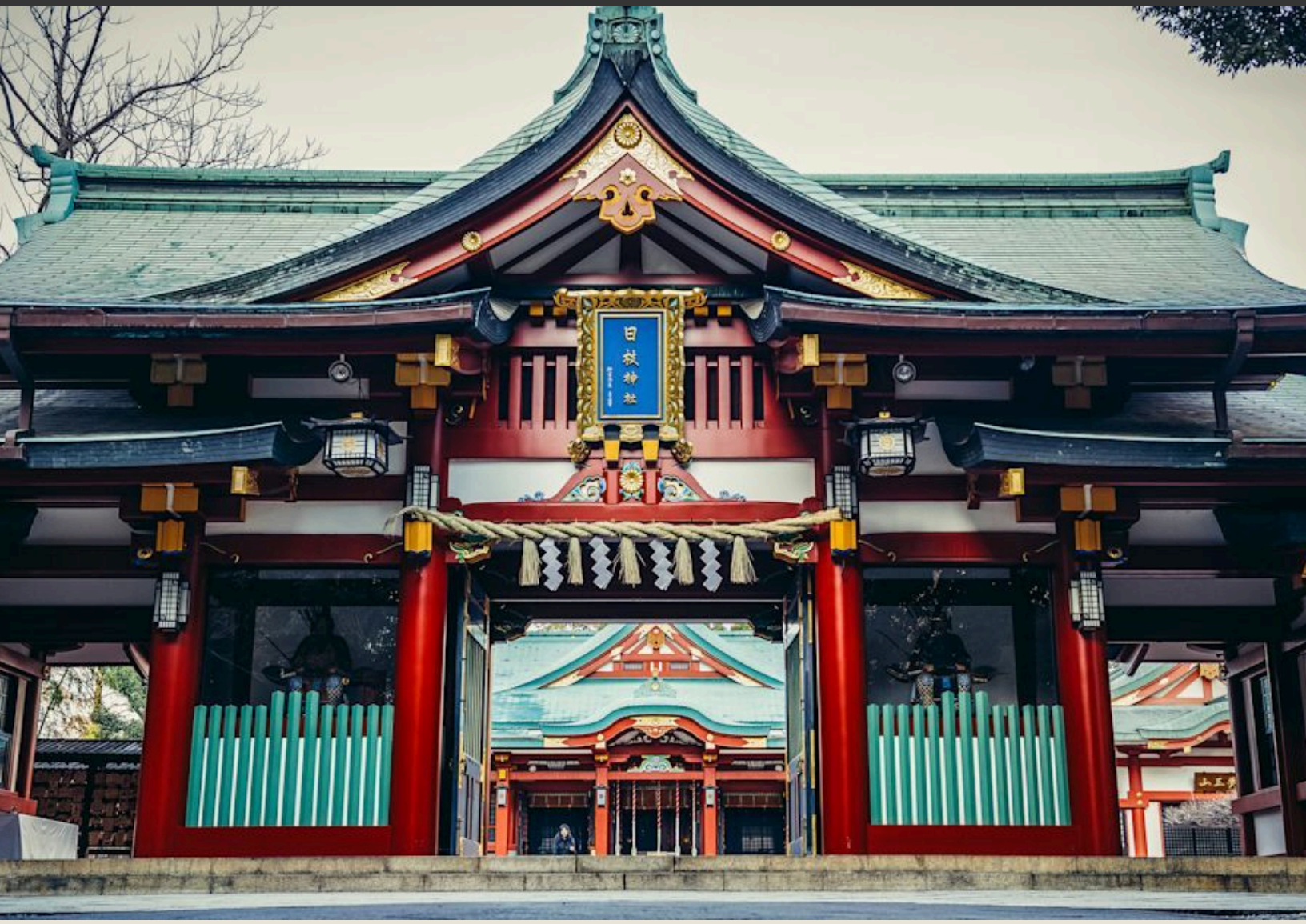
NAT HAB
CULTURAL JOURNEYS

Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



The Soul of Japan

An Intimate Journey into Ancient Heritage & Living Traditions

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Trip Details:

Days
11 Days / Apr–Jun, Sep–Oct

Price
From $17995

The Soul of Japan

An Intimate Journey into Ancient Heritage & Living Traditions

In Japan, exquisite attention to detail shapes everyday experience—from the careful preparation of a simple meal to quiet rituals that mark the changing seasons. Ancient practices persist within one of the world's most dynamic modern societies, where daily routines reflect deep respect for history, craft and place. This journey traces a deliberate arc across the country, from Tokyo's vibrant neighborhoods to verdant foothills, coastal villages and the classical heart of Kyoto. Along the way, we are welcomed into kitchens, workshops, temples and homes by chefs, artisans, monks, and families whose work reflects generations of local heritage. Tapping our access via long-standing relationships, this foray into Japanese culture offers an unhurried perspective on traditions that define and inspire daily life.

Trip Highlights

Witness Ancient Traditions in Contemporary Life

Step inside shrines, kitchens and craft studios—places where rituals, techniques and foodways flourish through authentic daily use over generations

Learn Cooking & Crafts Alongside Skilled Practitioners

Prepare sushi in a working kitchen, meditate with a Zen monk, and spend time with master artisans whose skills are honed through years of mentorship and discipline

Find Peace & Rejuvenation in Japanese Nature

Contrast the urban montage of Tokyo and Kyoto with mountains, farms and fishing villages—wander forest trails, soak in an onsen, and explore the sea coast



The Soul of Japan Itinerary

An Intimate Journey into Ancient Heritage & Living Traditions

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Tokyo
Day 2	Tokyo
Day 3	Tokyo
Day 4	Toyama / Inami
Day 5	Tateyama Foothills
Day 6	Ine
Day 7	Kyotango
Day 8	Kitayama / Wazuka / Kyoto
Day 9	Kyoto
Day 10	Shinto Shrine / Gion
Day 11	Kyoto



Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 1

Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo for a journey into Japan's living traditions

- Settle into a central hotel overlooking the Imperial Palace gardens
- Join your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner of seasonal Japanese cuisine

Arrive in Tokyo, Japan's dynamic capital, where centuries-old traditions persist within one of the world's most contemporary cityscapes. Transfer to The Kitano Hotel, a Relais & Châteaux property overlooking the Imperial Palace gardens—a quiet vantage that offers a sense of calm amid the capital's constant motion. With the journey behind us, there is time to rest, refresh and begin adjusting to Tokyo's rhythm from a vantage point that feels both central and removed from the city's bustle.

This evening, gather with our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the city. Featuring seasonal ingredients and thoughtful preparation, the meal offers a first introduction to Japanese culinary traditions and the attention to detail that shapes daily life here. Over dinner, we begin to orient ourselves to the journey ahead, setting a relaxed, unhurried tone before exploration begins in earnest the following day.

Day 2

Tokyo

Practice sumi-e painting with a Japanese ink master

- Pass through 90 red torii gates to Hie-jinja, a hilltop Shinto shrine
- View Japanese ink paintings, ancient bronzes and tea ceremony objects at the Nezu Museum
- Learn how brush pressure, ink dilution and speed shape each deliberate stroke

This morning, enjoy an introduction to Tokyo at Hie-jinja Shrine, a hilltop sanctuary in the city center that is one of Tokyo's major sites honoring the practice of Shinto, Japan's indigenous faith focused on worshiping divine spirits found in nature. Passing through a corridor of 90 bright-red torii gates to enter the shrine, we move from the metropolitan hustle into a quieter space. Workers pause here before offices open, caretakers tend the grounds, and serenity prevails above the glass and steel cityscape below. Continue to the Nezu Museum, showcasing masterworks of Japanese and Asian art. National treasures include Japanese ink paintings and ancient Chinese bronzes, plus a special gallery exhibiting an elaborate tea ceremony collection. The museum's garden is an extension of the collection, with stone paths, water features and plantings that comprise their own aesthetic.

This afternoon, we are welcomed by a sumi-e master who introduces us to this meditative ink-painting tradition rooted in Zen philosophy. With a limited palette and a single brush, each deliberate stroke embodies years of training as the artist seeks to capture the essence of nature using ink and wash. We have a chance to try our own hand at the exacting practice, discovering how the precise art uses controlled brush pressure, ink dilution and speed to create varying shades of black and gray, different textures, and emotional depth. In the evening, enjoy dinner at a discreet restaurant surveying the city. The intimate enterprise highlights seasonal cuisine, introducing us to Japanese culinary culture through its careful preparation. Afterward, return to the hotel for a quiet evening at leisure.

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Day 3

Tokyo

Explore Tokyo’s food culture with a renowned sushi chef

- Walk Tsukiji Outer Market with fourth-generation sushi chef Yoshi Tezuka, meeting longtime vendors and favorite suppliers
- Watch for a goma fire ceremony at Fukagawa Fudodo Temple
- Learn the fundamentals of sushi-making in a restaurant kitchen

Early this morning, discover Tsukiji Outer Market, Japan's "Food Town," alongside Yoshinori Tezuka, a fourth-generation sushi chef whose family has worked with vendors here for decades. In this mecca for culinary pros and the public alike, we find a lively mix of specialty shops, restaurants and food stalls. As we explore the narrow lanes with Chef Yoshi, he introduces us to longtime vendors, points out the shops where he sources ingredients and the specialized tools of his trade, and selects fish and other ingredients with guests' preferences in mind. Along the way, he shares how generations of relationships with Tsukiji vendors help him judge seasonality, quality and the best ingredients for his restaurant.

Leaving the bustle of the market behind, step into the serene environs of Fukagawa Fudodo Temple, established in the 18th century where it serves an esoteric branch of Shingon Buddhism. If our timing is right, we may witness a goma fire ceremony—an ancient Buddhist practice marked by monks chanting sutras, drumming, and controlled flame. Office workers, local residents and temple caretakers move in and out, with ceremonies unfolding not as a performance, but integral to daily spiritual life in modern Tokyo.

Later, we learn the fundamentals of sushi-making in a restaurant kitchen. The chef demonstrates the techniques that reveal a culinary craft shaped by precision and discipline. Conclude the afternoon with an immersion in everyday Japanese life in Kagurazaka, a neighborhood defined by narrow lanes and daily routines. Here, small restaurants, artist studios and family-run shops reflect continuity at human scale.

Day 4

Toyama / Inami

Meet a woodcarver in the center of Japan’s woodcarving tradition

- Ride the bullet train west across the Japanese Alps to Toyama
- Visit an Inami craftsman carrying forward the town’s centuries-old carving techniques
- Soak in indoor and outdoor hot springs overlooking the Jinzu River at art-filled River Retreat Garaku

Leave Tokyo’s sprawl behind as make the swift and scenic journey west across the country by bullet train to Toyama. Apartment blocks thin, light brightens and the view widens as we glide across the Japanese Alps toward the Sea of Japan. Along the way, our Expedition Leader offers insight into how geography, climate and natural resources have influenced local life in Japan for centuries. Once we arrive in Toyama, we disembark the train and continue to the picturesque town of Inami, the center of Japan’s woodcarving and woodcraft traditions. After lunch at a local restaurant, we stop to visit with a local craftsman to learn about his work and his deep ties to the enduring practices that have made Inami a hub for artisan woodcarving over time.

Eventually we arrive at River Retreat Garaku, a small luxury resort where nature, tradition and art converge in harmony. The serene property embodies classic ryokan style, with woven tatami floor mats, sliding shoji paper doors and minimalist decor for a peaceful, rejuvenating atmosphere. In this mountainous region of flowing waters and hot springs, our ryokan features an exclusive, art-focused onsen experience overlooking the Jinzu River, with both indoor and outdoor baths, a red rock-lined hot spring, saunas and a jacuzzi. Dinner is a highlight, too, with the hotel’s Michelin-starred restaurant showcasing seasonal ingredients in its French and Japanese menu.

Day 5

Tateyama Foothills

Walk with a monk through Tateyama's sacred foothills

- Visit Ashikuraji Temple and Oyama Shrine, rooted in Japan's mountain-worship tradition
- See how monks maintain forest paths, stone steps and water sources
- Taste sake brewed with mountain water and locally grown rice

Accompanied by a local monk who has spent years walking and maintaining these grounds, enter the forested foothills of Tateyama, where we find an enduring tradition of spiritual pilgrimage rooted in mountain worship. At Ashikuraji Temple and Oyama Shrine, religious practice is sustained through acts of caretaking alongside formal ritual. Paths are cleared, stone steps repaired, water sources tended. Moving slowly through the forest, we observe how such responsibility is interwoven with ancient beliefs, carried forward season after season.

Drawn from sacred mountains, the region's pure waters also underpin its local sake production. This afternoon, we're welcomed inside a local brewery to learn about the sake-making process, learning how mountain water, locally grown rice and careful timing shape each stage of production. A tasting accompanies the presentation, enjoyed at a slow pace that allows us to uncover the intricate layering of flavors in the rice wine samples we sip. Return for dinner and a quiet evening at our ryokan hotel, where we unwind in stillness and simple, attentive hospitality.

Day 6

Ine

See how fishing families live and work along Ine Bay

- Walk among funaya, traditional boathouses with boat storage below and living quarters above
- Ride a sea taxi for a waterside view of the village and its working harbor
- Settle into a traditional seaside ryokan with coastal views and onsen hot spring baths

Travel by bullet train and coach to the Sea of Japan and arrive in Ine, a picturesque fishing village in the northern part of Kyoto Prefecture known for its historic *funaya*—distinctive boathouses built directly over the water. Serving a dual function, boats are stored below with living quarters above, a design that has served the livelihoods of local fishing families on Ine Bay for generations. Household routines are closely tied to harbor rhythms, with boats departing and returning according to tides and weather. About 230 funaya front the bay, preserved not as artifacts but working homes, maintained and adapted as each new generation continues to fish these coastal waters. On a walk through the village, we observe the cadence of daily life, then board a sea taxi for a closer view of the boathouses from the water. Look, too, for abundant birds, including sea hawks. This evening, we arrive at our seaside ryokan, where dinner incorporates local ingredients drawn from land and sea.

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Day 7

Kyotango

Savor the seasonal dishes of a Japanese Blue Zone

- Learn regional recipes with a Kyotango host in her coastal home kitchen
- Meet two craftspeople preserving endangered Japanese traditions through the DENTO project
- Walk to Yuhigaura Beach or soak in private open-air hot springs

In the northernmost part of Kyoto Prefecture, Kyotango lies on the Sea of Japan coast, famous for its sandy beaches, spectacular sunsets and spring cherry blossoms. Along the Tango Peninsula, small farming and fishing communities have long relied on local harvests over imported goods. This region is a part of Japan's famous "Blue Zone," celebrated for its inhabitants' healthy, long lives that are closely linked to everyday habits focused on fresh, seasonal food, physical activity, moderation, and strong community relationships. Home gardens, adjacent fields, and clean, coastal waters supply much of what appears on the table—integral elements of a food culture focused on seasonal availability and uncomplicated preparation. A local host welcomes us into her kitchen to share cooking practices rooted in regional ingredients and traditions. Meals are prepared simply, at an unhurried pace that defines everyday life and embodies a way of eating long associated with the area's exceptional longevity.

Later today, we meet with two innovative craftsmen whose work is supported by DENTO, an organization devoted to sustaining endangered craft traditions. We witness how inherited skills are adapted to contemporary needs, which often means the difference between continued use and gradual disappearance. Late this afternoon, there's time to walk to Yuhigaura Beach, famous for its long stretch of white sand, just a few minutes from our roykan, or enjoy the private open-air hot springs before dinner, and again after our meal.

Day 8

Kitayama / Wazuka / Kyoto

Explore Kyoto's cedar forests and tea-growing hills

- Walk among carefully cultivated Daisugi cedars prized for straight, knot-free timber
- Join a tea master in Wazuka's fields before taking part in a traditional tea ceremony
- Arrive in Kyoto, Japan's imperial capital for more than 1,000 years

This morning, we enter the forested hills outside Kyoto to explore the timeless craft of working with Kitayama cedar, the official tree of Kyoto prefecture. The use of Kitayama cedar dates back to the end of the Muromachi period when the renowned tea master Sen no Rikyu introduced the tea ceremony in Kyoto. Craftsmen carefully cultivate these tall, ultra-straight, knot-free cedar trees for 30 to 50 years before harvesting them. Widely used in pillars, alcoves and tea rooms, as well as for ornamental landscaping, their use demonstrates centuries-old techniques, including Edauchi pruning and Honjikomi drying. Stroll through the Daisugi cedar forest and scenic landmarks that incorporate these majestic trees, such as the Nakagawa Hachimangu Shrine and traditional wooden warehouses. If time permits, we may get to try polishing cedar logs, an important part of the process that is a calming and meaningful ritual cherished by local artisans.

Continue to the tea-growing region of Wazuka, where verdant plantations blanket the rolling hills in precise, straight rows of *Camellia sinensis*. Walking through the carefully tended fields with a tea master, gain insight into how weather, terrain and seasonal timing affect each harvest. A traditional tea ceremony follows, distilling centuries of cultivation expertise into a classic Japanese ritual.

Leaving behind a rustic landscape defined by small-scale agriculture, we reach a city celebrated for its imperial court culture and formal traditions as we arrive in Kyoto this evening. Kyoto served as Japan's imperial capital and cultural heart for over 1,000 years, from 794 until the capital was moved to Tokyo in 1868. Founded by Emperor Kanmu, it was designed on a grid pattern modeled after ancient Chinese capitals. It remained Japan's center of power and culture, escaping major destruction during World War II to preserve thousands of temples and shrines. Protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kyoto today remains a premier destination for traditional Japanese heritage. Our peaceful hotel is next to the temple gardens in Kyoto's Okazaki quarter, with hidden paths through lush foliage offering a quiet space for contemplation.

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Day 9

Kyoto

Move from Zen stillness to the thunder of taiko drums

- Practice guided Zen meditation with a Buddhist monk
- Learn to play taiko drums, long used in Shinto and Buddhist ritual
- Visit a Kyoto textile artisan whose work reflects generations of refined technique

Our day begins at a temple where a Zen Buddhist monk welcomes us for an encounter with monastic life. During a guided meditation, time slows. Breath, posture and stillness take precedence, offering a glimpse into contemplative practice sustained through close attention and disciplined routine.

A vivid contrast is in store this afternoon as we take part in a taiko drumming experience, a 2,000 year-old art form used historically in Shinto and Buddhist ceremonies to communicate with the gods, and in battlefields to intimidate opponents. Today, taiko drumming is often part of festivals and rituals, featuring huge, thunderous drums that symbolize Japan's cultural, musical and spiritual soul. Drumming ensembles present high-energy, choreographed performances that mesmerize audiences with their synchronized power and theatrical energy.

Later, we visit with a textile artisan whose intricate work reflects Kyoto's longstanding role as a center of refined technique in fabric production. Learn about the materials, tools and process for producing exquisite cloth as we witness how tradition is perpetuated through diligent practice.

Day 10

Shinto Shrine / Gion

Learn about historic geisha rituals in a private performance

- Spend the morning with a family entrusted with the care of a Shinto shrine
- Walk Gion's lantern-lit lanes of wooden townhouses and traditional tea houses
- Gather for a farewell dinner with a geisha trained in music and dance

Head south of Kyoto to spend the morning with a local family entrusted with the care of a Shinto shrine, learning from our hosts how spiritual responsibility is carried forward generationally. This afternoon, our focus is Gion, the cultural heart of Kyoto—a setting little changed over the centuries, with wooden townhouses, traditional tea houses and lantern-lit flagstone lanes. Gion, Kyoto's most historic sector, is also its premier entertainment district, a status that arose when artistic endeavors flourished for religious pilgrims traveling to Kyoto's sacred shrines. Today, Gion is known as the center of geisha culture, where these "women of the arts," highly trained in music and dance, perform for visitors and locals alike. At our farewell dinner this evening, we're joined by a geisha whose artistic talents reflect years of training, mentorship and discipline.

Day 11

Kyoto

Depart Kyoto after an intimate look at Japanese daily life

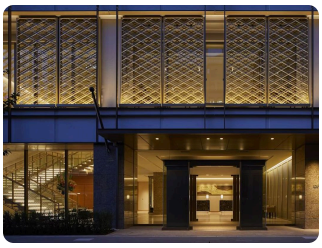
- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

Our Japan cultural journey comes to a close today, leaving us with a deep appreciation for all that is tended, prepared and shared each day. Transfer to the airport this morning for departing flights.



The Soul of Japan Accommodations

An Intimate Journey into Ancient Heritage & Living Traditions



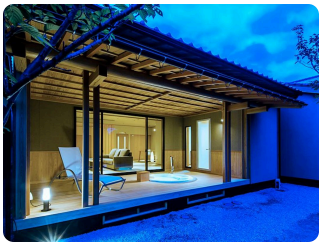
Kitano Hotel Tokyo

Near Tokyo's Imperial Palace, this Relais & Châteaux retreat offers silk-lined suites, marble soaking tubs, and Michelin-starred dining shaped by Japanese seasonality and handcrafted design.



River Retreat Garaku

A modern ryokan with private open-air baths, forest-view spa treatments and seasonal *kaiseki*, designed for guests seeking stillness and immersion in Japan's onsen culture.



Kaikatei Hanagozen

A seaside ryokan on Kyoto's northern coast offering tatami rooms, open-air baths and crab-focused winter dining—all grounded in tradition, craftsmanship and the flavors of Kyotango.



Hotel Okura Kyoto Okazaki Bettei

A quiet hotel near temple gardens in Kyoto, where artisan-made interiors, hinoki soaking tubs and seasonal cuisine come together in a contemporary space rooted in centuries-old tradition.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/cultural-journeys/japan-cultural-tour/accommodations.

What Makes Cultural Journeys Different?

The Soul of Japan

Japan is often experienced through a tightly scheduled circuit of iconic sites and polished cultural demonstrations. But understanding Japan requires more than seeing its landmarks—going deeper is essential, with slower pacing, exclusive access, and authentic context. This unique journey reveals how Japanese culture is sustained through lived experience rather than spectacle. In contrast to a standard tour route, our itinerary moves through neighborhoods, rural regions and working communities where we witness daily life at its own pace, with access shaped by trust built through long-standing relationships. Discover the difference you'll experience:

1 **Japan Beyond the Standard Tourist Circuit**

Far from conventional tour routes, our journey explores neighborhoods, rural regions, and coastal communities where daily life unfolds with little regard for outside attention. Rather than moving from highlight to highlight, guests spend time in places shaped by the rhythms of daily life: work, land stewardship, food preparation, spiritual practice and local responsibilities—offering a more grounded understanding of Japanese life as it is actually lived.

2 **Exclusive Access Rooted in Working Relationships**

We are welcomed into temples, kitchens, studios and workshops by monks, chefs, artisans and caretakers who actively uphold their disciplines. These encounters take place within genuine environments rather than staged settings, allowing experiences to unfold naturally and at an unhurried pace. We are received as guests, rather than tourist observers, with time for attentive observation, conversation and shared activity. We witness how Japanese culture is sustained through lived practice rather than formal preservation.

3 **Supporting Craft Traditions Through DENTO Partnerships**

In select regions, we meet master artisans whose skills are increasingly fragile, threatened by aging practitioners and shrinking local markets. These encounters are made possible through our partnership with DENTO, an organization that sustains traditional crafts by connecting artisans with new audiences beyond Japan. Inside working studios, we see how inherited techniques are adapted for contemporary relevance—which often means the difference between continued practice and ultimate disappearance. Our presence supports this effort, helping ensure that rare skills remain living traditions rather than museum artifacts.

4 **Understanding Culture & Values Through Shared Time with Families**

We are welcomed into private homes to meet local families and experience their daily lives in diverse settings. Through conversation, cooking and spending time together, gain insight into how values are carried forward between generations —not through formal instruction, but through lived example and everyday domestic practices.

5 **Small Groups Make Intimate Access Possible**

With a maximum of just 12 guests, our small group size allows access to spaces where larger groups are neither practical nor appropriate. This scale supports unhurried encounters, meaningful conversation and hands-on participation in cultural activities with our hosts, while respecting customs and traditions in the communities we visit.

6

Locally Owned Accommodations with Character

On a cultural journey with Nat Hab, where you stay should be as memorable as what you do. That's why we choose our small hotels, inns and private retreats for their intimate scale, local ambience and hospitality. You'll be warmly greeted and cared for, as if you were a personal guest.

7

Insightful & Sensitive Leadership Throughout

A Nat Hab Expedition Leader accompanies the group throughout the journey, providing cultural context, facilitating introductions, and connecting experiences across regions. Our guide's role is not to lecture but to interpret, translate and create space for observation, reflection and dialogue as our journey unfolds.

8

Built on Nat Hab's Expertise

Nat Hab Cultural Journeys is built on the same experiential travel philosophy, operational rigor and leadership standards that have defined Natural Habitat Adventures for decades. From small groups facilitating deep local engagement to guide selection, training and on-the-ground execution, this journey embodies a proven approach to immersive travel across diverse destinations worldwide.



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $17995

Group Size
Limited to 12 Travelers

The Soul of Japan Dates, Pricing & Info

An Intimate Journey into Ancient Heritage & Living Traditions

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
May 11 - May 21, 2027	**$18495**	
May 18 - May 28, 2027	**$18495**	
May 25 - Jun 4, 2027	**$18495**	
Jun 8 - Jun 18, 2027	**$18495**	
Jun 22 - Jul 2, 2027	**$18495**	
Sep 7 - Sep 17, 2027	**$18495**	
Sep 21 - Oct 1, 2027	**$18495**	
Oct 12 - Oct 22, 2027	**$18495**	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Apr 5 - Apr 15, 2028	**$18995**	
Apr 10 - Apr 20, 2028	**$19495**	
Apr 18 - Apr 28, 2028	**$18995**	
May 9 - May 19, 2028	**$19495**	
May 16 - May 26, 2028	**$18995**	
May 23 - Jun 2, 2028	**$18995**	
May 30 - Jun 9, 2028	**$18995**	
Jun 6 - Jun 16, 2028	**$18995**	
Jun 13 - Jun 23, 2028	**$18995**	
Jun 20 - Jun 30, 2028	**$18995**	
Sep 5 - Sep 15, 2028	**$18995**	
Sep 12 - Sep 22, 2028	**$18995**	
Sep 19 - Sep 29, 2028	**$18995**	
Sep 26 - Oct 6, 2028	**$18995**	
Oct 3 - Oct 13, 2028	**$19495**	
Oct 10 - Oct 20, 2028	**$19495**	
Oct 17 - Oct 27, 2028	**$18995**	
Oct 24 - Nov 3, 2028	**$18995**	

See https://www.nathab.com/cultural-journeys/japan-cultural-tour/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, all meals from lunch on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, passage aboard the bullet train from Tokyo to Toyama and Toyama to Tsuruga, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

This special journey offers far more than typical sightseeing and cultural activities. It's an authentic, in-depth experience in parts of Japan rarely seen by travelers. By venturing into the side streets of major metropolises and to the northern coast where few Westerners visit, we step away from tourist crowds and into a world where traditional lifestyles flourish. But that's only the beginning. With Nat Hab Cultural Journeys, you will have personal interactions with artisans safeguarding ancient crafts, see traditional homesteads and lifestyles still in practice, and experience the handmade care of one of the world's most celebrate cuisines. This itinerary is thoughtfully curated through our meaningful connections within these communities, ensuring a unique encounter with Japan's living heritage.

During your journey in Japan, you will have the opportunity to experience one of the country's most cherished traditions: the *onsen*, or Japanese hot spring bath. *Onsens* use naturally heated mineral water from underground springs and represent an important cultural ritual for many Japanese people. Accordingly, it is critical that visitors adhere to local etiquette. This typically entails dividing baths by gender, requiring bathers to be completely nude, and sometimes prohibiting guests with visible tattoos from entering. Onsen experiences on this journey are entirely optional and take place in the evenings, allowing for flexibility in the schedule for guests who do not participate.

Given ample notice, our team can accommodate many dietary needs and restrictions. Please contact us with specific requirements.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins in Tokyo and ends in Kyoto. Because this is a long international journey, **we recommend that you arrive the night before Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Tokyo by 3 pm in order to meet your group for an orientation and dinner.

You may depart Kyoto at any time on the final day.



The Soul of Japan Extensions

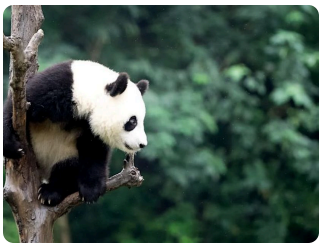
An Intimate Journey into Ancient Heritage & Living Traditions



Vietnam Cultural Journey

This journey invites you into the everyday life of Vietnam, where culture is shaped by place, people, and history. Moving slowly through North and Central Vietnam, we explore villages, waterways, and historic towns while experiencing living traditions—shared meals, local practices, and quiet encounters that bring the country's character to life.

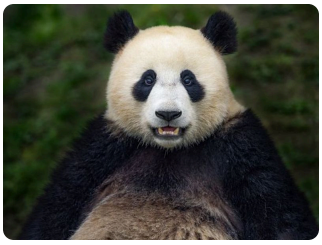
$12695



The Wild Side of China: A Nature Odyssey

Discover a side of China most travelers never see on our unique itinerary revealing wild panda habitat, rare wildlife and Chinese nature at its most entrancing—including close-up panda encounters.

$13995



Wild China Photo Expedition

Photograph striking mountain landscapes and rare wildlife including golden snub-nosed monkeys, get close-ups of giant pandas at research bases, and document life in traditional Tibetan villages—plus the Terracotta Army!

$16495

NAT HAB
CULTURAL JOURNEYS

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