

JOURNEYS
by Van Dyke 

WONDERS OF JAPAN



 Land Journey

15 Days

\$14,490 CAD
All inclusive from,
per guest, double occ.

May 23 to
June 6, 2025

Discover the Essence of Japan

Join us on an extraordinary 15-day Journey across Japan, where you'll uncover the heart and soul of this captivating country. We warmly invite you to immerse yourself in the country's unique culture, heritage, cuisine, and breathtaking sights, alongside new and familiar friends.

Every aspect of this journey has been thoughtfully designed for our valued Journeys by Van Dyke guests. Enjoy a comprehensive, all-inclusive experience featuring expert local guides selected for their deep knowledge, and a dedicated Journey Manager to ensure a smooth and enriching trip. We've taken care of everything so you can simply enjoy, experience, and create lifelong memories in this captivating country.

As you read through our meticulously planned itinerary, we hope you share in the excitement we've felt while crafting this adventure for you. We eagerly look forward to embarking on this extraordinary journey and creating lasting memories together. Let's continue exploring the world, one remarkable destination at a time.



① Tokyo

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Tokyo, Japan's bustling capital, offers a spirited mix of attractions. Experience the energy of Shibuya Crossing, one of the world's busiest intersections, marvel at the upscale atmosphere of the Ginza district, and take in breathtaking panoramic views from the Tokyo Skytree, the tallest tower in the world. Each corner of this vibrant metropolis offers a unique glimpse into its dynamic culture and innovation.





② Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji, Japan's iconic peak, stands majestically as a symbol of natural beauty and cultural significance. Visible from miles around, it captivates with its symmetrical form and serene presence, making it a highlight for many. This revered mountain offers a profound connection to Japan's rich heritage and is exemplary of breathtaking scenery.



③ Takayama

Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alps, captivates with its beautifully preserved old town and rich historical charm. The streets lined with Edo-period buildings, traditional merchant houses, and sake breweries offer a glimpse into Japan's cultural heritage at its finest, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in its authentic atmosphere.





④ Miyajima Island

Miyajima Island, one of Japan's most revered destinations, captivates with its iconic floating torii gate and friendly roaming deer. It offers a tranquil retreat into nature and a deep connection to Japan's spiritual heritage, inviting visitors to explore its timeless charm.



⑤ Kyoto

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Kyoto, Japan's cultural treasure trove, invites exploration with its array of temples, shrines, and traditional gardens. Quaint streets lined with traditional machiya houses offer glimpses into the city's enduring charm. Kyoto captivates visitors with its blend of historical depth and vibrant present-day culture.





Journey Itinerary



Day 1

DEPART FOR TOKYO, JAPAN

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flight. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details throughout the Journey, allowing you to focus on your experience.

Overnight flight





Day 2

WELCOME TO TOKYO

On arrival in Tokyo, we experience firsthand the genuine kindness of the Japanese with a warm welcome from our local guide. Relax in the elegance of our hotel, or take a stroll through the streets of Japan's largest metropolis. Join us this evening for a casual welcome dinner.

Overnight: Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa, Tokyo

Meals: Dinner

Day 3

DISCOVERING TOKYO

Our full day city exploration will begin with a visit to the Imperial Palace Eastern Gardens, home to 210,000 square meters of green space that is open to the public. Drive by the Ginza district, the most expensive real estate in the world. After lunch, we proceed to the Tokyo Skytree to visit the top level for an awe-inspiring view of the city, and maybe even Mt Fuji on a very clear day. At Asakusa, visit Nakamise-dori, Senso-ji Buddhist Temple (also known as Asakusa Kannon Temple) to learn about Japan's unique religious practices. Experience the world's busiest intersection, Shibuya Crossing, where hundreds of people cross from all directions every time the signal changes.

Note - During this journey, many temples require us to remove our shoes. This shows respect for the Japanese traditions, and protects the centuries old heritage sites.

Overnight: Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa, Tokyo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day 4

KAMAKURA

Immersing ourselves in the local culture, we drive to Kamakura, the former home to countless poets and artists. One of many highlights today include the beauty of The Great Bronze Buddha, the Hase Kannon Temple and the impressive Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine.

Wander amongst the intimate shops and cafes on Komaci Street. Look closely, and you will find the famous natto (sticky beans), ham, traditional Kamakura carving and other local specialties.

Overnight: [Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa, Tokyo](#)

Meals: [Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner](#)

Day 5

MT. FUJI & HAKONE

We skirt the Japanese Alps this morning as we drive south from Tokyo. Mt Fuji pokes its perfect volcanic cone towards the heavens. Discover the picturesque and serene natural beauty of a crater lake during a relaxing boat cruise, then take the Komagatake Ropeway for scenic views of Hakone and surrounding area. On to Suwa where for this one night we step into another world, relaxing in a cotton yukata (dressing gown) and sleeping on a traditional Futon.

Note: On day 5, our main luggage travels directly from Tokyo to Takayama (see day 6) on a separate vehicle. You will not have access to it for the night of the fifth day and we encourage you to use our convenient carry on bag for this overnight. You may want to pack a long sleeve shirt in your carry on as we travel over higher ground to Mt. Fuji today where the air may be cool.

Note: Hotel is traditional Japanese Ryokan and room will have comfortable futon on the floor for sleeping.

Overnight: Hotel Hamanoyu (Japanese style room), Suwa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day 6

MATSUMOTO & TAKAYAMA

Our journey continues via Matsumoto, noted for its majestic six storey castle, to the mountain village of Takayama. Visit the Hida Folk Village, a living museum of rural homes and barns, where we will experience the traditional lifestyles of a bygone era. Later we will visit the Matsuri-no-Mori Museum to learn about the art of tea. The museum has a collection of massive yatai or parade floats, created for the annual harvest festival.

Overnight: [Hotel Associa Takayama Resort, Takayama](#)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

TAKAYAMA

Takayama lies in the mountainous Hida region and has retained a traditional touch like few other Japanese cities, especially in its beautifully preserved old town. This historic city gained importance as a source of high quality timber and highly skilled carpenters during the feudal ages. This morning will be spent on a comprehensive walking tour exploring this delightful small city. Visits include the Miyagawa Morning Market, the traditional wooden houses and shops of Kami Sannomachi Street, Kusakabe Folkcraft Museum. The latter was formerly the residence of the Kusakabe family and has been designated an important cultural property. We'll also visit Takayama Jinya, the former regional headquarters of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

Note: An overnight bag will be required for Day 8 as luggage will be transported separately to Hiroshima.

Overnight: Hotel Associa Takayama Resort, Takayama

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day 8

SHIRAKAWAGO, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Our scenic drive continues this morning along mountainous roads , as you enter the mountain village of Shirakawago, with its unique thatched roof houses and picturesque river side setting, you can feel the historic atmosphere of this UNESCO site. Visit the residence of the Iwase family or Wade family, with its magnificent thatched roof home. Later visit Gokayama to observe the intricate and involved process of creating traditional Japanese paper (Washi). Before arriving at your hotel, visit the Higash Chaya-gai, a district with teahouses where geisha perform song and dance.

Overnight: ANA Crowne Plaza Kanazawa, Kanazawa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

KANAZAWA & THE GARDEN OF SIX QUALITIES

This morning we walk through one of Japan's most famous gardens, Kenroku-en, the Garden of Six Qualities. It features magnificent landscaping, flowering trees, and lakes. Visit the Hakuichi Gold Leaf Museum with a demonstration explaining the art of gold leaf application before travelling by bullet train to Hiroshima, an important southern city. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Overnight: ANA Crowne Plaza, Hiroshima

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day 10

HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima is best remembered for the event of August 6, 1945 when the A Bomb decimated the city and area. The Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum are both sobering testaments to the event and aftermath. Time permitting we shall visit Shukkei-en Garden, for a quiet walk with time to reflect. This afternoon cross the Inland Sea by ferry to Miyajima Island, felt by many to be one of the three top scenic experiences in Japan.

Note: Luggage will be transported separately from Hiroshima to Kyoto

Overnight: ANA Crowne Plaza, Hiroshima

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11

BULLET TRAIN TO KYOTO

Transfer to JR Hiroshima Station for bullet train to Himeji. See the exterior of Himeji Castle, the 400-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site and national treasure. Continue by coach to historic Kyoto, capital of Japan for almost 1,000 years (until 1868). This delightful city conjures up classic images: streets of little wooden houses, the sound of geta (wooden sandals) clicking on the cobblestones, geisha in brightly coloured silk, tea ceremonies, traditional gardens and more. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day 12

KYOTO

Our day begins with a walk through the unique Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, one of Kyoto's most popular attractions, followed by the Kinkaku-ji Temple, or Golden Pavilion. This three-storey pagoda, covered in gold foil, is set next to a tranquil reflecting pool and surrounded by gardens and pine forests. Nearby are the gardens and palace of Nijo Castle, a UNESCO Site noted for the great Ninomaru Wing and Audience Hall with its Nightingale Floors. In Fushimi we will explore the gardens of the Inari Shinto Shrine with its series of vermillion Torii gates and delightful cherry trees leading up to the slopes of Mt Inari. With good fortune, this will be a most enchanting day with lots of colours to enjoy.

Overnight: Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13

KYOTO

Leave hotel in early morning for a visit to Nara. Nara is one of the most gracious and sacred centres in all of Japan. At Todaiji Temple we visit Daibutsuden Hall, once the largest wooden building in the world, enshrining a great bronze sitting image of Buddha. Enjoy a stroll through the Deer Park (Nara Park). Following an ancient tradition, the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, founded in the 8th century to protect the capital, is rebuilt every 20 years. In the temple grounds you will find some 3,000 stone lanterns which are lit twice a year, during two special festivals. After lunch, transfer back to Kyoto to experience a tea ceremony. Return to hotel.

Note: Luggage will be transported separately from Kyoto to Tokyo, an overnight bag will be required for last night in Kyoto.

Overnight: Tokyu Hotel, Kyoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





Day 14

BULLET TRAIN TO TOKYO

Enjoy your morning at leisure before a short walk takes us to the Shinkansen platform at Kyoto Station where we board the Bullet train to Tokyo Station. On arrival we transfer to our hotel. Join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner.

Overnight: [Grand Prince Hotel Shin Takanawa, Tokyo](#)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15

HOME

This morning is yours to relax, do some last minute souvenir shopping before we bid Japan ' Sayōnara', and make our way to the airport for our flights home. Enjoy our private car to your home.

Meals: Breakfast





IMPORTANT NOTES

DEAR TRAVELLERS, PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN MIND:

Walking:

The best way to experience Japan is by absorbing it during intimate walking tours. As many streets and picturesque areas do not permit coach access, guests need to be able to walk at least 1 kilometre unaided and climb several flights of stairs. May we suggest you extend daily walks prior to departure to best prepare for this fantastic journey.

Food:

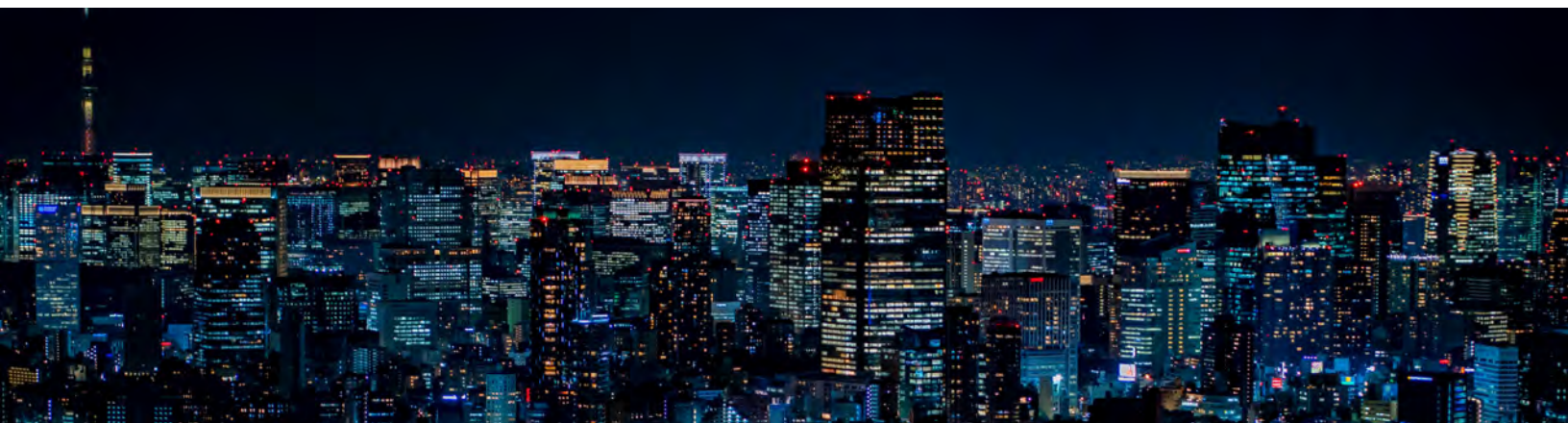
This is an important part of Japanese culture and we are pleased to provide exceptional dining experiences in some of Japan's finest restaurants. Menus will vary between western and Japanese highlighting the local cuisines and specialities of each region. Fish plays prominently in the Japanese diet. Accommodation is made for guests who cannot eat fish, but western food prepared by Japanese chefs is not the same as food at home. Most meals include water and green tea.

Baggage Service:

Hotels in Japan do not typically offer baggage service. Guests will be responsible for getting their bags to/from their rooms.

Thank you!

All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at www.journeysbyvandyke.com or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.



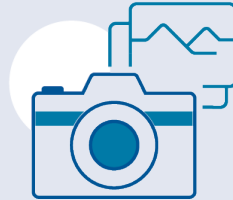
Signature Inclusions on this Journey

In addition to our essentials, your Journey includes our following Signature Inclusions:



24/7 Professional Journey Manager

- Will travel with you from Canada and handle every detail
- In addition to knowledgeable local guides



Memorable Private Excursions

- Private excursions crafted by our team
- All sightseeing & entrance fees included



Private Car Pick-up Service

- Within a 200-kilometre radius, let your Journey begin in elegant comfort with a private chauffeured car to the airport



Generous Tips & Gratuities

- For the porters, local guides, hotel staff & many more, paid by us on your behalf

Our essentials included with your Journey:

- 11 nights in outstanding hotels & lodges
- Meals included (14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners)
- Round-trip airfare from Toronto with Air Canada
- All taxes as well as port & service charges
- “Whisper” radios included for use during excursions
- Hassle-free Visas handled & processed for Canadian citizens
- Other gateways & travel classes available
- Portage for one piece of luggage per person
- Complete information & assistance leading up to your departure
- Branded overnight carry-on or backpack
- All sightseeing & entrance fees



Hotels



Day 2-5

GRAND PRINCE HOTEL TAKANAWA, TOKYO

The Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa offers a harmonious retreat that blends the rich traditions of the historic Takanawa area with modern sophistication. Set amidst beautifully landscaped gardens, this serene haven invites guests to relax and recharge in an atmosphere of understated elegance.

Enjoy well-appointed accommodations designed for comfort and convenience, complemented by attentive service. Whether you're strolling through the tranquil grounds or savoring the hotel's refined dining options, the Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa promises a peaceful escape infused with timeless charm.



Day 5

HOTEL HAMANOYU, SUWA

Hotel Hamanoyu, located in the serene Lake Suwa Onsen area of Nagano, offers a tranquil escape steeped in Japanese tradition and myth. Overlooking the legendary Lake Suwa, this hot spring ryokan has inspired artists like Taiji Harada, known for his work reflecting “Japan’s primal scene.”

Relax in the rejuvenating open-air bath, public bath, or sauna, and enjoy accommodations featuring tatami mats, rice paper walls, and futon bedding for an authentic experience. Traditional meals served on low tables add to the cultural charm, making every moment at Uwa Hamanoyu a celebration of Japan’s timeless hospitality.



Day 6 & 7

HOTEL ASSOCIA, TAKAYAMA RESORT

Amidst the beautiful Takayama highlands in the southwest of Takayama city, this gracious hotel soars above the surrounding countryside and provides commanding views of rice paddies, deep forests and the Japanese Alps. The hotel prides itself on providing the finest accommodations in the entire area. Guests at the hotel have access to a very traditional Japanese hot spring bath. With its European style and elegant atmosphere, the hotel is an ideal resort for people looking for a break from the fast-paced city lifestyle.

Spa Wing-onsen or Hot spring Baths

This is perhaps the most talked-about hot spring spa in this area of Japan. Imagine an entire wing dedicated to hot spring baths! Take a slow walk down an all-tatami aisle, bow under the no-ren (Japanese curtains) and approach baths fit for the gods!

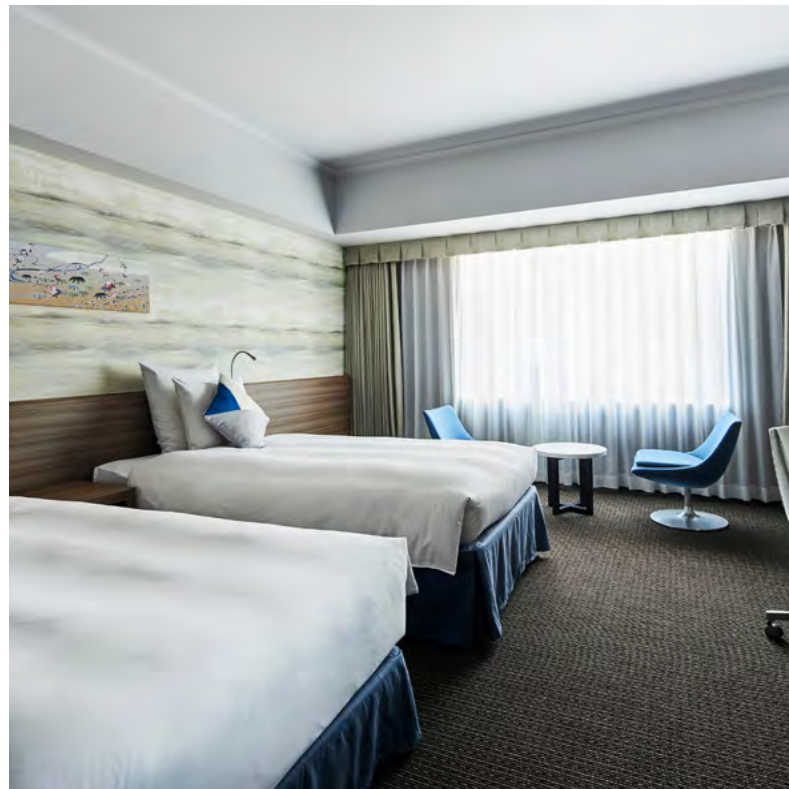


Day 8

ANA CROWNE PLAZA, KANAZAWA

ANA Crowne Plaza Kanazawa offers rooms with free WiFi. It features 5 restaurants, a bar with city views and concierge services. The elegant rooms at ANA Crowne Plaza Kanazawa are air-conditioned and fitted with a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. A fridge, free tea and coffee are provided. Free toiletries include aromatherapy oils, eye masks, and bath additives.

Japanese restaurant Unkai overlooks the hotel's garden. The restaurants at Crowne Plaza offer a variety of Chinese, Japanese and international food. In-room dining is available.



Day 9 & 10

ANA CROWNE PLAZA, HIROSHIMA

ANA Crowne Plaza Hiroshima, located in the heart of Hiroshima's commercial district, offers convenience and comfort just a five-minute walk from Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Guests can enjoy a welcoming marble-floored lobby, with bilingual Front Desk staff available to assist. Savor the hotel's restaurant and bar offerings, featuring an à la carte menu and panoramic city views.

Facing Fukuromachi Streetcar Stop on Peace Boulevard, the hotel is within walking distance of the serene banks of the Motoyasugawa River and the historic A-Bomb Dome, making it an ideal base for exploring the city.

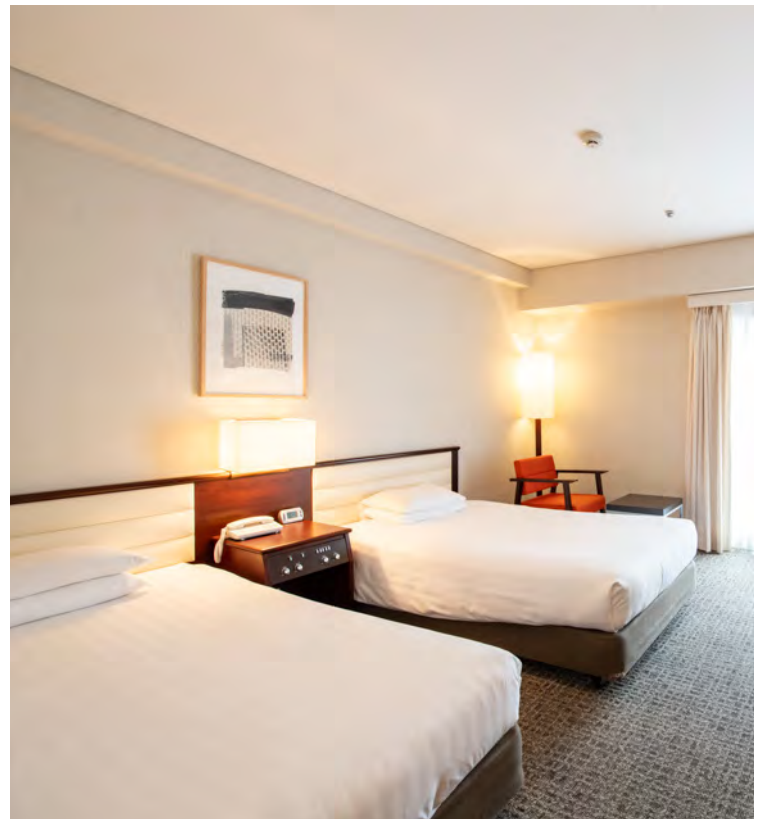


Day 11-13

TOKYU HOTEL, KYOTO

The hotel's contemporary interpretation of traditional Kyoto values has earned the Kyoto Scenic Beauty Award, as well as the BCS Awards for excellence in modern architecture. From the impressive main entrance, and the courtyard water feature recreating the simple purity of the city's Horikawa River, the atmosphere of quiet composure communicates a sense of calm and relaxation to every guest.

The modern rooms have Tempur comfort pillows and a satellite LCD TV. Free WiFi is available throughout the property. All rooms are air-conditioned and include a fridge and an electric kettle



Day 14

GRAND PRINCE HOTEL SHIN, TOKYO

Set amid the lush greenery of Takanawa, Grand Prince Hotel Shin Takanawa offers bright, spacious rooms, each with a private balcony showcasing spectacular views. The hotel ensures privacy and tranquility by thoughtfully separating the guest wing, with its pristine white walls, from the banquet and restaurant areas.

Designed by renowned architect Togo Murano, this masterpiece of Japanese architecture features Hiten, a grand banquet hall, and a selection of Japanese, Western, and Chinese dining options, blending elegance with convenience for an exceptional stay.



May 23 - June 6, 2025

All-Inclusive Base Fares

.....
Double
Occupancy
\$14,490

.....
Single
Occupancy
\$17,490



Prices are per guest in CAD, all taxes included.