

PRIVATE JAPAN WITH WISTERIA FESTIVAL

Departure Date: 4 May 2026

15 Days from \$15,270* pp twin share | flights included

Max 10 passengers

Globetrotters



Contact Karen at (07) 4639 2255
or email karen@globetrotters.net.au
for more information

*All prices shown are per person based on twin share. Single supplements apply, check with Globetrotters for details. Prices are correct at time of printing but are subject to change.

Day 1. Depart Australia

Day 2. Arrive Tokyo

Welcome to Japan, a country that combines the ultra-modern with the ultra-traditional in such a way that it seems completely natural. We begin in Tokyo, Japan's buzzing capital city. Formerly known as Edo, a small local fishing village, the Tokyo of today is a vibrant metropolis renowned for its advanced technology and diverse fashion sense, intermingled with the ancient traditions of Japanese culture.

Day 3. Tokyo

Today is an exciting day, dedicated to exploring Tokyo. We begin with a visit to the scenic Imperial Palace East Garden, which provides a calm oasis amid the bustle of Tokyo.

We'll stroll through the shopping district of Ginza on our way to dinner and experience the hustle and bustle of Shibuya, including the famous Shibuya crossing!

This evening, board a Yakatabune, a typical Japanese-style houseboat from the Heian Era, and enjoy a highlight welcome dinner as we cruise along Tokyo Bay.

Day 4. Tokyo — Wisteria Festival — Tokyo

After breakfast, depart for Tochigi to visit Ashikaga Flower Park's annual Great Wisteria Festival. It is the place to see purple wisteria — fuji-no-hana in Japanese — in all its glory. You can see the Great Wisteria, which is over 160 years old and spread over a 600-tatami trellis area, as well as the 80m-long white wisteria tunnel, the Laburnum tunnel and more than 350 other wisteria trees in full bloom.

★ Experience the wonder of the Ashikaga Wisteria Festival in Tochigi. Stroll through cascading blooms of lavender and lilac, before enjoying a Japanese-style lunch in the park.

Afterwards, we will return to Tokyo by coach.

Day 5. Tokyo — Fuji Flower Festival — Hakone

Today, we travel to Lake Kawaguchi to Visit Lake Saiko Iyashi no Sato Historic Village. This recreation of an old Japanese village is an open-air museum and traditional craft village which allows visitors to learn about the culture and purchase different local handicrafts.

Later this afternoon, we will visit the Fuji Motosuko Resort to see the annual Fuji Shibazakura Flower Festival, one of the most awaited spring events in eastern Japan.

★ Immerse yourself in a sea of 500,000 vibrant pink shibazakura, framed by the majestic Mount Fuji! Wander through sprawling fields and let the floral symphony enchant your senses.

We will settle in for a night in Hakone, one of the most popular destinations among locals and tourists alike. It is famous for its hot springs, outdoor activities, natural beauty and the view of nearby Mt Fuji.

Day 6. Hakone

Get excited, because this morning, we will take a sightseeing cruise on Lake Ashi.

★ Take in the stunning natural landscape and spot iconic sights such as Mount Fuji and the red torii gate of Hakone Shrine as you bask in the serenity of Lake Ashi.

After, we'll have the chance to ride the Hakone Ropeway (cable car) from Togendai to Owakudani to see incredible views of the iconic Mt Fuji (weather permitting).

Tonight, for dinner, enjoy Japanese Kaiseki style cuisine, a traditional Japanese multi-course meal.

Day 7. Hakone – Kyoto

All aboard Japan's famous rail system for our journey to Kyoto.

Kyoto, one of Japan's most beloved cities is our destination today. Considered the country's spiritual capital, Kyoto is graced with an abundance of temples, pavilions, gardens and museums.

Later today, explore the incredible tunnel of orange Torii Gates that make up Kyoto's famous Fushimi Inari shrine.

Day 8. Kyoto

A morning walk along Philosopher's Path is a tranquil start to our day of exploring Kyoto.

We then visit the stunning Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion), an exemplar of traditional Japanese architecture set amongst beautiful gardens.

Later, we immerse in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. In Japan it can take years to master the art of the tea ceremony, known as cha-no-yu. With many distinct styles, the ceremony's different configurations are all purposefully chosen to infuse meaning into the ceremony

★ Dive into the ancient world of tea-making during a traditional tea ceremony at Kano Shojuan.

Day 9. Kyoto

You're in luck! You have the opportunity to spend today completely at your leisure.

Day 10. Kyoto – Hiroshima

We start our final day in Kyoto with a visit to the Togetsukyo Bridge, or 'Moon Crossing Bridge' before strolling along the paths that wind through the towering bamboo stalks of Arashiyama Bamboo Forest.

Later, we'll tour the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage-listed Tenryu-ji Temple, ranked as the top of Kyoto's five great Zen temples, before enjoying a typical Buddhist lunch.

★ Delight your taste buds in a typical Buddhist lunch at Tenryu-ji Temple. Zen Cuisine consists of nourishing meals from fresh seasonal vegetables, herbs, and wild plants that reflect the Buddhist way of life.

This afternoon, travel to Hiroshima by bullet train. On arrival it is a brief walk to our hotel.

Day 11. Hiroshima — Miyajima — Hiroshima

We start our day off in Hiroshima, a symbol of the utter devastation of war. This city continues to build its reputation today as a symbol of peace after the first atomic bomb was dropped over it on 6 August 1945.

This morning we will take a ferry over to the island of Miyajima, known for its magnificent views and the Shrine of Itsukushima. The shrine's Torii gate is out at the head of a bay and is one of the most photographed places in Japan.

This afternoon we'll visit some of Hiroshima's important sites, including the Peace Memorial Park, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and the very moving Peace Memorial Museum.

Day 12. Hiroshima — Himeji — Osaka

Our day begins with a bullet train ride to Himeji Castle. As Japan's largest and most-visited castle, it is regarded as the finest surviving example of Japanese castle architecture. We'll then enjoy time at the castle and in the nearby beautiful Koko-en Gardens, a short walk from the castle's main gate.

This afternoon we'll make our way to Osaka, Japan's second largest city, and enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 13. Osaka – Nara – Osaka

Travelling from Osaka we start our exploration of Nara with a visit to the ancient Buddhist temple of Todai-ji.

Also known as the Great Eastern Temple, Todai-ji is home to the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana.

We'll then have the chance to feed deer at Nara Deer Park, where sika deer roam freely. Considered sacred messengers of the gods, these deer are a symbol of the city and have a protected status.

Heading back to Osaka we'll have some free time for lunch and shopping in the vibrant Dotonbori district. Tonight, for our farewell dinner, enjoy Japanese Kaiseki style cuisine, a traditional Japanese multi-course meal.

Day 14. Depart Osaka

Our tour concludes this morning. Depart hotel with guide and transfer to Osaka Airport.

Day 15. Arrive Australia

Inclusions



Small Groups

Our maximum group size is 10



Travel

- Return economy-class flights from Australia to Japan. Taxes included
- Airport transfers on the first and last day of tour
- All touring in air-conditioned vehicles
- Bullet trains, 2nd class
- Sightseeing Cruise Vessel
- Local Ferries



Transportation

Bullet train, cable car, coach, ferry, local train & Yakatabune cruise



Accommodation

- 10 nights in Western-style accommodation
- 2 nights in Japanese-style accommodation



Meals

12 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners, including group welcome and farewell dinners



Tour Guides

English-speaking locally based national guide and driver throughout



Tips

Tipping is not part of the Japanese culture, so tips are not expected



Luggage Courier

- Suitcases will be couriered from Hakone hotel to Kyoto hotel
- Suitcases will be couriered from Kyoto hotel to Osaka hotel

Karen

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Airfare supplements may apply due to flight availability and upgrades.

Payment Schedule:

Deposit: \$1,000pp - at the time of booking

Progress Payment: \$2,000pp - 30 days after booking made

Final Payment: by 2 February 2026

