

View of Japan and South Korea

  
Inspirational  
Tours, Inc.



# 14 Day Catholic Shrines of Japan

Tokyo ♦ Mt. Fuji ♦ Kyoto ♦ Hiroshima  
Osaka ♦ Akita ♦ Nagasaki

May 17 - 30, 2026

\$6,990.00 Per Person From Houston

**Includes:** Round Trip Air Transportation From Houston To Tokyo, First Class Hotels, Entrance Fees, Daily Sightseeing, Two Meals A Day - Full Breakfast And Dinner, English Speaking Tour Guides, All Inter Flights As Well As Bullet Train Rides As Outlined In The Itinerary, Tips To Guides And Drivers & Airport Taxes And Fuel Surcharges.

Tour Leader:  
Fr. Francis Macatangay  
St. Cecilia Catholic Church - Houston, TX

# CATHOLIC SHRINES OF JAPAN

## 14 DAY TRAVEL ITINERARY

### DAY 1 HOUSTON / TOKYO

Board your non-stop flight to Tokyo.

### DAY 2 ARRIVAL IN TOKYO

Upon your arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel for check-in. Then, enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow pilgrims before your overnight in Tokyo.

### DAY 3 TOKYO

Your guide and driver will meet you at the hotel for a tour of Tokyo. First you will visit the Meiji Shrine, a serene Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, located in a peaceful forested area in the heart of Tokyo. The Emperor Meiji ushered in an important period of renewal and reform, leading to the industrialization and Westernization of Japan in the 19th Century. The Shinto faith is the context in which Japan's Hidden Christians lived during the time Christianity was outlawed. Next, we will visit Shibuya Crossing, the famous, bustling intersection known for its massive pedestrian traffic and vibrant atmosphere. Next, we will have Holy Mass at Takanawa Catholic Church, a beautiful church in a historic district. Next, we will visit the Imperial Palace of Japan, the seat of the Imperial Household referred to as the "Chrysanthemum Throne." The Imperial Household of Japan is oldest organization in the world that still exists (the second-oldest is the Catholic Church), as a Japanese Emperor has been in place since 660 BC. The palace itself has extensive gardens and bridges, truly showcasing the majesty of Japanese style and culture. Afterward, we will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Mass at Takanawa Catholic Church**



Fuji mountains and cherry blossom

### DAY 4 TOKYO / MT. FUJI / TOKYO

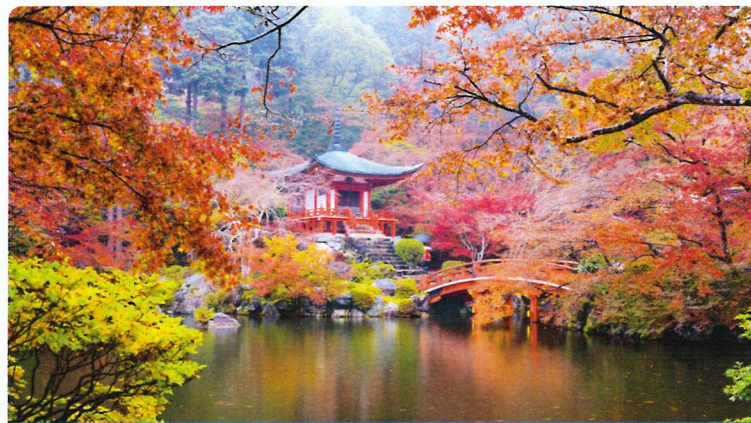
After breakfast, we'll take a trip to Mount Fuji, the iconic symbol of Tokyo and the nation of Japan which is still an active volcano and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 5th Station is the highest point reachable by vehicle on Mount Fuji, offering stunning views of the mountain and its surroundings. Next, we will visit Oshino Hakkai, a picturesque village with crystal-clear spring water and beautiful views of Mount Fuji. Afterwards, we will head to St. Mary Cathedral for Mass. This stunning Cathedral is one of the largest churches in Japan. Designed by Kenzo Tange, it serves as the architectural inspiration for many other churches around the world. We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Mass at St. Mary Cathedral**

### DAY 5 TOKYO / AKITA

After breakfast at your hotel, you will head to the train station to ride the Shinkansen ("bullet train") to Akita. Upon arrival, we will travel to the site of the Marian Apparition, Our Lady of Akita. The apparition occurred in 1973 at a Convent of the Handmaids of the Holy Eucharist. You will have an opportunity to tour the grounds and gardens as well as the Chapel where the apparitions appeared. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church**



Kyoto

### DAY 6 AKITA

After breakfast at our hotel, we will visit St. Augustine church in the center of Akita, providing an example of a typical small-town Catholic Church in Japan. Next, we will visit the Kakunodate in Samurai District, a historic town in Akita Prefecture, known for its well-preserved samurai residences and picturesque streets. The district offers a glimpse into Japan's feudal era, with traditional homes, beautiful cherry blossoms, and a rich cultural heritage. This afternoon, we will visit Senshu Park, lovely public park perfect for a relaxing stroll, featuring a beautiful pond, incredible foliage, and historic shrines and sites such as Kubota castle. Afterward, we will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Mass at Our Lady of Akita Church**

### DAY 7 AKITA / OSAKA / KYOTO

After breakfast at our hotel, we will transfer to the Akita Airport for our flight to Osaka, which was briefly the capital of Japan in the 7th and 8th centuries. Upon arrival, we will visit Osaka Castle and St. Mary's Cathedral. Finally, we will transfer to Kyoto, the former capital of Japan known for its history and culture. Upon arrival, check in to our hotel, followed by dinner and overnight.

**Mass at Osaka Takamatsu St. Mary Cathedral**



Akita, Samurai District

## DAY 8 KYOTO

After breakfast at our hotel, we will begin with a visit to Arashiyama Bamboo Grove—we will walk through the iconic bamboo forest, a serene and surreal experience in one of Japan's most photographed locations. Next, we will visit Nijo-jo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site, famous for its beautiful gardens and "nightingale floors," which chirp when walked upon. Afterwards we will visit St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, also known as the Kawaramachi Church. This modern church incorporates elements of traditional Shinto architecture into its design. Afterward, we will experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, a cultural highlight of Kyoto. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral**

## DAY 9 KYOTO / HIROSHIMA

After breakfast at our hotel, we will transfer by Shinkansen train to Hiroshima, the site of the atomic bomb impact during World War II. Upon arrival, we will visit the ruins of the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, one of the only buildings left standing after the atomic bomb impact, and now part of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Next, we will visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and learn about the tragic events of the atomic bombing and Hiroshima's journey toward peace. After lunch, we will visit Assumption of Mary Cathedral, which was built by a priest who survived the atomic bomb explosion. We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Mass at Assumption of Mary Cathedral for World Peace**



Osaka

## DAY 10 HIROSHIMA / NAGASAKI

After breakfast at the hotel, we will check out and transfer via Shinkansen bullet train to Nagasaki, the site of the second atomic bomb impact, but also the historical center of early Christianity in Japan. After lunch, we will visit the Twenty-Six Martyrs Museum and Monument, which tells the story of the Holy Martyrs who were killed on Nishizaka Hill for practicing their faith. Next, we will visit Nakamichi Church, known for its peaceful atmosphere and connection to the city's Christian heritage. We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Mass at Nakamichi Church**

## DAY 11 NAGASAKI

After breakfast at our hotel, we will visit St. Felippo de Jesus Church, a beautiful Catholic church in Nagasaki, known for its stunning architecture and peaceful surroundings. It is named for one of the first Mexican Catholic martyrs and designed by a Japanese Catholic who was an admirer of Antoni Gaudi. After lunch, we will visit the Oura Church, formally the Basilica of the Twenty-Six Holy Martyrs of Japan, which is said to be the oldest Christian

Church in Japan. Next, we will visit Dejima, a small artificial island in Nagasaki Bay where Dutch traders were confined during Japan's period of isolation (Edo period). Today, it is a museum that offers a fascinating glimpse into Japan's interaction with the outside world during this time. Finally, we will visit Glover Garden, an open-air museum in Nagasaki showcasing Western-style residences built by foreign merchants in the late 19th century. The garden offers stunning views of the city and harbor, highlighting Japan's modernization during the Meiji period. We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight

**Mass at St. Philip of Jesus Church**

## DAY 12 NAGASAKI / UNZEN / NAGASAKI

After breakfast, we will take a day trip to the Unzen Onsen, an area of hot springs which was designated the first national park in Japan, and where many Christians were martyred. Next, we will visit Shimabara Church, a beautiful circular church whose stained-glass windows tell the history of the martyrs of Japan. Afterward we will have lunch at Himematsuya Restaurant, known for serving the classic local food, Guzouni, which was created during the Shimabara rebellion. After lunch we will explore the ruins of Hara Castle, an important historical site during the Shimabara Rebellion, the rebellion of 1637-1638 which was partially in response to the suppression of Christianity in Japan. Next, we will visit Minamishimabara, where we will see the largest wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the world. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Mass at Shimabara Church**

## DAY 13 NAGASAKI / TOKYO

After breakfast, we will visit Urakami Cathedral, a significant Catholic church rebuilt after being destroyed in the atomic bombing. Then, we will tour Hypocenter Park, a peaceful park marking the spot where the atomic bomb exploded, a site for remembrance and reflection. After lunch, we will visit Hongouchi Monastery, founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe. The monastery includes a museum dedicated to St. Maximilian as well as a replica Lourdes grotto that St. Maximilian had constructed. This evening fly to Tokyo for dinner and overnight.

**Mass at Urakami Church**



Confucius Shrine in Nagasaki

## DAY 14 TOKYO / HOUSTON

Transfer to the airport and fly back to Houston.

**For Further Information, Please Contact:**

**Elaine Rossi • St. Cecilia Catholic Church**

**Email: [erossi@saintcecilia.org](mailto:erossi@saintcecilia.org)**

**EARLY REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED  
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS**

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## The Tour Price Includes:

**Air Transportation:** Airfare is based on special contract agreements with various international airlines and include certain restrictions and deadlines. These fares are subject to cancellation penalties, and once tickets are issued, they are **NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE AND CANNOT BE USED TOWARDS FUTURE TRAVEL**. Please refer to our CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY below. Airfare and tour prices are based on prices effective as of **JANUARY 1, 2026** and are subject to change without notice.

**Surface/Land Transportation:** All surface/land transportation described in the itinerary will be provided by modern motor coach, designed for highway travel. Groups will be met and transferred upon arrival and departure.

**Hotels:** We only use first-class hotels. Hotel accommodations are based on double occupancy (2 per room). We reserve the right to substitute hotels of similar quality for those specified in the itinerary.

**Single Room Supplements:** If you would like a single room, there is an additional cost of **1,500.00** that will be added to the tour price. Single rooms are limited and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. If you request a roommate and none is available, you will be considered a "forced single," and charged one half (1/2) of the Single Room Supplement cost.

**Dietary Plan:** Meal plans include two (2) meals per day, breakfast and dinner, with timing depending on the itinerary. Taxes and service charges normally appearing on restaurant bills are included in the tour price for these meals. **A list of any and all dietary requests or food allergies must be emailed to [cathy@inspirationaltoursinc.com](mailto:cathy@inspirationaltoursinc.com) for hotel/airline accommodation at least seven (7) days before departure.** We cannot guarantee any dietary accommodations but will make all efforts to secure special dietary requests. In the event airlines or hotels are unable to accommodate dietary requests, you will be responsible for your meals; it is the individual's responsibility to choose appropriate foods while on the tour. Unused meals will NOT be reimbursed.

**Baggage:** Inspirational Tours, Inc. restricts all passengers to one (1) piece of checked luggage (max. 50 lbs.) and one (1) carry-on (max. 18 lbs.). **All passengers should check with the airline for up-to-date baggage weight/dimension information and restrictions, which are subject to change at any time before departure.**

**Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges:** are included in the tour price and are subject to change.

**The Tour Price Does Include:** Tips to guides, porters, headwaiters, and drivers.

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Expenses related to issuance/renewal of passports, laundry, mineral waters, wine & liquor, after-lunch/dinner tea, coffee, or food not included in the meal plan above; additional baggage; expenses of carriages, guides, sightseeing or other services other than those specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary; insurance for baggage or personal trip or health insurance; all items of a personal nature, in addition to those not listed above as being included in the tour price.

**Booking Conditions: Deposits and Payment:** **A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person**, payable via cash, check or money order, is required at the time of registration. No registration will be processed without a deposit. Invoices for final balances are issued at or near 90 days before departure. Full and final payment is due 60 days before departure. Registrations received within 90 days of departure require payment in full. If there is any outstanding balance by the Final Payment due date listed on your invoice, all travel services will be subject to automatic cancellation and cancellation fees will apply. A service reinstatement fee may be added to your invoice and must be paid in advance in order to apply for reconfirmation of services. **WE ONLY ACCEPT CASH, CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE.** Payment by credit card is accepted ONLY for final balances or payments towards final balances; all credit card payments will be assessed a **3% non-refundable** convenience fee, which will be added to the total amount being charged.

**Cancellations and Refund Policy:** All cancellations **MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING VIA FAX, E-MAIL OR U.S. MAIL.** The date of the cancellation request is the date used for purposes of any assessed cancellation fees. Please note that some Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE as stated on the Registration Form. Cancellation fees (as to any monies paid over the deposit for a tour with a non-refundable deposit) depend on the timing of the cancellation request, and are as follows: request received between time of registration and up to 59 to 45 days prior to departure—cancellation fee of **50%** of tour cost; request received 44 days or less prior to departure through date of departure—assessed **100%** of the tour cost (air and land, and any deviation fees) as the cancellation fee. Additional charges/fees for deviations and/or upgraded seats may require full payment at time of booking/confirmation, and may be non-refundable; **if a non-refundable air ticket has been issued prior to receiving notice of cancellation request, you will be 100% responsible for those fees, in addition to the cancellation penalties listed above.** Package cancellation fees include airfare. Once airfare is purchased, either at time of booking, including but not limited to, deviations or seat upgrade requests, or at time of full payment, airline tickets will be issued and are always subject to a 100% penalty. Once full payment is received, Inspirational Tours, Inc. will issue airline tickets, which are non-refundable. If the tour is canceled for any reason, including but not limited to, our leader's decision, decision of Inspirational Tours, Inc., weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event, Inspirational Tours, Inc. reserves the right to charge a minimum \$300.00 administrative fee per person, plus any non-reimbursable expenses incurred from airlines and/or overseas operators. **ALL RESERVATIONS ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.**

**Deviations/Seat Upgrades:** Deviation policies vary by airline and are normally allowed only on the return journey, **from the same departing city as the group, and is subject to availability.** There is a **minimum** change fee of \$150.00 per person, plus any additional airline charges. Seat upgrade requests may also require additional fees by the airlines and vary. Any additional fees required to be paid by the airline for deviation requests and/or seat upgrade requests will need to be approved by the passenger in writing before confirmed/reserved, and

if the request requires payment at the time of confirmation, this must be paid by the passenger at the time requested, and may be non-refundable. **ALL deviation or seat upgrade requests must be made in writing, at least 90 days prior to your departure date.**

**Tour Prices:** All tour prices quoted for transportation and land arrangements in this tour are based on rates, (including foreign exchange rates), in effect at the time of the original tour agreement with your tour host and Inspirational Tours, Inc. and are subject to increase without notice prior to departure. **NOTE:** Our tours are based on a minimum number of participants. We reserve the right to cancel or reschedule any tour for any reason including insufficient participants, or events beyond our control. Any cancellation will be advised at the soonest date possible. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for any costs related to the issuance and/or cancellation of airline tickets or visa fees that are not refunded by those entities.

**Travel Insurance:** To protect your travel plans, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF TRIP INSURANCE.** A brochure for a company we recommend will be provided with your deposit confirmation letter, upon our receipt of your registration and deposit. We do not sell travel insurance and travel insurance is not included in the tour price.

**Passports: It is your responsibility to provide us with a copy of your current passport with your Registration Form. Validity date on passports must be for at least six (6) months after the date of return of the tour as per the tour dates, or any deviation request.** If we do not receive a copy of your current passport, the information you provide on your Registration Form will be used for ticketing purposes. If ANY information provided (name, date of birth, etc.) does not match what is on your passport, you may be subject to penalties or fees for corrections to airline tickets, and/or may be denied boarding by the airline. Any name change, including minor spelling corrections, may require reservations to be canceled and re-booked. Reservations will then be subject to availability and pricing at the time of re-booking; any increase in airfare will be borne by the passenger. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for the denial of services by a carrier due to any name or passport discrepancies. If you have a passport issued from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to contact the embassies of the countries to be visited to determine if a visa will be required, and if so, it will be your responsibility to obtain such visa before departure. Please contact us for further information if this applies to you.

**Travelers Needing Special Assistance:** We recommend you please select a tour suitable to your physical capabilities. Our tours are often-times fast paced and may require lengthy walks over uneven terrain and/or steps. If you require any form of mobility assistance or for any sight/hearing disabilities, you are required to notify us before registering so we can best assist you and/or determine if this tour is suitable. Inspirational Tours, Inc., tour leaders/coordinators, guides, drivers or other tour, hotel, transfers or ship personnel will not provide individual services, such as assistance with walking, pushing wheelchairs, or helping one embark/disembark motor coaches, cruise ships, etc. We reserve the right to reject participation or remove an individual from a tour in the event that notification was not provided and/or when, in our sole judgment, continued participation would significantly hinder the services to be provided to all guests. Expenses, including cancellation fees and/or costs for alternate travel plans or to return home, will be the responsibility of the passenger. All unused services are non-refundable. **Wheelchairs & Walkers:** certain features of tours may not accommodate wheelchairs, scooters, or other special equipment. We cannot provide individual assistance to travelers with wheelchairs or other mobility devices. We regret that some itineraries cannot accommodate these devices. You are required to notify us before registering of a need for a wheelchair, walker or other mobility devices.

**Responsibilities:** Inspirational Tours, Inc. or their agents act only as an agent in regards to securing air and ground arrangements. We do not own or operate any entities providing such services; all such persons/entities are independent contractors and Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person, entity or third party. Inspirational Tours, Inc. assumes no liability for injury, damage, or loss to person or property, due to accident, death, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by acts or defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not responsible for circumstances beyond its control. Inspirational Tours, Inc. does not accept any responsibility, nor shall be held responsible, for cancellations, losses or expenses due to delay/changes in air or other services, passenger's sickness, weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event. Where trip cancellations result from the inability to depart as scheduled, based on any of the above-mentioned incidents, Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not liable for restitution, and reserves the right to postpone or cancel the tour without any liability when travel becomes impracticable or impossible. Any losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger. We reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason; a refund may be issued depending on the reason for cancellation. Any such refund shall constitute full and final settlement to the passenger. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure from the United States and approved by Inspirational Tours, Inc. We reserve the right to accept, reject or refuse service to any person at any time for any reason; in this event, expenses, including cancellation fees/costs will be borne by the passenger, and any unused services are non-refundable. The airlines used, their agents, or affiliates and other carriers, are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time a passenger is not on board their aircraft. The passenger's ticket issued by said carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of these tickets and/or the passenger.

**Photos and Videos During The Tour:** Inspirational Tours, Inc. reserves the right to take photographs and videos during your tour and to use them for its purposes thereafter. By booking with Inspirational Tours, Inc., you agree to allow images, whether photographic or video, to be used for promotional or commercial use. Please advise us in writing any time prior to your departure should you prefer that your images not be used, and please notify your local tour guide of the same at the beginning of your tour.

**Agreement between Customer and Inspirational Tours, Inc.:** Your use of Inspirational Tours, Inc. constitutes your agreement to all such terms, conditions, and notices.



**Inspirational Tours, Inc.**  
Religious Group Tour Wholesaler Since 1972!

5433 Westheimer, Suite 600  
Houston, TX 77056  
Phone: 713-961-2785  
Fax: 713-961-7496  
Toll-Free: 1-800-231-6287

Email: [moses@inspirationaltoursinc.com](mailto:moses@inspirationaltoursinc.com)  
[www.inspirationaltoursinc.com](http://www.inspirationaltoursinc.com)

MEMBER  
  
American Society  
of Travel Agents  
Integrity in Travel