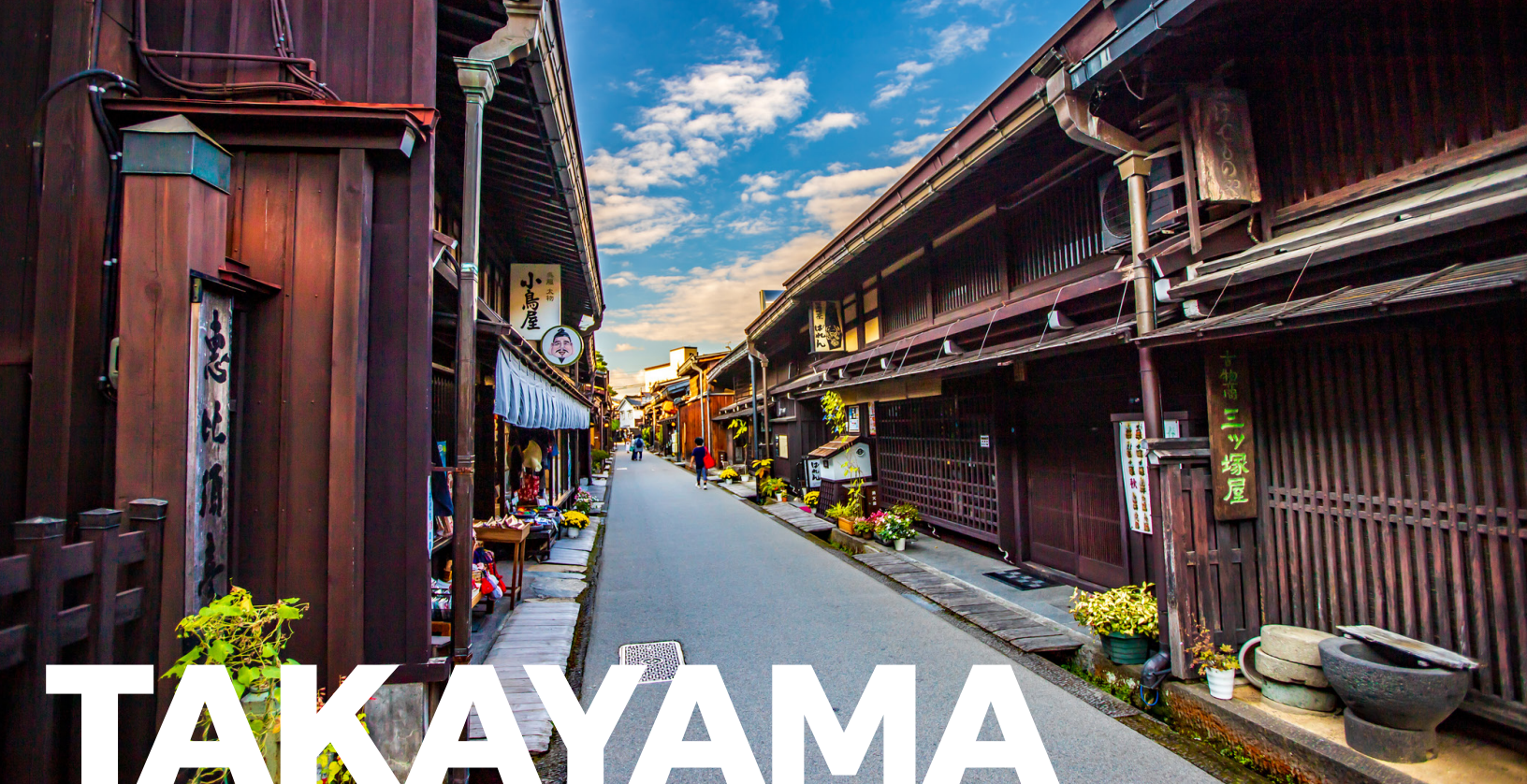




Craig
travel

GOLDEN LEAVES OF **JAPAN**

November 8 - 22, 2027 • 15 Days • 29 Meals
SMALL GROUP • LED BY PHIL NEWMAN
BOOK Early and Save \$400 pp



TAKAYAMA

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

UNESCO GEMS

Explore Shirakawago's thatched farmhouses, Himeji Castle's feudal towers, Miyajima's floating torii gate and Kyoto's Kinkakuji Temple and Nijo Castle with its legendary nightingale floors.

TEMPLES & SHRINES

Visit Sensoji in Asakusa and walk through the vermillion torii gates of Fushimi Inari. Explore Todaiji Temple in Nara, home to Japan's largest bronze Buddha.

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

Make sushi, craft washi paper, apply gold leaf and join a tea ceremony. Visit Takayama's Kusakabe Folk Museum and Festival Floats Museum and reflect at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum.

CITY LIFE

Ascend Tokyo Skytree, cross Shibuya Scramble Crossing and visit the Imperial Palace Gardens. Walk Kenroku-en Garden, Kyoto's Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, Gion's geisha quarter and Osaka's Dotonbori.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

Limited to 25 members

CT RATING: 3.5/5

CHALLENGING:

This journey offers an in-depth exploration of Japan at a relatively fast pace, covering significant ground across the country with some long travel days and rail connections. Members should be fully mobile and in good physical health, as many sites involve extensive walking and steps. The itinerary includes an overnight stay in a traditional ryokan, with tatami-matted rooms, and a variety of traditional Japanese cuisine throughout.



Visit craigtravel.com/78 to learn more!

ITINERARY

NOV 8 | DEPART CANADA

Group members gather for our flights to Tokyo.

NOV 9 | ARRIVE TOKYO

Welcome to Japan! Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city. *Hotel New Otani Garden Tower - 4 nights*

NOV 10 | TOKYO

Our introduction to Tokyo begins in Asakusa, its narrow lanes and centuries-old Sensoji Temple offering a striking contrast to the city's relentless modernity. From there, we ascend Tokyo Skytree for views across the metropolis before heading to Shibuya Scramble Crossing, one of the busiest pedestrian intersections in the world. Just outside Shibuya Station, we see the Hachiko Statue that commemorates the Akita dog who returned to wait for his owner every day for nearly 10 years after his death. In the evening, we attend a sumo demonstration, one of Japan's most revered traditions. (BLD)

NOV 11 | KAMAKURA

A day trip brings us to Kamakura, where the Kotoku-in Temple's Great Buddha, a bronze seated figure 13 metres tall, has presided over the surrounding hills since the 13th century. We visit Hasedera Temple and its gilded 9-metre Kannon statue before reaching the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, the spiritual centre of Kamakura. We end the day on Komachi Street, a lively lane of local crafts and snacks. (BL)

NOV 12 | TOKYO

At the centre of the city, the Imperial Palace sits on the former grounds of Edo Castle, surrounded by moats and stone walls that once protected the seat of the Tokugawa shogunate. We walk through the East Gardens before a sushi-making class where we learn to prepare maki and nigiri for lunch. The afternoon is free to explore Ginza, Tokyo's most celebrated shopping and dining district. (BL)

NOV 13 | HAKONE

We leave Tokyo for Hakone and Hakone Shrine, a Shinto sanctuary hidden within dense forest that drew samurai worshippers as far back as the 12th century. We cross Lake Ashi by pirate boat, the lake itself sitting inside a volcanic crater, before riding the ropeway up to Owakudani, where active vents release sulphurous steam from the hillside.

Susukinohara Ichinoyu - 1 night (BLD)

NOV 14 | TAKAYAMA

We board the bullet train at Odawara and make our way to Takayama in the Japanese Alps, stopping to visit the Kusakabe Folk Museum, a preserved Edo-period merchant house designated as an important cultural property.

Mercure Hida Takayama - 2 nights (BD)

NOV 15 | TAKAYAMA

The smell of fresh produce greets us at the Miyagawa Morning Market, one of Japan's most beloved, where only local farmers and craftspeople are permitted to sell. Then, we continue to Takayama Jinya, where we explore the only surviving government building from the Edo period. After some free time at Kami Sannomachi Street, we visit the Festival Floats Exhibition Hall, home to the ornate floats from Takayama's famous seasonal festivals. (BD)

NOV 16 | SHIRAKAWAGO / KANAZAWA

Drive to Shirakawago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some over 250 years old, their steeply pitched thatched roofs built to shed the region's heavy snowfall. In nearby Gokayama we try our hand at washi, the traditional Japanese paper that has been made in this valley for centuries. *Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kanazawa MIYABI - 1 night* (BD)

NOV 17 | KANAZAWA / HIROSHIMA

Today we try our hand at gold leaf making, decorating a small lacquer plate with the paper-thin material that has made Kanazawa one of Japan's foremost centres of traditional craft. A walk through Kenroku-en, one of Japan's three great gardens, brings us among trees, ornamental ponds and carefully composed vistas. We then board the bullet train south toward Hiroshima. *Hotel Granvia Hiroshima South Gate - 2 nights* (BL)

NOV 18 | MIYAJIMA / HIROSHIMA

A short ferry ride takes us to Miyajima Island, where the torii gate of UNESCO-listed Itsukushima Shrine appears to float on the water at high tide. We take the cable car up Mount Misen before returning to Hiroshima to visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which documents the events of 1945 and their aftermath. (BL)

NOV 19 | HIMEJI / KYOTO

This morning we travel by rail for a visit to Himeji Castle, a UNESCO Site and one of Japan's finest surviving feudal fortresses, its white layered towers earning it the name White Heron Castle. Continue to Kyoto by motorcoach.

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo - 3 nights (BLD)

NOV 20 | KYOTO

Japan's imperial capital for over a thousand years, Kyoto was home to the Emperor until 1869 and today holds more UNESCO sites than any other city in the country. Among them, Nijo Castle is known for its corridors fitted with nightingale floors designed to alert the shogun to intruders, and Kinkaku-ji Temple, renowned for its gold leaf-covered pavilion. We also walk the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, its towering stalks filtering the light into something almost otherworldly. The afternoon takes us through the cobblestone lanes of Higashiyama and into Gion, Kyoto's geisha quarter. (BD)

NOV 21 | NARA / KYOTO

This morning we participate in a tea ceremony to understand the instruments and varieties used to prepare it. We will discover the meaning behind each precise movement, and the deep cultural roots of tea service in Japan. We then walk the thousands of torii gates of Fushimi Inari Shrine before heading to Nara. There, we visit the Daibutsuden Hall at Todaiji Temple and stroll in the nearby Deer Park, home to freely roaming deer considered sacred. Back in Kyoto, we gather for a farewell dinner. (BLD)

NOV 22 | OSAKA / DEPART

Our final morning takes us to Osaka's Cup Noodle Museum, where we learn the history of instant ramen and make our own version to take home. After some free time in Dotonbori, the city's lively food and entertainment district, we transfer to Kansai Airport for our flight home. (B)

DID YOU KNOW?

The famous deer of Nara Park are considered sacred messengers of the gods in the Shinto faith. Today, more than 1,000 deer roam freely through the park, and for centuries they have been protected as symbols of the city's spiritual heritage.



CRAIG TRAVEL INCLUSIONS

- International and domestic flights, plus airport transfers, with air-inclusive packages
- Carefully selected accommodation as listed, or similar
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as described
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Dedicated journey leader, national guides, and local specialists where applicable
- All gratuities, surcharges, fees, and taxes
- International eSIM to keep you connected
- Visa support for Canadian citizens as required
- Free insurance quote (contact us for details)

TOUR & AIR COST

Land Only	\$12,945
Vancouver	\$14,315
Victoria	\$14,315
Calgary / Edmonton	\$14,465
Winnipeg / Saskatoon / Regina	\$14,565
Toronto	\$14,595
Montreal / Ottawa	\$14,755
Halifax / St. John's	\$14,825
<i>Single Supplement</i>	\$3,365

Deposit is \$900 per person

Final payment is due July 21, 2027



YOUR JOURNEY LEADER

Phil Newman has escorted groups to Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, the Czech Republic, and Russia. Phil and Kim, his spouse, continue to discover the beauty of Canada camping in their RV, and also chase the sun to fun destinations in the USA, Caribbean, Mexico and the Mediterranean. Phil spent 40 years in pastoral ministry in the United Church of Canada with congregations in New Brunswick, Ontario, and BC, with remarkable experiences in Australia and Israel.



Visit craigtravel.com/78 to learn more!

Prices are in Canadian dollars per person. Land only members join at the hotel in Tokyo and leave at the hotel in Kyoto. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective July 2026 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 members. For full terms and conditions, visit our website: craigtravel.com/terms-conditions. Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended.

Contact us or visit our website to learn more and reserve your place.

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