

Our 10-day tour will show off the many sides of Japan in an action-packed itinerary. Not only will you see the main sights in Tokyo, Kyoto and elsewhere, but the Dragon Trip itinerary allows you to fully immerse yourself in Japanese culture. There's a sushi making lesson, a calligraphy class, a visit to the sumo district, trips to local bath houses and – of course – karaoke. (Don't worry, the last one is optional.) The 10 days also includes plenty of opportunities to explore Japan's beautiful countryside, with its shrines, temples and endless hiking trails.



## What's included?



All transportation within Japan, including all inter-city transfers, and all transportation to and from included activities.



All hostels are safe, clean and hygienic and have their own unique charm. Standard accommodation is in dorm rooms but upgrading to a single, twin or double room is available on request.



All taxes and charges.



A combination of Western and Japanese bilingual tour guides.



All unmissable activities.



## Trip highlights

- Mariokart through the streets of Tokyo.
- Hike through the Arashiyama bamboo forest.
- Take a cable-car in Hakone and get a view of Mt. Fuji.
- Explore Kyoto's Geisha District.
- Cross Lake Ashi on a pirate ship.
- Learn from a master-chef to make your own sushi.





# Tokyo

## Day 1

After meeting your guide at the hostel, you're off to take in the city's most breath-taking view from the 45th floor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office Building.



Then it's time to get your first taste of this buzzing metropolis at street level with a visit to Shinjuku. This is big city Tokyo going at full tilt: neon signs, shopping, karaoke bars, izakaya-style pubs – and a life-sized Godzilla statue looming over it all.



After the buzz of the city, it's time for a dose of zen with a visit to the Sensou-ji temple in Asakusa. This is Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple. Watch people make offerings to Kannon, the goddess of compassion, wander through the contemplative garden and pick up some trinkets on your way out.



Time for an evening of relaxation at a Japanese-style bath house. The local Jakotsuyu has a huge variety of baths and saunas where you'll see salary-men unwinding from the day's excesses.



# Tokyo

## Day 2

Breakfast is the freshest sashimi you've ever eaten at Tokyo's iconic Tsukiji Fish Market. Marvel at the variety of fish and shellfish on offer and catch a glimpse of the Tokyo fleet's latest haul of prized blue-fin tuna. Discover how to make it all yourself with a lesson from a sushi chef and then sample your produce.

In the afternoon, visit Akihabara – Japan's "electric town" and hub of Anime and Manga, and also home to Japan's most famous J-pop group, AKB48.

In the evening have a "Made in Tokyo" experience at one of Akihabara's infamous maid cafes. Then, for an action packed end to the day, try your hand at real life Mariokart! (6,000 JPY) It has to be seen to be believed!





# Tokyo

## Day 3

Start your day by visiting the area where the sumo wrestlers live and train. It's quite something! For lunch, you'll have the chance to eat like a sumo wrestler by trying one of their traditional meals.

This area is also home to the fascinating Edo-Tokyo Museum where you can discover more about the history of this unique nation. The afternoon also sees another aspect of Japanese culture: samurai. Watch an awesome demonstration before trying out the ancient art yourself with an expert guiding you. Don't try this at home!

Ready to be astonished, amazed and confused? Join us on an optional trip to the Tokyo robot show! This dazzling performance is bizarre to say the least but it's an experience not to be missed! (7000 JPY)





# Tokyo

## Day 4

Spend the morning wandering through the grandiose grounds of the Imperial Palace, marvelling at its ornate majesty.



It's another afternoon of traditional-modern contrast in the Harajuku area of the city. First stop is the Shinto shrine to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken. Wander through acres of forest until you reach the shrine to the Emperor that began Japan's transformation from feudal to modern society in the early 20th century. Then head to the Harajuku fashion district to see the fruits of the transformation started by Meiji. French maids, punks, goths, lolitas, technicolour hair – anything goes in Harajuku. Stand back and watch or grab some hair dye and get involved!



Later that afternoon you're off to Shibuya to see the controlled chaos of the world's most famous intersection. From the second floor of the station you'll watch the ebb and flow of Tokyo's humanity at each light change.





# Kamakura

## Day 5

After brunch in Tokyo, it's time to say goodbye to the capital and hop on a train to Kamakura Japan's medieval capital and home to the first shoguns. Check out some of the town's many ancient shrines and then head to Kotoku-in temple to marvel at the Great Buddha statue, which stands at nearly 45ft tall and is made of solid bronze. At sunset, relax on the beach with a few drinks at a beach-side bar or grab a surfboard and ride the waves...



# Hakone

## Day 6

Start the day by taking the Hakone Ropeway, an epic cable car journey that drops you at Oowakudani. On a clear day you can gaze at Mount Fuji in all its glory and sample black eggs, a local delicacy coloured by the sulphuric water they're boiled in. Next up is beautiful Lake Ashi where you'll board a pirate ship! From the deck of this triple-decker man-of-war you'll cross the lake's clear-blue waters and enjoy the stunning views. In the afternoon, experience an onsen. These gorgeous hot springs baths amidst the forest offer an ideal chance to unwind.





# Kyoto

## Day 7

Grab your first bullet train from the mountains to Kyoto. Spend the afternoon wandering around the stunning Kiyomizu Temple after ambling through the hillside streets on the way to the temple.

This will leave plenty of time to experience Kyoto in the evening. The city is famous for its history, temples, shrines and, of course, geishas. But it also has a large student population and thriving music scene. Kawaramuchi is a good place to start. There are hostess bars, jazz clubs and plenty of Izakaya pubs.

For something quintessentially Kyoto you can wander through Pontocho alley, full of lanterns and intimate wood-panelled restaurants. Quietly sip on sake and look out for geishas wandering past.





# Kyoto

## Day 8

Start the morning with a two hour boat trip down the Hozugawa River. In your traditional wooden raft – driven by guides – you’ll cruise through rocky ravines and experience the rush of rapids as you meander through the Arashiyama Hills. (Weather dependent.)



Hike in the morning through Arashiyama bamboo forest on the Western outskirts of Kyoto. After getting lost in the maze of bamboo paths and shrines, head across to the Arashiyama Monkey Park. It’s a tough climb up, but at the top you can feed monkeys or simply enjoy the panorama of Kyoto below.



Then take a look around the Tenryu-ji temple. It’s the most important of the city’s five great zen temples. The temple’s gardens are the real show-stopper. Designed in the 14th century, they have survived the fires and wars that damaged the buildings and have remained in pristine condition for centuries. Make sure you also check out the Dharma Hall. Look up at the dragon’s eyes in the mural on the ceiling - they’ll follow you everywhere!



In the evening it’s karaoke time - but with a twist! You’ll have to join the trip to find out...(3000 JPY)





# Kyoto

## Day 9

Spend the morning relaxing or venture over to the Philosopher's path and explore the temples there. If you are all templed-out check out the International Manga Museum.

Catch a train to Fushimi Inari Taisha, a major Shinto shrine complex in wooded hills. To get onto the beautiful hiking trails at the back of the complex you'll pass through corridors of thousands of bright red gates.

After traversing the shrine filled routes- it's time for sake! Sample the local produce at a nearby brewery and learn about how the spirit is made!





# Kyoto/Osaka

## Day 10

It's an early start to see one of the iconic images of Kyoto: the Golden Pavilion at Kinkaku-ji temple. Walk around the lake and prepare to be mesmerised by the shimmering golden reflection of the pavilion on the water. Start the day with a slice of meditation. Discover your inner peace with a Buddhist monk taking you on a journey of tranquility in a city temple.

Jump on a bike and make your way to the Imperial Palace. There are lots of beautiful buildings amidst the grounds and it the perfect final stop in this most magical of cities.

Take the train on to Osaka where you will begin your CRCC Asia Internship Program.





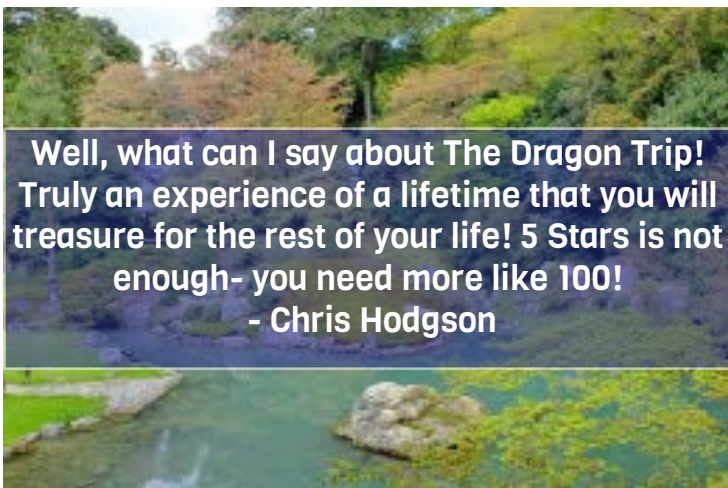
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## FAQ's

### Who are we?

The Dragon Trip was set up in 2010 by Ramsay Kerr, a backpacking Brit who grew up in Hong Kong. After realizing very quickly there was more to life than a career in finance, he put everything into making travel in China more accessible to all. 5 years down the line, our adventure tours are now the best way to see the highlights of China, Japan, and Southeast Asia, designed to provide travellers on a limited budget an incredible backpacking tour around the country.

### How can I book my trip?

Email us your full name to [bookings@thedragontrip.com](mailto:bookings@thedragontrip.com) and send in your deposit (USD \$300) to guarantee a place in the tour of your choosing. The full amount will be due 30 days before your trip departure date. Once we have confirmed your deposit or full payment, then we will need your correct passport name, birthdate and passport number so that we can issue you your visa invitation letters and booking pack.

### Japan Visa

A visa is not required for Japan for American and British passport holders who intend to stay less than 90 days in the country. You can be asked to provide proof so once you've made your booking with us, The Dragon Trip will send you a detailed itinerary and booking confirmation.

[To view all of our FAQ's, click here](#)