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JAPAN: LAND OF THE RISING SUN

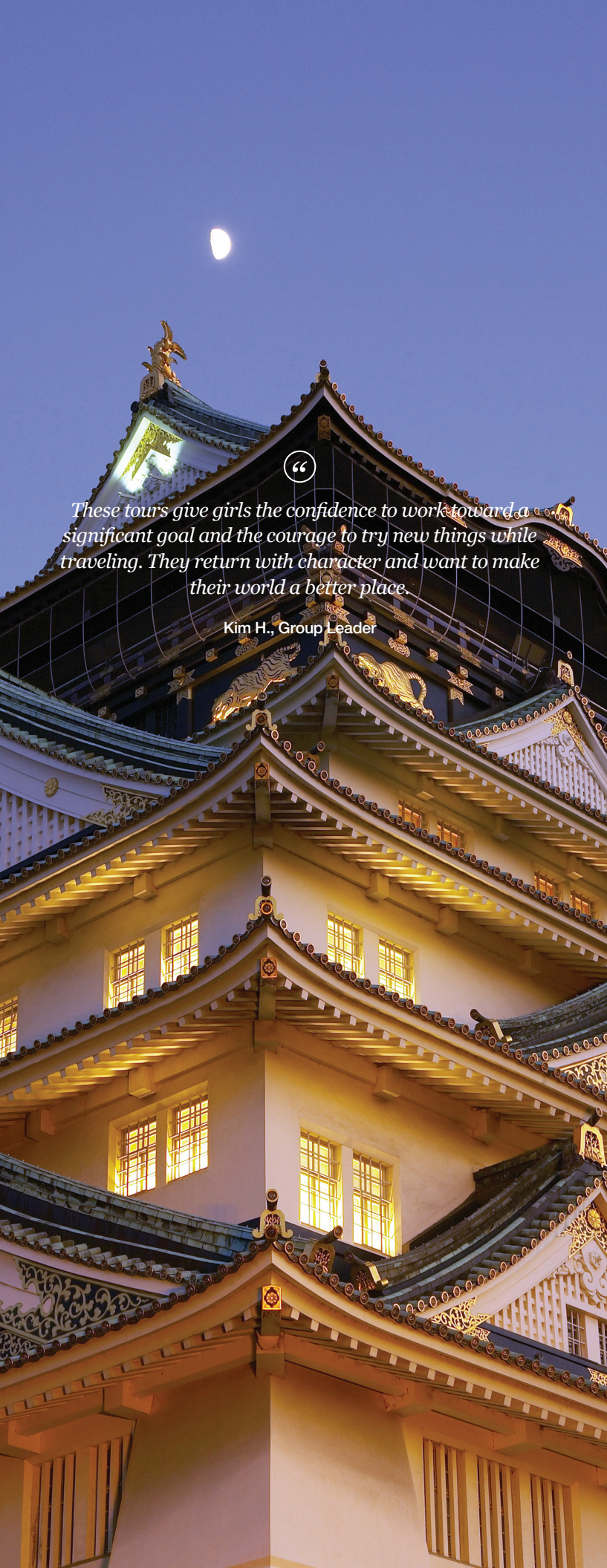
9 or 11 days | Tokyo | Kamakura | Fuji-Hakone-Izu region | Kyoto | Nara | Osaka | Extension to Hiroshima

Treat your group to the treasures of Japan's past and present, from the bustling streets of Tokyo to the ancient temples of Kyoto. Stroll through sacred shrines, see the Great Buddha in Kamakura, and catch a glimpse of majestic Mount Fuji. Engross yourself in the STEM-filled world of Akihabara. Feast on an authentic tempura dinner, and enjoy a special overnight stay at a traditional Japanese *ryokan*, an amazing cultural and learning experience for every girl.

EVERYTHING YOU GET:

-  **Full-time Tour Director**
-  **Sightseeing:** 2 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides; 2 tours led by your Tour Director
-  **Activity level:** Light; moderate walking (about 3 hours daily) and light hiking suitable for most fitness levels. Nothing too challenging.
-  **Entrances:** Meiji Shinto Shrine; Asakusa Kannon Temple; Hachimangu Shrine; Lake Hakone cruise; Mount Komagatake Ropeway; Nijo Castle; Gold Pavilion; Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine; Nara; Dotonbori street food tasting; *with extension:* *Itsukushima Shrine; Peace Memorial Museum; Himeji Castle*
-   **All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; Bullet train; 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 *with extension*); Breakfast and dinner daily
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These tours give girls the confidence to work toward a significant goal and the courage to try new things while traveling. They return with character and want to make their world a better place.

Kim H., Group Leader

DAY 1: FLY OVERNIGHT TO JAPAN

DAY 2: TOKYO

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Tokyo, a city of contrasts. During your stay you'll encounter the encounter stately grandeur juxtaposed with stories-tall jumbotrons, bound to wow even the most seasoned city-dwellers.

DAY 3: TOKYO

- Take an expertly guided tour of Tokyo: Ginza District; Imperial Palace Plaza; Shinjuku District.
- Counteract the bustle of Tokyo's streets with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine.
- Visit Asakusa Kannon Temple, the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokyo.
- Take a tour of Akihabara.
- Enjoy a sumo-style hot pot dinner in the Sumo District of Tokyo and learn more about the age-old Japanese art of sumo.

DAY 4: TOKYO

- Spend the day exploring Tokyo or
 - ➕ add an excursion to Tokyo Disney Resort.

DAY 5: KAMAKURA | FUJI-HAKONE-IZU REGION

- Travel to Kamakura.
- Visit the Hachimangu Shrine.
- See the Great Buddha.
- Continue on to the Fuji-Hakone-Izu region. Boasting botanical gardens, an open-air museum, and spectacular views of Mt. Fuji, Hakone welcomes tens of millions of visitors every year. During your stay, enjoy the simplicity of your surroundings and sleep on a futon atop tatami-matted floors. (Remember to remove your shoes before you enter!)

DAY 6: HAKONE-ATAMI AREA | KYOTO

- Travel to Owakudani.
- Tour Hakone National Park.
- Take a boat cruise on sparkling Lake Hakone.
- Ride a cable car up Mount Komagatake.
- Stop for a photo at Odawara Castle.
- Travel by bullet train to Kyoto, a city that conjures up images of sunlit walks around tiered pagodas and quiet lakes lined with cherry blossom trees.

DAY 7: KYOTO

- Take an expert-led tour of Kyoto. As the national capital for over a millennium, Kyoto offers a unique glimpse into the history of Imperial Japan.
 - On your visit to Nijo Castle, wander through the Japanese cypress halls that the powerful *Tokugawa shogunate* called home.
 - Visit the tranquil Gold Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf.
 - Attend a kimono show at the Textile Center.
 - Take a tour of Arashiyama Bamboo Forest.
-

DAY 8: KYOTO | NARA | OSAKA

- Visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine, located near the base of the Inari mountain. Originally constructed to honor the god of rice, the elaborate complex features stone foxes, the known messengers of Inari.
- Travel to Nara and take a guided tour where you'll visit the Todaiji Temple and see the Daibutsu, the world's largest bronze Buddha.
- Continue to Osaka and explore the famous canal of Dotonbori.
- For dinner, you'll have time to wander through this bustling area full of vendors selling traditional Japanese street food like *takoyaki* (a fried dough ball with octopus inside), *taiyaki* (a fish-shaped pastry), *okonomiyaki* (a savory pancake), and more.

DAY 9: DEPART FOR HOME

EXTENSION DAYS

DAY 9: OSAKA | HIROSHIMA

- Travel by bullet train to Hiroshima.
- Take a tour of Hiroshima.
- Take an excursion to Miyajima Island.
- Visit Itsukushima Shrine.
- Visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum.

DAY 10: OSAKA

- Visit Himeji Castle.
- Return to Osaka.

DAY 11: DEPART FOR HOME

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.



TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

— The easiest ways to —

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My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER

“ Tour review

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