



2 Weeks in Japan Itinerary: Complete First-Timer Guide to “Blend In”

By Alyse ⏰ June 2, 2025

Planning on spending two weeks in Japan for the first time? I've been obsessed and **visited regularly over the past decade**, so I can help!

I've packed this two week Japan itinerary with tips for what's in and what's out for 2025 because there are **a few things no one tells you...**

Most other itineraries were created by people who have only visited Japan in recent years, **speeding through the same few spots** within the “Golden Route” — Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka with rushed day trips.

This has led to outdated info and overtourism issues with visitors chasing the same pictures; standing for **hours in lengthy queues for photos**; doing the same touristy things as everyone else.

To top it off, they're left disappointed with unmet expectations. I don't want this for your two-week Japan itinerary, so **I'm here to help you “blend in.”** My extensive travels through Japan will help transform your visit into a unique, highly personalised experience instead you'll LOVE every moment of!



While still **covering the popular cities in a relaxed way**, my tried-and-tested itinerary below for first time visitors takes travel times into account. I've shared my useful insider advice and options for **best times to visit attractions without crowds**, as well as enjoying lesser-known locations in each.

If you're hoping to curate a more authentic **14 day Japan itinerary beyond the main tourist spots**, learn where to stay in Japan, be left in awe by stunning landscapes, enjoy unique culinary experiences, all while being immersed in fascinating history and culture, read on for more!

This two weeks in Japan itinerary will cover:

- What this two week Japan itinerary means for you
- Complete 2 Weeks in Japan itinerary including things to do, where to stay, where to eat & getting around for:
 - **DAY 0: Transit** (Airports to Tokyo)
 - **DAYS 1-4: Tokyo**
 - **DAYS 5-6: Day trips from Tokyo** (or overnight at **Mt Fuji**)
 - **DAYS 7-10: Kyoto**
 - **DAYS 10-12: Hiroshima** (+ day trip to **Miyajima**)
 - **DAYS 12-14: Osaka** (+ day trip to **Nara**)
 - **DAY 15: Transit to Tokyo**
- Buy the ad-free PDF version of this 2 Week Japan itinerary for offline use →
 - 2 weeks in Japan budget for two adults
 - Things to keep in mind for your Japan two week itinerary
 - Useful resources for 2 weeks in Japan

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2 WEEKS IN JAPAN: FIRST-TIMER ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAYS	WHERE & WHAT
0	TRANSIT, FLY OVERNIGHT
1/2/3/4	TOKYO
5/6	DAY TRIPS FROM TOKYO OR OVERNIGHT AT MT FUJI
7/8/9	KYOTO
10	KYOTO ⇒ HIROSHIMA
11	DAY TRIP: MIYAJIMA
12	HIROSHIMA ⇒ OSAKA
13	DAY TRIP: NARA
14	OSAKA ⇒ TOKYO
15	TOKYO, FLY HOME

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Two Weeks in Japan Itinerary Overview



Japan

2 WEEK ITINERARY CHECKLIST

SEE TOKYO LANDMARKS FROM ABOVE AT SHIBUYA SKY	VISIT A PRESERVED CASTLE IN OSAKA
TAKE A DAY TRIP TO SEE MT FUJI	EXPLORE THE OLD + MODERN IN TOKYO
ENJOY A TEA CEREMONY WITH A GEISHA	DISCOVER OVERLOOKED TEMPLES + SHRINES IN KYOTO
MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE SACRED DEER IN ANCIENT NARA	ORDER FROM VENDING MACHINES
PAY RESPECTS IN HIROSHIMA	TRY SNACKS + SAKE ON A STREET FOOD TOUR
RIDE A FEW BULLET TRAINS	SEE AN ICONIC FLOATING TORII ON THE ISLAND OF MIYAJIMA

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What this two week Japan itinerary means for you

For first-timers, 2 weeks in Japan is a great introduction to this amazing country. As my first two-week trip in 2014 captured my heart and gripped it tightly, I've been revisiting Japan two to three times per year on average since. In 2017 I became a Japan itinerary specialist!

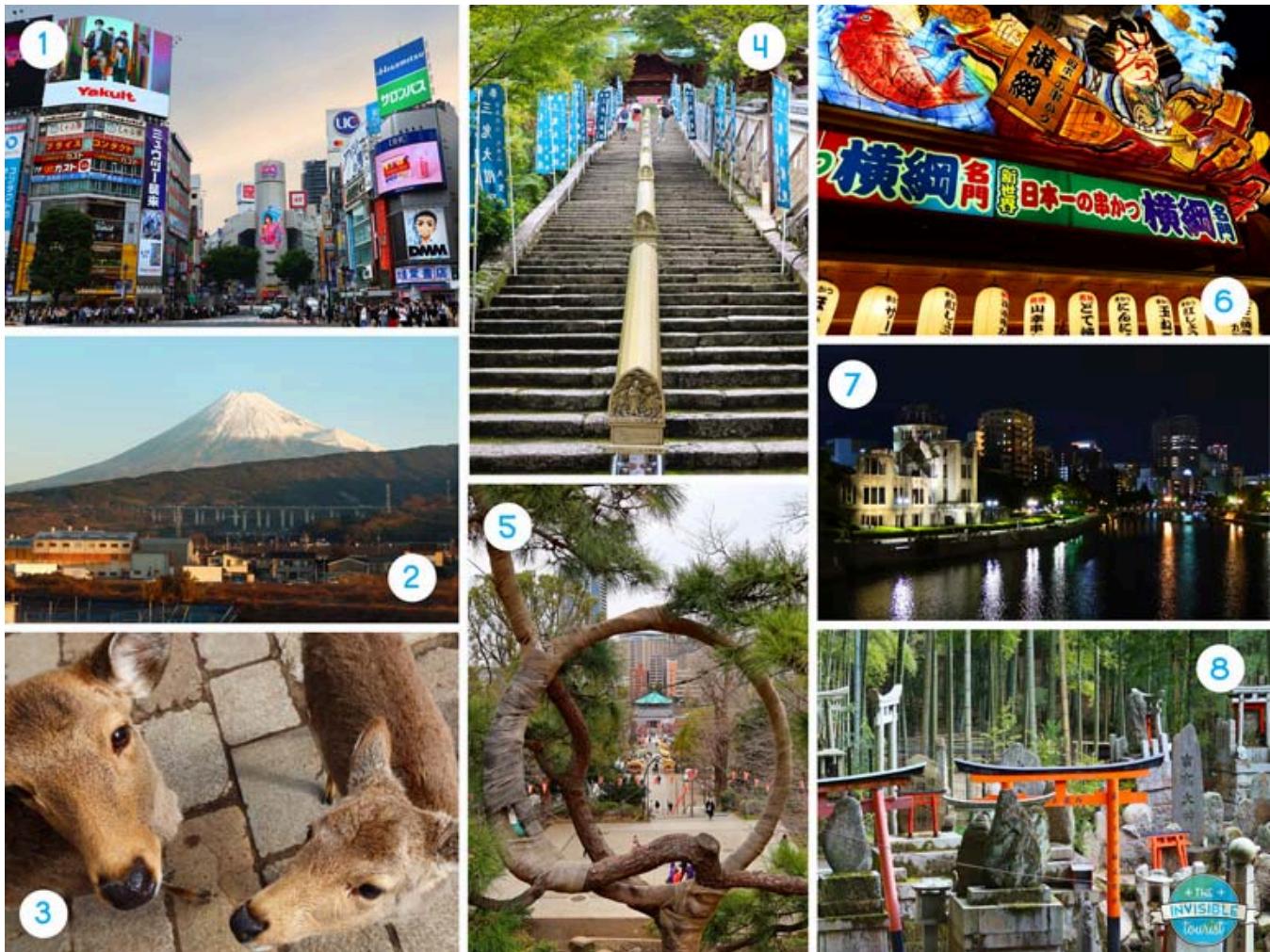
My practical loop itinerary covers 5 nights in Tokyo, 4 nights in Kyoto, 2 nights in Hiroshima and 3 nights in Osaka (plus plenty of time for day trips from each) to not feel rushed. You can end the trip in Osaka or continue back to Tokyo for your flight home.

Here's an overview of what **following my personal Japan itinerary means for you:**

- Visiting Japan so often over a long period means **I've observed tourist trends come and go.** I've shared **lesser-known spots** to help you avoid having the same cookie-cutter experience as everyone else for your two week Japan trip.

- Due to overtourism in Japan, I've sought out ways to **bypass crowds to help you “blend in”** in popular destinations and better personalise your trip.
- Spending a few nights in each location **saves having to move your luggage each day**, and allows flexibility for day trip options that may be weather dependent.
- I've included **unique cultural experiences with locals** based on my personal recommendations to enrich your trip.
- Plenty of tried-and-tested accommodation options to suit you, as I've **revisited some cities between three and a dozen times!**

Here are some highlights of what you can expect to experience during your 14 days in Japan itinerary:



2 Week Japan Itinerary Highlights: 1) Shibuya, Tokyo ~ 2) Mt Fuji ~ 3) Deer of Nara ~ 4) Miyajima ~ 5) Ueno, Tokyo ~ 6) Shinsekai, Osaka ~ 7) Hiroshima ~ 8) Hidden Fushimi Inari hike, Kyoto

Finally, if you're combining Japan with South Korea, be sure to read my [10 day South Korea itinerary](#) — which, much like this blog post, includes popular and lesser-known spots to help you blend in.

With all that said, let's get your two week Japan itinerary started!

Japan 2 Week Itinerary: Complete Guide for First-Time Visitors

The famed [Japan Rail Pass](#) does not pay off for this itinerary. I instead recommend purchasing individual tickets to save money. You can book these online in advance via SmartEx or [Klook](#), at ticket machines in Japan or in person at a JR ticket office.

TIP: The Tokyo Subway Pass offers discounted travel rather than Suica (IC) Cards. Read my guide to [train symbols in Japan Google Maps](#) that easily breaks down the different types of transport cards, when to use each, and which is best for you.

DAY 0: TRANSIT

Fly to Tokyo overnight if possible and get excited about where you'll be waking up tomorrow!

How to get to Tokyo from Haneda Airport

Haneda Airport to Tokyo (Hamamatsuchō) via Tokyo Monorail, 15 minutes. Asakusa will take another 25 mins, while Shinjuku and Shibuya will add on another 30-40 mins.

TIP: Your IC/Suica Card will cover the cost of the monorail, too!

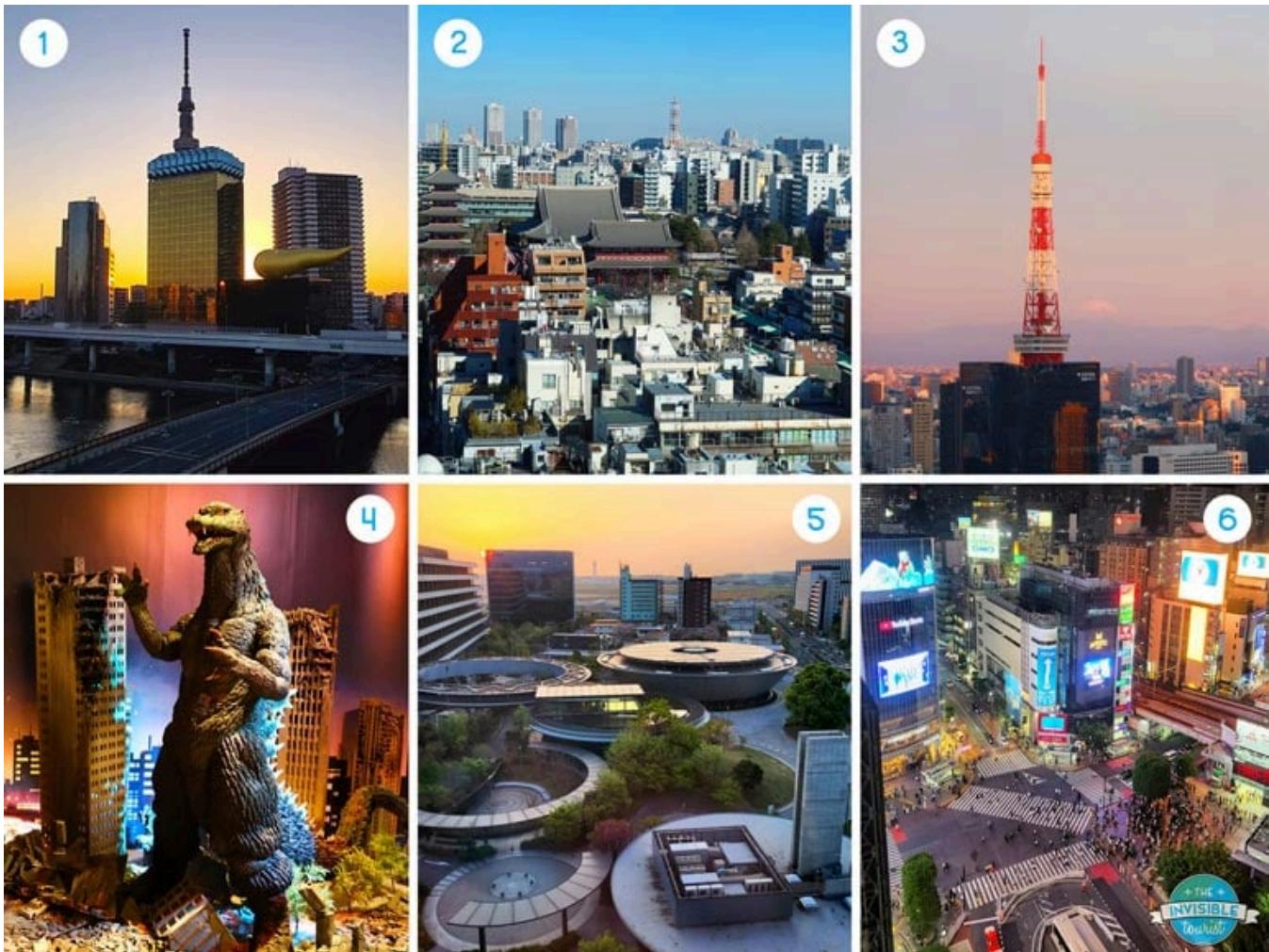
How to get to Tokyo from Narita Airport

Narita Airport to Tokyo via Narita Express, approx. 1 hour.

TIP: An alternative is the Airport Limousine Bus. At almost half the cost of Narita Express, you're able to book tickets in advance. Find out more about [Narita Airport Limousine tickets](#).

Where to stay in Tokyo

Having visited a dozen times, I've stayed in many hotels throughout greater Tokyo over the years and I can recommend each for different reasons. My favourites are [Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu](#) and [The Gate Hotel Kaminarimon](#) in Asakusa. For the full breakdown of all the places I've stayed, including nearest train stations, points of interest, nearby *konbini* (convenience stores) and reviews of each hotel above, read my honest advice for [where to stay in Tokyo for first-time and repeat travellers](#). Find out why I [don't recommend Airbnb here](#).



Views from a few Tokyo hotels I've stayed in: 1&2) Asakusa ~ 3) Shiodome ~ 4) Shinjuku ~ 5) Haneda Airport ~ 6) Shibuya

TIP: You may have heard of luggage forwarding services such as Yamato, but I don't recommend it. This service can take 24 hours to receive your luggage, so you'll need to carry a smaller bag of essentials with you.

DAYS 1 - 4: TOKYO

Let's begin my sample Japan itinerary with a little word of advice: Don't underestimate the sheer size of Tokyo. It will be one of the largest cities you ever visit, with many attractions spaced out in different neighbourhoods.

It's wise to know what you want to see beforehand and plan accordingly, while allowing time for spontaneity. This will help you to not feel like rushing through a checklist during your visit and you'll enjoy every minute!

Ideas for things to do in Tokyo

Planning a trip to Tokyo can be overwhelming. Where to go?? It's easy to spend a day exploring each neighbourhood, there is so much to see – so I'll help you choose your own adventure for your first visit to Tokyo!

Select areas based on your interests, add them to a map and group together the things you'd like to experience. It's also possible to combine two areas in one day that neighbour each other.

I've visited over 20 neighbourhoods in Tokyo so explaining them all in this section would make the itinerary quite lengthy! Check my [in-depth Tokyo neighbourhood guide](#) based on your interests, including alternatives to the popular spots, and my [detailed first time in Tokyo itinerary](#) for more.

But to narrow down over a few days, if you can't decide I recommend these areas:

- **Asakusa and Kanda** – Traditional Tokyo with the capital's oldest temple dating back to the 7th century, Senso-ji, and the iconic Tokyo SkyTree nearby. The best time to avoid crowds is after sunset, but the shops along Nakamise-dori are closed. Instead, find quality

kitchenware and souvenirs in nearby Kappabashi. Meet a geisha and learn traditional arts from her at the beautiful Kanda Shrine.

- **Shibuya and Shinjuku** – Modern, bustling, fun Tokyo. Shibuya is home to the world's busiest pedestrian crossing, while Shinjuku holds the title for busiest train station in the world. Both have fun nightlife, and are bursting at the seams with food and shopping spots.

TIP: Read my comprehensive guide to things to do in Shibuya during the day and night for more detailed info, and see Shimbashi for a less touristy alternative to these areas.



Lantern of Senso-ji early morning

- **Shimokitazawa and Sugamo** – These two are “in” for 2025, replacing Harajuku which I don’t really recommend anymore as it’s become overcrowded and tourist-centric. “Shimokita” is great for independent boutiques, eateries and has a young local vibe. Switch it with Yanaka Ginza for old-world charm. Sugamo is known as “Grandma’s Harajuku” for its hyper-local street lined with temples, clothing, green tea, street food, traditional sweets and more.
- **Ueno** – The scenery around Ueno Park is stunning, especially around the Moon Pine and Ueno Toshogu Shrine decorated in gold. It’s fun exploring Ameyo Yokocho for souvenirs, street food and locally made goods, while Nezu Shrine is a delight with its red torii tunnel and perfectly pruned azaleas.
- **Minato** – Amazing close-up views of Tokyo Tower! Don’t miss lovely Zojo-ji Temple with the tower as a backdrop and thousands of stone Jizo. Stop by at Hamarikyu Gardens’ teahouse for a lovely cup of matcha overlooking the pond and greenery.
- **Shibamata** – An alternative to modern Ginza, about 45 mins away by train is this preserved neighbourhood that was unaffected by WWII air raids. Eat your way along its main street trying traditional snacks, before visiting Shibamata Taishakuten Temple with its impressive wooden carvings. Afterwards, enjoy matcha overlooking a stunning garden at Yamamoto-tei. More info about [Shibamata here](#).



Places to visit in Tokyo: 1) Shimbashi is a lesser-known, smaller alternative to Shibuya & Shinjuku ~ 2) Pair Kanda with a visit to Asakusa ~ 3) Sugamo replaces Harajuku as a more local experience ~ 4) Nezu Shrine in Ueno ~ 5) Tokyo Tower by night



Alternative to modern Ginza: Shibamata ~ 1&3) Shibamata

*Taishakuten Temple ~ 2) Retro Toy Museum ~ 4) Main Street ~ 5)
former merchant residence of Yamamoto-tei*

Where to eat in Tokyo

My personal favourite places to eat in Tokyo are in Shibuya and include Han No Daidokoro (incredible wagyu beef BBQ), Kirin City *izakaya*, and random little eateries around Shibuya's Dōgenzaka area.

I've also taken this [Shibuya ramen tour](#) (**use code Invisible5 for a discount**) where I was able to try 6 mini bowls with a local ramen expert, and highly recommend it ([read my review here](#)).

TIP: Wondering what local food tours are right for you? I've personally undertaken multiple in Japan's capital and reviewed them in [my guide to the best food tours in Tokyo](#) to help you choose.

You also can try crèpes in Shimokitazawa, have brunch in Azabujuban, Korean food in Shin-Obuko, traditional foods in [Yanaka Ginza](#), visit the unusual [Maidreamin'](#) maid café in Akihabara, and in Shinjuku the Golden Gai/Kabukicho area and Omoide Yokocho (although this is now very touristy so [this Shinjuku foodie tour can help keep things local](#)). Most food stores don't open until 10am.

If you're after a quick bite, I love and recommend Japanese *konbini* (convenience stores – Family Mart, Lawson & 7-11) or street food. My guide to [Japanese snacks](#) details the popular and traditional morsels to try, plus exactly where to find them.

As it can be notoriously difficult for vegans and vegetarians in Japan, [try this Vegan Night Foodie Tour](#).



DAY 5 - 6: Day trips from Tokyo (including Mt Fuji)

Here are some ideas for the next 2 days of your two week Japan itinerary.

You could either select 2 separate day trips from my list below, or an

overnight stay in Fujinomiya – my personal favourite overlooked place to see Mount Fuji without the crowds.

Be sure to read my [full guide to more underrated day trips from Tokyo](#), some of them I'm sure you haven't heard of!

Select two separate day trips

- **Yokohama 30 minutes from Tokyo**

One of the easiest day trips from Tokyo! So many fun things to see and do, such as the Cup Noodles Museum, Japan's largest Chinatown, Minato Mirai and beautiful harbour view parks. Read my [full guide to things to do in Yokohama](#) for more.

- **Kawagoe 30mins from Tokyo**

If you love preserved Edo Period architecture, you'll adore Kawagoe! Complete with old-world bell tower, stunning Hikawa Shrine, a laneway full of cheap candies and a riverbed of cherry blossoms in spring, it's one not to miss! My [Kawagoe day trip itinerary](#) has all the details and is lovely during cherry blossom season.

- **Hakone 75 mins from Tokyo**

TIP: For 2025, due to the crowds Hakone is “out” as recommendation from me. If it's onsen you're after in a quieter location, [Shuzenji Onsen](#) is a nice mini alternative to Hakone. Read my guide to tried-and-tested [onsen ryokan & hotels in Izu Peninsula](#). Izu can be reached in around 2 hours from Tokyo and most tourists overlook it, but I adore it! More info about the [Izu Peninsula here](#).

In saying that, Hakone is a super popular adventure for a first-timer's two week Japan trip, but Mt Fuji views aren't the best. Still a fun day out if your chances of seeing it are low due to cloud cover. Easily see all the sights around the Hakone Round Course with the [Hakone Free Pass](#). It includes a combination of train, cable car, ropeway, boat and bus to see lakes, hot springs, active volcanoes, art galleries and gardens.

NOTE: Some tourists now queue up to two hours for a photo at Hakone Shrine – I do not recommend this (there is [this alternative in Izu](#) with no one else if you'd prefer!)



Alternatives to Hakone Shrine can be found in the Izu Peninsula

- **Fuji Five Lakes** 2 hours from Tokyo

Including spots with an iconic Mt Fuji backdrop such as Lake

Kawaguchiko, Chureito Pagoda, Gotemba Outlets, various temples and shrines, 8 sacred ponds of Oshino Hakkai and more. Due to the popularity of local buses and their limited schedules, I reviewed this [Fuji Five Lakes day trip itinerary](#), and I also recommend [these days tours around the Fuji Five Lakes](#).

TIP: Use [fujisan.info](#) to check the probability of seeing Fujisan on a given day before heading there!

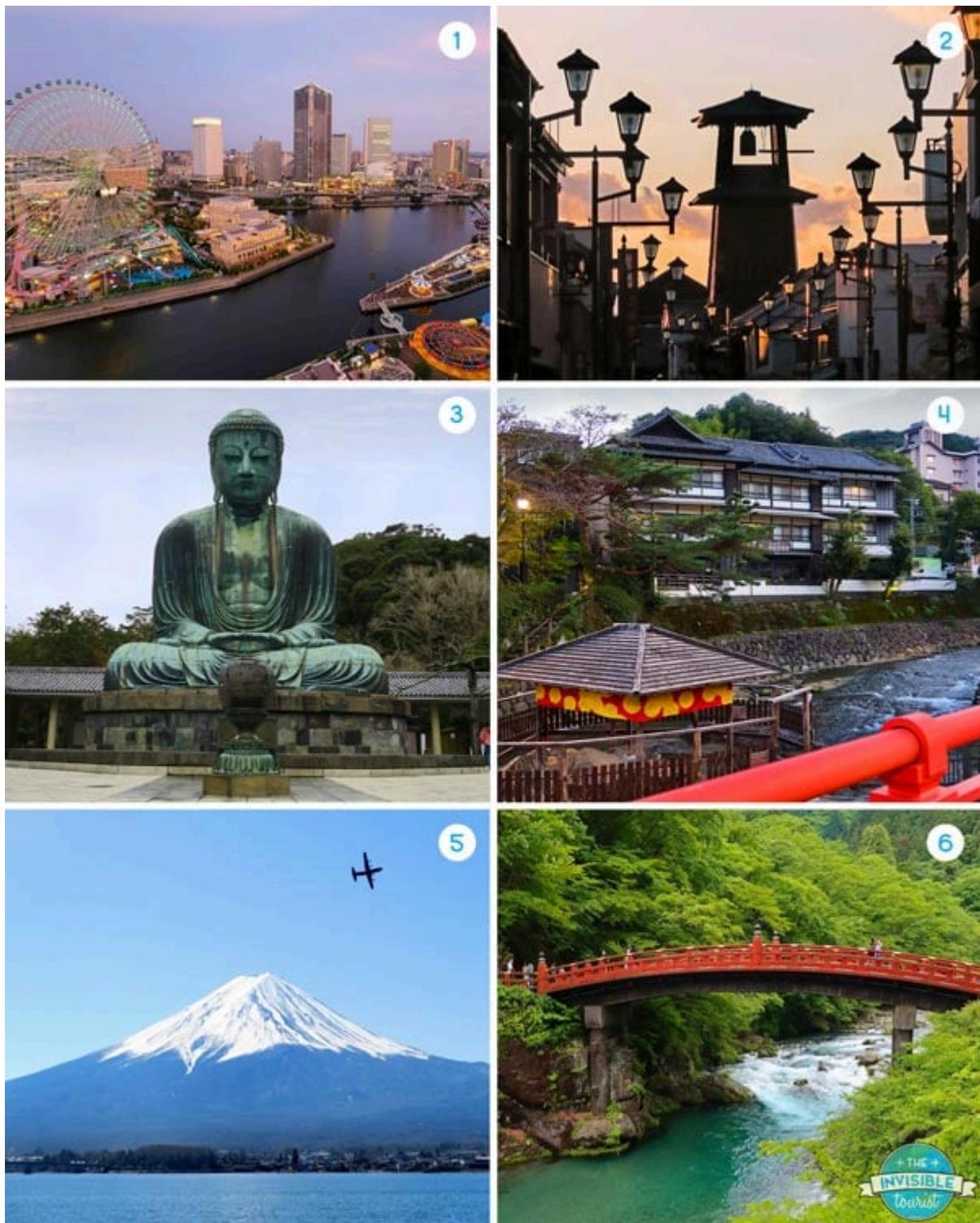
- **Kamakura 50 mins from Tokyo**

Japan's ancient capital with many temples and shrines, Kamakura is popular for its famous giant Buddha and easy hikes nearby. Discover hidden caves, Hasedera Temple and enjoy a traditional lunch. Read my full [one day Kamakura itinerary](#) for more.

- **Nikko 2 hours from Tokyo**

This stunning UNESCO World Heritage site is home to many temples and shrines (pictured below) nestled within nature's finest scenery.

There are 3 ways to get there using different discount passes, which I detail in my guide to planning a [Nikko day trip itinerary](#). And don't forget the lesser-known [Edo Wonderland](#) theme park (Edo was the capital city of Japan before Tokyo) and [Tobu World Square](#) here, with your favourite landmarks in miniature!



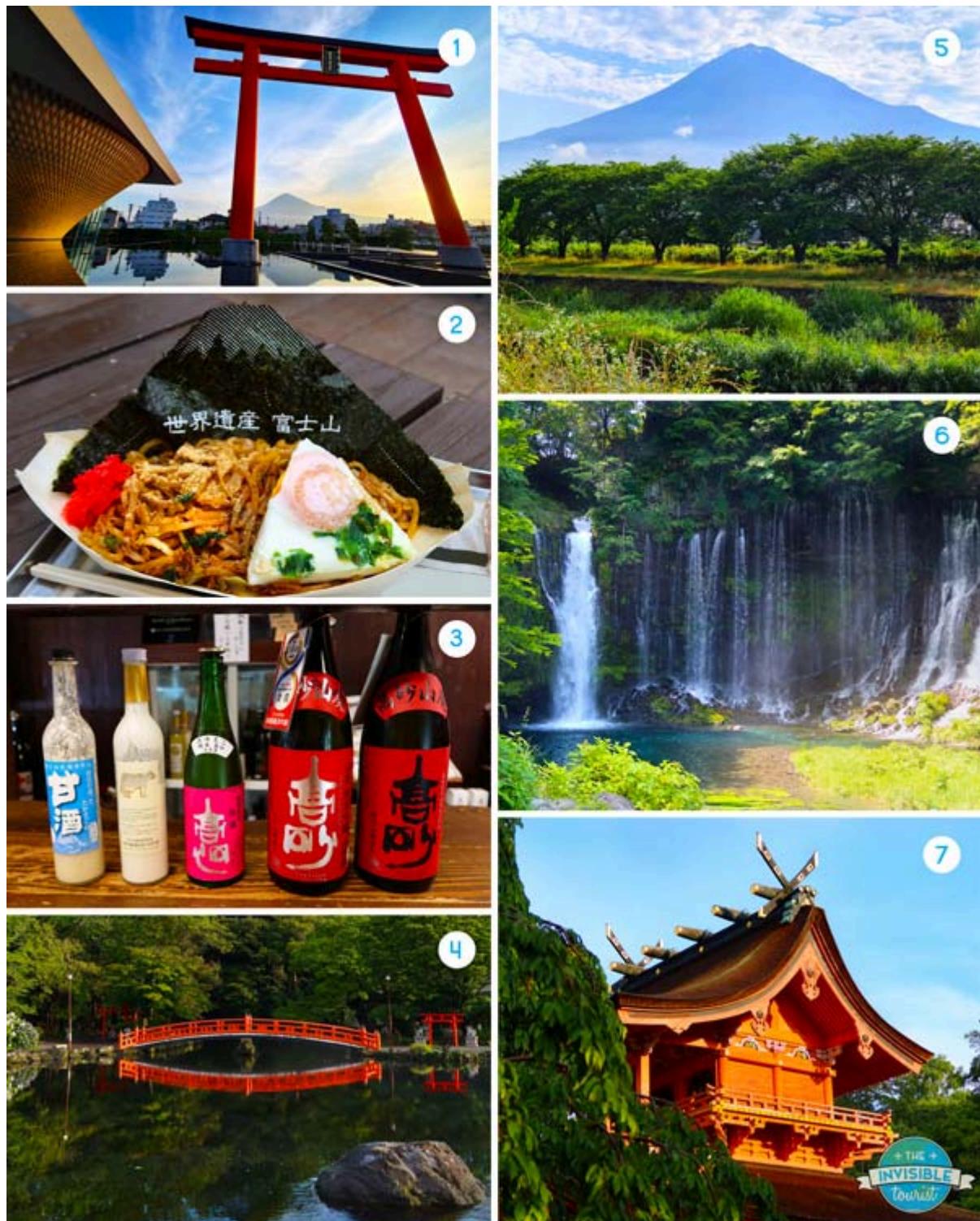
Day trips from Tokyo: 1) Yokohama ~ 2) Kawagoe ~ 3) Kamakura
~ 4) Shuzenji Onsen instead of Hakone ~ 5) Fuji Five Lakes ~ 6)
Nikko

Overnight in Fujinomiya

Prefer to spend the night near Fujisan? Located on the mountain's western edge, I've named Fujinomiya as the "unseen side of Mt Fuji." Most tourists zip right past it on bullet trains between Tokyo and Kyoto, meaning fewer crowds for us – and some of the most incredible views, just look at the sunrise view from my room below!

It is possible to visit Fujinomiya in one day on this [Fujinomiya famous food tour \(+ bullet train from Tokyo\)](#). However, to make the most of your visit and increase your chances of seeing Mt Fuji it's a good idea to spend the night. Read more my guide to [what to do in Fujinomiya](#) for all the details.





Fujinomiya attractions: 1) Mt Fuji UNESCO World Heritage Centre ~ 2) Fuji yakisoba ~ 3) Sake tasting brewed with water from Mt Fuji ~ 4) Wakutamaike Pond ~ 5) Urai River ~ 6) Shiraito Falls ~ 7) Fujisan Hongu Sengen Taisha Shrine ~ Top: View from my room in Fujinomiya

DAYS 7 - 10: KYOTO

Days 7-10 of my sample itinerary for Japan is beautiful Kyoto. As Japan's ancient capital for over 1,000 years and dotted with over 2,000 temples and shrines, this dear old city deserves more than just one day of your time!

There is so much more to see here than the ever-popular Fushimi Inari Taisha, Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and Kiyomizu-Dera, which I call the *Big 4*.

My Kyoto 4 day itinerary below will help you experience a different side of this timeless city by incorporating some hidden gems in Kyoto during your time here, as well as the best times to go to avoid crowds at the *Big 4* to enrich your experience.

Getting from Tokyo to Kyoto

2 hours 20 minutes one way from Tokyo Shinagawa station on Nozomi *shinkansen*, free on included trains with the Japan Rail Pass.

Where to stay in Kyoto

I've personally stayed in 4 hotels and ryokan in Kyoto, but my three favourite are in the Gion district:

- Japanese-Western Fusion: Kyoto Granbell Hotel Gion →

- Traditional Charm: [Ryokan Yoshi Ima, Gion](#) →
- Budget option (Groups/Families): [GOZAN Aparthotel, Gion](#) →

TIP: For the full breakdown, read my honest advice for which [ryokan and hotels in Gion Kyoto](#) to stay in for first-time and repeat travellers.



View from my room at the Kyoto Granbell Hotel during a [Japan winter trip](#)

Where to eat in Kyoto

I love the random small eateries in Gion's alleyways, usually just Google-ing for what I feel like at the time. But I can recommend Manzara-Tei Pontochoen restaurant in Pontocho.

I've taken [this Kyoto night tour](#) and was able to enjoy hidden bars in the Pontocho area. On the tour, I even got to sample a special "rose sake" that I wouldn't have been able to find by myself, [read about it here!](#) Nishiki Market is popular with locals and tourists and is therefore crowded.

It's also possible to do a cooking class, read my [ramen-making experience here](#), while others combine traditional [Kyoto cooking classes and tea ceremonies](#). Some allow guests to dress up in kimono.

You can pre-book a small group tour in advance to learn more about culture from a local guide:

- Enjoy a special evening with a maiko (trainee geisha) in Gion! This was one of my favourite experiences in Japan ever. Read my [review of dinner with a maiko in Kyoto](#), and [check availability and book here](#) →
- What better place to have breakfast than in the "Kitchen of Kyoto" on a [Nishiki Market Breakfast tour](#) →
- Experience a traditional [Gion & Kaiseki Kyoto Food Tour](#) →
- Enjoy a [Kyoto Market with 7 Course Lunch Tour](#) →
- Explore the historical centre of the city on a [Kyoto Casual Pontocho Evening Food Tour](#) →
- Learn about Japan's national beverage on a [Kyoto Sake Brewery Tour With Lunch](#) →
- Have a blast on a [Kyoto Luxury Sake, Whiskey & Cocktail Night Tour](#) →

- Explore the mysterious laneways of Gion, enjoy hidden eateries (and maybe may spot a geisha or two) on a [Kyoto night foodie tour](#) →
- Take a day trip to experience a [Matcha Kyoto Green Tea Tour Uji](#) →
(read my review in my guide to [things to do in Uji](#) and itinerary for an [Uji day trip](#))
- [Find more tours in Kyoto here.](#)





Kyoto cultural experiences: TOP: Dinner with a maiko ~ 1&2) Ramen cooking class ~ 3) Bar hopping tour ~ 4) Tea ceremony with a geisha ~ 5) Matcha tour in Uji

Ideas for things to do in Kyoto

TIP: By grouping nearby attractions together, you can visit the following locations in a day each. [My full Kyoto itinerary](#) has all the details.

- **Downtown Kyoto:** As you'll likely arrive in the early afternoon from Tokyo, explore the downtown area with its many *shotengai* (undercover shopping arcades), see Kyoto Tower and walk along the Sanjo Ohashi Bridge 三条大橋. Maruyama Park 円山公園 and popular

Yasaka Shrine 八坂神社 are much more peaceful in the late afternoon after day-tripping crowds have left.

- **Northern Kyoto:** You could start at the crack of dawn at Arashiyama Bamboo Grove to avoid crowds (I personally enjoyed the lesser-known and quiet bamboo groves of Kodai-ji instead 高台寺). Enjoy often overlooked spots in Arashiyama such as Gio-ji Temple & Moss Gardens 祇王寺, Adashino Nembutsu-ji 化野念佛寺, then finish the day at famous Kinkaku-ji Temple 金閣寺 (Golden Pavilion), one of Japan's many UNESCO World Heritage sites. The best time to avoid crowds at Kinkaku-ji is in the late afternoon when tour buses are gone. But I think the gold-leafed interior of Nijo Castle 元離宮二条城 is more impressive and would honestly prioritise that instead!
- **TIP:** You can skip Arashiyama Bamboo Grove completely by taking this [Fushimi Inari Hidden Hiking tour](#) with a local guide, as it visits secluded groves along the way. I loved this experience, more info down the page.





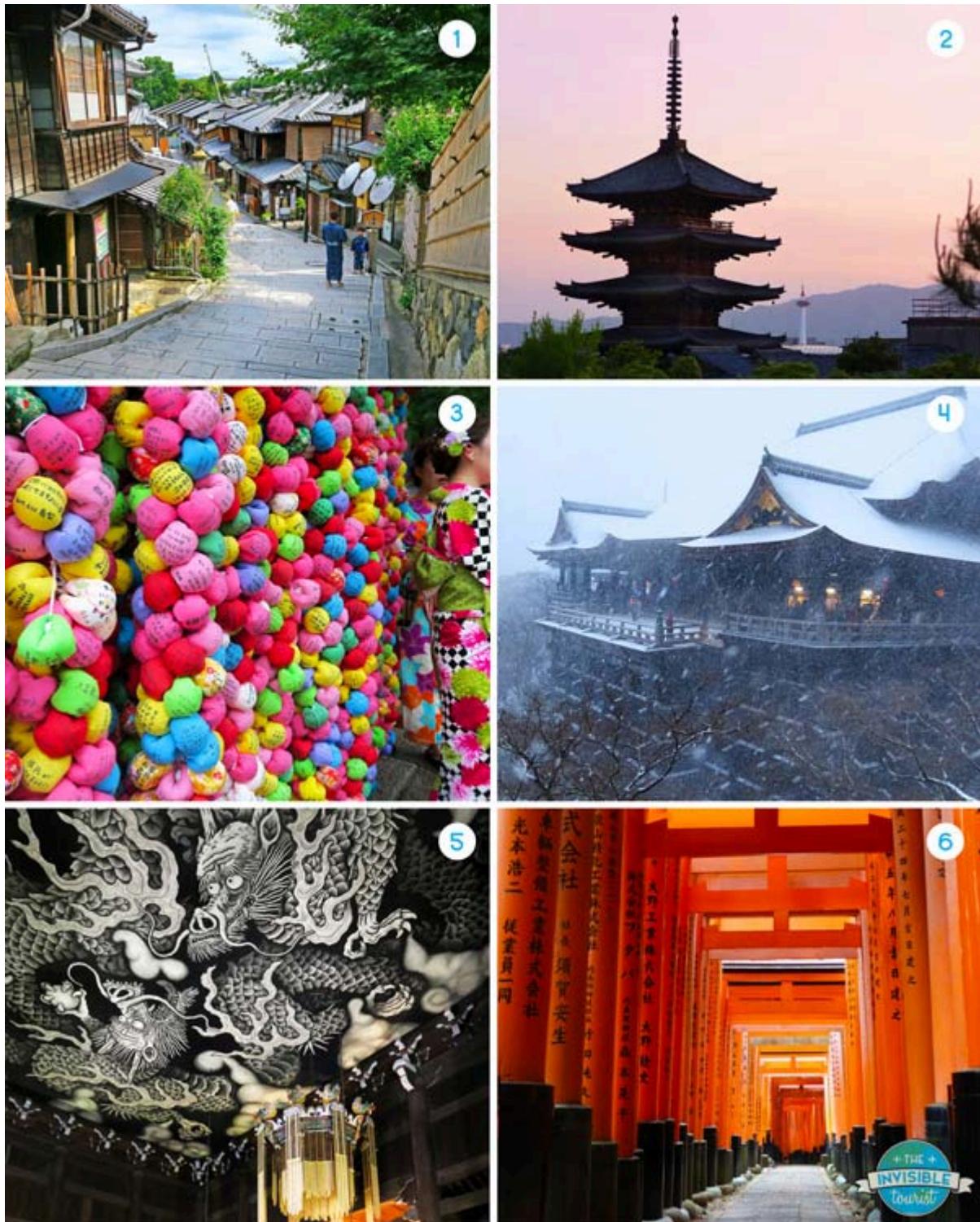
Top: 1) Yasaka Shrine at dusk ~ 2) Bamboo groves of Kodai-ji ~ 3) Gio-ji Moss Gardens ~ 4) View nearby Sanjo Ohashi ~ 5) Adashino Nenbutsu-ji ~ 6) Kinkaku-ji ~ BOTTOM: Switch Kinkaku-ji for Nijo Castle if you prefer to skip Arashiyama

- **Eastern Kyoto:** Begin the day at stunning Daigo-ji 醍醐寺 temple & gardens followed by Nanzen-ji 南禪寺 with its huge 19th century working aqueduct, or pop by Tofuku-ji 東福寺 with its exquisite Japanese maple gardens. Spend the afternoon strolling the Philosopher's Path north to Ginkaku-ji 銀閣寺 (Silver Pavilion). The Silver Pavilion is said to be the little brother of Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and in my opinion had the more exquisite gardens. Hop on over to Okazaki-jinja 岡崎神社 if you love rabbits, as this gorgeous little shrine is dedicated to these furry friends!

- **Central Kyoto:** Begin early at iconic streets Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka to spot Yasaka Pagoda without crowds (unfortunately the iconic cherry tree of Sannenzaka fell down in April 2024). Don't walk past colourful Yasaka Koshindo! From here, Kiyomizu-dera 東福寺 is best explored either early morning or late afternoon – but is usually packed for sunset. Pick up some meaningful souvenirs along Shijo-dori, visit Kennin-ji 建仁寺 with its stunning dragon-painted ceiling, then if you don't do the Hidden Hiking Tour I mentioned, spend late afternoon at Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine 伏見稻荷大社, a UNESCO World Heritage site you're sure to recognise with its endless rows of red torii gates.

TIP: Fushimi Inari literally covers the side of a mountain. Be prepared for loads of walking because the sign at the start is NOT to scale! If you want to avoid the crowds but DON'T want to get up at the crack of dawn or go at night, this Fushimi Inari hidden hike with a Kyoto local guide during the day might be up your alley. It also visits secret bamboo groves along the way, so **this could save you the trip to Arashiyama.** Read my Fushimi Inari Shrine hike review for what to expect.

NOTE: From 1 April 2024, the local government closed some streets in Gion in response to tourists' harassment of geisha. It is a few select private streets, not the entire neighbourhood. My guide to the Gion tourist ban has what you need to know.



Kyoto is a must for a two week Japan itinerary: 1) Sannenzaka & Ninenzaka ~ 2) Yasaka Pagoda ~ 3) Yasaka Koshindo ~ 4) Kiyomizu-dera in winter ~ 5) Dragon ceiling at Kennin-ji ~ 6) Fushimi Inari hidden hike

Advance tickets for activities in Kyoto

Check out "[Gear](#)," an incredible non-verbal performance exclusive to Kyoto. The characters really come to life and tell a story through music, magic tricks, various choreography routines and colourful lighting. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

I also highly recommend my [traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto with a geisha](#) experience, I learnt so much about the history and culture surrounding tea from her. More Kyoto experiences include:

- [Dinner with a maiko \(apprentice geisha\) →](#)
- [Forge your own knife with a master swordsmith → \(or similar traditional cultural experiences here\)](#)
- [Matcha foodie day trip to Uji →](#)
- [Arashiyama Sagano Romantic Train tickets →](#)
- [Historical 4 hour city cycling tour →](#)
- [Fu Fu No Yu Onsen entry tickets \(indoor & outdoor hot springs\) →](#)
- [Kimono rental with optional photoshoot →](#)
- [Kyoto International Manga Museum tickets →](#)
- [Arashiyama rickshaw tour →](#)



Uji is a lovely day trip from Kyoto for fellow tea lovers

DAYS 10 - 12: HIROSHIMA

In my opinion, everyone should visit Hiroshima at least once if given the chance. Being a history nerd, I was so interested to learn survivors' stories and to see how this city recovered after the fateful blast in August 1945.

To be completely honest, if the Atomic Bomb Dome wasn't sitting centre stage as a reminder of the past, you would never guess the atrocity that happened here eighty years ago.

Aside from its fateful history, Hiroshima is one of the most beautiful southern Japan cities and is worth spending a few nights to explore beyond the Peace Park.

Getting from Kyoto to Hiroshima

1 hour 40 minutes from Kyoto Station on Nozomi *shinkansen*, free on included trains with the [Japan Rail Pass](#).

Where to stay in Hiroshima

I've stayed in 3 hotels in Hiroshima and can recommend each. You definitely get more bang-for-your-buck here compared to other city hotels throughout Japan.

- [Royal RIHGA Hotel](#) is a gorgeous hotel in the heart of the city, making it perfect for exploring all Hiroshima's attractions on foot. It's a very beautiful hotel. Not to mention the gorgeous view I was spoilt with overlooking Hiroshima Castle!
- [Washington Hotel](#) is also in a great spot near Hondori Arcade, Okonomimura and Don Quijote, with great views over Chuo-dori at night.
- [KIRO Hotel](#), its rooftop bar is great and the hotel is ideal if staying with more than 3 people in one room (a challenge in Japan sometimes!)

Need more information for accommodation in Hiroshima? [Find](#)

[alternative hotels in Central Hiroshima here.](#)

TIP: If you book a stay at the Royal RIHGA Hotel, request a corner room if possible as you'll be treated to a 180° view over the city, which is quite breathtaking:



View from RIHGA Royal Hotel Hiroshima

Where to eat in Hiroshima

Plenty of restaurants to choose from along the Hon-dori. Try the local *okonomiyaki* (savoury pancake), at [Okonomimura](#), a four-storey building packed with *okonomiyaki* eateries! You can't really go wrong in here as each restaurant is its own business, specialising in cooking this dish their own way.

I also enjoyed sampling [Japan's famous](#) soufflé pancakes at Happy Pancake (and I didn't have to wait in line).

Want to discover more of the hidden eateries and drinking spots? For an authentic Japanese experience, you can take a [Hiroshima bar hopping tour](#) with a small group led by a local, or a [best of Hiroshima foodie tour](#). Or even take a "[Sake Town](#)" tour in [Saijo](#) to learn more about Japanese food, culture and even make some new friends along the way!



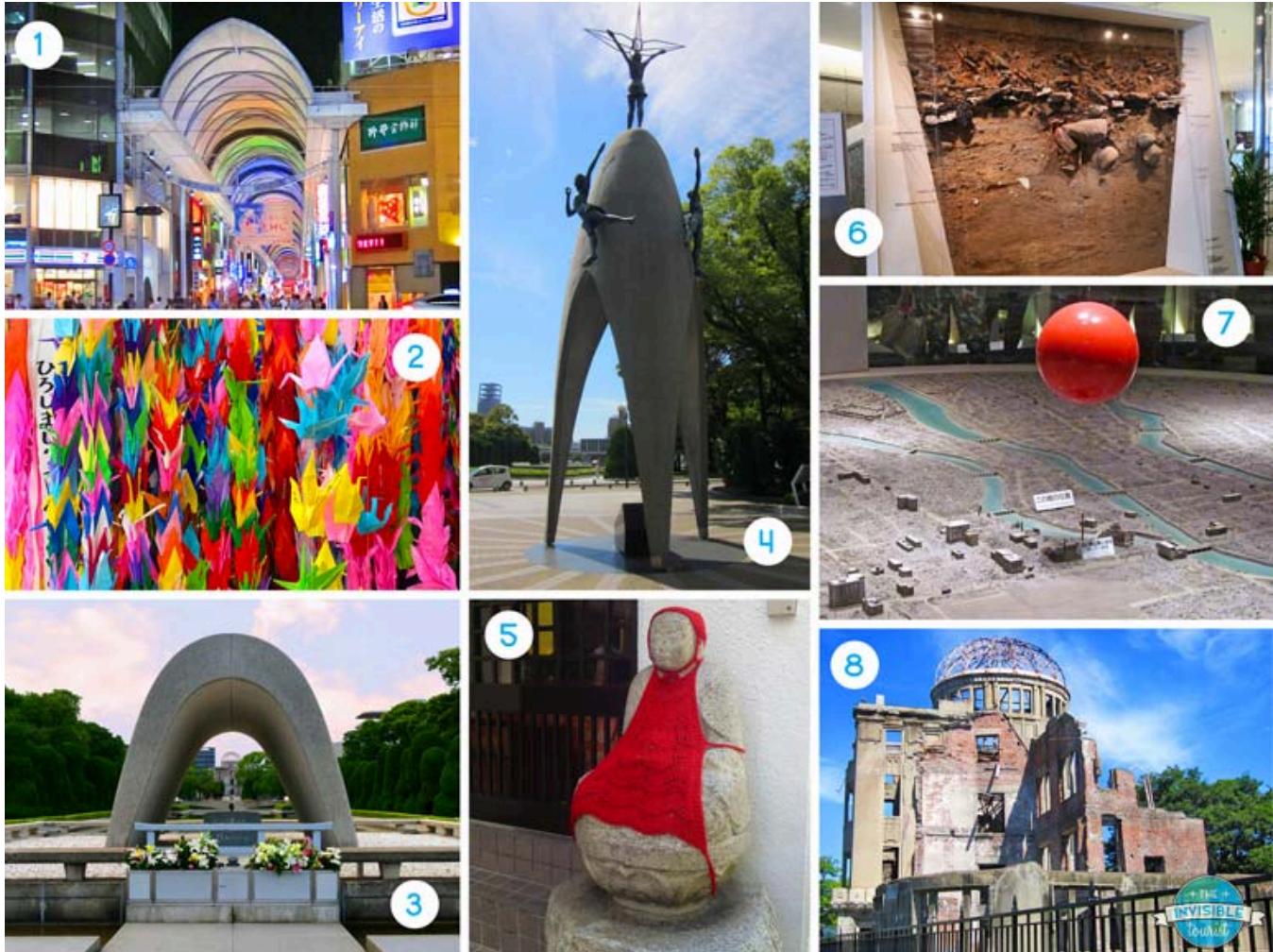
Hiroshima-style Okonomiyaki in Okonomimura

Ideas for things to do in Hiroshima

TIP: The following locations are part of my complete [meaningful and fun things to do in Hiroshima](#) travel guide, be sure to take a look for more details!

- Eat, explore and shop along the **Hondori Arcade**. You'll also find wonderful little souvenirs to remember your visit.
- Reflect at the **A-Bomb Dome** 原爆ドーム (UNESCO World Heritage site), be amazed by thousands of colourful paper cranes at the Children's Peace Monument and find **Jizoson**. The atomic bomb struck Jizoson and left it with a [nuclear shadow](#), incredible and eerie.
- You'll also see the **Peace Arch** on your way to the [Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum](#) 広島平和記念資料館. Artefacts that survived the blast are on display in the museum, including ceramics that were fused together due to the extreme heat from the explosion. It's difficult to get your head around but the museum does a great job of helping you gain a better understanding about nuclear bombs and their consequences.
- The **Peace Flame** located by the Peach Arch will burn until the last nuclear weapon on Earth is destroyed, and nearby are Phoenix Trees that were blasted by the atomic bomb and miraculously survived, their charred trunks hollowed by the explosion.
- One of the most moving places to visit in Hiroshima is the **National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims**. Here you'll learn why the symbolism of water is so significant to many monuments in Hiroshima, listen to stories of survivors and see a huge

soil sample of the city dating from 400 years until after the Peace Memorial Park was created in 1954. Seeing the blacked debris wedged beneath the soil is eye-opening.



Hiroshima highlights: 1) Hondori ~ 2&4) Children's Peace Memorial Park ~ 3) Peace Arch & Flame ~ 5) Jizoson's nuclear shadow ~ 6) Soil Sample of past 400 years ~ 7) Peace Memorial Museum ~ 8) Atomic Bomb Dome

- Visit **Shukkeien Garden** or **Hiroshima Castle** (obviously the castle is not original and was rebuilt in 1958).
- If you would prefer a local guide to show you around the city and explain the sights in more detail, a [Hiroshima walking tour](#) may be a good option for you. With a personalised touch and stories from a

local who calls Hiroshima home, you'll gain a greater understanding about this beautiful city. Lunch is included, too!

- [Find more local tours in Hiroshima here.](#)
- Take a quick [day trip to Onomichi](#), an old seaside town most visitors overlook between Kyoto and Hiroshima. Filled with temples, scenic viewpoints, known for ramen and cats, it's one not to miss for art lovers, too!



Add lesser-known Onomichi to your two week Japan itinerary

OPTIONAL: Day trip from Hiroshima to Miyajima (Itsukushima Shrine)

To extend your Hiroshima itinerary, nearby Itsukushima Shrine 厳島神社 is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The present shrine dates back to the

mid-13th century and is one of Japan's National Treasures. The shrine is famous for its giant floating torii gate, but there is so much more to discover here!

- **Getting there:** [Aquanet Ferry](#) from Hiroshima Peace Park to Miyajima island, approx 45mins.
- **Cost:** Not included with the JR Pass, an adult roundtrip JPY 4,000 ea.

As I've visited three times now, I've written a [detailed guide for your Hiroshima to Miyajima day trip here!](#) Take a look for more photos, ferry comparison with and without the JR Pass (and why I don't recommend using the JR Pass in this instance), overlooked places and what NOT to do to help make the most of your visit.

TIP: Check the [tide information](#) before your trip to find out whether the Grand Torii will be in high or low tide during your visit. At high tide, it appears to float on the water and makes for stunning photos. In low tide, you can walk right beneath it and appreciate the bright vermilion colour up close.



+THE+
INVISIBLE
tourist



1



4



6



7



2



5



3



8

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*Things to do in Miyajima: 1,2,3) Daisho-in Temple ~ 4) See the wild deer
~ 5,6,7) Itsukushima Shrine ~ 8) Mt Misen summit ~ Top: Floating torii
gate of Itsukushima Shrine*

DAYS 12 - 14: OSAKA

Known as the “Kitchen of Japan,” you can literally eat and shop until you drop in Osaka! Prepare for all your senses to be delighted in this city, from the aromas of sizzling *takoyaki* to the dizzying sounds of Pachinko parlours and bright neon signs assaulting your eyes.

Osaka’s origins are that of a merchant city rather than samurai, so be sure to stand on the RIGHT side of escalators instead of left (like most of the country)!

Getting from Hiroshima to Osaka

1 hour 20 minutes from Hiroshima on Nozomi *shinkansen*, or free on included trains with the [Japan Rail Pass](#).

Where to stay in Osaka

If I’m being honest: I’ve stayed in Osaka twice 9 years apart, and feel you could skip staying if you’re not planning to visit [Universal Studios Japan](#). The sights I cover down the page can be done as an Osaka day trip from Kyoto.

If you are planning to stay, I can recommend:

- Cross Hotel Osaka. Just steps away from Dotonbori Arcade, restaurants and a few minutes walk to Namba station. Ask for a room facing Mido-suji (street entrance) side for a super quiet sleep!
- Dotonbori Hotel is in a fantastic location and reasonably priced. While the single rooms are small, they offer free bowls of ramen and ice cream in the evenings in the lobby for guests. It's in a great spot for access to the ICAT bus to Itami Airport.

Need more information on Osaka accommodation? [Find alternative hotels in Chuo Ward, Osaka here.](#)



Where to eat in Osaka

World famous for its delicious street food, no Osaka trip would be complete without trying as much as possible! Kurmon Ichiba Market is popular with visitors and locals alike, or you can fish for your own dinner at Zauo Restaurant.

To avoid the crowds along Dotonbori on my second visit, I personally enjoyed eating my way around the Shinsekai neighbourhood with a local to show me the hidden spots I would never have found on my own. This unique and retro area of Osaka was mostly spared during the war, with some original buildings still dotted throughout.

Read my review of the [best Osaka street food according to locals](#) or book your own foodie tours with friendly local guides:

- [Osaka Shinsekai Street Food Tour – Evening →](#)
- [Daytime Street Food Tour in Shinsekai →](#)
- [Daytime Foodie Tour in Dotonbori →](#)
- [Osaka Nightlife Foodie Tour →](#)
- [Osaka Night Bar Hopping and Food Tour in Namba →](#)
- [Find more experiences in Osaka here.](#)



Ideas for things to do in Osaka

TIP: You can see most of the following locations in Osaka in 2 days, then add on a day trip afterwards. Be sure to check out [my in-depth Osaka itinerary](#) for more details than I've listed here.

- See the famous **Glico Man** over the river from Dotonbori 道頓堀, keep an eye out for artistic drain covers (pictured below), be amazed at all the shops and how meticulously the products are arranged.
- Spend the day at [Osaka Castle Museum](#) 大阪城, check out the 360° view from the **observation deck** and wander the beautiful grounds. During February, the peach and plum grove behind the castle is a

great alternative to the overcrowded cherry blossoms of late March.

Don't miss the Time Capsule out front to be opened in the year 5000!

- Embrace the foodie scene: The Japanese phrase *kuidaore* (eat 'til you drop) is well known in Osaka as you can literally do just that!

Some great places to start your foodie adventure are **Shinsaibashi-suji Arcade** and **Kuromon Ichiba Market**.

- Find **Hozan-ji Yokochō**: An Osaka hidden gem buried away in the quiet backstreets along with the mossy statue of **Mizukake Fudo**.
- Visit the giant lion's head at **Namba Shrine**.
- In the late afternoon, head to the retro **Shinsekai** or **America-mura** neighbourhoods. Shinsekai dates back to the 1930's and was known as the "New World" to showcase European architecture to Japanese locals at the time.



Things to do in Osaka: 1) Namba Shrine ~ 2) Dotonbori ~ 3) Hozan-ji ~ 4) Hozan Yokocho ~ 5) Osaka Castle ~ 6) Shinsekai ~ 7) Osaka Castle Observation Deck ~ 8) Artistic manhole cover.~ Top: Shinsekai at night

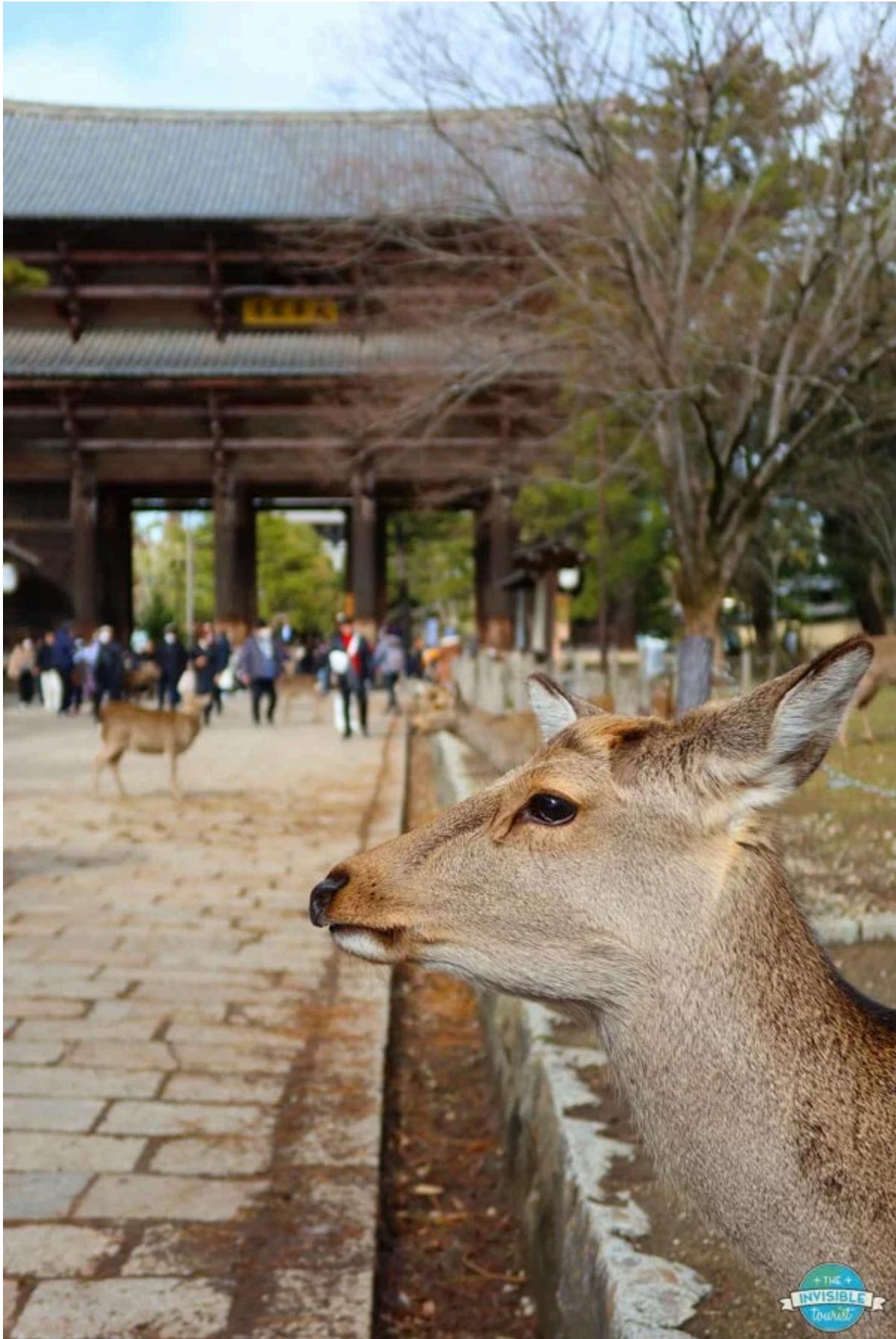
OPTIONAL: Day trip from Osaka or Kyoto to Nara

An Osaka to Nara day trip is simple and fun! Holding a great historical significance to the country, Nara 奈良 was Japan's first permanent capital in 710 AD. The city was heavily influenced by Buddhism, with many structures reflecting this.

Deer are believed to be messengers to the gods, and roam freely around the city. To me, Nara has a spiritual aura that is not found in many other

places, I just adore exploring in the late afternoon during the “golden hour!”

- **Kyoto Station to Nara:** 35 mins on limited express Kintetsu train to Kintestu Nara Station (closer to the Nara Deer Park), or 45mins to JR Nara Station.
- **Osaka Namba Station to Nara:** 50 mins on limited express Kintetsu train to Kintestu Nara Station, or 45mins to JR Nara Station.
- **TIP:** If using the Kintestu line for your Nara 1 day itinerary, you may need to pay cash for the Limited Express portion of your ticket on board if using a Suica card to pass through the ticket gates. A member of staff will pass through to check tickets and you can pay a few yen in coins.



Ideas for things to do in Nara

TIP: My detailed [Nara one day itinerary from Osaka or Kyoto](#) covers the below locations and more in further detail, and includes plenty of travel tips from my two visits.

- **Todai-ji Temple** 東大寺, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest wooden structure in the world. Be amazed by the giant bronze Buddha and see if you're small enough to fit through the pillar with a hole the size of Buddha's nostril for good luck!
- **Yoshiki-en Gardens** 吉城園 are a breathtaking world of moss and leafy surrounds.
- **Sarusawa Pond Park & Ukimido Pond** for lovely views with old structures as backdrops.
- **Naramachi** old town with its interesting English-focused Naramachi Museum.
- [Todai-ji Nigatsu-do](#) 二月堂 for lovely panoramic views over Nara (especially at sundown!)
- [Kasuga-Taisha Shrine](#) 春日大社 for 3,000 stone lanterns and golden suspended lanterns. It's Nara's most celebrated shrine, with a winter fire festival held in January.
- **Kofuku-ji** 興福寺, family temple of the Fujiwara clan and some of the oldest structures in Nara.

TIP: For more day trip locations nearby that aren't Universal Studios, check my [detailed guide to inspiring day trips from Kyoto or Osaka](#) (including a [day trip to Uji](#), Himeji, Kobe and more) that covers popular destinations and alternatives to crowded spots.



Things to do in Nara: 1) Giant Daibutsu at Todai-ji ~2) Yoshiki-en Gardens ~ 3) Ukimido Pond ~ 4) Naramachi & Museum ~ 5) Todai-ji Nigatsu-do ~ 6) Kasuga Taisha Shrine



DAY 14: TRANSIT TO TOKYO

I highly recommend arriving back in Tokyo at least **one day before** your flight home to allow a buffer for anything unforeseen, Japan is a land of natural disasters after all. It's wise to factor in extra time for shinkansen delays due to snow, typhoons, earthquakes etc to not miss our international flight.

Once you arrive back in Tokyo from Osaka or Kyoto, you can spend the day visiting a museum or an experience such as [teamLab Borderless](#) or [Planets](#), revisiting a favourite neighbourhood, or exploring a new one in my Tokyo neighbourhood guide! Where will you choose?



Getting back to Tokyo from Kyoto or Osaka

2 hours 40 minutes from Osaka Station / 2 hours 10 minutes from Kyoto Station on Nozomi *shinkansen*, free on included trains with the [Japan Rail Pass](#).

Where to stay in Tokyo

Why not use this opportunity to stay in a different neighbourhood to the beginning of your trip? I highly recommend the [Park Hotel Tokyo in Minato](#) with views of Tokyo Tower or [The Gate Hotel Kaminarimon Asakusa](#) with views of Senso-ji for your final night before flying home!



Day 15: TRANSIT Home

Here's how to head back to the airports for your flights home. I'm sure you'll be sad as I am every time I have to leave Japan!

Getting back to Haneda Airport from Tokyo

Tokyo (Hamamatsuchō) to Haneda Airport via Tokyo Monorail, 15 minutes

Getting back to Narita Airport from Tokyo

Narita Airport to Tokyo via [Narita Express](#), approx. 1 hour.

You can also get the Narita Airport Limousine Bus back to the airport. For more information and prices, [click here to book your Narita Airport Limousine tickets](#).

Love this 2 Week Japan itinerary? Get it with NO ADS!

Buy this [2 Weeks Japan Itinerary PDF here](#), [bundle & save here](#), or head on over to my [shop](#) for more!



Two weeks in Japan budget: How much does it cost?

To make things even easier for you, I've added up costs to give you an overall 2 weeks in Japan cost. This total is travelling with a mid range budget for two adults.

By all means, don't take this as absolute gospel, my preferences may differ to yours in terms of using the JR Pass (and the exchange rate may alter a little) but feel free to use it as a ballpark figure. You can always spend more or less than this!

2 weeks in Japan cost for two adults

- **Flights** – Vary wildly depending where you're flying from! From my native Sydney, Australia to Tokyo Narita or Haneda, these days 1,500 AUD or less for direct is a good deal. Flights are much more expensive since Japan reopened their borders in October 2022.
- **Hotels** – USD 2,200 approx / JPY 34,400
All 3-4 star, twin share
- **Long Distance Trains** – USD 950 approx / JPY 148,600
All Nozomi *shinkansen* trips, express train to Hakone, Ferry to Miyajima etc
- **Total for 2 adults, 2 weeks excluding spending money:** USD 3,150 excluding flights and spending money (approx, depends on exchange rate).

In terms of **spending money**, I usually allow around USD 300-400 per week for myself. This includes Suica card top ups, temple entries, convenience store meals, small souvenirs etc. You can easily spend a lot more or a lot less, it's entirely up to you! I'm quite the splurger on holidays and even I come home with a small amount of change afterwards.

Things to keep in mind for your Japan two week itinerary

Busy Periods and Public Holidays in Japan

Once you've locked in your flights for your two weeks in Japan, it's wise to book accommodation well in advance to avoid disappointment during the expected busy travel periods. Note some accommodations only show availability 3-6 months in advance.

- **New Year's:** This extends from just after Christmas to the first week of January. Expect a lot of store closures and bullet trains to be very crowded as people travel home from the cities to celebrate. And remember, some ATMs take a holiday break from 1st – 3rd January, too – they won't dispense any cash during this time.
- **Late March – mid-April** is the popular cherry blossom season so plan in advance. Find out when is the best time to visit for cherry blossoms depending on the locations you wish to view with my [spring in Japan guide](#). You can also work around these less popular yet beautiful [spring flowers in Japan that aren't cherry blossoms](#) to avoid the main crowds.
- **In late April – early May**, Golden Week is the busiest time of year for travel in Japan, mainly from locals travelling around the country during these holidays. The holidays begin on 29th April and will run through to 5th May. Be prepared for crowds, or try to avoid this time as everyone in Japan is moving around and visiting their families over the break.
- **Osaka Expo 2025:** Located near the port of Osaka rather than the city centre, the Osaka Expo will run from 13 April 2025 – 13 October

2025. Expect the Yumeshimanaka area near USJ to be busy during the expo.

- **Fall foliage:** Another popular time to visit Japan when the Japanese maples turn red! The season ranges from September to November throughout Japan.
- **Silver Week:** Occurs every five to six years when several Japanese holidays align in mid-September to create a 4-day weekend. The next Silver Week will occur in 2026.
- See the full list of [public holidays in Japan](#).

Tickets for popular attractions

- Tickets for [Shibuya Sky](#), [Studio Ghibli Museum](#), [Ginza Art Aquarium](#), [Making of Harry Potter Studio Tour](#), [Tokyo Disneyland & DisneySea](#), are incredibly popular and often sell out. These and many more tickets can be purchased in advance online. Some need to be booked up to 8 weeks in advance, so be sure to take a look!
- The [Sumo Tournament](#) is only held three times per year (January, May & September) and may not coincide with your trip. You can opt to see the [Sumo morning practice](#) in their stables with a local guide instead.



Useful resources for 2 weeks in Japan

Here's a summary of useful resources for your trip to Japan:

- Find out exactly [what to pack for Japan](#) to blend in (including what NOT to wear).
- Remember these [do's and don'ts in Japan](#) regarding etiquette to avoid making a cultural faux pas.
- Learn the traditional and [meaningful Japan souvenirs](#) you'll want to bring home.
- There's lots of talk about the Japan Rail Pass (JR Pass). I personally didn't use one for reasons I mention in this itinerary, but if you've done the math and figured out it's best for you, [buy your JR Pass in advance](#). They are more expensive in

Japan (prices increased by 77% in October 2023). Leave enough time for it to be posted to you before your trip.

- JR Pass not pay off for you? We can now book individual shinkansen [bullet train tickets in advance here](#) before heading to Japan, which can also save time and money!
- After not using it on my first trip, I've totally converted from not having pocket wifi to making it a must on my subsequent visits! It's dirt cheap and possible to [pre-book your pocket wifi hire](#) and pick it up from an airport of your choice on arrival in Japan. Read my guide about [how to rent pocket wifi in Japan](#) for my tips.
- Don't want a wifi device? Some also prefer to buy [local SIM cards or eSIMs](#).
- Save up to 62% on entry to popular attractions with the [Tokyo Fun Pass](#).
- If you're a foodie, you may like to take an authentic [Japanese cooking class](#). Hosted by locals, there's no better way to learn more about Japan and its culture than through food.

Concluding my two weeks in Japan itinerary

So there you have it with my 2 weeks in Japan itinerary sample! Heading from Hiroshima to Tokyo takes around 5 hours, so that's the better part of a day gone. This loop itinerary is the most efficient way to see all the main

sights (and also wander off the beaten path) without backtracking or being short on time.

Although it may look like my partner and I crammed a lot when seeing Japan in two weeks, I can honestly say we never felt rushed. Being prepared allowed us to leisurely stroll between many attractions and enjoy taking our time uncovering the wonders that make this incredible country so unique.

Finally, you don't need to head back to Tokyo if you've chosen to fly out of Osaka at the end of your trip. From my home of Australia at least, I personally find return flights from Tokyo cheaper than an open-jaw Tokyo/Osaka ticket – and this includes the bullet train back to Tokyo.



More expertly curated Japan guides

- Only have ten days and want to skip the Golden Route completely? My [10 days in Japan travel itinerary to avoid crowds](#) covers unique destinations overlooked by most foreign tourists.
- Curious to see where an extra week can take you? My [Japan 3 week itinerary](#) combines the Old and New Golden Routes.
- Planning a special occasion? My [Japan honeymoon itinerary](#) covers romantic spots in lesser-known destinations to help you avoid crowds.
- Thinking of a road trip? My detailed [7 day Kyushu itinerary](#) covers sights overlooked by foreign tourists, utilising train and rental car, with the option to extend to 10 days.
- Want all the facets of Japan in one overlooked spot between Tokyo and Kyoto? My one to 7 days [Izu Peninsula itinerary](#) ticks all the boxes.
- Find more places in [Japan that are off the beaten path](#) to avoid crowds.
- And if you're also heading to Seoul, Busan and want some ideas for lesser-known gems, my [10 day South Korea itinerary](#) is for you!

How are you going planning your 2 weeks in Japan? What are your thoughts on this Japan itinerary 14 days? Or do you have any questions about it? I'd LOVE to hear in the comments below.

If you found this helpful please share it with your friends, join my free [Japan Off the Beaten Path Facebook Group](#), or come and join me on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for more Japan inspiration!

Until next time,



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Alyse

Australian-based Alyse is founder of The Invisible Tourist, the #1 travel blog encouraging visitors to better "blend in" abroad. Alyse's passionate

advice about cultural, historical & responsible travel has been especially popular with visitors to Japan, helping millions of tourists since 2017.

Her first book details strategies for more enriching travel experiences without contributing to overtourism, and became a #1 Amazon New Release in two categories including Japan Travel. Alyse's unique approach to travelling has resulted in her work being featured on Japanese TV, in tourism textbooks, Australia's largest news publication, and shared by numerous tourism organisations.

184 Comments

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Karen says:

June 28, 2025 at 5:12 pm

Wow, love the itin...who can book this for me? Can you recommend any agencys? Thanks much!

[Reply](#)

Alyse says:

June 29, 2025 at 8:15 pm

Hi Karen, thanks for reading!

I created this itinerary for myself during my first Japan trip (and tweaked it due to my 10+ visits since) and shared it so fellow travellers could book everything themselves 😊

In case you missed it, I've shared all my recommendations for how to book throughout the itinerary.

But if you prefer an agency to book for you, please contact [**Arigato Travel here**](#), their tailored travel service will be what you need.

Tell them Alyse sent you and they'll look after you, I've taken their tours many times over the years and highly recommend!

Reply

Tim Johnson says:

May 20, 2025 at 10:19 pm

Wow! What an awesome blog, so comprehensive. You've made our trip planning so much easier as it is a daunting prospect planning to visit somewhere so different from our own culture.

We are planning to go to Japan next July or August. I know it is the height of summer and the wetter time, but do you feel that it would be too wet to enjoy, particularly when we want to visit Fujisan and it may be too cloudy? many thanks

Reply

Alyse says:

May 24, 2025 at 4:31 pm

Hi Tim, thanks so much for your kind words!

I find August isn't as rainy as June or July, but yes it can get quite hot.

In terms of whether it's too "wet" to enjoy, I'd have to say no 😊 I just carry a fold-up umbrella in my bag so I'm always prepared, and keep pushing through because the rain tends to come and go. Personally I enjoy the bursts of rain because it helps to cool things down a little. And, some places like temples and gardens are especially beautiful in the rain!

For seeing Fujisan, it isn't always a given, which is part of her allure. It took me 5 years and 5 tries to finally see her, and it was worth it! But those other times where I didn't just made it a great reason to keep going back 😊

In saying that, my all-time best photos of Fujisan were taken at sunrise during summer. If you're happy to just see her in passing on a bullet train, then there's no need to do a special day trip or overnight stay. However I'd recommend staying at least 2 nights nearby to increase your odds if your heart is set on seeing her. I've written all about how to maximise your chances of seeing Fujisan in [my guide to Fujinomiya](#).

I hope that helps and thanks for reading!

[Reply](#)

Older Comments

Leave a Reply

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Comment *

Name *

Email *

[Post Comment](#)

Hi, I'm *Alyse!*

Since 2017, my blog has explored responsible ways we can improve tourism for locals and ourselves by “blending in.” With over 17 years of globetrotting experience on a mid-range budget, my personal travel guides & itineraries will help you avoid crowds whilst giving back to local communities. If you'd like to make the most of your next adventure, learn how you can **‘be invisible’ here!**



'BLEND IN' ANYWHERE
WITH MY BOOK!

The image features a book and a smartphone side-by-side against a background of a Japanese landscape with Mount Fuji and cherry blossoms. The book and phone display the same cover for the book "How to Not Look Like a tourist" by Alyse • THE INVISIBLE TOURIST. The cover is white with a blue and yellow design. The title "HOW TO NOT LOOK LIKE A tourist" is prominently displayed in large, bold letters. Below the title is the subtitle "UNLOCKING YOUR HIDDEN POWER FOR OVERTOURISM SOLUTIONS". The author's name, "ALYSE • THE INVISIBLE TOURIST", is at the bottom. The phone screen shows the same cover, indicating it's a digital version of the book. At the top of the book cover is a small circular logo with the text "THE INVISIBLE TOURIST". A black button at the bottom right of the image contains the text "Buy now at [amazon.com](#) >".

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