

A photograph of three women in traditional Japanese kimonos practicing a tea ceremony (chawanabe) in a tatami room. One woman in a light yellow kimono sits on the left, observing. Two other women, one in a light blue kimono and one in a light green kimono, are kneeling on the right, focused on preparing tea. They are using small bowls and a traditional tea stand (chawanabe). The room has large windows with a grid pattern, and the floor is covered in tatami mats.

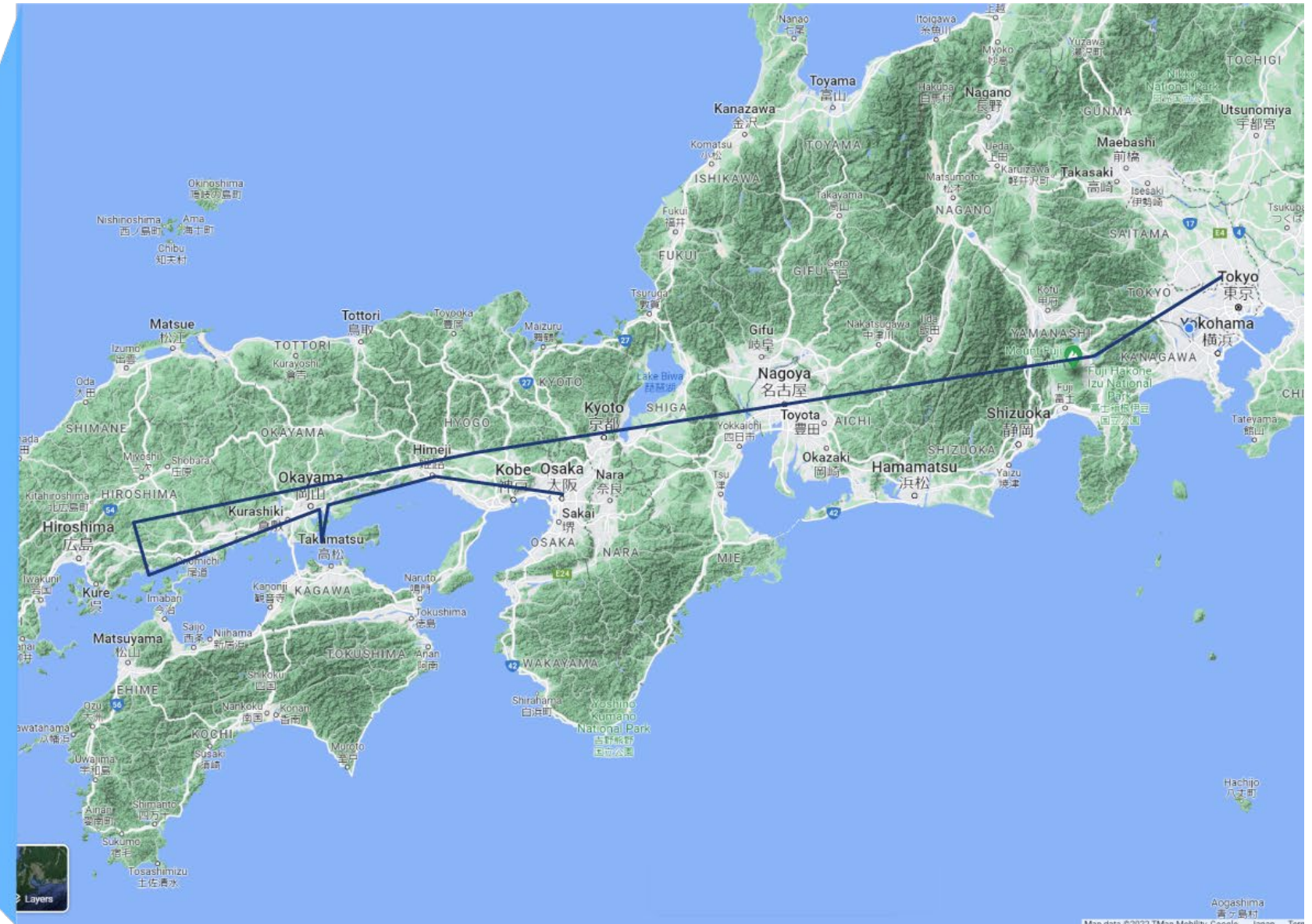
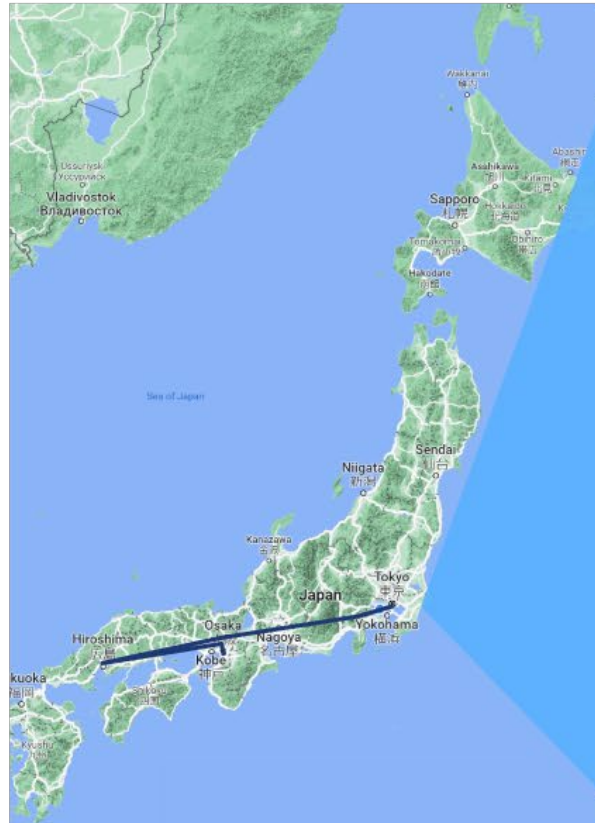
# Sample Itinerary for Trip to Japan 12-days History & Art Tour

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# Summary

Day 1	Depart U.S. Airport	
Day 2	Arrive Tokyo NRT (or HND), Transfer to Hotel by Private Car	Hotel in Tokyo
Day 3	Full Day Tokyo Tour by Private Car	Hotel in Tokyo
Day 4	Full Day Tokyo Tour by Private Car	Hotel in Tokyo
Day 5	Transfer to Hakone & Tour by Private Car	Ryokan in Hakone
Day 6	Transfer to Kyoto by Private Car & Bullet Train Short Tour in Kyoto	Hotel in Kyoto
Day 7	Full Day Kyoto Tour by Private Car	Hotel in Kyoto
Day 8	Full Day Hiroshima Tour	Hotel in Kyoto
Day 9	Transfer to Naoshima by Private Car & Bullet Train	Benesse House
Day 10	Full Day Naoshima Tour by Private Car	Benesse House
Day 11	Transfer to Osaka & Half Day Tour by Private Car	Hotel in Osaka
Day 12	Transfer from Hotel to KIX by Private Car, Depart Osaka KIX	Benesse House





## Day 1

### Depart U.S. Airport

## Day 2

### Arrive Tokyo NRT (or HND), Transfer to Hotel by Private Car

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by a personal concierge at the arrival lobby and transported to your hotel by private car. After checked in the hotel, relax and enjoy the rest of the day.



## Day 3

### Full Day Tokyo Tour by Private Car

- Zojo-ji Temple
- Azabu Juban & Roppongi Walking
- Meiji Jingu Shrine
- Omotesando, Harajuku, Shibuya Crossing
- Shinjuku

Start your tour from **Zojoji temple**, standing next to Tokyo Tower, the head of the Jodo sect of Japanese Buddhism in the Kanto Region and with strong relationship with Tokugawa shogunate. Continue on to **Azabu Juban & Roppongi**. **Azabu Jiban area** is a quiet neighborhood with trendy café & boutique shops. **Roppongi** is known as Tokyo's star nightlife districts, which now has evolved as a center of cutting-edge art and design, shopping and luxury residences.





## Day 4

### Full Day Tokyo Tour by Private Car

- Ueno
- Yanesen walking tour
- Asakusa
- Ginza

Visit **Ueno** which is famous for the many museums and cherry blossoms in Spring. Away from the skyscrapers, **Yanesen** is a charming district where you can feel the local atmosphere from narrow streets and low-rise wooden houses. In **Asakusa**, visit Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most iconic temple, and wander down narrow Nakamise shopping street. Last but not the least, **Ginza** is a hub of culture and fashion, trends and tradition, where you can find flagship stores of popular designer brands and shops with the latest trends.



After lunch, visit **Meiji Jingu Shrine** which is one of Tokyo's most peaceful, and important, Shinto shrines, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken.

**Harajuku & Shibuya** which are within walking distance is the birthplace of several of the latest trends and fashion. This dynamic powerhouse is home to the famous Hachiko Memorial Statue and Shibuya-Crossing, which is probably most iconic image of Tokyo.

At the end, we will take you to **Shinjuku** which is one of the important place in Tokyo as well, with almost anything such as popular department stores, upmarket hotels, office buildings.





## Day 5

### Transfer to Hakone & Tour by Private Car

- Open Air Museum
- Hakone Rope way & Owakudani Valley
- Ashino-ko Lake

An excursion to the Hakone Area which is located relatively near Mt. Fuji. **Hakone Open Air Museum** is a home to hundreds of modern and contemporary masterpieces, such as Picasso collection and sculptures from Rodin scattered throughout the sprawling 17-acre compound.



**Owakudani** is a dramatic volcanic valley where you can see and smell the sulfurous volcanic hot springs. Board the **Hakone Ropeway** to **Ashino-ko Lake** and then explore the picturesque lake by a Pirate Boat cruise.

After the tour, you will be transported to a ryokan in Hakone. Enjoy onsen (hot spring) bath and delicate Japanese full course dinner.



## Day 6

### Transfer to Kyoto by Private Car & Bullet Train / Short Tour in Kyoto

- Kiyomizudera Temple
- Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka

A driver will meet you at the ryokan lobby and you will be transported to Odawara Station. The driver will escort you to the departure platform.

After arriving to Kyoto, we will take you to a short tour around the most popular **Kiyomizudera Temple** area. **Nineizaka** and **Sanneizaka** are iconic traditional streets of stone paved slopes located in the historical district of Higashiyama.



## Day 7

### Full Day Kyoto Tour by Private Car

- Nijo Castle
- Kinkakuji Temple
- Ryoanji Temple
- Arashiyama
- Tenryuji & Bamboo Forest and Rakushisha House Shinjuku

Explore a little more of Kyoto, starting from **Nijo Castle**, built in 1603, which was a residence of Tokugawa Ieyasu. The castle is known for its nightingale floors that squeak when stepped on to alert for intruders as well as masterful pieces of painted works.





## Day 8

### Full Day Hiroshima Tour

- Miyajima (Itsukushima Jinja Shrine)
- Peace Memorial Museum & Park Area

An escort will meet you at the hotel lobby and you will be transported to Kyoto Station where you will be heading Hiroshima for a day tour. The staff will escort you to the platform.

**Miyajima** is a small island famous for the **Itsukushima Jinja Shrine** and its giant torii gate which at high tide seems to float on the water. Before heading back, visit the **Peace Memorial Park** which is one of the most prominent features of the city.

**Kinkakuji** or Golden Pavilion is unmatched in its beauty and one of the most symbolic temples in Japan. **Ryoanji** is one the most recognized Zen stone garden in the world. Its Karesansui white sand garden is a fine example of Japanese beauty and simplicity. Visitors are invited to find a spot in front of the stone garden to meditate and take in the beauty of the garden. **Arashiyama** area, including Togetsukyo Bridge & Bamboo Forest Path is an iconic attraction for its serene beauty. The area is most popular during the cherry and foliage season, nonetheless, absolutely breathtaking all seasons.





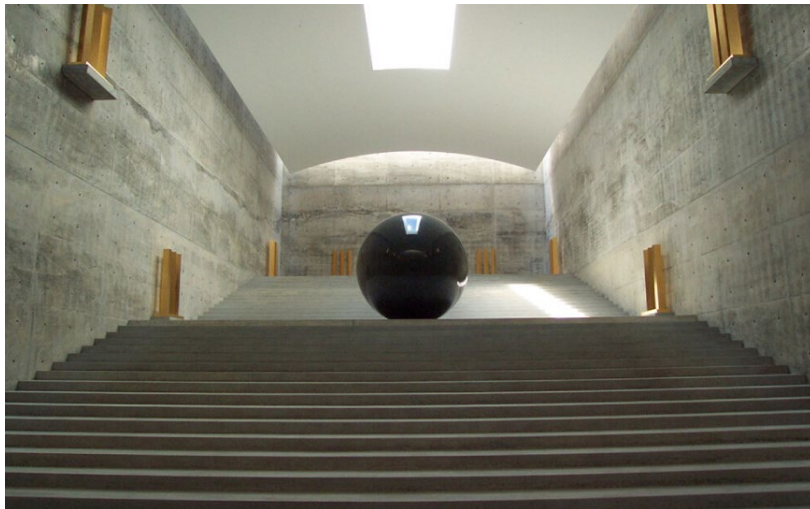
## Day 9

### Transfer to Naoshima by Private Car & Bullet Train

- Chichu Museum
- Lee Ufan Museum

An escort will meet you at the hotel lobby and you will be transported to Okayama Station where a private vehicle will take you to Uno Port. Enjoy a short cruise by a public ship to **Naoshima**. Before checking-in, a guide will take you to a short tour.

**Chichu Art Museum** a site rethinking the relationship between nature and people, built mostly underground to avoid affecting the beautiful natural scenery of the Seto Inland sea. **Lee Ufan Museum** The Ando-designed semi-underground structure houses paintings and sculptures by Lee spanning a period from the 1970s to the present day.



## Day 10

### Full Day Naoshima Tour by Private Car

- ANDO MUSEUM
- Art House Project
- Benesse House Museum

Spend a day visiting the museums around Naoshima. **ANDO MUSEUM** contrasting elements of past/present, wood/concrete, light/shadow overlap in this space which condenses the essence of Tadao Ando's architecture. **Art House Project** is an art project in Honmura district where artists take empty houses scattered about residential areas and turn the spaces themselves into works of art. In the afternoon, visit **Benesse House Museum**, a facility integrating a museum with a hotel, based on the concept of "coexistence of nature, art and architecture."



## Day 11

### Transfer to Osaka & Half Day Tour by Private Car

- **Osaka Castle**
- **Kuromon Market**
- **Dotonbori Area**

Leave the island and head to Osaka. **Osaka castle** built in 1583 is a majestic relic of Osaka's history. The awe-inspiring castle grounds are surrounded by moats but held within are beautiful gardens. **Kuromon Market**, called "Osaka's kitchen", is a covered public market that stretches nearly 0.4 mile. Osaka's most famous streets, the bright and ecstatic billboard-filled area of **Dotonbori** is must-see spot you can't miss. Enjoy some local foods in this city of "Kuidaore" meaning "eat until you go bankrupt".



## Day 12

### Transfer from Hotel to KIX by Private Car,

Enjoy a last minute stroll and shopping in the neighborhood until departure.

A concierge will meet you at the hotel lobby and you will be transported to Kansai International Airport.

