

Tokyo, Kyoto & Osaka Highlights (Cherry Blossom Season)

Your Perfect Japan Adventure Generated: Aug 9, 2025

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Trip Summary

DURATION

5-7 days

CITIES

Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Late March–early April for full cherry blossoms

BUDGET

\$4,000-\$6,000

TRAVEL STYLE

balanced

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

¥700,000 (~\$4,550.00)

Arrive NRT → Asakusa & Shibuya

Day 1

09:00 Arrive NRT → Skyliner to Nippori → JR Yamanote to Ueno

P 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
- **3** elevator available at Nippori and Ueno stations

10:30 Hotel check-in & drop bags (Shinjuku/Shibuya area)

P Central Tokyo hotel

Short rest and freshen up before sightseeing.

Hours: 24 hours (hotel lobby)

Check-in time varies by hotel

3 ramp access available 2 family-friendly

13:00	Senso-ji Temple & Nakamise Street (Asakusa) P Senso-ji, Asakusa Historic temple, shopping street and cherry blossom riverside nearby.
	¾ Walk 8 min
	Best early morning; afternoons get busiest partial ramp access, some uneven paths
15:00	Ueno Park cherry blossoms & ponds P Ueno Park Classic hanami spot; wide paths and many blossoms in season. D 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 P Shibuya Iconic crossing, neon views and dinner options; evening visit cooler.
	W Hours: Always open (shops vary) No booking required
	¾ Walk 5 min
	 □ If hot → visit in evening; watch crossing from a café for a view ♂ elevator available at Shibuya Station Hachiko exit



Buy a PASMO at the airport for easy local travel.



Shinjuku area hotel

Ghibli Museum, Harajuku & teamLab

Day 2

09:30 Ghibli Museum, Mitaka (advance-ticketed)

P Ghibli Museum, Mitaka

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

77 Book: Official Site

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

Reserve 1–2 months ahead (international sales vary)

¾ 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.

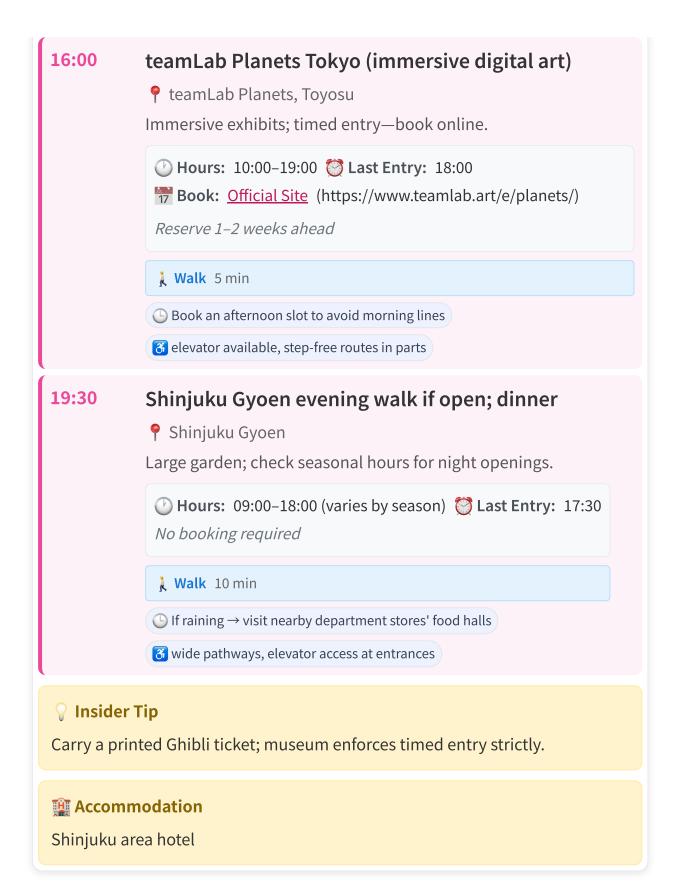
Hours: 05:00–18:00

No booking required

↓ Walk 7 min

Best early morning for serenity; afternoons busy

🔞 paths mostly flat near shrine, limited steps



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

P Central Kyoto ryokan or hotel

Check-in or luggage drop before temple visits.

U Hours: Hotel lobbies open 24 hours

Ryokan may require earlier check-in notification

3 some ryokan limited accessibility—check ahead

14:00 Kiyomizu-dera Temple visit (views & cherry trees)

P Kiyomizu-dera, Higashiyama

Historic wooden stage with city views and blossoms.

No booking required

- Walk 12 min
- Best at opening or late afternoon for fewer crowds
- 🔞 partial ramp access, many steps to main hall

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)

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)

P Nara Park / Todaiji

Huge Buddha statue, wide park with cherry trees.

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

P 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 P Nara Station → Osaka Castle Afternoon arrival in Osaka and castle park stroll with sakura trees. **W** Hours: Osaka Castle Park 06:00–19:00; Tenshukaku museum 09:00–17:00 **Cast 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 P Dotonbori, Namba Neon-lit canal, street food and lively nightlife. (1) **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

∏ Insider Tip

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

3 mostly flat walking areas, some crowded sidewalks

Accommodation

Namba / Dotonbori hotel

Arima Onsen (Kobe) & departure from Kansai

Day 5

08:30 Osaka → Arima Onsen (via local train + cable car)

P 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/)

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
- 😚 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
- **3** 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

- Oheck flight-specific recommended arrival time
- **3** 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)

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

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

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

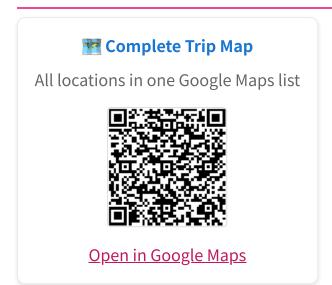
Namba).

JR Pass: Not covered by JR Pass

JR-Pass Alternative: JR Kansai Airport Rapid, 50 min, ¥1,200

(~\$7.80)

Navigation & Maps



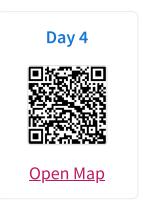














Budget Breakdown

¥320,000 (~\$2,080.00)

Accommodation

¥90,000 (~\$585.00)

Food

¥150,000 (~\$975.00)

Transportation

¥120,000 (~\$780.00)

Activities

¥20,000 (~\$130.00)

Miscellaneous

Cultural Tips

♀ Carry small change for shrine offerings and coin lockers.

Pow 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

ight rain jacket (spring showers)

Power adapter (Type A/B)

Reusable mask & hand sanitizer

Cash (¥) for small vendors

Learn Japanese for Your Trip



Emergency Contacts

Police: 110

Ambulance: 119

Embassy: 03-3224-5000

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