



IN DEPTH JAPAN WITH NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES

Classic Cruising Tour | 24 Days | Physical Level 1

KYOTO – NAGANO – TOKYO – SENDAI – HAKODATE – AOMORI – AKITA – KANAZAWA –
BUSAN – NAGASAKI – KAGOSHIMA – HIROSHIMA – KOCHI – OASKA – NAGOYA – MT FUJI –
TOKYO

Dive into the epic history and rich culture of Japan on this in-depth exploration by both land and sea. Our Cruise & Tour journeys bring together all the joy of an ocean cruise onboard the Norwegian Jade with all the exciting adventures of a Wendy Wu Tours land itinerary. Explore Kyoto and visit the adorable snow monkeys before cruising around Honshu, Japan's largest island, with quick stops in South Korea and the neighbouring Japanese island of Kyushu as you go.

- Be charmed by Kyoto
- Feel the rush of Tokyo
- Admire beautiful Mount Fuji
- Discover picturesque Busan
- Reflect in Hiroshima

TOUR MAP


 TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 14 nights cruise on NCL Jade
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 21 breakfasts (B), 20 lunches (L), 21 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary. During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.

NCL'S MORE AT SEA OFFER: WHAT'S INCLUDED

We are excited to include NCL's More at Sea offer with this cruise and tour package, enhancing your onboard experience with exceptional perks. Enjoy unlimited drinks throughout your cruise with a package that includes selected beer, wine, soft drinks, fruit juices, and branded spirits. While bottled water is not included, water is available by the glass in restaurants at no extra cost. This package is valid in all venues onboard, ensuring a seamless experience.

Stay connected with complimentary Wi-Fi, where each guest sharing the same stateroom receives 150 minutes of access per guest. Additionally, enhance your journey with shore excursion credits - \$50USD off per cabin, per excursion. These credits are assigned to the lead guest on the reservation and can be applied to excursions booked in advance via the app or website, where discounted rates will be displayed.

Delight in exquisite specialty dining experiences, with included meals for guests 1 and 2 based on stateroom category and cruise duration. For this sailing 3 specialty dining experiences are included for outside (Oceanview) cabins and 5 specialty dining experiences for balcony cabins. Reservations can conveniently be made through the app prior to your cruise. Take advantage of these incredible inclusions and make your cruise vacation even more enjoyable!

CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis pre & post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Kyoto (arrive into KIX airport) and end the tour on Day 23 in Tokyo. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend 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 dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

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.

‘In Depth Japan’ falls under a Physical Level 1 category. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Arrive in Osaka - Kyoto

Meals: D

Fly overnight to the lively, fast-paced city of Osaka. On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transfer to your hotel in Kyoto.

Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservations consultant.



Destination Information

Osaka – Osaka, formerly known as Naniwa, is Japan's third largest city and remains the economic powerhouse of the Kansai Region. The city is famed for its delicious food and is often referred to as the culinary capital. The city also boasts vibrant colours that surround each street, rich history and culture.

Kyoto – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

Day 3: Explore Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, embark on a guided tour of Kyoto. Begin with a visit to the beautiful Kinkaku-ji Temple also known as the 'Golden Pavillion' which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun but, at his request, became a Buddhist Temple after his death.

Go on to discover the Ryoan-ji Temple, before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, pay a visit to the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and the Togetsukyo Bridge. Later this evening, head for dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.



You will be on your feet for approximately 4-5 hours today.

Destination Information

Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavillion) – Kinkaku-ji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalist.

Ryoan-ji Temple – This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famed for its Zen rock garden, a masterpiece of simplicity and design. Originally an aristocratic villa, it was converted into a Zen temple in 1450. The garden's 15 carefully placed rocks, set in raked white gravel, embody the principles of meditation and wabi-sabi aesthetics.

Arashiyama Bamboo Forest – One of Kyoto's most iconic sights, the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest is a serene grove of towering bamboo stalks that create a mesmerising natural walkway. The rustling sound of the bamboo swaying in the wind enhances its tranquil atmosphere, making it a popular spot for reflection and photography.

Togetsukyo Bridge – Spanning the Katsura River in Kyoto's Arashiyama district, Togetsukyo Bridge is a historic wooden bridge that dates back to the Heian period. Its name, meaning 'Moon-Crossing Bridge', reflects the area's scenic beauty, particularly in autumn and spring when the surrounding mountains are ablaze with colour.

Day 4: Explore Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

Start the day with a guided tour exploring some of the city's highlights. Begin with a visit to the Kiyomizu Temple, founded in the 8th century and situated halfway up the Otowayama Hill allowing for stunning views of Kyoto.

Enjoy a Sukiyaki lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a trip to the Matsui Shuzou museum (or similar) for some local sake tasting. Continue with a visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its corridors of torii gates. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.



You will walk up part of the mountain and the incline allows a steady-paced walk around 15 minutes with flat road and steps to reach the torii gates. Due to the limited space at Fushimi Inari Shrine coach parking, you may need to walk from coach parking for 15 minutes. You will be on your feet for approximately 3-4 hours today.

Destination Information

Fushimi Inari Shrine – An important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto, Fushimi Inari is most famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates which form a network of tunnels around the main shrine buildings. The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

Kiyomizu Temple – Meaning 'Pure Water Temple', Kiyomizu-dera is one of Kyoto's most celebrated temples, founded in 778 and dedicated to Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy. Its iconic wooden stage, built without nails, extends from the main hall and offers breathtaking views over Kyoto and the surrounding woodlands. Within the temple grounds, the Otowa Waterfall is believed to bring good fortune, while the Jishu Shrine is dedicated to the deity of love.

Matsui Shuzou Museum – A long-established sake brewery, the museum offers insight into traditional brewing techniques and the cultural significance of sake in Japan. Visitors can explore historical brewing tools, learn about the fermentation process, and sample a selection of the brewery's sake.

Sake – Japan's traditional rice wine, sake is brewed through a unique fermentation process. Served warm or chilled, it plays a key role in Japanese culture and cuisine.

Sukiyaki Lunch – A classic Japanese hotpot, sukiyaki features thinly sliced beef, vegetables, and tofu simmered in a sweet soy-based broth and dipped in raw egg before eating.

Day 5: Bullet train to Nagano
Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast this morning, travel approximately 4 hours by a Shinkansen ride with your English-speaking guide to Nagano.

On arrival, transfer to a local restaurant for lunch before visiting Zenkoji temple.

Afterwards, transfer to your hotel - a traditional Ryokan where you will enjoy an onsen hot spring bath and dinner.



Please note: You will need to prepare a small bag for your overnight stay in Nagano. Your main luggage will be transferred separately to your hotel in Tokyo

Destination Information

Nagano – Surrounded by the Japanese Alps, Nagano is a historic city known for its role as the host of the 1998 Winter Olympics. The city has long been a gateway to the mountainous regions of central Japan, offering a rich blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. It developed as a temple town around Zenkoji, one of Japan's most important Buddhist temples, and remains a centre for pilgrimage. Nagano is also a key access point to the nearby ski resorts, hot springs, and the famous snow monkeys of Jigokudani.

Zenkoji Temple - Zenkoji Temple is a 7th Century Temple and one of Japan's most significant Buddhist sites. It enshrines the first known Buddhist statue to have been brought to Japan, making it a major pilgrimage destination. The temple complex features a grand wooden hall, atmospheric temple lodgings, and an underground passage said to lead visitors to enlightenment. Zenkoji has played a central role in Nagano's history and continues to be a revered spiritual landmark.

Ryokan - Ryokans are Japanese-style inns found throughout the country, especially in hot spring resorts. More than just a place to sleep, ryokan are an opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality, incorporating elements such as tatami rooms, futon beds, Japanese-style baths and local cuisine, making them popular with both Japanese and foreign tourists alike.

Day 6: Snow Monkeys

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to Jigokudani Monkey Park, home to the famous hot spring bathing Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys. Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed from very close, and almost completely ignore their human guests.

Please note; from the bus park, you will walk approximately 30-minutes along potentially snowy paths on an incline, to the main pool where the monkeys bathe.



Next, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to lake Kawaguchi to visit Oishi Park, for magnificent views of the iconic Mount Fuji. Then continue on to your hotel in Tokyo for check-in. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

Destination Information

Jigokudani Yaen-Koen – Home to Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani literally means ‘hell’s valley’. It is named this because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups, and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.

Oishi Park – Located on the northern shore of Lake Kawaguchi, Oishi Park offers stunning views of Mount Fuji framed by seasonal flowers. Famous for its vibrant lavender fields in summer and colourful foliage in autumn, the park is a popular spot for photography and relaxation.

Tokyo – One of the world’s most cutting-edge capital cities, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

Day 7: Discover Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and embark on a full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Senso-ji Temple, arguably one of Tokyo's most popular and photographed temples and the oldest Buddhist temple in the capital. Next, wander down Nakamise Shopping Street, a centuries-old souvenir street, where you will be able to enjoy some shopping opportunities for that perfect souvenir or pick up a local delicacy as there's plenty of scrumptious snacks too.



Next, visit Tokyo Skytree to admire the panoramic views before participating in a sushi making class where you'll enjoy your own creations for lunch. After, visit the Imperial Palace, Meiji Jingu shrine and then Takeshita Street for local treats tasting. Then return to your hotel and later this evening, enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant.

You will be on your feet for approximately 4-5 hours during your touring in Tokyo.

Destination Information

Senso-ji Temple – Senso-ji Temple is an ancient Buddhist Temple and the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida River in Tokyo.

Tokyo Skytree – The tallest structure in Japan, Tokyo Skytree is predominantly a television and radio broadcast tower and is earthquake resistant.

Meiji Jingu Shrine – Meiji Jingu Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. The shrine is located in an evergreen forest within in the busy city and consists of 120,000 trees which were donated by people from all over Japan when the shrine was established.

Day 8: Embark Cruise in Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out. You will be met by your English-speaking assistant and transferred to the cruise port, a journey of approximately 45 minutes. Upon arrival, board the Norwegian Jade, where your cruise adventure begins! The rest of your day on the cruise ship is at leisure.

Please note, your National Escort will not be accompanying you for the duration of your cruise.



Day 9: Cruising - Ishinomaki (Sendai)

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will port in Ishinomaki which provides the opportunity to visit the city of Sendai. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Ishinomaki – A historic port city in Miyagi Prefecture, Ishinomaki has long been a centre for fishing and maritime trade. It is closely associated with Shotaro Ishinomori, the creator of Kamen Rider, and is home to the Ishinomori Manga Museum, celebrating his legacy. The city was one of the hardest hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, but extensive reconstruction efforts have revitalised the area. Offshore, Tashirojima, known as ‘Cat Island’, is famous for its feline population and connection to local fishing traditions.

Sendai – The largest city in the Tohoku region, Sendai was founded in 1600 by the powerful warlord Date Masamune. Known as the ‘City of Trees’, it is characterised by broad, tree-lined avenues and a balance of urban development and natural beauty. Sendai is famous for its connection to Tanabata, hosting Japan’s largest Star Festival each August. The city also serves as a gateway to the scenic Matsushima Bay, one of Japan’s Three Most Scenic Views, and the historic Aoba Castle site, which overlooks the city.

Day 10: Cruising - Hakodate

Meals: B, L, D

Dock in the port of Hakodate. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Hakodate – One of Japan's first ports to open to international trade in the 19th century, Hakodate is a historic city on the southern tip of Hokkaido. It is known for its well-preserved Western-style architecture in the Motomachi district and the star-shaped Goryokaku Fort, a former Edo-period stronghold. The city's most famous attraction is the panoramic night view from Mount Hakodate, often ranked among Japan's best. Hakodate's thriving seafood industry is also a highlight, with its morning market offering some of Hokkaido's freshest catches.

Day 11: Cruising - Aomori

Meals: B, L, D

Your cruising journey continues to Aomori, north of Honshu, which is Japan's largest island. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Aomori – Located at the northern tip of Honshu, Aomori is a city shaped by its maritime heritage and harsh winters. It is best known for the Nebuta Matsuri, one of Japan's most spectacular summer festivals, featuring giant illuminated floats. Historically a key transport hub between Honshu and Hokkaido, Aomori has evolved into a cultural centre with attractions like the Sannai-Maruyama Archaeological Site, which reveals traces of Japan's Jomon period. The surrounding region is also famous for its apple production, rugged coastlines, and the scenic beauty of Lake Towada and the Oirase Gorge.

Day 12: Cruising - Akita

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will Port in Akita. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Akita – Situated on the northwest coast of Honshu, Akita is known for its rich samurai heritage, vibrant festivals and natural beauty. The city is home to the well-preserved samurai district in the town of Kakunodate, a former castle town that once housed as many as eighty samurai families and serves as a reminder of Japan's feudal past. Akita is most famous for the Kanto Matsuri, a summer festival where performers balance towering bamboo poles adorned with paper lanterns. The region is also renowned for its hot springs and for producing some of Japan's finest sake, thanks to its high-quality rice and pure water sources.

Day 13: Cruising - Kanazawa

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in Kanazawa. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure, exploring all the city has to offer, before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Kanazawa – Kanazawa is the capital of the Ishikawa Prefecture and is known for its beautiful samurai and geisha districts, as well as its stunning Kenroku-en Garden.

Day 14: Cruising - Busan, South Korea

Meals: B, L, D

Your cruising journey continues to Busan, the largest port city in South Korea, where you will be able to explore at your own pace, as today is also at leisure.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.


Destination Information

Busan – With over 3.6 million people, Busan is South Korea's second largest city and the largest seaport. However, the city is full of character and is known for its beaches, mountains and temples. Because Busan was not captured during the Korean War, it gives a glimpse of Korea before the 1950s in a way that other places don't.

Day 15: Cruising - Nagasaki

Meals: B, L, D

Head back to Japan and dock in the port of Nagasaki. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.


Destination Information

Nagasaki – Known for being the second target for the US atomic bomb that was dropped during World War II, Nagasaki was once Japan's primary gateway for trading with the West and has since been rebuilt to the charming city it stands as today.

Day 16: Cruising – Kagoshima
Meals: B, L, D

Today port in Kagoshima. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.


Destination Information

Kagoshima – Located in the shadows of Mt Sakurajima, an active volcano, Kagoshima is commonly referred to as the ‘Naples of the East’ due to its similarly mild climate and stunning bay. Kagoshima played a pivotal role in the modernisation of Japan, particularly in the Meiji Restoration, which saw Emperor Meiji move from Kyoto to Tokyo which then became the new capital. The city was once the seat of one of Japan’s most powerful feudal clans, the Shimazu, that is currently in its 32nd generation.

Day 17: Cruising - Hiroshima
Meals: B, L, D

Your cruising adventures continues on to Hiroshima, where the ship will dock today. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day, where your journey through Japan will continue.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.


Destination Information

Hiroshima – An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and the city's name became famous worldwide for this unenviable distinction. The destructive power obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. The city has been rebuilt and has risen phoenix-like from the ashes with destroyed sites of historical heritage reconstructed.

Day 18: Cruising - Kochi

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in the port of Kochi. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Destination Information

Kochi – Surrounded by stunning mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Kochi is home to a wide variety of stunningly unique attractions, including the Chikurin-ji Temple, the Hirome Market, offering a number of Kochi's most renowned dishes, and as Katsurahama Beach, a crescent-shaped beach that has long been a popular destination to view the moon.

Kochi Castle – No visit to Kochi would be complete without exploring the Kochi Castle, built over 400 years ago and remains as one of the last 12 castles in Japan to still have its original main keep.

Day 19: Cruising – Osaka (Kyoto)

Meals: B, L, D

Today arrive back in Osaka, the closest port to Kyoto. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.



Day 20: Cruising - Nagoya
Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in the port of Nagoya. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.


Destination Information

Nagoya – As Japan's fourth-largest city, Nagoya has long been a centre of industry, commerce, and innovation. Historically, it was a key stronghold of the Tokugawa shogunate, with Nagoya Castle standing as a symbol of its feudal past. The city is also known for its contributions to Japan's automotive industry, being home to Toyota's headquarters and museums dedicated to manufacturing and technology. Nagoya's Atsuta Shrine, one of Japan's most sacred Shinto sites, holds deep cultural significance. The city's culinary specialties, such as miso katsu and hitsumabushi (grilled eel), reflect its rich food culture.

Day 21: Cruising – Shimizu (Mt Fuji)
Meals: B, L, D

Your cruising journey continues today as you dock in the port of Shimizu. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.


Destination Information

Shimizu – Renowned for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breathe-taking views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent). The port that was once used primarily for exporting tea, is now home to a four storey shopping centre, a number of museums and the Kashi-no-Ichi fish Market.

Day 22: Disembark Cruise in Tokyo
Meals: B, L, D

Your cruise concludes as you reach Tokyo cruise port today, where you will be met by an English-speaking guide.

Transfer to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure before dinner this evening.


Days 23-24: Depart Tokyo
Meals: B

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home, arriving home the same or the following day.

Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Tokyo, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.

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

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Japan & South Korea: Visas are not required for New Zealand passport holders for entry into South Korea and Japan for stays up to 90 Days.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.co.nz/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

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. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

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

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. 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.

CRUISE – NORWEGIAN JADE:

The Norwegian Jade is made up of 15 decks and offers a wide range of amenities, including, but not limited to; multiple dining venues, 2 swimming pools, hot tubs, and numerous lounges and bars.

Performances take place each night in the Stardust Theatre, ranging from comedy shows and live music to Broadway-style productions. Guests on the Norwegian Jade can also enjoy engaging activities such as trivia, dance classes, and fitness sessions, as well as culinary experiences like wine and cocktail tastings. Onboard spa facilities, including the Mandara Spa with a thermal suite and saunas, provide the perfect opportunity for relaxation.

CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS

At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:

Embarkation time is when you should arrive at the cruise terminal. Departure time is when your ship sets sail.

We strongly recommend guests complete their Online Check-In at least four days prior to sailing for a quicker check in process.

Boarding Time in Ports of Call: In all ports of call, it is also the guest's responsibility to be back onboard the ship no later than one hour prior to the ship's scheduled departure time. Please be aware that shipboard time may differ from the time in the port of call and it is the guest's responsibility to follow the shipboard time. In the event a guest misses the ship, it will be the guest's responsibility to pay all expenses incurred to rejoin the ship.

SHORE EXCURSIONS AND CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

When docked at each port you will have the opportunity to experience shore excursions. Norwegian Cruise Line offer a wide array of authentic shore excursions, making it a great way to explore more of each destination. Please note, not all shore excursions will include a guide and shore excursions may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or for any other reason at the discretion of Norwegian Cruise Line. Any shore excursions will be at your own expense and bookable on your cruise reservation.

GROUP SIZE:

M Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or and will be accompanied by National Escorts pre and post cruise. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group pre and post cruise, 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). National Escorts in each country will accompany groups 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.

MEALS AND DIETARY INFORMATION

On this tour, you will have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of dining options, reflecting the diverse cuisines of the destinations you will visit.

Japan: Japanese cuisine is fresh, balanced, and beautifully presented. Typical meals include rice, miso soup, pickled vegetables, fish, and meat, along with traditional noodles such as soba and udon. Food is a key part of Japanese culture, with meals often enjoyed communally. While most food is eaten with chopsticks, some restaurants may offer Western cutlery.

Breakfasts are usually buffet-style, with a combination of Japanese and Western items, though set menus may occasionally be offered. Lunches are often pre-arranged set menus reflecting local tastes, and dinners are typically buffet-style with a variety of Asian and Western dishes. These meals are selected in advance to offer variety, convenience, and the chance to experience the diverse flavours of Japan.

Please note that on some days, dinner may be scheduled earlier than usual and the group may proceed directly from sightseeing to the restaurant without returning to the hotel first.

Cruise dining: meals in the main dining areas are included, offering a wide range of international dishes. You will also have the option to dine at specialty on-board restaurants or explore local cuisine during shore excursions. Specialty restaurants and onshore dining are payable locally. Your package also includes soft drinks and alcoholic beverages whilst onboard your cruise.

Dietary Requirements

If you have dietary requirements, please inform us before your tour starts. Our guides will make every effort to accommodate requests such as gluten-free or vegetarian meals. However, it's important to note that some dietary needs may be more challenging to meet, particularly in remote areas or due to differences in food preparation styles. Although many Asian countries are becoming more accustomed to catering to Western dietary needs, the range of options may still be limited compared to what you're used to at home.

While on the cruise, the ship's restaurants are well-equipped to cater to a wide range of dietary requirements, though it is still recommended to notify the cruise line of any specific needs in advance. During shore excursions, dining options may vary, and local food establishments may have limited capacity to meet special dietary requests.

For travellers with food intolerances or specific dietary needs, it's highly recommended to bring additional snacks or food items, especially when traveling further from major cities. This ensures that you are well-prepared in case certain dietary requests cannot be met. Your patience and understanding are appreciated, as local suppliers may not always be able to provide exactly what you would expect from Western cuisine. The aim is to provide you with an authentic experience while being mindful of your dietary preferences.

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation is selected for its convenience, comfort, or character, ranging from business hotels in cities to family-run guesthouses in smaller towns. In more remote areas, standards may be lower, and facilities might not include all Western amenities. Hotels are generally rated 3-4 stars locally, but please note that there is no international classification system, so standards may differ between New Zealand and South Korea/Japan.

In Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are typically small. Standard single rooms are smaller than double or twin rooms, featuring a small double bed (or single bed) for one person. All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathrooms, air-conditioning, TV, and telephone. In the Fuji area of Japan, hotels are often traditional in style. You may be asked to remove your shoes at the door and store them in a secure locker - this is a typical Japanese custom.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving/ departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel/ airport will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Direct shared bus (shared with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel (maximum 5-minute walk)
- Chartered coach (if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time)

On the departure day, all passengers will be met by English-speaking staff at the hotel and transfer by one of the three ways above. For those passengers using a shared bus or shared bus plus taxi to the airport, the guide services end when they drop you off at the bus stop, and you will need to check in at the airport on your own. If you have paid extra for a private transfer, the above does not apply.

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 mini buses 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 will need to prepare for this throughout your tour.

DEVELOPMENT IN JAPAN:

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

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 Escorts will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour in each country.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a several days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will likely be open; but may be crowded.

Japan:

- **Showa Day:** 29th April (annually)
- **Golden Week public holidays:** End of April to the beginning of May (annually)
- **Constitution Memorial Day:** 3rd May (annually)
- **Emperor's Birthday:** 23rd February (annually)

WEATHER:

Japan experiences distinct four-season climates, offering a wide range of weather conditions throughout the year. Japan's climate varies by region, but generally includes hot, humid summers from June to September and cold winters with snowfall in northern areas like Hokkaido. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are particularly popular for their mild temperatures, cherry blossoms, and vibrant fall foliage.

APPROPRIATE DRESS / WHAT TO PACK:

When traveling to Japan, pack for their varied four-season climates. In spring and autumn, bring lightweight layers like cotton shirts, cardigans, and jackets. For summer, choose breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics in light colours, and pack a hat and sunscreen for sun protection. Winters can be cold, especially in northern Japan, so pack warm clothing, including coats, thermals, scarves, and gloves. For city exploration, casual yet neat attire is ideal, particularly when visiting cultural or religious sites where modesty is appreciated. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for urban areas like Tokyo. For outdoor activities, bring sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate outerwear.

An umbrella or lightweight waterproof jacket is advisable during the summer rainy season. Don't forget a camera or smartphone with extra storage and chargers to capture Japan's cherry blossoms and the vibrant cities. Include a small medical kit with basic first aid supplies and any personal medications. Whether visiting temples, soaking in an onsen, or enjoying local cuisine, you'll be prepared for an unforgettable experience.

Onboard Dress Code: On Norwegian, you can pretty much wear what you want to wear, when you want to wear it. Go cruise casual or get all-decked out and look your best - it's up to you.

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.

On your cruise: While luggage allowance on your cruise may permit further capacity, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Suitcases should be tagged, luggage tags can be downloaded and printed from your eDocs. For your convenience, we recommend that your luggage tags be placed on your bags prior to arrival at the port.

It may take a few hours after embarkation for your luggage to be delivered to your stateroom. Likewise, suitcases are collected on the last night of your cruise. To avoid any complications, be sure to bring a small bag such as a backpack for carrying any necessary medication, valuables, important documents and need-to-have items.

PORTERAGE:

Pre & Post Cruise: Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in pre & post cruise. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Cruise: Porterage is included onboard the Norwegian Jade Cruise Ship. When embarking, your luggage will be delivered to your room from the check-in area at the port. When disembarking you will leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise. Staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the porterage service. This porterage tipping is not part of standard cruise inclusion tipping, and is not covered in your tour cost.

TIPPING / GRATUITIES:

Japan: Tipping is not customary and may even be politely declined. However, if you feel you've received exceptional service, offering a tip discreetly at your discretion is acceptable.

Cruise: On board gratuities are included in your tour cost (Based on standard cruise inclusions).

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs. 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.

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

TERRAIN CONSIDERATIONS (STEPS, SLOPES & UNEVEN SURFACES):

Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People 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:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel 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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