

Small Group Tours Selling Guide

Get beneath the surface



Small Group Tours Selling Guide

Our award-winning Small Group Tours are hugely popular, but with 14 core itineraries and over 80 departures a year, it can be tricky to know where to start.

This handy guide has everything you need to find the perfect tour for your client. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch.

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Reasons to choose

InsideJapan Tours



Small groups

There's no herding on our tours; with a maximum of 14 travellers (16 for HyperJapan and 20 for All-In Japan) when we say "small" we mean it!



Expert tour leaders

Our friendly InsideJapan tour leaders speak English and Japanese and have the insider knowledge to make every trip extra special.



Superb client satisfaction

Year after year, our Small Group Tours receive rave reviews. In 2018, 97% of our client feedback rated the experience as excellent or good.



Over 80 departures per year

From the height of cherry blossom to the turning autumn leaves, whenever your clients wish to travel, we're likely to have a departure to suit.



Wide range of tours

Hiking Mount Fuji or sipping tea with a geisha; all-inclusive or just the bare essentials; classic sights or off the beaten path.



Guaranteed tours

Most tour departures are guaranteed at just 4 passengers, giving you and your client peace of mind to book arrangements around the tour. *



Flexibility

Want to slow down, check out the nightlife or see something different? Our tour leaders make sure your clients get the Japan experience they want.



Tour add-ons

If clients want to extend their time in Japan we offer pre- and post-tour nights, as well as longer self-guided add-ons.

* All-In Japan requires 8 passengers for guaranteed departure

Four tour grades

Our tour categories are based on accommodation grade, inclusions and pace.

Each tour is a fantastic way to experience Japanese culture while making friends from all over the world; and our team of InsideJapan tour leaders bring experience, knowledge and fun to every departure. Breakfast is always included, and a selection of lunch and evening meals give plenty of chance to sample Japan's world-famous cuisine.

All our tours have planned activities every day. But for clients who want the flexibility to do their own thing, our tour leaders are on hand to help. After all, it's your clients' holiday, not ours!

Essential

Flexible, fast-paced tours at a low price. Just the basics included, keeping the cost down so your clients can choose how much they spend.

-  Our very own InsideJapan tour leader will be with the group throughout
-  2-3 star accommodation
-  En suite rooms in Western-style hotels, shared bathroom facilities in Japanese-style inns
-  Self-guided airport transfers using supplied transport card (however, clients can pay to upgrade to transfers by shuttle bus)
-  Breakfast every day plus 1 or 2 evening meals
-  Most entrance fees NOT included
-  Selected luggage forwarding included
-  No single supplement

Superior

High-quality accommodation with more inclusions and private transfers make our Superior grade tours perfect for your 4* clients.

-  Full-time InsideJapan tour leader & local expert guides in key destinations
-  4-5 star accommodation
-  En suite rooms in all locations
-  Private airport transfers on arrival and departure plus minibus transfers where suitable
-  Breakfast every day plus several lunches and dinners
-  Most entrance fees included
-  Selected luggage forwarding included
-  Single supplement applies

Classic

A diverse range of mid-level tours. Choose from classic 'first timer' itineraries, in-depth regional tours, and special interest trips such as hiking and hands-on activities.

-  Our very own InsideJapan tour leader will be with the group throughout
-  3 star accommodation
-  En suite rooms most nights
-  Airport meet-and-greet & transfers
-  Breakfast every day plus some lunches and dinners
-  Selected entrance fees included
-  Selected luggage forwarding included
-  Single supplement applies

All-Inclusive

Your clients can explore Japan's classic sights and lesser known spots secure in the knowledge that every cost is included – from lunch to their luggage handling.

-  Full-time InsideJapan tour leader & local expert guides in key destinations
-  4 star accommodation
-  En suite rooms in all locations
-  Private airport transfers included
-  All meals and some drinks included
-  All entrance fees included
-  Luggage handling between all destinations
-  Single supplement applies
-  Guaranteed maximum of 20 travellers
-  A mix of sightseeing and hands-on activities
-  Evening entertainment at several destinations

Small Group Tour comparison sheet

	Price from per person*	Nights	Departures per year	Maximum passengers	Overnight destinations	Single Supplement (from price)	Single clients room sharing**	Nights at traditional Japanese accommodation	Nights without full en suite	Tour energy level ***	Number of meals included (B=Breakfasts, L=Lunches, D=Dinners)
Essential											
Tokaido Trail	\$ 3,410	9	8	14	4	None	Yes	2	0	Moderate	B (9), L (0), D (1)
Japan Unmasked	\$ 4,930	13	16	14	8	None	Yes	5	3	High	B (13), L (0), D (1)

Classic											
Classic Japan	\$ 7,400	13	9	14	6	\$ 1,045	No	2	0	Moderate	B (13), L (0), D (7)
Hidden Japan	\$7,315	12	8	14	7	\$ 750	No	3	1	Moderate	B (12), L (3), D (5)
A Northern Soul	\$ 8,160	14	2	14	8	\$ 798	No	7	0	Moderate	B (14), L (1), D (7)
Spring Elegance	\$ 7,362	13	6	14	6	\$ 969	No	2	0	Moderate	B (13), L (0), D (4)
Kyushu Elements	\$ 7,172	13	3	14	7	\$ 902	No	3	2	Moderate	B (13), L (2), D (6)
Hands on Japan	\$ 7,505	14	2	14	5	\$ 475	No	4	2	Moderate	B (14), L (6), D (10)
HYPERJAPAN J-Pop & Go!	\$ 4,512	10	8	16	5	\$ 570	Yes	1	1	High	B (10), L (1), D (2)
Winter Highlights	\$ 7,885	14	4	14	7	\$ 1,197	No	3	1	Moderate	B (14), L (0), D (8)
Rural Japan Explorer	\$ 7,590	13	2	14	7	\$ 589	No	5	1	Moderate	B (13), L (3), D (8)

All-Inclusive											
All-In Japan	\$ 10,440	12	7	20	5	\$ 1,178	No	1	0	Moderate	B (12), L (11), D (12)

Superior											
Japan Enchantment	\$ 11,732	14	11	14	7	\$ 1,567	No	1	0	Moderate	B (14), L (2), D (7)
Spirit of Honshu	\$ 7,885	8	4	14	3	\$ 712	No	2	0	Moderate	B (8), L (1), D (5)

* Prices are exclusive of international flights. Flight inclusive prices available on request. Please note that prices are subject to change and are correct as of 1st July 2019. Prices are seasonal so always check the exact price for each departure date.

** On our Essential level tours and HYPERJAPAN J-Pop & Go Small Group Tours, single passengers may be asked to share a room with another member of the tour of the same sex at Japanese-style accommodation.

*** Although all tours will require quite a lot of walking for general sightseeing, some tours do include more private transfers and more luggage forwarding. Please see the tour dossiers and speak to our travel consultants for more information.

Where to start:

Our most popular 'first-timer' Japan tours

We know that for the majority of your clients, Japan will be a one-off. So with this in mind, we've designed five tours as perfect 'once in a lifetime' trips, offering an enticing combination of famous highlights, not-to-be-missed experiences and some special insider moments.

That said, after an InsideJapan group tour, "once only" often becomes "when can I go back?!"

For clients looking to make a return visit to Japan, or those wishing to get a little further off the beaten track, we have a lovingly created selection of more specialist and regional tours. See the next page for details.

Japan Unmasked

Essential

A fast-paced tour that picks out some famous highlights and historic sights, all with maximum flexibility during your clients' holiday.

From \$4,930
13 Nights

Highlights:

- Snow monkeys
- Stay in a Buddhist temple
- Optional cycle along the Kibi Plains



Classic Japan

Classic

A collection of Japan's classic cultural and natural locations at an easier pace. Includes iconic destinations such as Tokyo, Kyoto and Mount Fuji, but also lesser-known rural areas.

From \$7,400
13 Nights

Highlights:

- Kamikochi National Park
- Tea with a maiko (trainee geisha)
- Optional Fuji climb in July/August



Spring Elegance

Classic

Enjoy Japan in pink on our best selling spring tour. The world-famous cherry blossoms provide a beautiful backdrop to this classic itinerary. Book early!

From \$7,362
13 Nights

Highlights:

- Cherry blossom season
- Spring geisha dance performance
- Traditional ryokan stay in the Japanese Alps



All-In Japan

All-inclusive

The classic sights and some lesser-known stops, with nearly all arrangements included and paid for. This tour allows clients to enjoy Japan without the need to keep dipping into their pockets.

From \$10,440
12 Nights

Highlights:

- Learn the art of taiko drumming
- Enjoy hot spring baths at your ryokan
- Tea with a maiko (trainee geisha)



Japan Enchantment

Superior

Capturing the diversity of Japan, this tour encompasses Tokyo high-rises, ancient temples, alpine resorts and national parks.

From \$11,732
14 Nights

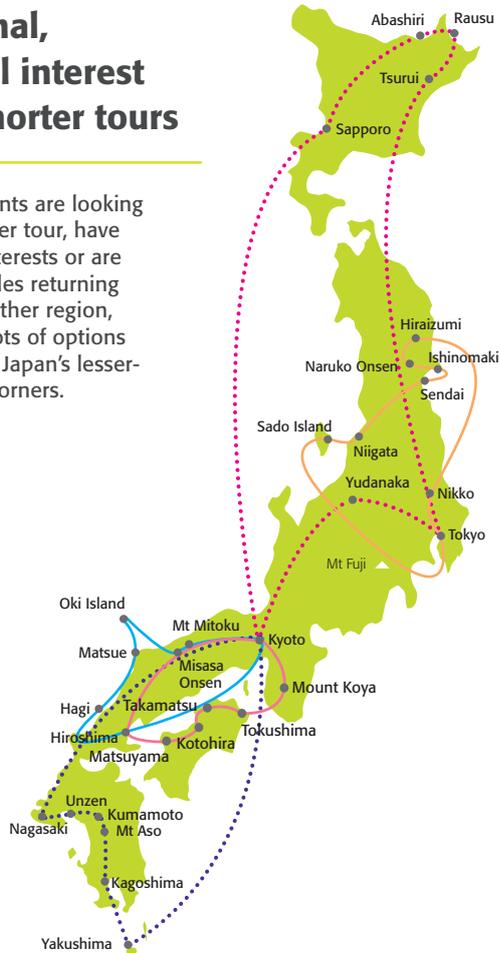
Highlights:

- Flying squirrel tour in rural Karuizawa
- Soba noodle-making class
- Snow monkeys
- Nikko's opulent shrines & temples



Regional, special interest and shorter tours

If your clients are looking for a shorter tour, have specific interests or are Japanophiles returning to see another region, we have lots of options to explore Japan's lesser-travelled corners.



Regional Tours

All at our Classic grade, these regional tours travel to a side of Japan far from the tourist trail. With limited departures, you'll need to get in early to secure your clients a place on these popular trips.

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Winter Highlights	Classic
Gaze at stories-high snow sculptures in Sapporo and catch a glimpse of Japan's famous dancing cranes.	

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| Rural Japan Explorer | Classic |
| Isolated islands, untouched countryside, a samurai castle and a cave temple. | |

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Kyushu Elements	Classic
A helicopter ride over Mount Aso, the world's largest volcanic caldera, Yakushima's ancient forests and historic Nagasaki.	

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| A Northern Soul | Classic |
| Travel north from Tokyo to see a side of Japan suffused with legend and mystery. Visit Sao Island, gorges and geysers in the secret north. | |

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| Hidden Japan | Classic |
| Enrich the soul with a temple stay at Mount Koya, walk vine bridges in Shikoku and explore Naoshima 'art island'. | |

Shorter tours

Tokaido Trail	Essential
Our original tour of the classic sights: Tokyo, Mount Fuji and Kyoto. With prices from \$3,410, this is value Japan.	

Spirit of Honshu	Superior
Between stays in Tokyo and Kyoto, explore the beautiful Izu Peninsula's sweeping coastline and forested interior.	

Special interest tours

HYPERJAPAN'S J-Pop & Go!	Classic
The tour for pop culture enthusiasts. Visit the Robot Restaurant and the world-famous Studio Ghibli Museum.	

Hands On Japan	Classic
Get involved in Japanese culture by trying your hand at pottery, papermaking, soba-noodle making and <i>taiko</i> drumming.	

FAQs

Can you accommodate dietary requirements?

Most dietary requirements can be accommodated but this may mean simpler meals. Please discuss your client's needs with your InsideJapan travel consultant who will be happy to advise.

How fit does the client need to be?

Our tours involve quite a lot of walking between sights, some of which will have steps. It's best if your clients are comfortable spending a full day sightseeing on foot. Alternatively, for a few extra yen on the ground, taxis are nearly always available. Most of our tours will require clients to carry their luggage at some point.

Single supplements

We do not charge single supplements for our Essential tours. Instead, solo travellers on these tours will be asked to share a room for the few nights staying at Japanese-style accommodation. At Western-style hotels they will get their own single room. For Classic, All-Inclusive and Superior grade tours, a single supplement is charged and guarantees a single room throughout the tour at both Japanese and Western-style accommodation. The only exception is HYPERJAPAN J-Pop & Go where solo travellers pay a single supplement but are still expected to share a Japanese-style room for one night.

What is a futon bed?

Japanese accommodation provide futon beds which are mattresses laid directly on the floor. Although actually quite comfortable, getting up and down off the floor can prove difficult for people with certain physical ailments. If this is something your clients are worried about, please discuss it with your travel consultant.

Luggage handling

All-Inclusive tours are the only tour grade where luggage handling is included throughout. For all other tours, customers are expected to handle their own luggage, whether taking bags between the hotels and train stations, or from hotel room to hotel roadside. However, nobody likes carrying bags, so to make life a little easier, all of our tours include some luggage forwarding. This means sending main suitcases from one city to another whilst clients travel with just an overnight bag.

Inclusions

Our Essential tours include all the basics but have limited additional inclusions, enabling us to keep the price low and giving clients maximum flexibility on the ground. As you rise up through the tour grades, more entrance fees, experiences and meals are included as part of the package.

Can clients do their own thing?

Our tours are very flexible. Not every client wants to join the group for every activity. Our tour leaders will always be delighted to advise on any special requests and help clients to do their own thing where they prefer.

Room types/sizes

As standard, we have single and twin rooms on all departures. Sadly, double rooms in Japan are in short supply, but we'll always do our best to provide these if requested. Please let us know at time of booking if you can. On Essential grade tours room sizes can be quite compact. Unsurprisingly, the higher the grade, the more space you get.

Climate overview

Spring and autumn have a temperate climate and are the most popular times to travel. Summer can be very hot but offers plenty of festivals and the option to climb Mount Fuji. Winter in Japan is magical but requires clients to pack warm clothes. Check the InsideJapan brochure or individual tour dossiers for more climate information.

Minimum age/child policy

We are delighted to welcome children of 6 years and up on our tours. From age 12 children may occupy a room by themselves. There are age restrictions at certain hotels and for some activities. Your travel consultant can advise further.

Tour dossiers

You can find full details on inclusions, accommodation and destinations for each tour in dossiers ready for download on our website.

Availability, dates & prices

All prices stated are lead-in prices. Please see the website for departure-specific prices, dates and latest availability. If you don't see the dates your client needs, or are planning further out than our published schedule, do ask us.

Can't find a match?

If one of our group tours isn't quite right for your clients, we also offer fully tailor-made trips to accommodate any requirements. Just ask!

Useful web links

www.insidejapantours.com/japan-small-group-tours/japan-tour-departures

Other destinations

We also offer a number of Small Group Tours in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Please refer to our InsideAsia website and brochure for details.

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Asia 
www.INSIDEAsiaTours.com

All information in this document is correct as of 1st July 2019