

LUXURY GOLD

BRINGING BACK THE GOLDEN ERA OF TRAVEL

MAJESTIC Japan

11 DAYS

Business Class Airfare from **\$2855*** | Departing: 15 April, 2 May, and 5 September 2018
From \$11,350* per person (airfare not included)

SPECIAL SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES

All departures are limited to just 24 guests



At a Glance
1 country



10
Breakfasts



5
Lunches



4
Dinners



17 Included
Experiences

VIP EXPERIENCES

Meet a survivor of the 1945 Hiroshima atomic bomb.

Witness a performance by a samurai warrior at Aoba Castle.

In Kyoto embark on a walking exploration of the Vibrant Gion neighbourhood, known as Kyoto's Geisha district.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

WELCOME TO OSAKA, JAPAN!

On arrival at Kansai or Itami airport, you will be welcomed and taken to your five-star hotel situated in the heart of the city, where there is time to relax. At 20:00 meet your Travelling Concierge and travel companions for your Welcome Reception.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Osaka.**

DAY 2

HIGHLIGHTS OF OSAKA.

Situated in the heart of Japan where rivers and sea routes converge, Osaka is a hub of cutting-edge architecture, exotic flavours and laid-back locals. Take in the city's many highlights from aboard the chic Osaka Aqualiner: See the national library and 16th Century Osaka Castle, while you cruise on the Yodo River in luxurious comfort. Discover why Osaka is known as the kitchen of Japan as you embark on a food-tasting exploration along Dotonbori Street with a passionate local foodie. Try local specialities such as Takoyaki, rounds of ground octopus wrapped in batter, and Okonomiyaki, savory pancakes. With the evening at leisure,

ask your Travelling Concierge for local recommendations to further explore this exotic city.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Osaka.**

DAY 3 THE TEMPLES AND GEISHA OF KYOTO.

Journey to Kyoto, Japan's Geisha capital, and discover why this is the hub of ancient tradition and culture. Marvel at the Zen Buddhist temple of Kinkaku-ji, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and see its famed Golden Pavilion to appreciate its classic architecture, intricate history and expansive gardens. Visit the famous Gionji Temple, situated on a majestic grove of bamboos and maple trees, where you'll learn about local folklore and explore the temple's thatched hut and indigenous gardens. Savour a Highlight Lunch of traditional Kyo-Kaiseki cuisine made of seasonal ingredients, whilst you enjoy a performance by a Maiko, an apprentice Geisha. Central to Kyoto culture, Geisha are highly-skilled entertainers, specializing in classical music, dance, conversation and games. This fine art has evolved over many centuries and today attracts visitors from around the world. Embark on a walking exploration of the vibrant Gion neighbourhood, known as Kyoto's primary Geisha district. With free time to explore, perhaps enjoy the local teahouses, lantern-lit restaurants and bars or simply absorb the electric atmosphere, as you shop for souvenirs. Return to your hotel and spend the evening at leisure. Perhaps ask your Travelling Concierge to make reservations for you at one of Osaka's many lovely restaurants?

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Osaka.**

DAY 4 LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON HIROSHIMA.

Experience Japanese technology at its best as you journey to Hiroshima station on the Shinkansen bullet train. On arrival, catch a ferry to Miyajima Island to visit the Itsukushima Shrine and see the elaborate O-torii gate rising majestically out of the sea. Take a moment to stroll around this peaceful island, before returning to Hiroshima on the ferry. Explore the UNESCO World heritage Site of Peace Memorial Park and Museum, the only structure left standing after the first atomic bomb was dropped during World War II. The bomb was the single-most destructive force ever created by humankind and changed the course of history forever. During your visit, meet a survivor who will share insights into this dark chapter of world history. You may wish to finish your visit with a special prayer for peace. For dinner you are treated to traditional savoury pancakes, known as Okonomiyaki, a typical dish of the region. Return to your hotel by bullet train.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Osaka.**

DAY 5 - RELAXED START FROM OSAKA TO TOKYO

Board the bullet train and journey to the iconic capital city Tokyo, where cutting-edge modernity meets ancient tradition. The city is an economic powerhouse and home to national museums, festivals, theatres and sacred temples. Visit the Sensoji Buddhist Temple, the oldest and most-visited temple of Japan, and wander along the famous Nakamise Street and explore Kappabashi, a local back-street known as Tokyo's foodie hub. In the evening, you're in for a true local experience with the choice of two hand-picked restaurants, each specialising in local delicacies. You may try either Shabu-shabu which are hotpots of meat and vegetables or Teppan-yaki where rice, meats and vegetables are freshly cooked on a grill.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Tokyo.**



DAY 6 MOUNT FUJI.

Mount Fuji is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Japan's tallest mountain standing at 3,776 metres above sea level. Admire spectacular views from the observatory at the 5th Station, before venturing down to Lake Kawaguchi where you will be captivated by the flawless reflections of the mountain. Enjoy lunch made of fresh, seasonal ingredients at a local restaurant. Continue your exploration of the lake-side village and visit the Ichchiku Kubota Art Museum with its unique works of art, traditional architecture and seasonal gardens. Return to your hotel where you are at leisure to relax or explore as you wish.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Tokyo.**

DAY 7 JOURNEY TO SENDAI IN NORTHERN JAPAN.

Journey north by bullet train, your destination is the Sendai, known as the City of Trees. This is a true locals region, off-the-beaten path and away from the tourist crowds. Dine as the locals do with a seasonal lunch at a local restaurant. Cruise along the dazzling Matsushima Bay, taking in views of countless pine-covered islands. The bay has often featured in Japanese poetry since ancient times. Disembark to explore Aoba Castle before witnessing a highlight performance by a Sendai samurai warrior. You are then privileged to an exclusive meeting with the samurai to learn how this specialised martial art has been passed on through many generations. Continue to your five-star hotel where the evening is at your leisure. Perhaps sign up for a massage at the in-house spa or explore the nightlife of Kokubuncho?

Hotel: **The Westin Sendai (Superior Rooms)**

DAY 8 HACHINOHE AND HIROSAKI CASTLE.

Journey to Hachinohe via bullet train. On arrival, absorb the unique atmosphere of Hashoku Fresh Market as you sit down to a delicious lunch of fresh seafood and locally-sourced ingredients. Visit Hirosaki Castle, famous for its bright cherry blossom trees that bloom between April and May. Explore the Tsugaru han Neputa Village where you'll see the colourful decorations used during the summer Neputa Festival and enjoy a special musical performance of Tsugaru Shamisen and Taiko, traditional Japanese guitar and drumming. Your journey continues to Oirase Gorge, one of Japan's most-revered nature havens. After checking-in to your luxurious hotel, perhaps experience a soul-soothing Onsen, a traditional Japanese hot bath, in the nearby forest?

Hotel: **Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel, Oirase Gorge.**

DAY 9 EXPLORING OIRASE GORGE.

The spectacular Oirase Gorge is a place of special scenic beauty. Wander along the crystal-clear Oirase Keiryu stream, admire the cascading waterfalls and marvel at the seasonal colours of the indigenous forest. Journey to a local brewery to taste Japan's national drink, sake. Return to Tokyo via bullet train, where you are leisure to relax or continue your own exploration of this intriguing city.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Tokyo.**

DAY 10 THE HIGHLIGHTS OF TOKYO.

Seasonal tea ceremonies date back a thousand years and play an important part in Japanese culture, they are central to good hospitality. Experience this for yourself when you visit a traditional teahouse where you learn how to prepare the perfect cup of Matcha Green Tea. Try your hand at making sushi with the highest-quality fish and discover why it takes ten years to become a Master Sushi Chef, before sitting down to a delightful Highlight Lunch. Spend your free time exploring Ginza, one of the world's most luxurious shopping districts and known as the Champs-Elysees of Tokyo. In the evening, get ready for a dazzling Celebration Dinner as you venture to the heart of the city. Tokyo Shiba Tofuya Ukai is a famous restaurant with old-world charm and surrounded by a Zen garden. It specialises in tofu cuisine, but you will savour a range of intricately-prepared dishes including simmered eggplant and fried shrimp, fresh sashimi and deep-fried tofu coated with miso, all accompanied with beer or wine.

Hotel: **Imperial Hotel Tokyo.**

DAY 11 FAREWELL JAPAN.

Bid farewell to your travel companions and head to Narita or Haneda International Airport for your onward journey.

*Terms and Conditions Apply: Fly for \$2,855 in Business class with Cathay Pacific in conjunction with Luxury Golds 2018 Majestic Japan luxury holiday on Definite Departures listed above only. Listed departure dates are subject to availability and can be changed, amended or withdrawn at any time without notice. Trip deposit and full payment for the air (including any surcharges) is due within 7 days of booking or by 14 Dec 2017 (whichever comes first). Final payment for the land trip component is due by 14 Dec 2017. This special air deal cannot be combined with Earlybird Payment discount. Tickets will be issued upon air payment and fares are non-refundable once ticketed. Travel agents please note - Flight bookings must be made through the Insight Vacations / Luxury Gold call centre and cannot be made online.

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