



LEEF JOU REIS

MET GERRIE PRETORIUS



2026 | Japan

Tour 1: 09 - 19 September 2026



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A glimpse into my journey

Gerrie Pretorius

*Music was my first love
but travel is my passion.*

To understand the meaning behind “Leef Jou Reis,” one must discover, take detours, and embrace the alternative routes or the roads less travelled. To eat and mingle with the local people and truly comprehend their culture, we have this special opportunity to become authentic travellers, rather than mere tourists visiting a country.

Growing up in the small town of Mossel Bay, I have had the privilege of setting foot on 7 continents and explored over 85 countries. With all this experience and passion for travel, we would like to extend a warm invitation to you to join our global travel family.

We are the “cool kids” of travel and we do it in style...

Welcome to Leef Jou Reis





Japan

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R78 950 Per person sharing*

R89 950 Per person in a single room*

Come discover the beauty and character of Japan with Leef Jou Reis – a country where ancient traditions and modern progress blend together in a remarkable way.

Japan is renowned for its friendly people, refined culture, breathtaking landscapes, and a rhythm of life that constantly surprises you. Here, you can walk through a centuries-old temple, enjoy sushi at a bustling street market, and then board a futuristic train that moves faster than your thoughts—all in the same day.

Our journey begins in Osaka, Japan's culinary capital, full of lights, energy, and unforgettable markets. Next awaits the historic Kyoto, where tradition still thrives in beautiful temples, serene gardens, and the mysterious world of the geishas. In Hakone, we explore Japan's natural side with hot springs, fresh mountain air, and a view of the iconic Mount Fuji. Finally, Tokyo will take your breath away—a city of endless contrasts, where ancient shrines meet skyscrapers, and traditional food stands side by side with the latest technology.

This is not just a tour—it's an adventure that takes you through the heart of Japan, filled with stories, flavours, and experiences you will never forget.



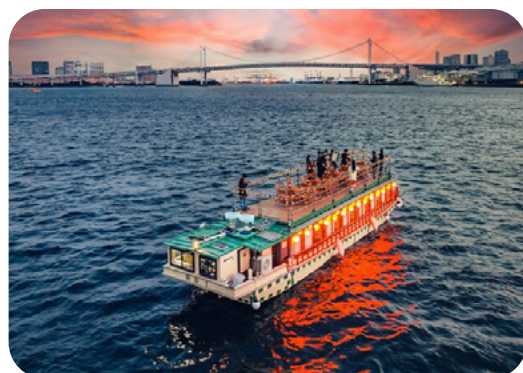
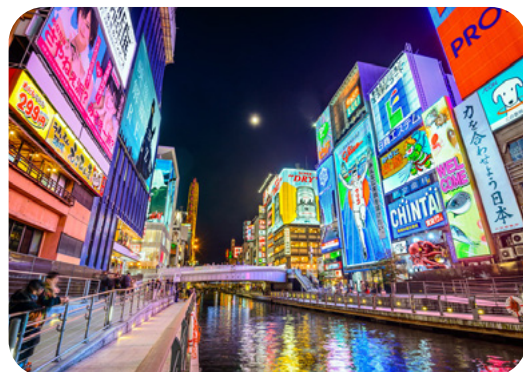
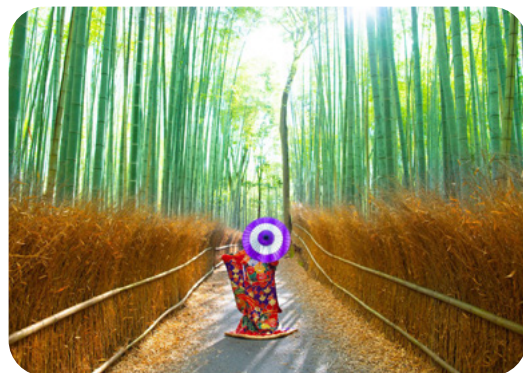


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Highlights

Osaka: Discover Japan's culinary capital and taste its world-famous dishes.

Kyoto: Wander through enchanting temples and picturesque gardens in this historic city.

Hakone: Enjoy stunning natural landscapes and hot springs with views of Mount Fuji.

Tokyo: Experience the energy of Japan's modern capital full of style, culture, and innovation.

Okonomiyaki & Sushi class : Learn to prepare authentic Japanese dishes yourself.

Maiko & Tea Ceremony : Experience traditional Japanese art, dance, and music up close.

Yakatabune dinner cruise : Sail on a traditional houseboat and enjoy a festive meal with beautiful views.

Osaka Castle : Explore one of the city's most iconic and historic buildings.

Tokyo National Museum : Discover Japan's rich culture and history at one of the world's oldest national museums.



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DAY 1: 09 September 2026

Today is the day we have all been waiting for – Japan, here we come! Meet the Leef Jou Reis team at OR Tambo Airport and depart on an unforgettable adventure.

(All meals on board)

DAY 2: 10 September 2026

Welcome to Japan! Our adventure begins in the dynamic city of Osaka, known as the “kitchen of Japan” thanks to its world-famous food culture and lively atmosphere. From the airport, we will be transferred by luxury bus to our centrally located hotel, for easy access to the main attractions. After checking in, we will take a little time to settle in before gathering for a warm and festive welcome dinner. Here, we will taste our very first flavours of Japan and raise a glass to the exciting journey ahead – the perfect start to get to know the group better and look forward to the unforgettable experiences that await.

Overnight: Osaka (Dinner)

DAY 3: 11 September 2026

After breakfast at the hotel, we meet our local guide who will take us on a journey of discovery through Osaka.

The day begins with a visit to the iconic **Osaka Castle**, an impressive 16th-century fortress that played a key role in Japan’s unification history. Inside the castle, there is a museum where you can learn more about the Samurai era and the city’s rich heritage.

Afterwards, you will have the chance to explore the vibrant **Dotonbori district** on your own. This colourful neighbourhood, famous for its neon lights, street food and the famous **Glico man billboard**, is one of Osaka’s most beloved hangout spots.



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In the afternoon, we will take part in a hands-on **Okonomiyaki cooking class**. This savoury pancake, often called “Osaka’s favourite dish,” is made with a mix of cabbage, meat or seafood and topped with a unique sauce and mayonnaise – a fun and tasty experience to try for yourself.

Late afternoon, we will visit the futuristic **Umeda Sky Building**, one of Osaka’s modern landmarks. Its observation deck, the Floating Garden Observatory, offers panoramic views over the city—especially breathtaking at sunset.

The evening is free for your own exploration. You can seek out a cozy restaurant or street food stall and enjoy even more of Osaka’s incredible food culture.

Overnight: Osaka (Breakfast, and Okonomiyaki cooking class)

DAY 4: 12 September 2026

Today we bid farewell to Osaka and continue our journey to the historic city of Kyoto, which served as Japan’s imperial capital for centuries. Along the way, we make a special stop in Nara, the first permanent capital of Japan and a place rich in ancient tradition and beauty.

We visit the famous **Nara Deer Park**, where hundreds of tame deer roam freely – in Shinto belief, they are considered sacred messengers of the gods. After this, we explore the impressive **Tōdai-ji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to one of the world’s largest bronze Buddha statues.

Next, you will have time to stroll through **Naramachi**, the old merchant district of Nara.

This charming neighbourhood, filled with wooden shops, eateries, and traditional houses, is perfect for a relaxed lunch and some discovery at your own pace.

In the afternoon, a truly unforgettable experience awaits: we take part in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, where you will witness the art and symbolism of this centuries-old ritual firsthand. To make it even more special, we will wear authentic **Japanese kimonos** – an experience that transports you back to the elegance of old Kyoto.

After this highlight, we continue to our hotel in Kyoto and check in. The evening holds a special dinner at **Gankō Takasegawa Nijoen**, a restaurant renowned for its refined Kaiseki cuisine and beautiful setting. While we enjoy the dishes, we are treated to a Maiko performance – a unique chance to witness the elegance and grace of an apprentice geisha up close.

Overnight: Kyoto (Breakfast, Tee Ceremony, Dinner)





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DAY 5: 13 September 2026

After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, it is time to discover more of Kyoto's beauty. We meet our guide, who leads us through a day of cultural highlights and breathtaking sights.

Our first stop is the shimmering **Kinkaku-ji**, also known as the Golden Pavilion. This Zen temple, covered in gold leaf and reflected in the serene pond that surrounds it, is one of Kyoto's most iconic landmarks and a true symbol of elegance and tranquillity.

We then visit **Tenryū-ji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 14th century, famous for its stunning Zen gardens. From here, we walk into the enchanting **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove**, a magical place where towering bamboo stalks surround you and create the feeling of stepping into another world.

To end our Arashiyama exploration, we board a traditional rickshaw, taking us through the quiet streets and offering a unique glimpse of this historic district.

The afternoon is yours to explore at leisure at **Nishiki Market**. This centuries-old food market, often called the “kitchen of Kyoto,” offers an incredible variety of local products, spices and street food – perfect for sampling and discovery.

Later in the afternoon, we return to the hotel. The evening is free for your own exploration – choose a cozy restaurant or discover a bit more of Kyoto's enchanting nightlife.

Overnight: Kyoto (Breakfast)





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DAY 6: 14 September 2026

This morning, a brand-new adventure awaits us. Our luggage will be sent directly to our Tokyo hotel, so we only travel with our overnight bags. We board the **famous bullet train** - a fast and modern way to admire Japan's beautiful landscapes - heading towards Hakone, known for its stunning scenery and hot springs.

Our **Hakone** adventure begins with a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, where you will taste the flavours of the region and soak up the area's atmosphere.

After lunch, we cruise across the serene waters of **Lake Ashi**, surrounded by magnificent mountains and if the weather allows, offering a glimpse of the majestic **Mount Fuji** in the background. Next, we take a cable car ride up to **Owakudani**, a volcanic valley known for its steaming vents and unique hot springs - a true natural wonder that showcases the raw power of the earth.

Later, we arrive at our hotel for the evening, beautifully located with views of the surrounding mountains and lake. Here, you can relax and enjoy the onsen (natural hot spring baths) - the perfect way to unwind after another exciting day.

In the evening, we enjoy a peaceful and tasty dinner at the hotel as we prepare for the next phase of our adventure.

Overnight: Hakone (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)



DAY 7: 15 September 2026

This morning after breakfast at the hotel, we depart for Tokyo, Japan's bustling capital, where modern skyscrapers, historic temples, and lively neighborhoods await to be discovered.

In Tokyo, our exploration begins with a visit to the iconic **Asakusa Senso-ji Temple**, one of the city's oldest and most revered Buddhist temples. In front of the temple lies the colourful **Nakamise Street**, lined with traditional shops and stalls where you can discover local treats and handicrafts.

Afterward, we stop by the **Imperial Palace**, the beautiful residence of the Emperor of Japan, to admire its impressive gardens and architecture.



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You will also have free time to wander around the famous **Ginza district** – a world of luxury boutiques, elegant cafés, and stylish street art.

Our day ends in an unforgettable way: a **Yakatabune dinner cruise**, where we sail on a traditional Japanese houseboat and enjoy a delicious meal while the city lights shimmer across the river. A perfect ending to a day full of culture, history, and unique experiences.

Overnight: Tokyo (Breakfast and Dinner)

DAY 8: 16 September 2026

Another exciting day of discovery in Tokyo awaits us today. We begin with a hands-on **sushi-making class**, where we learn the art of preparing this iconic Japanese dish – from working with fresh fish to perfecting the roll of the rice. A delicious and fun experience, especially for culinary enthusiasts.



After the class, we dive into Japan's rich culture at the **Tokyo National Museum**, one of the oldest and most comprehensive national museums in the world. Here, we can admire the history, art, and traditions of Japan up close.

Our day continues with a visit to the **Meiji Jingu Shrine**, a tranquil Shinto sanctuary surrounded by dense forest in the heart of the city – offering peace and serenity amidst Tokyo's vibrant energy. From here, we explore the city's fashion icons: **Harajuku**, famous for its colourful street fashion and youth culture, and **Omotesando**, an elegant avenue filled with luxury stores and striking modern architecture.

Later, we return to the hotel, but the evening is free for you to explore Tokyo at your own pace – whether that means tasting street food, discovering small boutiques, or simply soaking in the city's unique atmosphere.

Overnight: Tokyo (Breakfast and Sushi-making class)





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DAY 9: 17 September 2026

Our final day in Tokyo is a **free day**, giving you the chance to explore and enjoy the city at your own rhythm. You might choose to visit the picturesque **Ueno Park** and its museums, stroll through the bustling market stalls of **Asakusa**, explore the futuristic **Odaiba Island**, or perhaps do some last-minute shopping in **Ginza** or **Shibuya**.

In the evening, we gather again for a wonderful **farewell dinner**, where we look back on this unforgettable journey through Japan, share memories, and celebrate together one last time.

Overnight: Tokyo (Breakfast and Dinner)

DAY 10: 18 September 2026

Today, with heavy hearts, we say goodbye to Japan. After one last breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to South Africa - taking home not only souvenirs but also cherished memories, breathtaking sights, and unforgettable experiences from our adventure through the Land of the Rising Sun.

(Breakfast and all meals on board)

DAY 11: 19 September 2026

We arrive back in South Africa

Package Includes

- Airport transfers (if group flights are used)
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in Osaka
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Hakone
- 3 nights hotel accommodation in Tokyo
- Daily breakfast
- 3 lunches
- Welcome dinner
- Ganko Takasegawa Nijoen dinner with Maiko performance
- Yakatabune dinner cruise in Tokyo
- Dinner in Hakone
- Farewell dinner
- Luxury bus transportation
- Bullet train tickets
- Entrance to Osaka Castle
- Entrance to Umeda Sky Building
- Entrance to Todaiji Temple
- Kimono rental in Kyoto
- Tea ceremony in Kyoto
- Visit to the Golden Pavilion
- Visit to Tenryuji Temple
- Rickshaw ride in Kyoto
- Cruise on Lake Ashi
- Cable car ride to Owakudani
- Entrance to the Tokyo National Museum



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Package Excludes

- Return flights between Johannesburg and Osaka/Tokyo
- Domestic flights within South Africa
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Lunches and dinners (unless otherwise specified)
- Drinks (unless otherwise specified)
- Any activities or entrance fees (unless otherwise specified)
- Personal expenses

Things to Remember

- A visa is required and must be obtained at your own expense. We will, however, assist you during the application process and provide all necessary documentation.
- You need a passport with at least two blank pages, valid for 6 months after return (19 March 2027).
- A Leef Jou Reis team member will be available at all times to help with any questions or information.
- Optional extras are offered with the assistance of the Leef Jou Reis team, but tour participants are free to come and go as they wish.
- You are in good hands and can simply sit back and enjoy the trip, but you may also set your own pace. At Leef Jou Reis we love walking, but there are alternative options that may arise spontaneously, and we can even hire a taxi if needed.

- To fully enjoy the sightseeing on this tour, you need to be fit and able to comfortably walk approximately 5 kilometers during the day.
- Come with an open mind and make new friends.
- About a week before departure, we will create a WhatsApp group to share information. This will be your communication channel with Leef Jou Reis. Please ensure you provide all correct phone numbers on your booking form to be included in the group. During and after the tour, we will also share photos and videos here.
- Please note that, if necessary, we may swap activities from one day to another to ensure you have the best travel experience.
- The program includes bed and breakfast, dinners, lunches, and tours as indicated in the brochure.





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What Next...?

Follow the steps below to confirm your booking:

STEP 1

If you want to join us on this exciting tour, send your e-mail address and mobile number to leefjoureis@twf.co.za. We will then send the booking form that you must complete and return, together with a copy of your ID/passport and proof of payment of the deposit.

STEP 2

This itinerary is fairly complete and should contain all the information you might need. We will set up a WhatsApp group closer to the time for further communication; therefore, please make sure that the mobile number you have provided is correct. If you have any questions, feel free to send an e-mail or WhatsApp 082 923 3626.

STEP 3

In the meantime, start looking forward to this amazing experience!

Deposit

- To secure your place on this very special tour, a non-refundable deposit of R20,000 is required. Please note that we are obliged to pay the deposit and administration fee to our operators. Be sure to read the terms and conditions as stated on the website.
- The second payment of R20,000 is due by 28 February 2026. A third payment of R20,000 is due by 15 April 2026, and the total outstanding amount is due by 30 June 2026.

Banking Details & Pricing

Account Name	:	LeefJouReis TWF
Bank	:	Standard Bank
Branch Code	:	051001
Account Number	:	012324523

Deposit reference number: JAPAN26 + NAME & SURNAME

Please make sure you use the right reference number and that you send proof of payment to us on email: leefjoureis@twf.co.za

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