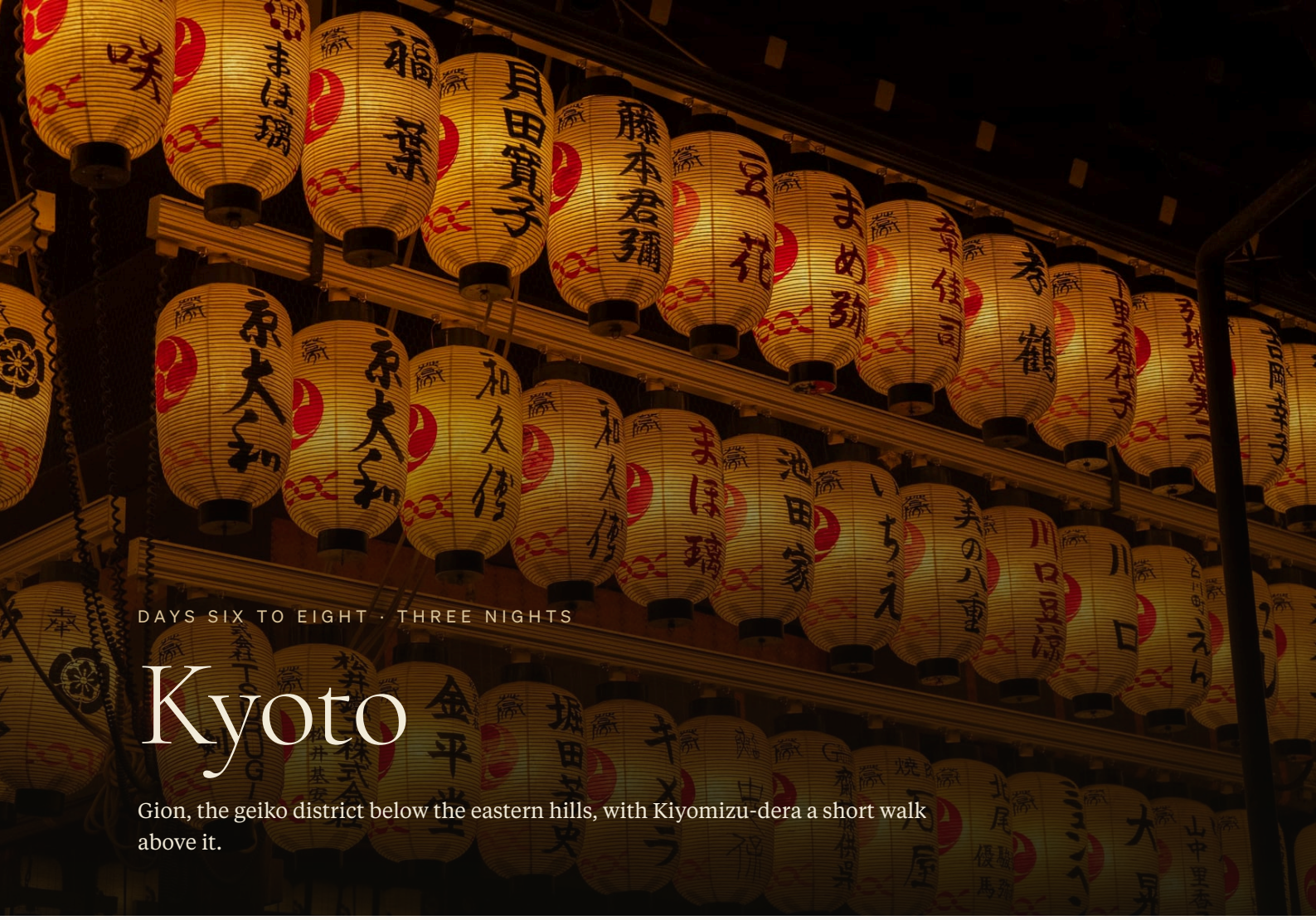
Mount Fuji across Lake Kawaguchi

DAY *four*

An afternoon in the onsen at the foot of Mount Fuji, the mountain showing or hiding itself over the lake with the weather, and kaiseki at the ryokan table. First class on the shinkansen takes you to Mishima in under an hour, and a private car climbs through the foothills to the lake.

DAY *five*

The Kachi Kachi Ropeway lifts you to the viewpoint on Mount Tenjo, which faces Mount Fuji across the lake, and lunch is by the water. Then Oshino Hakkai, eight ponds fed by snowmelt that has filtered through the mountain for decades, so clear the weed stands in them like a garden, and a second kaiseki at the ryokan.



DAYS SIX TO EIGHT · 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

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| DAY *six* | 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. A private car brings you down from the lake to Mishima, and first class on the shinkansen carries you on to Kyoto in about two hours. |
| DAY *seven* | 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 *eight* | 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 NINE AND TEN · 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 *nine*

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 *ten*

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 ELEVEN TO THIRTEEN · TWO NIGHTS

# Osaka

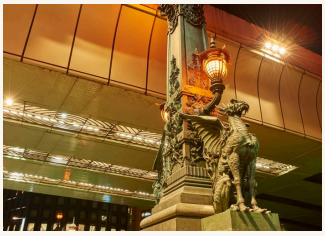
Beside the castle park, in the city the Edo period called the kitchen of the nation.

Dotonbori at night, Osaka

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| DAY *eleven* | 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 *twelve* | 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 *thirteen* | A last breakfast, and a private chauffeur to Kansai or Itami for your flight. |

where you sleep

# The hotels and *ryokan*

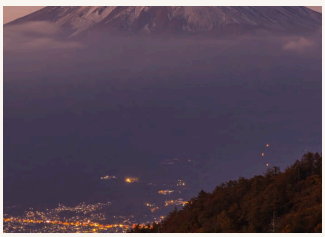


Nihonbashi bridge, a short walk from Nihonbashi Premier, a Mitsui Garden Hotels property

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.

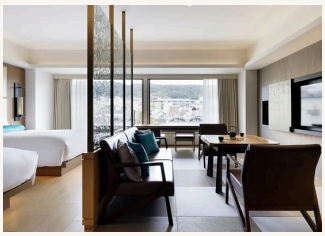


Mount Fuji above Fujiyoshida at dusk

MOUNT FUJI · TWO NIGHTS

## A ryokan in a Japanese garden at Fujiyoshida, or Konansou

One ryokan stands in a Japanese garden of more than six hectares at Fujiyoshida, with an open-air onsen on its roof that faces Mount Fuji. Konansou stands on the shore of the lake beneath Mount Fuji at Funatsu, its onsen looking out over the water. Both serve kaiseki at their table.



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*

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| TWELVE NIGHTS | Nihonbashi Premier, Tokyo, three nights<br>a ryokan in a Japanese garden at Fujiyoshida, or Konansou, Mount Fuji, two nights<br>Hotel The Celestine Kyoto Gion, Kyoto, three nights<br>Nishimuraya Honkan or Nishimuraya Hotel Shogetsutei, Kinosaki Onsen, two nights<br>Hotel New Otani Osaka, Osaka, two nights |
| MEALS | Breakfast every day. Ten dinners: the welcome dinner, Edomae sushi omakase at a counter in Tokyo, an izakaya evening, two kaiseki dinners at the ryokan at the foot of Mount Fuji, 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. Four lunches, at Tsukiji, by the lake, 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 Mishima and from Mishima to Kyoto, and on the limited express from Kyoto to Kinosaki and from Kinosaki to Osaka. A private car and driver between Mishima and the ryokan, and on the days at the lake, 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 Kachi Kachi Ropeway and Oshino Hakkai. 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 *price*

## $26,000

per person, twin share · thirteen days

$26,000 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/definitive-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

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Water from the kettle, at the tea ceremony