Japan is a land of innovation and ancient tradition, where Shinto shrines compete against the glittering towers of the modern age. On this comprehensive tour we see ancient gardens, sacred shrines and awe inspiring landscapes, and discover the cultural heritage of Japan on this exciting journey between Tokyo and Osaka. We visit the famous Kenroku-en garden and the traditional ochaya (tea) houses of Kanazawa, before exploring the imperial city of Kyoto with its many temples and shrines. We experience the sombre modern history of Hiroshima, then visit the picturesque island of Miyajima and the Torii gate, before ending the tour in the city of Osaka.

ITINERARY
Day 1 Fly from London to Japan
Evening flight with Air France via Paris to Tokyo.

Day 2 Arrive Tokyo
Evening arrival and transfer to the Park hotel for four nights. Welcome dinner in a quality Japanese restaurant (D)

Day 3 In Tokyo
We start the day at Meiji Jingu, Tokyo’s most famous shrine, dedicated to the spirit of the late Emperor Meiji. The shrine is a popular site for Japanese Weddings where a bride and groom dress in traditional Shinto wedding attire. We continue to new Tokyo as we then take a walk down Omotesando, commonly referred to as Tokyo’s Champs-Elysees. This broad, tree lined avenue features a multitude of fashion flagship stores designed by internationally renowned architects within a short distance of each other. Later, we visit the Edo Museum, for a history of the city of Tokyo. Dinner in a quality Japanese restaurant (B,D)

Day 4 In Tokyo
We visit one of the world’s largest fish markets, Tsukiji Fish Market handles over 2,000 tons of marine products per day before heading to the nearby Hama-Rikyu Teien, a former private garden of an Edo Period lord. We then have a chance to view Tokyo from a different angle as we take a boat cruise along the Sumida River to Asakusa. This afternoon we explore this area of Tokyo’s Shitamachi, or old town. Asakusa is home to Sensoji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest Buddhist temple, and also the city’s oldest Geisha district. The streets around Sensoji have many traditional shops selling Japanese crafts and souvenirs and are a delight to wander in. Dinner in a quality restaurant (B,D)

Day 5 View Mt Fuji. Visit Hakone
We head by coach to Mt. Fuji and Hakone, this area and the surrounding national park has natural beauty in abundance and is encircled by several forested mountains, dramatically accented by deep glens and ravines. After buffet lunch, we take a cruise on Lake Ashi, formed by a volcanic eruption over 300,000 years ago. We then catch a cable car up Mt Komagatake for views of Mt Fuji. Dinner in a quality restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 6 Visit Matsumoto. Drive to Takayama
Today we will head north and head into the Japanese Alps, to visit Matsumoto Castle, one of the most complete and beautiful among Japan’s original castles. It is a good example of a “hirajiro”, a castle built on the plain rather than on a hill or mountain. The castle is also called Crow Castle because of its black walls and spreading wings. We make our way up the Roof of Japan to the mountain village of Takayama. Due to its previously inaccessible location nestled high in the mountainous Hida alpine region, the beautifully preserved old town of Takayama has developed its own unique culture. Two nights at the Hida hotel (B,D)

Day 7 In Takayama
We visit Miyagawa morning market, with stalls selling local crafts and produce and a good opportunity to try some of the region’s delicious fruit and vegetables. We continue to Hida No Sato Folk Village, an open air museum exhibiting over 30 typical farmhouses plus other traditional buildings from the Hida region and a workshop illustrating some of Japan’s handicrafts: wood carving, tie-dying, weaving, and lacquering. Later we proceed to the Festival Floats museum, displaying floats from the famous Takayama festival, or simply wander through the beautifully preserved old town. Dinner at local restaurant (Japanese style dinner) (B,D)

Day 8 Drive to Kanazawa. Visit Shirakawa-go
After a morning at leisure and lunch in Takayama we drive to Shirakawa-go; declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995, famous for its traditional gassho-zukuri (farmers) houses, some of which are more than 250 years old. Gassho-zukuri

Patrick Syder Travel

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Tour Porter, Comfortable Bottled Day farwell oldest of half lacks Depart Misen and food Hiroshima world, district We take retirement sliding by We courtyard silk culture We Day means depart painting culture We take is 14 10 9 nights with a of site train city see Kyoto, it itself. Our Sheraton is for the Japanese Peace Museum and Memorial Park in central Hiroshima. Two nights at the Sheraton hotel with dinner in the hotel (B,L,D)

Day 13 Visit Miyajima Island
We take the ferry to Miyajima, asmall wooded island located in the Inland Sea, here you will find perhaps the most photographed site in Japan; The Floating Torii Gate. Itsukushima shrine that it belongs to, dates back to the 6th century and is designed in a pier-like structure, built party on the water. We have time to explore the island and its many shrines and temples, walk in the beautiful forest and have the option to hike up or take a cable car to the peak of the island, Mt. Misen, to see spectacular views of the surrounding islands. Local restaurant dinner (B,D)

Day 14 Train to Osaka. City tour
Depart Hiroshima for Osaka by bullet train which will take you about 2hrs journey. Japan's third biggest city, what Osaka lacks in sightseeing draw cards it makes up for with its flamboyance, fun loving people, and amazing food. We depart for half day city tour of Osaka, including Osaka Castle, arguably Osaka’s most famous landmark and views from the top floor of the surrounding gardens and city not to be missed. We continue the sightseeing with Sumiyoshi Taisha, one of Japan’s oldest shinto-shrines, originally founded in the 3rd century. It offers an unique glimpse on the original shinto architecture. A farwell dinner has been arranged at a top quality restaurant (B,D)

Day 15 Depart Osaka. Fly to London
After a leisurely breakfast we transfer to Osaka International airport for our flight home with Air France via Paris arriving into London Heathrow in the evening (B)

Cost £3995.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flights) Single supplement charge £675.00

Price includes –
- Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- Japanese guide for the duration of the tour
- All transportation by a/c bus, Bullet train, ferry and cable car
- Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- Comfortable four star standard category tourist hotels.
- Breakfast and Dinner meals in hotel or local restaurants
- Airport transfers
- Bottled water daily
- Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, internal flights are not included in the land tour cost (Air France flights from £715.00 through Flight Centre UK). (Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)