



Ancient Kingdoms of Japan and South Korea

Seoul → Osaka

2025

21 Days | From \$22,995 AUD pp

Trip Code: JAS21

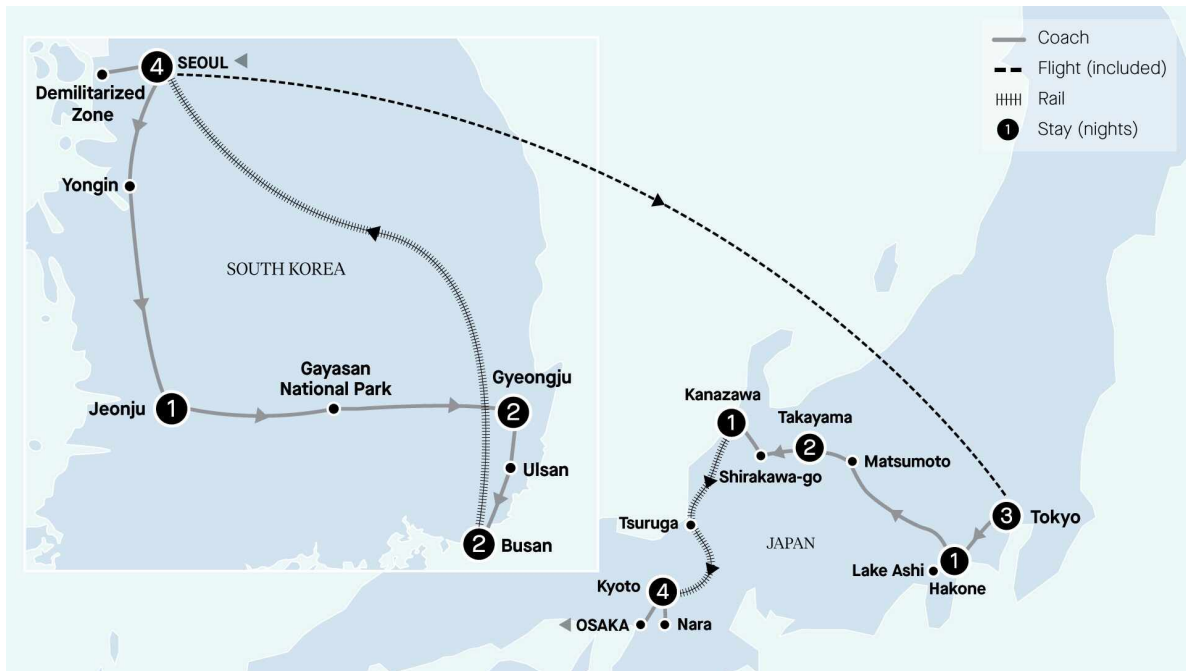
INCLUSIONS

- Experiences in 19 destinations
- **Freedom of Choice** inclusions in six locations
- Locally inspired dining - a total of 43 meals
- Try your hand at making traditional crafts at Bukchon Hanok Village
- Enjoy a hands-on experience crafting your very own mini gayageum, a traditional stringed musical instrument
- Learn how to make bibimbap, South Korea's most popular dish, and enjoy your creation for dinner
- Discover all things kimchi at the Museum Kimchikan and learn how to make the popular fermented dish with a hands-on class
- Delight in a private performance of traditional music and try your hand at playing the unique instruments under the guidance of expert musicians

Trip Notes

- Itinerary, inclusions and pricing are subject to change
- An overnight bag will be required to be packed for days 13 and 16
- Cherry Blossom season in South Korea usually lasts from March to mid-April and in Japan from late March to May, however due to changeable weather, blooms cannot be guaranteed
- Prices include airport transfers and gratuities. Luggage portage is limited, as it is not commonly available in South Korea
- Explore More - Why not continue your holiday in Japan? Explore the wonders of Japan and combine the two tours into one on the Cultural Wonders of Japan and South Korea trip. Refer Tour Code: JAS26
- Tickets to the DMZ are limited, and although every effort to secure these are made, should this not be possible then instead a ride on the DMZ gondola and a visit to the Odusan Unification Observatory are included
- Flights should arrive in Seoul before 12 noon on Day 1
- Flight from Seoul to Tokyo is included
- Double beds are limited within hotels in Japan and are on a request basis
- Some hotels provide shower over bath only
- Prices are for land/rail only. International Flights are not included unless specified

MAP & ITINERARY



Signature Experiences

Designed Exclusively for APT guests

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

These once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options

DAY

1

Arrive Seoul

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Discover all things kimchi at the Museum Kimchikan and learn how to make the popular fermented dish with a hands-on class.

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Savour a special welcome dinner where you'll experience Korean royal cuisine and try local drinks including soju and rice wine.

Welcome to South Korea. Be met on arrival and transferred to your luxurious hotel in Seoul. Following a welcome briefing, head out on a Signature Experience. Later, take a relaxing stroll along the Cheonggyecheon stream, a beautiful, redeveloped canal which flows through the heart of Seoul and is bursting with life throughout the year. Tonight, meet your tour director and fellow travellers for another Signature Experience.

Stay: Three Nights, Lotte Hotel Seoul

Daily : ● Dinner

DAY

2

Seoul

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Delve into Korean culture as you delight in a private performance of traditional music and try your hand at playing the unique instruments under the guidance of the expert musicians.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

Pick your dining experience tonight. You might like to indulge in Korean BBQ at Samwon Garden, dine on traditional Korean temple food at Balwoo Gongyang or delight in a delectable meal of new American cuisine at Michael's by Haevichi.

Enjoy a full-day tour of South Korea's vibrant capital today. Following breakfast, head to Gyeongbok Palace, the country's largest palace and a former royal residence for five centuries. Witness the colourful changing of the guard ceremony before taking a tour of the beautiful palace. Following a Korean BBQ chicken lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to the lively Insadong Antique Street filled with galleries, teahouses and local restaurants, then tour Bukchon Hanok Village, a residential neighbourhood with restored traditional Korean houses. Later, head to Jijidaeak for a Signature Experience, then choose where to dine this evening.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

3

Seoul, Demilitarised Zone

Embark on a morning tour of the fascinating Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) on the border with North Korea. Following a drive to Paju, see Imjingak Park, then visit the DMZ Theatre and Exhibition Hall and walk along the Third Infiltration Tunnel. Transfer to a local restaurant for a hot pot lunch before returning to Seoul to visit the War Memorial of Korea and its extensive museum. Enjoy the late afternoon and evening at your leisure.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch

DAY

4

Seoul, Yongin, Jeonju

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Spend time at Yongin's Korean Folk Village, the largest of its kind in Korea, and take part in a hands-on workshop. Perhaps you'll learn about traditional dyeing and dye your own handkerchief, or learn how to create traditional straw shoes.

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Learn how to make bibimbap, South Korea's most popular dish, and enjoy your creation for dinner.

Following a breakfast at your hotel, be driven to the city of Yongin for a Signature Experience. Continue to Jeonju, a city famous for its food scene, where you'll take part in a delicious Signature Experience.

Stay: Lahan Hotel Jeonju

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

5

Jeonju, Gayasan National Park, Gyeongju

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Enjoy a visit to the Hanji Culture and Industry Center, dedicated to the hanji paper which has been produced in Jeonju for more than 1000 years. Delight in a crafting class, learning how to create the traditional, multi-purpose paper including imprinting patterns and the drying process.

In Jeonju this morning you'll enjoy a Signature Experience before visiting Gyeonggijeon Shrine and Jeongdong Cathedral. Journey to Gayasan National Park to visit Haeinsa Temple, which is home to the Tripitaka Koreana, a remarkable collection of Buddhist scriptures carved onto more than 80,000 wooden printing blocks. Next you'll move on to the historic city of Gyeongju. Check in to your new accommodation with views of the lake and indulge in dinner, featuring a selection of Western and Korean dishes at the hotel.

Stay: Two Nights, Lahan Select Gyeongju

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

6

Gyeongju

Discover two of South Korea's most valued World Heritage sites this morning. Start with a visit to Seokguram Grotto, a government-classified National Treasure of South Korea which overlooks the East Sea and contains some of the most important Buddhist sculptures in the world. Next you'll explore Bulguksa Temple, a Buddhist temple completed in AD774 by the Silla royal court. Following the morning's sightseeing, sit down for a Korean bulgogi lunch at a local restaurant. Later, traverse more of Gyeongju's highlights including visits to the Gyeongju National Museum, Cheomseongdae Observatory and Tumuli Park, a fascinating area featuring a variety of burial mounds containing tombs of kings and officials of the Silla dynasty. You'll also enjoy a moonlight walking tour of Donggung Palace – once a secondary palace of the crown prince of the Silla kingdom – and the beautiful Wolji Pond, which was built in AD674.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch

DAY

7

Gyeongju, Ulsan, Busan

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Embark on a private, scenic cruise from Haeundae Beach, soaking in the sights at sunset including the Nurimaru APEC House, Busan Cinema Center, Marine City and Gwangan Bridge.

Head to Ulsan after breakfast and discover Daewangam Park and Ulsandaegyo Bridge Observatory, the latter of which offers panoramic views of the Hyundai Shipyard. Following lunch at a local restaurant, be transferred to your stylish hotel in Busan then visit Haedong Yonggung Temple, an impressive Buddhist temple built in 1376. Later, set off on a Signature Experience before sitting down to dinner.

Stay: Two Nights, Paradise Busan

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

8

Busan

Embark on an in-depth discovery of Busan today. Head downtown for a walking tour of Gamcheon Culture Village. Marvel at the village's street art and pastel-coloured houses before taking a cable car to Songdo Island. Visit BIFF Square, a bustling movie district, and Jagalchi Fish Market, the largest of its kind in South Korea. Enjoy panoramic views from Busan Tower before stopping at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, which is the only one of its kind and features 22 unique burial sites designated to each nationality of the buried service members.

Daily : ● Breakfast

DAY

9

Busan, Seoul

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Savour delectable European fine dining with a magnificent farewell dinner at Walking on the Cloud, which boasts sensational views of the city from its vantage point atop a skyscraper.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

Today you can enjoy a stroll along the Seoul Fortress Wall before visiting the Dongdaemun Market and Dongdaemun Design Plaza. Alternatively, take a mouth-watering street food tour through Gwangjang Market, tasting local dishes before marvelling at the NANTA show, Korea's longest-running theatre show.

Transfer to the station this morning and take a KTX express train back to Seoul in the luxury of a deluxe seat. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and check in before setting off on the activity of your choice. Tonight, toast your Korean adventure with an unforgettable Signature Experience.

Stay: Lotte Hotel Seoul

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

10

Seoul (South Korea), Tokyo (Japan)

Fly to Tokyo today. Be met on arrival and transferred to your luxurious hotel. Tonight, meet your Japan Tour Director for a welcome dinner at your hotel, savouring Japanese flavours with a modern flair.

Stay: Three Nights, The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

11

Tokyo

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

Explore Tokyo in depth on a tour of your choice. You can experience the incredible energy and efficiency of Tokyo's vast underground metro – one of the most extensive rapid transit networks in in the world – as you delve into the buzzing districts of Shibuya and Harajuku, or perhaps discover the beauty of the Japanese gardens at Hama Rikyu and the Imperial Palace East Gardens, or you might like to learn more about the history of Japan at the Tokyo National Museum.

Following breakfast, meet your guide and head to Roppongi, where you'll soak in the scenery at the observation deck at Mori Tower, which on a clear day provides outstanding panoramic views of Tokyo. Next up is Tokyo's old town of Asakusa, which is home to the city's oldest temple, Sensoji. Visit the iconic temple and stroll through the Namikaze shopping street indulging in snacks and souvenir shopping. Following lunch, embark on your exciting Freedom of Choice activity.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch

DAY

12

Tokyo

 **SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE**

Take part in a sushi-making class and learn to prepare maki sushi (rolled sushi) and nigiri sushi (sushi rice topped with a slice of raw fish) before savouring your homemade delights for lunch.

Visit Meiji Shrine this morning, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji. Following your delectable Signature Experience, be guided to Ginza, Tokyo's most famous upmarket shopping district. Marvel at the presentation and diversity of food at a local department store before experiencing the fascinating Kabukiza Gallery, dedicated to the traditional performance art of Kabuki. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch

DAY

13

Tokyo, Hakone

Depart for Hakone following breakfast and catch glimpses of iconic Mount Fuji if it's a clear day. Your first stop is at Hakone Shrine, a beautiful, historic Shinto shrine nestled in the forest by the shores of Lake Ashi. Enjoy a cruise on the picturesque lake and arrive at Togendai before taking in the scenery on the way to the volcanic valley of Owakudani via the Hakone Ropeway. Follow the walking trails around the bubbling pools and steam vents and perhaps try one of the famous black eggs boiled in the area's natural hot springs. Head to your luxury hotel, which boasts access to a naturally heated onsen, and delight in a kaiseki-style dinner, a traditional multi-course meal, this evening.

Stay: Hakone, Kowakien Ten-yu

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

14

Hakone, Matsumoto, Takayama

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Try your hand at creating some traditional cuisine today with a soba buckwheat noodle cooking lesson and relish your creations for lunch.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

In Matsumoto, you can choose to visit the spectacular Matsumoto Castle. One of Japan's most complete original castles, the structure dates back to the 16th century, and you'll have the chance to tour the castle and its pristine grounds. Alternatively, visit the Matsumoto City Museum of Art to admire fantastic works from artists born in the city or inspired by its surroundings, including iconic contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama.

Set out this morning for a Signature Experience. Following your lunch, continue to Matsumoto and embark on your chosen activity before being transferred to your new hotel in Takayama, where you'll indulge in dinner tonight.

Stay: Two Nights, Associa Takayama Resort

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

15

Takayama

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Enjoy a Sarubobo-making workshop. An amulet particularly common in Takayama and the nearby Hida region, Sarubobo are red dolls with no facial features. Learn how to make the dolls and discover why these amulets are believed to bring good luck.

Start off the day with a morning visit to the Miyagawa morning market, one of the largest in Japan. All the market's traders are independent farmers and craftspeople from the region, so it's the perfect opportunity to try some of the area's best produce. You'll also take a stroll through Takayama Jinya, a beautifully preserved 17th-century building built for a noble family and the Tokugawa shonugate. Following your Signature Experience, then wander along the stunning streets of the city's old town on the way to the Festival Floats Museum, where you'll admire the ornamental floats of the Takayama Festival. For dinner, you'll have the chance to try the region's famous Hida beef at a local restaurant.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

16

Takayama, Shirakawa-Go, Kanazawa



FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

Choose between Japanese at Benkay or European cuisine at La PLAGE, both within the hotel, for your delicious dinner this evening.

Today you'll visit the World Heritage-listed village of Shirakawa-go en route to Kanazawa. Some of the village's famous gassho-zukuri farmhouses date back more than 250 years, and you'll stop at Kanda House to gain a deeper insight into the traditional homes before strolling around the peaceful village. Continue to Kanazawa and the marvellous Kenroku-en garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. Later, stroll through the Nagamachi Samurai district and the traditional Nomura Samurai House. Enjoy your choice of restaurant for dinner.

Stay: Hotel Nikko Kanazawa

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

17

Kanazawa, Tsuruga, Kyoto



SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Relish a gold leaf-making experience, decorating a small lacquer plate with this fragile and precious product.



FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

For dinner, you can choose to dine on French cuisine at Le Un or enjoy local Japanese food at Chiriri.

Start your day in the Higashi Chaya District, Kanazawa's largest geisha district. Enjoy a special Signature Experience before visiting the traditional Shima teahouse. Following lunch, be transferred to the train station to board a bullet train to Tsuruga, then change to a limited express train to Kyoto. Upon arrival, walk to your nearby accommodation and settle in before savouring a delicious dinner at the restaurant of your choice.

Stay: Four Nights, The Thousand Kyoto

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

18

Kyoto

An exciting day of sightseeing lies ahead. Set out for Arashiyama this morning, climbing aboard a rickshaw for a ride past the Nonomiya Shrine and the spectacular Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. Following your rickshaw experience, stop off at the World Heritage-listed Tenryuji Temple, one of Kyoto's five great Zen temples which was founded in 1339. After lunch at a local restaurant, head to the famous Kinkakuji temple, commonly known as the Golden Pavilion for its gold-leaf-covered upper floors. You'll then visit historic Nijo Castle before returning to your hotel and spending the evening at your leisure.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch

DAY

19

Kyoto

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Delve into traditional Japanese culture with a special tea ceremony experience. Learn all about tea varieties and the importance and process of serving tea to guests in Japan. Enhance your experience by taking part in the ceremony wearing a festive kimono and gain a better understanding of the variety of kimonos worn at different occasions.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

This afternoon, choose one of three diverse tours around Kyoto. You can embark on a Nishiki Market and sake-tasting tour or take part in a sweets workshop learning how to make wagashi (traditional Japanese sweets) before visiting the Kyoto Confectionary Museum. Alternatively, set out on an E-bike cycling tour, where you'll ride through the Miyagawacho and Gion geisha districts, stop off at the Imperial Palace Park and cycle along the Shirakawa Canal and Kamogawa River.

Begin your day with a special Signature Experience. In the afternoon, head out on your chosen Freedom of Choice activity before returning to your hotel.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

20

Kyoto, Nara, Kyoto

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

A special night of private entertainment with a maiko or geisha awaits. Enjoy a wonderful dinner and drinks and have the chance to learn more about geisha and their daily lives, all accompanied by music played on a shamisen, a traditional stringed instrument.

After breakfast, board a private coach for the nearby town of Nara, once the capital of Japan for 74 years in the eighth century. Visit the incredible Todaiji Temple, one of the world's largest wooden structures and home to the country's largest statue of Buddha. Stroll through the fascinating temple before exploring the surrounding Nara Park, which is freely roamed by a large population of friendly deer who will generally bow their heads for a treat. Next, see Nara's most celebrated shrine, Kasuga Taisha, which was established in AD768. Return to the hotel with free time this afternoon before savouring a special Signature Experience for dinner.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

21

Kyoto, Depart Osaka

Your tour comes to an end after breakfast this morning with a transfer to Osaka airport.

Daily : ● Breakfast