

Kobe Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Kobe Private Touring - Full Day (Minibus)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Notes:

Private minibuses are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Kobe Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Kyoto & the Shinkansen Bullet Train



Approximately 10 Hours



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From Kobe's pier, you'll begin exploring **Kyoto** by coach, stopping at the **Kinkaku-ji Temple**(exterior view). This elaborate building began life a villa built by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa in 1397, during the Muromachi Period. Later, the house was converted into a temple. It is three stories tall with the second and third stories completely covered in pure gold foil. Next you will visit **Nishiki Market** where you will see local food and products. **Lunch** will be served at local restaurant, and in the afternoon you will continue sightseeing by coach. Visit the **Heian Shrine**—a famous structure dedicated to Emperor Kammu, the founder of Kyoto, and to the Emperor Komei—the last Emperor in Kyoto. Finally, you'll stop at the **Kiyomizu Temple**, which is designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.. The main hall was constructed in the 17th century and is famous for its spectacular location, hanging over a cliff! After a **sightseeing drive** through Kyoto, the motor coach will take you to Kyoto station. Take an exciting high-speed train ride on the **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Shin-Kobe station; then transfer back to the pier.

Notes:

Bring Japanese Yen as there is no facility for changing currency. Wear a sunhat and sunglasses; bring bottled water. Modest attire is required; knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered. The visit to the Kiyomizu Temple involves climbing several steps.

Kyoto, the Ancient Capital



Approximately 9 Hours



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A city of profound history and rich tradition, **Kyoto** represents the soul of Japan. This must-see tour begins with a ride from Kobe to the ancient capital of Kyoto; then sets out to discover some of Japan's best-known sights. An impressive starting point for the tour is the **Kinkaku-ji Temple**, originally built in 1397 as a retirement dwelling for Shogun Yoshimitsu, then reconstructed in 1955, faithful to the 14th-century design. Elaborate gold foil lends the structure an almost gaudy appearance, as well as being appropriate for its name—the Golden Pavilion. Next is the ostentatious 1603 **Nijo Castle**, complete with "nightingale" floors that were designed to squeak to warn the inhabitants of intruders. Kyoto's 1,100th birthday was celebrated with the construction of the **Heian Shrine**. Surrounded by gardens, this two-thirds scale model of the Heian Imperial Palace features a Chinese-style bridge. Finish up your visit to Kyoto with a stop, time permitting, at the **Handicraft Center** for some **souvenir shopping**.

Notes:

Shoes must be removed for Nijo Castle visits; socks must be worn.

Mt Rokko & Sake Brewery



Approximately 4 Hours



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Enjoyed it?

4 out of 5

Value



4 out of 5

1 out of 1(100%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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Scenery and *sake* await you on this tour. You will drive up to the **Mt Rokko Observatory**. At almost 3,000 feet, Mt Rokko is the highest peak in the mountain range that spreads 19 miles from northeast to southwest, north of the cities of Kobe, Ashiya and Nishinomiya. Then from the top of the mountain, take a **cable car** down. Next, you'll visit the **Sake Brewery Museum** in Kobe. No history of *sake* is complete without mentioning Nada—the Nada district in Kobe is known as the mecca of *sake* brewing and it is full of cultural heritage sites that evoke the area's long association with *sake*.

Mt Rokko Nighttime Panorama



Approximately 3½ Hours



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This evening, drive up to the **Mt Rokko Observatory**. At almost 3,000 feet, Mt Rokko is the highest peak in the mountain range that spreads 19 miles from northeast to southwest, north of the cities of Kobe, Ashiya and Nishinomiya. Enjoy some **free time** at the bar lounge of a hotel in Kobe with one glass of beer, wine or a soft drink included.

Mt Rokko Panorama



Approximately 2 Hours



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Nara & the Horyuji Temple



Approximately 9 Hours



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The world's largest statue of Buddha is the first of many interesting sights that await you in the city of **Nara**—a center of the Arts, literature and religion. Nara is home to a number of very impressive buildings and landmarks, as you will discover on today's motor coach tour. The Daibutsu (Great Buddha) in the **Todaiji Temple** is cast in bronze and set in an enormous wooden building. See this star attraction for yourself; then continue to the **Kasuga Shrine** before stopping for **lunch** at a local restaurant. Re-boarding the coach, continue to the **Horyuji Temple**, the oldest in Japan, which contains some of the nation's rarest treasures. Additionally, it is reputed to be among the oldest wooden buildings in the world. Its inside walls are covered in clay images which depict the life of Buddha.

Osaka & River Cruise



Approximately 4¾ Hours



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Depart from the port in Kobe and head to central **Osaka** by motor coach. Osaka is the largest commercial center in all of Western Japan. You'll board a **day boat** for the cruise down the river to catch a glimpse of some of the city's man-made highlights. Watch for Osaka Castle, the Twin Towers, and City Hall on Nakanoshima Island. Once back on dry land, board a motor coach and head inland to the **Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine**—a Shinto place of worship dedicated to sea deities. A relentless program of land reclamation has resulted in the shrine, which once enjoyed a waterfront location, now standing three miles inland. At the end of your tour you will transfer back to Kobe port.

The Best of Osaka



Approximately 8 Hours



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Join this tour for an orientation of **Osaka** and a visit to its special attractions. You will pass through Osaka's downtown area on the way to the **Osaka Castle**. Built in 1583 and destroyed just 32 years later, the castle has undergone many reconstructions—the most recent in 1931. Next you will visit **Shitennoji Temple**, built in AD 593 and believed to be the oldest Buddhist temple in Japan. Although it has also been rebuilt many times in its long history, excavations have shown the current layout to be very true to its original design. The temple's

great southern gate, central gate, pagoda, main hall and lecture hall are constructed in a straight line—a design layout called Shitennoji cathedral style. The temple houses six national treasures and many other items of cultural importance. After a Japanese-style set menu **lunch** at a local restaurant, stroll through **Dotonbori**, an iconic area of Osaka and beloved by residents. Dotonbori is a dense area of restaurants and amusement spots located along the south bank of the Dotonbori Canal.

Notes:

Travel time to Osaka is approximately 90 minutes each way.