

## Ports & Excursions



### Osaka, Japan

For centuries, Osaka was Japan's cultural and commercial gateway to Asia - the point of entry both for trade goods and, most importantly, cultural influences that shaped Japanese society. From tea to Zen, from art to science and philosophy, Osaka was Japan's contact with the great East Asian cultures that flourished in China and Korea. The city reached its zenith in the late 16th century, when the great feudal lord Toyotomi Hideyoshi made Osaka his capital. Toyotomi was master of Japan, and an immense administrative and commercial center rapidly developed around Osaka Castle. After Toyotomi's death, the nation's seat of power shifted from Osaka to a sleepy little fishing village called Edo - modern Tokyo. While overshadowed by Tokyo, Osaka remains Japan's second largest city and a vital commercial center.

Modern Osaka is home to monuments from Japan's past including Toyotomi's immense castle and the Sumiyoshi Shrine. The city is also your gateway to Kyoto, Japan's ancient imperial capital and the nation's cultural and spiritual center.

### Points of Interest

#### 1 Kiyomizu Temple

Founded in 778, the temple is one of the most celebrated in Japan and renowned for its great veranda, supported by hundreds of pillars, which sticks out over the hillside, looking over Kyoto.

#### 2 Kinkakuji: Golden Pavilion

Set in a magnificent strolling garden, the pavilion extends over a reflecting pond and the top two floors are completely covered in gleaming gold leaf.

#### 3 Nijo Castle

Built by Tokugawa's first shogun, the majestic 410-year-old castle is the site of two lavish palaces.

#### 4 Todai-Ji Temple

Dating back to 745, records show that more than 2,600,000 people helped build the world's largest wooden building and the world's largest bronze Buddha that rests inside the Great Hall.

#### 5 Osaka Castle

One of Japan's most famous castles, the grounds cover 400 acres and contain 5 structures. The Castle's garden is famous for its 600 cherry trees and the site of an annual cheer blossom festival.

#### 6 Fushimi-Inari Shrine

One of Kyoto's oldest and most revered Shinto shrines, it holds all of Japan's 40,000 shrines dedicated to Inari, the god of rice, sake and prosperity.

#### 7 Ryoanji Temple

Originally built as an aristocrat's villa and converted into a Zen temple in 1450, the temple is noted for its beautiful Zen rock garden, exquisite grounds, and teahouses.

#### 8 Shorenin

Also known as the Awata Palace, Kyoto's 800-year-old Buddhist temple offers a contemplative escape from the everyday. Enjoy a leisurely stroll around its gardens or admire the many charming sights tucked inside.

### Special Child Pricing Available!

Children age 12 and younger, savings up to 50%. For actual pricing information, click on tour title or Reserve button.

### Sightseeing & City Tours



**Most Popular World Heritage Site**  
**Best of Kyoto (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-100 | Osaka, Japan

You will visit:



9.5 hours

from \$199.95

Spend a day visiting some of Kyoto's most iconic and beautiful attractions. A few of the highlights include Nijo Castle, built for Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu; and exterior view of the Golden Pavilion. Visit the Heian Shrine; shopping at the Kyoto Handicraft Center. A western style lunch will be served at a local hotel.



**World Heritage Site**  
**Kyoto: Revered Shrines & Temples (Guided In English)**  
 OSA-105 | Osaka, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit:



9.5 hours

from \$159.95

Enjoy a guided tour exploring some of the most celebrated sights in Japan, including the Fushimi-Inari Shrine, dedicated to the god of rice and prosperity; the Kiyomizu Temple, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Ryoanji Temple, also designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and famous for its rock garden. Enjoy a Japanese lunch and later, a chance to shop.



**World Heritage Site**  
**Kyoto & Nara (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-120 | Osaka, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit:



10.5 hours

from \$169.95 (AUD)

Spend a day exploring historic and breathtaking temples and shrines. Start your day with a visit to the renowned Todai-Ji Temple. Then, marvel at the Golden Pavilion where the upper two stories are covered in pure gold leaf. Enjoy lunch before seeing the Kiyomizu.



**Highlights of Osaka (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-200 | Osaka, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit:



4.5 hours

from \$69.95

Discover two of Osaka's historical treasures. Your guided tour through the city includes a visit to Osaka Castle, Osaka's most famous landmark. Then, marvel at the architecture of the Sumiyoshi Shrine, one of the oldest Shinto shrines in Japan.



**World Heritage Site**

**Kyoto: Golden Pavillion, Ryooan-ji Temple & Bamboo Forest**  
 (Guided in English)  
 OSA-110 | Osaka, Japan

You will visit: **7**

You will see: **2**



9 hours

from \$159.95

Visit the celebrated temples and gardens of Japan's old imperial capital. The sights range from the enigmatic Zen rock garden at Ryooan-ji - to the 14th-century Kinkaku-ji - the Temple of the Golden Pavilion. Stroll past a bamboo grove to the Okochi Sanso.

**World Heritage Site**

**Kyoto: Golden Pavillion & Kiyomizu Temple & Nijo Castle**  
 (Guided in English)  
 OSA-115 | Osaka, Japan

You will visit: **1 2 3**



9.5 hours

from \$189.95

The wonders of Kyoto are on display on this comprehensive tour that takes you to the top sites. Marvel at the golden splendor of Kinkakuji Temple and historic grounds of Nijo Castle, built in 1603. Stroll the lively Nishiki Market and enjoy the serenity of Kiyomizu Temple. Lunch is included.

**World Heritage Site**

**Nara & Osaka Castle (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-125 | Osaka, Japan

You will visit: **4 5**



9 hours

from \$159.95

Two of Japan's legendary cities, Nara and Osaka, unfold on a full-day motorcoach tour showcasing the best historic and scenic sites. See Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Taisha Shrine in Nara, then move on to Osaka's golden castle, followed by a visit to the bustling Dotonbori commercial district. Lunch is included.

**World Heritage Site**

**Enryakuji & Ishiyama-dera Temples (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-165 | Osaka, Japan



8.5 hours

from \$179.95

A spiritual journey awaits when you travel to Lake Biwa and discover two of its most renowned and historic temples. Explore the temple complex of Enryaku-ji and the serene, mountainside Ishiyama-dera Temple. A delicious lunch will be served during your day.



**Kobe, Sake Brewery Museum & Mt Rokko (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-210 | Osaka, Japan | Group Size: 40

You will visit: **5 6**



4.5 hours

from \$85.95

Kobe has been renowned for its delicious sake for centuries. Visit a sake brewery museum, peruse life-size exhibits depicting the brewing process, and discover the secrets of sake making before sampling Japan's famous rice wine. Then, continue to the top of scenic Mt. Rokko to photograph the spectacular views.

**Special Interests**

**Off the Beaten Path**

**Mt. Koya and Kongobuji Temple (Guided in English)**  
 OSA-160 | Osaka, Japan



9.5 hours

from \$139.95

The secluded woods of Mount Koya, a mountain range in the south of Osaka, are home to a wide variety of monastic complexes. Experience the tranquil traditions of Japanese religious life as you explore a trio of the area's most celebrated temples. During the day enjoy a traditional lunch.

**Exploring on Your Own**

**World Heritage Site**

**Kyoto On Your Own (Escorted in English)**  
 OSA-185 | Osaka, Japan

You will see: **3**



8 hours

from \$89.95

This full day on your own in Kyoto is the perfect choice for the independent-minded traveler! In an incredible opportunity to explore the sights of Kyoto on your own schedule, spend five hours seeing the city's historic temples and shrines, sampling its fantastic cuisine and even fitting in a little shopping!