



A PRIVATE FAMILY JOURNEY

Japan: Kyoto + Tokyo & Hakone

A family trip · April 1-8, 2027 · 2 adults + kids ages 14 & 8

Seven nights of neon, onsens, temple mornings, late sakura, and small moments your family will still be talking about years later.

PORTLAND → TOKYO → HAKONE → KYOTO

APRIL 2027 · TOKYO · HAKONE · KYOTO

AT A GLANCE

A polished east-to-west route, with no backtracking

Built for a family of four from Portland: enough headline Japan to feel thrilling, enough breathing room to keep an eight-year-old and a teenager happy.



Dates & party

Family of 4: 2 adults, boy 14, girl 8, from Portland, OR.

Fly out **Wed March 31, 2027**, right after a business meeting. Seven nights; fly home Thu April 8, 2027.

Open-jaw flights

Arrive Tokyo Haneda (HND) Thu Apr 1 at about 3:50pm. Depart Osaka Kansai (KIX) Thu Apr 8 at 5:45pm. No backtracking.

Premium rhythm

Urban ryokan, private open-air onsen, in-room kaiseki, and a riverside Kyoto finale. The itinerary alternates high-energy city days with restorative stays.

Planning budget

Approximately \$17,000–20,000 all-in, including quoted economy flights. Premium-economy or business quotes are available on request.

Why this works: Tokyo lands the futuristic wow; Hakone creates the emotional exhale; Kyoto gives the family a graceful finish with culture, blossoms, and one very hard-to-get Nintendo day.

Live flight snapshot · quoted Sept 12, 2026

Cheapest: **American Airlines \$6,419 total** — PDX 6:37am → LAX 9:17am → HND 3:50pm+1 (arrives Apr 1); return KIX 5:45pm → LAX 12:05pm → PDX 8:22pm (Apr 8). Also: United \$6,779, ANA \$6,991, Delta \$8,117. All economy, 1 checked bag each, non-refundable. Prices move.



Cross the date line; you land “tomorrow.”

MORNING

Leave Portland after the big meeting is behind you

American’s quoted itinerary departs PDX at 6:37am, connects at LAX, then runs overnight to Haneda. Keep a full change of clothes and essential medicines in carry-ons.

IN FLIGHT

Move everyone toward Tokyo time

After the long-haul meal, dim screens and aim for sleep. Hydrate, but skip the heroic attempt to stay awake for the entire flight.

FAMILY MOVE

Start one shared trip note

Give each person a single daily prompt: best bite, funniest sign, biggest surprise, and one thing to remember. By Kyoto, you have the bones of a family travel journal.

CARRY-ON

Overnight kit, chargers, refillable bottles, a pen for forms, and one comfort item for the eight-year-old.

THU · APR 1 · NIGHT 1

Tokyo, gently

Haneda → Otemachi



Tokyo at night

ARRIVAL

Land HND 3:50pm

Take the limousine bus or a pre-arranged private transfer to the hotel, about 30–45 minutes in normal conditions. Check in and keep the first hour deliberately unstructured.

EVENING

A neighborhood stroll and the first konbini haul

Japanese convenience stores are a kid wonderland: onigiri, fruit sandwiches, tiny desserts, mystery drinks. Let each child choose one sweet and one savory item for a low-stakes first-night tasting.

SLEEP

Early night, but not too early

Japan is 16 hours ahead of Portland during Pacific Daylight Time. Force yourselves to about 9pm local; it is the fastest path through jet lag.

STAY

HOSHINOYA Tokyo · rooftop open-air onsen · Otemachi

FRI • APR 2 • NIGHT 2

Tokyo: water, old streets, neon

Toyosu → Asakusa → Shibuya



Immersive digital art at teamLab Planets

MORNING

teamLab Planets at 9–10am

Allow 1½–2 hours for the barefoot, water-based experience. Wear pants that roll above the knee; skirts and some reflective-floor rooms warrant practical underlayers. It is about one minute from Shin-Toyosu Station.

AFTERNOON

Senso-ji, Nakamise & Kappabashi

Move from the great red lantern into snack stalls, then browse Tokyo's kitchenware street for chopsticks, bowls, and extraordinary plastic food models. Add Ueno Park only if blossoms are still rewarding.

EVENING

Shibuya Crossing and dinner

Watch the crossing from above, then join it. Choose a lively, reservation-friendly dinner nearby rather than stacking another attraction into the evening.

TIMED TICKET

Buy a weekday morning entry when April sales open, expected roughly 2–3 months ahead. Verify 2027 hours before travel.

SAT · APR 3 · NIGHT 3

Shrines, street style, then steam

Tokyo → Hakone



Meiji Jingu

MORNING

Meiji Jingu before Harajuku wakes

Start in the forested shrine approach. Then pivot to Takeshita Street for street style, sweets, and a family *purikura* photo booth session.

AFTERNOON

Travel light to Hakone

Forward large bags Tokyo → Kyoto by *takuhaibin*; keep two-night bags. Take the Romancecar from Shinjuku to Hakone-Yumoto (about 85 minutes), then transfer to Gora.

EVENING

Your first private onsen and in-room kaiseki

Let the children experience the ceremony of a multi-course dinner without the pressure of a formal dining room. End with the room's open-air bath.

SIGNATURE NIGHT

Gora Kadan · private open-air bath room · in-room kaiseki

Hakone's grand loop

Gora → Owakudani → Lake Ashi



Hakone and Mount Fuji

MORNING

Look for Fuji first; art second

Clear mornings offer the best chance of seeing Mount Fuji. Then visit the Hakone Open-Air Museum: sculpture lawns, indoor galleries, and space to move. Published hours are 9am–5pm, last entry 4:30pm.

AFTERNOON

Complete the classic loop

Use the two-day Hakone Free Pass for the ropeway over volcanic Owakudani, the Lake Ashi “pirate ship,” and the lakeside torii of Hakone Shrine. Weather or volcanic conditions may change the sequence.

EVENING

Second kaiseki, second soak

Returning to the same ryokan matters: everyone already knows the rituals, so the second night feels less like “trying a ryokan” and more like belonging there.

MUSEUM Adults ¥2,000; high school/university ¥1,600; elementary/middle school ¥800.

Online tickets may be discounted.

MON · APR 5 · NIGHT 5

Onsen morning, Nintendo afternoon Hakone → Uji → Kyoto



Nintendo Museum, Uji

MORNING

One last slow soak

Depart around 10:30am. Travel from Odawara to Kyoto by reserved shinkansen, about 2h15, arriving around 1:30pm. Your forwarded bags should be waiting in Kyoto.

AFTERNOON

Nintendo Museum in Uji

Uji is roughly 20 minutes from Kyoto by train. Tickets are sold through a monthly lottery: apply in January 2027 with a free Nintendo Account. The museum is closed Tuesdays.

Admission: ¥3,300 adult · ¥2,200 teen · ¥1,100 child.

EVENING

Gion and Pontocho

Take a first lantern-lit walk through Kyoto's traditional center, then dine in or near Pontocho. Keep phones away around working geiko and maiko; photography rules can be strict on private lanes.

LOTTERY PRIORITY

Apply for Monday, April 5. Build in an alternate Uji tea stop if tickets do not come through.



Ninnaji's Omuro-zakura

EARLY

Arashiyama Bamboo Grove by 7:30am

The experience changes once tour groups arrive, so make the early start count. Continue to Tenryu-ji, then Iwatayama Monkey Park if the family wants the uphill walk and open view.

AFTERNOON

Make the late blossoms the objective

Ninnaji's low-growing Omuro-zakura typically bloom later than standard Somei Yoshino. Add Ryoan-ji for the rock garden and a shift from floral abundance to studied calm.

EVENING

Protect an easy night

Return to the hotel early. Swim, soak, read, or order room service. This quiet evening preserves the energy for tomorrow's full Kyoto finale.

BLOOM STRATEGY

Ninnaji is the best planned late-bloom hedge, not a promise. Official published hours: 9am–5pm; reconfirm before travel.

Gold, tea, gates, farewell

North Kyoto → Higashiyama → Fushimi



Fushimi Inari's torii path

MORNING

Kinkaku-ji at 9am

See the Golden Pavilion close to opening, then graze for lunch at Nishiki Market. Encourage everyone to choose just one bite at a time rather than eating a full meal at the first stall.

AFTERNOON

A private family tea ceremony

Book a format that welcomes children and explains the gestures rather than demanding perfect stillness. Optional kimono rental near Kiyomizu adds ritual and extraordinary family photographs.

LATE DAY

Fushimi Inari around 4pm

Walk beyond the first dense rows of torii; crowds thin quickly. Turn around when the family's energy says so. Follow with a farewell dinner built around everyone's favorite discovery.

BOOK AHEAD

Tea ceremony in February; kimono fitting optional. Kinkaku-ji's published hours are 9am–5pm.

THU · APR 8

One last Kyoto morning

Kyoto → KIX → Portland



The same calendar day

You leave Osaka at 5:45pm and reach Portland at about 8:22pm on Thursday, April 8.

MORNING

Choose one, not both

Nijo Castle is the smarter blossom hedge, with many cherry varieties and late satozakura. **Philosopher's Path** is quieter if petals still carpet the canal. Nijo's published hours are generally 8:45am–5pm; confirm the 2027 schedule.

12:30PM

Haruka Express to Kansai Airport

Allow about 75 minutes from Kyoto Station. A 12:30pm target builds a comfortable buffer for the 5:45pm departure, especially with children and checked bags.

FLIGHT

KIX → LAX → PDX

The quoted American itinerary reaches LAX at 12:05pm and Portland at 8:22pm. Keep the next morning gentle if possible; the eastbound return can feel harder.

DO BEFORE LEAVING

Put the family's shared trip note in one person's carry-on — it is now a souvenir.

Three stays, three versions of Japanese hospitality

Book the ryokan first, then Tokyo and Kyoto. Premium April inventory can disappear roughly six months out.

TOKYO · 2 NIGHTS HOSHINOYA

Tokyo

Ryokan character inside an Otemachi tower: tatami calm, deep soaking tubs, and a rooftop open-air onsen.

1-9-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
+81-50-3134-8096
Tokyo Station about 10 minutes on foot.

Alternative

Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi.

HAKONE · 2 NIGHTS Gora Kadan

The emotional centerpiece: private open-air bath room, 70–120 m² depending on category, and in-room kaiseki.

Hakone-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa 250-0408
+81-460-82-3331
Check-in 3pm; check-out 11am.

Alternative

Hakone Kowakien Ten-yu; every room has a private onsen.

KYOTO · 3 NIGHTS The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto

A calm Kamogawa setting, polished family service, and a strong base for Kyoto's northern and eastern sights.

Kamogawa Nijo-Ohashi Hotori, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-0902
+81 75-746-5555
Nearest subway: Kyoto City Hall.

Alternative

Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto, with garden pond.



The ryokan pause at the center of the trip

Room-category rule: For Gora Kadan, verify that “private open-air bath” is attached to the booked room, not simply reservable elsewhere on property. Confirm children's meal arrangements before payment.

Point-to-point beats a nationwide rail pass

This route is linear, so the nationwide JR Pass does not pay off after the 2023 price increase. Reserve the long legs; tap around cities.

Leg / tool	Plan	Planning price
Tokyo transit	Digital Suica on compatible iPhones for trains, subways, buses, and many small purchases.	Top up as needed
Shinjuku → Hakone-Yumoto	Odakyu Romancecar, reserved seat; about 85 minutes.	About ¥2,500 pp
Hakone sightseeing	Two-day Hakone Free Pass for mountain railway, ropeway, boat, and buses within its coverage.	Verify 2027 price
Odawara → Kyoto	Reserved shinkansen via SmartEX; about 2h15.	About ¥13,000 pp
Kyoto → KIX	Haruka Express; about 75 minutes. Ask about foreign-visitor discounts.	About ¥3,600 pp
Large luggage	<i>Takuhaibin</i> from Tokyo hotel to Kyoto hotel; usually next-day.	About ¥2,500/bag

Carry small in Hakone

Pack two compact overnight bags for four people. Forward everything else from Tokyo on Saturday and confirm the Kyoto delivery date with the hotel desk.

Reserve right-hand seats

On some east-to-west shinkansen services, right-side seats can offer a Fuji view in clear weather. Treat it as a bonus, not a guarantee.

IC card reality

Each traveler needs their own IC card/device for transit gates. Keep physical yen for temples, lockers, small shops, and children without compatible phones.

Airport buffer

Aim for the 12:30pm Haruka on departure day. It leaves room for platform navigation, bag handling, and an unhurried airport check-in.

Chase variety, not a single “peak”

April 1–8 is likely just past peak for standard Somei Yoshino. That is not a failure; it changes the visual vocabulary to later varieties, floating petals, and softer crowds.

Plan for the blossoms you can target — then stay open to the ones the weather gives you.

Ninnaji · anchor

Low-growing Omuro-zakura typically peak around mid-April. They are the trip’s strongest intentional late-bloom target.

Hirano Shrine · range

Roughly 60 cherry varieties extend the viewing window from late March into mid-April.

Nijo Castle · departure hedge

Around 50 varieties include later satozakura into mid-April. Choose it on Apr 8 if reports are favorable.

What to notice

Yaezakura double blossoms; petal-carpeted paths such as Philosopher’s Path; and falling-petal “sakura snow.”

Forecast protocol: Check Japan’s official and major weather-service forecasts in early March, again one week out, and locally each morning. Swap flexible Kyoto blocks rather than rebuilding the entire trip.

The tradeoff is attractive

After-peak timing often means a more delicate scene and somewhat thinner crowds. The best family memory may be petals in the canal or caught in the children’s hair — not a postcard-perfect tree at full bloom.

The moments that turn an itinerary into your family's Japan



A private onsen pause

The double-onsen arc

HOSHINOYA's rooftop bath opens the theme; Gora Kadan makes it private and personal. Two kaiseki dinners turn the Hakone stay into a ritual, not just a room.

Rare-ticket bragging rights

Nintendo Museum lottery tickets and a morning at teamLab Planets create two contemporary-Japan highlights that feel genuinely special to both children.

Tea together

Book a private family ceremony where the host explains meaning and makes room for questions.

Dress the part

Optional kimono rental near Kiyomizu; choose a relaxed package rather than losing half a day to styling.

Konbini cup

Score each taste test out of ten. Crown a sweet and savory champion before flying home.

Optional curveball: Japanese baseball. The NPB season opens in late March. When the 2027 schedule is expected around January, look for the Yomiuri Giants at Tokyo Dome or Hanshin Tigers at Koshien. Add only if it replaces — not crowds — an evening.

What to reserve, and when

The hotel-and-ryokan spine comes first. Everything else can follow in controlled waves.

☐ **Now • September 2026**

Price and book the open-jaw flights. Secure Gora Kadan first, then HOSHINOYA Tokyo and The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto. Verify family occupancy and cancellation terms.

☐ **January 2027**

Enter the Nintendo Museum lottery for April 5 using a free Nintendo Account. Watch for teamLab's April ticket release roughly 2–3 months ahead. Check the 2027 NPB schedule.

☐ **February 2027**

Purchase weekday-morning teamLab tickets. Book the private family tea ceremony and optional kimono rental.

☐ **Early March 2027**

Reserve Romancecar seats and the Odawara–Kyoto shinkansen through SmartEX. Confirm the Haruka plan. Review the official sakura forecast; arrange eSIM or pocket Wi-Fi and complete Visit Japan Web immigration details.

☐ **Late March 2027**

Pack layers for typical temperatures in the 50s–60s°F, add rain protection, and reconfirm every timed ticket, meal inclusion, room type, and transfer.

DO NOT ASSUME

"Selected itinerary" does not mean booked. No flight, hotel, ticket, or transport reservation has been purchased yet.

BUDGET ESTIMATE

A premium week for four: \$17,000–20,000

Category	Planning range	What it covers
Flights	About \$6,400	Live American economy quote was \$6,419 total on Sept 12, 2026.
Hotels	\$6,500–8,000	Two Tokyo nights, two premium ryokan nights with meals, three Kyoto nights.
In-country transport	\$1,200–1,500	Airport transfers, Romancecar, Hakone loop, shinkansen, local transit, Haruka, luggage forwarding.
Food, activities, shopping	\$3,000–4,500	Restaurant meals, timed attractions, tea, kimono option, snacks, and room for souvenirs.
Total	\$17,000–20,000	Planning estimate, not a quote; exchange rates and April inventory will move it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Small operational choices, smoother trip

Entry & time

U.S. citizens may visit visa-free for up to 90 days under current rules. Japan is 16 hours ahead of Portland during Pacific Daylight Time.

Jet lag

On arrival, stay awake until roughly 9pm local. Use daylight, a walk, and an early dinner rather than a long nap.

Money

Cash remains useful. 7-Eleven ATMs generally accept foreign cards; carry yen alongside IC cards.

Customs

Tipping is not customary and can cause confusion. A polite thank-you is enough. Consider comprehensive travel insurance.

RECHECK

Prices, availability, immigration rules, attraction hours, transit schedules, and blossom timing before booking and again before departure.

Addresses, access & published hours

Reference details observed September 12, 2026. Hours, prices, and closures may change before April 2027.

Place	Practical details
Nintendo Museum	56 Kaguraden, Ogura-cho, Uji-shi, Kyoto 611-0042. 5 min from Kintetsu Ogura East Exit; 8 min from JR Ogura North Exit. Published hours 10am–8pm; closed Tuesdays and Dec 30–Jan 3.
teamLab Planets	6-1-16 Toyosu, Koto City, Tokyo 135-0061. About 1 min from Shin-Toyosu Station. Hours vary by date; verify the booked session.
Hakone Open-Air Museum	Ninotaira 1121, Hakone-machi, Kanagawa 250-0493 · +81-460-82-1161. Published 9am–5pm; last admission 4:30pm.
Ninnaji	33 Omuroouchi, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto · +81-75-461-1155. Published 9am–5pm.
Kinkaku-ji	1 Kinkakujicho, Kita-ku, Kyoto · +81-75-461-0013. Published 9am–5pm.
Nijo Castle	541 Nijo-jo-cho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8301 · +81-75-841-0096. Published hours generally 8:45am–5pm; confirm official 2027 schedule.

Best “if tired” cuts

Skip Ueno on Apr 2; leave the Hakone loop before the shrine; skip Monkey Park on Apr 6; omit kimono rental on Apr 7.

Best “if raining” pivots

Keep teamLab and Nintendo. In Kyoto, trade long garden walks for tea, a craft workshop, Kyoto Railway Museum, or more hotel downtime.

Family rule: One adult carries passports; the other carries the backup payment card and copies. Each child keeps the hotel card in a pocket.

Plan from live quotes and published visitor information

Research observed September 12, 2026. These pages support the operational details in this guide; the itinerary itself reflects the family's selected dates and preferences.

1. Nintendo Museum — official

<https://museum.nintendo.com/en/index.html>

2. teamLab Planets visitor reference

<https://jal.japantravel.com/places/tokyo/teamlab-planets/446>

3. HOSHINOYA Tokyo — ryokan reference

https://att-ryokan.net/en/kanto/hoshinoya_tokyo

4. Gora Kadan — Japan Ryokan & Hotel Association

<https://www.ryokan.or.jp/english/sp/inn/94032>

5. The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto — official

<https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/ukyrz-the-ritz-carlton-kyoto/overview/>

6. Hakone Open-Air Museum — official

<https://hakone-oam.or.jp/en/info/>

7. Ninnaji — official multilingual information

http://www.ninnaji.or.jp/multilingual_info.html

8. Kinkaku-ji — official

<https://www.shokoku-ji.jp/kinkakuji/>

Flight note: Airfare figures are a live Duffel snapshot from September 12, 2026 for two adults, one 14-year-old, and one 8-year-old. They are not held, ticketed, or guaranteed.

Photography in this guide is used as visual destination reference. Confirm current access, photography rules, and weather locally. No reservation in this guide is confirmed until a supplier issues a booking record.