

# Japan

## Western Japan Explorer - October 2026



Japan- off the beaten track

9 Days, 8 Nights

Mild Grade



**Tour Cost (NZD) \$7695**

Single supplement: \$1500

**26 October to 3 November 2026**

### Tour Highlights

- The refined elegance of Japan: cuisine, tea and textiles, pottery and handcrafts.
- Natural hot springs bathing
- Traditional Inn stays
- Historic walks, town and country trails.



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Discover Japan with Tuatara Tours

Konnichi wa—and welcome to Japan.

See Japan the way the locals do—up close and on foot, not through a tour bus window. Our small-group tours give you a more personal, authentic experience of Japan's culture, landscapes, and way of life. Your guide Nicky, a fluent Japanese speaker who spent several years living in Japan, will take care of the details so you can focus on enjoying the journey. She's passionate about sharing the places, stories and traditions that make Japan so special.

Building on our popular Nakasendo Trail tour, this journey heads to western Japan's Shimane and Yamaguchi Prefectures—a lesser-known region rich in history and tradition. Enjoy gentle walks, hands-on cultural experiences, and delicious local food along the way.

### Day-by-Day Itinerary

Oct 26	Kyoto arrival day	
Oct 27	Exploring Kyoto	5km
Oct 28	Kyoto - Shin Yamaguchi - Yuda Onsen	4km
Oct 29	Yuda Onsen - Akiragi - Hagi	8km
Oct 30	Hagi - Tsuwano	5km
Oct 31	Exploring Tsuwano	7km
Nov 01	Tsuwano - Shin Yamaguchi - Fukuoka	5km
Nov 02	Exploring Fukuoka	5km
Nov 03	Fukuoka	

### Trip Grading: Mild


Ideal for anyone comfortable walking up to 10km on paved surfaces, well-formed tracks and forest trails with some short steep inclines.


### Your Host:


Leading your journey is Nicky Page, Tuatara Tours' Tour Manager and a fluent Japanese speaker. Nicky brings a love of the culture, and a personal connection to the landscapes and people you'll encounter.

**Questions?** Contact [nicky@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:nicky@tuataratours.co.nz)



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Day 1, Oct 26 Kyoto -arrival day


Welcome to Kyoto.


Today our group comes together in this beautiful city. Some travellers may already be here, while others will arrive later today. Full hotel directions will be included in your final travel documents before departure.


We'll meet in the hotel lobby early evening for a short tour briefing, then head out for a relaxed group dinner. It's a great chance to meet your fellow travellers and hear from Nicky about what's ahead over the next few days.

MEALS INCLUDED : D



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade



### Day 2 Oct 27 (Exploring Kyoto approx 5-7km city walking)

After breakfast, we head out to explore Kyoto on foot and by local transport—just like the locals do.


Once Japan's capital, Kyoto is the country's cultural heart. Elegant gardens, peaceful temples and shrines, and beautifully preserved heritage offer a glimpse into the refined world of the Heian period (794–1185).


Today's explorations include experiences that showcase local crafts and traditional culture.


This evening is free for you to enjoy Kyoto your own way—relax, dive into the city's vibrant food scene, or get ready for our journey onward tomorrow.

MEALS INCLUDED: B



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Day 3 Oct 28 Kyoto - Shin Yamaguchi - Yuda Onsen (4 km)

Today we ride Japan's famous shinkansen bullet train from Kyoto to Shin-Yamaguchi. From here, the pace slows as we switch to a local train for the short journey into Yamaguchi City.

Now a graceful regional town set among green countryside, Yamaguchi was once ruled by the powerful Ouchi samurai clan, who shaped western Japan for centuries. Their wealth from overseas trade left a legacy of refined culture and beautiful architecture.

We'll stroll the city's quiet streets and discover some of the treasures they left behind.

Later, a local bus takes us to Yuda Onsen, a charming hot spring town where we stay overnight. Enjoy a relaxing soak in the healing waters before sitting down to our first of many memorable Japanese meals.

MEALS INCLUDED: B D



### Day 4 Oct 29 Yuda Onsen - Akiragi - Hagi (8km)



After breakfast, a private vehicle takes us deep into the countryside to Akiragi, a former post-town village and the starting point of today's walk along the Hagi Oukan—an old highway linking the Sea of Japan with the Seto Inland Sea.

During the Edo period, Akiragi offered rest to travellers on this busy route. After a major fire in the late 19th century, the town was rebuilt in the style of the time, creating a distinctive look that stands apart from nearby villages.

We follow the path of past travellers, walking forest trails and stone-paved sections, passing quiet hamlets and rice fields. We pause for a picnic lunch beside the gently flowing Akiragi River.

In the afternoon, we arrive in Hagi, a former castle town known for its beautifully preserved streets and famous Hagi-yaki pottery, which we'll learn about during our visit.

Tonight, we stay in a modern hotel and enjoy dinner at a popular local izakaya restaurant, featuring fresh seafood and seasonal local produce.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Day 5 Oct 30 Hagi - Tsuwano (5km)



After a hearty breakfast, we head to Myojin-ike, a peaceful tidal pond fed by both sea and fresh water.

We then follow the coast to Mt. Kasayama, officially Japan's smallest volcano. A gentle forest path leads to a viewing deck beside the long-dormant crater, where sweeping views open out across the rugged coastline and the deep blue Sea of Japan.

Back in Hagi, we enjoy lunch before exploring the beautifully preserved samurai quarter. Largely untouched by war or natural disaster, the streets feel much as they did in Edo-period times.

In the afternoon, we travel on to Tsuwano, where we stay for two nights. Often called "Little Kyoto," this charming rural town is lined with Edo-era buildings and waterways.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

### Day 6 Oct 31 Tsuwano (7km)

We begin today's walk straight from our inn, climbing through a tunnel of around 1,000 vermilion torii gates to Taikodani Inari Shrine. Dedicated to prosperity and good fortune, it's one of Japan's most impressive Inari shrines, with grand halls and sweeping views as our reward.

From here, we continue uphill to the ruins of Tsuwano Castle, where stone ramparts offer dramatic views across the surrounding mountains. A steep path then leads us back down toward town, passing another quiet shrine along the way.

Back in Tsuwano, the afternoon is free for lunch and exploring at your own pace. Browse sake breweries, art galleries, craft shops, and historic streets, with Nicky happy to offer suggestions for places to see and treats to sample. We regroup at our inn later for a relaxing bath, followed by our final sumptuous Japanese banquet dinner.

MEALS INCLUDED: B D



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Day 7 Nov 1 Tsuwano - Shin Yamaguchi -Fukuoka (5-7km)

Today we move on—and on to another island. After breakfast, we return to Shin-Yamaguchi Station and hop back on the bullet train, speeding south to Fukuoka on the island of Kyushu.


Fukuoka is Kyushu's largest city and one of Japan's most vibrant urban centres. Its close ties to the Asian mainland have shaped its history for centuries, from early trade routes to its role as a key harbour city.


Modern Fukuoka was formed in 1889, when the port city of Hakata merged with the nearby castle town of Fukuoka. The name Hakata lives on today as a central district and the city's main railway hub.


This afternoon, there's time to explore Fukuoka and its historic sights. Tonight is free to enjoy the city your way—especially its legendary food scene, with countless local favourites to discover.

MEALS INCLUDED B



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Day 8 Nov 2 Fukuoka Highlights (approx 7km)

It's our last day together, and we round out our journey through Western Japan with a day of special shared cultural experiences in Fukuoka—a day you'll be talking about long after you get home.

Our final meal together this evening is the perfect chance to reflect on the journey, share stories, and perhaps raise a glass (or two) of sake to an unforgettable adventure.

MEALS INCLUDED B D



### Day 9 Nov 3 Fukuoka


Our tour concludes after breakfast, with your own arrangements in place for onward travel.


If you are staying on in Kyushu, Nicky will be happy to offer suggestions to help you make the most of your additional stay. There is still plenty more to see and experience in and around Fukuoka and further south.


We hope you have enjoyed your time in Japan, thank you for travelling with Tuatara Tours.

MEALS INCLUDED: B



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### What's Included



All Accommodation in Western Style Hotels or traditional Japanese Inns



Transport - local taxi, train or bus from start in Kyoto to finish in Fukuoka

**Accommodation:** This tour offers a wonderful blend of comfort, tradition, and charm, curated to enhance your Japan experience.

Enjoy three nights in authentic Japanese inns, featuring tatami mat floors, futon bedding, and yukata robes. Each ryokan includes its own soothing hot spring bath—ideal for unwinding at the end of the day.

Spend two nights in Kyoto at a modern, Western-style hotel with full ensuite facilities, one night in Hagi in a Japanese style hotel with private bathroom, and 2 nights in Fukuoka in a modern Western style hotel with full ensuite facilities.

**Dietary needs?** Please let us know about any dietary needs when you book. While Japan is a food lover's paradise, special diets—like gluten-free—aren't always well understood and must be requested in advance.

### What's Not Included

- Alcoholic beverages with meals – these are available for purchase, and there are some great regional specialities to try.
- Pre- and post-tour accommodation
- Transport between the arrival/departure airport and tour start and finish locations
- Airfares to Japan



Daily breakfast, 6 dinners and 2 lunches —great local cuisine



Entrance fees to listed activities



Fully qualified, knowledgeable guide



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





# Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026

## Off the beaten track

9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Travel Checklist:

Here's a list of recommended items to help you prepare. Use your own experience to supplement it—and if you're unsure about anything, just ask us.


Our tours run during Japan's spring and early autumn, so heavy clothing isn't needed. However, we recommend packing a good waterproof jacket and a long-sleeve top for cooler evenings. At the ryokans each evening, you'll be given a yukata (cotton kimono) to wear around the inn and for dinner.





We travel between cities using local transport, including bullet trains, so you'll need to carry your own luggage. Please limit your bags to one small-to-medium suitcase (ideally with wheels) and one day pack. Large suitcases are difficult to manage in Japan due to stairs, station layouts, and train luggage limits.

✓	Waterproof rain jacket with hood (a must) and waterproof over trousers (if you have them)
	Sturdy walking shoes with ankle support, spare laces
	Polar fleece jacket or top (mid layer)
	Woolen or thermal hikers socks 3-4 pair
	Hiking shorts or zip off long trousers (quick-dry fabric-no jeans). Gaiters, if you use them.
	Drink bottle (bottled water is available at vending machines throughout Japan and tap water is safe to drink)
	Medium size (35-40l) day pack with waterproof liner
	Camera/ phone and charger/ small torch
	Sun hat , sun glasses sun block. A warm hat or beanie is also handy for any cold, damp days
	One set of casual wear for evenings out in the cities (with sandals or casual shoes)
	Personal toiletries and essential medications, a small personal first aid kit, insect repellent
	Collapsible walking poles (if you normally walk with poles , make sure they fit in your suitcase)



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

**AUSTRALIA**  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Frequently asked questions:

#### How do I book a tour?

A deposit of \$1500 per person confirms your place and can be paid via credit card (Visa or Mastercard, no surcharge) through our website: <https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/make-a-payment/>, or by bank transfer to Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd: 01 0797 0308837 00.

#### When is the balance due?

The final balance is due 90 days prior to departure. A reminder will be sent via email. You're welcome to pay in instalments, as long as the full amount is received by the due date.

#### What if I need to cancel?

Our cancellation policy for the Japan- Western Japan Explorer Tour is:

- 91+ days prior to departure – no fee
- 90-60 days prior to departure – Deposit Non refundable
- 59-30 days prior to departure – 30% of total package cost applies
- 29-0 days prior to departure – 100% of total package cost applies
- After tour commencement – no refund available.



#### Do I need Travel Insurance?

Yes—comprehensive travel insurance is essential for this tour. Make sure your policy covers medical expenses, as healthcare in Japan is excellent but costly. You'll usually need to pay upfront for any treatment and claim the cost back from your insurer.

#### How big are the groups?

Our tours typically accommodate up to 12 people, though we can cater to larger groups on request.

#### Do I have to share a room?

Our tours are priced on a twin-share basis, with two people per room. In Japan, twin rooms (with two separate beds or futons) are the norm and tend to offer a bit more space—perfect for stretching out and storing your luggage.

If you're travelling solo, we'll pair you with another solo traveller of the same gender. Prefer your own space? You're welcome to upgrade to a private room with a single supplement.


#### Am I fit enough?


The Western Japan Explorer is graded mild—ideal for walkers with good general fitness. You'll need to be comfortable walking 5-10km on formed dirt tracks, and sealed surfaces, with some steeper climbs along the way.


This is a multi-day walking holiday made up of varied short day walks, sightseeing and cultural experiences through stunning landscapes. Japan's terrain is mountainous, so while the daily distances may seem modest, the hills can be challenging. We recommend including some training walks in your holiday preparations.

**Can I take a day off walking?** Yes! If you feel like a break, you're welcome to sit out a walk and explore the local area instead. Your guide will let you know what's coming up so you can decide what suits you best.



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Frequently asked questions:

#### What kind of food is included?

Our stays at Japanese inns include a traditional Japanese breakfast and a beautifully presented multi-course dinner, with hosts proud to share their regional specialities. At Western-style hotels, breakfast will include more familiar favourites. Lunches are enjoyed at local eateries along the way or as relaxed picnics outdoors. Please check your itinerary for which meals are included, and have some cash or a card handy on free days when you're exploring independently. Japanese cuisine is world-renowned, and food is very much part of the experience. If you have dietary requirements—especially gluten-free—please let us know at the time of booking. We'll do our best to accommodate, though options can be limited in some regions.

**Is alcohol provided?** No, but you're welcome to buy drinks at dinner. Japan offers excellent local beers, sake (rice wine), whisky, and regional specialties like homemade plum wine and citrus liqueurs—well worth trying!

**Do I have to tip in Japan?** Tipping isn't expected in Japan, and service staff won't anticipate it. However, if someone goes above and beyond, feel free to offer a small tip as a token of appreciation. You may like to bring some small items to give as gifts instead, a souvenir from New Zealand such as a book mark or notepad is always welcome and makes a great conversation starter.

**Should I spend extra time in Japan before or after the tour?** Absolutely! If you have time to explore more, Nicky is happy to suggest places to visit or help plan your onward travel based on your interests.

**How much luggage can I bring?** Travelling light is key. Stations are busy and often have stairs, and bullet trains have luggage size limits. Please bring one day pack and one overnight bag or small suitcase—no larger than 160cm (height + width + depth). If you're travelling on after the tour, extra luggage can be sent ahead by courier (cheap and efficient in Japan). Ask Nicky if you're unsure.


**Do I need hiking boots?** Sturdy walking shoes with good grip and ankle support are essential. Tracks can be uneven and slippery, especially when wet. Please make sure your footwear is well broken in before the tour. Running shoes or sandals aren't suitable.


**Do I carry a full pack?** No, just your day pack with the basics: wet weather gear, a drink bottle, sunhat, and anything else you'll need during the day.


**Should I carry cash or cards?** Japan is still largely a cash society, especially in rural areas. While Visa and Mastercard are accepted in many shops, it's wise to carry some cash. ATMs are easy to find in convenience stores if you need extra cash.

**Are all your Japan tours guided?** Yes—Nicky is with you throughout the tour to handle logistics and help bridge any language gaps. On the trails, we're also joined by a local guide for added safety, flexibility, and cultural insight. Together, they'll make sure your journey is smooth, safe, and enriching.



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Overview:

Japan lies in north-eastern Asia, between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan. It covers 377,873 square kilometres—similar in size to Germany and Switzerland combined, or slightly smaller than California. (New Zealand is 268,021 sq km.)

Japan is made up of four main islands and over 4,000 smaller ones, with a population of over 126 million, most living in urban areas. The capital, Tokyo, has a metropolitan population of around 12 million.

**Currency:** The currency is the yen. Coins come in 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 yen, with banknotes of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 yen. A 10% consumption tax (similar to GST) is included in most prices. Tipping is not customary.

**Electricity:** Japan uses 100 volts A.C. — 50Hz in the east, 60Hz in the west (including Kyoto and Osaka). A travel adaptor is essential for plugs, as Japan uses 2-flat-pin plugs (not 3-pin or round). Most modern phones and cameras have chargers that cover 110-220 volts which are fine to use in Japan, if you are not sure please check your phone or camera charger.


**Drinking Water:** Tap water is safe to drink throughout Japan. If you prefer bottled water, this is widely available at vending machines and convenience stores.


**Vaccinations:** No vaccinations are required to enter Japan from any country.


**Visas:** New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days. Visitors from other countries should check requirements with their nearest Japanese embassy or consulate.

**Dining Out:** Food is a highlight of any trip to Japan—from simple street noodles to elaborate kaiseki banquets. Traditional cuisine features rice, fish, vegetables, and seasonal ingredients. Japan also embraces international dishes such as curry and pasta. Each region has its own local specialties. Local beers and sake (rice wine) are also readily available and each region has its own local specialities.



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
0800 377 378

WORLD  
+64 39623280

AUSTRALIA  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### A brief historical overview:


Japan was first mentioned in historical documents around the 5th century when the Emperor Jimmu became the first in a long imperial line which still continues today. Japan's first permanent imperial court was established at Nara in 710.


In 794 the capital city moved from Nara to Heiankyo (the present day Kyoto) and a period of peace and prosperity continued until around 1185 with the ascendancy of the warrior class known as samurai. The Military clans pushed Japan into a series of civil wars, with the regional warlords becoming more and more powerful and toppling the aristocracy from power. Of these the most powerful was Tokugawa Ieyasu who established his shogunate government in Edo (present day Tokyo) and to secure his supremacy forced Japan into a period of isolation from the outside world until the mid-19th Century.


In 1853 Commodore Perry of the US Navy sailed his "black ships" into Japan, and with the arrival of the West and its more advanced technology, the Shogunate was forced to give in to the rising tide of modernisation.

Emperor Meiji was restored to power and embracing western culture, dress, food and architecture he set Japan on the path to the modern industrialised nation we see today.



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

**AUSTRALIA**  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following terms:

#### Contract

This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you, the client—defined as any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour operated by Tuatara Tours. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is governed by New Zealand law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only employees or directors of Tuatara Tours have the authority to vary or omit any of the terms stated herein.

#### Cancellation Policy Due to Travel Restrictions

If your trip is impacted by travel restrictions imposed by the New Zealand government or any other government, Tuatara Tours will either work with you to transfer your trip to a future date at no additional cost, or provide a full refund.

#### Price

All prices are quoted in New Zealand dollars and include 15% GST. Prices are based on rates current at the time of publishing. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to modify prices without notice if deemed necessary or appropriate.

**Accommodation** on organised tours is based on twin or double share. Solo travellers will be paired with another traveller of the same sex. A single supplement is available upon request.

#### Confirmation of Booking

Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price, which is due 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Tuatara Tours and its agents reserve the right to decline any booking at their discretion.

#### Cancellation

If a client cancels a tour, the following charges apply (unless otherwise stated):

- 91+ days prior to departure – no fee
- 90–60 days prior to departure – Deposit Non refundable
- 59–30 days prior to departure – 30% of total package cost applies
- 29–0 days prior to departure – 100% of total package cost applies

After tour commencement – no refund available.

#### Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is a requirement for all Tuatara Tours international tours. Your policy must include cover for tour cancellation, full medical expenses, and any other relevant risks. It is your responsibility to ensure you have adequate cover in place. Tuatara Tours cannot accept liability for any costs incurred due to insufficient or incomplete insurance.

#### Medical Conditions

You must inform us at the time of booking of any medical condition, history, or medication you are currently taking.


#### Changes to Tours


Tuatara Tours will make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, reasonable changes to the itinerary may be made if deemed necessary or advisable. Clients will be informed of any changes as soon as reasonably possible. Where a tour service must be substituted, a service of similar quality and standard will be provided.


#### Weather

Adverse weather may prevent planned activities from proceeding as scheduled. The tour guide may decide to alter the itinerary based on weather conditions, prioritising group safety. Tuatara Tours and its contracted suppliers are not responsible for changes resulting from weather-related circumstances.



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

**AUSTRALIA**  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following terms:

#### General conditions

Tuatara Tours, its agents, contractors and guides do not accept responsibility or liability for loss, damage to, or theft of personal belongings (owners risk) or for any expenses, including medical and transport expenses arising from a personal accident, injury, illness, or hospitalisation. Tuatara Tours and their guides reserve the right to make any alterations to the itinerary in the interest of safety, or unforeseen circumstances due to causes such as weather, illness or misadventure. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to keep to published schedules but no guarantee is given. Tuatara Tours will not be held liable for costs incurred by change, delay or the missing of connecting services. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to exclude a person from a tour at any time, if in the opinion of the guide or operator, that person may be likely to risk the health, safety or comfort (including unsociable behaviour) of other clients, him or herself or the environment. In such circumstances, Tuatara Tours will not be obliged to offer any refund or transfer ticket. These terms and conditions apply to each participant including in a group booking. Where a booking is made on behalf of a group of two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions.

#### RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include (but are not limited to): hypothermia, heat exhaustion, physical injury caused by environment i.e. rock falls, and physical injury caused by self, i.e. falling over.

The staff and management of Tuatara Tours and any of its agency partners take all practicable steps to identify and minimise potential dangers. The Operator makes all arrangements for all tours on the condition that it shall not be liable for any sickness, injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, either directly or indirectly, by reason of any defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, by weather, by any other cause, or through acts of default of a company or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or in carrying out arrangements for these activities.


We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance prior to your trip.


By participating in this activity, you are expressly assuming those risks and responsibilities and are, to the maximum extent permitted by law releasing the Operator, its officers, employees, directors, agents and any other person associated with us, from any liability, claims, loss, damages or expenses (whatsoever and irrespective of whether direct, indirect or consequential) caused by any event including but not limited to: personal injury or death; property loss or damage; acts which may be construed as negligible or accidental; any other loss, damage, suffering, emotional or nervous disorder suffered by you or any other person in relation to this activity. You accept that you have been advised to obtain adequate travel insurance for all persons named on the booking.


#### In participating in the activity, the customer agrees to be bound by the following conditions:

- My successors, executors and administrators are bound by the Terms and Conditions;
- I agree not to commence any litigation proceedings in any country in relation to the risks and liabilities set out above and to indemnify the Operator against any claims;
- I confirm and warrant I am physically fit and suffer no medical conditions, which may affect my ability to participate in the activity;
- I confirm I am aware that professional medical assistance may be difficult and/or take some time to access due to the remote areas in which we are travelling;
- I consent to receive medical treatment in the case of injury, accident or illness during the activity and to indemnify the Operator against any claims, costs or expenses in respect of the treatment;
- I agree that any film, sound, video or other recordings taken of or during the activity will not be used in any production, or advertising without prior consent of the Operator, however the Operator may use such recordings itself at its complete discretion without any prior approval; and
- I agree to listen to my driver/guide/host, follow their instructions and make sure any children in my care do the same. Furthermore, the Operator will not be responsible for any personal injury and or property damage caused by you and any costs for such injury / damage will be your responsibility.



 Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand

 [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)

 [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

**AUSTRALIA**  
1800 044 633





## Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026 Off the beaten track 9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

### Custom Tours Available

Want to change the itinerary or create something entirely new? We enjoy designing custom adventures for friends, families, work groups and clubs. Get in touch!

### Keen to join a tour? Enquire now



New Zealand free dial 0800 377 378

Australia free dial 1800 044 633

World +64 3 962 3280



Email: [info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

Web: [www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



Tuatarata Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

**AUSTRALIA**  
1800 044 633





Japan-Western Japan Explorer 2026  
Off the beaten track  
9 days 8 nights Mild Grade

Japanese Phrase	Pronunciation	English Translation
ohayou gozaimasu	oh-ha-yoh goh-zai-mas	Good morning
konnichiwa	kon-nee-chee-wah	Hello / Good afternoon
konbanwa	kon-bahn-wah	Good evening
arigatou	ah-ree-gah-toh	Thank you
arigatou gozaimasu	ah-ree-gah-toh goh-zai-mas	Thank you very much
sumimasen	soo-mee-mah-sen	Excuse me / Sorry
gomen nasai	goh-men nah-sigh	I'm sorry
onegaishimasu	oh-neh-guy-shee-mas	Please
hai	high	Yes
iie	ee-eh	No
wakarimasen	wah-kah-ree-mah-sen	I don't understand
daijoubu desu	die-joh-boo dess	It's okay / I'm fine
ikura desu ka	ee-koo-rah dess kah	How much is it?
toire wa doko desu ka	toy-reh wah doh-koh dess kah	Where is the toilet?
oishii	oy-shee	Delicious
sayonara	sah-yoh-nah-rah	Goodbye
yoroshiku onegaishimasu	yoh-roh-shee-koo oh-neh-guy-shee-mas	Nice to meet you



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



[www.tuataratours.co.nz](http://www.tuataratours.co.nz)



[info@tuataratours.co.nz](mailto:info@tuataratours.co.nz)

**NEW ZEALAND**  
0800 377 378

**WORLD**  
+64 39623280

**AUSTRALIA**  
1800 044 633

