



VISITING JAPAN: THE ULTIMATE TWO WEEK ITINERARY

By Chris Broad

Back in May two good friends from the UK came to visit me in Japan for a two week trip, in which I would be acting as their premium tour guide for the duration of the journey.

It was up to me to plan the destinations, hotels and hostels, as well as the means of transport to get us from Tokyo to Hiroshima, via Kyoto and Osaka, whilst trying to do it all for under £1,000. I knew that for my friends, this could potentially be a once in a lifetime trip, so I wanted to make sure they were able to see and do everything they possibly could, whilst avoiding that horrible rushed feeling that often comes from being too greedy and overfilling your holiday itinerary.

To my surprise, we were able to book and arrange all of the above for just £536 (*full breakdown of costs below*), in large part thanks to a chain of excellent hostels and the use of night buses (although this meant sacrificing a good nights sleep twice). It was an amazing two weeks, meeting Asimo the robot, befriending a family of monkeys in Kyoto, standing before the atomic bomb dome in Hiroshima and exploring the world's biggest fish market in Tokyo.

Below you'll find a list of the original action-packed itinerary, including *accommodation, transportation, attractions* and a *full cost breakdown*. May it act as a useful blueprint for your trip to Japan someday.

Route: Tokyo -> Kyoto -> Osaka -> Hiroshima -> Tokyo

Accommodation: £282

Bullet train: £80 Nightbuses: £74

Domestic Flight from Hiroshima back to Tokyo: £100

Total: £536



Friday - TOKYO

Accommodation: Khaosan World, Asakusa (3 nights, £57 per person)

- Arrive at Haneda airport
- Visit Sensoji Temple, Asakusa
- Chill in Asakusa neighbourhood and get over the ridiculous jet lag



Saturday - TOKYO

Accommodation: Khaosan World, Asakusa

- Get an excellent view of Tokyo from Mori Tower in Roppongi
- Wander around Yoyogi Park and Meiji Shrine
- Explore Shibuya and Harajuku



Sunday - TOKYO

Accommodation: Khaosan World, Asakusa

- Visit the future museum in Odaiba and see Asimo
- Try out an Onsen (hot spring) in Oedo Onsen, Odaiba



Monday - TOKYO

- Visit Tsukiji fishmarket
- Explore Ginza district

21:00: Catch nightbus to Kyoto from Tokyo station (£40 per person)



Tuesday - KYOTO

Accommodation: Khaosan Theatre Hostel (3 nights, £72 per person)

- Kinkakuji Temple
- Gion neighbourhood
- Nishiki Market



Wednesday - KYOTO

Accommodation: Khaosan Kyoto Theatre Hostel

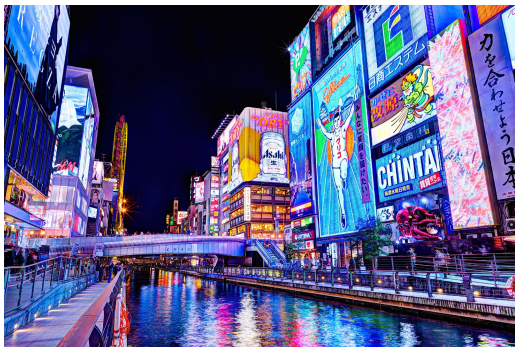
- Fushimi Inari-taisha shrine
- Rokuonji Temple
- Sanjusangendo Temple



Thursday - KYOTO

Accommodation: Khaosan Kyoto Theatre Hostel

- Monkey park Iwatayama
- Tenryuji Temple
- “Philosophers path” walk



Friday - OSAKA

Accommodation: Khaosan World (2 nights, £38 per person)

- Train from Kyoto over to Osaka
- Osaka Castle
- Explore Dotonbori and nightlife scene



Saturday - OSAKA

Accommodation: Khaosan World

- Osaka Aquarium
 - Try Osaka style Okonomiyaki
 - Retro games bar in Dotonbori in evening
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Sunday - HIROSHIMA

Accommodation: Sunroute Hotel (2 nights, £64 per person)

- Catch the bullet train from Osaka to Hiroshima (£80 per person)
- Atomic Bomb Museum & Memorial Park
- Try Hiroshima style Okonomiyaki



Monday - HIROSHIMA

Accommodation: Sunroute Hotel

- Ferry to Miyajima Island
- Visit Itsukushima Shrine
- Climb Mountain on Miyajima Island



Tuesday - TOKYO

Accommodation: Grids Hostel Lounge Akihabara (2 nights, £70 per person)

- 06:40:** Catch bus from Hiroshima Bus Station to Airport
- 09:00:** Fly from Hiroshima back to Tokyo (ANA, £99 per person)

- Check out Akihabara shops
- Robot Restaurant, Shinjuku



Wednesday - TOKYO

Accommodation: Grids Hostel Lounge Akihabara

- Explore Ueno museums
- Meet friends in Shinjuku in evening for Yakitori

Thursday - Tokyo

09:00: Off to Haneda Airport! Holiday over!

Return home to Harry Potter and Fish and Chips.