10-Day Japan Itinerary

A day-by-day plan from Poppy Carla

Best time to go: Late March to April for cherry blossoms, or October to November for autumn colors.
Getting around: Trains and the metro. The bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto takes about two and a quarter to two and a half hours.
Book ahead: Your Kyoto stay, bullet train seats and popular restaurants.

DAY 1

Old Tokyo

Visit Senso-ji temple in Asakusa, walk through Ueno Park, and explore the neon streets of Akihabara in the evening.

DAY 2

Shibuya, Harajuku & Shinjuku

Start at Meiji Shrine, browse Harajuku's side streets, cross Shibuya Crossing, and end the night in Shinjuku.

DAY 3

Mount Fuji Day Trip

Head to the Kawaguchiko lake area for views of Mount Fuji. Check the weather first, because the mountain is often hidden by cloud.

DAY 4

Kamakura

Take the train to Kamakura (about an hour) to see the Great Buddha and the seaside temples.

DAY 5

Bullet Train to Kyoto

Ride the bullet train (about 2.25 to 2.5 hours). Visit the Fushimi Inari shrine with its thousands of red gates, then stroll the Gion district at dusk.

DAY 6

Kyoto Temples & Geisha District

Visit Kiyomizu-dera and walk the old streets of Higashiyama.

DAY 7

Arashiyama & Temples

Walk the Arashiyama bamboo grove early, visit Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion, and browse Nishiki Market for lunch.

DAY 8

Nara Day Trip

See the deer, Todai-ji and its giant Buddha.

DAY 9

Osaka

Spend the day at Osaka Castle and eat in Dotonbori.

DAY 10

Hiroshima & Miyajima

Take the bullet train to Hiroshima (about 1.5 hours) to visit the Peace Memorial, then the island of Miyajima.

Opening times, ticket rules, travel times and prices change, so check each detail before you book. More guides, stays and packing lists at poppycarla.com.