

Japan Fall Foliage Cruise Tour

with a touch of South Korea

11 October 2025

19 Day Full Hosted Small Group Tour





Japan Fall Foliage Cruise Tour

Join us and embark on a captivating journey that seamlessly blends cultural immersion, breathtaking natural beauty, and the luxury of cruising on this 19-day adventure through Japan and beyond. This thoughtfully curated itinerary begins in Tokyo, where the ancient traditions of Japan harmonize with the pulse of a modern metropolis. From vibrant cityscapes to serene coastal retreats, every moment offers a chance to connect with Japan's unique history, culture, and landscapes.

We begin our journey in Tokyo, a dynamic city where ancient shrines and temples coexist with cutting-edge skyscrapers and bustling markets. After a guided tour of this vibrant metropolis, we board our ship *Holland America Westerdam*, setting sail on an unforgettable exploration of Japan's captivating destinations. Each port destination is designed to showcase Japan's diverse charm and offer enriching cultural experiences.

Explore Omaezaki's rolling hills, sweeping beaches, and lush tea fields, or indulge in the culinary delights of Kobe, home to the world-famous Kobe beef. In Kochi, step back in time at the historic Kochi Castle and experience the lively atmosphere of Hirome Market, a food lover's paradise.

Experience the scenic beauty of the Kanmon Straits, a waterway steeped in history, and visit Fukuoka, where futuristic architecture blends seamlessly with centuries-old shrines. Cross into South Korea for a day of discovery in Sokcho, known for its stunning Seoraksan National Park and vibrant harbour markets. Return to Japan to uncover the treasures of Kanazawa, including the breathtaking Kenrokuen Garden and historic samurai districts. In Sakata, step back in time to the Edo era while sampling Yamagata's renowned fruits.

Journey north to Hakodate, where we explore the rugged beauty of Hokkaido and the rich heritage of the indigenous Ainu people. Stroll along Otaru's charming canals, sample local sake, and learn about Japan's maritime legacy. In Aomori, discover a city transformed, blending modern innovation with tranquil bay views. Finally, revel in the coastal beauty and fresh flavours of Miyako, a hidden gem surrounded by dramatic cliffs and sparkling waters.

With the perfect balance of cultural exploration, and time to relax and recharge, this itinerary offers something for every traveller. Onboard *HAL Westerdam*, enjoy world-class dining, entertainment, and luxurious amenities, ensuring every moment of your journey is as memorable as the destinations themselves.

Join us for this extraordinary 19-day adventure, and let Japan's timeless charm, rich culture, and stunning landscapes create memories that will last a lifetime.



Japan Fall Foliage Cruise Tour

11th October to 29th October 2025

SAT 11 Departure to Tokyo

The moment we have been waiting for is finally here! Today, our adventure begins as we board our flight to Tokyo, the vibrant heart of Japan. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the in-flight hospitality as anticipation builds for the unforgettable journey ahead.

Upon our arrival in Tokyo, the buzz of this electric metropolis greets us. We transfer to our hotel for the night, where we settle in and relax after our travels. This evening is yours to relax or to take your first steps into Tokyo's dazzling energy—a city brimming with culture, innovation, and endless discoveries. Get ready for an extraordinary adventure that's just beginning!



Trip Highlights

- **Yokohama (Tokyo):** Explore Japan's bustling capital and embark from Yokohama.
- **Omaezaki:** Visit this laid-back seaside town known for its rolling hills, wind-swept beaches, and the iconic Omaezaki Lighthouse, offering sweeping views of the azure waters.
- **Kobe:** Explore the city renowned for its exquisite wagyu beef and the historic Ikuta Shrine, one of Japan's oldest Shinto shrines.
- **Kochi:** Discover Kochi Castle, one of Japan's few remaining original castles, and enjoy the city's vibrant markets and scenic rivers.
- **Kanmon Straits:** Witness breathtaking views of Japan's maritime gateway, blending history and natural splendor.
- **Fukuoka:** Visit this dynamic city known for its ancient temples, bustling shopping districts, and delectable Hakata ramen.
- **Sokcho, South Korea:** Seoraksan National Park and vibrant harbor markets.
- **Kanazawa:** Wander through well-preserved samurai historical districts and visit Kenrokuen Garden, considered one of Japan's most beautiful, landscaped gardens.
- **Sakata:** Edo-era landmarks and Yamagata's famous fruits.
- **Hakodate:** Enjoy panoramic views from Mount Hakodate, explore the historic Fort Goryokaku, and savor fresh seafood at the local morning market.
- **Otaru:** Stroll along the picturesque canal lined with Victorian-style buildings, visit the Otaru Music Box Museum, and sample local sake at traditional breweries.
- **Aomori:** Nebuta Museum and scenic Mutsu Bay.

Overall Key Experiences:

- Cruising aboard award-winning Holland America Westerdam.
- Immersive cultural experiences in each port.
- Scenic landscapes, historical sites, and authentic cuisine.
- Enriching onboard activities and dining.
- Guided explorations of Tokyo before and after the cruise.

All in-flight meals included. (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

SUN 12 Yokohama (Tokyo) – Embarkation

(B) (L) (D)

Today marks the exciting start of our journey as we embark on the Holland America Westerdam, setting sail on an unforgettable adventure through Japan's most captivating destinations.

The day begins with a **morning tour of Tokyo**, exploring the city's highlights. From its bustling streets to tranquil spots, Tokyo's vibrant culture and rich history provide the perfect introduction to this extraordinary voyage.

After our Tokyo exploration, we transfer to the port and board the **Holland America Westerdam**, our luxurious home for the journey. As we step aboard, the excitement and elegance of this world-class cruise experience comes to life. Take time to settle into your cabin, explore the ship's many amenities, and soak in the anticipation of the adventures that lie ahead.

This evening, we gather for a Welcome Dinner on board, a delightful opportunity to meet your fellow travellers, share in the excitement of the journey, and enjoy a delicious meal crafted by the ship's talented chefs.

Welcome Aboard! Your unforgettable exploration of Japan begins here.

MON 13 Exploring Omaezaki's Seaside Charm

(B) (L) (D)

As we dock in **Omaezaki**, this tranquil coastal retreat along Shizuoka's stunning shoreline invites us to explore its unique blend of natural beauty, rich traditions, and local flavors.

Begin the day with a visit to the iconic Omaezaki Lighthouse. Climb to the top for breathtaking panoramic views of Shizuoka's azure coastline and rolling countryside. This peaceful advantage is perfect for capturing memorable photos and soaking in the serene atmosphere.

Immerse yourself in the local culture with a visit to the bustling **Omaezaki Market**. Stroll through vibrant stalls filled with fresh seafood, traditional Japanese snacks, and unique regional delicacies. A perfect opportunity to savor the distinctive flavors of this coastal town while enjoying its lively, authentic charm.

A short journey from the port brings you to the breathtaking **Makinohara Tea Fields**, a lush expanse renowned for producing some of Japan's finest green tea. Stroll through the meticulously pruned rows of tea bushes, taking in the serene beauty of this iconic landscape. Learn about the region's time-honored tea-making traditions and the craftsmanship behind Shizuoka's world-famous green tea. For an added treat, enjoy an **optional tea-tasting experience**, where you can savor the delicate, earthy flavors that have made Shizuoka a symbol of Japan's rich tea culture.

After a day of scenic views, cultural experiences, and local flavours we return to the ship to unwind and reflect on the day's experiences. In the evening, we gather for dinner and share stories from the day, celebrating the memorable sights and tastes of Omaezaki together.



(B) (L) (D)

TUE 14 Kobe, Japan

(B) (L) (D)

This morning, we step ashore to explore the sophisticated charm of **Kobe**, a city renowned for its seamless blend of Japanese tradition and international influences. Often referred to as Japan's "Paris," Kobe captivates with its rich history, vibrant culture, and world-famous cuisine.

Stroll through the **Kitano district**, where beautifully preserved 19th-century Western-style homes reflect the city's cosmopolitan past. Wander its historic streets and admire the unique fusion of Japanese and Western architecture.

Visit the serene **Ikuta Shrine**, one of Japan's oldest Shinto shrines, nestled in lush greenery. This peaceful sanctuary invites quiet reflection amidst its stunning traditional design, offering a tranquil escape from the city's energy.

No visit to Kobe is complete without savoring its most famous delicacy—**Kobe beef**. Renowned for its unparalleled marbling, tenderness, and flavour, this culinary treasure is expertly prepared by master chefs at a renowned teppanyaki restaurant, making for an unforgettable dining experience.

For a modern vibe, explore **Harborland**, a lively waterfront district with boutiques, cafes, and stunning harbour views. As the day concludes, we return to the ship to gather over dinner, sharing stories of the elegance, history, and indulgence that made Kobe an unforgettable highlight of your journey.

WED 15 Kochi, Japan

(B) (L) (D)

Today, we step into the heart of Kochi, a city that seamlessly combines rich history with vibrant local culture. Known for its stunning 17th-century castle and bustling food markets, Kochi offers a captivating glimpse into Japan's past and present.

Visit the iconic **Kochi Castle**, one of Japan's few surviving original castles. Perched on a hilltop, the castle offers breathtaking views of the city and its surrounding landscapes. Wander through the castle's well-preserved halls and learn about the Edo-period Yamauchi lords who once ruled this remarkable fortress, gaining a unique glimpse into Japan's feudal history.

Next, dive into the lively energy of **Hirome Market**, the culinary and cultural heart of Kochi. This bustling marketplace is a food lover's paradise, showcasing the best of the region's flavours. Sample fresh sushi, indulge in the city's signature **katsuo no tataki** (seared bonito), and explore a variety of local delicacies. Pull up a seat at the communal tables to soak in the friendly, laid-back atmosphere that makes Hirome Market a favourite among locals and visitors alike.

Take time to browse the shops and stalls surrounding the market, where you'll find everything from handcrafted souvenirs to traditional Japanese snacks and unique regional treasures. Engage with the warm and welcoming vendors and experience firsthand the spirit of hospitality that defines Kochi.

As the day winds down, return to the ship for a relaxing evening onboard. Sharing stories of Kochi's rich history, delicious flavours, and warm hospitality over dinner as we set sail for our next destination.



THU 16 Scenic Cruising: Kanmon Strait (B)(L)(D)

Prepare for a day of breathtaking scenery and historical discovery as we navigate the **Kanmon Strait**, the iconic waterway separating **Honshu** and **Kyushu**. This vital maritime passage connects the Sea of Japan with the Inland Sea and has been a cornerstone of Japan's rich history.

Sail past the historic site of the **1863 Shimonoseki Campaign**, where preserved cannons stand as a testament to a pivotal moment in Japan's journey toward modernisation. Marvel at the engineering brilliance of the bridges, ferries, and trains that seamlessly link the two islands, blending innovation with natural beauty.

As we glide through the strait, take in serene views of sparkling waters, lush landscapes, and vibrant cityscapes that frame this remarkable region. The Kanmon Strait is a perfect blend of history, culture, and breathtaking scenery.

We end the day with a delightful dinner together onboard, reflecting on this perfect blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.

FRI 17 Discovering Fukuoka (Hakata) (B)(L)(D)

Welcome to **Fukuoka**, the vibrant capital of Kyushu, where modern innovation meets centuries of tradition. This dynamic city offers a captivating blend of cultural heritage and urban charm.

Marvel at **Fukuoka Tower**, Japan's tallest seaside tower, offering panoramic views, and explore the futuristic **Canal City Hakata**, a hub for shopping, dining, and entertainment. Visit **Kushida Shrine**, a historic Shinto site tied to the famous Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival, and wander through the tranquil **Fukuoka Castle** ruins.

Relax in the serene **Ōhori Park**, featuring picturesque walking paths and a traditional Japanese garden, or enjoy the diverse attractions at **Uminonakamichi Seaside Park**, from vibrant gardens to family-friendly activities. Art enthusiasts can explore the **Fukuoka Asian Art Museum**, showcasing contemporary works from across Asia.

With its seamless mix of modern skyscrapers, cultural treasures, and tranquil parks, Fukuoka promises a day of unforgettable discoveries. End the day onboard with a delightful dinner together, sharing highlights from this captivating city.

SAT 18 Discovering Sokcho, South Korea (B)(L)(D)

After a leisurely morning onboard, we dock midmorning in Sokcho, a captivating coastal gem in northeast South Korea. Overflowing with natural wonders, rich cultural heritage, and unforgettable culinary delights, Sokcho promises a day of exploration and discovery.

Dive into Sokcho's vibrant culture at **Daepo Harbor**, this bustling port is alive with energy, offering the day's freshest catches transformed into sizzling street food, expertly crafted sashimi, and other coastal delicacies. It's a feast for the senses and a must-visit for food lovers looking to taste the authentic flavors of Sokcho.

For those drawn to nature, **Seoraksan National Park** is an awe-inspiring destination just a short ride from the port. Choose a hike to the **Geumganggul Cave Temple** or a **cable car ride** to the summit of **Mt. Seoraksan** for stunning views that will take your breath away. This UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve offers unforgettable experiences in one of South Korea's most beloved natural treasures.

For a more peaceful retreat, head to **Sokcho Beach**, where golden sands and turquoise waters create an idyllic setting to relax and reflect on your adventures.

As evening falls, we return to the Westerdam to enjoy a delightful dinner together, sharing stories of Sokcho's dazzling sights, rich flavors, and unforgettable experiences as we sail toward our next destination.





SUN 19 A Relaxing Day at Sea

(B) (L) (D)

After days of exploration and adventure, today is the perfect chance to unwind and enjoy the luxurious amenities of the ship. Lounge on the deck with a good book, take in the endless ocean views, or simply savour the serenity of a day dedicated to relaxation and rejuvenation.

Take a refreshing dip in the pool, indulge in a soothing spa treatment, or join one of the many engaging onboard activities. For a quieter escape, stroll along the promenade deck or sip a specialty coffee while watching the horizon stretch endlessly before you.

As evening falls, gather for a delightful dinner, sharing stories of past adventures and excitement for the destinations yet to come. This day at sea is a treasured pause, offering rest and inspiration as your journey continues.

MON 20 Exploring Kanazawa, Japan

(B) (L) (D)

This morning, we arrive in **Kanazawa**, a city where the timeless elegance of old Japan blends seamlessly with vibrant modern culture. Nestled along the Sea of Japan, Kanazawa is a treasure trove of samurai heritage, historic districts, and iconic landmarks.

Wander through the breathtaking **Kenrokuen Garden**, one of Japan's most beautiful, with tranquil ponds, elegant bridges, and seasonal blooms offering a serene escape. Then, wander through the **Higashi Chaya District**, where preserved wooden teahouses and traditional shops evoke the charm of geisha culture.

Discover **Kanazawa Castle**, an impressive feudal-era landmark surrounded by manicured landscapes, providing a glimpse into the city's samurai past. For art and culture enthusiasts, visit the **Kanazawa Noh Museum**, highlighting traditional theater, or the **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art**, showcasing Japan's innovative artistry.

Kanazawa's culinary scene is equally captivating. Indulge in the refined flavors of **Kaga cuisine**, and admire the city's renowned crafts, from intricate gold leaf artistry to the timeless beauty of **Kutani porcelain**.

Surrounded by the Japanese Alps and national parks, Kanazawa offers a perfect mix of exploration and relaxation. This evening, return to the ship for a delightful dinner together, sharing stories of the day's discoveries in this enchanting city.

TUE 21 Discovering Sakata, Japan

(B) (L) (D)

Nestled beneath the majestic Mount Chōkai, Sakata is a picturesque riverside city renowned for its natural beauty, rich history, and culinary treasures. Located in Yamagata Prefecture, known as Japan's "Fruit Kingdom," Sakata is celebrated for its sweet French pears and fresh seafood, best enjoyed at the vibrant port market.

As we arrive into Sakata, the city's Edo-era charm unfolds. The **Homma Historical Residence** showcases stunning 18th-century architecture, while the **Sankyō Soko Storehouse** preserves the legacy of 12 elegant rice storehouses from 1893. For a cultural treat, the **Sōmarō Maiko tea house** offers daily dance performances that bring Japan's traditional arts to life.

Art enthusiasts can explore the **Ken Domon Museum**, Japan's first photography museum, dedicated to the works of Ken Domon, whose realism redefined the medium. For those seeking scenic beauty, a coastal or mountain drive provides breathtaking views of the region's serene landscapes.

With its perfect blend of history, culture, and natural splendor, Sakata promises a day of unforgettable discovery. This evening, return onboard for a delightful dinner together, sharing stories of the day's adventures in this riverside gem.

WED 22 Hokkaido: Japan's Wild West

(B) (L) (D)

As we arrive in **Hokkaido**, Japan's northernmost island, we step into a realm of expansive landscapes, rugged wilderness, and endless horizons that evoke a sense of freedom and adventure unlike anywhere else in the country.

Hokkaido is steeped in history and legend, from tales of Minamoto Yoshitsune's escape in 1189 to the vibrant traditions of the **Ainu**, Japan's indigenous people. The Ainu's unique ceremonies, intricate **attush robes**, and deep connection to nature remain integral to the island's identity.

Explore **Hakodate**, the island's gateway, where history, legend, and Ainu culture intertwine. Experience the breathtaking landscapes and uncover the spirit of Japan's northern frontier, a place where tradition and wilderness converge in captivating harmony.

This evening, return onboard for a delightful dinner, sharing reflections on the day's adventures and the timeless allure of Japan's untamed northern frontier.

THU 23 Otaru, Japan

(B) (L) (D)

Today we discover Otaru, a charming coastal city where Japan first ventured beyond the horizon into the deep ocean.

Once hesitant to venture into the vast surrounding seas, the Japanese embarked on their first bold oceanic explorations from Otaru, transforming it into a thriving hub of trade and discovery.

Known as **Asia's herring capital**, Otaru's prosperity was built on the fish that sustained its economy and culinary traditions. Today, the city's rich maritime history is reflected in its picturesque **Otaru Canal**, lined with stone warehouses that once stored the bounty of the sea and now house unique shops, galleries, and eateries.

Explore Otaru's **maritime heritage**, visit the historic warehouses, and stroll through charming streets known for their exquisite glassworks, where skilled artisans create intricate pieces inspired by the city's connection to the ocean.

With its blend of history, culture, and scenic beauty, Otaru is a place where the boldness of the past meets the charm of the present. This evening, we gather onboard for dinner, reflecting on the day's discoveries and the remarkable story of Otaru's role in shaping Japan's maritime legacy.

FRI 24 Aomori, Japan – Gateway to the North

(B) (L) (D)

This morning we arrive in **Aomori**, a city that has transformed from a simple gateway to Hokkaido into a vibrant destination with unique charm and breathtaking waterfront views. Perched on the edge of **Mutsu Bay**, Aomori blends natural beauty with modern innovation, offering a serene and refreshing perspective on northern Japan.

Nearby the **Tsugaru Strait**, just 20 kilometers wide, serves as an ecological crossroads, separating the fauna of northern and southern Asia. Famous for its unpredictable weather and historic shipwrecks, the strait adds a touch of drama to the serene surroundings.

Though much of Aomori was rebuilt after World War II, the city now stands as a testament to resilience and reinvention. Striking modern architecture, tranquil parks, and picturesque bay views invite visitors to stroll its streets and experience its quiet charm.

No longer merely a stopover, Aomori represents the perfect balance of history, adaptability, and forward-thinking design. This evening, return onboard for dinner together, reflecting on the day's discoveries and the city's journey from a gateway to a modern treasure.

SAT 25 Miyako, Japan

(B) (L) (D)

Today, we immerse ourselves in the natural beauty of **Miyako**, a stunning coastal destination framed by rugged cliffs and sparkling waters. The highlight of our visit is the iconic **Jodogahama Beach**, a serene pebble beach surrounded by striking rock formations and crystal-clear seas. Whether you take a refreshing swim, enjoy a peaceful stroll, or simply admire the breathtaking scenery, this spot offers an unforgettable connection to Miyako's pristine landscapes.

Afterward, we head to the **Miyako Fish Market**, where the day's freshest catches are on display. Here, you'll enjoy a delightful lunch featuring local seafood specialties, a perfect way to savour the vibrant culinary traditions of the region.

This evening, we return onboard for a relaxing dinner, sharing stories of the day's discoveries. With its stunning vistas, fresh flavours, and meaningful moments, Miyako is sure to leave a lasting impression.

SUN 26 Day at Sea

(B) (L) (D)

Embrace the perfect opportunity to unwind and recharge as we sail through the open ocean.

SUN 27 Tokyo, Japan

(B)

This morning, our Circle of Japan Cruise comes to a close as we disembark in vibrant Tokyo.

The city's remarkable energy provides the perfect backdrop to reflect on the extraordinary experiences of the journey.

After disembarkation, we transfer to our hotel before setting off on a city highlights tour this afternoon. While the bright neon lights and bustling streets of modern Tokyo are iconic, the city also offers a quieter, more traditional side. Discover serene gardens, historic temples, and cultural treasures that provide a tranquil contrast to Tokyo's dynamic pace.

MON 28 Depart Tokyo, Japan

(B)

As this incredible journey draws to a close in **Tokyo**, take a moment to reflect on the adventures shared, the friendships formed, and the unforgettable memories created.

Enjoy some free time this morning to explore Tokyo at your leisure. In the afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our early evening flight, arriving back in New Zealand on 29 October.



HOLLAND AMERICA WESTERDAM

The Holland America Line's MS Westerdam combines timeless elegance with modern amenities, offering an exceptional cruising experience. As a Vista-class ship, it accommodates up to 1,916 guests, ensuring an intimate and personalised voyage. Onboard, travelers can savor exquisite dining options, from the sophisticated Pinnacle Grill to the casual Lido Market and enjoy world-class entertainment at venues like the World Stage and Rolling Stone Lounge. Whether relaxing at the Greenhouse Spa, exploring insights at Explorations Central (EXC), or basking by the pool, every moment is designed to inspire.

JAPAN FALL FOILAGE CRUISE TOUR



You are invited to join us on our fully hosted small group tour. As this is one of our Sapphire tours the maximum number of guests is 18.

Based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand, we believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.

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19 DAYS • FULLY HOSTED SMALL GROUP TOUR

COUNTRIES Japan

DEPARTS 11 October – 29 October 2025

- Small Group Tour (max. 18 pax)
- Fully Hosted from New Zealand with a YOURTours Host
- International Economy Class flights ex Wellington or Auckland
 - Other departure locations available on request
 - Flight upgrades available upon request
 - Home Pick-up/drop-off T&C's apply
- 15 Day cruise aboard Holland America Westerdam
- Premium Hotels: High-quality accommodations during the land-based segments of the tour.
- Holland America Westerdam: Verandah Balcony Stateroom
- Transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary during land and cruise segments.
 - Includes Drinks Package and Wifi Package onboard the cruise
- All gratuities to local guides and cruise ship staff
- Departs 11th October 2025

Suite	Twin Share	Single
Verandah Stateroom	\$14,995 pp	\$19,995 pp

Important Information:

This tour is designed to deliver an exceptional travel experience and requires a minimum of 10 participants to operate. In the unlikely event this number is not met, the tour may be subject to cancellation or offered as an unhosted option to ensure you can still enjoy the planned itinerary.

Shore Excursions:

- Excursions at cruise ports are not included in the package price

