

# Pacific Rim Tours

## Japan Itinerary



Day 1 November 6 Depart for Japan

Day 2 November 7 Arrive in Osaka, Japan

Arrive in Osaka-Private taxi will meet you at the airport and take you to the Centara Grand Hotel Osaka [Centara Grand Hotel](#).

Day 3 November 8-Osaka

We will start with visiting Namba Yasaka Shrine with the impressive lion-shaped shrine hall, a powerful symbol of good luck and one of Osaka's most photogenic spots.

We will walk around Kuromon Market and enjoy Osaka's food culture with street food for lunch. A perfect place for tasting local specialties.

Rest and relax for the afternoon. We will meet for dinner.

Day 4 November 9-Leave for Kyoto

Leave for Kyoto by train at approximately 9am. Arrive to Kyoto at approximately 9:30. Luggage will be transported from Osaka and sent to Hilton Garden Hotel. We will walk and take public transportation from the train station for the day. We will begin our temple and garden tour.

## Kodaiji (高台寺)

Kodaiji was built in 1606 by Nene, the wife of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, in his memory. The temple features spectacular Zen gardens, a bamboo grove, and beautifully decorated interiors. The rock garden, designed by renowned landscape artist Kobori Enshu.

## Entoku-in (圓徳院).

A sub-temple of Kodaiji, Entoku-in. This small but elegant temple is known for its two stunning gardens—one a dry rock garden and the other a lush moss-covered landscape. The temple's fusuma-e (sliding screen paintings) depict serene natural scenes.

## Day 5 November 10 Kyoto

### Yasaka Shrine (八坂神社) [Yasaka Shrine](#)

Yasaka Shrine is one of Kyoto's most famous Shinto shrines. Nearby is the famous Maruyama Park with wonderful gardens. The park was built by the prominent garden designer, Ueji VII in 1912.

### [Gion Area](#) (祇園)

Gion is Kyoto's renowned geisha district, characterized by historic machiya townhouses lining its streets. Strolling along Hanamikoji Street or the Shirakawa Canal offers a glimpse into Kyoto's traditional entertainment culture.

Relax time before dinner

7pm Group dinner at: [Otobun Restaurant](#)

## Day 6 November 11 Kyoto

Depart the hotel at 7am. We will take public transportation to the train station which leaves at 8:15am to Kameoka. 9:00 am.

9am [Hozugawa River Boat Ride](#) (保津川下り)

This scenic two-hour boat ride down the Hozu River. Originally used to transport goods, the boats now take visitors on a tranquil journey through lush forested gorges, with occasional mild rapids adding excitement.

Lunch-visit shops in area

[Tenryū-ji Temple](#)(天龍寺)

Tenryū-ji (天龍寺), located in Kyoto's Arashiyama district, is one of the most important Zen temples in Japan. This temple is especially renowned for its stunning Zen garden, designed by the famous landscape architect Musō Soseki, which has remained largely unchanged since the 14th century.

Adashino Nenbutsuji Temple Moss Garden & Bamboo Forest (竹林の道)

[Adashino Nenbutsuji Temple and Bamboo Forest](#)

Adashino Nenbutsuji Temple, located in Kyoto's Sagano district, is a historic site founded in the 8th century by the monk Kukai. The temple is renowned for its collection of approximately 8,000

stone statues and pagodas, which honor the souls of those who passed away without kin.. Adjacent to the temple is a serene bamboo grove, offering a tranquil alternative to the more frequented Arashiyama Bamboo Forest. The temple grounds also feature a moss garden. The combination of the moss-covered landscape and the towering bamboo creates a harmonious environment that embodies the essence of Japanese aesthetics.

Relax time before dinner

7pm Dinner Location to be determined

## Day 7 November 12 Himeji

Day trip to Himeji.

Take the Shinkansen high speed train to for a day trip to Himeji. We will have a guide give us a tour of Himeji Castle. Himeji Castle is Japan's best-preserved feudal castle. Known as the "White Heron Castle" because of its brilliant white exterior, it was originally built in the 14th century and is renowned for its elegant architecture, defensive design, and historical significance. We will have local lunch and visit Koko-en garden outside of Himeji Castle. There will be free time for the end of the day after returning to Kyoto.

## Day 8 November 13 Kyoto

A casual morning meeting in the lobby at 9:30. We will travel by private van at 9:30

Ryoanji (龍安寺)

Ryoanji is famous for its enigmatic Zen rock garden, featuring 15 stones arranged in a sea of raked white gravel. The design remains mysterious—no matter where you sit, at least one stone is always hidden from view. The temple also has a scenic strolling garden and a peaceful pond.

### [Kinkajuji](#) (金閣寺)

The Golden Pavilion is one of Kyoto's most striking sights. Originally built in 1397 as a retirement villa for shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, it is covered in gold leaf and beautifully reflected in the pond below.

Lunch at [Gontaro Soba](#)

[Daitokuji](#) Temple Complex (大徳寺) A large Zen temple complex, Daitokuji is known for its sub-temples, each featuring distinct Zen gardens. Highlights include the minimalist rock garden at Daisen-in and the Christian-influenced garden at Zuiho-in.

Relax time before dinner

7pm Dinner at [Endo Restaurant](#)

After Dinner

Walk to Whisky and Wine Bar Koharubiyori

## Day 9 November 14 Nara

Day trip to Nara. We will take a local train to visit Nara. Nara is the cradle of Japanese culture, serving as the country's first permanent capital established in 710 AD. Nara Park is a large public park famous for its hundreds of free-roaming deer, which are considered sacred messengers in local tradition. We will be able to feed and interact with the deer while exploring the park's

scenic grounds. We will visit Yoshikien Garden and Todai-ji temple. Dinner location to be determined.

## Day 10 November 15 Kyoto

### Eikandodo Temple

Eikando Temple, officially known as Zenrin-ji, is a renowned Buddhist temple located in Kyoto, Japan. Nestled against the forested Higashiyama hills, Eikando offers serene gardens, winding paths, and historic architecture that embody the spiritual and aesthetic beauty of Kyoto.

10:30 am [Murinan and Tairyusanso](#)

We will be able to compare and contrast these two gardens with guest lecturer.

Free time to explore Kyoto for the afternoon and evening.

## Day 11 November 16 Kameoka

Travel by train and private cars

Take the train to Kameoka from Kyoto Station and participate in a traditional indigo dyeing workshop.

Visit Zen Temple (Hojyoji) Meditation and Tea

Hojo-ji Temple is a historic Zen Buddhist temple located in Kameoka City, Kyoto Prefecture.

4:00 pm Visit with Saida Sekizaiten, 5th generation stone Lantern and kobo stone carver in Kameoka

5:30 pm Dinner at [Matsusho Restaurant](#)

## Day 12 November 17 – Free Day

Good bye to Kyoto Dinner Japanese steak restaurant [Kichijokichi](#)

## Day 13 November 18 – Osaka

Breakfast at the hotel. Take local train to Osaka. Bags will be transported to Centara Grand Hotel. We will take local train to Shinsekai neighborhood and explore Osaka's retro downtown area around Tsutenkaku Tower. Then travel to Ura-Tenma Chochin Street and visit

A local food street popular with local residents. For the evening we will visit Dotonburi area-filled with vibrant neon signs, great food and exciting energy.

## Day 14 November 19

Return to U.S.