



# DISCOVER JAPAN'S BEAUTY WITH BILL PEACH JOURNEYS

Luxury World Journey Essence of Japan

10 Days | 21 Mar – 30 Mar 2019 | AUD\$15,995pp twin share | Single Supplement \$3,500

## EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Visit the diverse and vibrant cities of Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osaka
- ✦ Luxury accommodation throughout including the Conrad Hotel Tokyo, the Hakone Kowakien Tenyū Ryokan, the Kyoto Hotel Okura, the Sheraton Hiroshima and the Hotel New Otani Osaka
- ✦ Japanese cultural experiences including a tea ceremony, wearing kimono dress at a traditional machiya house (traditional Japanese house) and a sushi making experience
- ✦ Visit the iconic red floating Torii Gate and the beautiful Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island
- ✦ All touring, transfers, entrance fees, portage and meals included
- ✦ Escorted throughout by an experienced Journey Director and local English speaking guides

*"Highlights were the ease of travelling. An excellent tour and leader who went beyond her duties to make sure everyone was catered for."*

Mrs Pam Mison, Valentine, NSW

Join Bill Peach Journeys and discover the quintessential Japan during this 10 day journey exploring the highlights of the "land of the rising sun". Experience the fast paced bright lights of Tokyo to the idyllic countryside crowned by Mount Fuji and spectacular mountain scenery. We will travel by Shinkansen (Bullet) train and tour some of Japan's most impressive temples and shrines.

We will visit the iconic red floating Torii Gate and the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island. In Hiroshima we visit the moving Peace Memorial Park then on to Osaka to visit Himeji Castle. Ideally located and stylish accommodation throughout assures a quality journey with every comfort. An inspiring Japanese discovery awaits those who wish to experience the essence of Japan!





## THE ESSENCE OF JAPAN

### DAY 1 | ARRIVE TOKYO

Arriving into Tokyo, a private transfer awaits to transport you through to your luxury hotel, the award winning Conrad Hotel Tokyo. Ideally located, this iconic hotel is a statement in contemporary luxury providing the perfect base from which to explore this extraordinary city during your day at leisure. Japan's alluring capital completely enchants those who love to immerse themselves in destinations of great depth – where soulful cultural traditions seamlessly meld with ultra modernity. This evening meet your Journey Director and fellow travellers for welcome drinks.

Overnight: Conrad Hotel Tokyo or similar

### DAY 2 | TOKYO

This morning is a guided Tsukiji fish market tour, exploring one of the world's largest seafood markets and learning about how seafood is used in traditional Japanese cuisine. You will next participate in a sushi-making lesson. Under the guidance of a local cook, learn to prepare rolled sushi, nigiri sushi and other variations, then enjoy your creation!

In the afternoon we explore Asakusa, a part of Tokyo's Shitamachi (old town), one of the city's oldest Geisha districts and visit one of Japan's most colourful and popular temples, Sensoji. Later we take a scenic river cruise on Tokyo Bay to Hinode Pier. Tonight there will be a formal welcome dinner.

Overnight: Conrad Hotel Tokyo or similar

### DAY 3 | TOKYO - NIKKO - TOKYO

Today we drive to Nikko for a full day of sightseeing. We visit the Toshogu Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is the final resting place of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate that ruled Japan for over 250 years. Nikko is also famous for spectacular scenery such as Lake Chuzenji and the Kegon waterfall, all sights we will visit today before returning to our hotel.

Overnight: Conrad Hotel Tokyo or similar

### DAY 4 | TOKYO - MT FUJI - HAKONE

Departing Tokyo, our journey continues to the idyllic countryside location of Hakone, crowned by Mount Fuji and stunning mountain scenery. Upon arrival we board the famed replica pirate ship that cruises along Ashinoko Lake, a

body of water that was formed after a volcanic eruption that occurred more than 3,000 years ago. After our lunch we ride the Guinness World Record-holder ropeway all the way up to Mt. Owakudani, passing over sulfurous fumes and hot springs. From the mountain, take the ropeway bound for Togendai. Check in to our exceptional accommodation, Hakone Kowakien Tenyū Ryokan and enjoy the traditional elegance of a ryokan stay accented with modern luxury.

Overnight: Hakone Kowakien Tenyū Ryokan or similar

### DAY 5 | HAKONE - KYOTO

After breakfast, for those interested, there is a chance to soak in an Onsen, a traditional Japanese hot spring. Our journey continues today to Kyoto by Japan Rail Shinkansen, a bullet train in first class. Running at speeds of up to 320 km/h, the Shinkansen is known for punctuality (most trains depart on time to the second), comfort (relatively silent cars with spacious, always forward facing seats), safety and efficiency.

Home to an astonishing 2000 shrines and temples, here in Kyoto you will explore the beautiful Kinkakuji-temple (Golden Pavilion); originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun, after his death it became a Buddhist Temple. We also visit the Ryōan-ji (Rock) garden which is considered one of the finest surviving examples of kare-sansui (dry landscape). This refined type of Japanese Zen temple garden design generally features distinctive larger rock formations arranged amidst a sweep of smooth pebbles raked into linear patterns that facilitate meditation. We also visit the famous Philosopher's Walk, often ranked as the best viewing spot for cherry blossoms. We transfer to our hotel, the award winning Kyoto Hotel Okura noted for its elegance and warm hospitality.

Overnight: Kyoto Hotel Okura or similar

### DAY 6 | KYOTO

A full day sightseeing today including a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Todaji, in the city of Nara. Its Great Buddha Hall houses the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha. We visit Nara Park also known as Deer Park which is home to hundreds of freely roaming deer, considered in Shinto to be messengers of the gods. Nara's nearly 1200 deer have become a symbol of the city and have even been designated as a natural treasure. We visit the Kodaiji Temple, an outstanding



temple in Kyoto's Higashiyama District established in 1606. We return to our hotel this evening.

Overnight: Kyoto Hotel Okura or similar

### DAY 7 | KYOTO

Continue your exploration of Kyoto today. We begin by transferring to Kameoka to ride on the scenic train to Arashiyama, famous for its beautiful scenery and the bamboo forest. Today we have an immersive Japanese cultural experience as we dress in traditional Kimono and take part in a Japanese tea ceremony in a machiya house (traditional Japanese house) followed by a discussion about the nuances of these practices.

Overnight: Kyoto Hotel Okura or similar

### DAY 8 | KYOTO - HIROSHIMA

Our journey continues today to Hiroshima by Shinkansen. We will visit the moving Peace Memorial Park and Atomic Bomb Dome. The area where the park now lies was ground zero for the atomic bomb on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 and holds many memorials, monuments and statues. Here we will see the Childrens Memorial, Peace Bell and Eternal Flame. The main attraction of the park is the Peace Memorial Museum that poignantly depicts the history of Hiroshima.

Later, we take a ferry to the small shrine island of Miyajima. This island is home to the world renowned red floating Torii Gate that leads to the Itsukushima Shrine.

Overnight: Sheraton Hiroshima or similar

### DAY 9 | HIROSHIMA - OSAKA

This morning, we head to Osaka, Japan's third largest city by Shinkansen. On arrival, we visit Himeji Castle, a hilltop Japanese castle complex regarded as the finest surviving example of prototypical Japanese castle architecture. The largest castle in Japan, it is one of Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Sites. After lunch, you may walk in the castle gardens and see beautiful peach trees. This afternoon, we check in to our hotel and have some time at leisure to explore or relax. Tonight, our farewell dinner will be an authentic Japanese dinner to celebrate the conclusion of a wonderful adventure.

Overnight: Hotel New Otani Osaka or similar

### DAY 10 | DEPART OSAKA

Enjoy the facilities of the hotel before transferring to Kansai Airport to board your flight home taking with you fond memories of an unforgettable Japanese discovery.

*"The organization was super, the destinations were excellent, we have learnt so much! The cherry blossoms were in full bloom, Mt Fuji was clear and majestic and it was a very nice group of travelling companions."*

Mr & Mrs Miller, Killara, NSW





## ABOUT LUXURY WORLD JOURNEYS

Our worldwide collection of journeys are operated by a select number of preferred travel partners who we have chosen because of their expertise within specific regions and who combine the same style and superior level of service that has become synonymous with Bill Peach Journeys. Each of the worldwide journeys have a Bill Peach Journeys stamp of quality.

When you travel on a Bill Peach Luxury World Journey everything is included. This means not only does your holiday include accommodation, dining and all excursions but every one of these elements is the finest in its class. Throughout the journey you will have a Journey Director on hand to look after each detail.

### FITNESS LEVEL - MODERATE

*"The itinerary gave us a view of the modern cities, the wonderful gardens, the countryside and mountains, the historic places, fabulous hotels and castles. We saw so much!"*

Mrs Jan G, North Strathfield NSW

## WHY BILL PEACH JOURNEYS?

- ✦ A name you can trust with over 35 years of experience in the luxury travel industry
- ✦ Fully inclusive journeys, all meals, accommodation, touring, entrance fees, portage taxes and luggage
- ✦ International travel requires expert planning and organisation. Our Journey Planners ensure you enjoy an intimate exploration of the places visited in comfort and style
- ✦ A dedicated Journey Director that ensures you are looked after every step of the way
- ✦ Local professional guides at every location
- ✦ 55% of our travellers return to travel with us again within the first year of their initial journey

Please note: Although we are travelling during cherry blossom season, it cannot be guaranteed that all trees will have bloomed.

For more information please call our Reservations Team on 1800 252 053 (Australia),  
0800 445 700 (New Zealand) or visit [www.billpeachjourneys.com.au](http://www.billpeachjourneys.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/BillPeachJourneys](https://www.facebook.com/BillPeachJourneys)

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