

JAPAN RISING SUN MOTO TOUR

1 – 13 September 2023

Japan, “The Land of the Rising Sun”, is truly timeless, a place where ancient traditions are fused with ultra-modern life. With a culture that encourages politeness, kindness, hospitality, and respectfulness Japan is one of the world’s most advanced high-tech industrialised nations, yet it also has a rich and fascinating history that dates back thousands of years.

Mystical mountaintops, dense forested alpine roads, incredible coastlines, natural hot water springs, and delicious fresh food are just some of Japan’s delights. Riding a motorcycle in Japan is a special experience. A land with a mountainous interior full of twisting roads, deep valleys, many tunnels and stunning coastal riding. Join us and experience this fascinating country rich in scenery and culture.



01 September 2023. Day 1: (Friday) ARRIVAL DAY

Touchdown at the airport in Tokyo. You will land at either Narita or Haneda Airport depending on your flight arrangements – if you have a choice please be advised that Haneda is much closer (think time and \$ saved in airport transfers) to Tokyo than Narita. Make your way to the group hotel in Tokyo. Time is allowed for you to settle in, maybe catch up on sleep. In the evening we'll all gather for our meet-and-greet and enjoy a delicious 'welcome' dinner together.

Overnight in Tokyo staying in a hotel. (Dinner)

02 September. Day 2: (Saturday) HALF DAY IN TOKYO THEN YOKOHAMA

Join our morning walk and subway exploration of Tokyo with our delightful English speaking Japanese guide. We are likely to visit Shibuya Crossing, Takeshita Street in Harajuku and maybe a temple visit or fish market. In the late afternoon we catch the sleek Shinkansen (Bullet Train) to Yokohama.

Overnight in Yokohama staying in a hotel. (Breakfast and Lunch)



3 September. Day 3: (Sunday) ON THE ROAD – YOKOHAMA TO SHIMODA 185KM

Before climbing aboard our machines there's some formalities to cover; bike inspections and riders briefing. Then our Japan By The Backroads motorcycle adventure will be underway. Heading south from Yokohama Bay to one of Japan's most iconic roads, the Hakone Turn Pike road – a mecca for petrol heads from around the world. Weather permitting we should see some of the best views of Mount Fuji. Continue south to the Izu Skyline Road to eventually arrive in Shimoda City at the southern tip of the Izu Peninsula

Overnight in Shimoda at a hotel or Ryokan. (Breakfast and Lunch)



4 September. Day 4: (Monday) SHIMODA TO HAMAMATSU 210KM

Our destination is the coastal city of Hamamatsu in Shizuoka Prefecture. Hamamatsu has been famous as an industrial city, especially for motorcycles with producers Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha all having factories in the Hamamatsu area. Sometimes referred to as the “City of Music” as it is known for the production of musical instruments with Yamaha and Kawai prominent in the city. On our way we ride the Kawazu Nanadaru Loop bridge: its double helix is an ingenious solution to a tricky engineering problem when the mountainside is too steep for a conventional road.

Overnight in Hamamatsu in a hotel or Ryokan. (Breakfast and Lunch)



5 September. Day 5: (Tuesday) HAMAMATSU TO GERO 235KM

Leaving the coastal city of Hamamatsu we head inland toward Gifu Prefecture and the city of Gero. Most of the Gero area is covered by mountains and forests with the Hida and Maze Rivers running through the city. Tourism is the major industry in modern times along with forestry and agriculture. For centuries Gero has been known throughout Japan for its onsen/hot springs. Charlie Chaplin bathed here and there's a statue in town to commemorate the event. Feel like a hot soak?

Overnight in Gero in a hotel or Ryokan. (Breakfast and Lunch)

6 September. Day 6: (Wednesday) GERO TO KYOTO 200KM

On the bikes and riding south to the valley of Kyoto. Kyoto – Japan's imperial capital for over 1000 years is considered the cultural and historical heart of the country. Famous for its many classical Buddhist temples, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses. A UNESCO World Heritage site since 1994 the city was spared from large-scale destruction during World War 2 and as a result, its prewar cultural heritage has mostly been preserved. There's so much to see and do here in Kyoto that we will stay two nights.

Overnight in Kyoto in a hotel. (Breakfast and Lunch)



7 September. Day 7: (Thursday) KYOTO – FREE DAY

Kyoto is regarded as Japan's greatest ancient city and the most popular tourist destination. We have the whole day to explore Kyoto. There's so much to see and do. A suggestion is to hire a local guide which will add to your understanding of the city. Maybe participate in a tea ceremony, visit the Geisha district, for the shopaholic browse through the Nishiki Market and dine in Pontocho with it's lively alley of restaurants ranging from fine dining to inexpensive Yakitori.

Overnight in Kyoto in a hotel. (Breakfast)

8 September. Day 8: (Friday) KYOTO TO FUKUI 190KM

Leaving Kyoto we head to the "tucked-away" quiet, northwest corner of central Japan to Fukui City. An area of forested hills and rocky coastlines that hug the cliffs along the Sea of Japan. A somewhat unknown destination though it does have the Fukui Dinosaur Museum, one of the best of its type in the world, and Maruoka Castle one of twelve remaining original castles dating back from 1576. Fukui is also the birthplace of Echizen pottery and home to Eiheiji Temple a headquarters of Zen Buddhism.

Overnight in Fukui in a hotel or Ryokan. (Breakfast and Lunch)



9 September. Day 9. (Saturday) FUKUI TO NANAO 215KM

Continuing North along the coastline to the legendary Chirihama Beach, surprisingly the only rideable beach in all Japan. It's a 8km sand beach ride alongside the Sea of Japan to Nanao, a seaside town, located on the Noto Peninsula. The name Nanao takes means "Seven Tails" after the surrounding seven mountain ranges which are said to resemble a dragon. Time allowing we will visit the Keta Shinto Shrine dating back over 2000 years.
Overnight in Nanao in a hotel. (Breakfast and Lunch)

10 September. Day10. (Sunday) NANAO TO OKUHIDA ONSENGO HIRAYU 195KM

We're on our way the famous hot spring valley of Okuhida. We're riding into the mountains and have plenty of those winding and twisting roads ahead. Okuhida is a remote region of Gifu Prefecture in the mountains of the Japan Alps and is famous for its hot springs with their intense healing waters and especially for its rotemburo (outdoor baths) with views of the surrounding Japanese Alps.

Overnight in Okuhida Onseno Hirayu in a Ryokan. (Breakfast and Lunch)

11 September. Day 1.(Monday) OKUHIDA TO KUSATSU 180KM

Continuing our journey through the Japanese Alps, yes, there's more of those exciting winding and twisting roads. Kusatsu is one of Japan's best-known onsen towns. Ryokan inns dot this quaint area, which retains an authentic Japanese atmosphere. At the town's center is the Yubatake, its spring source, which emits large quantities of steaming hot, mineral-rich water.

Overnight in Kusatsu staying in a Ryokan (Breakfast and Lunch)

12 September. Day 12. (Tuesday) KUSATSU TO TOKYO 210KM

Our last day on the motorbikes as we head back to Tokyo. Another perfect day of riding as we make our way back to Tokyo our final destination. It is time to return the motorbikes, have a celebratory “We Made It” drink then it’s time to check into our hotel rooms.

Tonight we will celebrate the successful completion of our Japan motorcycle tour with a farewell group dinner.

Overnight in Tokyo in hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

13 September 2023. Day 13. (Wednesday) TOKYO DEPARTURE DAY

Our tour finishes this morning. Breakfast is included. It’s time to pack your bags and make your way to the airport in preparation for your onward flights.

Have a safe journey home and thank you for joining us in Japan



What is included

- 12 nights' accommodation based on sharing Twin/Double. We are staying in a mixture of Western Style hotels and traditional Japanese Ryokan Inns.
- 12 x Breakfasts
- Welcome and Farewell dinners as per the tour itinerary
- 10 x Lunches as per the itinerary
- Motorbike rental
- Shinkansen bullet train ticket to Yokohama
- Accompanying tour vehicle for non-riders and luggage
- Sake Distillery visit
- Wasabi Farm visit
- Personally guided by Angela and Mike

Excluded Services:

International and domestic flights, Petrol for your motorcycle, (allow NZ200 +/-) Tokyo Half Day City Tour, , Airport transfers, Road Tolls, (allow NZ200 +/-) Train and subway tickets, Insurance fees, meals, snacks and drinks not included in itinerary.



COST for the tour on a twin share basis

- NZ 11995 RIDER on *STANDARD** motorcycle (as listed below)
- NZ 12745 RIDER on *UPGRADE*** motorcycle (as listed below)
- NZ 13350 RIDER on *EXECUTIVE**** upgrade BMW1250GS
- NZ 8995 PILLION RIDER or NON RIDER in support vehicle

NZ 1395 Additional for SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (OWN ROOM - not sharing)

**STANDARD/Included* MOTORCYCLE OPTIONS;

Yamaha Bolt, Yamaha MT07, Yamaha MT09 or Honda NC750X, Honda CB400 or Suzuki VStrom650

***UPGRADE* MOTORCYCLE OPTIONS;

Yamaha Tracer 900, Yamaha TMAX530 or Honda X-ADV, Honda CRF1000L, Honda CB1100, Honda CB1300 or Ducati Monster 900

****EXECUTIVE* MOTORCYCLE OPTION;

BMW1250GS.

All motorcycles are available on a "First in First Choice" basis.

DEPOSIT NZ1000 PER PERSON

For more information contact Mike or Angela at By The Backroads

Email: adventure@bythebackroads.com

Phone/Whatsapp Mike (+64) 2129849047 Angela (+64) 212552806

www.bythebackroads.com