# Itinerary

## 12 Day Flavours of Japan Foodie Tour

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

### Day 1: Arrive Osaka, Japan

Welcome to Osaka, Japan! After you arrive at the airport, you'll be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel. Once you've checked in, the rest of the day is yours to relax or start exploring this vibrant city at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Nil

**OVERNIGHT:** Miyako City Tennoji, Osaka

### Day 2: Osaka ~ Fukuyama

This morning, you'll visit the stunning Himeji Castle—often referred to as the "White Heron Castle" thanks to its elegant, white exterior that resembles a bird taking flight. It's one of Japan's few remaining original medieval castles and is widely regarded as one of the country's most beautiful and historically significant landmarks.

After your visit, you'll continue to Kurashiki, a charming historic merchant town known for its beautifully preserved Bikan Historical Quarter. Here, you can take a leisurely stroll along the old Edo-period streets and admire the traditional wooden warehouses that line the canal—many of which have been transformed into museums, shops, and cafés.

Following a full day of sightseeing, you'll travel to Fukuyama, where you'll check in to your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a relaxing buffet dinner at the hotel, offering a variety of Japanese and international dishes—a perfect way to unwind and reflect on the day's adventures.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Fukuyama New Castle Hotel, Fukuyama

### Day 3: Fukuyama ~ Hiroshima

Your day begins with a scenic two-hour journey to Hiroshima, a city known not only for its historical significance but also for its incredible spirit of resilience and renewal.

Once you arrive, you'll take part in a hands-on Okonomiyaki cooking class, where you'll learn how to make Hiroshima-style Okonomiyaki—a delicious savoury pancake that's uniquely layered with noodles, cabbage, and a variety of tasty toppings. It's a fun and interactive way to experience the local cuisine, and

of course, you'll get to enjoy your creation for lunch.

In the afternoon, you'll head to the nearby Miyajima Island, one of Japan's most iconic and sacred sites. The island is famous for the floating torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine, which appears to hover above the water during high tide. Surrounded by lush forest and tranquil coastline, Miyajima offers a peaceful, almost mystical atmosphere.

While on the island, you'll have time to explore the shrine, wander through the charming streets lined with souvenir shops and local snacks, and perhaps even meet some of the friendly wild deer that roam freely. The stunning views and serene setting make this a memorable highlight of your journey.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Oriental Hotel Hiroshima, Hiroshima

## Day 4: Hiroshima – City Tour

This morning, you'll embark on a deeply moving and reflective visit to the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The museum shares the powerful story of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, featuring personal artefacts, survivor testimonies, and informative exhibits that promote a message of peace and hope for the future.

Outside the museum, you'll see the Atomic Bomb Dome—one of the few buildings that withstood the blast. Preserved in its damaged state, it now stands as a haunting yet important symbol and a memorial to those who lost their lives.

For lunch, you'll have the chance to try one of Hiroshima's most famous local delicacies—fresh oysters. Known for their rich, creamy flavour, Hiroshima oysters are a must-try for food lovers and a great way to sample the region's coastal cuisine.

In the afternoon, you'll visit Hiroshima Orizuru Tower, where you'll enjoy panoramic views of the city skyline, including a clear view of the Peace Memorial Park below. While there, you can take part in the peaceful and symbolic activity of folding an orizuru (origami crane). You'll then have the special opportunity to release your paper crane down the glass-walled Orizuru Wall—joining thousands of others in a collective wish for peace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Oriental Hotel Hiroshima, Hiroshima

## Day 5: Hiroshima ~ Okayama

This morning, you'll board the Setouchi Shimatabi Line—a scenic cruise that glides through the calm waters of the Seto Inland Sea. As you journey along this peaceful route, you'll be treated to stunning coastal views, passing by charming fishing villages and picturesque islands that dot the landscape. The cruise lasts around four and a half hours, giving you the perfect chance to sit back, relax, and soak up the tranquil beauty of Japan's maritime scenery.

While on board, you'll enjoy a beautifully presented bento box lunch, filled with a variety of traditional Japanese dishes—a delicious and authentic way to savour the region's flavours as you cruise through this

breathtaking seascape.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

In the event the Setouchi Shimatabi Line cruise is unable to operate due to unforeseen circumstances—such as weather conditions or maintenance—an alternative activity will be arranged. This may include a visit to a local cultural or historical site, a traditional town, or an alternative scenic route to ensure you still enjoy a rich and memorable experience.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Hotel Granvia Okayama, Okayama

## Day 6: Okayama ~ Osaka

Your day begins with a visit to Ritsurin Garden, widely regarded as one of Japan's most stunning landscape gardens. As you wander through its beautifully manicured grounds, you'll discover tranquil koi-filled ponds, charming tea houses, and winding walking paths that offer breathtaking views in every season. Whether it's cherry blossoms in spring or vibrant maple leaves in autumn, the garden provides a truly serene and picturesque experience.

Next, you'll roll up your sleeves for an Udon Making Workshop, where you'll learn to prepare Sanuki Udon—a regional specialty from Kagawa, known for its firm, chewy texture. Under the guidance of a local instructor, you'll knead, roll, and cut the dough before enjoying your freshly made noodles for lunch. It's a fun, hands-on cultural experience that ends with a tasty reward!

In the afternoon, you'll travel back to Osaka and have some free time to explore Dotonbori, one of the city's most energetic and colourful districts. Famous for its bright neon lights, oversized billboards, and mouth-watering street food, Dotonbori is the perfect place to grab a snack, do a bit of shopping, or simply soak up the lively atmosphere at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Miyako City Tennoji, Osaka

## Day 7: Osaka ~ Kyoto

Today, you'll begin your journey with a visit to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital, renowned for its cultural heritage and tranquil beauty. Your first stop is Nara Park, a spacious green area where friendly deer roam freely. These sacred animals are considered messengers of the gods in Shinto tradition, and you'll have the unique opportunity to interact with them up close.

From there, you'll head to the iconic Todaiji Temple, one of Japan's most historically significant sites. Inside, you'll find the Great Buddha—the largest bronze Buddha statue in Japan—housed within one of the world's largest wooden buildings. It's an awe-inspiring sight and a must-see during your visit to Nara.

Next, you'll travel to the picturesque town of Uji, nestled along the Uji River and famous for its tea culture. Here, you'll enjoy a scenic lunch on a traditional boat cruise, drifting gently down the river while taking in the serene views and peaceful surroundings.

After lunch, you'll explore the breathtaking Byodoin Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most recognisable buildings in Japan—so iconic, it's featured on the 10-yen coin. The temple's stunning Phoenix Hall, with its graceful architecture and reflecting pond, offers a beautiful and tranquil experience.

To wrap up your visit to Uji, you'll take part in an Uji green tea tasting, sampling some of the finest matcha in Japan and learning about the area's long-standing tea traditions. Afterwards, you'll continue to your hotel in Kyoto, where you'll have the evening to relax and unwind after a culturally rich and scenic day.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, Kyoto

## Day 8: Kyoto – City Tour

Your day of exploring Kyoto begins with a visit to the iconic Kinkakuji, also known as the Golden Pavilion. This stunning Zen temple is renowned for its top two floors, which are completely covered in gold leaf. Reflected in the surrounding pond and set against lush greenery, it's one of Japan's most photographed and admired landmarks.

Next, you'll head to Arashiyama, a beautiful district on the western edge of Kyoto. Here, you'll stroll through the enchanting Bamboo Forest, where towering stalks of bamboo sway gently overhead, creating a peaceful, almost otherworldly atmosphere. You'll also visit the famous Togetsukyo Bridge, which offers lovely views of the river and surrounding mountains—particularly picturesque during cherry blossom or autumn foliage season.

A true highlight of the day awaits with an exclusive Geisha performance, where you'll enjoy a rare chance to witness the grace, poise, and traditional artistry of a Geisha up close. This cultural experience is paired with a delicious Kaiseki Ryori lunch—a beautifully presented, multi-course Japanese meal that showcases seasonal ingredients and the delicate flavours of Kyoto cuisine.

In the afternoon, your final stop is the Fushimi Inari Shrine, one of Kyoto's most iconic sites. Famous for its thousands of bright vermilion torii gates, the shrine's winding trails lead up into the forested hillside, offering both spiritual significance and incredible photo opportunities.

After a day filled with culture, beauty, and tradition, you'll return to your accommodation with unforgettable memories of Kyoto's highlights.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, Kyoto

## Day 9: Kyoto ~ Mt Fuji

Today, you'll set off on an exciting journey to Mount Fuji, beginning with a ride on Japan's iconic Bullet Train to Mishima Station. Travelling at high speed and in comfort, the train journey is an experience in itself—offering a smooth and efficient way to see the countryside as you head towards one of Japan's most famous landmarks.

Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a delicious buffet lunch featuring a mix of traditional Japanese dishes and popular international options. It's a great opportunity to sample a variety of flavours while taking a break before heading up the mountain.

In the afternoon, you'll travel to Mount Fuji's 5th Station, located roughly halfway up the mountain at an elevation of 2,300 metres (7,546 feet) above sea level. From this vantage point, you'll be treated to breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape—on a clear day, the scenery is truly unforgettable. While there, you can visit Komitake Shrine, a small yet sacred site nestled on the mountainside, and explore local shops offering unique Mount Fuji-themed souvenirs.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

The visibility of Mount Fuji is highly dependent on weather conditions. On clear, sunny days with low humidity, the mountain can be seen from great distances. However, in less favourable weather—such as fog, haze, rain, or snow—it may be completely obscured. On average, Mount Fuji is visible around 80 to 120 days per year, so while we hope for clear skies, it's best to come prepared for all conditions.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Motosu Phoenix Hotel, Mt Fuji

## Day 10: Mt Fuji ~ Tokyo

This morning, you'll start your day with a visit to Oishi Park, a peaceful lakeside spot offering spectacular views of Mount Fuji. Set on the shores of Lake Kawaguchiko, the park is especially beautiful throughout the seasons, with vibrant flower displays such as lavender in summer and colourful autumn foliage later in the year. It's the perfect place to enjoy a quiet stroll and capture postcard-worthy photos of the iconic mountain and its scenic surroundings.

Next, you'll travel to the Yokohama Ramen Museum, a must-visit for food lovers and anyone curious about Japanese cuisine. More than just a museum, this interactive attraction showcases the history and regional varieties of one of Japan's most beloved dishes—ramen. You'll have the chance to wander through a retro-style street designed to look like 1950s Tokyo, where you can choose from a selection of ramen shops, each offering their own regional style and flavour. Take your time and enjoy lunch at your own pace—it's a fun and tasty way to experience Japan's ramen culture first-hand.

In the afternoon, you'll continue your journey to Tokyo, Japan's vibrant capital city, where the next stage of your adventure awaits.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Asakusa View Hotel, Tokyo

## Day 11: Tokyo – City Tour

Your day begins with a visit to Tokyo Tower, one of the city's most recognisable landmarks. From the observation deck, you'll enjoy panoramic views of Tokyo's sprawling cityscape, with sights stretching as far as Mount Fuji on a clear day. It's a fantastic way to take in the size and energy of Japan's capital from above.

Next, you'll head to the vibrant district of Shibuya, best known for the iconic Shibuya Crossing—one of the busiest pedestrian crossings in the world. As you join the crowd to cross the street, you'll experience a true Tokyo moment. You'll also have time to explore the area's trendy shops, boutiques, and quirky cafés, perfect for picking up a few last-minute souvenirs or simply soaking in the local vibe.

After lunch, your afternoon takes you to Asakusa, a charming district that preserves the spirit of old Tokyo. Here, you'll visit Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most famous Buddhist temple. As you walk along Nakamise Street, the approach to the temple lined with traditional stalls, you can browse local snacks, souvenirs, and handcrafted items while taking in the rich cultural atmosphere.

To wrap up your adventure, you'll enjoy a farewell dinner—a chance to relax, share stories with your fellow travellers, and reflect on the incredible experiences you've had throughout your journey in Japan.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Asakusa View Hotel, Tokyo

## Day 12: Depart Tokyo

After checking out of your hotel, you will be met by your driver and transferred to the airport. We hope you've had an amazing time in Japan, filled with unforgettable experiences and special memories to take home with you. Safe travels, and we look forward to welcoming you on another adventure soon!

**MEALS:** Breakfast