

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

SOLO SAFARI

The Ancient Spiritual Kingdom & Sea
Canals

*“10,000 burning lanterns in the sacred Okunoin cemetery, ancient pilgrimage
forests, and Yayoi Kusama's Yellow Pumpkin on the Seto Inland Sea”*

10

DAYS

2

PRIVATE HELICOPTER CHARTER

1

10,000 BURNING LANTERNS

1

SOLO

FROM

\$9,650

PER PERSON

Overview

A highly curated itinerary focusing on high-altitude temple monasteries, sacred pilgrimage forests, and world-class contemporary art architecture — relying on a private helicopter charter to skip heavy land transits between the sacred mountains and the islands of the Seto Inland Sea. Standing inside the Okunoin cemetery illuminated by 10,000 burning brass lanterns, hiking the ancient Kumano Kodo, and viewing Yayoi Kusama's Yellow Pumpkin from the coast of Naoshima Art Island.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Private helicopter from Osaka's Kansai Airport to the misty cedar peaks of Mount Koya (Koyasan) — the cradle of Shingon Buddhism
- Okunoin — Japan's largest sacred cemetery. Walking past 200,000 moss-covered stone stupas under giant cedar trees to the Torodo Hall, illuminated by 10,000 permanently burning brass lanterns
- Ancient Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Trail — stone staircases cutting through the forest on one of Japan's most sacred walking routes
- Benesse House Oval Suite — designed by Tadao Ando, with the Seto Inland Sea visible through every window
- Dorokyo Gorge — private boat through an emerald-green river cutting between sheer vertical cliff walls covered in moss and ancient azaleas
- Soji-in Temple Lodging — VIP Imperial Room — staying inside a working Buddhist temple, with traditional vegetarian Shojin Ryori cuisine
- Pre-dawn morning chanting and fire rituals of the Koyasan monks — one of the most powerful meditative experiences in Asia
- Private helicopter to Naoshima Art Island — touching down on an island where architecture and art exist in complete harmony
- Yayoi Kusama's Yellow Pumpkin on a concrete pier over the sea, and private underground tour of the Chichu Art Museum where natural light illuminates Monet
- Exclusive Washi paper-making and indigo dyeing masterclass with Shikoku island artisans

10,000 burning lanterns in the sacred Okunoin cemetery, ancient pilgrimage forests, and Yayoi Kusama's Yellow Pumpkin on the Seto Inland Sea

The Itinerary

01

MOUNT KOYA (KOYASAN), JAPAN

Day 1 | Nairobi » Osaka » Mount Koya — Temple Arrival by Helicopter

VIP handling at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport, flight to Kansai International Airport (KIX) in Osaka. VIP tarmac reception, then board a private helicopter for a spectacular flight over the urban landscape into the misty cedar peaks of Mount Koya (Koyasan). Check into Soji-in Temple Lodging — VIP Imperial Room. The serene atmosphere of a working Buddhist temple, cedar trees, the sound of monks' chanting. Private guided tour of the temple grounds. Welcome dinner.

- Soji-in Temple Lodging, Mount Koya
- Dinner

02

OKUNOIN CEMETERY, MOUNT KOYA

Day 2 | The 10,000 Lanterns of Okunoin

Explore Okunoin — Japan's largest and most sacred cemetery — with a private monk guide. Walking past 200,000 moss-covered stone stupas under giant cedar trees to the Torodo Hall, illuminated by 10,000 permanently burning brass lanterns. The mausoleum of Kobo Daishi, founder of Shingon Buddhism. A traditional vegetarian Shojin Ryori dinner at the temple.

- Soji-in Temple Lodging, Mount Koya
- Breakfast, Dinner

03

KUMANO KODO

Day 3 | Dawn Monk Chanting & Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage

Rising before dawn to witness the evocative deep-voiced morning chanting and fire rituals of the Koyasan monks. Afternoon on a private crowd-free section of the ancient Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Trail — stone staircases cutting through forest that has been walked by pilgrims for a thousand years. Hot local plum wine and Shojin Ryori delicacies from a private stone platform overlooking a raked rock garden at sunset.

- Soji-in Temple Lodging, Mount Koya
- Breakfast, Dinner

04

NAOSHIMA ART ISLAND, SETO INLAND SEA

Day 4 | Helicopter to Naoshima Art Island

Private helicopter flight west across the Seto Inland Sea to the world-famous Naoshima Art Island — miniature pine-topped islands and turquoise water from above. Check into the ultra-exclusive Benesse House Oval Suite, designed by Tadao Ando. The Seto Inland Sea visible through every window. Afternoon exploring the island's coastline. Gourmet dinner.

- Benesse House Oval, Naoshima
- Breakfast, Dinner

05

NAOSHIMA

Day 5 | The Yellow Pumpkin & Chichu Underground Museum

Walk to Yayoi Kusama's iconic Yellow Pumpkin on a concrete pier over the sea — the striking contrast of bright yellow against the blue. A private crowd-free guided tour of the Chichu Art Museum, built completely underground to let natural light illuminate masterworks by Claude Monet. A lavish champagne brunch prepared by a private chef on a high promontory overlooking the glassy Seto Inland Sea. Return for a relaxed evening.

- Benesse House Oval, Naoshima
- Breakfast, Dinner

06

DOROKYO GORGE

Day 6 | Hidden Gem — Dorokyo Emerald Gorge

A private boat excursion to the Dorokyo Gorge — navigating a quiet emerald-green river channel cutting between sheer vertical cliff walls covered in moss and ancient mountain azaleas. The towering cliffs and lush vegetation creating one of Japan's most dramatically beautiful hidden landscapes. Swimming in the clear water. Return for gourmet dinner.

- Benesse House Oval, Naoshima
- Breakfast, Dinner

DAY BY DAY (CONTINUED)

07

HONMURA, NAOSHIMA

Day 7 | Art House Project — Living Architecture Walk

The historic fishing village of Honmura — a private architectural walk through old timber houses transformed internally into modern structural art installations. Each house features a different artist's vision fused with traditional Japanese architecture. Your guide explains the Art House Project and the artists involved. Return for a relaxed evening.

- Benesse House Oval, Naoshima
- Breakfast, Dinner

08

HONMURA, NAOSHIMA

Day 8 | Private Yacht — Seto Inland Sea & Island Bonfire

A full day cruising the quiet channels of the Seto Inland Sea on a private luxury yacht — navigating past miniature pine-topped islands, the extraordinary seascape of the inner sea. A celebratory multi-course bonfire dinner on the island's edge under a brilliant blanket of stars.

- Benesse House Oval, Naoshima
- Breakfast, Dinner

09

HONMURA, NAOSHIMA

Day 9 | Exclusive Washi Paper & Indigo Dyeing Heritage Tour

An island cooperative with indigenous master paper-makers and indigo dyers — filtering mulberry bark into heavy Washi paper sheets, traditional organic indigo fermentation vat techniques. A private performance of historic folk storytelling. Celebratory farewell dinner at Benesse House paired with vintage sake.

- Benesse House Oval, Naoshima
- Breakfast, Dinner

10

HONMURA, NAOSHIMA

Day 10 | Helicopter to Osaka — Departure

A relaxed luxury breakfast over the sea channels. Private helicopter back to Kansai International Airport. Complementary spa session in Osaka. Optional city tour. International flight back to Nairobi.

- City Hotel, Osaka
- Breakfast

INVESTMENT

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$10,500

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

On Request

Pricing is an estimate subject to confirmation based on season, group size, and final accommodation selection.

SEASONAL PRICING

Jan – May	SHOULDER SEASON	\$11,750
Cherry blossom season across the country		
May – Sep	BEST VALUE	\$9,650
Warm, humid summer — better value		
Sep – Dec	PEAK SEASON	\$12,050
Autumn foliage — one of Japan's best seasons		

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » VIP tarmac handling at all airports
- » All private luxury vehicle transfers
- » 9 nights luxury accommodation
- » All meals — Full Board throughout
- » International flights Nairobi–Osaka–Nairobi
- » Private helicopter Osaka–Mount Koya
- » Okunoin private monk guide
- » Kumano Kodo pilgrim trail walk
- » Private helicopter to Naoshima
- » Chichu Art Museum private tour
- » Champagne brunch on sea promontory
- » Dorokyo Gorge private boat
- » Art House Project architectural walk
- » Private Seto Inland Sea yacht

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to/from Nairobi (confirm at booking)
- Gratuities for guides & staff
- Premium imported alcohol
- Washi paper & indigo purchases at guest discretion
- Items of a personal nature

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

PHONE / WHATSAPP

+254 768 886 836

EMAIL

info@findersandkeepers.com

HOURS

Monday – Friday, 8am – 6pm EAT

ONLINE

www.findersandkeepers.com

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