Japan - Land of the Rising Sun
featuring Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Osaka

Departure Date: October 19, 2020
Japan – Land of the Rising Sun

15 Days • 19 Meals Enjoy a cultural immersion into the land of Emperors, Buddha’s, temples and shrines memorializing Shoguns through the centuries. Steeped in history, yet cosmopolitan, Tokyo and Kyoto offer a vibrant look into the country’s past. Experience transportation from ‘ancient’ to modern with a rickshaw ride and journeys on the famed bullet train. Witness the effects of history and restoration during a visit to Hiroshima and see Osaka’s famous landmark castle.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS
✓ 19 Meals (13 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 5 dinners)
✓ Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
✓ Local English-speaking Tour Manager throughout your journey in Japan
✓ Experience two journeys on the famed bullet train
✓ Visit the must see temples, shrines and UNESCO World Heritage Sites of these historic cities
✓ Geisha entertainment in Kyoto
✓ View the scenic wonders of Lake Chuzenji and the Kegon Waterfall
✓ Overnight accommodations in a traditional Ryokan in Hakone
✓ View Mt. Fuji from the aerial lift in Hakone
✓ See a Sarubobo doll-making demonstration
✓ Participate in a tea-making ceremony with a local tea master
✓ Enjoy a rickshaw ride in Kyoto
✓ See the shrine of Fushimi Inari, featured in Memoirs of a Geisha
✓ Visit Hiroshima’s Peace Memorial Park and Museum
✓ $75 in Mayflower Money

DAY 1 – Depart the USA
Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Tokyo, Japan, a place where centuries of history meet a vibrant, cosmopolitan city.

DAY 2 – Tokyo, Japan
Upon arrival, you’ll be met by a Mayflower Cruises & Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. Flights should arrive by 4:30 pm. The remainder of the day is at leisure until the included dinner. Meal: D

DAY 3 – Tokyo
Begin your immersion into the Asian culture with an included guided tour. Visit the city’s most famous shrine, Meiji Jingu, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken. Visit the Roppongi Hills Observation Deck for spectacular views of the city. Enjoy the atmosphere of Asakusa, Tokyo’s old town, the city’s oldest Geisha district, and home to Tokyo’s oldest Buddhist temple, Senso-ji. Visit the temple and stroll through its surrounding streets to see the traditional shops. Return to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. Meal: B

DAY 4 – Nikko
Depart for the town of Nikko, the center of Shinto and Buddhist worship for many centuries, and now a protected national park. Visit the Toshugu Shrine complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, originally built as a mausoleum for the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate. This lavish complex houses over a dozen Shinto and Buddhist buildings with elaborate architecture and decorations. Continue to Lake Chuzenji in the mountains above the town of Nikko, and the Kegon Waterfall. Following a full day of history and natural beauty, return to the hotel in Tokyo. Meal: B

DAY 5 – Tokyo to Hakone (Mt. Fuji area)
Leaving Tokyo, travel by coach to the town of Hakone, with chances to glimpse Mt. Fuji en-route. Upon arrival, visit the Hakone Shrine...a Shinto shrine popular among Samurai and hidden away in the mystique of a dense forest. At the next stop of Hakonemachi, board a Pirate Boat to Togendai on the shores of Lake Ashi, an enormous volcanic crater. The adventure continues as you board the Ropeway and travel via aerial lift approximately 3280 feet above sea level, enjoying views of the famous Owakudani Valley, whose sulfur heats the local hot springs. On a clear day, you will also see Mount Fuji. This evening, accommodations are in a traditional Japanese ryokan. Relax and enjoy the hospitality and your room with tatami mats and futon bedding, a delicious dinner, and mineral water baths. Meals: B, D

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Days Two through Four – Keio Plaza, Tokyo
Day Five – Tenyu Ryokan, Hakone
Days Six and Seven – Best Western Takayama or similar, Takayama
Day Eight – ANA Crowne Plaza or similar, Kansazawa
Days Nine through Eleven – Tokyo Hotel, Kyoto
Days Twelve and Thirteen – Sheraton Grand, Hiroshima
Day Fourteen – Granvia, Osaka

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Days Nine through Eleven – Tokyo Hotel, Kyoto
Days Twelve and Thirteen – Sheraton Grand, Hiroshima
Day Fourteen – Granvia, Osaka
DAY 6 – Hakone to Takayama
Leaving the traditional Japanese style hotel, relax on the coach as you travel to Takayama, nestled in the heart of the Japanese Alps. Upon arrival mid-afternoon, the remainder of the day and evening are at leisure. Meal: B

DAY 7 – Takayama
Today is full of cultural immersion with visits to the Miyagawa morning market and local museums. Experience the hubbub of the market while walking amongst the stalls displaying colorful arrays of fresh produce and handicrafts. The Takayama Jinya Museum is the only surviving government house from the Edo period and contains rooms in their original condition and centuries-old artifacts. The Matsurino Mori Festival Museum showcases 'floats' used in the Takayama Festival every year. Preserved for posterity, the work and traditions put into the creation of these items is amazing. At the Hida Folk Village, stroll through this open air museum. See traditional sloped and thatched-roof houses and buildings from the Hida area, complete with everyday articles recalling the life and culture of mountain farming villages. See how they make the traditional Sarubobo dolls during a demonstration of this ancient folk art. Meal: B

DAY 8 – Shirakawago / Kanazawa
Departing Takayama by coach, journey to the mountain village of Shirakawago, famous for its traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses. With history dating back more than 250 years, this area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander through the village and see how the locals still live in this remote area. Continue by coach to Kanazawa for further exploration. Visit Kenroku-en Garden (Garden of the Six Sublimities), one of Japan’s most beautiful, possessing all six essential attributes that make a perfect garden. While visiting the Nomura Samurai House, experience a traditional Japanese home with tea-ceremony room, an interior courtyard garden and artifacts from the Edo period. See the Higashi Chaya District, a traditional place, with historical rows of houses, designated as cultural assets. At the end of a full day, check-in to the hotel. Meal: B

DAY 9 – Kanazawa to Kyoto
Today’s adventure begins with a rail journey to Kyoto. Upon arrival, your guide leads you on a walking tour through the Higashiyama district. Admire the picture-perfect streets, whose gently sloped stone stairways are lined with tea houses and artisan shops. Experience a tea ceremony at a temple as a tea master demonstrates how to prepare for a tea ceremony, how to conduct as a host, and how to make a bowl of green tea. Visit the Buddhist Temple of Kiyomizu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Historic Monument of Ancient Kyoto, where you’ll be in awe of this architectural masterpiece. The 42-foot high balcony offers an impressive view of Kyoto. After checking in to the hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Meal: B

DAY 10 – Kyoto
Start the day with a visit to Nijo Castle, an ornamental building of Momoyama architecture, decorated sliding doors and ‘chirping’ nightingale floors. Continue on to Kinkakuji, the Golden Pavilion, one of Kyoto’s most famous Buddhist temples. In the town of Arashiyama, enjoy a special lunch and visit of Tenryuji Temple – one of Kyoto’s five great Zen temples and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On the way to the Nonomiya Shrine, the setting of The Tale of Genji, a book referred to as the world’s first novel, the path leads you through the famous bamboo groves. Excitement awaits as you experience Kyoto like a local… on a rickshaw ride as your ‘driver’ pulls the rickshaw from the bamboo groves to the Togetsu Bridge. This evening, enjoy Geisha entertainment at the included dinner. Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11 – Nara and Kyoto
As former capital of Japan, Nara is home to many ancient temples and shrines. At the Todaiji Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, see the most famous resident - the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana, housed in the Great Buddha Hall. Stroll through Nara Park where you’ll encounter free-roaming deer who may pose for a photo. While in the park, visit the Shinto shrine Kasuga Taisha, adorned with more than 3,000 lanterns, and discover its beauty and serenity. Continue to one of the most unusual Shinto shrines in Japan – Fushimi Inari. Composed of thousands of vermilion torii gates following trails inside the forests of Mt. Inari, the shrine was also featured in Memoirs of a Geisha. Feel the mystical atmosphere created by the colors of the torii and surrounding nature. Meal: B

DAY 12 – Kyoto to Hiroshima
After breakfast, depart the hotel and transfer to the train station where it’s ‘all aboard’ the high-speed bullet train to Hiroshima. Sit back and relax as you experience a ride on this amazing engineering marvel. The luggage will be transferred separately. Upon arrival, a short walk brings you to the hotel where you have free time until the included dinner. Meals: B, D

Itinerary continued on back
**Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) is recommended. Call for pricing.**

**Cancellation Charges Without Traveler’s Protection Plan (TPP)**
- 91 days or more: Deposit Amount
- 90 to 45 days prior: 20% of tour cost
- 44 to 15 day prior: 30% of tour cost
- 14 to 1 day prior: 40% of tour cost
- Day 1 of departure: 100% of tour cost or early departure from tour

**No refund on unused portions of the tour**

**Exclusions:**
Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its refund and cancellation policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours.

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**Pricing includes round trip airfare from Richmond, VA.**

Air itineraries may not be available until documents are received. Air seats are assigned by the airline for the entire group. Seat changes can only be attempted upon receipt of tickets and documents at which time availability may be limited. If specific seat assignments are vital to your reservation, we recommend individual air reservations rather than booking air with the group.

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**Day 13 – Miyajima Island and Hiroshima**
Depart the hotel and walk to the train station where you take a local train to the port and board a ferry to Miyajima Island, one of the most scenic spots in Japan, on the beautiful Seto Inland Sea. See the famous ‘floating’ torii gate and visit Daisho-in, the most visited Buddhist temple on the island. Be sure to follow tradition and spin the sutras leading up to the main hall! Return to Hiroshima by ferry and witness history with a visit to Peace Memorial Park and Museum. The A-Bomb Dome is one of the few buildings to remain standing after the nuclear attack and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, commemorating the tragic day and remaining a link to the city’s past. **Meals: B**

**Day 14 – Hiroshima to Osaka**
Your final adventure on a bullet train takes you to Osaka, where you’ll enjoy a city tour upon arrival. Visit Osaka Castle, one of Japan’s most famous landmarks, whose tower miraculously survived the war. See the Dotonbori district, the famous shopping area, and visit the Umeda Sky Building where you ascend to the 588-foot high observation deck via glass-enclosed escalator for a stunning panoramic view of the city below. A farewell dinner is included this evening. **Meals: B, D**

**Day 15 – Osaka / USA**
It’s time to say ‘Sayonara’ as you depart for the airport with a newfound understanding of the people, history and traditions of Japan. **Meal: B**

Arrival at your home city may be on day sixteen depending on flight schedule. **Itinerary subject to change.**

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**FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Signatours

(804) 379.6500 (888) 540.0100
www.travelsignatours.com

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**2020 DEPARTURE**

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<th>2020 DEPARTURE</th>
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**Tour Activity Level**

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**Passport & Visas** – Each U.S. citizen must have a valid passport. Expiry date of passports should be at least 6 months after the return date of tour. If you don’t have a passport, call our office and we’ll tell you how to apply for one. Some countries require visas for entry by U.S. citizens. We will send visa applications and instructions if a visa is required for your tour. Holders of non-U.S. passports should contact their nearest consulate and inquire about the necessary passport or visa documentation required for entry into the countries visited. **NOTE:** Due to airline security measures, your passport name must match your airline ticket name and your tour reservation name or you may be denied aircraft boarding.

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**National Tour Association**

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**National Hotel Association**

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**American Hotel & Lodging Association**

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**National Association of Travel Agents Network**

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**revised 02-04-2018**