



Tokyo, Kyoto & Osaka Highlights (Cherry Blossom Season)

Your Perfect Japan Adventure

Generated: Aug 9, 2025

Table of Contents

Trip Summary

Restaurants

Navigation & Maps

Packing

Daily Itineraries

Transportation

Budget

Emergency

Trip Summary

DURATION

5-7 days

BUDGET

\$4,000-\$6,000

CITIES

Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara

TRAVEL STYLE

balanced

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Late March-early April for full cherry blossoms

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

¥700,000 (~\$4,550.00)

Daily Itineraries

Arrive NRT → Asakusa & Shibuya

Day 1

09:00

Arrive NRT → Skyliner to Nippori → JR Yamanote to Ueno

📍 NRT T1 → Ueno Station

Efficient airport transfer to central Tokyo and first cherry-blossom glimpse at Ueno Park later.

🕒 **Hours:** Operates 05:00–23:00

No booking required

🕒 Arrive early to beat crowds at Ueno Park

♿ elevator available at Nippori and Ueno stations

10:30

Hotel check-in & drop bags (Shinjuku/Shibuya area)

📍 Central Tokyo hotel

Short rest and freshen up before sightseeing.

🕒 **Hours:** 24 hours (hotel lobby)

Check-in time varies by hotel

♿ ramp access available

👨‍👩‍👧 family-friendly

13:00

Senso-ji Temple & Nakamise Street (Asakusa)

📍 Senso-ji, Asakusa

Historic temple, shopping street and cherry blossom riverside nearby.

🕒 **Hours:** 06:00–17:00 🕒 **Last Entry:** 16:30

No booking required

🚶 **Walk** 8 min

🕒 Best early morning; afternoons get busiest

♿ partial ramp access, some uneven paths

15:00

Ueno Park cherry blossoms & ponds

📍 Ueno Park

Classic hanami spot; wide paths and many blossoms in season.

🕒 **Hours:** 05:00–18:00 🕒 **Last Entry:** 18:00

No booking required

🚶 **Walk** 6 min

🕒 Best late morning on weekdays; arrive early on weekends

♿ paths mostly flat, elevator at museum entrances

18:30

Shibuya Crossing & dinner in Shibuya

📍 Shibuya

Iconic crossing, neon views and dinner options; evening visit cooler.

🕒 **Hours:** Always open (shops vary)

No booking required

🚶 **Walk** 5 min

🕒 If hot → visit in evening; watch crossing from a café for a view

♿ elevator available at Shibuya Station Hachiko exit

Insider Tip

Buy a PASMO at the airport for easy local travel.

Accommodation

Shinjuku area hotel

Ghibli Museum, Harajuku & teamLab

Day 2

09:30

Ghibli Museum, Mitaka (advance-ticketed)

 Ghibli Museum, Mitaka

Studio Ghibli exhibition; tickets timed and limited—book well ahead.


 **Hours:** 10:00–18:00  **Last Entry:** 17:30


 **Book:** [Official Site](https://www.ghibli-museum.jp/en/ticket-information/)

(<https://www.ghibli-museum.jp/en/ticket-information/>)

Reserve 1–2 months ahead (international sales vary)

 **Walk** 10 min

 Tickets sell out; morning slot is calmer

 elevator available, ramp access

13:00

Meiji Shrine & Harajuku stroll


 Meiji Jingu, Harajuku


Tree-lined approach, shrine visit and youthful Takeshita Street nearby.

 **Hours:** 05:00–18:00

No booking required

 **Walk** 7 min

 Best early morning for serenity; afternoons busy

 paths mostly flat near shrine, limited steps

16:00

teamLab Planets Tokyo (immersive digital art)

 teamLab Planets, Toyosu

Immersive exhibits; timed entry—book online.


 **Hours:** 10:00–19:00  **Last Entry:** 18:00

 **Book:** [Official Site](https://www.teamlab.art/e/planets/) (https://www.teamlab.art/e/planets/)

Reserve 1–2 weeks ahead

 **Walk** 5 min

 Book an afternoon slot to avoid morning lines



 elevator available, step-free routes in parts

19:30

Shinjuku Gyoen evening walk if open; dinner

 Shinjuku Gyoen

Large garden; check seasonal hours for night openings.

 **Hours:** 09:00–18:00 (varies by season)  **Last Entry:** 17:30

No booking required

 **Walk** 10 min

 If raining → visit nearby department stores' food halls

 wide pathways, elevator access at entrances

Insider Tip

Carry a printed Ghibli ticket; museum enforces timed entry strictly.

Accommodation

Shinjuku area hotel

Shinkansen to Kyoto → Kiyomizu & Gion

Day 3

08:00

Tokyo → Kyoto by JR Shinkansen Hikari

📍 Tokyo Station → Kyoto Station

Reserve seats on Hikari (JR Pass holders: covered).

🕒 **Hours:** Shinkansen operates 05:00–23:00

Reserve seats same-day at JR ticket office or online

🕒 Avoid morning rush; platform can be long—use seat reservations

♿ elevators and ramps at major stations

11:30

Hotel drop & quick rest in central Kyoto

📍 Central Kyoto ryokan or hotel

Check-in or luggage drop before temple visits.

🕒 **Hours:** Hotel lobbies open 24 hours

Ryokan may require earlier check-in notification

♿ some ryokan limited accessibility—check ahead

14:00

Kiyomizu-dera Temple visit (views & cherry trees)

📍 Kiyomizu-dera, Higashiyama

Historic wooden stage with city views and blossoms.

🕒 **Hours:** 06:00–18:00 🕒 **Last Entry:** 17:30

No booking required

🚶 **Walk** 12 min

🕒 Best at opening or late afternoon for fewer crowds


♿ partial ramp access, many steps to main hall

17:30

Gion evening stroll and dinner (traditional tea houses outside view)

 Gion district


Historic streets, geisha spotting at dusk and kaiseki options.

 **Hours:** Shops 10:00–20:00; restaurants vary

Some kaiseki require reservation

 **Walk** 6 min

 Evening is atmospheric and cooler for walks

 mostly flat streets, some uneven stone pavements

Insider Tip

Buy an IC card top-up in Kyoto for local buses; buses are convenient for temple hops.

Accommodation

Central Kyoto ryokan

Nara morning → Osaka afternoon (long)

Day 4

08:00

Kyoto → Nara (JR local)

📍 Kyoto Station → Nara Station

Short intercity rail for deer park and Todaiji.

🕒 **Hours:** Local services 05:00–23:30

No booking required

🕒 Arrive early to feed deer before crowds

♿ ramps at major stations

09:00

Nara Park & Todai-ji Temple (Daibutsu)

📍 Nara Park / Todaiji

Huge Buddha statue, wide park with cherry trees.

🕒 **Hours:** 08:00–17:00 🕒 **Last Entry:** 16:30

No booking required

🚶 **Walk** 8 min

🕒 Best early morning; many school groups midday

♿ mostly flat paths, some temple steps

11:30

Kasuga Taisha shrine visit & lantern paths

📍 Kasuga Taisha, Nara

Historic shrine with mossy lanterns and forest walks.

🕒 **Hours:** 06:30–17:00

No booking required

🚶 **Walk** 10 min

🕒 If raining → Todaiji museum or Nara National Museum

♿ partially accessible, some steps

14:00

Nara → Osaka (JR Yamatoji) then Osaka Castle visit

📍 Nara Station → Osaka Castle

Afternoon arrival in Osaka and castle park stroll with sakura trees.

🕒 **Hours:**

Osaka Castle Park 06:00–19:00; Tenshukaku museum 09:00–17:00

🕒 **Last Entry:** 16:30

Castle tower has admission fee at gate

🚶 **Walk** 15 min

🕒 Evening light-up in season; visit park first if hot

♿ elevator available at Tenshukaku, ramps in park

19:00

Dotonbori food walk & takoyaki tasting

📍 Dotonbori, Namba

Neon-lit canal, street food and lively nightlife.

🕒 **Hours:** Shops 10:00–23:00; restaurants vary

No booking required for street stalls

🚶 **Walk** 5 min

🕒 Busy at night—join a side alley for calmer eateries

♿ mostly flat walking areas, some crowded sidewalks

💡 Insider Tip

JR local trains between Nara and Osaka are frequent—use reserved luggage lockers if needed.

🏠 Accommodation

Namba / Dotonbori hotel

Arima Onsen (Kobe) & departure from Kansai

Day 5

08:30

Osaka → Arima Onsen (via local train + cable car)

📍 Namba/Umeda → Arima Onsen

Popular hot-spring town close to Osaka; relax and enjoy public baths or ryokan private baths.

🕒 **Hours:** Bathhouses 09:00–21:00 🕒 **Last Entry:** 20:00

📅 **Book:** [Official Site](https://visit-arima.com/en/) (https://visit-arima.com/en/)

Some ryokan require reservation; book 1–2 weeks ahead in season

🚶 **Walk** 6 min

🕒 If hot → visit in morning or late afternoon; baths busiest midday

♿ some public baths have step access; check for barrier-free options

12:30

Short nature walk / view from Mount Rokko (optional)

📍 Mount Rokko area

Nearby views and short trails; light hiking for nature and views over Osaka Bay.

🕒 **Hours:** 09:00–17:00 (cable car varies)

No booking required for trails

🚶 **Walk** 20 min

🕒 If raining → visit Kobe Harborland indoor shops


♿ some observation areas have elevator access; trails may be uneven

15:00

Return to Osaka → collect bags and head to Kansai Airport (KIX)


 Osaka → KIX

Transfer to KIX by Nankai Rapit or JR Kansai Airport line depending on JR Pass.

 **Hours:** Airport links 05:00–23:00

Buy tickets at station or use IC card

 Allow 2.5–3 hours before international flight for luggage and security


 elevators and ramps at major stations and KIX

18:30

Depart Kansai International Airport (KIX)

 KIX Terminal

Return home or continue travel; last-minute shopping at airport.

 **Hours:** Airport 24 hours; shops vary

Check-in times vary by airline

 **Walk** 10 min

 Check flight-specific recommended arrival time


 full accessibility at terminals

Insider Tip


If flight is late, consider storing luggage at Osaka station and enjoy extra time in Dotonbori.

Restaurant Recommendations

Sushi Zanmai (Shibuya)

Sushi ¥2,000–¥5,000 
Shibuya, Tokyo (~\$13.00–\$32.50)


Reliable fresh sushi at varied price points; lively counter experience

 **Must-try:** Omakase nigiri set


Kaiseki Ryori (Gion)

Kaiseki (multi-course) ¥8,000–
¥12,000  Gion, Kyoto
(~\$52.00–\$78.00)


Refined seasonal cuisine; perfect for cherry-blossom dining

 **Must-try:** Seasonal kaiseki tasting menu

Street Takoyaki (Dotonbori)

Street food ¥700–¥1,500 
Dotonbori, Osaka (~\$4.55–\$9.75)

Classic Osaka snack—crispy outside, soft inside with savory sauce

 **Must-try:** Takoyaki with sauce and bonito flakes

Transportation Guide

46 min

NRT (Narita) → Ueno (Skyliner)

 Keisei Skyliner → JR transfer at Nippori

Cost: ¥2,520 (~\$16.38)

Normal fare: ¥2,520 (~\$16.38)

Tips: Buy Skyliner ticket at airport kiosk; at Nippori transfer to JR Yamanote (Platform info posted).

JR Pass: Not covered by JR Pass

165 min

Tokyo → Kyoto

 JR Shinkansen Hikari (reserved seat)

Cost: ¥14,720 (~\$95.68)

Normal fare: ¥14,720 (~\$95.68)

Tips: Use reserved seats during cherry blossom season; platform signs in English—Platform 14–19 at Tokyo Station for Tokaido Shinkansen.

45 min

Kyoto → Nara

 JR local (Yamatoji)

Cost: ¥720 (~\$4.68)

Normal fare: ¥720 (~\$4.68)

Tips: Frequent services; use ICOCA/PASMO or buy single ticket at station.

40–50 min

Osaka (Namba) → Kansai Intl Airport (KIX)

 Nankai Rapit (express) or JR Kansai Airport Rapid

Cost: ¥1,430 (~\$9.30)

Normal fare: ¥1,430 (~\$9.30)

Tips: Nankai Rapit is faster from Namba (Platform 1 at Nankai Namba).

JR Pass: Not covered by JR Pass

JR-Pass Alternative: JR Kansai Airport Rapid, 50 min, ¥1,200 (~\$7.80)

Navigation & Maps

Complete Trip Map

All locations in one Google Maps list



[Open in Google Maps](#)

Daily Maps

Day 1



[Open Map](#)

Day 2



[Open Map](#)

Day 3



[Open Map](#)

Day 4



[Open Map](#)

Day 5



[Open Map](#)

Budget Breakdown

<div>¥320,000</div> <div>(~\$2,080.00)</div> <div>Accommodation</div>	<div>¥90,000</div> <div>(~\$585.00)</div> <div>Food</div>	<div>¥150,000</div> <div>(~\$975.00)</div> <div>Transportation</div>
<div>¥120,000</div> <div>(~\$780.00)</div> <div>Activities</div>	<div>¥20,000</div> <div>(~\$130.00)</div> <div>Miscellaneous</div>	

Cultural Tips

- 💡 Carry small change for shrine offerings and coin lockers.
- 💡 Bow slightly when entering shops; remove shoes where required.
- 💡 Peak cherry-blossom spots fill early—arrive before 10:00 for best photos.

Packing List

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 📦 Pocket Wi-Fi or local SIM | 📦 PASMO/Suica/ICOCA rechargeable IC card |
| 📦 Comfortable walking shoes | 📦 Light rain jacket (spring showers) |
| 📦 Power adapter (Type A/B) | 📦 Reusable mask & hand sanitizer |
| 📦 Cash (¥) for small vendors | |

Learn Japanese for Your Trip

Master Essential Japanese Phrases

Make your Japan trip even more amazing by learning key phrases and cultural insights. Visit [Japanauts.com](https://japanauts.com) to start your Japanese learning journey!

 Essential travel phrases

 Food & dining vocabulary

 Transportation terms

 Cultural etiquette tips

Visit: japanauts.com

Emergency Contacts

Police: 110

Ambulance: 119

Embassy: 03-3224-5000

ExploreJapan.ai - Your AI-powered Japan travel companion