



**October 29 - November 10, 2010**  
**\$3,580 + tax**

This is a classic tour of Japan. Hermes Travel and Tours has a very special relationship with Japan; we are proud to present to you what we think is one of our finest tours to Japan.

Our colorful journey begins in Tokyo – there is no other city like Tokyo – after our arrival we have a full day of sightseeing. We visit some of the most beautiful gardens as the colors of fall tickles our eyes. We will visit the **Meiji-Jingu Shrine**, the waterfront park of **Odaiba** that offers a wonderful view of Tokyo's skyline along with great shopping, and a boat ride on **Sumidagawa River** to **Hama-rikyu Garden**. You will also have a free day to explore Tokyo on your own or you can consult with your tour leader or Japanese tour guide for some fun places to visit, like the early morning **Tsukiji Fish Market**.

This magical tour continues to **Hakone** by way of **Kamakura**; to see the giant bronze statue of Buddha called *Daibutsu*. We have a lovely cruise on **Lake Ashi** at the foot of **Mount Fuji** and finally we spend the night at a traditional *onsen* (hot-springs spa) in Hakone. In Hakone we visit the **Hakone Open Air Museum** – this museum creates peaceful harmony by blending nature with art. We stop at **Heiwa Koen**; this is the perfect spot for photos of Fujiyama (Mount Fuji). In the afternoon we drive to central Japan to home of the 1998 Winter Olympics, **Nagano**. We also spend time touring the **Matsumoto Castle** and the **Ukiyoe Museum**; famous for the woodblock prints of the artist Katsushika Hokusai. The **Jikokudani Yaen Koen** in Nagano is where the wild monkeys bathe in the hot springs; this is another great photo opportunity. We continue to the **Dalo Wasabi Nojo Farm** to see how they prepare that hot green mustard that you find in sushi. Our next hotel is another wonderful *onsen* in **Takayama**.

We start another enchanting morning with a visit to the summer residence of the Lord of Takayama, the **Takayama Jinya**, which was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. You have free time to wander the **Sanmachi Suji** where the streets are lined with traditional shops and sake breweries. After lunch is a place so charming yet few people (even the Japanese) go to see it; it is called **Shirakawago**. These ancient houses with thatched roofs are completely unique to this picturesque little town.

We'll continue south to **Kanazawa** to explore its castle and a visit to one of the top gardens in all of Japan, **Kenrokuen Garden**. We return to the days of the Samurai with a visit to the **Nomura Family House**. After we visit the **Oumicho Fish Market** we will take a stroll through the traditional Geisha district of **Higashi** and stop at the **Shima Tea House**.

No tour to Japan would be complete without a stay in **Kyoto** but before we enter into *The City of Temples* we make a stop at Japan's largest lake, **Biwako**. In Kyoto we visit the breathtaking **Kinkaku-ji Temple** with its **Golden Pavilion**. You will have a complete tour of Kyoto along with a free day to explore this precious city.

Before our departure to the airport in **Osaka** we make one final stop at the lovely ancient capital of Japan, **Nara**. You have just enough time to feed the tame deer at the **Nara Deer Park** in front of the monumental **Todaji Temple** that has a magnificent five story Buddha inside.

We've only mentioned a few of the spectacular sights that you will encounter on this beautiful journey through Japan. And as you can see Hermes Travel and Tours really knows how to do a trip to Japan!

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