



The Daimon Gate, the ancient entrance to Mount Koya

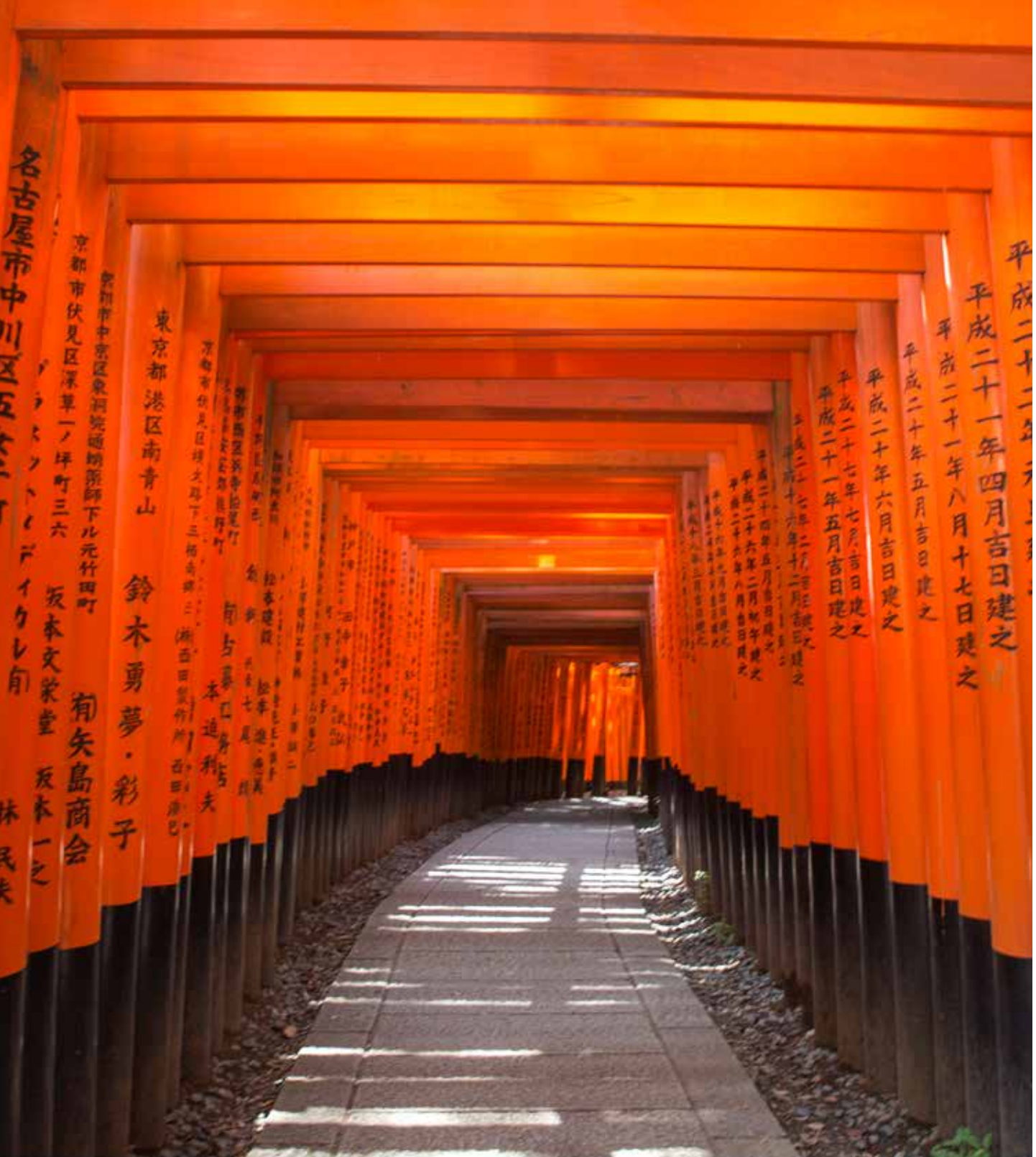
Japan: Historical and Contemporary

3 - 13 November 2024



Level 3
MODERATE





Walk through the vermilion gates to the Fushimi Inari Shrine

Travel with Jason James OBE, the Director General of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, on a tour through Japan's long history. The itinerary follows Japanese history from the earliest historical records and continues via the shoguns, the arrival of the black ships, the Meiji Restoration and the opening of Japan, to the modern day.

The tour includes a range of specialist visits and experiences in Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Hakone, the Izu Peninsula and Tokyo, which are illustrated by short talks throughout the tour.

Options include visiting a traditional onsen and walking the Philosopher's Path in Kyoto.

Tour Leader

Jason James is Director General of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation. Having been fascinated by Japan on a choir tour at the age of 13, he chose to read Japanese Studies at King's College, Cambridge, where he was a double scholar (academic and choral), graduating with a "starred first" (only the third time this accolade had ever been awarded by Cambridge's Japanese Department) in 1987. Subsequently he worked in the financial industry, mostly specialising in Japanese equities, becoming Head of Research in the Tokyo office of HSBC Securities, and eventually Head of Global Equity Strategy at HSBC in London. From 2007-2011 Jason was Director of the British Council in Japan, during which time he also served as Chair of the European Union National Institutes of Culture Japan cluster, a Board Member of the Japan-British Society, and a Board Member of United World Colleges Japan. In London, in addition to his day job he was a Trustee of the Japan Society for six years, and a member of the Japan Season of Culture Action Committee. Jason is currently a member of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group and a Governor of King's College School, Cambridge.



Jason's interest in Japan is broad, covering the economy, financial markets and tax, as well as Japanese literature, art and history, and the relationship between the UK and Japan. Publications range from *'The Political Economy of Japanese Financial Markets'* (co-author, Macmillan 1999), to *'Edmund Blunden and Japan'* (Asiatic Society, 2010).

Jason received an OBE for services to UK/Japan relations in The King's Birthday Honours 2023. He is a popular and experienced tour leader; this will be the third tour he has led to Japan.

Dotombori in Osaka



Itinerary 3 – 13 November 2024

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

2 nights Osaka – 3 nights Kyoto – 2 nights Mishima – 3 nights Tokyo



Day 1: Osaka (Sun, 3 Nov) D

Am: Arrive Osaka and check into the hotel.
Eve: Welcome dinner at a restaurant with drinks.

Day 2: Osaka (Mon, 4 Nov) B L D

Am: Travel to Mount Koya to visit Okunoin Temple, one of the most sacred places in Japan. Visit the cemetery containing important Japanese people through history and see some of the 100 temples on the mountain. Learn about the powerful 12th century samurai warrior Taira clan and hear a short talk by Jason James: *“Capitals, culture and conflict.”*
Eve: Okonomiyaki dinner in Dotombori.

Day 3: Osaka / Kyoto (Tues, 5 Nov) B L

Am: Transfer to Yoshino, visit Kinpusen-ji Temple and walk up to the site of the Imperial Villa of Go-Daigo and the other Southern Court Emperors.
Pm: Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit Nara, Japan’s 8th Century capital. Visit Todai-ji, one of the Seven Great Temples, which contains the world’s largest bronze Buddha. Visit the important Shinto shrine of Kasuga Taisha before continuing to Kyoto. Talk: *“Kyoto art, culture and the imperial city.”* Check in to the hotel.
Eve: At leisure.

Day 4: Kyoto (Wed, 6 Nov) B D

Am: Visit beautiful sixteenth-century Nijo Castle with its moat, huge stone walls, stunning gardens and rich art collection. Visit the Zen Golden Temple, whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf, and explore the famous geisha district of Gion.
Pm: At leisure or option of walking the Philosopher’s Path.
Eve: Shabu shabu dinner.

Day 5: Kyoto (Thurs, 7 Nov) B D

Am: Visit Buddhist Byodo-in Temple in Uji, including the Phoenix Hall, one of the few original wooden structures surviving from the Heian Period (794-1185).
Pm: Travel to Fushimi Inari, famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates, which straddle a network of trails. Take the Tofuku-ji Temple walk, visit Hojo rock garden and Tsutenkyo Bridge and gardens.
Eve: Dinner at Tsuki no Kurabito with sake tastings.

Day 6: Kyoto / Mishima (Fri, 8 Nov) B D

- Am:** Transfer to Sekigahara and take a tour of the site of the Battle of Sekigahara of 1600.
- Pm:** Continue to Inuyama Castle for a talk on Oda Nobunaga and Japanese unification, then take the bullet train from Nagoya to Odawara. Transfer by local train to Fujisan Mishima Tokyu Hotel. Talk: ***“Barbarians at the gate.”***
- Eve:** Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 7: Mishima / Shimoda / Mishima (Sat, 9 Nov) B D

- Am:** Visit Shimoda, a pleasant coastal city significant for being one of the first ports opened to foreign vessels as a result of Commodore Perry forcing Japan to open up. Visit Ryosenji and the small museum to Commodore Perry. View the Mikomoto Lighthouse.
- Pm:** Return to the hotel via the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces, a well-preserved iron smelting facility built in 1857 at the start of Japan’s industrial revolution.
- Eve:** Option for onsen at hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8: Mishima / Hakone / Kamakura / Tokyo (Sun, 10 Nov) B L

- Am:** Take a coach to the old Tokaido, the centuries-old route linking Tokyo with the former capital, Kyoto, and walk along its Cedar Avenue. Continue to Hakone and visit the Okada Museum of Art with its superb collection ranging from antiquity to the modern day.
- Pm:** Lunch at a local restaurant. Drive to Kamakura and see the great bronze Buddha, which was cast in 1252. Learn about Minamoto Yoritomo, the first shogun to effectively rule Japan. Drive to Tokyo and check into the hotel. Talk: ***“Edo – early Tokyo”***
- Eve:** At leisure.

Day 9: Tokyo / Yokohama / Tokyo (Mon, 11 Nov) B D

- Am:** Visit the historic Asakusa neighborhood and Senso-ji Temple. Take a cruise through the canals of Tokyo to Hamarikyu Gardens.
- Pm:** Travel to Yokohama. In Yokohama, learn of the Namamugi Incident and the 1863 Anglo-Satsuma War. See Yokohama Foreign Cemetery and British House. Talk: ***“Making modern Japan”***
- Eve:** Fresh fish Izakaya dinner at Shin-Hinomoto Yurakucho. B D

Day 10: Tokyo (Tues, 12 Nov)

- Am:** Take part in a tour with a focus on the arts in Japan, visiting the fashionable Harajuku area and seeing the intricate woodblock prints at the Ota Ukiyoe Woodblock Print Museum. Continue to the Nezu Museum to see its collection of Japanese and Asian pre-modern art and exquisite garden.
- Eve:** Farewell Yakiniiku barbecue dinner with views of Tokyo Bay. B

Day 11: Tokyo (Wed, 13 Nov)

- Am:** Depart hotel after breakfast.

* Itinerary subject to change according to local conditions. Airport transfers are not included in the tour price; there are a range of transfer options. Please contact us for further details.



Canals in Shimoda, Izu Peninsula



Maiko in traditional dress in Kyoto

Tour Activity Level

Level 1 Relaxed



A gentle pace, involving minimal walking and exertion. Shorter travel distances and a full but relatively relaxed itinerary.

Level 2 Gentle



Easy walking at a mostly leisurely pace. Slightly more daily activity and travel.

THIS TOUR IS CLASSIFIED AS:

Level 3 Moderate



Regular walking at destinations, extended standing and / or increased travel distances. Good fitness is required.

Level 4 Active



Longer and fuller days. Significant levels of walking, covering longer distances, requiring very good fitness and mobility.

Level 5 Challenging



May involve extended drives, hikes and multiple visits across busy days. Excellent fitness is required.

Travel in Japan

Most transport on this tour is based on Japan's excellent public transport system. The group will travel between cities by bus, local train and bullet train. Transport within cities is by bus and occasionally metro. All hotels are walking distance from the railway stations. As travel is mostly by public transport, a reasonable level of fitness is important for all participants.

As there is limited space for luggage on the bullet train on 8 November, large bags will be sent separately ahead of the group, so please ensure you have anything you require for the day (eg medicines). This cost is included in the tour.



Kofuku-ji Temple, Nara (top); Giant Buddha, Kamakura; Nijo Castle, Kyoto; Golden Pavilion, Kyoto (above)

**The cost of the tour is
US \$5,772**

**The cost of the tour with a
room to yourself is US \$6,918**

The cost includes:

- The services of a tour leader (Jason James)
- 10 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade and first class hotels
- Breakfast daily
- Dinners daily except 5 and 10 November, when there is lunch
- All admission fees
- Services of specialist English-speaking national guide
- All transport services and taxes in Japan
- Luggage mailing service

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
- All personal extras such as portorage, laundry and inoculation fees
- Visa, if required

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.

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www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

Jon Baines Tours (London)
Hyde Park House, 5 Manfred Road,
London, SW15 2RS
Tel: +44 (0) 207 223 9485 / 5618
Email: info@jonbainestours.co.uk
www.jonbainestours.co.uk

Jon Baines Tours (Melbourne)
PO Box 68, South Brunswick,
Victoria 3055
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9343 6367
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9012 4228
Email: info@jonbainestours.com.au
www.jonbainestours.com



Byodo-in Temple (top); Waterfalls in Izu Peninsula; Mt Fuji; A maiko in Kyoto (above)



Jon Baines
tours

