



Japan Holidays
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

THE GREAT TRAIN JOURNEY OF JAPAN AUTUMN 2020

Tue 03 November 2020 - Thu 19 November 2020 | 17 days, 16 nights

from A\$7,800 per person, Twin Share



TOUR DESCRIPTION

Introduction:

If you love trains from all eras - powerful steam engines, trolleys and trams, glam trains and sleek shinkansens - this is the tour for you! Enjoy Japan's top rail museums, spectacular fall foliage and popular tourist sites. Experience a wide range of train travel on a unique trip in a small group setting.

Date: 3rd - 19th November 2020

Price: \$7,800 per person, twin share
(Single Supplement \$1,290 Additional)

Inclusions:

- 16 nights accommodation, 3-star western rooms, including 2 nights Onsen experience.
- JR Rail passes and all reserved train tickets as per itinerary
- Convenient luggage forwarding service from Tokyo-Kyoto & Hiroshima-Tokyo.
- 3 Full-day private guides in Hiroshima, Tokyo & Kamakura
- Daily breakfast, 7 lunches & 4 dinners (B/L/D)
- Entry to all temples and shrines listed on tour
- Return airport transfers

Non Inclusions:

- International airfares & taxes
- Additional guides for free days not on itinerary
- Meals & entry to attractions not on itinerary
- Travel insurance

Highlights:

- Share an unforgettable train tour with a small, intimate group of train enthusiasts. No more than 8 people!
- Visit the top 3 rail museums of Japan - each with its own unique attractions
- View the gorgeous countryside of Japan behind steam locomotives from a bygone era
- Glide on sleek and silent shinkansens, trundle along on colorful trams in vibrant cities
- Experience an authentic Japanese stay inn at an Onsen hotel
- Savor the regional flavors and delicacies with popular Station bento boxes, or *ekiben*.
- Explore the top spots in Japan on your "free" days, creating your own memorable itinerary
- 24/7 Escort support providing expert knowledge and experience across Japan.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Tue, 03 Nov - Tokyo Arrival

There will be a meet-and-greet followed by shuttle transfer to your accommodation in Tokyo. Upon arrival at our Tokyo accommodation, you'll be met by your **Japan Holidays** representative in the hotel lobby. In the evening your tour guide will outline the trip in more detail.

Accommodation: Dormy Inn Premium Kanda Tokyo (4 nights)



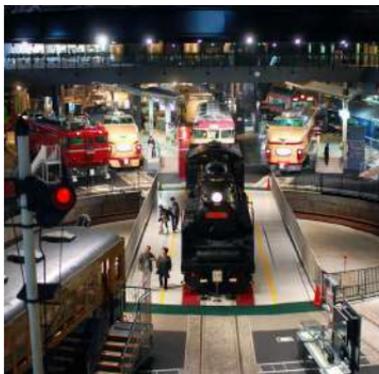
Day 2 - Wed, 04 Nov: Introduction to Japan with Full Day Guide (B/D)

First stop is the JR information desk to activate and book all JR rail trains for the trip. Afterwards you will have a guided walking tour with a Tokyo local and see some of the city's most famous sights: Tokyo Station, Shibuya intersection, Imperial Palace, Meiji Shrine and Omotesando. We'll take a variety of public transportation to get around seeing the local lines and efficiency for trains across the Tokyo Metropolis. This evening we host welcome drinks at a local Izakaya - Japanese style pub, nearby.

Day 3 - Thur, 05 Nov - Bonsai and Bullet trains of old (B/L)

We will depart to visit first the Omiya Bonsai Art Museum in Saitama, boasting more than 120 bonsai masterpieces. Afterwards we will travel to the first major train attraction of this tour, **The Railway Museum**

Operated by JR East Japan, this museum showcases Japanese railway history and development over 150 years. You'll view retired rolling stock, train simulators and an impressive model railway layout here.



ITINERARY



Day 4 - Fri, 06 Nov: Paleo Express to Chichibu (B/L)

After departing Tokyo, we will ride aboard the powerful **Paleo Express Steam Locomotive** from Kumagaya station to Chichibu Station, enjoying the sights and sounds as we roll through the mountains of mainland Japan. You're free to explore Chichibu, or you can join your escort to stroll the city streets and visit **Chichibu Shrine**.

We ride the **La View Express train** on Seibu Railway back to Ikebukuro, with free time to see Tokyo at night.

Note: Your large luggage bag will be forwarded to Kyoto, so be sure to pack your essentials in a cabin bag for Sunday evening.

Day 5 - Sat, 07 Nov: Oigawa Railway to Kawane Onsen (B/L/D)

Today we bid farewell to Tokyo and head west, boarding the Tokaido *shinkansen*, with soaring views of Mt Fuji on the way to Kakegawa and then on to Kanaya station. Here, we change lines and depart north on the scenic **Oigawa Railway** through the mountains.

Ekiben lunch box will be to enjoy the local produce of the Oigawa area

You'll experience a memorable night in a traditional Japanese *Onsen* hotel, and enjoy the outdoor *onsen* views overlooking the Oigawa Railway. Dinner at the hotel will be a Japanese-Western Buffet.

Accommodation: *Kawane Onsen Hotel, Kawane (2 Nights)*



Day 6 - Sun, 08 Nov: Free Day to explore Oigawa (B/D)

Today is a free day dedicated to enjoy the nature and beauty of the Oigawa region. Watch the trains rush past the Onsen hotel, or join the Japan Holidays escort in exploring into the mountains of the Southern Abts line.

ITINERARY

Day 7 - Mon, 09 Nov: From mountains to the old capital (B)

After breakfast, checking out and grabbing any last minute souvenirs, We'll make our way back down from the mountains to the main Shinkansen Line, and forward through to Kyoto. We will be having an afternoon walking tour of the old Gion district, seeing the sights and true geishas / meiko going about their time for work.

Accommodation: Dormy Inn Premium Kyoto Ekimae (3 nights)



Day 8 - Tue, 10 Nov: Kyoto Railway Museum (B/L)

After breakfast we head off to explore Kyoto and head to the Arashiyama area, catching a train to Saga-Arashiyama station. Freetime to see Arashiyama through history on the **Kyoto Randen tram line**, in operation since 1910, to Shijo Omiya station.

We will visit the **Kyoto Rail Museum**. Here you have a few hours of free time to see trains spanning every era of Japan's transportation history as well as the famous **Umekoi Roundhouse**. Enjoy lunch at the observatory overlooking the turntable.

You'll have the afternoon to explore the area on your own.

****Moderate walking is on this day, alternative suggestions are offered for the day should you choose not to wish to join.***

Day 9 - Wed, 11 Nov: Kyoto Free Day (B)

Today is a *free* day to see the many sites of Kyoto - or even those in nearby Nara and Osaka. Your Japan Holidays escort will be happy to help and arrange a self-guided plan to what you wish to see for your last day in Kyoto. There is unparalleled shopping, temples, shrines, museums, palaces and parks to explore.

If you prefer, a private local guide can be hired for a tour of Kyoto at additional cost.

Note: *Your large luggage bag will be forwarded to Tokyo, so be sure to pack your essentials in a cabin bag for your time in Hiroshima & Okayama*



ITINERARY



Day 10 - Thur, 12 Nov: Kyoto - Himeji - Hiroshima (B)

After departing Kyoto we'll ride the *Shinkansen* to Hiroshima, stopping at Himeji for a visit to the beautiful hillside **Himeji Castle**, which dates from 1300. We arrive in Hiroshima in the afternoon with time to enjoy it's vibrant nightlife and see the local trams operating at dusk.

Accommodation: Daiwa Roynet Hiroshima Ekimae (3 nights)

**Moderate walking is on this day, alternative suggestions are offered for the day should you choose not to wish to join.*

Day 11 - Fri, 13 Nov: Hiroshima - Full Day (B/L)

Our local guide here will take us on a full day's excursion of Hiroshima and its surrounds. We'll ride on the city's quaint tram lines and visit the world-famous **Hiroshima Peace Park** and **Atomic Bomb Dome**. We'll also tour one of Japan's most scenic spots - **Miyajima Island** - with its ethereal floating torii gate. If possible we will try to get a behind the scenes tour of the Hiroshima Tram Depot followed by authentic Hiroshima lunch of *Okonomiyaki* - a savory noodle and egg pancake.



Day 12 - Sat, 14 Nov: Steam ride back to old Tsuwano (B/L)

After breakfast we'll catch the *shinkansen* to Yamaguchi station, departing for Tsuwano on the **Yamaguchi Steam Locomotive Green class reserved seats**

At Tsuwano you can remain at the station to see the locomotive cleaned and prepared for its return trip, or join the Japan Holidays escort to visit local sites such as Tsuwano's historical **Old Town** and the suburbs. Lunch will be at a local restaurant in the old town.

ITINERARY

Day 13 - Sun, 15 Nov: Au revoir Hiroshima, Bonjour Okayama! (B)

Today, we will depart Hiroshima to onomichi, off the coast of the lovely Setouchi Inland Sea. Enjoy a *free* day for sightseeing on your own along the coast of Onomichi. The afternoon you will ride **La Malle de Bois**, a unique french inspired train with a cafe car included to watch the autumn sunset over the fields and countryside towns.

Accommodation: Daiwa Roynet Okayama, Okayama (1 night)



Day 14 - Mon, 16 Nov: Experience the future of Rail in Nagoya (B,L)

Before making full circle return we'll stop in Nagoya to visit the final of the three big rail museums - the **SCMAGLEV** and Railway Park in Nagoya, focusing on the trains of JR Tokai (Central Japan) and the Super Conducting Magnetic Levitation trains of the future.

In the afternoon we will return back to Tokyo, for the remainder of the tour

Accommodation: Shinjuku Prince Hotel (3 nights)

Day 15- Tues, 17 Nov: Tokyo Free Day (B)

Today is a *free* day for you to explore Tokyo and see the sites you wish. Ask your Japan Holidays escort for suggestions depending on what you'd like to see or do. Just use your own JR rail pass to get out and explore this cosmopolitan city with several "downtowns"!



ITINERARY



Day 16 - Wed, 18 Nov: Kamakura (B/D)

On our final full day, we'll visit the south coast of **Kamakura** with a Japan Holidays guide to enjoy the harmony of Nature, temples and sea along the **Enoden tram**. We'll visit Kotoku-in, home to the Kamakura Daibutsu - a serenely seated giant Buddha. Lunch will be at a café overlooking **Enoshima Beach**. We head back to Tokyo at the end of the Enoden line from Fujiwara station on the **Odakyu Romancecar**.

A farewell dinner will be held in Tokyo this evening.

Day 17 - Thu 19 Nov: End of Tour (B)

This is the last day of your tour. For those departing from Narita or Haneda Airport, there will be a shared shuttle transfer arranged for your departure flight.

Sayonara!



Your Japan Holidays Escort - Lawson

From an early age, Lawson has always had a keen interest in all things Japan, primarily stemming from his passion for Japan's pop culture and martial arts. After living many years in Japan, Lawson has developed an interest and appreciation for the rail and transportation system unique to the country. His broad knowledge, experiences and passion to provide an unforgettable train experience makes him the ideal escort to have showing around Japan this Autumn season.



Japan Holidays



About Japan Holidays

Our team of travel specialists have expert knowledge on the country which is unsurpassed by many travel companies. They hold a strong bond with Japan having either lived there or visited many times.

Having specialists proficient in the language will make you feel confident in having your travel plans managed thoroughly. Japan Holidays is supported by an office in Japan staffed with local experts who are available to assist you in case of need whilst touring the country.