

The great train journey of Japan

Depart Cairns 07 November at 12.15PM arrive Tokyo 6.45PM – Jetstar

Commence the following tour in Tokyo on the 07 November and ending in Tokyo on the 21 November

Day 1 - Thu, 07 Nov - Tokyo

There will be a meet and greet and shuttle transfer to your accommodation in Tokyo. Upon arrival into our Tokyo accommodation you will be met by your **Japan Holidays** representative at the hotel Lobby. In the evening the tour guide will outline the trip in more detail

Accommodation: Dormy Inn Premium Kanda (3 nights)

Day 2 - Fri, 08 Nov - The Railway Museum (B, L, D)

First stop is the JR information desk to activate and book all JR rail trains for the trip. Next, we depart on the Tohoku / Joetsu Shinkansen to visit the first of the three major Japanese railway museums, 'The Railway Museum' at Omiya in Saitama prefecture.

Operated by JR East Japan, you will be able to view Japanese railway history and development over the 150 years of railways in Japan including retired rolling stock, train simulators and an impressive model railway layout. Lunch will be a Station Bento box available only at the Railway Museum, featuring tasty delicacies of the region.

We return to the hotel before enjoying a group welcome dinner at a restaurant in Tokyo.

Day 3 - Sat, 09 Nov: Paleo Express Steam Locomotive (B, L)

After departing Tokyo, we will ride aboard the powerful **Paleo Express behind Steam Locomotive** from Kumagaya station to Chichibu Station, enjoying the sights and sounds as we roll through the mountains of mainland Japan. You're free to explore Chichibu, or you can join the escort to stroll **Hitsujiyama Park** and visit **Chichibu Shrine**. Lunch will be at a local restaurant.

We ride the **Red Arrow limited express** on Seibu Railway back to Ikebukuro, with free time to see Tokyo at night.

Note: *Prepare and pack your larger luggage for on-forwarding to Kyoto by courier retaining a cabin bag for the Sunday evening.*

Day 4 - Sun, 10 Nov: Oigawa Railway to Kawane Onsen (B, L, D)

Today we bid farewell to Tokyo and head west, boarding the Tokaido shinkansen, with soaring views of Mt Fuji on the way to Kakegawa and then onto Kanaya station. Here, we change lines and depart north on the scenic **Oigawa Railway behind EL** through the mountains.

Lunch will be either an Ekiben style to have on the train from Kanaya station, or at the stand-up soba noodle restaurant at Senzu station. After lunch you will have free time to either sightsee at the station, explore Senzu, or continue riding on the **Oigawa 'Southern Alps' Abt Line**.

We return Kawane Onsen Hotel for the evening, where you'll experience a night in a traditional Japanese *ryokan* hotel, and enjoy the outdoor *onsen* views overlooking the Oigawa Railway. Dinner at the hotel will be a Japanese-Western Buffet.

Accommodation: Kawane Onsen Hotel, Japanese style room

Day 5 - Mon, 11 Nov: Nagoya and Kyoto (B, L)

After a traditional Japanese style breakfast, we will make our way back

down back to Kanaya, taking the opportunity to grab some last-minute souvenirs at Shin Kanaya station before continuing our journey. Today's destination is Kyoto, enroute we will be travelling to Nagoya to visit the second of the three big rail museums - the **SCMAGLEV** and Railway Park in Nagoya, focusing on the trains of JR Tokai (Central Japan). Lunch will be at a restaurant near **SCMAGLEV** Railway Park.

Accommodation: Dormy Inn Premium Kyoto Ekimae (3 nights)

Day 6 - Tue, 12 Nov: Sagano, Arashiyama Romance and Kyoto (B, L)

After breakfast we head off to explore Kyoto and head to the Arashiyama area, catching a train to Saga-Arashiyama station and then onto the Sagano Romance train for a 30-minute leisurely train ride along the Hozukyo gorge. We return to Arashiyama to visit **Jojakko-ji Temple and 19th Century Hall**. We depart on the **Kyoto Randen tram line**, in operation since 1910, to Shijo Omiya station.

Finally, we visit the last of the 3 main museums, the **Kyoto Rail Museum**, here you have a few hours free time to see trains spanning every era of Japan's transportation history and the famous Umekoi Roundhouse. Enjoy a Station bento lunch box or eat lunch at the observatory overlooking the turntable.

Afternoon at own leisure

Day 7 - Wed, 13 Nov: Kyoto Free Day (B)

Today is a *free day* to see the many sites of Kyoto - or even those in nearby Nara and Osaka. Your Japan Holidays escort will help arrange and plan a self-guided trip tailored to what you wish to see for your last day in Kyoto. There is unparalleled shopping, temples, shrines, museums, palaces and parks to explore.

If you prefer, a private local guide can be hired for a tour of Kyoto at additional cost.

Note: Prepare and pack your larger luggage for on-forwarding to Hiroshima by courier retaining a cabin bag.

Day 8 - Thur, 14 Nov: Kyoto - Himeji - Hiroshima (B)

After departing Kyoto we'll ride the shinkansen to Hiroshima, stopping at Himeji for a brief visit to the beautiful hillside **Himeji Castle**, which dates from 1300. We arrive in Hiroshima in the afternoon with time to enjoy its vibrant nightlife and see the local trams operating at dusk.

Accommodation : Ark Hotel Hiroshima, Minami (3 nights)

Day 9 - Fri, 15 Nov: Hiroshima - Full Day (B, L)

Our local guide here will take us on a full day's excursion of Hiroshima and its surrounds. We'll ride on the city's quaint tram lines and visit the worldrenowned

Hiroshima Peace Park and Memorial Museum and Atomic Bomb Dome. We'll also tour one of Japan's most scenic spots - **Miyajima Island** - with its ethereal floating torii gate. Lunch will be at Hiroshima Okonomiyaki, famous for its regional noodle dishes.

Day 10 - Sat, 16 Nov: Yamaguchi SL to Tsuwano (B, L)

After breakfast we'll catch the shinkansen to Yamaguchi station, departing for Tsuwano on the **Yamaguchi Steam Locomotive**. At Tsuwano you can remain at the station to see the locomotive cleaned and prepared for its return trip, or join the Japan Holidays escort to visit local sites such as Tsuwano's historical **Old Town** and **Kaikodani Inari Shrine**, one of Japan's five greatest Inari Shrines. Lunch will either be *ekiben* from Tsuwano or at a local restaurant.

Note: This evening your luggage will be forwarded through to Tokyo, so pack

a small cabin bag for the following night on-board the Sleeper Express..

Day 11 - Sun, 17 Nov: Okayama to Tokyo on the Sleeper Express (B)

Today, we'll ride the shinkansen to Okayama, a major train destination for the lovely Setouchi Inland Sea. Enjoy a day of *free time* for sightseeing on your own, or join the Japan Holidays escort to see the area and ride **La Malle de Bois**, a unique train with a diner car ambiance and collection of art books to browse.

After dinner on your own, we'll depart Okayama at 22:30 sharp on the famous **Sunrise Express**, one of Japan's only sleeper trains still operating. You'll arrive rested and refreshed in Tokyo at 7am the following morning.

Accommodation: Sunrise Express sleeper car - single or twin share cabin. Shower available on board*

**if sufficient sleeper cabins are not available for the group, a day-time itinerary to Tokyo and alternative accommodation will be sought.*

Day 12 - Mon, 18 Nov: Tokyo Full Day Guide

After arriving in Tokyo refreshed from the sleeper car, you'll have a guided walking tour with a Tokyo local and see some of the city's most famous sights: Tokyo Tower, Imperial Palace, Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, Meiji Shrine and Omotesando. We'll take a variety of public transportation to get around.

Accommodation: Dormy Inn Premium Kanda (3 nights)

Day 13 - Tues, 19 Nov: Tokyo Free Day (B)

Today is a *free day* for you to explore Tokyo and see the sites you wish. Ask your Japan Holidays escort for suggestions depending on what you'd like to see or do. Just use your own JR rail pass to get out and explore this cosmopolitan city with several "downtowns"!

Day 14 - Wed, 20 Nov: Kamakura (B, L, D)

On our final full day, we'll visit the south coast of **Kamakura** with a Japan Holidays guide to enjoy the harmony of Nature, temples and sea along the **Enoden tram**. We'll visit the Kamakura Daibatsu - a serenely seated giant Buddha. Lunch will be at a café overlooking Enoshima Beach. We head back to Tokyo at the end of the Enoden line from Fujiwara station on the **Odakyu Romancecar**.

A farewell dinner will be held in Tokyo that evening.

Sayonara!

Day 15 - Thu 21 Nov: End of Tour (B)

This is the last day of your tour. For those departing from Narita or Haneda Airport, there will be a shared shuttle transfer arranged for your departure flight.

Depart Tokyo 21 November at 8.10PM arrive Cairns 22 November at 4.40AM – Jetstar

Cost per person \$7,504*pp and includes the following:

- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- 14 nights accommodation
- Rail travel throughout
- Breakfast daily and 3 dinners
- Sightseeing as per itinerary