



Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



JAPAN: CULTURAL ODYSSEY



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Experience the dazzling lights and sounds of the famous Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo**
- **Marvel at breathtaking Mt. Fuji from Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park**
- **Take a class in sushi-making and the ancient art of calligraphy**
- **Bike around the traditional gardens of the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto**
- **Stay in a traditional Japanese “ryokan” style inn**

Experience Japan, a place where modern life is infused with ancient traditions on this cultural exploration.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 8, Maximum 12

LODGING

Standard



SIGNATURE JOURNEY

TOKYO

DAY 1 - Arrive and enjoy a bird's-eye-view over Tokyo from the Metropolitan Government Building

DAY 2 - Visit the famous Shibuya Crossing and the quirky neighborhood of Harajuku

DAY 3 - Explore Tsukiji Fish Market and the peaceful park Shinjuku Gyoen

HAKONE

DAY 4 - Visit Mt. Fuji and traditional onsen hot springs

KYOTO & WAZUKA

DAY 5 - Board the bullet train to Kyoto, visit the Golden Pavilion and take a calligraphy class

DAY 6 - Hike through tea plantations and learn more about Japanese tea culture as you experience a traditional tea ceremony and tea tastings. Experience a calligraphy lesson in the evening

DAY 7 - Hang out with monkeys at Arashiyama before a Samurai and Ninja experience

DAY 8 - Return home

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OUR PURPOSE

Discover Japan's unique culture and experience first-hand the values and traditions practiced across the country. Over a sushi-making and calligraphy class, learn how Tokyo changed from a small fishing village into the largest metropolis in the world, and how the influence of Japanese culture has spread across the globe. By going behind the scenes and meeting those who call Japan home, you'll get an up-close look into modern day Japan.

Over the course of an eight day trip, you'll take in the sensory overload of the capital, Tokyo, marvel at the beauty of Hakone National Park, and soak up the history of one-time imperial capital, Kyoto. You'll also visit the relaxing tea fields of Wazuka, monkey around in Arashiyama, and enjoy unforgettable views of Mt. Fuji.

Japan is known for its collision of the modern and traditional. Find yourself one day experiencing the sights and sounds of Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo, and another relaxing amid the tranquil scenery of Shinjuku Gyoen, one of the capital's most peaceful and popular parks. Departing Tokyo, you'll board a cutting-edge bullet train, only to end up in Kyoto, the ancient former capital famous for its temples, shrines, and the glittering Golden Pavilion.





HIGHLIGHTS



FUJI-HAKONE-IZU NATIONAL PARK

Mt. Fuji is the highest peak in Japan, and is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the country. It's an active volcano (don't worry – it last erupted in 1707), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the most climbed mountain in the world. In Japanese culture, the peak is seen as a place of good fortune, because people are said to feel instantly calm and relaxed when they see it.



THE GOLDEN PAVILION

The Golden Pavilion at the Kinkaku-ji Zen Buddhist Temple is an icon of Kyoto and one of Japan's most beautiful buildings. The top two stories of the three-story structure are covered with pure gold leaf, said to purify negative thoughts and feelings towards death. The pavilion is surrounded by a magnificent Japanese strolling garden, and the sight of its golden tiers reflecting off the surrounding pond is surely one of the most beautiful sights in all of Japan.



MONKEY PARK IWATAYAMA

The famous Monkey Park Iwatayama, located in Arashiyama, is home to approximately 120 snow monkeys. Also known as the Japanese macaque, these red-faced critters are unique to Japan and can be found swinging from branch to branch and, if you're not careful, stealing food and other items from tourists. It's an easy hike to the top of the park, and the spectacular views are almost as popular as the wildlife. Expect to see Kyoto Tower, the surrounding mountains, and a panoramic view of the Hozu River.



Samurai & Ninja Experience in Nakagyo

Dive deep into Japanese Samurai and Ninja culture as you learn more about their history, examples of their wardrobes and weapons, and more. Get hands-on as you learn to throw a Japanese throwing star, dress in traditional Samurai garb, and even get a blow-dart shooting lesson (with rubber versions, of course!). This experience is wonderful for kids and adults alike.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive and Take In the View of the Tokyo Skyline

Arrive in Tokyo and join your Discover Corps guide and fellow travelers. Marvel at the sweeping views of Tokyo from atop the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building. Enjoy a dinner of traditional gyudon, steamed rice topped with beef and onions simmered in sake and soy sauce, before a peaceful night to relax and prepare for the journey ahead. (D)

DAY 2: Visit the Famous Shibuya Crossing and Shinjuku

This morning we'll stroll around the Sumo District, Ryogoku, visit the Sumo Museum and hopefully spot sumo wrestlers training. We'll learn about Buddhism at the Sensoji Temple in Asakusa, before observing the chaos of the Shibuya Crossing, the busiest pedestrian crossing in the world.

After lunch we'll wander through the forest to the serene Meiji Shrine, before checking out the strange street fashion and bright colors of Harajuku. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Tsukiji Fish Market and Shinjuku Gyoen

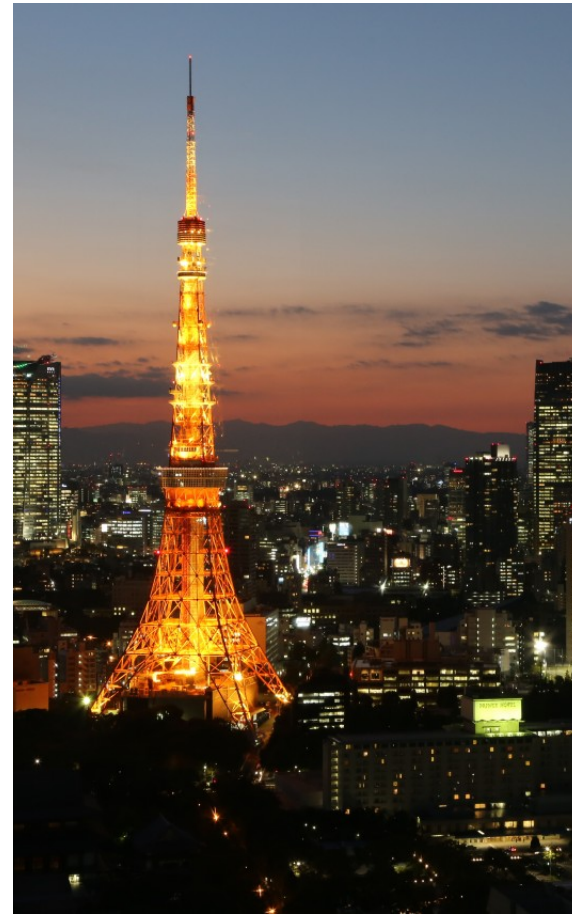
An early start sees us visiting the bustling Tsukiji Fish Market before a sushi-making class with a master chef – followed by a delicious lunch! Afterwards, visit Tokyo's Ghibli animation museum. In the afternoon we'll relax in the spacious lawns, meandering paths and tranquil scenery of Shinjuku Gyoen, one of Tokyo's largest parks, which comes alive with cherry blossoms in early April. (B,L)

DAY 4: Marvel at Mt. Fuji and Relax in Hot Springs

Today we visit the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park and enjoy views of Mt. Fuji, an iconic volcano that has come to symbolize Japan. Take a series of cars and mountain railways through the park before descending for a boat ride on scenic Ashi Lake. In the afternoon, enjoy an optional visit to an onsen, or Japanese hot spring*. Tonight we stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn. (B,D)

DAY 5: Board a Bullet Train from Hakone to Kyoto and Visit the Golden Pavilion

Zooming across the country on a bullet train, we arrive at the ancient city of Kyoto. A meditation class with a Zen Buddhist monk will guide you towards inner peace, before a traditional tea ceremony. We then visit the iconic Golden Pavilion, a spectacular gilded temple which reflects off the surface of a surrounding lake. (B,D)





DAY 6: Hike through Tea Plantations and Experience a Traditional Tea Ceremony

The morning will be spent outside of the city in the quaint town of Wazuka. Known for its association with Japanese tea culture, go behind-the-scenes to learn from the locals more about what it takes to produce Japanese tea and why this is so important to Japanese culture. Experience a tea ceremony, tea tastings, and learn how to master the art of latte art. Spend your evening getting creative with a calligraphy lesson in a private workshop. (B,L)

DAY 7: Meet Japan's Monkeys, Ride a Rickshaw Through the Bamboo Forest, and Learn Samurai and Ninja Tricks

Navigate on a rickshaw through the lush bamboo forests to Arashiyama Monkey Park, home to mischievous Japanese macaques and panoramic views of Kyoto. Afterwards, take a short walk to the Zen Tenryu-Ji Temple before a Samurai and Ninja experience. Learn about Ninja culture and learn to throw Japanese throwing stars. In the evening, enjoy an optional geisha performance. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Return Home

After breakfast, you'll board an airport limousine bus to Osaka or Kansai airport to fly home. For anyone looking to depart from Tokyo, a bullet train supplement can be purchased. (B)

STANDARD LODGING



In Tokyo we'll stay in a 4-star hotel in the city center, in walking distance to some of the city's most popular locales. Enjoy Japanese hospitality and the best of Tokyo at your doorstep. In Hakone we'll get a true feel for Japanese culture while staying one night in a ryokan (left), a traditional Japanese inn where guests sleep on futon beds laid over tatami mat floors. In Kyoto we'll enjoy a 4-star hotel with a tranquil Japanese design.



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8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
November 19-26, 2023	\$5,495	\$5,195
December 17-24, 2023	\$5,495	\$5,195
February 18-25, 2024	\$5,495	\$5,195
April 14-21, 2024	\$5,495	\$5,195
June 2-9 2024	\$5,495	\$5,195
July 28-August 4, 2024	\$5,495	\$5,195
September 1-8, 2024	\$5,495	\$5,195
December 15-22, 2024	\$5,495	\$5,195

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$895 per person.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights double occupancy lodging in 4-star hotels
- Most meals throughout the trip
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sites and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- All in-country transportation during the trip.
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry and phone services
- 2 dinners and 2 lunches

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: info@discovercorps.com

THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.



Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAPAN
AUSTRALIA	KENYA
BELIZE	MEXICO
BHUTAN	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	THAILAND
EGYPT	UGANDA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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