



# Discover Hidden Treasures of Kansai, Japan: Sakai, Mt. Koya, Tokushima, Kobe, Himeji & Tottori (11days/10nights)

Kansai, located in the center of the main island of Japan, is steeped in ancient history, religion, and culture. Traditional Japanese beauty spreads throughout Kansai. This itinerary takes you to not only iconic, must-see spots but also nostalgic hidden gems, where you can find a different Japan. Experience the history and culture rooted in Sakai, Osaka, a town of traditional craftsmen. Experience the calming spiritual atmosphere of the ancient temple of Mt. Koya in Wakayama. Visit Hyogo in a long history of sake brewery and see the Himeji Castle, one of the most beautiful castles in Japan. Nestled between mountains and sea in Western Japan, Tottori is a region of unparalleled natural beauty and an ideal destination for travelers seeking off-the-beaten path.

## Day 1: Kansai Int'l Airport » Sakai, Osaka

Arrival at Kansai International Airport in Osaka, and transfer to Sakai, Osaka.

## Day 2: Sakai, Osaka

Enjoy Osaka's most prominent landmark. Visit the Aerial Garden observatory for panoramic views from 170 meters above the city. Stroll through the Dotonbori district for shopping and dining.

## Day 3: Sakai, Osaka

Stroll through the town of Sakai, steeped in history and tradition. One of the largest ancient tombs in Japan is must-see. Then learn Sakai's traditional local craftworks such as "chu-sen" dyeing, Sakai Cutlery. Experience the heart and soul of an authentic tea ceremony.

## Day 4: Osaka » Mt. Koya, Wakayama

Today, proceed to the World Heritage Site, Mt. Koya. 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 » Kada Onsen, Wakayama

In this morning, experience a Gomataki, Fire Ritual. Discover one of Wakayama's coastal treasures: the historic, photogenic town of Yuasa. Off the beaten path, a visit to the birthplace of Japanese soy sauce (shoyu) assures authentic views of Edo period architecture. Stay in Kada Onsen, renowned for its beautiful sunsets, and the panoramic views.

## Day 6: Wakayama » Tokushima

Take a ferry to Tokushima and experience the sparkle of an aquatic

city. Take the ropeway to Mt. Bizan and enjoy a panoramic view. Visit Awa Odori Kaikan and learn about and try one of Japan's most famous traditional dances. Don't miss Otsuka Museum of Art, featuring full-scale reproductions of major art historical gems.

## Day 7: Tokushima » Kobe, Hyogo

Explore the nature of Naruto by riding on a sightseeing boat and cross the world's longest suspension bridge linking Kobe and Awaji Island. Discover charms of a port town, Kobe.

## Day 8: Kobe, Hyogo

Visit the Kitano-cho, a historical neighborhood known for its traditional western-style houses. Visit Nada Gogo, a sake breweries town, where there are museums about sake brewing. Take a Rokko cable car and enjoy the spectacular panoramic view of the urban sprawl of Osaka Bay at the top of Mt. Rokko.

## Day 9: Kobe » Himeji » Tottori

After visiting Himeji Castle, one of the most well-preserved castles in Japan. Depart to Tottori, a region of unparalleled natural beauty and an ideal destination for travelers seeking off-the-beaten path.

## Day 10: Tottori

Explore nearby Daisen Oki National Park with its world-class hiking trails through pristine nature and sacred Mount Daisen at its center.

## Day 11: Departure

Depart for your next destination.



For more information, please contact us!

**JTB USA Inc.** Phone: 1-800-882-0268

Email: [asia@jtbusa.com](mailto:asia@jtbusa.com)

<http://www.jtbusa.com>

Business Hour: Monday - Friday (except National Holidays) 9:00 - 17:30 (PST)

## ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

### Osaka Castle

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



### Dotonbori district

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



### Aerial Garden observatory

The open-air observatory overlooks the city of Osaka, Awaji Island, and Mt. Ikoma. Enjoy panoramic views from 170 meters above the city.



### Tomb of Emperor Nintoku



The Tomb of Emperor Nintoku represents the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group, which was registered as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2019. The Tomb of Emperor Nintoku is known as one of the world's three biggest tombs, along with the Pyramid of Khufu and the Mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor.

### Sakai City Traditional Crafts Museum

A collection of knives, incense sticks, traditional Japanese confectionery, and other traditional products of Sakai. hands-on activities.



### 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.



### Kada Onsen

Located in the westernmost part of Wakayama Prefecture, looks out on picturesque and scenic Kada Bay. Kada Onsen is known for its hot water which helps make skin moist and smooth.



©Wakayama Tourism Federation

### Naruto

Whirlpools, created by the large volume of water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean, combined with the unique underwater geography of the narrow strait.



### Kobe Port Tower

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



©Kobe Tourism Bureau

### 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.

### 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-see for anyone interested the history of Japan.



### Tottori Sand Dunes and The Sand Museum

The most renowned destination in Tottori. Beyond sightseeing, visitors can try a wide variety of activities.



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### Mt. Daisen

Popular with hikers and a top ski destination, Mt. Daisen is considered one of the most awe-inspiring places in western Japan. The mountain's form and surrounding unspoiled beech forests see it rival Mt. Fuji.

