



Rising Sun Japan

25 May - 6 June 2026



Day 1: Tokyo arrival

Day 2: Tokyo: Explore the city

Day 3: Tokyo - Shimoda (235 km)

Day 4: Shimoda - Hamamatsu (270 km)

Day 5: Hamamatsu - Gero (205 km)

Day 6: Gero - Kyoto (220 km)

Day 7: Kyoto free day (0 km)

Day 8: Kyoto - Fukui (190 km)

Day 9: Fukui - Takayama (240 km)

Day 10: Takayama - Kusatsu (205 km)

Day 11: Kusatsu - Nikko (195 km)

Day 12: Nikko - Tokyo (200 km)

Day 13: Tokyo departure day (0 km)





Itinerary

Japan, “The Land of the Rising Sun”, is truly timeless. A place where ancient traditions are fused with ultra-modern life.

Japan has a culture that encourages politeness, kindness, hospitality, and respectfulness. It 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.

**Note: The planned itinerary and distances are listed on the following pages; however, we reserve the right to adjust the route and duration for timing or safety.*

Day 1: 25 May (Monday)- Arrival Day in Tokyo

Touchdown at the airport in Tokyo.

Time is allowed for you to settle in, maybe catch up on sleep. In the evening we will gather for our meet-and-greet and enjoy a delicious 'welcome' dinner together.

Riding distance: N/A

Overnight: Tokyo (Dinner)

Day 2: 26 May (Tuesday) - 24 hours in Tokyo

Join our morning walk and subway exploration of Tokyo with Yasu, our delightful English-speaking Japanese guide.

There's lots to see and do. We'll take our guide's lead and see where the days sightseeing takes us.

Riding distance: N/A

Overnight : Tokyo (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 3: 27 May (Wednesday) Tokyo - Shimoda

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 Tokyo 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.

Riding Distance: 235 km

Overnight: Shimoda (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 4: 28 May (Thursday) Shimoda - Hamamatsu

Our destination is the coastal city of Hamamatsu in Shizuoka Prefecture. Hamamatsu is famous as an industrial city- especially for motorcycles- with Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha all having factories in the area. 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.

Riding Distance: 270 km

Overnight : Hamamatsu (Breakfast)



Day 5: 29 May (Friday) Hamamatsu - Gero

Leaving the coast, we head inland toward Gifu Prefecture and the city of Gero.

Tonight we will stay in a traditional ryokan, Japanese-style inns that are especially prevalent in hot spring areas. More than just a place to sleep, ryokan are an opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality, with elements like tatami mats, futon beds, Japanese-style baths and local cuisine.

Riding Distance: 205 km

Overnight: Gero (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 6: 30 May (Saturday) Gero - Kyoto

Back on the bikes, we ride south to the valley of Kyoto. Travelling through a region known for its Katana (Japanese swords) and knives and we will see the process of Katana-making at Seki Museum.

We have two nights in Kyoto. As Japan's imperial capital for over 1000 years, Kyoto is considered the country's cultural and historical heart. There's so much to see and do here - our crew can offer up lots of suggestions if you need.

Riding Distance: 220 km

Overnight: Kyoto (Breakfast)



Day 7: 31 May (Sunday) 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 its lively alley of restaurants ranging from fine dining to inexpensive Yakitori.

Riding Distance: N/A

Overnight: Kyoto (Breakfast)

Day 8: 1 June (Monday) Kyoto - Fukui

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.

Riding Distance: 190 km

Overnight: Fukui (Breakfast)



Day 9: 2 June (Tuesday) Fukui - Takayama

Today's route will take roads inland from the Sea of Japan through forested hills and valleys of Shirakawa.

Along the way, we will visit Shirakawa-go, a mountain village, that was once a remote and isolated region due to its rugged terrain and heavy snowfall. This isolation helped preserve unique cultural traditions. This village has beautifully preserved ancient thatched roof dwellings and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

We then head to Hida Takayama, an area famed for its Wagyu beef. Depending on the conditions at this time of year we may have to take some highway or, if we're lucky, we may be able to travel some of the higher mountain passes. Either way it is a great day's ride.

Riding Distance: 240 km

Overnight: Takayama (Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 10: 3 June (Wednesday) Takayama - Kusatsu

Continuing our journey we head to Kusatsu, 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.

The riding today will be a combination of fantastic winding roads and lots of tunnels - something that are in abundance in Japan. We will stop off at a commercial wasabi farm and you can purchase some of this fiery green root if you're a fan!

Riding Distance: 205 km

Overnight: Kusatsu (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 11: 4 June (Thursday) Kusatsu - Nikko

The journey today is a relatively short one but with plenty of interest. Scenic backroads, more tunnels and rolling forested hills are all part of today's ride. Nikko is the resting place of one of the greatest Shoguns (military dictator generals of Japan's feudal period)

Riding Distance: 195 km

Overnight: Nikko (Breakfast)



Day 12: 5 June (Friday) Nikko - Tokyo

Our last day on the motorbikes is another perfect day of riding as we make our way back to Tokyo, our final destination. We'll 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.

Riding Distance: 200 km

Overnight: Nikko (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 13: 6 June (Saturday) 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.

(Breakfast)

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