

Linesiding Japan 2 Tour

22nd May 2026~19th June 2026

Tour Outline

The second Linesiding Japan Tour includes steam, trams and local / rural lines. A second visit to RASS is planned as well as visits to the Ashio Narrow Gauge Railway Museum & the Kiso Forest Railway.

Regions Covered:	Kanto, Chubu, Kansai, Chugoku, Shikoku
Steam:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chichibu Railway's SL Paleo Express (linesiding only*) JR West's SL Yamaguchi (linesiding & ride) RASS (variety of narrow gauge locomotives) <p>(* for participants who want to ride on the SL Paleo Express this can be arranged)</p>
Trams:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiroshima (Hiroden) Matsuyama (Iyo Tetsudo) Kochi (Tosaden) Okayama (Okaden)
Other: (see below for information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some shinkansen travel (Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen Lines) Travel on some Limited Express trains (both JR and non JR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seibu Railway's "Laview" Tobu Railway's "Ryomo" JR Tokai's "Shinano" JR Shikoku's Uwakai, Ashizuri & Nanpu Visit to the Ashio Narrow Gauge Museum Visit to the Kiso (Akasawa) Forest Railway Ride on the Oigawa Railway (but not steam) Visit to RASS (Rasuchijin Railway Association) narrow gauge railway park. Visit to and ride on the Choshi Electric Railway Many local lines with a mixture of electric and diesel traction (modern & old operated by more than 10 different railway companies) Opportunity to see some freight en route.

Date	Main Activity	Overnight stay
22 May 2026	Party arrives / meets in Tokyo	Tokyo (Ueno)
23rd May 2026	Chichibu Railway - SL Paleo Express (Linesiding) Travel by Seibu Laview Limited Express Chichibu (Ikebukuro~Seibu Chichibu) to / from the Chichibu area. Using Chichibu Railway local trains to get to various points to take pictures / video of the SL Paleo Express	Tokyo (Ueno)
24th May 2026	Ashio Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Using the Tobu Railway's Limited Express Ryomo	Tokyo (Ueno)

	(Asakusa~Aioi) and Watarase Keikoku Railway (Aioi~Ashio) travel to from Ashio Narrow Gauge Railway Museum	
25th May-2026	Nagoya Via Shinkansen travel to Nagoya (Nagoya activity to be decided)	Nagoya
26th May 2026	Kiso (Akasawa) Forest Railway Using the JR Tokai Limited Express Shinano (Nagoya~Kiso Fukushima) and bus transfer visit the Akasawa Forest Railway (return same way to Nagoya)	Nagoya
27th May 2026	Osaka Travel by conventional train to Osaka. (Kansai Main Line) PM - free time (suggestions: Kyoto Railway Museum or Nankai Main Line to see the distinctive Nankai "Rap:it" Limited Express	Osaka (Shin Osaka)
28th May 2026	Travel to Hiroshima. Sanyo Shinkansen: Shin Osaka->Fukuyama Sanyo Main Line: Fukuyama->Onomichi Photo / video time in Onomichi Sanyo Main Line Onomichi->Hiroshima Afternoon / evening: Hiroshima Trams	Hiroshima (Hiroshima City)
29th May 2026	SL Yamaguchi Linesiding Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter bus: Hiroshima->Shin Yamaguchi Charter bus: Shin Yamaguchi->Tsuwano (SL chasing) Return to Shin Yamaguchi on SL Yamaguchi train 	Shin Yamaguchi
30th May 2026	SL Yamaguchi Linesiding Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel on SL Yamaguchi Train to Tsuwano Charter bus: Tsuwano->Shin Yamaguchi (SL chasing) Charter bus: Shin Yamaguchi->Hiroshima 	Hiroshima (Hiroshima City)
1st June 2026	Travel to Matsuyama (Shikoku) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tram to ferry terminal Ferry to Matsuyama Bus / train (Iyo Railway) from ferry terminal to Matsuyama PM: Matsuyama Shiden (trams)	Matsuyama
2nd June 2026	AM: Matsuyama Shiden (trams) Late morning depart Matsuyama for Kochi travelling via JR Lines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matsuyama->Uwajima (Limited Express 	Kochi (Kochi City)

	<p>Uwakai)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uwajima->Kubokawa (Local train, DMU) Kubokawa->Kochi (Limited Express Ashizuri) 	
3rd June 2026	Kochi Trams (Tosaden)	Kochi (Kochi City)
4th June 2026	<p>Travel via the JR Dosan Line and the Iya Valley to Okayama on the Limited Express Nanpu</p> <p>PM Okayama Trams</p>	Okayama (Okayama City)
5th June 2026	<p>Two options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mizushima Rinkai Railway in nearby Kurashiki (see freight) Tsuyama Railway Education Museum <p>Mid / Late afternoon travel via Shinkansen (Sanyo & Tokaido Shinkansen Lines) to Shizuoka</p>	Shizuoka (Shizuoka City)
6th June 2026	<p>Oigawa Railway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel by JR Local Train to Kanaya and change there to the Oigawa Railway <p>Note ordinary SL services will not be operating. The party will travel behind the Oigawa Railway's "JNR Blue & Cream Locomotive" (ex Seibu E31 series) on retro carriages. Opportunity to take pictures of Oigawa Railway's "Thomas Train".</p> <p>Travel to Chiba via Shizuoka & Shinagawa (shinkansen and local trains)</p>	Chiba (Chiba City)
7th June 2026	<p>Visit RASS at Narita Yumebokujo Park</p> <p>Travel by JR Narita Line train to / from Namegawa (bus transfer to Yumebokujo)</p>	Chiba (Chiba City)
8th June 2026	<p>Choshi Electric Railway</p> <p>Travel on the Limited Express Shiosai (Chiba~Choshi)</p> <p>Travel on the Choshi Electric Railway.</p>	Chiba (Chiba City)
9th June 2026	<p>Tour disbands in the morning. For tour participants wanting to stay on after the end of the tour, extra hotel nights can be arranged.</p>	Chiba (Chiba City)

Notes

Ashio Narrow Gauge Railway Museum	Located in the old copper mining town of Ashio, the museum has a variety of old narrow gauge locomotives and rolling stock, including a large collection of petrol locomotives. It is operated by volunteers
Kiso (Akasawa) Forest Railway	A 2.2km section of what was once a 400~500 km network of 762mm forest railways in the Kiso area of Nagano Prefecture. Today the Akasawa Forest Railway and the connected museum operate / display a number of old diesel and steam narrow gauge locomotives
RASS (Rasuchijin Railway Association)	Is a volunteer organisation that builds, maintains and operates 762mm (mostly steam) locomotives. The association's objective is to let people enjoy travelling behind such locomotives rather than restore / replicate historical locomotives. This means that it has a variety of different engines. The Linesiding Club was well received by the association when it visited in 2024 and could enjoy seeing a variety of different locomotives operating.
Hiroshima Trams (Hiroden)	The second largest tram system in Japan, with 18.8 route kms but is top in terms of number of trams (133 tram units) and no of services. Although its oldest trams (survivors of the Hiroshima Atomic bomb) were retired from regular service in 2025, it still operates a mixture of old and modern trams.
Matsuyama Trams (Iyo Tetsu)	The Matsuyama tram network has 6.9 route kms and operates 38 tram units, which are a mixture of old and new. There is also a diamond crossing in the Otemachi area where light rail and heavy rail cross at right angles.
Kochi Trams (Tosaden)	Kochi has the longest tram network with 25.3 route kms and 61 tram units. As well as serving the Kochi city area the tram also reaches to neighboring towns of Gomen and Ino
Okayama Trams (Okaden)	The Okayama tram system is one of the shortest at 4.7kms and 22 tram units (but the two smaller ones are actually part of heavy rail routes). As we need to pass through Okayama a couple of times, it would be remiss not to see it. It is famous for its Chugginton Tram (sorry adults need to be accompanied by children to ride on it).

SL Paleo Express (Chichibu Railway)	Operates a C58 class locomotive and runs the 56.8km between Kumagaya and Mitsumineguchi. It is the closest steam service to Tokyo and one of the easiest to lineside as local trains catch up and pass the SL train.
SL Yamaguchi (JR West)	Uses a D51 class locomotive on what is a scenic route with some quite severe gradients along the JR Yamaguchi Line. (although you may see locomotive C57-1 listed, this locomotive is under long term repair).
Choshi Electric Railway	<p>Choshi Electric Railway is famous in Japan for its “refusal to die”. Although its financial situation is very unstable, with the help of its local community the 6.4km railway line has continued to operate along the Inubosaki Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture.</p> <p>The railway company actually makes more money from manufacturing and selling its own brand of rice crackers, the proceeds of which help subsidise its railway operations.</p> <p>The company President is very passionate and even drives trains.</p>
Oigawa Railway	<p>Oigawa Railway is probably the closest that Japan has got to a heritage Railway. It is however a regular railway although it derives a large part of its revenue from tourists travelling on its steam hauled services and rail enthusiasts wanting to travel on its other “heritage” rolling stock (most of Oigawa Railway’s rolling stock can be described as heritage).</p> <p>Unfortunately a severe storm in 2022 caused substantial damage to its main line, meaning that trains can currently only operate on less than half the length of the line. Also Oigawa Railway currently only has one SL in operation which is used exclusively for its “Thomas the Tank Engine” specials.</p> <p>We will be travelling behind one of its heritage Electric Locomotives (ex Seibu Railway E31 class that has been painted in the JNR blue and cream livery).</p>



SL Paleo Express (Mitsumineguchi)



SL Yamaguchi (Tsuwano)



Hiroden (Honsha Depot)

JR Yodo Line DMU
(Uwajima->Kubokawa)

Choshi Electric Railway



Tosaden Tram (Kochi)

TS Japan Rail will be producing a detailed playbook for this tour which will be distributed to tour participants both in soft and hard copy forms. This will include hotel information, airport transfers and other information. It will also include information on the lines and trains the tour will be travelling on, seeing etc..

Tour Planning & Tour Support



Licensed Travel Agent



Both TS Japan Rail and Eighty Days are based in Tokyo.

The planned itinerary could change due to changes in circumstances (e.g. services not running, non availability of seats, bad weather or natural disasters)