



Mount Fuji and Autumn colours

Engineering Japan: Historical and Contemporary

4 – 15 November 2019



Jon Baines
tours



Akihabara, Tokyo by night

Japan is unlike anywhere else in the world; a place where ancient history jostles with neon modernity, and Zen serenity with fast paced, technological efficiency.

Historically, Japan was known for its exquisite craftsmanship and attention to detail, typified by the brutally effective samurai sword. Japan opened up to the world in the mid-nineteenth century and industrialised rapidly after that. It simultaneously adopted modern manufacturing techniques from other countries whilst maintaining its traditional commitment to high quality products.

This tour aims to link past and present. Travel through Japan and learn about the history of the country while seeing both traditional craftsmanship and examples of modern Japanese engineering. There is also a full range of cultural, scenic and historical visits throughout Japan at a lovely time of year.

Arrive in Tokyo and transfer to your hotel to meet your tour leader, guide and group. The next morning experience the history of this modern metropolis, starting with a visit to the fascinating Edo Museum, which preserves the 400-year history of Tokyo and its precursor, Edo. Wander through the historic Asakusa neighbourhood

and visit the ancient Buddhist Senso-ji Temple. Gaze out across the seemingly endless sprawl of Tokyo from the soaring heights of the Skytree before cruising along the Sumida River to tranquil Hamraiku Garden. Spend time wandering through this urban oasis and take tea in a traditional teahouse. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner.

The next morning visit the Japan Sword Museum and learn about the history, traditions and symbolism of the samurai sword; how it is forged and has evolved over time. In the afternoon visit the ANA facility to shed light on modern Japanese aircraft engineering and maintenance techniques. In the evening explore the neon wonderland of Akihabara, known as



Senso-ji Temple - the oldest temple in Tokyo



Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa

“Electric City,” crammed with electronic retailers, from tiny stalls to vast department stores.

November is famous in Japan for the beauty of its rich autumnal hues. One of the loveliest places to experience this is Mount Fuji. Take the Romancecar, an Odakyu limited express train with specially built carriages with large viewing windows. Upon arrival visit the rail car maintenance yard to discover more about this private railway, their maintenance and rolling stock. Take a cable car to Lake Ashi for wonderful views of Mount Fuji before returning to Tokyo.

Board one of Japan’s sleekly efficient bullet trains the next morning to a slower, more traditional part of Japan - Kanazawa. The city contains intact samurai and geisha districts and is known for its traditional crafts; particularly silk, gold leaf and ceramics. Visit the samurai quarter, including the old pharmacy, a samurai house and gardens, the Yuzen Silk Centre and the Kubani Kutaraki Pottery.

The following morning visit Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan’s most beautiful traditional gardens. Explore the geisha quarter of Kanazawa in the afternoon, including the Ochaya Bunkakan Sake House, the Kaikaro Geisha House, an exquisite gold leaf house and the Gold Museum.

Take the Thunderbird Limited Express Train to Kyoto, Japan’s capital of high culture. Kyoto was the imperial capital between 794 and 1868 and with its hundreds of temples and gardens it remains

the cultural centre of Japan. In the afternoon visit famous Nijo Castle with its “nightingale floors” that squeaked like birds and were designed to protect from assassins. Take a walk through the towering bamboo forest of Arashiyama and finish with tea at the Actors Garden.

The following morning visit the shimmering medieval Golden Pavilion with its sensuously contoured temple roofs and Shinto shrines and take a walking tour through its raked pebble gardens. Continue onto the food and craft markets of old Kyoto. That afternoon visit Hiniaratakan and learn of their state-of-the-art distribution system, or spend further time at leisure in Kyoto.

Japan is rightly famous for its high-speed trains and the following morning you will visit the new Kyoto Railway Museum. This is the largest railway museum in Japan with a diverse range of exhibits dedicated to Japan’s rich history of train innovation.



Golden Temple, Kyoto (top); Sample sake in Kobe (above)



Continue to Kobe, a port city surrounded by oceans and mountains. Later that day visit the Kitano Carpentry Museum, housed in a lovely contemporary glass and wood structure. The collection covers the history of carpentry tools, an exploration into their aesthetic beauty, and an inside look into Japanese carpentry.

Travel to Osaka the following day and visit the Advanced Materials Processing Centre. Alongside development in other countries, Japan is addressing societal challenges such as carbon reduction and resource efficiency with new technological developments. The visit includes observation of the machinery and equipment, including various laser material processing systems, as well as analysis apparatus.

In the afternoon visit the Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum to learn about the Kobe Earthquake and its legacy. Continue to the Sawanotsuru Sake Brewery Museum for a tour and tastings. In the evening there is the option to enjoy the most famous local delicacy, Kobe beef, for dinner.

The Akashi Kaikyō suspension bridge links Kobe to Awaji Island. Completed in 1998 and spanning 1,991 metres, it has the longest central span of any suspension bridge in the world. Visit the exhibition centre and learn about the bridge-building technologies used.

Continue to the Hyogo Earthquake Engineering Research Centre, home to the world's largest earthquake simulator. Following the Kobe

earthquake, the Japanese government constructed a full-scale simulator that could subject all types of structures (weighing up to 1,200 tons) to the full force of a magnitude-7 earthquake.

Return to Kobe for a farewell shabu-shabu dinner in the evening. Depart to the airport the following morning, or extend your time in Japan.

Professional Visits

Japan prides itself on its high technology engineering. Some engineers from competing companies may not be allowed on some visits. Some of the professional visits are standard factory visits. Others have agreed to provide more detailed explanations and a dedicated question and answer session. Other visits are private and exclusive to our group. Please contact us for details.



Akashi, Kaiko Bridge

Itinerary 4 – 15 November 2019

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

4 nights Tokyo – 2 nights Kanazawa – 2 nights Kyoto – 3 nights Kobe

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------|--|---|------------|
| 4 Nov (Mon) | Tokyo | D | 11 Nov (Mon) | Kyoto | B D |
| Pm | Arrive and transfer to the hotel | | Am | Visit the Golden Pavilion and its garden. Walking tour to food and craft markets (walk down Nishiki and Teramachi-dori) and explore old Kyoto | |
| 5 Nov (Tue) | Tokyo | B D | Pm | Drive to Hiniaratakan and learn of their state-of-the-art distribution system or at leisure in Kyoto | |
| Am | Visit the Edo Museum, the historic Asakusa neighbourhood and Senso-ji Temple | | 12 Nov (Tue) | Kyoto / Kobe | B D |
| Pm | Visit the Skytree for spectacular Tokyo views. Cruise along the Sumida River to Hamraiku Garden. Explore the gardens and take tea in a traditional tea house | | Am | Visit the Kyoto Rail Museum. Train to Kobe | |
| Eve | Welcome dinner | | Pm | Check into the hotel. Visit to the Kitano Carpentry Museum | |
| 6 Nov (Wed) | Tokyo | B D | 13 Nov (Wed) | Kobe | B |
| Am | Visit Japan Sword Museum and learn of the history of the samurai sword and the development of sword forging | | Am | Visit the Advanced Materials Processing Institute or at leisure | |
| Pm | Visit the ANA Maintenance Facility at Haneda Airport | | Pm | Visit the Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum and the Sawanotsuru Sake Factory Museum for tastings | |
| Eve | Visit Akihabara “Electric City” by night | | Eve | Optional Kobe beef dinner | |
| 7 Nov (Thur) | Tokyo / Hakone / Tokyo | B | 14 Nov (Thur) | Kobe | B D |
| Am | Take the Odakyu Romancecar express train to Sagami-Ono and visit the rail maintenance yards | | Am | Visit the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge Exhibition Centre | |
| Pm | Visit Hakone for views of Mt Fuji*. Take the cable car across Lake Ashi to view the autumnal colours. Return to Tokyo by train | | Pm | Visit the Hyogo Earthquake Engineering Research Centre | |
| 8 Nov (Fri) | Tokyo / Kanazawa | B D | Eve | Farewell shabu-shabu dinner | |
| Am | Bullet train across Japan to Kanazawa and transfer to the hotel | | 15 Nov (Fri) | Kobe | B |
| Pm | Visit the samurai quarter, including the old pharmacy, the samurai house and garden, the Yuzen Silk Centre and the Kubani Kutaraki pottery | | Am | Depart for airport | |
| 9 Nov (Sat) | Kanazawa | B | * Please note: although November is one of the best times to see Mount Fuji, there is a 50% chance of the view being obscured by cloud. | | |
| Am | Visit Kenrokuen Garden | | The tour has been structured so that partners do not have to take part in some professional visits. | | |
| Pm | Visit the geisha quarter (Higashichaya Old Town) including the Ochaya Bunkakan Sake House, Kaikaro Geisha House, a gold leaf house and museum | | | | |
| 10 Nov (Sun) | Kanazawa / Kyoto | B D | | | |
| Am | Train to Kyoto and transfer to the hotel | | | | |
| Pm | Visit Nijo Castle. Walk through Arashiyama Forest and take tea at the Actors Garden | | | | |



Travel by bullet train



Arashiyama Bamboo Forest

Hotels

Please note: hotel rooms in Japan tend to be small (around 20 square metres).

Villa Fontaine Shiodome (Tokyo)

A sleek hotel with an excellent location in the business district, near Ginza and overlooking the river and Hamarikyu Gardens. The décor is contemporary with well sized rooms for Tokyo.

Agora Kanazawa (Kanazawa)

Located in the heart of Kanazawa, this new hotel is located close to the castle and gardens and has a restaurant, spa and a tea house.

New Miyako Hotel (Kyoto)

A very central location next to to Kyoto Station, the New Miyako Hotel has a beauty salon, a convenience shop, a spa and swimming pool.

The Oriental Hotel (Kobe)

An upscale hotel with exceptionally high standards of service, the Oriental is Japan's first hotel, having been on this site for over a century. Situated in the elegant surrounds of Kobe's

former foreign settlement, the modern building (built in 2010 after the 1995 earthquake) retains the elegance and style that Kobe has traditionally been renowned for.



Gold Leaf House, Kanazawa

Tour Leader

A chartered engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the National Society for Professional Engineers in the USA, **Michael Knight** spent the major part of his working life with an American chemical corporation. He was based in the USA for several years as a global project manager, working on projects in Asia, Europe and North America. He returned to the UK in the role of global technology centre manager for the corporation and engineering manager of a COMAH site. After ten years in these roles he then spent five years as the corporation's global process engineering manager. Since retirement, Michael has lectured at the four main universities in South Wales and has also concentrated on promoting engineering to young people through the Year in Industry Scheme at two of these universities. Michael has led three previous engineering study tours to India, China and South Africa.

“Tour leader, Michael, made sure that everyone was enjoying all aspects of the holiday.”

Amanda Vince, Engineering in South Africa, July 2018



Carpentry Museum, Kobe

The cost of the tour is USD \$5,148 per person

The cost includes:

- The services of a tour leader (Michael Knight)
- 11 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade and first-class hotels

Single supplement: USD \$928

- Breakfast daily
- Eight dinners
- All admission fees
- All cultural, factory and professional visits
- All travel by bullet train and bus
- Services of specialist English speaking national guide
- All transport services, tips and taxes in Japan
- Luggage mailing service (Tokyo – Kyoto, Kyoto – Kobe)

The cost excludes:

- International flights and airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned
- Drinks with meals except welcome and farewell dinners
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visa, if required

Flights: to and from Japan are not included with this package. We can help organise these flights – please contact us if you would like us to do so.

Travel in Japan

All transport on this tour is based on Japan's excellent public transport system. The group will travel between cities by bullet train. Transport within cities is by metro and bus. All hotels are walking distance or a short bus ride from the railways stations. As travel is by public transport, a good level of fitness is important for all participants. The guide will be with the group for all the public transport. Private buses will be used for some engineering visits.

As there is limited space for luggage on the bullet trains, large bags will be sent separately ahead of the group by overnight transfers. Participants will use hand luggage for those nights. This cost is included in the tour.

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.



Mt Fuji and Lake Ashi (top); Kyoto Railway Museum; Autumn colours in Kyoto; Traditional *maiko* dress in Kyoto (above)

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