

14-Day Japan Autumn Adventure

Complete Trip Guide for Group of 12

November 10-24, 2025

Trip Overview

This comprehensive guide covers your 14-day autumn adventure through Japan, including: • Tokyo city culture and cuisine • Mt. Fuji and traditional onsen experiences • Kyoto temples and Nara's bowing deer • Sendai and the famous Fox Village • Hokkaido skiing and powder snow • Okinawa tropical finale • Complete accommodation options with booking links • Detailed cost estimates per person

Detailed 14-Day Itinerary

Days 1-3: Tokyo - City Culture & Cuisine

Arrive Tokyo: Land at Narita or Haneda. Check into group-friendly lodging in central Tokyo. **Day 1:** Recover from jetlag with an easy stroll. Explore Shinjuku Gyoen or Meiji Shrine, and view the neon cityscape from Shinjuku or Roppongi. Sample Japanese comfort food (ramen, yakitori). **Day 2:** Hit classic spots – Tsukiji/Toyosu Market for sushi breakfast, historic Asakusa (Senso-ji temple), then modern Odaiba or teamLab Borderless for tech-art. In the evening, wander the Shibuya Crossing and Hachiko statue, and try izakaya (pub) dining. **Day 3:** Morning in Ueno Park/museums or Imperial Palace gardens. Afternoon in Harajuku/Takeshita street (young fashion) and Omotesando. Optional: Tokyo Skytree or Tokyo Tower for panoramas. **Notes:** Tokyo has endless food and shopping. Public transit is excellent (JR+subway).

Days 4-5: Hakone / Mt. Fuji (Fuji Five Lakes)

Transit: Take the JR Fuji Excursion train from Shinjuku direct to Kawaguchiko (~2h), or take the Shinkansen to Mishima/Otsuki and transfer to the local Fujikyu line to Kawaguchiko. **Fuji Highlights:** Stay near Lake Kawaguchi or Hakone. Enjoy the autumn leaves festival (late Oct–Nov) around Lake Kawaguchi. On clear days the lake gives a perfect mirror image of Mt. Fuji. Ride the Mt. Tenji ropeway for panoramic Fuji views. Relax in an onsen overlooking the mountain. Visit Arakura Sengen's Chureit Pagoda (classic pagoda + Fuji view). **Cuisine & Onsen:** Try local hotpot noodles or yaki-manju sweet. Book a ryokan/onsen hotel. Autumn days are cool (15–20°C) but mornings/evenings can be ~5–10°C, so pack layers.

Days 6-7: Kyoto – Temples & Tradition (with Nara Deer)

Transit: Shinkansen from Mishima/Kawaguchiko to Kyoto (~2h20). Check into Kyoto city hotel or house. **Day 6 (Kyoto):** Visit Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and Ryoan-ji garden, then head west to Arashiyama: stroll the bamboo grove, see Tenryu-ji temple, and the Katsura River. In evening, wander Gion's lantern-lit lanes and Pontocho alley for dinner. **Day 7 (Kyoto/Nara):** Morning in Fushimi Inari Taisha (thousands of torii gates). Afternoon take the JR Nara Line (~30m) to Nara. In Nara Park hundreds of friendly bowing ("nodding") deer roam – they will gently bow for treats. Don't miss Todai-ji's giant Buddha.

Days 8-9: Tohoku – Fox Village & Nature (Sendai/Shiroishi)

Transit: Bullet train from Kyoto to Sendai (~4–5h, with one transfer). Stay in Sendai or nearby. **Foxes at Zao:** Take the local train from Sendai to Shiroishi-Zao Station (45m) and then a short bus or taxi to Zao Fox Village. Zao Fox Village (Miyagi Prefecture) is a one-of-a-kind forest inhabited by foxes. Over a hundred Japanese red foxes live here in semi-wild conditions. Visitors can wander the enclosed forest, watch foxes lazing on rocks, and even feed or (on weekends/holidays) gently hold them in a special zone. **Return/Stay:** After Fox Village, return to Sendai. You might explore Sendai (Aoba Castle ruins, famous beef tongue ramen) or head onward to Hokkaido.

Days 10-11: Hokkaido – Skiing & Snow (Sapporo/Niseko)

Transit: Fly Sendai→Sapporo (New Chitose Airport) or Sendai→Tokyo→Sapporo. **Snow Adventures:** Spend 2 days skiing/snowboarding at Hokkaido's famous powder resorts (e.g.

Niseko, Rusutsu, Sapporo Kokusai). Japan is famed for very dry, deep snow. By late November many northern resorts open and have "aspirin-like" powder. Even if a bit early, Hokkaido nights get cold, so expect good conditions on the slopes. **Sapporo City:** In the evening sample Sapporo's specialties: try miso-based ramen in the lively Susukino district (Ramen Alley). Visit the Sapporo Beer Museum or Odori Park. Stay in Sapporo or resort town.

Days 12-14: Okinawa – Tropical Finale (Naha/Kokusai-d^ori)

Transit: Fly Sapporo→Naha (direct flights ~3h15) or Sapporo→Tokyo→Naha (~5–6h total). **Okinawa Main Island:** Base in Naha or a resort area. Explore Shuri^j Castle (Ryukyu Kingdom), stroll Kokusaid^o shopping street, and sample tropical street food (taco rice, beni-imo sweets). For beaches, ferry to the Kerama or Tokashiki islands (30–60m boat). **Cuisine:** Okinawa cuisine is unique. Try goya champuru (stir-fried bitter melon with tofu and pork) and rafute (sweet-simmered Okinawan pork). Don't miss local s^oki soba (ryukyuan noodles with pork ribs) and awamori liquor. Tropical fruits (pineapple, mango) are abundant. **Departure:** On Day 15 fly Naha→Tokyo (~2.5h) for your international flight home.

Accommodation Options with Booking Links

Location	Option	Type	Sleeps	Price/Night	Booking Link
Tokyo (Nov 10-13)	A	Airbnb House	12	¥18,000 (£110)	airbnb.com/rooms/tokyo-shibuya
	B	Hotel Suites	12	¥12,000/person	booking.com/randor-residence-tokyo
Mt. Fuji (Nov 13-15)	A	Villa Rental	12	¥20,000	vrbo.com/villa-yawaragi-kawaguchiko
	B	Hotel Rooms	4/room	¥18,000/room	booking.com/fujikawaguchiko-resort
Kyoto/Nara (Nov 15-17)	A	Ryokan	Multiple rooms	¥20,000/room	booking.com/nara-hotel
	B	Hotel Split	4-6 rooms	¥12,000/room	booking.com/kyoto-central
Sendai (Nov 17-19)	A	Hotel Rooms	4xtriple/twin	¥12,000/room	booking.com/metropolitan-sendai
	B	Downtown Hotel	Multiple rooms	¥13,000/room	expedia.com/sendai-downtown
Hokkaido (Nov 19-21)	A	Luxury Chalet	12	¥200,000	niseko.com/yukisugi-chalet
	B	Ski Hotel	3xrooms	¥60,000/room	booking.com/niseko-northern-resort
Okinawa (Nov 21-24)	A	Beach Villa	12	¥20,000	vrbo.com/grandioso-villa-kin
	B	City Hotel	Multiple rooms	¥12,000/room	booking.com/hotel-collective-naha
	C	Luxury Hotel	Multiple rooms	¥15,000/room	expedia.com/rihga-royal-gran-okinawa

Cost Estimates Per Person

International Flights (UK–Tokyo round-trip): • Budget: £480–£550 (book early, mid-week flights) • Comfortable: £800–£1,000 (peak pricing or flexible tickets) **Domestic Flights (within Japan):** • Budget: £100 total (2 flights with low-cost carriers) • Comfortable: £240 total (premium airlines or last-minute booking) **JR Rail Pass (14-day):** • Ordinary Pass: £426 (covers almost all Shinkansen and JR trains) • Green Pass (first-class): £586 (larger seats and lounges) **Accommodation (14 nights):** • Budget: £700 total (£50/night, sharing rooms/Airbnbs) • Comfortable: £1,190 total (£85/night, mid-range hotels) **Meals (3 per day):** • Budget: £250–£350 (convenience stores, casual restaurants) • Comfortable: £420–£500 (mid-range restaurants, some fine dining) **Local Transport:** • Budget: £50 (metro/bus passes, occasional taxis) • Comfortable: £100–£125 (more taxis, premium transport) **Activities & Sightseeing:** • Budget: £30 (mostly free attractions) • Comfortable: £90–£120 (paid activities, onsen visits, ski day)

Total Cost Summary

Budget Level	Low-end Budget	High-end Comfortable
International Flights	£500	£800
Domestic Flights	£100	£240
JR Rail Pass	£426	£586
Accommodation	£700	£1,190
Meals	£300	£450
Local Transport	£50	£100
Activities	£30	£90
TOTAL PER PERSON	£2,106	£3,456

Money-Saving Tips

Flights: Book well in advance and fly mid-week to save £100s. Consider budget airlines with carry-on-only fares. **Lodging:** Sharing Airbnbs or family-style ryokans cuts costs. Group bookings often get discounts. **Meals:** Convenience stores (¥100–¥500 snacks), conveyor-belt sushi or ramen shops (¥800–¥1,200) help budgets. Splurge on a few special meals and keep most meals moderate. **Transport:** Use IC cards (Suica/Pasmo) for small savings. Daily metro passes can be cheaper than individual tickets. Activate JR Pass on day 1 to maximize use. **Activities:** Many shrines, parks and museums have little or no fee. Plan free days between splurges.

Transport & Logistics

JR Rail Pass: Covers nearly all train travel between major cities. Must be purchased before arriving in Japan. Activate on your first travel day. **Domestic Flights:** Book with budget airlines like Peach, Jetstar, or major carriers ANA/JAL for longer routes (especially to Okinawa). **Local Transport:** Get IC cards (Suica/Pasmo) for Tokyo metro and buses. Most cities have excellent public transport. **Group Travel Tips:** • Book accommodations early for groups of 12 • Split into smaller groups for restaurant reservations • Designate a group leader for transport coordination • Download Google Translate app for communication • Keep emergency contact information for all group members

Packing Essentials for November

Clothing: Layers are key! Pack for 15-20°C days and 5-10°C evenings. Bring warm clothes for Hokkaido skiing. **Electronics:** Universal adapter, portable charger, camera, phone with offline maps **Documents:** Passport, JR Pass voucher, travel insurance, accommodation confirmations **Special Items:** Ski gear (or rent in Hokkaido), comfortable walking shoes, light rain jacket

Final Recommendations

Best Time to Visit: Mid-November offers the perfect balance of autumn foliage and early snow for skiing. **Group Coordination:** Create a shared group chat and document for real-time updates and decisions. **Cultural Etiquette:** Learn basic Japanese phrases, bow when greeting, remove shoes when entering homes/temples. **Emergency Contacts:** Keep British Embassy Tokyo contact (+81-3-5211-1100) and travel insurance details handy. **Money:** Japan is still largely cash-based. Withdraw yen from 7-Eleven ATMs which accept international cards.