



2024 Tokyo Autumn Colours Tour

Join Jim Embury and Keith Harrison on a 10-day photography tour of Tokyo and outlying areas from November 7 to November 18, 2024.

This small group tour, with a maximum of 10 clients, will focus on providing a wide range of photographic opportunities including street scenes, modern and traditional buildings, Japanese people, their culture and lifestyle, and parks and landscapes during the fall colour season.

Jim and Keith are both APSNZ honour holders and have traveled in and around Tokyo and other areas of Japan. This tour follows on from a tour run in August 2023 in central Tokyo.

Trip Itinerary

A flexible itinerary is planned to allow for weather and to make the most of opportunities as they arise, though November is one of the driest months and can still be warm during the day, though cool at night.

The 2024 tour will be based in two areas in Tokyo.

The first, near Tokyo station, gives us a short train ride or walking access to the famous Ginza shopping district, the Imperial Palace, Hamarikyū gardens, Tsukiji Fish Market and the amazing architectural spaces of the Tokyo International Forum and the Shiodome.

Day trips may include visits to the Sensoji – the most visited temple in Tokyo, Akihabara, with its Manga stores and Cosplayers and Ueno Gardens.

Street photography literally walks by you on Ginza Avenue especially when the street is blocked off to traffic on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and people stroll along in front of international high fashion stores.

Evening walking tours are planned around the Ginza and Shimbashi area where the backstreets can offer as many exciting photo opportunities as the glittering main streets.

The second area is in Shinjuku which is known for its nightlife. A short train ride away is Harajuku where trendy youth show off their alternative clothing styles in Takeshita Street, one street over is Omote Sando, an elegant tree lined street with exclusive shops and impressive architecture. Watch the Japanese Rockabilly dancers outside Yoyogi Park and then stroll through the Meiji Jingu temple and gardens for a complete contrast in pace and view of Japanese culture.

Also within easy reach is Shibuya, known for its famous crosswalk and the “Shibuya Scramble” where several thousand people may cross at a time. Close by is Ebisu, site of an old brewery and now home to the Tokyo Photography Museum as well as some amazing and surprising buildings.



A day trip to Kamakura is planned, depending on weather and travel conditions. Kamakura has been an important part of Japanese history since the 12th century and was once the capital of Japan. It is known for its bronze Buddha statue, shrines and has a bamboo grove and tea house that provide a change of scenery and pace.

There is time in the itinerary for independent sightseeing, shopping or just hanging out at a café watching the world go by.

Getting Around

Subways and trains will be used extensively but expect to walk several kms per day. This is often at a leisurely pace, but tour participants need an appropriate level of fitness to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

Costs

Clients should budget around NZ\$7800 for the tour.

Tour costs cover:

- Single occupancy hotels in Ginza and Shinjuku (breakfast included).
- Narita Express return from Narita Airport to Tokyo and Shinjuku to Narita Airport
- Tokyo Photography Museum and Hamarikyū Garden entry fees.
- Local train and subway travel.
- Tour fee.

For a couple one double room has been booked. It is 23 m² instead of 16 m². The cost is NZ\$2500. Two single rooms would be NZ \$2800.

Tour costs are NZ\$4530

A deposit of NZ \$500 is required when booking with the remainder made in two staged payments.

Tour participants pay for their airfares, meals, personal costs and travel insurance directly. An estimated summary is below.

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| • Air New Zealand flights to Narita Airport and return to Wellington | NZ \$1600 |
| • Lunch, dinner, snacks, coffee, tea NZ\$125 per day for 11 days. Food tends to be very reasonable so this would be at the high end if alcohol was consumed at lunch and dinner. Previous trips saw NZ\$60 to NZ\$100 for food besides breakfast. | NZ \$1375 |
| • Travel contingency for additional activities or entrance to viewing platforms in some of the buildings. | NZ \$375 |



- NZ sim card that has overseas internet access in Japan (NZ \$8.00 per day for 11 days) NZ \$88
- Travel insurance

Exchange rate used is ¥90 to a NZ\$1.00

Tour participants need to book the flight as soon as possible as we have no control on seat availability.

Conditions of travel with the tour.

Participants must have travel insurance to cover lost baggage or other items and health events where medical attention is required in Japan.

Participants must have a NZ sim card with overseas internet access in Japan when we are away from the hotel. In the event a tour participant becomes separated from the group they can use maps and web browsing to know where they are and where the hotel is. This will assist in reading menus or signs using Google translate.

Participants should have Google Maps, Google Translate and WhatsApp on their phones.

Note: Your tour leaders accept no personal liability for loss or damage to personal items, personal injury or personal accident liability or ill health events.

For further information or to confirm your place on the tour contact:

Jim Embury in Paraparaumu, Wellington at
jimembury.nz@gmail.com or on
0212544671

Keith Harrison in Whitby, Porirua at
harrkeith1947@gmail.com or on
0220990943