



**News from Japan National Tourist Organization  
London Office  
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## **Thomas Cook Signatures Launches Japan Tours**

Thomas Cook Signature has introduced two Japan tours into its 2005 Worldwide brochure. Japan has always been regarded as one of the more expensive destinations to visit but Thomas Cook are pleased to say it has become more affordable than ever and the price of their tour certainly reflects this with their "A Taste of Japan" tour priced from £1,495. This 9-day fully escorted tour is perfect for first time visitors to Japan taking in the futuristic modern capital of Tokyo, Hakone with stunning views of Mt. Fuji, a journey on the bullet train and the ancient capital Kyoto.

"The Samurai Experience" tour enables the traveler to immerse themselves in the rich and beautiful legacy of honourable samurais and sage shoguns on this comprehensive tour, from the ancient Shogunate shrines and temples, via the ultra-modern bullet train, to the cutting-edge cities born out of centuries of striving for perfection and precision. This tour takes in Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima.

On both tours it is possible to extend your stay in Japan and visit Japan's subtropical Okinawa islands. There is even the option to spend a night in a traditional ryokan (Japanese inn), with futons and tatami mat flooring, in Hakone – Japan's famous spa town.

Colin Chapman, Product Development & Contract Manager, Thomas Cook Tours says, "As the original tour experts, it made sense to introduce such a fascinating destination as Japan into our portfolio especially as we have had so many enquiries from our clients. We want to get over to our clients that Japan is no longer the expensive destination that it has been perceived, in fact the cost of living is very comparable to our own. We also wanted to give our clients a choice of tours as this is not the case with most operators. So our clients can either take the shorter option (A Taste of Japan) which has been designed for those who want to "taste" the cultural experience in a shorter time or the very much fuller tour (The Samurai Experience), designed to take in as much of Japan as possible in two weeks. We are extremely excited and proud to feature Japan and know it will be very well received by our passengers."

The Japan National Tourist Organization London Office's Director, Mr Toru Kawanishi says, "We are very pleased that award winning Thomas Cook Signatures has

introduced Japan to its brochure. Japan is a dynamic destination, a place where the past and the future, the east and the west all exist harmoniously side-by-side. We hope that Thomas Cook Signatures will introduce many British holidaymakers to Japan and that many British travellers will be charmed by Japan.”

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Notes to editors:

More information about Thomas Cook's Japan tours is available on the Thomas Cook website [www.thomascooktours.com](http://www.thomascooktours.com)