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**Presents...**

**A DELUXE TOUR:**  
**The Japanese Legend: Contrasts of Tradition & Modernity**  
**in the Land of the Rising Sun**

<b>Tour Code</b>	JAPL0801
<b>Tour Start Date</b>	August 1, 2012
<b>Tour End Date</b>	August 9, 2012
<b>Price Land Only</b>	\$5,515
<b>Price with flights from Tel Aviv</b>	\$6,265
<b>Single Supplement</b>	\$1,050
<b>Pre/Post Hotel Night</b>	\$210 twin share \$340 per single



Eddie's Kosher Travel invites you to explore a land of many contrasts. In a volcanic Island chain, surrounded by an ocean, the Japanese built their cultural and national identity. The transition from being open to the world to being closed to it has shaped Japan's unique character. And even today, modern and technological Japan remains rigid and reserved, and it zealously preserves its unique tradition. A visit to Japan is an encounter with many contrasts almost everywhere; ancient temples alongside modern skyscrapers, fancy gardens and hi-tech gadgets, old samurai castles located in vibrant, modern cities. Japan is a western society that stands firmly in the east. Our tour includes Tokyo with its skyscrapers, wooden houses and traditional gardens, and the natural reserve Nikko with its abundance of temples – both Shinto and Buddhist. At Hakone, located on the edge of a volcanic lake, we can soak in a typical Japanese Onsen. Kyoto – Japan's imperial capital for over 1,000 years, and Hiroshima, rebuilt from scratch after the tragic event of the atomic bomb in World War II. The Land of the Rising Sun brings us calm at dawn, hustle and bustle at midday, and placidity at night. Yokoso!

### **Day 1 Wednesday: Kyoto**

Arrival to Kyoto, meeting and orientation at the hotel.

Overnight at Okura Kyoto Hotel or similar

[www.kyotohotel.co.jp](http://www.kyotohotel.co.jp)

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### **Day 2 Thursday: Kyoto**

Kyoto, considered the “Jerusalem of Japan” is home to over 2,000 Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, some of the most important in Japan, as well as the traditional site of the coronation of Japan’s emperors. Due to its sanctity, the city was not bombed by the allies during World War II. We’ll visit Nijo Castle including a Nishijin Kimono show. Later we will proceed to Ryoanji Temple – a Zen Buddhist temple and UNESCO World Heritage Site that is famous for its simplistic and stark dry-landscape garden. From there we’ll proceed to the ultimate opposite, the Golden Pavilion of Kinkakuji Shrine, an opulent gilded building in a magnificent garden, along with a tea house. Our next stop will be at Kyoto’s famous Nishiki Market and Gion Geisha district.

In the evening we'll go out and enjoy a moving experience at Beit Shalom, a center of supporters of Israel.

Overnight at Okura Kyoto Hotel or similar

[www.kyotohotel.co.jp](http://www.kyotohotel.co.jp)

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### **Day 3 Friday: Kyoto – Kobe**

Today we will visit the Kiyomizu Dera complex and the Ninenzaka and Sanenzaka lanes as we stroll through the fascinating side alleyways of this inspiring sacred city. We’ll continue to Fushimi Inari Shrine and drive to Nara. Japan's first permanent capital was established in the year 710 at Heijo, the city now known as Nara. As the influence and political ambitions of the city's powerful Buddhist monasteries grew to become a serious threat to the government, the capital was moved to Nagaoka in 784. Due to its past as the first permanent capital, it remains full of historic treasures, including some of Japan's oldest and largest temples. Our visit will include Todaiji Temple – a large temple with a big Buddha statue, the Deer Park and Kasuga Shrine - Nara's most celebrated Shinto shrine. We transfer to our hotel in the city of Kobe and prepare ourselves for Shabbat.

Overnight at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel or similar

[www.anacrowneplaza-kobe.jp](http://www.anacrowneplaza-kobe.jp)

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### **Day 4 Shabbat: Kobe**

We’ll spend a wonderful, peaceful and relaxing Shabbat with the Jewish community in Kobe, the only fully functional Orthodox community in Japan. After Shacharit and a Kiddush/Breakfast, we’ll take a stroll through the neighborhood near our hotel.

Overnight at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel or similar

[www.anacrowneplaza-kobe.jp](http://www.anacrowneplaza-kobe.jp)

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### **Day 5 Sunday: Kobe - Hiroshima**

Our first stop this morning upon departing Kobe by coach will be Kurashiki, where we visit the Ohara art museum. We'll make our way across the water by ferry to Miyajima Island, a sacred island that houses what is arguably Japan's most beautiful shrine – Itsukushima. The whole island is an historical site and is considered one of the three most beautiful sites in Japan. The birth of the city is dated back to 593 AC when empress Seiko was crowned and a shrine was built in honor of this event.

We end the day in Hiroshima, located on the Oceanside. We will learn the history of the city that was A-Bombed at the end of World War II. Hiroshima, which in 1945 was the 6th largest city in Japan, was of strategic military importance. The headquarters of the Second Army, which was charged with protecting all of southern Japan, was located here. However, Allied bombing during World War II was not focused there. The city was built mainly of wood, which made it very vulnerable to fire. We will visit the A-Bomb Dome, the Peace Park, Museum and memorial.

Overnight at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel or similar

[www.anacrowneplaza-hiroshima.jp](http://www.anacrowneplaza-hiroshima.jp)

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### **Day 6 Monday: Hiroshima - Takayama**

We head to the train station and take a train to Nagoya to visit Japan's leading car manufacturer, Toyota. At the end of this visit we head to Yoatsu village that lays alongside the Japanese Alps, and pay tribute to a Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who saved over 6000 Jews from the Nazis during World War 1. The memorial hall is located in his hometown. We'll also visit Yatai Kaikan museum where we'll see a display of great chariots, dating back hundreds of years, that were used to transport the gods in the Takayama festival that is held twice a year, spring and fall. This is one of the most spectacular festivals in Japan, and draws large crowds who join the parade.

Overnight at Associa hotel or similar

[www.associa.com](http://www.associa.com)

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### **Day 7 Tuesday: Takayama – Tokyo**

This morning we will visit Matsumoto Castle (Matsumotojo) is one of the most complete and beautiful among Japan's original Castles. It is also a good example of a so called "hirajiro", a castle built on the plain rather than on a hill or mountain. We'll drive to the vacation village of Hakone, visiting the Open Air Museum which houses works of some of the world's finest sculptors and artists – Henry Moore, Picasso and others, Owakudani Valley/Komagatake Ropeway, and Lake Ashi. Transfer to the hotel in Tokyo.

Overnight at Sheraton Miyako Tokyo or similar

[www.miyakohotels.ne.jp](http://www.miyakohotels.ne.jp)

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### **Day 8 Wednesday: Tokyo**

In the morning, we'll start by visiting the Meiji shrine, Harajuku & Omoteando. Meiji Shrine, a Shinto complex dedicated to the memory of Emperor Meiji who brought the corrupt Shogunate to an end in 1867. Emperor Meiji, who is buried at the shrine, is credited with modernizing Japan and initiating Japan's economic and industrial infrastructure. The rest of the day will be filled with sightseeing in Tokyo. Our agenda includes as many of the following as time and traffic will allow: Asakusa Kannon Temple with Nakamise shopping arcade, Tokyo Forum, Akihabara Electronics District and the glitzy Ginza avenue stores.

Overnight at Sheraton Miyako Tokyo or similar

[www.miyakohotels.ne.jp](http://www.miyakohotels.ne.jp)

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### **Day 9 Thursday: Tokyo – Home Gateway**

Another fascinating tour has come to an end. After breakfast we'll transfer to the airport and board a flight back to our home gateway.

## **PRICE INCLUDES**

- Shinkansen Bullet Train tickets according to the tour plan
- 5\* or 4\* Hotels
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Comfortable air conditioned touring coach
- Kosher half board & lunch packs daily
- Two Professional experienced English-speaking Eddie's Travel guides
- Local English-speaking Guide as required

## **PRICE EXCLUDES**

- ❖ Travel & Health Insurance
- ❖ Personal expenses
- ❖ Tips for local service providers \$120
- ❖ Shows and evening entertainment not included in the itinerary
- ❖ Tip for our Tour Guide (Recommended: \$3 per person per day)
- ❖ Miscellaneous expenses such as departure fees, visas, security surcharges etc.
  
- ❖ **Important to Know:**
  - ➔ There may be changes to the order of places visited. We will make every effort to visit every place mentioned in the itinerary.
  - ➔ The tour organizers have no control over airline services such as seating, special meal requests, changes in departure times or delays. These remain the sole responsibility of the airline company.

## **Kashrut on Tours**

Kosher food is provided to our travelers on all our tours. We work with the local Rabbinat to provide Hashgacha for all local ingredients and fresh meat and poultry. In some cases, we fly in kosher food from Israel and other sources, depending on the destination of the tour. We do not guarantee Pat Israel and Chalav Israel for all destinations. In many destinations we have our own crockery and cutlery. Where we don't, we provide disposables at the meals. When we cook in Hotel kitchens, we ensure proper Kashering and we use our own kitchenware on kashered and covered surfaces. All this is done under the strict supervision of our trained staff/guides who function as our Mashgichim. Our travelers enjoy gourmet meals prepared by our team including fresh local fish, fruit, and vegetables. This is an integral part of Jewish travel. We make great efforts to assure that our travelers will experience local foods first-hand, while maintaining stringent observance of Kashrut laws on all occasions.



### **Rabbi Yisrael Meir Levinger – Head of Kashrut on all Land Tours**

Graduate of Yeshivat Kfar Haroeh and Yeshivat Beer Yakov. He served as Chief Rabbi for 22 years in Basle, Switzerland and for 20 years was on the council of Vaad Hakashrut of Europe. He has authored books on Shechita, and many Kashrut topics and is now working on the Encyclopedia of Kashrut. Rav Levinger is the Company Rav and oversees and is responsible for all our operations and logistical methodology to ensure the highest standards of Kashrut on each tour and each destination worldwide. Any questions

about Kashrut please submit to [david@eddiestravel.com](mailto:david@eddiestravel.com) and Rav Levinger will respond directly.

#### **Deposit, Cancellation Fees & Policy:**

A \$500 USD Deposit per person must be received at the time of booking in order to confirm your reservation. Payment in full is due 90 days before departure. A minimum number of participants are required to operate tour dates. If a minimum number has not been reached prior to tour departure and the tour is cancelled you will receive a FULL refund.

- 90 days before departure bookings are refundable less a \$100 administration fee
- 60-90 days prior to departure: \$500 + \$100 per passenger
- 30-60 days prior to departure: \$1,000 + \$100 per passenger
- Less than 30 working days prior to departure: 100% of total - no refund
- We strongly recommend purchasing Travel Insurance.

#### **Flights**

If you are joining us for the Land Tour package only (from outside Israel) you can get an obligation free quote for your flights from [Shelley@eddiestravel.com](mailto:Shelley@eddiestravel.com)

#### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance encompassing both cancellation and medical insurance is very important and we cannot stress that enough. We strongly recommend that our clients are adequately insured when travelling. It is crucial to purchase the travel insurance within 14 days from the 1st payment that you make for this trip (flights/cruise/tour etc). Your payment is made directly to the insurance company. We highly recommend the 'cancel for any reason' upgrade option. Our preferred policies are Travel Safe (USA & Canadian residents), Travel Select (USA residents) and Global Trip Protection Elite (All other Nationalities).

For an obligation free quote and further details email Yonah [insurance@eddiestravel.com](mailto:insurance@eddiestravel.com)

**Bookings: To reserve your space on this tour, please complete the booking form below and return it to us by fax as soon as possible.**