

VIRTUOSO HOSTED TOURS BY COLLETTE



📍 Gyeongbok Palace South Korea

Virtuoso Exclusive Experience: Izakaya Dinner: Savor a vibrant Izakaya dinner, where you'll enjoy an authentic and unique Japanese dining experience.

Japan & South Korea: From Tokyo to Seoul

October 11 – 26, 2025

Konnichiwa! From the tranquil shrines of Kyoto to the neon-lit streets of Seoul, explore the cultures of Japan and South Korea with a small group on this exclusive Virtuoso departure.

Highlights: Tokyo • Asakusa • Tea Ceremony • Tokyo National Museum • Ise Grand Shrine • Kaiseki Dinner • Mikimoto Pearl Museum • Ama Pearl Divers Dinner • Hiroshima • Okonomiyaki Cooking Class & Dinner • Peace Memorial Park & Museum • Discussion with an A-Bomb Survivor • Kyoto • Fushimi Inari Taisha • Gion • Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Golden Pavilion • Women's Association of Kyoto • Seoul • Korean Demilitarized Zone • North Korean Defector Talk • Home-Hosted Lunch • Gyeongbok Palace

VIRTUOSO EXCLUSIVE AMENITY PER PERSON

\$100 credit toward Economy or Premium Economy
\$250 credit toward Business Class Air

OR

\$100 credit toward tour add ons

Japan & South Korea: From Tokyo to Seoul

16 Days | 23 Meals: 14 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 7 Dinners | Pricing: Double \$8,249* Single \$9,849*

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Travel through the Land of the Rising Sun on an unforgettable journey and finally take another step farther to explore Seoul, South Korea.

Day 2: Tokyo, Japan

Say "Konichiwa!" to the incredible, eclectic city of Tokyo. Storied history, artistic traditions, cutting-edge technology – it's all part of Japan's everyday life. You'll soon discover that you could explore Japan for a thousand years and only experience a part of what this country has to offer.

Day 3: Tokyo

This morning, start your day in Tokyo by hopping on the subway. Clean, efficient, fast, and easy to use, the Tokyo subway system is one of the best in the world. Set out on a walk to Zojoji Temple before taking in views of the city from the top of Tokyo Tower. Later this afternoon, make your way back to your hotel in the popular Ginza district of Tokyo for an afternoon at leisure. Get to know your fellow travelers during a welcome dinner tonight. (B, D)

Day 4: Tokyo

Head to Asakusa and pass by the grounds of the Imperial Palace as you take in views of the Nijubashi Bridge. Next, witness the subtle art of preparing green tea in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Enjoy free time exploring the Nakamise shopping street before heading to the Tokyo National Museum. The museum displays artwork and antiques from Japan and the surrounding area. This evening, you are free to explore on your own. (B)

Day 5: Tokyo - Ise-Shima

Climb aboard the high-speed shinkansen, or bullet train. Sleek, modern, and comfortable, the bullet train will flash through the idyllic Japanese countryside at 200 miles per hour. Keep an eye peeled for Mt. Fuji in the distance.** Arrive at Ise Shrine. This grand shrine is built to honor the Shinto sun goddess Amaterasu. Tonight, your meal will be a traditional Japanese kaiseki dinner. (B, D)

Day 6: Ise-Shima

This morning, head to the Mikimoto Pearl Museum. Explore the island and the legacy of the skilled ama pearl divers who defied conventional gender roles. Watch divers take the plunge and learn about the history and science of pearl diving. This evening, set out for Azurihama Beach, where you'll venture to an ama hut for an incredible dining experience. While local seafood is grilled in a charcoal fire, hear tales from the ama women about their lives and the sacred rights of their profession. (B, D)

Day 7: Ise-Shima - Nara - Hiroshima

Today, travel to Nara Park and Todaiji Temple. Venture inside the massive temple to take some time in this sacred place and find the huge bronze Buddha statue. Wander the grounds outside and discover the famous "bowing" deer of Nara. Then, you'll once again board the shinkansen bullet train and be whisked away to Hiroshima. Enjoy dinner at a local cooking studio, where you'll learn how to make the famous Japanese *okonomiyaki*. (B, D)

Day 8: Hiroshima

Visit the Peace Memorial Park this morning. Pause to see the ruined Atomic Dome (UNESCO), a sobering reminder of the devastation caused by the dropping of the atomic bomb during World War II. Reflect at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum before a powerful **Impact Moment** connects you with someone who

experienced the devastating effects of the Atomic bomb firsthand.*** After, board a ferry for the short trip to Miyajima Island, or "Shrine Island" (UNESCO). (B)

Day 9: Hiroshima - Kyoto

Journey to Japan's former capital city, Kyoto, via *shinkansen* bullet train. Visit Fushimi Inari Taisha for a glimpse into the most revered shrine of Inari. Later this afternoon, head to Gion, Kyoto's famous geisha district. As you walk through Gion's narrow cobblestone streets, if you're lucky, you may see a woman in full traditional geisha regalia headed to one of the hidden, exclusive tea houses. Tonight is at leisure.

Day 10: Kyoto

Enjoy a laid-back morning before visiting the Arashiyama bamboo forest. Continue to Kinkaku-ji Temple (UNESCO) that was once the lavish retirement home of a shogun before it was converted to a Zen temple in the 1400s. Later, visit the Women's Association of Kyoto in a traditional Kyoto town house. Here, try your hand at making traditional Japanese food items, fold intricate origami shapes, and speak to your hostess about Japan, its culture, and women's roles in this complex society. (B, D)

Day 11: Kyoto

This morning, make your way to Nishiki Market with your Tour Manager. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore how you want. Perhaps you'll take another visit to the Gion district to wander among its temples, shrines, traditional shops, and charming cafés. (B)

Day 12: Kyoto - Seoul, South Korea

Today, jump on a flight and journey to your final destination: Seoul, the capital city of South Korea. An energetic and eclectic modern city with deep roots, Seoul has something for everyone. (B, D)

Day 13: Seoul

Head to the Korean Demilitarized Zone, or the DMZ, this morning. Take an exclusive tour of this storied border, seeing Imjingak Park, the Bridge of Freedom, the DMZ Theater and Exhibition Hall, the Dora Observatory, the 3rd Infiltration Tunnel, and more. This is a rare opportunity to see the "Hermit Kingdom" of North Korea up close, and the long cold war between the two countries. Tonight, your evening is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 14: Seoul

This morning, learn about the struggles in North Korea firsthand over a private talk with a North Korean defector. During this **Impact Moment**, learn about their life in North Korea, how they escaped to the south, and the struggles they face in a new country. After, leave the city and sit down for a home-hosted traditional Korean lunch with a local South Korean family. (B, L)

Day 15: Seoul

Start your day by hopping on the subway and heading to the Gyeongbok Palace. Take a tour of the sprawling grounds and watch the elaborate and ceremonial changing of the guard. Next, visit Insadong Street, Seoul's charming and colorful shopping area for an afternoon at leisure to explore the area. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 16: Seoul - Tour Ends

Say goodbye to the energy and splendor of Seoul as you depart for home. (B)

For more information, please contact:



Debb Scamehorn
Luxury Travel Advisor, TRAVELINK

(888) 920-4977 Ext. 2102
Debb.Scamehorn@travelink.com