About the Japan Luxury Travel Alliance

The JLTA was formed in 2016 as an alliance of several Japanese localities, with high-quality tourist content, wishing to strategically attract international luxury travelers. The members of the alliance are Kyoto, one of Japan’s leading historical and cultural places; the city of Sapporo, famed for its powder snow; Ishikawa Prefecture, where samurai culture remains even today; Wakayama Prefecture, home Mt. Koya and the Kumano road where visitors get in touch with Japan’s history and spiritual culture; and the ancient capital Nara City, which continues to preserve 1,300 years of history. With these fascinating destinations, JLTA’s member regions are collaborating to offer a consistent level of high-quality luxury travel experiences, and planning to expand to bring more luxury travelers to Japan. In addition, our alliance’s efforts will boost Japan’s brand as a destination for luxury travelers from around the world.
Kyoto, recognized as one of the world’s top cities by international media in recent years, attracts well versed, experienced travelers from all over the world with its historical buildings, Japanese gardens, temples and streets. Flourishing as a former capital of Japan and the home of the Kyoto Imperial Palace, this beautiful city is proud of its position as one of the origins of Japanese commerce and industry.

The thriving traditional craft scene has greatly influenced global companies, leading to advanced technology companies such as Kyocera and Nintendo.

While visiting the historical temples and gardens, discerning travelers can have exclusive experiences by visiting private ateliers tucked away in quiet alleys, and meet master craftsmen who lead traditional industries. Experiencing modern aspects of Kyoto inspired by its traditions is another great thrill of visiting the city. Though ranked as one of the top cities, the endless number of yet-to-be-discovered charms and experiences in Kyoto keep well versed travelers returning time and again to find new facets of this fascinating city.
The city of Kyoto is famous worldwide, but the surrounding prefecture also has plenty to offer, including beautiful natural landscapes, quaint rural villages and ancient historical sites. The northern part of Kyoto Prefecture faces the Sea of Japan, and visitors can enjoy breathtaking natural scenery. In the rugged central part of the prefecture, visitors can get a glimpse of ancient Japanese rural life amid the areas abounding forests. The southern part of the prefecture, well known for its tea production, has beautiful views of tea farms hugged by mountains, and tea culture aplenty.

As travelers discover the beauty of nature and the living culture, their knowledge of Kyoto will further deepen and the pleasure of traveling in this area will increase. One may be surprised at the richness of Kyoto’s charms - the famous and the unknown, hidden and waiting to be discovered by the discerning traveler.
Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido, is a fascinating fusion of magnificent nature and sophisticated urban life. It has been welcoming many travelers from around the world.

In winter, when the area is wrapped in pure white snow, the city hosts the Sapporo Snow Festival. The event, making use of the areas naturally high levels of snow fall, allows sculptors to show off their fine techniques on creations as tall as 15 meters high.

The snow in this area is so famous that is often called "powder snow," or "champagne snow." Nearby ski resorts attract skiers and snowboarders from all corners of the world.

Because Hokkaido is the biggest food producer in Japan, the many products produced there—seafood, meat, vegetables, and more—all manage to find their way into Sapporo. Visitors can enjoy these ingredients in the food produced here. Although Sapporo is one of the major cities in Japan, visitors will be pleased to have very different Japanese experience that even domestic travelers are attracted by.
Kanazawa, the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, is known as the leading castle town in Japan. In this castle town which lasted about 300 years, the original rich traditional culture is still alive. In the city of Kanazawa, Kanazawa Castle, Kenrokuen (one of the three greatest gardens in Japan), Samurai Residences and traditional Chaya Districts create a beautiful historical atmosphere.

Located on opposite ends of Ishikawa. The Noto Peninsula, in the north, and the Kaga Onsen, in the south, with their wonderful hot spring quality and lovely scenery, are favorite spots for visitors from around the world. There are a variety of luxury accommodations located here that will surely appeal to international visitors.

Ishikawa is also known as a place where traditional craftsmanship continues to be practiced. Some of the crafts produced include Washi lacquerware, which is justly famous as one of the most prestigious in Japan. Kutani pottery, boasting 350 years of history, as well as pieces using gold leaf.

Walking around the historic craft village, visitors may encounter craftsmen in their ancestral workshops – another special experience unique to this area.
Koyasan is a famous holy place in Japanese Buddhism, founded about 1,200 years ago by the great saint Kobo Daishi (Kukai). Travelers from all over the world come to this incredibly beautiful site with its more than 100 ancient temples set amongst rugged mountains and stately trees.

The Kumano Kodo "holy road," which was registered as a World Heritage Site in 2004, is a pilgrimage route that has been in continuous use since the Heian Period, 1,000 years ago. The road connects the great shrines Honmiya Taisha, Hayatama Taisha, and Nachi Taisha, each of which has its own distinct atmosphere and its own natural expressions of nature, light and architecture. The ancient road is brimming with nature and spirituality, and is a relaxing and serene place. It continues to fascinate people from around the world and is an inexhaustible source of exciting discoveries and fascinating encounters. Wakayama Prefecture is known not only for Koyasan and Kumano Kodo, but also for its treasure trove of natural sites. One of those sites, Shirahama, is known for its beautiful beaches where visitors can spend a relaxing time.
Nara is one of the oldest and most fascinating cities in Japan, boasting a history of some 1,300 years. Because it was the nation's capital in the 8th century, it has been regarded as one of the cultural and spiritual centers of Japan since ancient times. As a result, there are numerous shrines and temples, historical sites, national treasures and important cultural assets there. The ruins of the ancient palace are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The city is home to numerous historical sites, as well as world-class museums. Exclusive experiences in temples and shrines are available to discerning travelers, and visitors who happen to encounter monks on their journey, will surely have their view on life changed.

In the eastern part of Nara City, there are places where visitors can experience abundant nature. People who take time to explore Nara will find that the spirit of the samurai that developed long ago is still alive and well.