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JAPAN Spring Tour

9D7N Mar 26 – Apr 3, 2016

(Timed for Sakura Season, but Sakura blooms subject to Mother Nature's discretion)



MAR 26 SAT: Kansai airport arrival

Depart KL LCCT 2.50pm on Air Asia D7 534 flight. Arrival at **Kansai airport** at 10.40pm. Transfer to hotel in Izumisano (near Kansai Airport) for check-in and overnight.

MAR 27 SUN: Kansai – Nara – Kyoto (B/L/D)

After breakfast, transfer to **Nara**, the first permanent capital of Japan, from 710 to 784 AD. Visit **UNESCO World Heritage** sites: **Todai-ji temple** (including entrance to **Daibutsu-den Hall** to view the famous **Great Buddha**; the Hall is the largest wooden building in the world and the Great Buddha is one of the largest bronze figures in the world) and **Kasuga Shrine** (a Shinto shrine founded in the 8th century by the powerful Fujiwara family; visit also the **Deer Park** nearby).



Transfer to **Kyoto**, the imperial capital of Japan from 794 to 1868 (when the capital shifted to Tokyo). Kyoto is the cultural and heritage center of Japan; with more than 1600 Buddhist temples, over 400 Shinto shrines and 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites. Visit **UNESCO World Heritage Kinkaku-ji** (the Golden Pavilion); one of Japan's best known sights, it was originally built in 1397 as a retirement villa for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, but converted into a Zen Buddhist temple by his son. Overnight in Kyoto.



MAR 28 MON: Kyoto (B/D)

After breakfast, transfer by train (to beat the peak season traffic jam) to the outskirts of Kyoto and visit the stunning **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove**. Return back to Kyoto city. Lunch on your own budget at Kyoto's famous **Nishiki Food Market**. Then visit **UNESCO World Heritage Nijo-jo Castle**. Take a walk along cherry blossom (subject to flowers blossoming) lined **Tetsugaku-no-michi "Path of Philosophy"**. Visit **UNESCO World Heritage Kiyomizu-dera**, a Buddhist temple first built in 798. Its main hall has a veranda jutting out over the edge of a hill, offering great views of Kyoto city. Overnight in Kyoto.

MAR 29 TUE: Kyoto - Hikone Castle – Takayama (B/L/D)

Visit **UNESCO World Heritage Shimogamo-jinja** shrine. Shopping at **Kyoto Handicraft Center**. Transfer to Takayama with enroute stop to visit **Hikone Castle** and the attached **Genkyu-en Garden**. Hikone Castle was completed in 1622 and is considered one of the finest castles in Japan (one of the 4 castles designated National Treasure: Hikone, Matsumoto, Himeji and Inuyama castles). Arrive at your hotel in **Takayama** in the late afternoon and enjoy the **Onsen (hot springs bath)** facility. Overnight in Takayama.



MAR 30 WED: Takayama - Shirakawa – Matsumoto (B/L/D)

Takayama is a city in the highlands that has kept some of its traditional architecture and charm. Visit the **Miya-gawa morning market**, **Sanmachi-suji town center** with its shops of old architecture, **Fujii Folkcraft Art Gallery** and **Takayama-jinya** building (a former government house from the days of the Tokugawa shogunate). Transfer to **UNESCO World Heritage Shirakawa**, a small, traditional village showcasing a style of buildings called gasshō-zukuri (the most noticeable feature being the steep slanted straw-roofs). Enjoy view of the village from **Shiroyama Tenbodai viewpoint**. Enter **Wada-ke house** (the largest house and formerly owned by a silk-trading family) and enter **Nagase-ke house** (former home of the doctors to the Maeda clan). Then proceed to **Matsumoto**, the 2nd largest city of mountainous Nagano Prefecture, to overnight.

MAR 31 THU: Matsumoto - Mt. Fuji Visitor Center – Tokyo (B/L/D)

Visit **Matsumoto castle** (known as 'Crow Castle' because of its black colour, this is one of the 4 castles designated National Treasure: Hikone, Matsumoto, Himeji and Inuyama castles) and the attached **Matsumoto City Museum**. Proceed to **Mt. Fuji Visitor Center** for an introduction to this famous mountain, which at 3,776m is the highest mountain of Japan and recently listed as **UNESCO World Heritage**. Then transfer to LAKE AREA to take the Kachi Kachi Yama Cable Car up to the **Fuji Viewing Platform** (view of Mt. Fuji subject to good weather). Continue to **Tokyo** (arriving in the evening) to overnight.



APR 1 FRI: Tokyo (B/D)

Be amazed by the sights & sounds of Tokyo, the capital of Japan and the largest metropolitan area of the world. Visit **Imperial Palace East Garden**. Then to **Ginza** shopping area, where you buy your packed lunch at a **department store "Depachika" section**, where various types of food and desserts are available, for your picnic under sakura blossoms at Shinjuku Garden park. (Japan National Tourism Organization describes "Depachika" as "**Food Theme Parks**"!!)

Transfer to **Shinjuku Garden park** (for your picnic lunch under the Sakura blossoms! Visit **Shinjuku Government Metropolitan Building Observatory Tower** (for bird's eye view of Tokyo). Then to **Ueno Park**, another famous sakura viewing park. Then to **Senso-ji** temple (a signature temple of Tokyo with its giant gate and lanterns). Continue to **Sumida Riverside** to view from distance, the **Tokyo Sky Tree Tower** (the tallest tower in the world and the second tallest structure in the world after Burj Khalifa in Dubai). Then visit **Akihabara**, the center for the alternative world of anime, otaku and cosplay. Overnight in Tokyo.

APR 2 SAT: Tokyo - Haneda airport departure (B/D)

Tsukiji Fish Market (the world's biggest seafood market, including the wet section where fish mongers sell fish & seafood), **Shibuya Crossing** (one of the world's busiest intersection) and **Harajuku Omote-Sando-Dori** shopping area. Lunch on your own.

Then transfer to Haneda Airport for Air Asia D7 523 11.55pm flight home.

APR 3 SUN: KUL arrival

6.35am arrival back in KL LCCT.

RATES: per person, twin sharing basis, based on minimum 20 persons group size.

Minimum 20 persons group:

a) Ground Tour package	RM 8,290
b) Air Asia ticket	RM 2,200 (as of Nov 17 2015, subject to change)
c) Travel Insurance	RM 52
TOTAL	= RM 10,542 /person

Single Supplement: RM 2080

Above rate is based on exchange rate 100 Yen = RM 3.62. Rate & itinerary subject to change due to foreign exchange rate changes, unforeseen surcharges, weather, etc.

INCLUSIVE:

- a) Air Asia tickets KL to Kansai and Haneda to KL (based on RM 2200 including 20kg chk-in luggage total, online price as of Nov 17; subject to change by airline)
- b) Airport transfers and tour excursion using tour coach on private basis.
- c) 3 star hotel accommodation:
 - Kansai: Kansai Washington Hotel Kansai or similar
 - Kyoto: Keihan Hotel or similar (if hotels in Kyoto are full, hotel in a nearby city will be used)
 - Takayama: Takayama Hida Plaza Hotel or similar
 - Matsumoto: Buena Vista Hotel or similar
 - Tokyo: Shinagawa Prince Hotel or similar
- d) Meals as per itinerary
- e) English speaking licensed guide plus entrance fees for attractions as per itinerary
- f) Tipping for guide & driver
- g) Travel insurance
- h) Daily 1 bottle of drinking water per person (except on Mar 26)

EXCLUDING:

- a) Malaysians with latest type of passport (with polycarbonate page with biometric features) do not require Japan visa as tourists. Malaysians with older type of passport required to apply for Japan visa at Japan Embassy; the visa is FOC. Other nationalities to be advised.
- b) 3 lunch: March 28, April 1 & 2 (see itinerary above for details)
- c) Expenses of personal nature like other optional activities not in itinerary, drinks during meals, hotel bellboy/porter tipping, laundry charges, etc.