

Hidden Japan: Spirit of Kyushu

Go Beyond Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 1

FUKUOKA - NAGASAKI - KUJU ONSEN - KIRISHIMA - CHIRAN - SAKURAJIMA - KAGOSHIMA - FUKUOKA

Ideal for curious travellers and second-time visitors to Japan, the lesser-visited island of Kyushu offers a blend of rich culture and natural beauty. Witness a soul-stirring drum performance, admire steaming volcanoes, and soak in bubbling onsen baths on this journey into Kyushu's green and wild heart.

- Explore a renowned pottery village
- Soak in an open-air onsen
- Try on a traditional kimono
- Reflect on Kyushu's wartime history
- Taste Kagoshima's rich black vinegar
- Visit an authentic shochu distillery

TOUR MAP



SPIRIT OF KYUSHU TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land-only option is selected)

- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check-in or late check-out, and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime. These tours include:

- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'Hidden Japan: Spirit of Kyushu' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rest. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You will be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views!

Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces.

Below are some examples of more difficult terrain included in this tour.

- **DAY 5: The Glover Garden in Nagasaki is built on a hill**. Please note you will need to be able to walk up this hill in order to enjoy this part of the excursion.

- **DAY 7:** You will need to **navigate steep stone steps to join the meditation experience** at Fuko-ji temple. The first set of steps will take you down into the valley, and the second step will take you up to the cave. There is no other route in or out of the cave. You will require good shoes for the steps, but will need to remove these for the meditation experience. Due

  to the location of the cliffside cave used for meditation, chairs cannot be provided for meditation. You will need to be able to sit quietly cross-legged on the wooden decking for up to 15 minutes.

  Any participants who do not wish to join the meditation are welcome to wait in the temple, which is reached by flat path from the car park.

- **DAY 8:** Please note that admiring Takachiho Gorge requires a walk of around 20 minutes from the coach parking area. We recommend staying at cliff level, which offers excellent photo opportunities.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 12 days in duration including international flights or 10 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.
Travellers booked on a 'Land Only' package, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to our reservations team.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Fukuoka and end the tour on Day 11 in Fukuoka. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions regarding your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Day 1-2: Arrive Fukuoka Meals: D



Fly overnight to the laidback city of Fukuoka, the gateway to Kyushu Island. Transfer to the group hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local atmosphere before dinner.

Please note: Early check in (before 3pm) is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservations consultant. For luggage storage options prior to check-in, please speak to your hotel reception desk.

The Hidden Japan: Spirit of Kyushu tour includes round trip transfers. An assistant will be waiting to meet you in Fukuoka and direct you to a prepaid taxi transfer. Please note that your transfer may be shared with other members of your group. For other tours, please refer to the arrival instructions in the Detailed Itinerary.

Destination Information

Kyushu Island – Lush and volcanic, Kyushu is Japan's third largest island, with a warm, subtropical climate. Though it is Japan's second most populous island, it holds just 10% of the nation's people, and receives far fewer visitors than Honshu. Its close proximity to Asia has long made it a vital cultural gateway to China and the Korean Peninsula.

Fukuoka – Fukuoka, sometimes called Hakata, is Kyushu's largest city, perched on the island's northern shore. As the closest major city to the Asian mainland, it has a long history as a prominent merchant harbour and centre of trade. This laidback city is an important business centre, but has hidden charm in its scenic waterfront and lively food stall districts.

Day 3: Fukuoka Meals: B, L



Photograph provided by Fukuoka City

Begin your island adventure with a visit to the Kyushu National Museum, where you'll gain an insight into its long and storied history before lunch at a local winery. Return to Fukuoka this afternoon.

This afternoon's activities will depend on the date of your visit. Most groups will visit Fukuoka Tower and Rakusui-en Garden. On **select** November departures, if availability permits, you will instead enjoy an authentic Japanese experience – Fukuoka's annual sumo tournament!

This evening, head to Fukuoka's Nakasu district, famous for its yatai – street food stalls serving iconic Japanese foods, from yakitori skewers to delicious ramen. Soak up the atmosphere here, popular with locals relaxing after work, before returning to the hotel.

The rest of your evening is at leisure – if you wish, why not stay in the Nakasu district longer and sample the yatai food independently? Alternatively, you may like to explore Fukuoka's buzzing Tenjin district, which has plenty of bars and eateries to explore. Those interested in evening shopping can visit Hankyu Department Store inside Hakata Station.

Important: *Many sites in Japan require you to remove your shoes before entering. You should remove shoes* ***before*** *stepping onto the shoe-free area. Bare feet are not considered acceptable in Japan. Therefore, we recommend carrying a spare pair of socks in your day bag throughout your trip.*

Destination Information

Kyushu National Museum – Housed in a striking modern building in Dazaifu, this impressive museum traces Japanese history from the Ice Age through to modern times. With a special focus on Kyushu's unique role as Japan's cultural gateway to Asia, its exhibits highlight regional and international influences.

Kyoho Winery – Founded in 1972, this winery's story began in 1939 with the creation of the Kyoho grape—now Japan's most popular varietal. After decades of research, the family perfected it for winemaking and now also crafts wines from fruits like kiwi, blueberry, and persimmon.

Fukuoka Tower – This 234-metre tower is the tallest seaside tower in Japan. From its observation deck at 123 metres, visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the small city of Fukuoka, including its baseball dome and lovely coastline.

Rakusui-en Gardens – A peaceful oasis in central Fukuoka, these beautifully restored traditional gardens feature a tea house, koi pond, and landscaped paths, offering a serene glimpse into classic Japanese garden design.

Day 4: **Fukuoka – Imari & Okawachiyama – Nagasaki** Meals: B, D



Drive to Nagasaki, enjoying several stops en route. First, stop to take a photo of Karatsu Castle and enjoy its views over the harbour. Then, head to Imari, famous for its ceramics, and observe a potter at work.

Take some free time in nearby Okawachiyama, known for its lovely porcelain and nicknamed 'The Village of Secret Kilns'. Enjoy lunch independently and browse the town's many ceramics shops. The streets here are a delight to wander, with intriguing porcelain sculptures and a beautifully tiled bridge which spans the bubbling river.
Later, sip a cup of green tea in Ureshino. If your visit falls outside the workers' busiest season (March-June), you may be lucky enough to meet a local farmer and hear about life in the tea fields. Continue to Nagasaki.

Destination Information

Imari – Famous for its exquisite porcelain, Imari became a major hub for ceramics exports in the Edo period. Today, it is a charming town where traditional pottery workshops showcase centuries-old craftsmanship and artistry.

Okawachiyama – This remote mountain village, called the "Village of Secret Kilns," was established in the 18th century when the Nabeshima clan moved their kilns from Arita to safeguard their prized pottery techniques amid the steep terrain. Today, it remains a hub for master potters, quaint studios, and authentic pottery craft, perfect for exploring Kyushu's rich ceramic legacy and finding unique pieces to take home.

Ureshino – Known for its high-quality green tea, Ureshino produces leaves prized for their rich flavour and smooth texture. The region's tea plantations benefit from a mild climate and fertile soil, making it one of Kyushu's most important tea-growing areas.

Nagasaki - As Japan's only open port during the Edo period, Nagasaki was a vital gateway for trade with Dutch, Chinese, and Portuguese merchants. The city reflects a unique blend of Japanese, Chinese and European cultures.

Day 5: Nagasaki Meals: B



Pay your respects at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park, where you'll hear the devastating story of the 1945 atomic bomb, its aftermath, and how Nagasaki rebuilt itself from the ashes.

Later, visit Dejima Wharf, once the only permitted entry point for European traders into Japan. Lunch is at leisure among the various waterfront cafés here, near which you can admire yachts and fishing boats bobbing in Nagasaki harbour.

Continue to Glover Garden, a hillside park filled with the manors of European traders from the 19th century, who were offered houses here in gratitude for their contribution to the restoration of the emperor Meiji. The park was built for Thomas Glover and contains the houses of several Western merchants, including Glover's own. Here, admire the mansions and enjoy views over Nagasaki Harbour.

Your evening is at leisure.

Destination Information

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum – On August 9, 1945, Nagasaki was devastated by the world's second atomic bomb, leading to massive loss of life and profound lasting effects on the city and its people. Near the blast site, the museum presents powerful exhibits and survivor stories detailing bombing's impact. It stands as a poignant reminder of nuclear devastation and a call for peace.

Dejima Wharf – Located on a former island, this was the only place where limited trade and contact with Dutch and Portuguese merchants were allowed during Japan's isolation in the Edo period. Today, Dejima Wharf blends history with modern charm, with several cafés dotted along the waterfront.

Thomas Glover – Thomas Glover, a Scottish merchant who found favour with Emperor Meiji after helping supply the guns and warships that toppled the Shogunate (military rulers) in the 1860s. These events marked the end of foreign seclusion, and Nagasaki remained a prepared hub for Westerners in Japan until WWII.

Glover Garden – This lovely hilltop park enjoys views over Nagasaki Harbour. The park was built for Thomas Glover and contains the houses of several Western merchants, including Glover's own. Look out for the statues of the composer Puccini and Tamaki Miura, the Japanese opera singer who famously performed the role of Cio-Cio-San in Madame Butterfly, which is set in Nagasaki.

Day 6: **Shimabara – Kumamoto – Mt Aso – Kuju Onsen** Meals: B, D



Drive to Shimabara and hop on the 60-minute ferry across the Ariake Sea to Kumamoto, where you can enjoy some free time for lunch. Continue to Mount Aso, one of the world's largest active volcanoes, and capture breathtaking photos of its vast, dramatic crater surrounded by lush landscapes and rolling hills.

Continue to your accommodation in the charming town of Tsuetate Onsen or the wider Kuju area. Check in at your ryokan – a traditional Japanese inn with tatami mat floors. The evening is at leisure to relax in the hotel's beautiful hot spring onsen – choose from indoor pools or a selection of open-air baths.

Destination Information

Kumamoto – This lovely castle town is overlooked by Kumamoto Castle, once the seats of the Kumamoto lords who controlled much of central Kyushu.

Tsuetate Onsen – Set in a quiet mountain valley, Tsuetate Onsen is a small, traditional hot spring town with a relaxed feel. Its riverside inns and narrow streets retain a sense of retro Japan. Guests can enjoy public baths, foot soaks, and local charm. From early April to early May, hundreds of carp streamers are strung over the town's swift-flowing river.
Please note: Occasionally, groups may stay at an alternative similar ryokan in the wider Kuju area.

Day 7: **Fuko-ji Temple** Meals: B, L, D



Begin the day at the serene Fuko-ji Temple, where a stone stairway will bring you to a cliffside cave with beautiful views over a quiet valley. Here, experience a short meditation session led by a Buddhist monk.

Continue to the lovely Kuju Flower Park, where a kaleidoscope of colours covers the 49-acre parkland from spring to autumn. This afternoon's experience is truly special: a soul-stirring display of traditional drumming, performed on an open-air stage against the dramatic backdrop of Aso-Kuju National Park.

At an elevation of 1,036 metres, this incredible venue is known as 'the theatre in the sky'. Afterwards, stop by the museum to see a display of the troupe's elaborate drumming costumes before returning to your ryokan.

Destination Information

Fuko-ji Temple – Located in Oita Prefecture, Fuko-ji is a serene Buddhist temple dating back to the Heian period. The temple is nestled in a peaceful valley setting, hardly disturbed by visitors, and surrounded by forested hills and quiet walking paths.

Day 8: Takachiho Gorge - Kirishima Hills

Meals: B, L, D



Drive south to Takachiho Gorge, one of Kyushu's most famous natural wonders. Here, the beautiful Gokase River runs through a mesmerising 80-metre-deep chasm between basalt cliffs, formed by volcanic eruptions from 100,000 years ago. Enjoy some free time for photos at the gorge.

Afterwards, get hands-on with a cooking experience, discovering the taste of Takachiho-style chicken or vegetables, seasoned and simmered inside bamboo.

Continue to your hotel in the Kirishima Hills, nestled at the edge of Kirishima National Park.

Please note that admiring the gorge at cliff level requires a walk of around 20 minutes from the coach parking area.

We recommend staying at cliff level, which offers excellent photo opportunities. Reaching the water level requires a descent and ascent on steep stone steps, which can often be slippery due to rain, or water from tourists using the gorge boats. Should you choose to use these steps during your free time, please do so carefully and understand this is at your own risk.

Destination Information

Takachiho Gorge – Here, the emerald waters of the Gokase River carve their way through dramatic basalt cliffs, and the sun filters beautifully through the emerald foliage along the cliff edges. According to Shinto mythology, the sun goddess Amaterasu hid in a cave in the gorge, plunging the world into darkness, forcing other gods to concoct an elaborate plot to lure her out.

Day 9: Kamikaze, Kimonos & Kagoshima Meals: B, L, D





Drive down the Satsuma Peninsula to Chiran, a former samurai town from which hundreds of kamikaze pilots flew to their deaths at the Battle of Okinawa. Learn their story at the Chiran Peace Museum, which displays their photographs, farewell letters, and two recovered planes.

Later, learn about a local speciality – 'Kurozu', otherwise referred to as black vinegar. Kagoshima's 'black gold' has an earthy umami flavour from being aged in pots under the Japanese sun. Admire the rows of black 'tsubo' pots and enjoy lunch at the producer's restaurant.

This afternoon, take the ferry to Mount Sakurajima, a dramatic volcano in Kagoshima Bay. Here, admire panoramic views.

Drive back to your hotel in Kirishima Hills, stopping en route to enjoy a refreshing open-air footbath.

Destination Information

Chiran Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots – Located on a former airbase in Kagoshima, the museum shares the personal stories of hundreds of WWII kamikaze pilots who flew from here to their deaths. Their final letters, portraits, and aircraft recovered from the seabed reveal a moving reflection on the human cost of war, inviting visitors to contemplate its lasting consequences.

Kurozu black vinegar – This traditional black vinegar is made through a slow fermentation process that lends it a rich, deep flavour with subtle sweetness. It is aged in black pots in the sun – a side benefit of Kyushu's subtropical climate. It is a prized ingredient in local cuisine as well as a popular souvenir or gift from Kyushu.

Sakurajima – One of Japan's most active volcanoes, Sakurajima rises dramatically from Kagoshima Bay. Lava flows have shaped the surrounding landscape, characterised by lava fields and occasional rising plumes of smoke.

Day 10: Flavours of Kagoshima & Bullet Train to Fukuoka Meals: B, L, D



This morning, visit the scenic Sengan-en Garden, where you can try on a traditional kimono and take photos in the beautiful garden grounds before lunch.

Don't leave Kagoshima Prefecture without tasting its shochu – a distilled local liquor, popular across Japan. Stop by a shochu distillery for a tasting.

Finally, drive to Kagoshima City, where the bullet train will whisk you back to Fukuoka in just 90 minutes, ahead of tonight's farewell dinner.

Destination Information

Sengan-en – This historic garden in Kagoshima blends traditional Japanese landscaping with stunning views of Sakurajima volcano and Kagoshima Bay. Originally built in the 17th century as a residence for the Shimazu clan, it features tranquil ponds, bamboo groves, and winding paths.

Shochu – This traditional spirit, enjoyed all over Japan, was first recorded in Kagoshima. Kagoshima shochu is renowned for its rich flavours, often made from sweet potatoes, which thrive in Kagoshima's fertile volcanic soil.

Day 11-12: Depart Fukuoka Meals: B



This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home, arriving the following day. Please note, only breakfast is included today.

Late check-out is not included in our tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Fukuoka, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

HIDDEN JAPAN TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

A visa is not required for New Zealand passport holders for entry into Japan for stays up to 90 days.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN JAPAN:

For Go Beyond tours most meals are included (excluding drinks), please see your day-to-day itinerary for details on which meals are included.

On all Group tours, Extensions and Pre & Post Stays, no refund will be given for any meals missed due to your flight timings, or personal choice.

Japanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and a bowl of miso soup and consist usually of fish, pickled vegetables and meat.

Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes; their individual flavours as well as different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Japan. Food is an important element of Japanese culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and much of family life revolves around the dinner table. Most food is eaten with chopsticks – Western cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

Breakfast will mostly be buffet-style but may be a set menu. Lunches are mostly pre-set options as is custom in many local restaurants. Dinner is usually buffet-style, featuring a wide selection of high-quality Japanese and Western dishes, but may occasionally be a set menu. We usually find this style of dining suits the wide and varied tastes of our customers on tour. These are also pre-booked in advance by your guides. This will provide greater flexibility and allow you to sample a broad range of local cuisines and dishes.

All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

Please note: if you have any dietary requirements, you **must** inform us before your tour starts, and please be aware that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. We cannot accommodate dietary requirements or allergies which are not notified to us in writing in advance.

Gluten-free food in particular may not be as readily available as in your home country. Gluten is usually present in soy sauce, a common ingredient in Japanese cooking. In addition, veganism is not widely understood in Japan. Please give our Operations team a call to discuss your needs in advance of departure.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. In the Kuju Onsen area, hotels tend to be more traditional in style and culture. In this area, you may be asked to take your shoes off at the door and store them in a secure locker – this is very typical in Japanese culture. Please note, double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality will exist between your home country and Japan.

Please note that in Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are renowned for being small. Standard single rooms are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room, containing one small double bed (or one single bed), and are designed for one person to use.

All group tour hotels have private modern bathroom facilities, air conditioning and a TV unless otherwise specified in the itinerary. Hotels in Japan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Japan. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

For bullet train journeys, we will typically include a separate luggage transfer service. This may mean that you will need to pack a separate bag for one or two nights. In our Spirit of Kyushu itinerary, we provide a luggage transfer service when taking the train from Kagoshima to Fukuoka. All other journeys are undertaken by coach.

TRANSFERS:

The Hidden Japan: Spirit of Kyushu tour includes round trip transfers. An assistant will be waiting to meet you in Fukuoka and direct you to a prepaid taxi transfer. Please note that your transfer may be shared with other members of your group. For other tours, please refer to the arrival instructions in the Detailed Itinerary.

You will meet your national escort at the welcome dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase/hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our Japan ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Japan are extremely well maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia. Coaches and minibuses do not have onboard toilet facilities, however frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers comfort.

Bullet trains: Second class reserved seats are booked for our groups on bullet trains; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on bullet trains, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases (1 case per person). You will need to pack a separate overnight bag to carry on the train as your suitcase will not arrive until the following day after a bullet train journey. Your guide will indicate when you need to prepare for this throughout your tour.

DEVELOPMENT IN JAPAN:

Japan is a developed country and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. Japan is an extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each Spirit of Kyushu group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

TIPPING POLICY:

Although tipping in Japan is not customary, if you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip your guide at your discretion.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

Japanese society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Japan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs.

Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well).

You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the fairly regular occasions when they must be removed. Your National Escort will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling within the below Japan public holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open; but may be crowded. Showa Day is on 29th April every year, which will start Golden Week which then runs from 29th April – 5th May, Constitution Memorial Day is on 3rd May, and Emperor's Birthday is on 23rd February every year.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURING:

Personal Expenses: You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Tokyo. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing in Kyushu occasionally requires climbing quite a number of steps. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Those with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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