

Day 12 Wednesday 23 October

Aomori to Sendai
Continue to Sendai today visiting Hachiman-tai National Park and Gozaishonuma Akanuma and driving along the spectacular scenic mountain route known as the Aspite Line. You also visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed Chusonji Buddhist Temple complex. The 12th century Konjikido Temple here is a masterpiece with its golden hall decorated entirely in golden leaves. It is a glorious work of fine art and artistic tour de force of astounding beauty with intricate gold and silver illustrations sprinkled over lacquer and iridescent shell inlay. Dedicated to the Buddha of Infinite Light it is a delight to witness. After lunch visit Genbikai Gorge, designated a Place of Scenic Beauty and a Natural Monument for its lovely foliage.
Overnight Sendai
Breakfast • Dinner

Day 13 Thursday 24 October

Sendai & Matsushima Bay
A tour highlight today is a cruise through beautiful Matsushima Bay. Matsushima is dotted with tiny pine tree covered islets and is celebrated as one of Japan's top three most breathtaking scenic sights. You also visit the beautiful Yamadera Mountain Temple which is a nationally designated Place of Scenic Beauty and an historic site. This Buddhist temple is over 1300 years old and also provides breathtaking views from its decks.
Overnight Sendai
Breakfast

Day 14 Friday 25 October

Sendai to Kinugawa
After breakfast you visit Tsuruga, otherwise known as Aizuwakamamatsu Castle which is a reconstructed former traditional Samurai stronghold. You also visit Aizu Bukeyashiki an historical complex where you can learn about the history and culture of Aizu painting and other traditional arts and crafts before enjoy dinner together tonight.
Overnight Kinugawa
Breakfast • Dinner



Day 15 Saturday 26 October

Kinugawa to Tokyo
Today you visit Nikko Toshogu, a dazzling and decorative shrine and Rinnoji Buddhist Temple then drive along the Irohazaka Route which winds its way through brilliant autumn forests. Visit picturesque volcanic Lake Chuzenji and Kegon Waterfall or alternatively if traffic is heavy and congested visit Tamozaka Imperial Villa Memorial Park before checking in to your Tokyo hotel.
Overnight Tokyo
Breakfast • Dinner



Day 16 Sunday 27 October

Tokyo
Marvel at Tokyo today visiting sights such as lovely Rikugi-en Park meaning the Garden of the Six Principles of Poetry. You also explore Ueno Park and tour the Tokyo National Museum which is set within its spacious grounds. The park is a favourite of locals and is a famous spot for Autumn colour and enjoying Momijigari. You also take a wander through Asakusa which is crammed with noodle bars, restaurants and shops and is a good place to experience daily life in Tokyo.
Overnight Tokyo
Breakfast

Day 18 Tuesday 29 October

Depart Tokyo
Have some free time in Tokyo this morning. You may wish to visit a park or museum or do some local shopping. In the afternoon you transfer to Tokyo's Narita airport to board your Qantas flight via Melbourne to Adelaide.
Overnight in flight
Breakfast • Meals in flight

Day 19 Wednesday 30 October

Arrive in Adelaide late morning.



Day 17 Monday 28 October

Tokyo
Meet your local guide this morning and visit the Imperial Palace Plaza and garden and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Observatory. You also experience the grace and tradition of a Japanese Tea Ceremony. Tonight a farewell dinner has been arranged.
Overnight Tokyo
Breakfast • Farewell Dinner



Leaf Fall in Japan



12 - 30 October 2024

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PLEASE NOTE: Japanese hotel rooms are typically smaller than in Australia. Tour participants must be fit to undertake this tour. If unsure please talk to the friendly travel office staff.

PHOTOGRAPHS: 663highland; Kunikuni; johnlsl; Gino.mempin; Herry Lawford; Ari Helminen; Kameya; Andrea Schaffer; np&djjewell; mrhayata; t-miso; lienluan-lee; Naoki Natsume-ishii



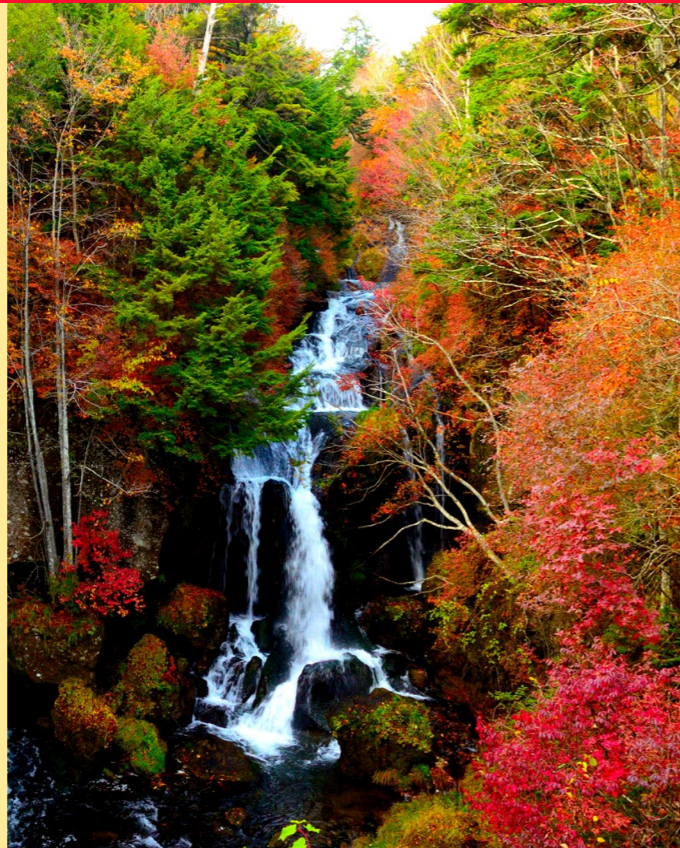
.....enriching lives through cultural exchange

Hokkaido Garden Path • Sapporo • Obihiro • Asahikawa • Hakodate Honshu • Aomori • Sendai • Matsushima Bay • Tokyo

Traditionally Momijigari means ‘maple hunting’. Appreciating the highly revered spectacle of Japan’s magnificent autumn foliage this sophisticated and delightful journey to the islands of Hokkaido and northern Honshu has been thoughtfully designed to flow with the change of colour as you travel from north to south. With a perfect balance of exquisite gardens, national parks, boat cruises, cable car rides, breathtaking scenic drives, cultural sights and immersive experiences you bypass the crowds of busy Japan and take a path less travelled. Discover a truly inspiring wonderland of colour and ancient Japanese grace and culture.

Tour Leader: Carolyn Travers is a qualified garden designer and horticulturalist. She is also an enthusiastic and caring tour leader for WEA Travel with many years of experience and a passion for gardens, art and culture.

Tour Includes: All airfares with Qantas & Japan Airlines Adelaide to Adelaide; Full escort Adelaide to Adelaide; All Accommodation in Hotels (average 4 star); All meals as per itinerary; All sightseeing & entrance fees; All transport and boat cruises, cable cars and Bullet Train; Local Guides; Pre & Post tour get togethers; Study notes



19 Days \$11,350

Based on Twin Share plus airline taxes (\$220 Dec 2023)
Single Supplement \$1290 • Balance Due 23 July 2024

Day 1 Saturday 12 October

Adelaide to Sapporo
Depart Adelaide with Qantas this afternoon connecting in Sydney with your flight to Japan.

**Overnight in flight
Meals in flight**

Day 2 Sunday 13 October

Arrive in Sapporo
Arrive in Tokyo and take a short flight with Japan Airlines to Chitose airport on the beautiful northern Japanese island of Hokkaido this morning. Here you are greeted by your Japanese guide and transferred to your hotel in Obihiro where you can rest and relax. A welcome dinner has been arranged for you tonight.

**Overnight Obihiro
Meals in flight • Dinner**

Day 3 Monday 14 October

Obihiro Lakes
Meet your English speaking local guide this morning for a leisurely drive out to Akan Mashu National Park and the glorious crater lakes of Lake Onneta and Lake Akan. The timing should be perfect to experience magnificent autumn colour as the Maple and Birch reflect in the emerald waters in the lakes. A boat cruise is the ideal way to relax and take in

nature’s spectacle. A traditional dance performance by Ainu indigenous people of Hokkaido is also arranged for you at the Akanko Cultural Centre located at the Lake Akan Ainu Kotan Ainu settlement.

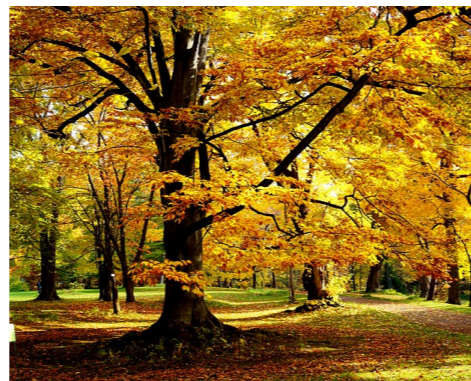
**Overnight Obihiro
Breakfast**



Day 4 Tuesday 15 October

Hokkaido Garden Path
Delight in the delicate beauty, inspiration and wonder of exploring much of Hokkaido’s two hundred kilometre long Garden Path today. Enjoy breakfast at Shichiku Garden, one of the most famous and colourful flower gardens in Japan and visit Rokkano Mori an inspiring sanctuary of colourful blooms and peaceful brooks and where the artworks of well known Japanese artist Naoyuki Sakamoto can be seen. Tokachi Nuppuku Garden and Manabe Teien, a tranquil Conifer garden with exotic trees, flowers and red squirrels are also visited with your English speaking guide.

**Overnight Obihiro
Breakfast Shichiku Garden**



Day 5 Wednesday 16 October

Obihiro to Asahikawa
Continue by private coach along the famed garden path route to the Daisetsuzan National Park in the mountainous highlands of Hokkaido’s interior. Here you visit Shirogane Blue Pond and Shirahige Waterfalls before arriving at your hotel in Asahikawa to check in for the next two nights. Tonight you have dinner arranged for you at the hotel.

**Overnight Asahikawa
Breakfast • Dinner**

Day 6 Thursday 17 October

Asahikawa
Visit the nearby Sounkyo Hot Springs region today with its awe-inspiring natural landscapes of soaring peaks, dramatic gorges and waterfalls against a backdrop of lovely foliage. A lovely tour highlight includes ascending Mount Kurodake by cable car to an elevation of 1300 metres above sea level to take in the astonishing scenery and colour which typically appears high on the mountain sides in September and reaches the valley by the middle of October. You also visit the Ginga and Ryusei Twin Waterfalls which plummet over sheer cliffs in to the Ishikari River and Kamui Kotan, means “Gods settlement” in the Ainu language, has been cherished as a Sacred place by the Ainu people. This valley has been eroded by the flow of the Ishikari River for over 100 million years, forming unusual rocks and caves.

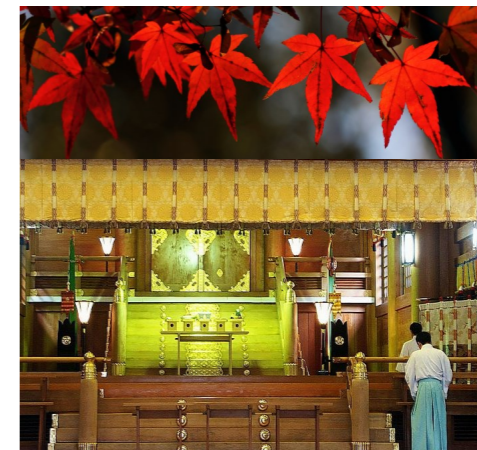
**Overnight Asahikawa
Breakfast**



Day 7 Friday 18 October

Asahikawa to Sapporo
Sapporo is the capital and cultural heart of Hokkaido and is an elegant and sophisticated city to explore. Your touring includes the symbol of Sapporo, Odori Park which is an immense oasis of lilac and elm trees separating the north and south sides of the city. Tokeidai, the Sapporo clock tower built in 1878 and its museum, and the revered Hokkaido Jingu Shinto Shrine built in memory of Emperor Meiji in beautiful Maruyama Park are also visited. The shrine is home to three deities who are said to protect the island of Hokkaido and its people. Other sights included time permitted are the Sapporo beer Museum and the Sapporo market.

**Overnight Sapporo
Breakfast • Dinner**



Day 8 Saturday 19 October

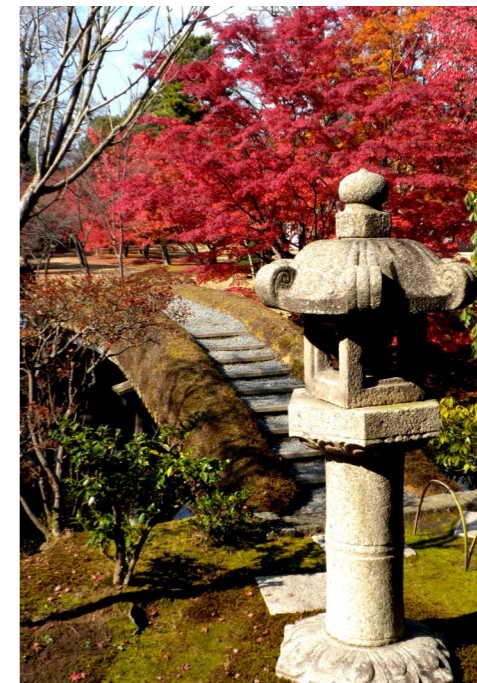
Otaru & Sapporo
Today you visit stunning Nakajima Park with its streams, shrines, observatories, lawns and forests. You also visit the historic portside town of Otaru. The historic warehouses lining the Otaru Canal have been converted into quaint cafes, shops, galleries and studios showcasing Otaru’s traditional arts and crafts which include glass artworks and music boxes. You tour the Tanaka Sake Brewery and Old Aoyama Villa then return to Sapporo for some free time to rest, relax or explore at your own pace.

**Overnight Sapporo
Breakfast**

Day 9 Sunday 20 October

Sapporo to Nororibetsu & Hakodate
Travel south of Sapporo today to Nororibetsu Hot Springs, Hokkaido’s premier Onsen region and to Jigokudani which translates as Hell Valley. Jigokudani is a huge crater or volcanic caldera which was formed by the eruption of Mount Hiyori and is a unique and fascinating steaming wonderland of white smoke wafting from blow holes, geysers and bubbling thermal waters. Enjoy a guided walking tour then explore the excellent walking paths and observation decks to take in the spectacle and the brilliant gold and crimson foliage. Continue to Hokkaido’s southernmost city Hakodate where you visit Goryokaku Fort a huge citadel built in the final years of the Edo period in defence of the city and walk around the Motomachi historical district.

**Overnight Hakodate
Breakfast • Dinner**



Day 10 Monday 21 October

Hakodate to Aomori
Depart Hokkaido this morning and travel by private coach and Bullet Train from Shin-Hakodatehokuto Station to Aomori on the northern tip of Japan’s largest island Honshu. (Your main luggage will be sent ahead to your next hotel as it cannot travel with passengers on the Bullet Train). Here you visit dreamy Hirosaki Park with its vibrant autumn foliage and the Nebuta Warasse Museum which captures the spirit and traditional charm of the Nebuta Matsur Festival’s three hundred year old history. Exhibits include goldfish lanterns and floats to the sound of Taiko drums and flutes. You also visit Fujita Kinen Garden and experience a typical Tsugaru-jamisen shamisen musical performance at Takakyu this evening.

**Overnight Aomori
Breakfast • Dinner**



Day 11 Tuesday 22 October

Aomori
With your local English speaking guide today you visit the picture post card Oirase Mountain Gorge, waterfall and stream. This is one of Japan’s most lauded and photographed foliage destinations with displays of brilliant reds, oranges and yellows from mid October. The stream flows in to Lake Towada where you enjoy a boat cruise before taking the Mount Hakkoda Ropeway or cable car up Mount Tamoyachi to complete a magnificent day of sightseeing.

**Overnight Aomori
Breakfast**

