



BODDAN



Trip Itinerary

12-DAY JAPAN PLAN (SAMPLE)

SAMPLE · demonstration of deliverable quality · not a real client's work

ABN 97 728 052 912

Sola Fide



Prepared for

Field	Detail
Prepared for	The Whitlock family (fictional sample): two adults, plus children aged 12 and 9
Location	Maitland, NSW, Australia
Prepared by	BODDAN, Australian veteran-owned practice (ABN 97 728 052 912)
Service and tier	Trip Itinerary, Premium tier
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Currency	Australian dollars (AUD), unless otherwise stated

Brief as received. The family is planning a 12-day April trip across Japan taking in Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka. They want a day-by-day plan built around a mid-range budget and a relaxed pace with genuine downtime, with kid-friendly activities and food, sensible routing so they are not doubling back, inter-city logistics notes, weather and closure alternatives, and booking pointers. This is planning only: the family will book everything themselves.

Sample notice. This is a disclosed fictional sample produced to demonstrate the depth and finish of a Premium BODDAN Trip Itinerary. The travelling family is invented. Place names, travel times, opening patterns and price ranges are realistic and the kind that can be sourced and reconfirmed, but they move with the calendar and the exchange rate. Every figure is stated as an indicative band, nothing is guaranteed, and prices must be reconfirmed at the time of booking. Nothing here is travel, financial or visa advice.

1. How to read this plan

This is a planning document, not a set of bookings. It is built so the family can sit down, agree the shape of the trip, then book each piece themselves in the order set out in section 14.

A few ground rules used throughout:

- **Pace first.** The brief asked for a relaxed pace with downtime, so the plan deliberately does not fill every hour. Each day has a clear morning, afternoon and evening, but most afternoons or evenings hold a built-in soft block the family can use to rest, swim at the hotel, nap the 9-year-old, or simply wander. With children aged 12 and 9, an over-packed plan is the most common way a Japan trip goes wrong, so the schedule is under-filled on purpose.
- **One base per city, no backtracking.** The route runs in one geographic direction, north-east to south-west, so the family never returns to a city they have left. Within each city the days are grouped by area so travel between sights is short.



- **Money is shown as bands, in AUD.** Every daily cost is an indicative range for the whole family of four, not a single number. Bands are mid-range: comfortable but not luxury. They assume sit-down lunches and dinners with some convenience-store and market meals mixed in, standard (not express or premium) attraction tickets, and ordinary public transport.
- **Exchange rate.** Yen figures are converted at an indicative rate of about 100 yen to 1 Australian dollar, so 10,000 yen is roughly AUD 100. The real rate moves daily; reconfirm before budgeting tightly.
- **What the budget includes and excludes.** The land budget (section 2) includes accommodation, on-the-ground daily spending (food, local transport and standard attractions), inter-city rail, airport transfers and a contingency buffer. International flights are shown separately because they are the single biggest variable and depend entirely on when the family books. Travel insurance, passport fees and any pre-trip spending are not costed here.

2. Trip at a glance

A 12-day, 11-night trip. Arrive into Tokyo, work south-west through Kyoto, finish in Osaka and fly home from there, so no leg is ever retraced.

Item	Detail
Duration	12 days, 11 nights
Travellers	2 adults, 2 children (aged 12 and 9)
Cities	Tokyo, then Kyoto, then Osaka
Arrival	Tokyo (Haneda preferred; Narita workable, see section 9)
Departure	Osaka (Kansai International Airport, KIX)
Season	Mid-April: mild spring, generally after peak cherry blossom in the lowlands, before the Golden Week crowds
Pace	Relaxed, with a built-in soft block most days

NIGHTS PER CITY

City	Nights	Trip days	Suggested base area
Tokyo	5	Days 1 to 6 (morning)	Asakusa or Ueno (family-friendly, strong transport links)
Kyoto	4	Days 6 (afternoon) to 10 (morning)	Near Kyoto Station, or Shijo-Kawaramachi for walkability
Osaka	2	Days 10 (afternoon) to 12	Namba or Shin-Osaka
Total	11		

**INDICATIVE MID-RANGE BUDGET, WHOLE FAMILY, WHOLE TRIP**

All figures AUD, for the family of four, for the full 12 days. The land subtotal excludes international flights, which are shown beneath it.

Category	Low (AUD)	High (AUD)
Accommodation (11 nights, family room or apartment style)	2,060	3,360
On-the-ground daily spend (food, local transport, standard attractions; 12 days)	2,280	3,440
Inter-city rail and airport transfers	560	810
Contingency (about 10 percent of land costs before contingency)	490	760
Land subtotal (excludes international flights)	5,390	8,370
International flights (ex Sydney, multi-city, family of four)	4,400	7,200
Indicative all-in total	9,790	15,570

Read this as roughly **AUD 9,800 to 15,600 all-in**, with the land portion alone at about **AUD 5,400 to 8,400**. The daily on-the-ground figure ties exactly to the sum of the 12 daily bands in the day-by-day plan; the reconciliation is shown in section 13. Big-ticket optional days (a Disney or Universal day, for example) are not in the totals above and are costed separately in section 12.

3. Why this route, and why it does not backtrack

The geography of the trip runs one way. Tokyo is in the east; Kyoto and Osaka sit close together about 370 to 450 kilometres to the west, on the same Shinkansen line. So the plan flies into the eastern end, travels west once to Kyoto, makes one short hop further to Osaka, and flies home from the western end. The family never carries luggage back over ground already covered.

Inside each city the same logic applies. In Tokyo the days are grouped so each day stays in one or two adjacent districts rather than crossing the city twice. In Kyoto the four days fan out east, then west, then south (the Nara day trip sits to the south-east), so the final Kyoto morning at Fushimi Inari is already pointing toward Osaka when it is time to move on. The result is short daily hops and one clean westward thread for the whole trip.

4. Tokyo: Days 1 to 6

Five nights, based in Asakusa or Ueno. Both put the family on direct lines to most of what follows, keep evenings walkable, and sit among everyday shops and food rather than in a business district that empties at night.

DAY 1, THURSDAY 08/04/2027: ARRIVE TOKYO

- **Morning and afternoon.** Land, clear immigration, collect any pre-ordered pocket wifi or pick up IC cards (section 9), and travel to the hotel. From Haneda this is short; from Narita allow longer (section 9). Check in or drop bags.



- **Evening.** Keep it gentle after a long flight. A slow walk to Senso-ji temple in Asakusa, lit up after dark, and an early dinner nearby. The Nakamise approach to the temple is lined with snack stalls the children will enjoy grazing.
- **Downtime.** Built in. Do not plan anything demanding; jet lag is real and the 9-year-old will fade early.
- **Food.** Light and easy: ramen, gyoza or a conveyor-belt sushi spot near the hotel.
- **Daily band:** AUD 110 to 170.

DAY 2, FRIDAY 09/04/2027: UENO AND ASAKUSA

- **Morning.** Ueno Park and Ueno Zoo. The zoo is a long-standing family favourite, historically famous for its giant pandas, though none may currently be in residence; confirm the current animals before you go. It is inexpensive and easy to pace.
- **Afternoon.** Lunch and a wander through the Ameyoko market lanes near Ueno (cheap eats, snacks, oddities). Then a soft block: either the hands-on galleries near the park, or back to the hotel to rest.
- **Evening.** The Sumida riverside, with views across to Tokyo Skytree lit up. Optional: go up Skytree if the children are keen, or save the height for Shibuya Sky on Day 4.
- **Food.** Market grazing for lunch; a relaxed izakaya or tonkatsu dinner.
- **Daily band:** AUD 210 to 310.

DAY 3, SATURDAY 10/04/2027: ODAIBA AND THE BAY

- **Morning.** Head to the Odaiba waterfront. The Miraikan (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation) is genuinely good for both children, hands-on and not too long.
- **Afternoon.** The life-size Unicorn Gundam statue at DiverCity (free, a reliable photo stop), the seaside boardwalk, and the bay views. Plenty of room to slow down.
- **Evening.** Back across the water; relaxed dinner near the hotel.
- **Downtime.** The bay area is open and unhurried, easy to dial up or down.
- **Food.** Casual: a food hall lunch, family-style dinner.
- **Optional big-ticket swap.** This is a natural day to substitute teamLab Planets (Toyosu) if the family wants the immersive digital-art experience; it must be pre-booked and is costed in section 12.
- **Daily band:** AUD 210 to 320.

DAY 4, SUNDAY 11/04/2027: SHIBUYA, HARAJUKU AND MEIJI JINGU

- **Morning.** Meiji Jingu shrine and the calm of Yoyogi Park, a green start before the crowds.
- **Afternoon.** Harajuku and Takeshita Street, narrow and loud and full of crepes and novelty the children will love, then Shibuya. A Sunday makes these areas busy, so keep expectations loose and lean on the soft block if it gets overwhelming.
- **Evening.** The Shibuya Crossing, and optionally Shibuya Sky for the city lights (pre-book a timed slot).
- **Food.** Street snacks in Harajuku; dinner in Shibuya (plenty of family-friendly floors in the department stores).
- **Daily band:** AUD 190 to 290.

**DAY 5, MONDAY 12/04/2027: YOUR CHOICE DAY**

This is the flexible big day, set on a Monday on purpose because many Tokyo museums close Mondays, so a museum-light plan loses nothing. Two ways to spend it:

- **Option A, a calm local day.** Shinjuku Gyoen national garden (wide lawns, room to run), the Pokemon Center and other character shops, and an easy afternoon. Lower cost, lower intensity. This is what the daily band below assumes.
- **Option B, a theme-park day.** Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea. This replaces the day's plan and is costed separately in section 12; the day's food and transport bands still apply, but the standard-attraction portion is replaced by the park ticket.
- **Downtime.** Either option leaves a clear evening to repack before the move to Kyoto tomorrow.
- **Food.** Department-store food halls (depachika) are a fun, low-stress dinner with children.
- **Daily band (Option A):** AUD 200 to 300.

DAY 6, TUESDAY 13/04/2027: LAST TOKYO MORNING, THEN SHINKANSEN TO KYOTO

- **Morning.** One easy Tokyo thing close to base, then check out. A market breakfast or a final neighbourhood stroll works well; keep it light because there is a train to catch.
- **Midday.** Shinkansen Tokyo to Kyoto (about 2 hours 15 minutes on the fastest service; see section 9). Reserved seats booked in advance. Sit on the right-hand side heading west for a chance of Mount Fuji.
- **Afternoon.** Arrive Kyoto, check in, settle.
- **Evening.** A gentle first taste of Kyoto: a stroll through Gion or along the Kamo River, and an early dinner.
- **Food.** Train-station bento for lunch on the move (an event in itself for children); relaxed Kyoto dinner.
- **Daily band:** AUD 200 to 300 (the Shinkansen fare is separate; see section 9).

5. Kyoto: Days 6 to 10

Four nights. Kyoto rewards a slow pace; the plan covers the headline areas without trying to see everything, which is the honest trade-off of a relaxed trip.

DAY 7, WEDNESDAY 14/04/2027: EASTERN KYOTO (HIGASHIYAMA)

- **Morning.** Kiyomizu-dera temple, with its wide hillside views, reached up the stone lanes of Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka.
- **Afternoon.** Wander the lanes back down (these are some of Kyoto's prettiest streets, full of snack and souvenir stops), through Maruyama Park to Yasaka Shrine. Soft block here: the park is a good place to slow down.
- **Evening.** Gion in the early evening, then dinner.
- **Food.** Lane snacks (matcha soft-serve, mochi, skewers) through the afternoon; a Kyoto-style dinner.



- **Daily band:** AUD 200 to 300.

DAY 8, THURSDAY 15/04/2027: WESTERN KYOTO (ARASHIYAMA)

- **Morning.** Arashiyama early to beat the crowds: the bamboo grove, then the Tenryu-ji temple gardens.
- **Afternoon.** The Iwatayama Monkey Park, a steady uphill walk to a hilltop where wild macaques roam and the city spreads out below, is a reliable hit with children. Then the Togetsukyo bridge and the riverside.
- **Evening.** Back to central Kyoto, relaxed dinner.
- **Downtime.** Build in rest after the monkey-park climb.
- **Optional add-on.** The Sagano Romantic Train, a scenic open-air rail run along the gorge, is a low-cost extra if time and energy allow (section 12).
- **Food.** Riverside lunch; central Kyoto dinner.
- **Daily band:** AUD 200 to 300.

DAY 9, FRIDAY 16/04/2027: NARA DAY TRIP

- **Morning.** Train to Nara (about 45 minutes). Nara Park, where hundreds of tame deer roam and bow for crackers sold on site, is one of the best single experiences in Japan for children.
- **Afternoon.** Todai-ji and its Great Buddha hall (one of the world's largest wooden buildings), then Kasuga Taisha shrine with its stone and bronze lanterns. Pace it; the park is large and walkable.
- **Evening.** Return to Kyoto for dinner.
- **Downtime.** The train each way is its own rest; the park is open and unhurried.
- **Food.** Picnic or casual lunch in or near the park; Kyoto dinner.
- **Daily band:** AUD 230 to 340 (includes the Nara return train and deer crackers).

DAY 10, SATURDAY 17/04/2027: FUSHIMI INARI, THEN ON TO OSAKA

- **Morning.** Fushimi Inari Taisha, the shrine famous for its endless tunnels of vermilion torii gates climbing the hillside. It is free, open early, and best done early on a Saturday before it fills. Walk up as far as the children are happy to go; you do not need to reach the summit.
- **Midday.** Back to base, collect bags, and take the short train from Kyoto to Osaka (about 30 minutes on a JR Special Rapid; section 9). Check in.
- **Afternoon and evening.** Ease into Osaka with the Dotonbori canal and Namba: the giant illuminated signs, the Glico running-man, and street food everywhere.
- **Food.** Dotonbori is the home of takoyaki (octopus balls) and okonomiyaki (savoury pancake); grazing dinner.
- **Daily band:** AUD 190 to 290 (the Kyoto to Osaka fare is separate and small; see section 9).



6. Osaka: Days 10 to 12

Two nights, based in Namba or near Shin-Osaka. Osaka is the trip's relaxed, food-led finish and the launch point for the flight home.

DAY 11, SUNDAY 18/04/2027: CASTLE AND AQUARIUM

- **Morning.** Osaka Castle and its surrounding park: a striking keep with a museum inside and wide grounds to roam.
- **Afternoon.** The Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan at Tempozan, one of the largest aquariums in the world, built around a central tank with whale sharks. A strong finish for both children. The Tempozan Ferris wheel next door is an easy add.
- **Evening.** Back to Namba; a final big food night in Dotonbori, or a quieter local dinner if everyone is tired.
- **Downtime.** Keep the evening loose; tomorrow is a travel day.
- **Optional big-ticket swap.** Families set on Universal Studios Japan can swap this day for the park; it is costed in section 12 and replaces the day's plan.
- **Food.** Casual lunch near the castle or aquarium; Osaka street food for dinner.
- **Daily band:** AUD 210 to 320.

DAY 12, MONDAY 19/04/2027: DEPART FROM OSAKA (KIX)

- **Morning.** An easy last morning sized to the flight time: a final wander or a market breakfast at Kuromon Ichiba (a covered food market made for grazing), last souvenirs, and check out.
- **Transfer.** To Kansai International Airport (KIX) by train (section 9), arriving with comfortable margin.
- **Food.** Market breakfast; airport meal before boarding.
- **Daily band:** AUD 130 to 200.

7. The day-by-day cost bands at a glance

These are the on-the-ground bands (food, local transport, standard attractions) for the whole family. They sum exactly to the on-the-ground line in the section 2 budget; the tie-out is in section 13.

Day	Date	Where	Low (AUD)	High (AUD)
1	08/04/2027	Arrive Tokyo	110	170
2	09/04/2027	Tokyo: Ueno and Asakusa	210	310
3	10/04/2027	Tokyo: Odaiba	210	320
4	11/04/2027	Tokyo: Shibuya and Harajuku	190	290
5	12/04/2027	Tokyo: your choice day	200	300
6	13/04/2027	Tokyo to Kyoto	200	300



Day	Date	Where	Low (AUD)	High (AUD)
7	14/04/2027	Kyoto: Higashiyama	200	300
8	15/04/2027	Kyoto: Arashiyama	200	300
9	16/04/2027	Nara day trip	230	340
10	17/04/2027	Fushimi Inari, to Osaka	190	290
11	18/04/2027	Osaka: castle and aquarium	210	320
12	19/04/2027	Depart Osaka (KIX)	130	200
Total			2,280	3,440

8. What this plan deliberately leaves out

A relaxed plan means choosing. Worth knowing so the family can swap consciously:

- **Kinkaku-ji (the Golden Pavilion)** in north Kyoto is not in the four-day Kyoto plan because reaching it pulls against the one-way southward thread to Osaka. It is a fine substitute for the Arashiyama or Higashiyama morning if the family would rather see it; treat it as a swap, not an add.
- **Tokyo theme parks and teamLab** are held as optional big-ticket items (section 12) rather than baked in, so the core budget stays honest. They are easy to slot into Day 3 or Day 5.
- **A ryokan night** (traditional inn with tatami and a hot-spring bath) is not in the base plan but is a lovely one-night upgrade, most naturally in Kyoto; it raises that night's accommodation cost.

9. Inter-city logistics

THE SHINKANSEN (BULLET TRAIN)

There is one true long-distance leg, Tokyo to Kyoto, plus one short hop, Kyoto to Osaka.

- **Tokyo to Kyoto.** About 2 hours 15 minutes on the fastest services. Reserve seats in advance for spring travel. Indicative reserved fare is about AUD 135 per adult and about AUD 67 per child (one way).
- **Fares for this family.** Japan's railways charge a half-price child fare for ages 6 to 11. From age 12, adult fare normally applies. So this family pays **three adult fares (the two parents plus the 12-year-old) and one child fare (the 9-year-old)**. For the Tokyo to Kyoto leg that is roughly **AUD 470 all up**; the budget bands it at AUD 440 to 520 to allow for service and rate variation.
- **Kyoto to Osaka.** No bullet train needed. A JR Special Rapid covers it in about 30 minutes for roughly AUD 6 per adult and AUD 3 per child, so about **AUD 21 for the family**.



- **Seat tip.** Heading west out of Tokyo, Mount Fuji appears on the right-hand side; window seats on that side (commonly lettered E) give the children the best chance of spotting it, weather permitting.

SHOULD THE FAMILY BUY A NATIONWIDE JR PASS?

Almost certainly not, for this itinerary. The arithmetic is the deciding factor.

Option	Cost for this family (AUD)
Point-to-point tickets actually used (Tokyo to Kyoto, plus Kyoto to Osaka)	about 490
7-day nationwide JR Pass (3 adult at about 500, 1 child at about 250)	about 1,750

The pass costs roughly three and a half times the point-to-point fares, and it does not cover the fastest Nozomi services, so it would also slow the family down. The pass only pays off when you make several long-distance return trips inside seven consecutive days, which this relaxed, three-city plan does not. **Recommendation: skip the nationwide pass and buy point-to-point reserved tickets, paired with IC cards for local travel.** Reconfirm pass pricing at booking, as it has changed before.

IC CARDS FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT

Get a rechargeable IC card per person for trains, subways, buses and many shops: Suica or the tourist Welcome Suica in Tokyo, ICOCA in the Kansai region (Kyoto and Osaka). All are interchangeable across the country. Note that availability of some personalised cards has been constrained at times; the Welcome Suica and mobile Suica or ICOCA on a phone are reliable fallbacks. Local IC travel is already included in the daily on-the-ground bands, so it is not double-counted in the rail line.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

- **Into Tokyo.** Haneda is closer and cheaper to reach (roughly AUD 60 to 120 for the family, depending on mode). Narita is further out and dearer (roughly AUD 120 to 160 by express train); allow about an hour or more to the city. The budget bands transfers at AUD 60 to 160 to cover either.
- **Out via Osaka (KIX).** Train to Kansai International from central Osaka is straightforward, roughly AUD 40 to 100 for the family depending on the service. Allow comfortable margin on a departure day with children.

10. Weather, packing and crowd timing for mid-April

- **Temperatures.** Mild spring. Tokyo and Kyoto in April typically see daytime highs around 18 to 20 degrees and overnight lows around 9 to 11 degrees. Pleasant by day, cool after dark.



- **Cherry blossom, honestly framed.** Peak bloom in lowland Tokyo and Kyoto is usually late March to very early April, so by the second week of April the family will most likely have **just missed peak** in the city centres. That is not a loss: late-blooming varieties and higher or cooler spots (temple hillsides, Kyoto's northern and western fringes, Nara's slopes) can still hold colour, and the crowds are thinner. Treat any blossom as a bonus, not a fixed feature; bloom timing shifts year to year and cannot be guaranteed.
- **Rain.** April is a moderately wet month; expect a few showery days across 12 days. Pack a compact umbrella or light rain shell each and plan the indoor swaps in section 11.
- **Crowd timing, a genuine plus.** This window ends on 19/04/2027, before Japan's Golden Week holiday cluster begins in late April. Travelling just ahead of Golden Week usually means lighter crowds and easier bookings than the holiday peak.
- **Packing shortlist.** Layers (a warm top plus a light jacket), comfortable walking shoes well broken in (this trip walks a lot), a rain shell or umbrella each, a small daypack, any regular medication, and a portable phone battery. Slip-on shoes help at temples and traditional restaurants where you remove footwear.

11. Closure and weather alternatives

Two recurring risks: a sight is closed, or it is raining. The plan is already built to soften both (Monday is the museum-light choice day; outdoor mornings pair with covered afternoons), but here are direct swaps.

If this is closed or rained out	Do this instead (same area, weather-proof)
Ueno Zoo or Ueno Park (Day 2)	Indoor galleries near the park, or the covered Ameyoko lanes
Odaiba outdoor walk (Day 3)	Miraikan science museum, or a large indoor mall on the bay
Meiji Jingu and Yoyogi Park (Day 4)	Harajuku and Shibuya shopping and food floors, undercover
Higashiyama lanes (Day 7)	A covered Kyoto shopping arcade and the Nishiki Market food street
Arashiyama bamboo and monkey park (Day 8)	Tenryu-ji's halls, or move the indoor Kyoto plan forward
Fushimi Inari climb (Day 10)	Keep to the lower, partly sheltered gate sections, then head to Osaka early
Osaka Castle grounds (Day 11)	The aquarium and the indoor bayside complex at Tempozan

General rules of thumb: **many museums close on Mondays** (the plan accounts for this), some attractions close one weekday or over the New Year period (not relevant in April), and temples and shrines occasionally close areas for ceremonies. Reconfirm opening days and hours for any must-see in the week before travel, as these change.



12. Optional big-ticket add-ons

These are deliberately outside the section 2 totals so the core budget stays honest. Each is an indicative family-of-four price; reconfirm at booking, as theme-park pricing in particular varies by date.

Add-on	Where and when it fits	Indicative family cost (AUD)	Note
Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea, 1 day	Day 5 (replaces the choice-day plan)	280 to 420	Dated tickets; book ahead. Optional paid ride-skip passes cost extra
Universal Studios Japan, 1 day	Day 11 (replaces the Osaka plan)	280 to 400	Dated tickets; Express passes are a large extra
teamLab Planets, Tokyo	Day 3 (swap in for the bay walk)	110 to 150	Timed entry, pre-book; sells out
Sagano Romantic Train, Arashiyama	Day 8 add-on	30 to 40	Scenic open-air rail; book in spring
Ryokan night (traditional inn)	One Kyoto night	varies (an accommodation upgrade)	Often includes dinner and breakfast; raises that night's room cost

If a theme-park day is added, the relevant day's food and local-transport bands still apply, but the standard-attraction portion is replaced by the ticket, so do not count both.

13. Budget reconciliation (the tie-out)

So the numbers can be checked rather than taken on trust.

On-the-ground daily bands (section 7) sum to the on-the-ground budget line (section 2):

- Low ends: $110 + 210 + 210 + 190 + 200 + 200 + 200 + 200 + 230 + 190 + 210 + 130 = \mathbf{2,280}$.
- High ends: $170 + 310 + 320 + 290 + 300 + 300 + 300 + 300 + 340 + 290 + 320 + 200 = \mathbf{3,440}$.

Inter-city rail and airport transfers line (section 9) sums to the rail-and-transfers budget line (section 2):

- Low ends: 440 (Tokyo to Kyoto) + 21 (Kyoto to Osaka) + 60 (Tokyo airport transfer) + 40 (KIX transfer) = **561**, banded down to 560.
- High ends: 520 (Tokyo to Kyoto) + 21 (Kyoto to Osaka) + 160 (Tokyo airport transfer) + 100 (KIX transfer) = **801**, banded up to 810 (the extra 9 sits as buffer).

Land subtotal (section 2):

- Low: $2,060$ (accommodation) + $2,280$ (on-the-ground) + 560 (rail and transfers) + 490 (contingency) = **5,390**.
- High: $3,360 + 3,440 + 810 + 760 = \mathbf{8,370}$.

**All-in total (section 2):**

- Low: 5,390 (land) + 4,400 (flights) = **9,790**.
- High: 8,370 + 7,200 = **15,570**.

The contingency is set at about 10 percent of the land costs before contingency (4,900 low, 7,610 high): the low rounds to 490 (exactly 10 percent) and the high rounds to 760 (10 percent is 761, rounded down to a tidy band). Every figure above is indicative and must be reconfirmed at booking.

14. Booking pointers and a suggested order

A practical sequence so nothing blocks anything else.

1. **Flights first (book 3 to 6 months out).** Price a multi-city, open-jaw fare: into Tokyo, home out of Osaka (KIX). This is what makes the no-backtrack route possible and usually beats a return-to-Tokyo fare once you count the extra travel. Mid-week departures are often cheaper. April is shoulder season, so booking early protects both price and seat choice for four together.
2. **Accommodation next.** Family rooms are genuinely scarce in Japan, where many hotel rooms sleep two, so book early. Look for properties that advertise family rooms or apartment-style suites (some chains market specifically to families), or two connecting rooms. Expect rooms to feel small by Australian standards. If a ryokan night appeals, book it well ahead.
3. **Shinkansen reserved seats.** Reserve the Tokyo to Kyoto leg in advance for spring, online or at the station. Ask for seats together; for the Fuji view, the right-hand side heading west.
4. **Timed-entry attractions.** Anything with a dated or timed ticket should be locked in once dates are firm: teamLab, any Disney or Universal day, Shibuya Sky, and (if added) the Studio Ghibli Museum, which sells by advance lottery and goes fast.
5. **IC cards and connectivity.** Plan to pick up Welcome Suica or ICOCA cards on arrival, or set up mobile Suica/ICOCA on phones beforehand. Arrange a pocket wifi or travel eSIM so the family can navigate and translate on the move.
6. **Money on the ground.** Japan still uses cash widely. Carry yen for smaller shops, shrines and markets; the ATMs in 7-Eleven and Japan Post reliably accept foreign cards. Tourists can shop tax-free at participating stores above a spend threshold, with passport shown at purchase.
7. **Before you fly.** Check passport validity, confirm the current entry requirements for Australian travellers to Japan, arrange travel insurance, and reconfirm opening days for must-see sights in the final week. This document is planning support, not visa, financial or travel advice; confirm official requirements directly.



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Decorative mark for presentation, not a legal signature.

