

BASIC TOUR OUTLINE

2027 CULTURE COASTLINE AND SPIRITUAL BEAUTY OF SAN'IN (DISCOVERY)

START: **(Refer to website for date) from Tokyo (Haneda)**

FINISH: at Tottori

DURATION: **13 days**

PRICE: **AUD \$11,730 per person**

GROUP size: **8 people**

SINGLE SUPP: **AUD \$1,360 per person**

REF: GUI-27

TOUR OVERVIEW

For travellers who have already experienced the highlights of Japan and are ready to go deeper, our exclusive 2027 small-group journey reveals the country's most authentic and least-explored region - San'in.

Stretching along the rugged coastline of western Honshu and facing the tranquil Sea of Japan, San'in offers a rare glimpse into a quieter, more contemplative Japan. Here, ancient traditions endure, landscapes remain unspoiled, and cultural encounters feel personal and unhurried - ideal for experienced travellers seeking meaning over milestones.

This thoughtfully paced itinerary blends spiritual heritage, natural beauty, and living craftsmanship. Visit the revered Izumo Taisha, one of Japan's oldest and most significant Shinto shrines, and explore Matsue Castle, a rare original feudal castle designated a national treasure. Walk in the shadow of Mount Daisen, long considered one of Japan's sacred peaks, where nature and spirituality intertwine.

Engage with Japan's living culture through intimate experiences - watch traditional Kagura performances, soak in restorative onsen hot springs, and meet artisans preserving centuries-old crafts such as washi paper-making and traditional ironwork.

Beyond the mainland, the spectacular Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark offer dramatic coastal scenery, rich biodiversity, and a distinct island culture shaped by centuries of isolation. This is Japan at its most raw and elemental.

Designed specifically for curious, culturally minded travellers, this small-group tour provides seamless access to a region that is otherwise difficult to navigate independently - without compromising comfort or depth.

Step away from the familiar. Discover a side of Japan that few travellers experience - profound, peaceful, and deeply rewarding.

*Accommodation will be as planned below or similar.

DAY	PLAN	DETAILS	MEALS	ACCOMODATION
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DAY	PLAN	DETAILS	MEALS	ACCOMODATION
1	Airport meet and greet on arrival	<p>Welcome to Japan! On arrival at either Haneda Airport or Narita International Airport, you will be warmly met by your Journey to the East guide and transferred to your airport hotel.</p> <p>Today is a dedicated arrival day with no scheduled group activities, allowing you to relax and recover after your flight. Your hotel is conveniently located at Haneda Airport in preparation for an early departure on Day 2 of your 2027 Culture, Coastline & Spiritual Beauty of San'in Japan tour.</p> <p>If time permits, you may wish to make a short independent excursion into central Tokyo for a first glimpse of Japan's dynamic capital before your journey into the quieter, lesser-known San'in region begins.</p> <p>Many guests choose to arrive a day or two early to rest and adjust to the time difference. Pre-tour accommodation in the same hotel or in central Tokyo can be arranged upon request - please contact us for details.</p>	No meals	Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyo [Standard Twin]
2	Transfer to and guided tour of Tsuwano	<p>Begin your journey with a domestic flight from Tokyo's Haneda Airport to Hagi Iwami Airport, where the charm of rural Japan awaits. Met by your guide and minibus at the airport, you begin your exploration of the picturesque town of Tsuwano, often called "Little Kyoto," and immerse yourself in its rich history and serene beauty. Stroll down the iconic Tonomachi Street on a guided walking tour, where colourful irises bloom and graceful koi swim along peaceful canals beside white-walled samurai residences. Visit the stunning Taikodani Inari Shrine, one of Japan's top five Inari shrines, known for its vibrant red torii gates and panoramic views. Savour a regional specialty lunch at a charming restaurant before heading to the Sekishu Washi Centre, where you'll discover the centuries-old art of handmade Japanese washi paper. End your day with a tranquil stay at a traditional ryokan where heartfelt hospitality and the calming rhythms of the countryside promise a restful night.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Ryokan Nushiya [Japanese or Western bed room]
3	Guided tour of Iwami Ginzan	<p>After a hearty breakfast at your ryokan, you head to another adventure, travelling in the comfort of a private minibus, to the historic Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled in the lush mountains of Shimane. Discover the fascinating legacy of this once-flourishing mining town, where stone paths, charming old buildings, and serene forest trails to hear stories of Japan's Edo-era prosperity.</p> <p>In the afternoon, you visit the workshop of a local artisan who crafts traditional masks from washi paper for the dynamic Iwami Kagura dance - an art form deeply rooted in the region's culture. Continue to the nostalgic hot spring town of Yunotsu, where time seems to slow down. Enjoy a guided walking tour through the town's quiet streets, visiting a traditional public bathhouse, a local pottery studio, and the atmospheric Okidomari Port, where history lingers in the sea breeze. After a delicious local dinner, join the community at a nearby shrine to witness a live Iwami Kagura performance - a powerful, colourful spectacle of myth, music, and dance that will leave a lasting impression. Spend the night at a cozy ryokan in Yunotsu, surrounded by the warmth of tradition and hospitality.</p>	Breakfast, Dinner	Kiunso [Japanese style tatami mat room with futon bedding - private room with toilet, with a communal bathroom]

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4	Guided tour of Izumo	<p>Begin your journey through the heart of Japanese mythology with a visit to the revered Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine - one of Japan's oldest and most sacred Shinto shrines, steeped in ancient legend and spiritual significance. Enjoy a detailed guided tour that brings to life the stories of gods and creation myths that shaped the nation's cultural heritage.</p> <p>In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the serene elegance of the Izumo Quilt Museum, set within a beautifully preserved traditional Japanese house. Marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship of local textile artists and take in the tranquil beauty of the surrounding Japanese garden. As evening falls, savour a delightful dinner at a local izakaya, where you can enjoy fresh regional produce and traditional flavours in a warm, lively atmosphere. Conclude your day with a restful stay at a comfortable hotel in Izumo.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Dormy Inn Izumo [Deluxe Twin Room]
5	Transfer to and guided tour of Oki Islands	<p>Days 5 and 6 take you right off the beaten path to the stunning Oki Islands - remote gems off the Shimane coast and a designated UNESCO Global Geopark. This unforgettable leg of the journey could well be the highlight of your tour. Begin with a short scenic flight from Izumo to the Oki Islands, where your adventure starts on Dōgo Island. Explore its spiritual and natural wonders with a guided tour, including visits to the revered Tamawakasumikoto Shrine and the ancient Iwakurano Chichisugi, a sacred thousand-year-old cedar tree rooted deep in local mythology. Continue to see the windswept Yana Pine Tree, dramatically clinging to the rocky coast, and admire the charm of traditional bathhouses lining the quiet inlets, offering a glimpse into the island's timeless way of life. Then, board a ferry to Nishinoshima Island and witness the dramatic Kuniga Coast, where sheer cliffs like Matengai - the highest in Japan - tower over the crashing waves. Continue by ferry to peaceful Ama Town, where you'll unwind at Entō, a beautifully designed hotel offering panoramic ocean views and an immersive experience in island serenity.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Ento [Superior in Base building]
6	Guided tour of Oki Islands	<p>On Day 6, embark on a scenic ferry ride to Chiburijima, the smallest and perhaps most remote of the Oki Islands - a hidden treasure that offers breathtaking natural beauty and a true sense of seclusion. Enjoy a guided tour of the island, where you'll witness the striking Sekiheki, or Red Cliff, a dramatic coastal formation carved by time and tide. Along the way, take in sweeping ocean vistas, unique wildlife, and the rugged, untouched charm of one of Japan's most isolated corners. After a relaxed lunch on the island, return by ferry to your hotel in Ama Town. The afternoon is yours to experience the slow rhythm of island life - rent an e-bike and explore the coastal roads, glide across the sea on an underwater observation boat, or join the hotel staff for an interpretive tour of the UNESCO Geopark. Or simply unwind and soak in the serene view of the surrounding islands. The evening is free for you to dine at your leisure, with several welcoming local restaurants just a short stroll away.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch	Ento [Superior in Base building]

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7	Transfer to and guided tour of Matsue	Begin your day with a high-speed ferry journey from the Oki Islands back to mainland Shimane. Be prepared to be enchanted by Yushien Garden, a stunning example of traditional Japanese landscape design. Later, delve into the rich history of Matsue with a guided tour, exploring the majestic Matsue Castle, a designated National Treasure. Wander through atmospheric samurai houses and gain insight into the life of Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo) at his memorial museum. Conclude your day with a comfortable stay at a modern hotel in Matsue, savouring dinner at a local restaurant and reflecting on the day's cultural discoveries.	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Matsue Excel Hotel Tokyu [Superior Twin or Double]
8	Guided tour of Oku Izumo and Unnan	Today's journey takes you deep into the mountainous heart of Oku Izumo, where Japan's legendary swordsmithing traditions were born. Travel by minibus through scenic countryside to the Oku Izumo Tatara Sword Museum, where you'll uncover the rich history of tatara iron forging - the ancient method used to craft the steel of the samurai's revered katana (sword). After lunch, continue to the remote Sugaya Tatara Sannai site, nestled in the forested hills of Unnan. Here, walk through a beautifully preserved example of a traditional tatara furnace, and gain insight into the intense labour and precision behind this age-old craft. Return to Matsue in the late afternoon. This evening is yours to enjoy: take a serene stroll to catch the famous sunset over Lake Shinjiko - an unforgettable sight - before discovering a local restaurant for dinner at your own pace.	Breakfast, Lunch	Matsue Excel Hotel Tokyu [Superior Twin or Double]
9	Guided tour of Daisen	<p>Today, we are moving from Shimane Prefecture to Tottori Prefecture, the two prefectures form the San'in region. Begin your day with a visit to the Shoji Ueda Museum of Photography, dedicated to one of Japan's most celebrated photographers, known for his surreal compositions and deep connection to the Tottori landscape.</p> <p>Then, you will ascend to the majestic slopes of Mt. Daisen, one of Japan's most sacred peaks and a centre of ancient nature worship. Here, you'll experience the quiet spirituality of Daisenji Temple, have a shojin burger, a twist from a shojin ryori, a Buddhist vegetarian cuisine for lunch. After lunch, a guided meditation invites reflection amid towering cedars and mountain air.</p> <p>Tonight, stay in the Mount Daisen area, where the serene views and spiritual energy of this sacred mountain offer a peaceful close to the day.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Mercure Tottori Daisen Resort & Spa [Standard Twin Room]

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10	Guided tour of Kurayoshi	<p>This morning, discover the intricate beauty of local craftsmanship as you explore two traditional art forms unique to the region. First, admire Kote-e - plaster relief art created with a trowel - an expressive blend of sculpture and architecture. Then visit Kanzaki Temple in Kotoura Town, where masterful woodcarvings showcase generations of artisanal skill in breathtaking detail.</p> <p>In the afternoon, stroll the nostalgic streets of Kurayoshi with a guided tour through its charming white-walled storehouses and red-tiled roofs, offering a glimpse into Edo-period life. Afterwards, venture to Mitokusan, a sacred mountain known for its dramatic landscapes and the awe-inspiring Nageiredo Hall, a temple built impossibly into the cliffs. This spiritual site offers a profound connection to nature and ancient mountain worship. Your day concludes in the historic hot spring town of Misasa Onsen, where traditional ryokan hospitality awaits. Relax in a tatami room, savour an exquisite kaiseki dinner, and soak in the healing waters of the onsen - a soothing finale to a culturally rich day.</p>	Breakfast, Dinner	Mansuirou [Japanese style room with tatami mat - private bathroom]
11	Guided tour of Tottori	<p>Today, you arrive at your final destination - Tottori, home to Japan's most iconic desert-like landscape. Begin at the Tottori Sand Dunes, the region's top attraction, where vast, undulating dunes meet the Sea of Japan. Visit the information centre to learn about the fascinating geological forces that shaped this natural wonder, then marvel at the incredible sand sculptures at the Tottori Sand Museum, where artistry and nature collide. After lunch at a seaside restaurant with views of the coast, head to your final accommodation: Ooe Valley Stay, a beautifully repurposed former primary school nestled in the countryside. Created by a visionary local agricultural company, this unique retreat celebrates harmony between people and nature. Savour farm-to-table meals prepared with fresh local produce, and take part in optional hands-on activities that offer a gentle grounding close to your journey through rural Japan.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Ooe Valley Stay [Standard Twin]
12	Guided tour of Tottori and free afternoon	<p>On the final day of your journey, head into the peaceful mountains of Chizu Town for a revitalising forest walk - an opportunity to breathe deeply, connect with nature, and soak in the calming energy of the ancient woods. For lunch, enjoy a memorable meal at a rustic country restaurant famed for its traditional farm-to-table cuisine, served in a serene thatched-roof setting.</p> <p>The afternoon is yours to enjoy at your own pace: hop on a bicycle to explore the countryside, take a leisurely walk, try your hand at plant dyeing, relax with afternoon tea at a cozy café, or shop for handcrafted sweets and local treats.</p> <p>As the sun sets, gather for a heartfelt "Farewell Japan" dinner with your fellow travellers - sharing stories, laughter, and reflections on the unforgettable memories you've made together.</p>	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner	Ooe Valley Stay [Standard Twin]

DAY	PLAN	DETAILS	MEALS	ACCOMODATION
13	Departure	<p>This morning, you check out of your hotel after breakfast, and your 2027 Culture, Coastline and Spiritual Beauty of San'in Japan concludes.</p> <p>You can take a domestic flight from nearby Tottori Airport to Haneda (Tokyo) for your connecting flight. Alternatively, Tottori is close to other popular destinations of western Japan, such as Okayama, Hiroshima, Kobe, Himeji or Kyoto and Osaka if you would like to linger in Japan a little longer. Please talk to one of our friendly travel consultants; we would be delighted to plan your personal post-tour extension to show you a different part of Japan.</p> <p>Note: The cost of your transfer to your departure airport is not included in this tour, as we found many guests choose to travel further to other parts of Japan. However, we would be happy to arrange your transfer to your next destination or your departing airport.</p>	Breakfast	
	Inclusions for Group Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 nights' accommodation (including traditional Japanese inns) ■ All breakfasts, 9 lunches, 9 dinners ■ Airport meet & greet on arrival ■ Transfer to the hotel at Haneda Airport ■ All local transport (domestic flights, ferries and private minibus & minivans) ■ Expert English-speaking tour guides (locally licensed) ■ Cultural activities and entry fees are included in the itinerary ■ Luggage transfers (1 piece per person) 		
	Exclusions for Group Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ International and domestic airfare (unless otherwise stated) ■ Travel insurance ■ Transfer on the last day ■ Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except the 1st drink at each meal) ■ Tips and gratuities ■ Transport during free time ■ Personal expenses (laundry, coin-locker, internet, telephone etc.) ■ Visa (if required) 		