WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

# JAPAN

Harmony · Heritage · Hanami

with Women of the Midwest!

**April 10-23, 2027**







Dear Friends,

Japan is a country unlike any other—where ancient traditions and modern life exist together in the most beautiful harmony. From peaceful temples and bamboo forests to glowing city skylines and graceful centuries-old rituals, every day offers something fascinating, meaningful, and unforgettable. I am absolutely delighted to invite you to experience this extraordinary journey with me.

Our adventure begins in dazzling Tokyo, where serene shrines stand quietly beneath soaring skyscrapers and every neighborhood reveals a different side of Japanese culture. Together, we'll stroll through historic temple districts, marvel at the energy of Shibuya Crossing, and enjoy unforgettable cultural experiences including sushi making, calligraphy, kimono traditions, and tea ceremonies.

As we travel through Japan aboard the famous bullet train, the scenery transforms into mountain landscapes, peaceful lakes, and timeless villages. We'll experience the beauty of Hakone and majestic Mount Fuji, and stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan for a night. In Kyoto, we'll wander beneath towering bamboo groves, explore magnificent temples and shrines, and stroll through the enchanting geisha district of Gion.

A particularly magical part of our journey is traveling during Sakura season and the beloved tradition of Hanami—the celebration of cherry blossoms. Across Japan, delicate pink blooms symbolize beauty, renewal, and the fleeting nature of life itself, creating breathtaking scenery everywhere we go.



Throughout our journey, there will be moments of discovery, laughter, reflection, and connection—shared with a wonderful group of travelers who value meaningful experiences and the joy of exploring the world together.

I truly hope you will join me for this unforgettable journey through the beauty, traditions, and spirit of Japan.

Warmly,
Jennifer King, Ambassador,
Women of the Midwest

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888-549-1186. Space is limited.

Senso-ji temple, Asakusa, Tokyo



Tea Ceremony



Fushimi Inari Shrine - Kyoto



## April 10, 2027 - Saturday

Traveling to Tokyo, Japan

Your unforgettable journey begins as we board our overnight flight to Japan—a land where ancient traditions, graceful rituals, peaceful temples, and dazzling modern cities exist side by side. Settle in, enjoy in-flight service, and let the excitement build as we make our way to the Land of the Rising Sun.

## April 11, 2027 - Sunday

Tokyo

Welcome to Japan! Upon arrival, we are greeted by our local tour director and transferred to our hotel in Tokyo. This extraordinary city is a fascinating blend of past and present—where serene shrines, polished skyscrapers, quiet gardens, and glowing city streets all come together in perfect rhythm. Tonight, we gather for a welcome dinner and toast to the beginning of a beautiful adventure. In-flight meals | D

## April 12, 2027 - Monday

Tokyo: Temples, Towers & Sushi

Today we begin at Asakusa, home to Sensō-ji, Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple. Stroll along Nakamise Street, where colorful shops offer traditional snacks and souvenirs. Later, we rise high above the city at Tokyo Skytree, one of the tallest towers in the world, before experiencing the famous Shibuya Crossing, where Tokyo's energy comes alive. A special sushi-making lunch adds a delicious hands-on introduction to Japanese cuisine. The afternoon is yours at leisure to explore more of Tokyo. B | L

## April 13, 2027 - Tuesday

Tokyo: Shrine Serenity & Modern Style

This morning we visit peaceful Meiji Jingu Shrine, surrounded by a forest of more than 100,000 trees. It feels wonderfully removed from the bustle of Tokyo and offers a meaningful glimpse into Japanese spiritual tradition. We continue to elegant Omotesando, known for stylish architecture, boutiques, and cafés, before returning to the excitement of Shibuya Crossing. We gather for dinner at our hotel. The evening is yours to enjoy Tokyo at your own pace. B | D

## April 14, 2027 - Wednesday

Mount Fuji & Hakone

Today we journey into Japan's scenic countryside. Weather permitting, we visit Mount Fuji's 5th Station, where Japan's most iconic mountain rises in quiet majesty. We continue to Hakone for a peaceful cruise on Lake Ashi, followed by the Hakone Ropeway, offering sweeping views of volcanic valleys and surrounding mountains. Tonight, enjoy a memorable stay in the Mount Fuji area, with dinner and the relaxing comfort of a Japanese-style hotel. You will also have the opportunity to experience one of Japan's most cherished traditions: the onsen. These natural hot spring baths have been part of Japanese culture for centuries and are deeply connected to relaxation, wellness, and quiet reflection. A wonderfully calming and memorable cultural experience. B | D

## April 15, 2027 - Thursday

Bullet Train to Kyoto & Bamboo Forest

This morning we travel to Odawara Station and board Japan's famous bullet train to Kyoto. Smooth, quiet, and remarkably fast, the Shinkansen is an experience in itself and a wonderful example of Japan's precision and innovation. Watching the countryside glide past the window is both relaxing and unforgettable. Upon arrival in Kyoto, we discover enchanting Arashiyama and its world-famous Bamboo Forest. Walking beneath the towering emerald-green stalks feels almost dreamlike as sunlight filters softly through the swaying bamboo overhead. The gentle rustling sound created by the wind moving through the grove is considered so unique and soothing that Japan's Ministry of the Environment has named it one of the country's "100 Soundscapes of Japan." Long associated with tranquility and meditation, bamboo also symbolizes strength and resilience in Japanese culture. Later, we participate in a traditional calligraphy workshop, discovering the beauty and mindfulness behind this centuries-old art form. With each graceful brushstroke, we gain a deeper appreciation for the patience, balance, and quiet beauty woven throughout Japanese culture. B | D

## April 16, 2027 - Friday

Kyoto: Kimono, Tea & Gion

Today invites us into the timeless elegance of traditional Japan. We begin with a special kimono experience, dressing in beautifully crafted garments that have symbolized grace, artistry, and cultural identity for centuries. Traditionally worn for celebrations and important occasions, kimonos are admired for their intricate fabrics, seasonal patterns, and careful craftsmanship. Even the way a kimono is folded and tied reflects centuries of tradition and refinement. Next, we experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, one of the country's most treasured cultural rituals. Rooted in Zen philosophy, the ceremony is far more than simply preparing tea—it is an art form centered on harmony, respect, tranquility, and mindfulness. Every movement is thoughtful and precise, inviting us to slow down and appreciate the beauty of the present moment. We then visit the magnificent Kiyomizu Temple, dramatically perched on a hillside overlooking Kyoto. Founded in 778, the temple's wooden terrace offers sweeping

**Kimono Wearing Experience**



views across the city and surrounding mountains. Later, we stroll through Kyoto's famous Gion district lined with traditional wooden teahouses and lantern-lit alleyways. Gion is best known as Kyoto's historic geisha district. Geisha—highly trained female entertainers skilled in classical music, dance, conversation, and hospitality—have long been an elegant part of Japanese cultural life. With a little luck, we may glimpse a geisha or maiko (apprentice geisha) gracefully making her way to an evening engagement. Dinner is enjoyed at our hotel. B | T | D

## April 17, 2027 - Saturday

Nara & Fushimi Inari

Today we travel to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital. In Nara Park, friendly deer roam freely and are considered sacred messengers in the Shinto religion. We visit Todaiji Temple, home to the Great Buddha—one of the largest bronze Buddha statues in the world—before continuing to Kasuga Taisha Shrine, where thousands of lanterns line peaceful forest pathways. Later, we return toward Kyoto to visit the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine, one of Japan's most photographed and spiritually significant sites. Dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice, prosperity, and business success, the shrine is famous for its endless pathways of vibrant vermilion torii gates winding through the wooded hillside. Fun fact: many of these gates have been donated by individuals and companies over the years, with each donor's name inscribed on the back. Walking beneath the seemingly endless tunnels of red is both peaceful and unforgettable. Dinner is served at our hotel. B | D

## April 18, 2027 - Sunday

Kyoto at Leisure

Enjoy Kyoto at your own pace. You may

**A Taste of Japan**



wish to browse artisan shops, visit a peaceful garden, explore a favorite neighborhood, or wander through Nishiki Market, known as "Kyoto's Kitchen." Kyoto rewards gentle discovery, quiet moments, and the simple joy of noticing beauty in small details. Tonight, we gather for dinner at our hotel to share our memories of a wonderful day. B | D

## April 19, 2027 - Monday

Kyoto to Osaka

Today we continue to Osaka, Japan's lively culinary and entertainment capital. While Kyoto is often considered the cultural heart of Japan, Osaka is affectionately known as "Japan's Kitchen," where locals embrace the philosophy of kuidaore—"eat until you drop." We begin with a visit to the striking Umeda Sky Building with sweeping panoramic views. Next, we explore magnificent Osaka Castle, originally built in the 16th century by the powerful samurai warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who played a major role in unifying Japan. Later, we discover the lively districts of Dotonbori and Shinsaibashi, where giant neon signs, colorful billboards, and endless restaurants create an atmosphere bursting with excitement. Along the canals and busy streets, tempting aromas drift from food stalls serving the city's famous street-food specialties. You will love Osaka's joyful energy, hospitality, and love of life. Dinner is enjoyed at our hotel tonight. B | D

## April 20, 2027 - Tuesday

Hiroshima & Miyajima

We board the bullet train for a meaningful day in Hiroshima. Our visit begins on Miyajima Island at Itsukushima Shrine, famous for its "floating" red torii gate rising from the sea. We then enjoy an okonomiyaki lunch experience, tasting Hiroshima's beloved savory pancake. In

**Hiroshima... Hope - Peace - Healing**



the afternoon, we visit Peace Memorial Park, the museum, and the Atomic Bomb Dome—a deeply moving reminder of resilience, remembrance, and hope for peace. We return to our hotel by bullet train for an evening at leisure. B | L

## April 21, 2027 - Wednesday

Kobe

Today we visit cosmopolitan Kobe, beautifully situated between mountains and sea. One of Japan's first international trade ports, Kobe is famed for its scenic setting, rich history, and world-renowned marbled Kobe beef. We explore lively Kobe Harborland and see the distinctive Kobe Port Tower before visiting charming Kitano Ijinkan-Gai, where elegant Western-style homes from the late 19th century reflect the city's fascinating international past. Tonight, we enjoy dinner together at our hotel. B | D

## April 22, 2027 - Thursday

Osaka at Leisure

Enjoy a final free day in Japan. Perhaps shop for last-minute treasures, revisit Dotonbori, enjoy a quiet café, or simply take time to reflect on the beauty, traditions, and friendships that have filled this journey. Tonight, we enjoy dinner together and celebrate the wonderful memories made along the way. B | D

## April 23, 2027 - Friday

Traveling Home

All too soon, our journey comes to an end. We transfer to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home, carrying with us beautiful memories, new friendships, and the unforgettable spirit of Japan. B

The itinerary is subject to change

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch
T = Tasting, D = Dinner




## To register contact:

ExecutiveTravel

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Phone: 888.549.1186
GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:
Via our website www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

**Package Price:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Per person in a shared double room: | $6,695 |
| Per person in a single room: | $7,995 |

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of $500 per person is required at registration and can be paid by ACH (Automated Clearing House), check, or credit card. The balance is due on January 1, 2027, is non-refundable and can be paid by ACH, check, or credit card. When using a credit card for final payment a 3.5% processing fee applies as assessed by the credit card processing company. Checks must be received in our office at least 100 days before the tour's departure date. If you book within 100 days of departure, ACH or credit card payment is the required payment method.

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**
Register by August 10, 2026: Receive **$200 off!**

*This tour will operate with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

**Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4**
This tour is rated a 3+ and involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. Expect to walk approximately 5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

**Travel Insurance:**
We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.
*Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196.*

**Group airfare:** See page 5/separate insert.

**Accommodation** (final accommodation 90 days prior)**:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tokyo: | Tokyo Prince Hotel or similar |
| Mt. Fuji area: | Hakone Yunohana Prince Hotel or similar |
| Kyoto: | DoubleTree Kyoto Station or similar |
| Osaka: | Sheraton Miyako Hotel or similar |

**Included:**
- 12 nights at local 4-star hotels
- 12 breakfasts at the hotels
- 12 meals (lunch or dinner) as per the tour program
- Local tastings as per tour program
- One bottle of water on days with motor coach services
- All transportation as per the tour program with motor coach and bullet train (ordinary class on board the trains)
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Full-time English-speaking professional tour director (note, we may have different tour directors in different areas)
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones, where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, April 10-23, 2027
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of May 12, 2026

**Not Included:**
- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees for your second checked bag. Your first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned
- Gratuities to guide and driver (estimate $15 p/day total)
- Professional fee, $100 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Women of the Midwest
Travel Solo Together
A wholly-owned division of Executive Travel

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour found at https://executivetravel.com/eti-home/escorted-tours/

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888-549.1186. Space is limited.

## JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

We offer group airfare with United Airlines:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| April 10, 2027 | Omaha* - Chicago | 7:55 AM - 9:45 AM |
| April 10, 2027 | Chicago - Tokyo (HND) | 12:15 PM - 3:25 PM (April 11, 2027) |
| April 23, 2027 | Osaka (KIX) - San Francisco | 4:55 PM - 11:10 AM |
| April 23, 2027 | San Francisco - Omaha* | 6:25 PM - 11:56 PM |

**$2,550** per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Please reach out to us to assist you. A small supplement may occur. If you travel from a different airport, we aim to have you meet your fellow travelers in Chicago on April 10 and return from Osaka around the same time as the rest of the group on April 23.

**Important notes about seat assignments, upgrades, TSA Pre-Check- & Frequent Flyer Numbers:**

- Group airfare comes with **seat assignments 30 days prior to departure.** We cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle seat).
- **Premium seating upgrades - depending on availabilities:**
  *Economy Plus* (main cabin, closer to the front of the aircraft, extra leg space) can be purchased and confirmed once the tickets are issued = 30 days prior to departure. Estimate a supplement of $600-$900.

  *Premium Economy* (wider seat with an extended recline, more legroom, improved menu, and a larger entertainment screen) can be reserved at the time of booking your trip with us. Estimate a supplement of $3,000-$4,000.

  *Business Class* can be reserved at the time of booking your trip with us.
  Estimate a supplement of $12,000-$14,000.
- **Mileage credit** for individuals on group air contracts is not guaranteed and is subject to the rules of the airline under contract.
- **TSA Pre-Check numbers and Frequent Flyer numbers must be reported at the time of reservation.** Otherwise, each traveler must provide these numbers upon check-in on the day of departure.
- **Taxes,** fuel charges and security fees are subject to change.
- **Air schedules** are subject to change at the discretion of the airline.

**SECURE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!**

UNITED