



CST# 2001110-40

San Francisco Los Angeles New York Chicago Houston Vancouver Beijing

7 Days Japan Kansai Classic Journey

Tour Code: JKK7

Osaka, Wakayama, Kobe, Kyoto, Nara

Departure Dates: (2023) 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- This newly designed itinerary is about combining all the essential elements in Kansai travel: history, sightseeing, nature adventure, shopping, and gourmet food, perfectly suitable to those who travel Kansai for the first time or as a side trip.
- Explore the magnificent ancient temples and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kansai - Kiyomizu Temple, Kinkakuji Temple and Todaiji, and understand Kansai's religious and cultural history.
- Immerse yourself in nature's splendor moments from Wakayama's coastal landscapes - Engetsu Island, Senjojiko and Sandanbeki.
- Chance to enjoy a tuna cutting show and some fresh sashimi and seafood robata at Kuroshio Market, one of the most popular seafood markets in Kansai.
- Amuse at Kobe's must-visit tourist hotspot - Kobe Harbourland, a large entertainment complex transformed from a shipyard, where you can also admire the amazing night views of Kobe Tower and Ferris wheel.
- Experience the exciting nightlife and discover the irresistible street foods and bargains at Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori, the world famous bustling commercial and entertainment district in Osaka.
- Enjoy distinctive Japanese Kaiseki cuisines (traditional multi-course meal), domestic beef shabu shabu, sushi set meals, etc.
- Accommodate at convenient 4-star upscale hotels with daily breakfast.
- Experienced and professional bilingual tour leader offering attentive and inviting services.

ITINERARIES:

1 **Hometown** ✈️ **Osaka, Japan**

2 **Osaka (Kansai International Airport)**

Hotel: Star Gate Hotel Kansai Airport or similar

Upon arrival, take shuttle bus to hotel and proceed to self check-in.

3 Osaka - Wakayama - Kuroshio Market - Engetsu Island - Senjojiko - Sandanpeki - Shirahama (B/D: Kaiseki cuisine)

Hotel: Shiraraso Grand Hotel or similar

Kuroshio Market: One of the most famous seafood markets in Kansai, offering tuna cutting show and serving all kinds of fresh sashimi and seafood robata at the restaurant in the market.

Engetsu Island: A small, uninhabited islet standing off the Shirahama coast whose unique feature is a full moon-shaped circle in its center, eroded by the sea. While an impressive natural monument at any time of day, it is at sunset when the beauty and romance of nature can be seen in all its glory. The sun dropping down into this natural arch is one of the world's most dizzyingly beautiful sights and offers a chance for visitors from near or far to forge an eternal memory.

Senjojiko: Its name literally means “one thousand tatami mats” originating from its appearance. Over the millennia, waves of the Pacific Ocean have continually crashed into the Wakayama coastline, creating this hidden spectacular plateau of multi-tiered rocks.

Sandanpeki: A 2km-long and 50m-high rock cliffs stretching along the coastline of Shirahama. At its bottom is a hidden cave named Doukutus where it was once a pirate’s lair in the Heian Era. Boarding the elevator for the 14-second ride travelling 36 meters down through the cliff, you will see a replica of an ancient pirate ship in the large cavern, some background display along the 200-meter pathway and the dynamic presence of the stormy seas right before your eyes. The raging waves striking the cliffs are definitely thrilling and memorable!

4 Shirahama - Kobe - Awaji Island - Awaji Yumebutai - Akashi Kaikyo Bridge - Nankin Machi - Kobe Harbourland (B/D: Domestic Beef Shabu Shabu)

Hotel: Kobe MerikenPark Oriental Hotel or similar

Awaji Yumebutai: Literally meaning “Dream Stage”, this unique complex of conference centre, resort hotel, memorial and leisure facilities serves as the world-renowned Japanese architect Ando Tadao’s dream stage of restoring the ecology of Awaji Island and offering visitors an exceptional experience of feeling the elements of nature including water, wind, light, sky, mountains, sea, etc. in our daily life.

Akashi Kaikyo Bridge: A suspension bridge crossing the city of Kobe and Awaji Island has the second longest central span of any suspension bridge and the third tallest bridge tower in the world.

Nankin Machi: Considered as Kobe’s Chinatown, with archways at its 3 major entrances, it originated from 1868 when Japan opened its port to foreigners, including Chinese immigrants moving from Guangdong and Fujian and settling here. In the early 1920s, Nankin Machi was a vibrant district with lots of businesses, restaurants and residences. Alongside with the ones in Yokohama and Nagasaki, it is one of the three major Chinatowns in Japan and is the centre of Chinese cultural activities in Kansai region.

Kobe Harbourland: Located by Kobe’s harbourfront, this expansive complex integrating entertainment, shopping and catering was originally a shipyard. With a variety of over 200 trendy brand stores, it is one of the most popular spots to locals and tourists. While taking a stroll along the waterfront with 19th-century red-brick warehouses and gaslights at dusk, you will admire the gorgeous night views of Kobe Tower and Ferris wheel.

5 Kobe - Kiyomizu Temple – Kinkakuji Temple - Arashiyama - Togetsu-kyo Bridge - Bamboo Forest Trail – Fushimi Inari Taisha - Kyoto (B/D: Japanese Set Dinner)

Hotel: RIHGA Royal Hotel Kyoto or similar

Kiyomizu Temple: An independent Buddhist temple in eastern Kyoto built in 778 and one of the three best known ancient temples in Kyoto. With unique ancient construction methods, the Temple was exquisitely built using wooden pillars but without a single nail. It is part of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto UNESCO World Heritage site since 1994 and a must-visit tourist icon in Kyoto.

Kinkakuji Temple: Also known as the Golden Pavilion, this Zen Buddhist temple was built in 1397 and is a World Heritage Site with two floors covered entirely in thin layers of pure gold, set within a beautiful, classical Zen Garden. The detailed architecture incorporates three distinct architectural styles – Shinden, Samurai, and Zen, and attracts many visitors every year. The reflection of the Temple over the Mirror Pond is also an iconic landscape of Kyoto.

Togetsu-kyo Bridge: A 155-meter bridge built across the Katsura River, spanning the scenic beauty of Kyoto’s countryside. Its name Togetsu, meaning moon crossing, originates from a legend that Kamakura period Emperor Kameyama who saw the moon moving slowing from one side to the other right above the bridge in a night with clear sky. The Arashiyama region around Togetsu-kyo Bridge is also a scenic spot for viewing cherry blossoms in spring and red maple leaves during autumn.

Bamboo Forest Trail: This 500-meter-long quaint trail in the Bamboo Forest is one of the iconic attractions in Arashiyama, Kyoto. Passing through the forest leads to the World Heritage Site Nomiya Shrine. Along the way you will hear the sound of wind blowing through the bamboo leaves, which is classified as one of the 100 Soundscapes of Japan.

Fushimi Inari Taisha: The head shrine of Inari, the God of Rice. Farmers and merchants have traditionally worshipped Inari for safeguard, harvest and prosperity. The shrine is very famous for its magnificent thousand torii gate and is one of Japan’s Nationally Designated Important Cultural Properties.

6 Kyoto - Nara - Todaiji - Deer Park - Osaka – Shinsaibashi - Dotonbori – Free at Leisure (B/L: Sushi Set)

Hotel: Hotel Nikko Osaka or similar

Todaiji: Founded in 738, Todaiji is a Buddhist temple that was once one of the Seven Great Temples in Japan. Its main hall is the world’s largest wooden structure which houses the world’s largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. It was listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the “Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara”.

Deer Park: Established in 1880, Deer Park is one of the oldest parks in Japan. Covering over 500 hectares, the park houses the famous Todaiji Temple, Kōfukuji Temple and some historical buildings and museums, integrating natural sceneries and ancient structures. There are about 1200 lovely wild deer, feeding the deer is encouraged and always offers a fun experience for every visitor.

Shinsaibashi & Dotonbori: The most iconic business and entertainment district in the centre of Osaka and one of the oldest and busiest shopping streets in Japan. The Glico neon billboard on Dotonbori is the most famous outdoor billboard in the world and a significant landmark in Osaka.

7 Osaka  Hometown (B)

After breakfast, transfer to airport for return flight to hometown.