

# JAPAN'S SPLENDOURS OF SHIKOKU

## SPRING TOUR

15 NIGHTS

### Departure:

18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

\$7,115\* pp twin share

Single Supplement: \$1585\*

### Inclusions:

- 15 night's accommodation including two nights traditional Japanese accommodation.
- 12 breakfasts : 4 lunches : 4 dinners
- All transportation as per itinerary including Shinkansen (bullet train)
- Luggage transfers
- All sightseeing, cultural activities and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Fully escorted within Japan by an Experience Japan Australian Escort

The word "Shikoku" means 4 countries. It is also the birthplace of the most revered monk and scholar Kukai who was the founder of the Shingon Sect of Esoteric Buddhism. Shikoku is connected to the mainland of Honshu by the Seto Ohashi Bridge that span five islands crossing the Seto Inland Sea. The bridge took 40 years to construct and is more than 13 kilometres long. From Tokyo to Kyoto, the Capital of Japan for over 1000 years an elegant and cultural delight, and encompassing the splendours of Tohoku this Tour opens a new and exciting door into Japan each and every day.

For reservations see your nearest licensed Travel Agency:

ABN: 67 495 013 347

ATAS number: A14283

[www.experiencejapan.com.au](http://www.experiencejapan.com.au)

experience

JAPAN

**Day 1 : 18th May 2019**

Arrival into Narita OR Haneda Airport and transfer to Tokyo.  
Accommodation: Shiba Park Hotel : (3 nights)

**Day 2 - 3 : 19th - 20th May 2019: At Leisure**

At Leisure : There are optional tours available or your Tour Escort is readily available for suggestions, assistance and will take you sightseeing around Tokyo by subway and train.

**Day 4: 21st May 2019: Tokyo to Kotohira via Okayama:**

This morning your large luggage will be forwarded to Matsuyama. (1 piece of luggage per person included in Tour). A morning ride on Japan's famed shinkansen will have us arriving into Okayama around noon. After lunch we will visit Korakuen, one of Japan's 3 most famous gardens which has changed little since its construction 300 years ago. Our next stop will be the historical District of Bikan in the merchant town of Kurashiki, dating back some 300 years it is considered one of the most picturesque and best preserved districts in all of Japan. From here we will drive over the Seto Ohashi Bridge, on to the city of Kotohira. Our first night's accommodation will be a ryokan with soothing natural hot springs and located at the base of Kotohira Shrine. (L/D)  
Accommodation: KotosanKaku or similar – Kotohira: (1 night)

**Day 5 : 22nd May 2019: Kotohira to Takamatsu:**

The small town of Kotohira is home to one of Shikoku's top attractions and main shrines of the 88 Temple Pilgrimage Route – Konpira-san. Founded in the 14th century it lies at the top of 1368 stone steps and it is famous for the view from the top. Today we will visit an Udon School and make our own UDON noodles for lunch. After lunch we will leave for Takamatsu and spend time at the beautiful Ritsurin Garden which is considered to be one of the best landscape gardens in Japan. (B/L)  
Accommodation: JR Clement Hotel Takamatsu (or similar): (2 night)

**Day 6 : 23rd May 2019: Takamatsu – Naoshima – Takamatsu:**

After breakfast we will board a ferry to Naoshima, one of the Seto Inland Sea's famed Art Islands, home to some of the world's most unique and amazing museums and art installations. Returning to Takamatsu for some free time in the evening, may we suggest a sunset stroll out to the beautiful lighthouse pier? (B)

**Day 7 : 24th May 2019: Takamatsu – Tokushima:**

We will drive over to Tokushima prefecture where we will board the ferry at Naruto to view the famous Naruto Whirlpools, which occur when the opposing currents of the Pacific Ocean and Seto Inland Sea collide at high and low tides. From here we will travel to the city of Tokushima where we will watch a demonstration of the Awa Odori (dance of fools) in the evening. The Awa Odori festival, held annually in August is one of Japan's most famous and beloved summer festivals. (B/L)  
Accommodation : JR Clement Hotel : Tokushima : (1 night)

**Day 8: 25th May 2019: Tokushima to Iya Valley**

After breakfast, we will drive to Aizumi Township where you can walk along the historical streets of Wakimachi, a remarkably well preserved town dating back to the Edo period (1600-1868) and home to numerous traditional artisan crafts including Aizome (traditional indigo dye). To further our knowledge of the indigo culture we will visit Ai No Yakata where you can learn all about the indigo dying process. From here we will travel to Shikoku's famed Iya Valley with its cliff

hugging winding roads and breathtaking views. Enjoy a thrilling walk across one of the regions preserved Kazurabashi (vine bridges) which span the crystal blue river valley below. A further drive deeper into the valley will take us past the area's famed 'peeing boy' statue and some of the regions remarkably well preserved thatch roofed farmhouses. (B/L/D)  
Accommodation: Iya Onsen or similar : Iya Valley: (1 night)

**Day 9 : 26th May 2019: Iya Valley to Matsuyama :**

We will make our way across the Island to Matsuyama. On the way try your hand at "washi" paper making and join an "Ohenro Experience" (short walking pilgrimage) and understand how to visit temples, proper etiquette and sutra readings. (B, D)  
Accommodation: Dogo Yamanote Hotel or similar : Matsuyama: (2 nights)

**Day 10 : 27th May 2019: Matsuyama**

After breakfast this morning we will transfer by our chartered coach to Tobe Cho a township with a 200 year history of pottery making where you can experience custom glazing a piece before returning to Matsuyama. Free time to visit Matsuyama Castle and browse the wonderful streets surrounding Dogo Onsen, Japan's oldest and most revered. (B, D)

**Day 11 : 28th May 2019: Matsuyama to Hiroshima and Miyajima:**

This morning please have your suitcase in the foyer no later than 7:15am for transfer through to our Hotel in Kyoto. We will transfer to the ferry in our chartered coach and travel across the Seto Inland sea to Hiroshima and then onto Miyajima for the afternoon. Miyajima is most famous for its giant torii gate which at high tide seems to float on the water. (B)  
Accommodation: Granvia Hotel or similar : Hiroshima: (2 nights)

**Day 12 : 29th May 2019: Hiroshima:**

After breakfast this morning we will board our chartered coach and visit the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park and the Peace Memorial Museum. Free afternoon and may we suggest a visit to Hiroshima Castle and the Shukkeien Gardens. These are best described as "shrunken scenery gardens". (B)

**Day 13 :30th May 2019 : Hiroshima to Kyoto**

Breakfast this morning and then make our way to JR Hiroshima Station and take the shinkansen to Kyoto. On arrival at around midday we will transfer to our Hotel by taxis. Afternoon at leisure. Your Tour Escort can assist with sightseeing and/or shopping options. Alternatively join the "Tea with Maiko" afternoon tour. (B)  
Accommodation: Palaceside Hotel Kyoto

**Day 14 - 15 : 31st May – 01st June 2019: Kyoto at leisure**

At Leisure : There are optional tours available or your Tour Escort is readily available for suggestions, assistance and will take you sightseeing around Kyoto. (B)

**Day 16 : 02nd June 2019 : Departure for Australia**

Depending upon which Airport your departure flight leaves from we can arrange a shuttle transfer for you from the Hotel to the Airport. This can be done prior to your departure from Australia and this cost is included in your Tour price. (B)