



Setouchi Reflection Tour

11 NIGHT FULLY ESCORTED TOUR OF UNDISCOVERED JAPAN

Tour Starts 17 November 2024
Tour Concludes 28 November 2024
from AUD\$6,999 pp twin share
Strictly limited solo traveller specials
Contact us for pricing



Embark on a captivating journey through the Setouchi region of Japan, where the timeless allure of ancient wooden temples, the intricate craftsmanship of Bizen-yaki pottery, and the architectural wonders of Himeji Castle beckon you. Immerse yourself in the transformative beauty of the Benesse Art Project on Naoshima Island, where contemporary art seamlessly integrates with the surrounding landscape. Explore the meticulously designed Ritsurin Garden, a haven of Japanese landscape design dating back to the 17th century. Rejuvenate your senses with a soothing visit to Onomichi on the Inland Sea of Japan, known for its picturesque island setting, Shimanami Cycling Route, and the iconic Senkoji Temple. Your tour concludes in Hiroshima, where the poignant Peace Memorial Park stands as a testament to resilience and hope.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Explore the stunning architecture and history at Himeji Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site known as the White Heron
- > Witness the centuries old art of Bizen-yaki pottery, and work with a 26th generation master craftsman to create your own piece of Bizen-yaki pottery
- > Visit the Bizen Nagafune Sword Museum, offering a captivating journey through the rich history of Japanese sword craftsmanship
- > Experience the fusion of art and nature at Benesse Art Project on Naoshima Island, including Chichu Art Museum, Benesse House Museum, and Yayoi Kusama's iconic Yellow Pumpkin
- > Unwind in the serenity of Ritsurin Garden, and enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony amongst the meticulously landscaped pine forests and tranquil ponds
- > Roll your sleeps up to make some famous Sanuki Udon Noodles in Takamatsu
- > Make a peace pilgrimage to the site of the world's first A-bomb attack, Hiroshima

TOUR COMMENCES

17 November 2024 | 11 NIGHTS

Fully escorted small group tour priced from \$6,999 pp twin share (maximum 8 guests)
Strictly limited solo traveller specials - contact us for pricing



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Contact & Bookings

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SETOUCHI REFLECTION TOUR

Traditional Arts, Cultural Heritage and Serene Landscapes of Japan

Day 1 | 17th November 2024

Arrival in Osaka

Welcome to Japan! You will be met at Osaka airport (Itami or Kansai) and transferred to your hotel by shared transfer. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to relax and explore Osaka. *Overnight in Osaka*

Day 2 | 18th November 2024

Kobe Sake Barrel Factory & Kobe Beef Lunch

Today we travel to Kobe, a city that seamlessly blends tradition and modernity. We visit the Sake Barrel Meister Factory, a fascinating destination where the intricate craftsmanship of sake barrel production comes to life. The workshop offers our guests a first-hand glimpse into the traditional artistry and meticulous techniques behind the creation of these essential vessels for Japan's renowned rice wine. A sake museum visit and tasting is included. Afterwards we enjoy a delicious lunch featuring the famous Kobe beef (vegetarian alternative available). *Overnight in Kobe (B,L)*

Day 3 | 19th November 2024

Himeji Castle and Kokoan Garden

Today we explore the stunning architecture and rich history of Himeji Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Japan's most well-preserved castles. Immerse yourself in the captivating stories of samurai culture as you wander through the intricate maze of defensive structures. A visit to the beautifully landscaped Kokoan Garden of Himeji Castle's Western Residence is included with our visit. *Overnight in Kobe (B,L)*



Day 4 | 20th November 2024

Okayama including Korakuen Garden

Exploring Okayama is a captivating journey through time and nature, where the majestic Korakuen Garden stands as one of Japan's three most beautiful gardens, offering a serene escape with its meticulously landscaped ponds and traditional teahouses. The iconic Okayama Castle, surrounded by lush greenery, creates a harmonious blend of history, architecture, and natural beauty. The day is at your leisure to relax and explore Okayama, before rejoining your group for a magnificent multi course Japanese banquet dinner in the evening. *Overnight in Okayama (B,L,D)*

Day 5 | 21st November 2024

Kurashiki (day trip from Okayama)

After a short train ride from Okayama, we arrive at Kurashiki Village. Step back in time and experience the ambiance of Japan's Edo period charm, seamlessly preserved in its historical architecture, cobbled streets, and traditional canal-lined landscape. The highlight is the Bikan Historical Quarter, where picturesque canals, weeping willows, and white-walled warehouses create a scene reminiscent of bygone eras. Strolling along the Kurashiki Ivy Square offers a glimpse into Japan's past, with merchant houses now transformed into charming cafes, boutiques, and museums. *Overnight in Okayama (B,L)*





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Day 6 | 22nd November 2024

Pottery Kiln and Nagafune Sword Museum

Today we venture from Okayama to Bizen, one of Japan's most acclaimed pottery villages. The village exudes a timeless ambiance, with traditional kilns and pottery studios dotting the landscape, showcasing the rustic beauty of this revered pottery style. Learn about the history and techniques from a family making pottery for 26 generations, then create your own Bizen Pottery masterpiece. We also visit the Nagafune Sword Museum, which not only displays an impressive collection of finely crafted swords but also provides insight into the meticulous process of sword making, highlighting the craftsmanship and symbolism behind these iconic blades. Overnight in Okayama (B,L)

Day 7 | 23rd November 2024

Naoshima (Art Island)

A short bus trip and ferry ride brings us to Naoshima, home of the famous Benesse Art Project. The Benesse House Museum, designed by architect Tadao Ando, proves to be a sensorial delight with its seamless integration of art, architecture, and nature. The Chichu Art Museum, nestled partially underground, showcases masterpieces by James Turrell, Claude Monet, and Walter De Maria, creating a harmonious dialogue between light, space, and art. The Art House Project, scattered across the island, invites exploration of traditional houses transformed into contemporary art installations. Overnight in Takamatsu (B,L)



Day 8 | 24th November 2024

Ritsurin Garden

After an overnight stay in the port town of Takamatsu, our morning is spent exploring Ritsurin Koen. The garden's uniqueness lies in its meticulously crafted Japanese landscape design, blending classical beauty with serenity through exquisite ponds, sculpted hills, and meticulously pruned pine trees. Takamatsu is also famous for its Sanuki Udon Noodles, so we will roll up our sleeves at lunchtime to make the wheat noodles before savouring our Sanuki udon for our lunch. Overnight in Takamatsu (B,L)

Day 9 | 25th November 2024

Onomichi (Seto Inland Sea)

Today we travel to Onomichi, a region famous for its charming islands and historic sites. This inland coastal town boasts picturesque landscapes, historic temples, and a laid-back atmosphere. We will have the afternoon free during our stay, so why not consider Onomichi's scenic Temple Walk, a picturesque trail lined with traditional Japanese temples and stunning views of the sea. Alternatively, you may rent an electric bike and explore parts of the Shimanami Kaido an undulating cycling route with its awe-inspiring bridges connecting islands across the Seto Inland Sea. Overnight in Onomichi (B,D)





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Day 10 & 11 | 26th & 27th November 2024

Hiroshima and Miyajima

We finish our Setouchi Reflection Tour with a two night stay in Hiroshima, a city that offers a poignant blend of cultural exploration and historical reflection. We visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Atomic Bomb Dome, both symbols of the city's resilience and commitment to peace. A highlight of our visit includes a ferry ride to Miyajima Island, home to the revered Itsukushima Shrine and its famous "floating" torii gate. We also have a chance to indulge in Hiroshima's renowned okonomiyaki, a savory pancake layered with various ingredients. Overnight in Hiroshima 2 nights (B,L)

Day 12 | 28th November 2024

Tour Concludes

Our Setouchi Reflection tour concludes today in Hiroshima. If you have booked your return airfares with us we include a transfer to Hiroshima Airport as part of your package inclusion. Alternatively, you may decide to extend your stay in Japan with one of our package extensions that include further exploration of the Setouchi region, or Fukuoka, Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo. Contact us for pricing and further details.





Package Inclusions

- > Airport meet and great, return airport transfers (shared)
- > 11 nights accommodation at superior 3.5* and 4* hotels and ryokans
- > All Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 3 Dinners
- > Services of an English-speaking leader/guide
- > Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- > Traditional Japanese tea ceremony at Ritsurin Garden
- > Bizen-yaki pottery workshop
- > Sanuki udon making class
- > All rail and private vehicle travel
- > Luggage transfer where part of the itinerary

Package Exclusions

- > International Airfares
- > Optional tours or services not listed in the inclusions
- > Other meals where not mentioned in the program
- > Alcoholic drinks and other drinks at mealtime
- > Early check in / late check out
- > Personal expenses
- > Travel insurance (compulsory)
- > Additional transportation and accommodation pre or post tour (for example, rail tickets to and extension stays in Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo).

Booking Terms and Conditions

[^]Indicative price is per guest and includes package inclusions as listed. Once your booking has been confirmed, we require a deposit of 30% payable within 7 days, with final payment due 90 days prior to departure. Once you have paid a deposit, your booking is subject to cancellation/amendment fees. You can view the full terms and conditions on our website.

<https://www.travelun.com.au/booking-conditions>

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