



## Tokyo to Powder Snow

8 Days / 7 Nights

### Day 1: Arrive Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo, where you will be welcomed by our airport representative who will assist you with transferring by either direct train or limousine bus to your hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

### Day 2: Tokyo

(B)

This morning your guide will meet you at your hotel for a full day sightseeing utilizing Tokyo's super-efficient metro system.

Begin the day you with an early morning visit to Meiji Shrine; perfectly timed to avoid the crowds. Tokyo's most famous shrine is dedicated to the spirit of the late Emperor Meiji and the park that surrounds the shrine is a forest of some 120,000 trees of 365 different species, making your forget you are in the world's largest city.

Next to Meiji Shrine is Harajuku - Tokyo's youth fashion mecca. Whether you are a goth, punk or anything in between, there is a shop in Harajuku that caters for you.

Neighboring Harajuku is Omotesando, commonly referred to as Tokyo's Champs-Elysee. This broad, tree lined avenue features a multitude of fashion flagship stores designed by internationally renowned architects within a short distance of each other. Feel free to stop for a coffee in one of the area's many stylish cafes and watch the beautiful people walk by.

From Omotesando, take the metro to Ginza. Named after the silver coin mint established there in 1612, Ginza is Tokyo's most famous upmarket shopping, dining and entertainment district. One square meter of land is worth over 10 million yen (€ 90,000) Adjoining Ginza lies the Imperial Palace, the main residence of the Emperor. Whilst the Palace itself is not open to the public, you can take a stroll through the Palace East Gardens.

Our last stop for the day is Asakusa, part of Tokyo's *Shitamachi*, or old town. Asakusa is home to Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple, and is 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 through.

Overnight in Tokyo.

### **Day 3: Tokyo**

**(B,L)**

Your guide will meet you at your hotel at 8am and take you by subway to the Tsukiji Fish Market.

Take a few hours to wander through this enormous market, exploring both the vegetable and fruit areas plus the impressive seafood section.

On offer in the seafood section are more than 480 different kinds of seafood ranging from fresh fish to shellfish. There may also be an opportunity to see a complete tuna being cut and filleted.

After buying various ingredients participants will visit a typical Japanese home. The guide will answer any and all questions about Japanese culture and everyday life in Tokyo during transfer by public transportation.

Learn to prepare "maki sushi" (rolled sushi), "gunkan maki" (sushi rice wrapped with a strip of seaweed and topped with soft ingredients), and "nigiri sushi" (sushi rice topped with a slice of raw fish).

Following the tour, you may take with you the utensils used in the cooking lesson. Impress your family and friends with your new sushi making skills by throwing a sushi party at home - the perfect Japanese souvenir!

The afternoon is free for you to explore Tokyo.

Overnight in Tokyo

### **Day 4: Tokyo to Hakuba**

**(D)**

Depart from Tokyo station on the world famous shinkansen, which will whisk you to Nagano in less than two hours. Then take an express bus which will drop you right in front of Hakuba station, from where a short taxi ride brings you to your hotel.

Dinner and overnight stay in the hotel.

### **Day 5-7: Skiing in Hakuba**

**(B,D)**

Hakuba features some of Japan's greatest ski resorts and the powder snow you will find here is some of the best on the planet. With your included Hakuba All-Mountain Pass, you can choose from 9 ski resorts which cater to all levels of skiing.

Achieve your own Olympic Dream and slide down the Happo-One Ski resort, which hosted the most important events of the 1998 Winter Olympics, or choose for the more challenging Hakuba Goryu & Hakuba 47 resort, which targets intermediate and advanced skiers.

Besides the above resorts, the following can also be accessed with the Hakuba All-Mountain Pass: Hakuba Sanosaka, Iwatake, Minekata, Tsugaike, Hakuba Norikura and Hakuba Cortina.

After a day of skiing, we highly recommend you to try one of the numerous *onsen*, natural hot springs, which are lined up in Hakuba.

Breakfast and dinner at the hotel are included.

**Day 8: Return to Tokyo - Departure**

**(B)**

Today you will leave Hakuba behind for your included return trip to Tokyo. Transfer to the airport by either direct train or limousine bus.

**\*\*\*\*\*END OF SERVICES\*\*\*\*\***

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