



4172 Ridgemoor Dr. N  
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**Private Tour for 2 people  
Highlights of Japan with Jewish Heritage  
May 3-6, 2014**

**May 3, Saturday, Tokyo – Kobe - Kyoto**

Transfer from the hotel in Tokyo to Tokyo Station by private car with English-speaking assistant

On the way to the station, we will stop at The Peninsula Tokyo to drop your big suitcases. Please prepare a small carry for 2 nights stay in Kyoto.)

Leave **Tokyo** at 09:10 am for **Shin-Kobe** arriving at 11:59 by Nozomi 19.

Full-day sightseeing of **Kobe** by private car and an English speaking guide, from train station.

Kobe is a port city in the Kansai region of Japan on the main island of Honshu.

An important city throughout Japanese history, Kobe also has a significant Jewish history. Already housing a modest Jewish community by the start of World War II, Kobe existed as a safe haven for thousands of Jews fleeing Europe during 1940 and 1941. At its height, the Jewish community of Kobe had thousands of residents, two synagogues, and recognition from the Japanese government. After World War II, however, the community became greatly diminished and remains extremely small today.

Visit **Kitano-cho**, a city district at the foot of Mt. Rokko where many Western business people settled down in the second half of the 19th century, after the Port of Kobe was opened to foreign trade. A number of former mansions of Western residents remain in the area and are open to the public. The area also offers many pleasant cafes, restaurants and boutiques and is a favorite among young Japanese couples.

Kobe is home to the **Ohel Shelomo Synagogue**, officially the Jewish Community of Kansai- the oldest surviving Jewish community in Japan. The first Jews arrived in Kobe around the turn of the 20th century. Up until World War II, Jews flocked to the port city from Poland, Russia, Germany, and the Middle East due to its wealth and trading opportunities. By 1941, there were two separate synagogues in Kobe, one for the Ashkenazi and another for the Sephardi. During World War II, the Sephardic synagogue burnt down as the result of an American air raid, and the Ashkenazim shared their space with the Sephardic community. Between 1939 and 1940, despite being an ally of Nazi Germany, Japan continued to accept a large influx of Jews from Europe.

In a well-known act of bravery and kindness, Japan's consul to Lithuania, Chiune Sogihara, ignored orders from Japan's Foreign Ministry and gave thousands of Jews transit visas to Japan- many of whom found refuge in Kobe, and saving as many as 10,000 Jewish lives.

The Jews in Kobe meanwhile found themselves unable to travel or conduct business during the war, but were treated well by local authorities.

The present community center was built in 1970, under the direction of Albert Hamway and Vicot Moche, who came from Syria and Iran. For many years foreign business prospered and the Jewish community grew rapidly in size. Large Israeli companies created headquarters in the area, bringing with them an influx of young families. Traders and other businessmen flocked to this commercial center on a regular basis and the shipping industry flourished. The Israeli presence was high. Unfortunately, a depreciation of the yen led many of these businesses to pull out in the 1980s.



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The current synagogue is located in Kitano-cho, not far from the center of commercial activity. The center exists to this day with donations from local residents, businessmen and travelers from around the world. Unfortunately, the Great Hanshin earthquake of 1995 caused serious damage to the building, which has since been repaired but still needs additional restoration work.

Note: synagogue is closed on Saturday except for morning services.

Visit Mt. Rokko Cablecar, Mt. Rokko Observatory, Kobe Landmark for nice views of Kobe.

Continue to Kyoto, Arrive at the hotel in Kyoto approximately 7pm.

Overnight Hotel Ritz-Carlton Kyoto 5\*.

### **May 4, Sunday, Kyoto**

Breakfast at hotel.

Meet your guide at hotel's lobby for a full day tour of Kyoto.

Known as the cradle of Japan's cultural heritage, Kyoto was Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. It is now the country's seventh largest city, with a population of 1.4 million people and a modern face, though it remains Japan's most traditional city. Visit the main temple highlights of Kyoto on this full-day tour including:

Visit Kiyomizu Temple, noted for its cliff top Main Hall with a broad wooden veranda affording a panoramic view of Kyoto and environs. The veranda is supported on a towering scaffold of wood. Situated on a wooded hillside, the veranda seems to hang in midair. The depth of the valley below is such that the Japanese expression "To jump from the veranda of Kiyomizu Temple" means to do something daring. The veranda was built on the temple's south side so that it would face the sacred Otowa Falls. The present temple structures were built in 1633 at the behest of Iemitsu, the third of the Tokugawa shoguns. The Main Hall has been designated a National Treasure.

Visit Ryoanji Temple - the site of Japan's most famous rock garden, which attracts hundreds of visitors every day. Originally an aristocrat's villa during the Heian Period, the site was converted into a Zen temple in 1450 and belongs to the Myoshinji school of the Rinzaï sect of Zen Buddhism, whose head temple stands just a kilometer to the south. An interesting feature of the garden's design is that from any vantage point at least one of the rocks is always hidden from the viewer.

Visit Nijo Castle, built by Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, in 1603, is a World Heritage Site and its Ninomaru Palace is designated a National Treasure on account of its splendid architecture and magnificent interior decoration. Ieyasu built the castle as his Kyoto residence, but its greater significance was as a symbol of Tokugawa power in the Kansai region. The palace is an example of "shoin-zukuri" style, its four building groups staggered so that as many rooms as possible could front a garden or court. The interior is decorated with wall paintings by the Kano school. The floorboards of corridors creak underfoot. Called "bush warbler boards," they warned of the approach of an assassin.

Heian Shrine has a relatively short history, dating back just over a hundred years to 1895. The shrine was built on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the capital's foundation in Kyoto and is dedicated to the spirits of the first and last emperors who reigned from the city, Emperor Kammu (737-806) and Emperor Komei (1831-1867). Heian is the former name of Kyoto. The shrine's main buildings are a partial replica of the original Imperial Palace from the Heian Period, built on a somewhat smaller scale than the original.



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Last site is Kinkakuji, or the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, is a famous structure dating from the Muromachi Period (1336-1573) and was listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1994. It is the popular name of Rokuon-ji (Deer Park Temple), a temple dedicated to the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy. Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1408), the third of the Ashikaga Shoguns, built a retirement estate there in 1398. After his death in 1419, the grounds were turned into a Buddhist temple for the Rinzaï sect. The only building to remain standing of Yoshimitsu's estate was the Golden Pavilion. The upper stories are covered in gold leaf and the roof is topped by a bronze phoenix. The reflection of the temple shimmers majestically in the waters of a rock-studded pond.

Return to your hotel around 5pm.  
Free time  
Overnight Hotel Ritz-Carlton Kyoto 5\*.

### **May 5, Monday, Kyoto – Tokyo**

Breakfast at hotel.

Checkout and transfer to **Kyoto** train station by private car with English speaking assistant.  
12:35 pm leave Kyoto by Nozomi 126 , arrive **Tokyo** 2:53pm.

Transfer to hotel by private car with English speaking assistant.

Check into hotel Peninsula Tokyo, overnight.

Free time.

### **May 6, Saturday , Tokyo – departure**

Breakfast at hotel.  
Hotel rooms is available until regular check out time

Time TBA. Private transfer to Narita Int. airport with English speaking assistant.

Departure.

**Price for 2 people: \$7,980 USD**

Price includes:

- 2 nights hotel standard double room in Ritz Carlton Kyoto
- 1 night hotel standard double room in Peninsula Tokyo
- First class train tickets by Nozomi 19 Tokyo- Kobe
- First class train tickets by Nozomi 126 Kyoto – Tokyo
- Private transfers per itinerary
- Entrance fees

Extra:

- Meals
- Gratuities
- Any other sightseeing not specified above



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Note: this is a golden week in Japan, and very limited availability.  
Nothing is booked yet.

Full prepayment 60 days prior.

Credit card authorization form:

<http://www.emcoinc.com/travel/html/EMletterof.htm>

### **CANCELLATIONS & REFUND POLICY**

- After booking 30%
- 60-30 days before departure, 50% of total
- 30-0 days – no refund

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and conditions

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<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> - Center for disease control and prevention

<http://www.who.int/en/> - World Health Organization

<http://www.state.gov/travel/> - Department of State Travel (USA)

You should consider and in your discretion obtain appropriate insurance coverage to the extent available with respect to risks associated with your travel.



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Thank you for your business,

*Sophia Kulich, CTC*