

Gregory Loton Escorts Alpha Travel's Exclusive Japan Cherry Blossom Tour

27th March - 10th April 2019



Gregory warmly invites you to join him on this magical tour to Japan.

His love affair with Japan goes back 30 years when he first visited the country as a university student after majoring in Japanese at UWA. Spending a couple of years living in Japan he spent his free time exploring its cities and countryside being captivated by its culture and traditions. Gregory has specifically chosen this tour to share the highlights of Japan with you and he's sure you'll be inspired to return as often as he has.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Return Economy Class fares on Singapore Airlines including ticket taxes (Business Class upgrade available upon request).
- Travel from Perth with your Alpha Travel escort
- Spend 14 nights in Japan staying at quality hotels in central locations
- Admire Japan's spectacular cherry blossoms throughout this fully escorted exclusive itinerary
- Travel in comfort by coach and train
- Discover some of Japan's most significant temples and gardens
- Enter Japan's most beautiful castle in Himeji
- Visit the Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima
- Wander around the charming rural villages of Gokayama and Takayama
- Appreciate the symmetry and majesty of Mt Fuji
- Take advantage of the extra free days to explore Osaka and Tokyo at leisure
- Enjoy dining options of your choice when meals are not included on the tour

Wed, 27/March 2019 | Osaka

Fly from Australia to Osaka on Singapore Airlines. Upon arrival, clear immigration before boarding the coach to your hotel in Osaka, Japan's second largest city. 4 nights in Osaka.

Thu, 28/March | Osaka (B)

Spend today discovering Osaka's city sights including Osaka Castle and Floating Observatory.

Included breakfast.

Fri, 29/March | Osaka – Kyoto – Osaka (B, L)

This morning travel to Kyoto to enjoy a full day of sightseeing. Visit some of the most famous sites including the Golden Pavilion, Shimogamo-jinja and Sanjusangendo a great cultural experience to be enjoyed.

Included breakfast and lunch.

Sat, 30/March | Osaka (B)

Free day to explore Osaka at leisure. Alternatively, you may want to revisit Kyoto or discover Nara, Japan's ancient capital, both these historic places are just half an hour away from Osaka using Japan's efficient and affordable public transport system.

Included breakfast.

Sun, 31/March | Osaka – Himeji – Hiroshima (B)

In the morning, depart for Hiroshima by Shinkansen (Bullet Train). Along the way, you will stop at Himeji to visit Himeji Castle, a World Heritage listed site and the finest example of Japanese Castle architecture. Then continue onto Hiroshima, the city forever remembered as the site of impact from the world's first atomic bomb. Your large bag will be sent onto Takayama. 2 nights in Hiroshima.

Included breakfast.

Mon, 1/April | Hiroshima – Miyajima – Hiroshima (B)

Today, visit some of the major sights of the charming city of Hiroshima, including a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island and the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, a World Heritage listed site. This afternoon, visit the Peace Memorial Park and the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome.

Included breakfast.

Tue, 2/April | Hiroshima - Kanazawa (B)

This morning, travel to Kanazawa city by Shinkansen and Limited Express Train. In the afternoon, join a Kanazawa city tour visiting Higashi Chayagai and Kenroku-en Garden – one of Japan's three most beautiful gardens. Also visit Nagamachi Buke Yashiki and Omicho Market. 1 night in Kanazawa.

Included breakfast.



Wed, 3/April | Gokayama – Takayama (B, L)

Today, travel by bus visiting the charming rural town of Gokayama, a World Heritage listed area and experience Japanese paper making, then continue on bus to Takayama. 2 nights in Takayama.

Included breakfast and lunch.

Thu, 4/April | Takayama (B)

Today visit some famous sights in Takayama including the Hida Folk Village, an open-air museum exhibiting over 30 traditional houses from the region, Matsuri-no-mori and San-machi, a traditional Japanese village area and Takayama Jinya. Explore this historic area of Takayama's old town. A small three lane area is filled with old wooden buildings consisting of sake breweries, small boutiques and some larger merchant houses which are now museums.

Included breakfast.

Fri, 5/April | Takayama – Hakone (B, D)

Today depart for Takayama via Nagoya on the Limited Express Train and Shinkansen and arrive at the beautiful mountainside town of Hakone. Your large bag will be sent onto Tokyo. 1 night in Hakone.

Included breakfast and dinner.

Sat, 6/April | Hakone - Tokyo. (B, L)

Today embark on a full day sightseeing tour of Hakone. View majestic Mt Fuji from afar and then head to Tokyo, Japan's exciting capital city. 4 nights in Tokyo.

Included breakfast and lunch.

Sat, 7/April | Tokyo. (B)

Free day to explore Tokyo, one the world's largest and most cosmopolitan cities at leisure. Your expert escort and guide can help plan your own itinerary to suit.

Included breakfast.

Mon, 8/April | Tokyo (B, L)

Today join a full day sightseeing tour of Tokyo. Visit some of the major sights including the Tokyo Sky Tree with 360 panoramic views of the city, Tsukiji Outer Fish Markets and Asakusa Kannon Temple, Tokyo's most famous Buddhist Temple. Drive by some famous shopping districts such as Ginza and Akihabara. The day will conclude early evening where you will have the rest of the evening free to explore the nightlife of Tokyo.

Included breakfast and lunch.

Tue, 9/April | Tokyo (B, D)

Free day for final shopping and sightseeing before your last meal together.

Included breakfast and dinner.

Wed, 10/April | Perth (B) - End of Itinerary

Depart Tokyo in the morning for your journey home

Included breakfast.

EXCLUSIVE TOUR COST:

TWIN ROOM • \$11,160 PER PERSON

SINGLE ROOM • \$13,260

YOUR EXCLUSIVE ESCORTED TOUR INCLUDES:

- Return Economy Class fares on Singapore Airlines including ticket taxes (Business Class upgrade available upon request).
- Accommodation at central 4-star properties.
- Daily breakfasts, 4 lunches and 2 dinners.
- Transfers on tour.
- Train trips on tour.
- Touring and admission to stated sites.
- Australian escort from Perth.
- Japanese tour escort on the tour.
- Local guides.

WHAT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE TOUR:

- Cost of comprehensive travel insurance which is compulsory.
- All items and expenditure of a personal nature including meals, beverages, admission transport fees not included on the tour, plus gratuities, laundry & shopping.
- All passport fees.

NOTES:

- Cost of comprehensive travel insurance which is compulsory.
- A good level of fitness is required on this tour. This involves walking and climbing stairs.
- Your large bags will be sent separately from Osaka to Takayama and from Takayama to Tokyo. You will need to pack a small overnight bag for the days and nights in between.
- Daily schedule is subject to change due to weather, transport or unforeseen circumstances. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions and are not guaranteed.
- Price is based 15 persons participating. If numbers fall below this number, then the price will have to be adjusted accordingly.
- Double bedding on request only.
- Non-smoking rooms may not be available at some properties in which case the rooms will be deodorised.

- Single rooms are subject to supplementary charges and rooms are limited.
- Some restaurants may not cater for dietary requirements.
- Tour escorts are not able to assist participants with disabilities or special needs.
- We reserve the right to refuse participation on this tour if it is considered that such participation is likely to impose hardship on persons on this tour.
- We are happy to organise a more suitable tour for travellers with special needs

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Once your reservation is confirmed, a non-refundable deposit of \$2,000 per person is required within 7 days of confirmation of the tour, of which \$800 is non-refundable.

A signed booking form is also required.

Final payment is due no later than Monday 4 February 2019.

Payments by credit card incur a surcharge.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations received prior to 3 February 2019 - loss of deposit.

Cancellations received after 4 February – 100% cancellation fee.

TOUR PRICES:

Costs are based on a minimum on 15 passengers travelling together.

Alpha Travel reserves the right to re-cost the tour should minimum numbers not be met.

Tour prices are based on land rates, taxes and exchange rates, current at time of printing. These are subject to change without prior notice until final payment has been made.

Hotels can be subject to change depending on availability and circumstances beyond our control.

If for any unforeseeable reason the advertised tour director is unable to escort the tour, an alternative tour escort will be provided by Alpha Travel.

TERMS & CONDITIONS Please refer to the booking form for full Terms & Conditions.

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