

**INCLUSIVE
SIGHTSEEING***

**SMALL
GROUPS***

**AUSTRALIAN-
BASED TOUR
HOST***

**AIRFARES
INCLUDED***

**VISAS, TIPPING
& TRANSFERS
INCLUDED***



**escorted
ESCAPES**

With you every step of the way

JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM

15 DAYS



2019 & 20 DEPARTURES

DATE	TWIN	SOLO
30 Mar - 13 Apr 19	\$11,295*	\$13,295*
28 Mar - 11 Apr 20	\$11,795*	\$14,695*

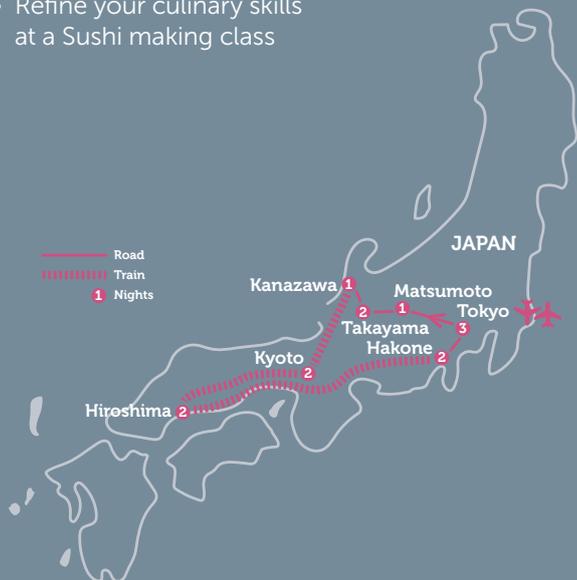
For additional information on this trip, including tour suitability and activity levels, please refer to the detailed trip notes at www.escortedescapes.com.au. Prices are per person. Our departures are planned around the small window of opportunity to see the Cherry Blossoms. They are a natural event and the date does vary from year to year, so sightings can never be guaranteed.

THE ESCORTED ESCAPES INCLUSIONS

- ✓ AIRFARES INCLUDED*
- ✓ FULLY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS*
- ✓ VISAS, TRANSFERS, TIPPING INCLUDED*
- ✓ SMALL GROUPS*
- ✓ INCLUSIVE SIGHTSEEING*

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- See the magnificent cherry blossoms at Kenroku-en gardens in Kanazawa
- Marvel at spectacular Mt Fuji and Fuji Hakone National Park
- Wander the historic streets of Takayama, one of Japan's most atmospheric townscapes
- Discover Matsumoto Castle, the oldest existing castle in Japan, and wander the grounds, which come alive in colour with the blooming cherry blossoms
- Enjoy a walk through the Geisha districts of Kyoto, including Gion
- Explore the beautiful island of Miyajima, famous for its floating shrine and stunning scenery
- Visit the peace park, atomic dome and museum at Hiroshima
- Travel in style on Japan's world-famous bullet trains
- Refine your culinary skills at a Sushi making class



JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - TOKYO

Our Escorted Escape begins today as we fly from Australia to Tokyo. On arrival we will be transferred to our hotel where you can enjoy the evening at your leisure.

Accommodation: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ueno

DAY 2 TOKYO

This morning we head to Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the market stalls lining the street for over 200m as you make your way to the temple. We then enjoy a river cruise along Tokyo's Sumida River, allowing an opportunity to see the city from a different perspective. In the afternoon visit Tokyo's most attractive and historic landscape garden, Hamarikyu Garden.

Meals: B + D Accommodation: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ueno

DAY 3 TOKYO

Today starts at Tokyo Tower where we take the elevator to the observation decks - if it is a clear day you may catch your first sight of Mt Fuji! Later we will explore the Ginza district, take a visit to the Nissan building and a stroll through Tsukiji Fish markets. Your afternoon is free to further explore the neighbourhoods of Tokyo.

Meals: B Accommodation: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ueno

DAY 4 MATSUMOTO

After breakfast, we head to picturesque Matsumoto where we explore the town's most famous landmark, Matsumoto Castle. Built in 1594, it has managed to withstand earthquakes, typhoons and war and is one of the few remaining castles in Japan. After checking into our hotel, spend the afternoon at your leisure. For dinner, perhaps you might like to try the local soba noodles - some of the best in the country.

Meals: B Accommodation: Matsumoto Hotel Kagetsu

DAY 5 TAKAYAMA

Today visit Hida Folk Village, an open-air museum exhibiting over 30 traditional houses displaying traditional architecture and handicrafts. We then travel to Takayama, a charming town located in the Japanese Alps, where you can relax in the afternoon before our traditional Japanese dinner.

Meals: B + D Accommodation: Best Western Takayama





DAY 6 TAKAYAMA

We begin today at the Miyagawa morning market, full of stalls selling local crafts and produce. This is a great place to try some Japanese treats. The market precinct provides a nice backdrop for a morning walk within the old local neighbourhood and you can get a taste of what regional life in Japan is like. This afternoon is at your leisure.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Best Western Takayama

DAY 7 KANAZAWA

Today we travel to Kanazawa. Explore the Samurai quarter with its restored samurai residences displaying the lifestyle and artefacts of the prosperous samurai era. This afternoon we visit the breathtakingly beautiful Kenrokuen garden, one of Japan's top three most beautiful gardens, where we can marvel at the magnificent cherry blossoms.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Ana Crown Plaza Kanazawa

DAY 8 KYOTO

This morning we board an express train to Kyoto. On arrival you'll enjoy some free time for the afternoon, before the group takes a short walk to a local restaurant for dinner.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** New Miyako Hotel Kyoto

DAY 9 KYOTO

This morning we enjoy the sights of Kyoto, the traditional capital with less Western influence and a rich history. Our highlights include Nijō Castle, once the residence of the Shogun of the Edo period & Emperor of Japan and the Silver Temple with its magnificent hall and stunning Zen gardens. In the afternoon we witness a tea ceremony, then head to Gion, the heartland of geisha culture for a walking tour and the Miyako Odori dance show, before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** New Miyako Hotel Kyoto

DAY 10 HIROSHIMA

Travel on one of Japan's express trains this morning as we make our way to Hiroshima. Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which stands on the former political and commercial heart of the city

which was the target of the World War II attack. The memorial park now serves as a poignant reminder of the past and a stirring symbol of peace.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima

DAY 11 HIROSHIMA

Today we take a short ferry ride to the serene island of Miyajima where you will have free time to explore. The island is home to the Shinto shrine of Itsukushima, with its famous orange gate that rises majestically out of the sea. There is also the lovely Momaji Park, from where you may wish to take the cable car up to the top of Mount Misen.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Hotel Sunroute Hiroshima

DAY 12 HAKONE (MT FUJI)

This morning we depart Hiroshima for the train journey to Hakone. On arrival, you'll have the rest of the day to spend however you please. There are many options to choose from; indulge in a relaxing soak at one of the hot springs Hakone is famous for, or perhaps take a ride on the Hakone Cable Car, Japan's oldest mountain railway.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Kagetsuen Hotel

DAY 13 HAKONE (MT FUJI)

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing around Hakone for the best views of Mt Fuji. We board a Pirate Boat which will take us to Togendai, a port on the shores of the volcanic crater lake, Lake Ashi.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Kagetsuen Hotel

DAY 14 HAKONE - AUSTRALIA

Enjoy the morning at leisure before we refine our culinary skills at a Sushi making class. Later we continue on to Narita Airport for our flight back to Australia.

Meals: B + L

DAY 15 AUSTRALIA

Our Escorted Escape ends. On arrival, farewell your new friends and your host as you head home.



TOP 10 REASONS TO TRAVEL WITH US

“Once a year,
go someplace you’ve
never been before.”

Dalai Lama

AUSTRALIAN-BASED TOUR HOST

Each and every tour is hosted by an experienced travel professional. Our hosts have travelled extensively themselves and have a passion for exploring our wonderful world. We are there to liaise with the local operators to ensure you relax and enjoy your holiday while we take care of the details.

AIRFARES INCLUDED

Every Escorted Escape includes return economy airfares from Australia (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide), plus all internal flights as per the itinerary. For available upgrades (at additional cost) or departures from Australian cities not listed above please contact your consultant for pricing. We generally use premium airlines for all long haul travel, to give you the most direct flights and best connection times to our destination. Deviations from the group are often possible, please contact your consultant who will customise your itinerary to make the most of your trip.

SMALL GROUPS

We offer a small-group experience on all of our Escorted Escapes. We guarantee our group size will never exceed 20 travellers on any one tour. With fewer travellers in our groups, you'll spend less time checking into hotels and getting on (and off) transport and more time seeing the sights.

INCLUSIVE SIGHTSEEING

While our trips are leisurely paced, we pride ourselves on including the very best sightseeing on offer in each location. Please refer to the itinerary and trip notes for daily inclusions. Optional activities (at additional cost) may also be available in certain locations.

VISAS, TIPPING & TRANSFERS INCLUDED

We believe travel should be simple and easy for you, which is why we include as many costs as possible, including transfers from your home to the airport (to the value of \$100). Visa costs for Australian passport holders are also included in every tour. We take care of tipping for group activities as well as for your tour leader, local guides and drivers.

UNIQUE ITINERARIES

Each itinerary is carefully planned and unique to Escorted Escapes. They are individually designed with our clientele in mind, reflecting our extensive travel industry experience and valued customer feedback. We prefer to travel at a leisurely pace, minimising one night stays in favour of two and three-night stays at key destinations.

OUR ACCOMMODATION

We use a range of quality accommodation including hotels, lodges, luxury tented

camp and cruise cabins. We take pride in selecting the best locations and guarantee that all accommodation includes private ensuite facilities. With our small group sizes, we have the flexibility to stay in smaller boutique properties, where available, to further enhance your travel experience. Please refer to the trip itinerary for the hotels we have carefully selected for your trip*.

TOUR LEADERS & LOCAL GUIDES

Each of our trips include a local English-speaking tour leader who is your destination expert, in addition to your Australian-based tour host. We also utilise the services of expert local guides where appropriate to enhance your experience in the key destinations.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

If you're travelling solo you don't need to be travelling alone. With our Escorted Escapes, you have the opportunity to travel with a whole new set of friends. Our single supplements are designed to keep the cost down and remove the stress of travelling by yourself.

MEAL INCLUSIONS

Breakfast is included each day for your convenience. We also offer a selection of included meals as per the trip itinerary, while allowing plenty of opportunities for you to sample the local cuisine at your leisure.

escorted ESCAPES®

With you every step of the way

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Escorted Escapes

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Your local Travel Agent: