

INSPIRE:


Your Trip to Japan



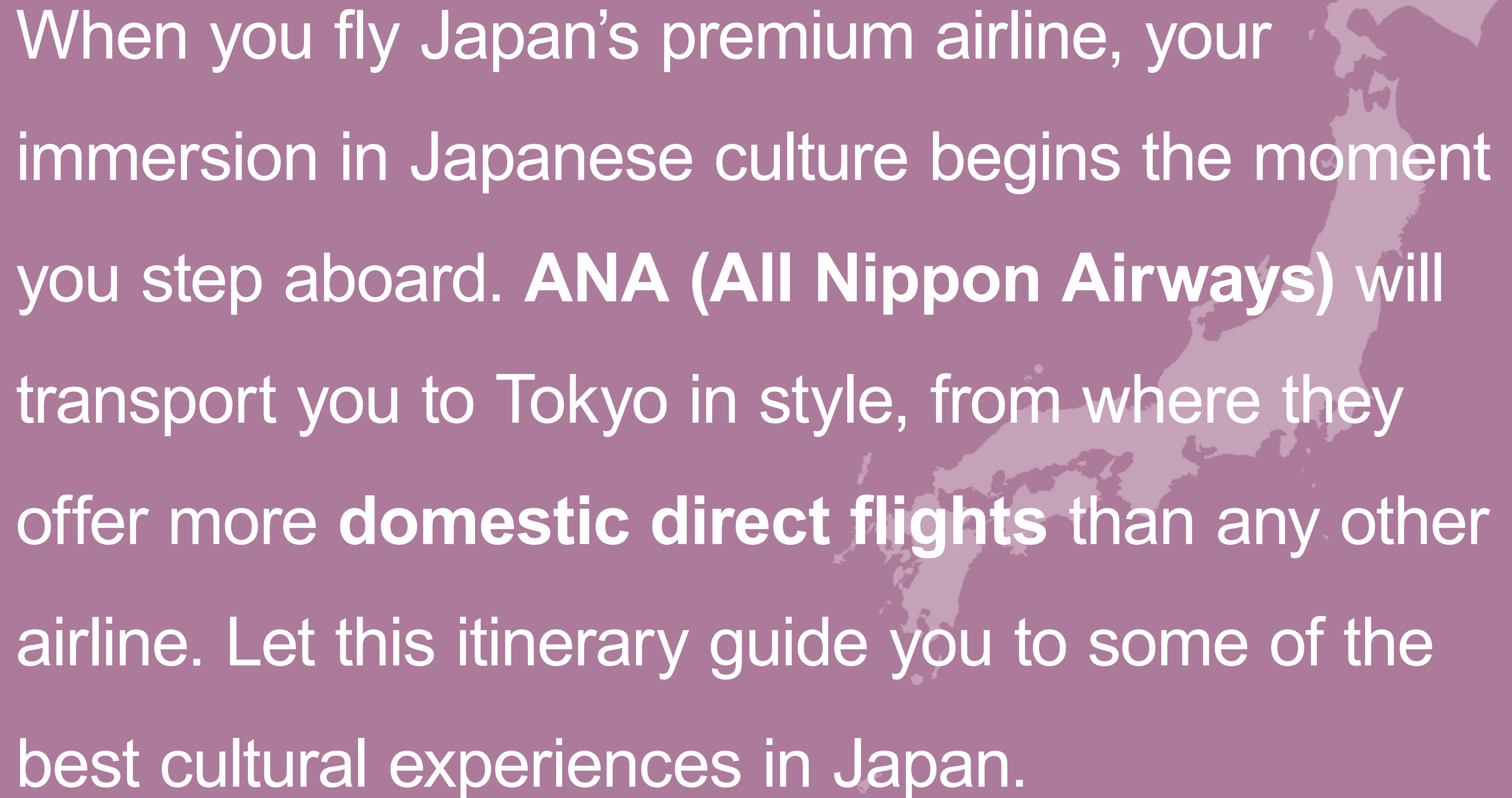
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When you fly Japan's premium airline, your immersion in Japanese culture begins the moment you step aboard. **ANA (All Nippon Airways)** will transport you to Tokyo in style, from where they offer more **domestic direct flights** than any other airline. Let this itinerary guide you to some of the best cultural experiences in Japan.



Hakone Open-Air Museum

HAKONE

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

Ninotaira 1121, Hakone-machi,
Ashigarashimo-gun

When:

9am – 5pm

Cost:

Adults 1,600 yen

Notes:

Open 365 days/year. Last admission
30 minutes prior to closing. Photogra-
phy not allowed in exhibition rooms.

At the **Hakone Open-Air Museum** the great outdoors is your playground, both literally and figuratively. The museum features 100+ sculptures from both international and Japanese artists, and some of the larger-than-life pieces are accessible to touch, explore, enter, and even climb on.

The collection includes works from artists like Henry Moore, Joan Miró, and Taro Okamoto, as well as hundreds of additional pieces in indoor collections, with an entire building dedicated to Picasso. Don't miss Gabriel Loire's "Symphonic Sculpture," a multi-story tower of stained glass with a spiral staircase that you can climb!

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

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HIROSHIMA

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

Both sites are located in the city center at Peace Memorial Park.

When:

8:30 am – 6pm
(closing time varies by season)

Cost:

Adults 200 yen

Notes:

Open every day save December 30 and 31. Last admission 30 minutes prior to closing.

The **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum** is dedicated to the memory of the atomic bombing that devastated the city in 1945. It's set in an expansive park in the center of town, a zone that had been the city's central business district before it was obliterated by the bomb.

The **Atomic Bomb Dome** still stands, a shell, as a reminder. In the museum are exhibits outlining in grim detail what happened on the day of the bombing and in the immediate and long-term aftermath. It's a sobering, emotional, and educational experience but one that is central to the history, memory, and character of the city. Don't miss it.



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ISHIGAKI

Yoneko-yaki Pottery

When visiting shrines, public buildings, and even houses around Okinawa, you may notice shisa, a mythological creature resembling a mix between a lion and a dog. These figures, often made of clay, act as guardians.

At the studio of **Yoneko-yaki Pottery**, a 350,000-square-foot garden is filled with shisa of various sizes and colors, including giant, colorful, fierce figures against a verdant backdrop of hills and tropical fruit trees. Visitors can watch artisans at work in the studio, and a shop sells handmade souvenirs, from tiny phone straps to larger creatures to guard the household.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

447-1 Fukai, Ishigaki

When:

9am – 5:45pm

Cost:

Free

Notes:

Open 7 days/week

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KANAZAWA

Gold Leaf Sakuda

Kanazawa is famous for its **kinpaku**, or whisper-thin gold leaf, producing 99% of Japan's stock. Artisans, some of whom have been making gold leaf for generations, produce the fine leaf that adorns buildings and products all over the city.

There are several places where visitors can buy gold-leaf souvenirs and a few where you can watch artisans in action. At **Gold Leaf Sakuda** in Higashi Chaya, visitors can try their hand at making their own craft product using gold leaf, creating a pair of chopsticks, a hand mirror, or other items with a gold-accented design.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

1-3-27 Higashiyama, Kanazawa

When:

9am – 6pm (varies by season)

Cost:

Store is free to enter;
workshop prices vary.

Notes:

Workshops are offered at 9am,
10:30am, 1pm, and 3pm and
run approx. 60 minutes.



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MIYAZAKI

Miyazaki Shrine

Miyazaki Shrine sits within a large complex in the middle of the city, a sweeping space to learn about history, culture, and religion. The main shrine was erected 800 years ago, though it may have been established much earlier, and is dedicated to the mythical Emperor Jimmu, Japan’s first emperor.

The shrine is Shinto – Japan’s homegrown animistic religion – and as such, nature plays an important role in the setting. The buildings and gates are made of cedar, and centuries-old trees and gardens surround the shrine’s buildings. A history museum and reconstructed samurai houses abut the shrine precinct.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

Located north of city center, 5–10 minute walk from Miyakaki Jingu Station.

When:

The shrine never closes

Cost:

Free

Notes:

As with any shrine or religious site, respectful visitation is encouraged.

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

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NAGASAKI

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

7-8 Hirano-machi, Nagasaki City

When:

8:30am – 6:30pm
(closing hour varies by season)

Cost:

Adults 200 yen

Notes:

Open every day except December 29–31.
Photography allowed, but no tripods,
selfie sticks, or flash.

With very few living survivors remaining of the 1945 atomic bombing of Japan, it's more important than ever to have a museum preserve the memory of what happened during those fateful days in 1945. The **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum** strives to present the stories of survivors, along with photographs and artifacts from that day and its aftermath, and to make a heartfelt plea for peace to the world.

The museum brings the horrors of war into stark relief, forcing you to confront the ugly reality of nuclear weapons in ways that you probably never have before. Most striking perhaps are the personal stories of survivors that are hosted here.

A photograph of Osaka Castle, a large multi-tiered Japanese castle with a green roof and white walls, set against a backdrop of trees and a clear sky. The castle is the central focus of the image.

Osaka Castle

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OSAKA

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

1-1 Osakajo, Chuo-ku, Osaka

When:

Adults 600 yen

Cost:

9am – 5pm (castle open 7 days/week;
garden closed Mondays)

Notes:

Last admission 30 minutes prior to
closing. Site is closed December 28 –
January 1.

In central Osaka, **Osaka Castle** and the castle grounds provide a respite from the surrounding skyscrapers. Built in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the castle served as a base for the reunification of Japan. Today it stands as a museum, focusing especially on Hideyoshi and his era, and is filled with artifacts from the Azuchi-Muromachi period – including battle accoutrements like armor, swords, and shields.

This important landmark presents an impressive visage, its five external stories distinguished by a distinctive green roof accented with gold. The castle is set on large grounds filled with moats and flowering trees.

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RISHIRI ISLAND

Rishiri Island

With a population of only 5,000, Rishiri is light on facilities and big on nature, but **Rishiri Island Station** on the west coast is worth a stop. The small combination shop, cafe, and gallery in Rishiri town is run by a nonprofit promoting local tourism. The 120-year-old building, a former seafood wholesale center, is the oldest on the island.

The main building is now a cafe, and there are several artifacts from the old business remaining, as well as a gallery space with artwork dedicated to Rishiri konbu, one of the island's main revenue sources. The station runs craft workshops where visitors can make konbu-based souvenirs.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

Kutsugata Honcho 53-1, Rishiri

When:

9am – 5pm

Cost:

Free to enter

Notes:

Open daily

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SAPPORO

Sapporo Pirka Kotan

Long before the mainland Japanese came north to colonize Hokkaido, the indigenous Ainu people lived, and still live, in Sapporo. Explore Ainu culture with a visit to **Sapporo Pirka Kotan**, a cultural center whose name means “beautiful village in Sapporo” in the Ainu language.

Some traditional dwellings and scenes are reproduced here, as well as tools and clothing. Exhibits also examine aspects of art and culture, including animistic spiritual beliefs tied to the land and animals. Cultural events involving storytelling, art, food, dance, and more are periodically held and are open to the public.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

271-2 Koganyu, Minami-ku, Sapporo

When:

8:45am – 10pm
(exhibition room 9am – 5pm)

Cost:

The site is free to enter; exhibition room admission is 200 yen for adults.

Notes:

Closed Mondays, last Tuesday of each month, public holidays, and December 29 – January 3



Mori Art Museum

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TOKYO

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Where:

Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1
Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

When:

Mori Art Museum

Tuesdays 10am – 5pm

Every other day 10am – 10pm

Tokyo City View

Weekdays/Holidays 10am – 11pm

Fridays, Saturdays, and days before
holidays 10am – 1am

(Sky Deck open 11am – 8pm daily).

Cost:

Adults 1,800 yen, which gets you into
both. Access to Sky Deck is an addi-
tional 500 yen.

Notes:

Expect a line for tickets during busy
times.

At **Mori Art Museum**, it's easy to spend an entire afternoon taking in the world-class contemporary art exhibitions. The museum is located on the 53rd floor of a glittering skyscraper in the upscale Roppongi neighborhood, home to several large art museums.

After viewing the art, head downstairs to the 52nd floor and **Tokyo City View**, a 360-degree observatory and an excellent perch from which to peer down at the city. During the day, view the sea shining in the distance and the snow-topped speck of Mt. Fuji on the horizon. At sunset, the city gleams orange and gold, and at night it's a glittering expanse of millions of lights.

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