



Exploring Japan

9 Days | Summer 2026

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily unless otherwise specified.

Sightseeing: Kyoto; Nara

Entrances: Cooking class, Tokyo; Great Buddha of Kamakura; Hachimangu Shrine; Hakone Open Air Museum; Mount Komagatake cable car; Gold Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji); Arashiyama Bamboo Grove; Inari Taisha Shrine; Todaiji Temple; Kasuga Shrine

Overnights: Tokyo (3); Fuji-Hakone-Izu region (1); Kyoto (2); Osaka (1)



Your Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Japan

Board your overnight flight to Tokyo!

Day 2: Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo

Welcome to Tokyo, a modern marvel with a population of over 13.9 million in its city center! Tokyo was almost completely destroyed by air raids in World War II but was rebuilt into one of the world's most prominent economic centers.

Day 3: Tokyo

Free time to explore Ikebukuro mall

Today you will have time to explore Ikebukuro mall and other parts of the city.

Cooking class

This evening you will learn how to cook Japanese cuisine with a local chef. Once you watch how your meal is prepared you will feast on your creations! *(Please note: group may be split into smaller groups for the cooking class.)*

Day 4: Tokyo

Group Leader-arranged visit to Tokyo Disney

Today your Group Leader will arrange activities for your group. (Please note that any costs associated with these activities have not been included in your total Program Price. See your Group Leader for more details.)

Day 5: Tokyo | Fuji-Hakone-Izu region

Travel via Kamakura to the Fuji-Hakone-Izu region

See the Great Buddha of Kamakura

See the enormous bronze statue of the Great Buddha of Kamakura, located in the Kotoku-in Temple. The current version was preceded by a wooden version, and the current statue dates back to around 1252.

Visit the Hachimangu Shrine

Stop in Kamakura and visit the Hachimangu Shrine. This important shrine is dedicated to the god of war, Hachiman.

Exploration time in Kamakura

Take time this afternoon to make your own explorations of Kamakura.

Arrive in the Fuji-Hakone-Izu region

Welcome to Hakone, an alpine city known for its crater lakes, botanical gardens, open-air museum and awe-inspiring views of Mt. Fuji.

Day 6: Fuji-Hakone-Izu region | Kyoto

Travel via Owakudani and Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park to Odawara

Visit the Hakone Open Air Museum

Explore art in a whole new way at the Hakone Open Air Museum. View the sculptures amidst lush green mountain and valleys, and be sure not to miss the Picasso Exhibition Hall. Climb the stain glass enclosed spiral staircase of the largest piece in the park, the Symphonic Sculpture, before relaxing your feet at the outdoor foot bath.

Exploration time in Owakudani

Take time to make your own explorations of Owakudani.

See Odawara Castle

Stop to enjoy the Odawara castle, a five-storied castle originally built in 1447, before taking the bullet train to Hiroshima.

Bullet train to Kyoto

Travel to Kyoto, home to imperial power in Japan for over 1,000 years. The city boasts over 2,000 temples and shrines, 3 palaces, 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 24 museums, and 37 universities and colleges making Kyoto the cultural, educational and religious center of the country.

Day 7: Kyoto

Guided sightseeing of Kyoto

Take an expert-led tour of Kyoto. As the national capital for over a millennium, Kyoto offers you a unique glimpse into the history of Imperial Japan. (include if group is visiting Golden Pavilion) Together, visit the tranquil Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf.

Visit Kinkaku-ji

Visit Kinkaku-ji, the famous gold-gilded temple, which was constructed in 1397. It is perhaps the most photographed attraction in Japan with its gilded walls reflecting in the pond that surrounds it.

Excursion to Arashiyama Bamboo Forest

Explore this enchanting and unique site. Groves of towering green bamboo as far as you can see feels almost as if you're visiting another planet!

Day 8: Kyoto | Osaka

Visit the Fushimi Inari Taisha

See the thousands of Torii gates built mainly by local business that make up this shrine dedicate to Inari, the Shinto god of rice.

Guided sightseeing of Nara

Explore one of Japan's ancient capitals during your excursion to Nara. Visit the Todaji Temple and see the Daibutsu, the world's largest bronze Buddha. Walk through the wooded Nara Park, known as "Deer Park" because of its four-legged inhabitants. Just outside the park, visit Kasuga Shrine, one of the country's most famous Shinto shrines.

Travel to Osaka

Welcome to Osaka, the third-largest city in Japan. This city was once the nation's capital and is still a vibrant center of Japanese culture today.

Walking tour of Osaka's canal street

Admire the giant neon billboards as you walk through one of Osaka's most famous districts with your Tour Director. After, spend some time exploring the area on your own. You may wish to take in the views of the city atop the iconic Don Quixote Ferris Wheel. Or, experience Osaka's rich food culture with a snack from one of the many food stalls or restaurants along the canal. After, your Tour Director will provide a cash handout for dinner so you can enjoy the food!

Day 9: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

— The easiest ways to —
ENROLL TODAY



Enroll on our website
eftours.com/enroll



Enroll by phone
800-665-5364



Enroll by mail
EF Educational Tours
Two Education Circle
Cambridge, MA 02141

My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



Tour review

THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 50 years EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices**
so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school**,
so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.**
We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group**
every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.

