



# GIPPSLAND TRAVEL

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## DISCOVER JAPAN with a taste of Hong Kong 12 April to 30 April, 2013 Personally escorted by Jacquy Turner

### Friday, 12 April Gippsland

Depart Gippsland for our late evening flight to Tokyo.

### Saturday, 13 April Arrival In Tokyo, Japan (D)

On arrival at Tokyo Haneda International Airport we will be transferred to the **Mandarin Oriental**, or similar, for our 3 night stay. Tonight, after our welcome dinner at a local restaurant, there is an opportunity to take a walking tour among the dazzling neon lights of Tokyo.

### Sunday, 14 April Tokyo (B D)



This morning's sightseeing of Tokyo, home to more than eight million people, takes us to the Meiji Shrine, a magnificent 20th century Shinto monument set in a man-made forest, followed by a drive to see the Imperial Palace Plaza. In Asakusa we will visit Sensoji Temple, walk through the Nakamise Shopping Arcade and experience a traditional rickshaw ride.

After we visit the Sensoji Temple we call into an artist's studio and enjoy demonstrations by a master calligrapher before trying it yourself. You will also have an opportunity to try on a traditional Kimono and enjoy a tea ceremony. Tonight after visiting the Tokyo City View Observatory we will have dinner at 'Gonpachi Nishi Azabu'



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# GIPPSLAND TRAVEL - DISCOVER JAPAN 2013

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## Monday, 15 April Tokyo (B)

Today is free day for independent activities. There are many options to ensure you see the most of Tokyo and I will offer suggestions for you such as the Fish Markets, Akihasara Electronics Area and Odaibo Island or one of the many interesting museums in Tokyo.

## Tuesday, 16 April Tokyo - Hakone (B L D)

Our drive today takes us to Kamakura, the ancient capital of Japan, where we visit the 750 year old Great Buddha at Kotokuin Temple and the Tsuruoka Hachiman Shrine. We shall also take a short ride on a local train giving us a peek into the homes that closely line the tracks. After our lunch at the 'Himeshara' Garden Restaurant we will enjoy a short cruise on the sparkling Lake Ashi and take the Hakone Ropeway over the mountains to Owakundani Valley. We will then continue on to our hotel. Tonight we will stay at the **Hotel De Yama** on the shores of Lake Ashi. There will be time to freshen up before we dine at the hotel's restaurant.



## Wednesday, 17 April Hakone- Matsumoto - Takayama (B L)



We journey to Matsumoto, gateway to the Japanese Alps, with a stop at the Itchiku Kubota Museum. We shall visit the famous Matsumoto Castle dating back to 1593 as well as discover the history at the Japan Folklore Museum. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue by coach through the ruggedly beautiful Alps to the quiet, isolated town of Takayama, where old traditions are untouched by the passage of time. On arrival in Takayama, we check in to the **Hotel Associa Takayama Resort**, or similar, for 2 nights. The hotel offers wonderful Japanese style spa facilities which can be enjoyed during our time in Takayama.

## Thursday, 18 April Takayama (B D)

Today begins with a visit to the morning market where farmers display locally grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Then on to the San-Machi Suji historic district, famous for sake distilleries and tiny lacquerware shops, where merchants buy and sell as they have for 300 years. We visit the Kusakabe Heritage House for a glimpse of traditional Japanese architecture of the late 19th century. We shall also visit the famous Takayama Festival Float Museum and there will be plenty of free time to wander the streets and explore the shops of this very traditional village. Tonight we will enjoy a wonderful Japanese-style dinner at a local restaurant.

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**Friday, 19 April**

**Takayama - Shirakawa - Kanazawa**

**(B L D)**



This morning we enjoy a drive through the mountainous Shokawa Valley to Shirakawago Village. This remote region of Japan is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites due to the unique Gassho-Zukuri (joined hands)-style thatched houses that can be found only here. We continue to the scenic town of Kanazawa, situated between the mountains and the Sea of Japan and once the country's richest regions. We take a tour through one of Japan's greatest gardens, Kenroku-En, the "Garden of Six Qualities", dating from the 1670s. Adjacent to the garden is the Ishikawa Prefecture Crafts Museum,

displaying more than 30 traditional crafts, including the famous Kanazawa Haku gold leaf produced since 1593. We check in at the **Kagaya Ryokan**, or similar. Dinner tonight will be at our hotel.

**Saturday, 20 April**

**Kanazawa – Kyoto**

**(B L D)**

Today we travel along the Sea of Japan to Kyoto. Upon arrival we shall visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine, renowned for the thousands of brightly coloured Torii Gates. Here you will witness an exclusive performance of Miko (Shinto girls). We then check in to the **Hotel Okura Kyoto**, or similar, for 3 nights. Tonight we will be treated to a Traditional Geisha Performance as we dine at a local restaurant.

**Sunday, 21 April**

**Kyoto**

**(B)**

This morning's city tour features the Kiyomizu Temple and the Nishiki Market. There will be free time to explore the market and sample some of the local delicacies. After lunch we will visit the extraordinary Nijo Castle, built in 1603 as the official residence of Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. Next we visit Kinkakuji, the Temple Of The Gold Pavilion, and the Heian Shrine and Garden. After we arrive back at the hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.



**Monday, 22 April**

**Kyoto**

**(B L)**



Today's tour will take us to the Horino Sake Brewery Memorial Museum. For an authentic taste of Japan, we can sample Sake and learn about the brewing tradition that has been passed down through the generations. We will then visit the Nishijin Fabric Studio. Then, for lunch, participate in a special Japanese Cooking Class. Under the instruction of a local chef you will learn how to make a popular Japanese dish. Next we will try our hand at Origami with a lesson in an old Kyoto traditional house. We will finish our touring with a visit to the Imperial Palace followed by free time to further explore.

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**Tuesday, 23 April**

**Kyoto – Hiroshima**

**(B)**



Today we board one of Japan's famous Bullet Trains bound for Hiroshima, travelling 1<sup>st</sup> class. On arrival in Hiroshima we will transfer to the Miyajimaguchi Pier for our excursion to Miyajima Island to see the Itsukushima Shrine, noted for its floating Torii Gate.

We will re-board our ferry back to Miyajimaguchi Pier to transfer to our hotel the **Hotel Granvia Hiroshima**, or similar, for an overnight stay.

**Wednesday, 24 April**

**Hiroshima - Kurashiki**

**(B)**

Today's sightseeing starts with a visit to the Shukkeien Landscape Garden. We then stop at Peace Park to visit the Memorial Museum and Memorial Hall, which memorialise the lives lost in the atomic bombing. We continue and travel on to Kurashiki by train where after a short walk we will check in at the **Kurashiki Kokusai Hotel**, or similar. The evening is at leisure.

**Thursday, 25 April**

**Kurashiki - Osaka**

**(B L)**

Today we shall visit the Ohara Museum of Art, then we take walk along the canal to the Kurashiki Bikan Historial Area. We then travel to Engyoji Temple via the ropeway on Mt Sosha. We will enjoy lunch at the temple before continuing on to Osaka where we check into the **New Otani Osaka**, or similar, for 2 nights. The rest of the evening is free so you might like to try one of the local restaurants for dinner.



**Friday, 26 April**

**Osaka**

**(B L D)**



Our tour today commences with a visit the Osaka Castle. We will then visit Nara, the oldest capital of Japan, where you will see the Todaiji Temple with Great Buddha and Kasuga Shrine, famous for stone and bronze lanterns. After lunch in a local restaurant we visit the Horyuji Temple, the oldest wooden building in the world. Tonight we shall celebrate our experiences in Japan with a farewell dinner.

**Saturday, 27 April**

**Osaka**

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This morning is free to explore Osaka at your own leisure. Osaka has over 34,000 retail shops so there will be ample opportunity for those last minute souvenirs.

In the afternoon we will be transferred to the airport for our evening flight to Hong Kong. On arrival we will be transferred to the **Hyatt Regency Tsim Sha Tsui Hotel**, or similar, staying in Harbour View rooms for two nights.

**Sunday, 28 April**

**Hong Kong**

**(B D)**

Our morning Hong Kong Island tour starts at Victoria Peak for panoramic daylight views over the city and sea. We continue on to Repulse Bay and see the floating homes at the fishing village of Aberdeen. You will have some free time in the afternoon. Tonight we shall board our luxury Chinese junk – the *Oriental Dragon* for our Symphony of Lights Cruise. Victoria Harbour is one of the world's most impressive natural harbours. The Symphony of Lights show brightens up the skyline with a spectacular display of laser beams bouncing off skyscrapers from both sides of the harbour. At the



conclusion of the Light Show we will cruise out to the fishing village of Lei Yue Mun on the northeastern tip of Victoria Harbour. After an escorted walk through the unspoilt village's fish market lanes, a set Chinese seafood dinner is served in one of the village's seafood restaurants. After dinner, we return to the pier then back to our hotel.

**Monday, 29 April**

**Hong Kong – Melbourne**

**(B)**

This morning there will be time for last minute shopping. After transferring to the airport, we shall depart Hong Kong on our evening flight on Cathay Pacific Airlines to Melbourne.

**Tuesday, 30 April**

**Melbourne**

We arrive in Melbourne in the morning and our private coach will transfer us back to Gippsland.



## **YOUR TOUR ESCORT**

**Jacquy Turner** has more than 27 years' experience as a highly successful travel agent and tour guide.

With this itinerary, Jacquy will show you some of her very favourite places. Along with the local guides she will ensure you have a most memorable journey.

## INCLUSIONS

- Fully air-conditioned motor coaches
- First class rail travel
- **Maximum group size will be 25 participants**
- Bi-lingual tour director
- All economy air fares and taxes as detailed in the itinerary  
Business class prices available on application
- All airport departure taxes and fuel surcharges
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Airport transfers from Gippsland to Melbourne Airport and return
- Hotel accommodation in twin-bedded rooms (unless otherwise requested) with private facilities
- Meals as per itinerary: 16 Breakfasts (B), 7 Lunches (L), 7 Dinners (D)
- Sightseeing as per itinerary (including admission charges)
- Sightseeing with local guides where applicable
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)
- **All tipping** of the guides, coach drivers and restaurant staff at included meals

## EXCLUSIONS

- Travel Insurance. Please note that it is a condition of our tour that all participants have comprehensive travel insurance. All details are available from our office.
- Any meals not included in the itinerary.
- Telephone calls, laundry and any expenses of a personal nature.

## ITINERARY VARIATIONS

The itinerary may have to be varied due to circumstances beyond our control but all inclusions will remain of a similar standard. The cost is subject to change in the event of a decrease in the value of the Australian Dollar against Japanese Yen and the US Dollar. Cost based on exchange rate as at 30 June, 2012.

