



Charm of Western Japan: Osaka, Wakayama, Nara, Kyoto & Hyogo (9days/8nights)

Kansai, located in the center of the main island of Japan, is steeped in ancient history, region, and culture. Since JR trains and Subway/Private railways are all concentrated here, Osaka is a perfect base to take a short trip to explore must-see historical sites in Kansai region of Japan.

***INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL PLAN:**

Day 1: Kansai Int'l Airport » Namba, Osaka

Welcome to Kansai, Japan. Transfer to Namba, Osaka by **Nankai Railway**.

Day 2: Osaka

Explore Osaka by **Osaka Metro**. Visit **Osaka Castle**, Osaka's most prominent landmark. Visiting the **Aerial Garden observatory** for panoramic views from 170 meters above the city. Stroll through the **Dotonbori** district for shopping and dining.

Day 3: Osaka

Travel to Minoh by **Hankyu Railway**. Enjoy hiking to the **Minoh Waterfalls**, chosen as one of the "best 100 waterfalls in Japan." In the afternoon, how about taking a tour of a working brewery at **Ashi Beer Museum** or making your own original Cup Noodles at the **Cup Noodles Museum**.

Day 4: Osaka » Mt. Koya, Wakayama

Today, proceed to the **World Heritage Site, Mt. Koya** by **Nankai Railway**. Experience a night of ascetic retreat at a temple lodging and enjoy a night tour through the **Okuno-in**, one of Koyasan's most sacred sites.

Day 5: Mt. Koya, Wakayama » Kyoto

Proceed to Kyoto by **Nankai Railway**. Visit Fushimi, known for one of the most famous depictions of Japan, **Fushimi Inari Taisha** and historical sake restrict. Stop by a celebrated brewery to taste some local sake.

Day 6: Kyoto

Begin your full day sightseeing in Kyoto with a visit to beautiful **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest**. Visit **Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen temple covered in gold leaf on the top two floors. Move to **Kyoto Imperial Palace**, then visit **Nishiki Market** known as "Kyoto's Kitchen."

Day 7: Kyoto » Nara » Kyoto

By taking **Kintetsu Railway**, travel to Nara, former feudal capital of Japan. Visit the **Todai-ji Temple**, housing the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha (Daibutsu). You will also see **Kasuga Taisha**, designated as a World Heritage site, and stop at popular **Deer Park**.

Day 8: Kyoto » Himeji » Kobe, Hyogo

By taking **JR West Railway**, transfer to Hyogo. Visit **Himeji Castle**, one of the most well-preserved castles in Japan. Also stop by **Koko-en**, a Japanese garden next to Himeji Castle. Enjoy Kobe beef, one of the highest grades of beef in Japan for dinner.

Day 9: Hyogo » Osaka

Enjoy visiting landmarks of Kobe such as **Sannomiya Shrine**, **Kobe Port Tower**, **Meriken Park** or more. After sightseeing, transfer back to Osaka by **Hanshin Railway**.



For more information, please contact us!

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ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

Osaka Castle

This famous castle built by Toyotomi Hideyoshi is one of Japan's Special Historic Sites and a symbol of Osaka.



Minoh Waterfalls



You can walk along a valley from the entrance of the park until reaching the spectacular 33m Minoh Waterfall. The area's seasonally changing charms range from cherry blossoms and fresh green leaves in spring to crimson leaves in late autumn.

Mt. Koya

One of the greatest and most imposing Buddhist centers in Japan. Stroll through over 1,200 years of history in this vast, peaceful complex, with over 100 temples scattered throughout the grounds.



Okuno-in

The most sacred site in Koyasan, where Kobo Daishi, the founder of the temple town, is said to be in a state of eternal meditation. A 2-kilometre path leads from Ichinohashi, the entrance of Okuno-in, to the Lantern Hall and Kobo Daishi's mausoleum.



Fushimi Inari Taisha

This intriguing shrine was dedicated to the god of rice and sake by the Hata clan in the 8th century. As the role of agriculture diminished, deities were enrolled to ensure prosperity in business enterprises.



Arashiyama

Arashiyama is a part of Kyoto that's full of famous and incredible locations, like the Sagano Bamboo Forest and the Monkey Park, and beautifully scenic spots like the Togetsukyo Bridge and Tenryu-ji Temple.



Nijo-jo Castle

Built in 1603 as Kyoto residence of Ieyasu Tokugawa, First Shogun of Edo era.



Todai-ji Temple



Home of the iconic Great Buddha statue. Pass through the Nandaimon Gate to see the magnificent Great Buddha Hall, one of the world's largest wooden structures.

Deer Park

Deer are believed to be divine messengers, and about 1,300 of them roam freely through the park.



Himeji Castle



Himeji Castle is also known as the White Heron Castle and is both a Japanese National Treasure and a World Heritage site. Its status as one of Japan's 12 remaining original castles makes this fortress a must for anyone interested in the history of Japan.

Kobe Port Tower

The towering landmark of Kobe, offering stunning views of the city at night.



Dotonbori

Dotonbori district Osaka's hotspot for tourists and revelers alike, Dotonbori is filled with towering neon signs, clubs, bars, and restaurants serving up local specialties.



Kiyomizu Temple

Situated atop a small mountain on the east side of Kyoto, Kiyomizu Temple offers a commanding view of the city. The temple's huge, latticesupported deck is one of the most famous images of Japan. Signs, clubs, bars, and restaurants serving up local specialties.



Nadagogo & Sake Breweries



Home to breweries known for producing delicious Japanese sake. The area has been famous for brewing the drink for more than 300 years.