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TOURS

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# EXPERIENCE JAPAN

10 or 13 days | Osaka | Kyoto | Takayama region | Kanazawa | Tokyo | Extension to South Korea

Japan is an island nation of contrasts. Neon lights pulse and shine on century-old temples, monks walk alongside anime cosplayers, and Zen meditation is practiced in the same parks where people take selfies. It may sound chaotic, but Japan has perfected the balance of ancient and modern. A better understanding of Buddhism and Shinto, higher truth, or just a measure of inner peace await you on this meditative journey through the tranquil side of Japanese culture.

## EVERYTHING YOU GET:



**Full-time Tour Director**



**Sightseeing:** 2 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides; 1 walking tour



**Entrances:** Osaka Castle; Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine; Golden Pavilion; Kiyomizudera Temple; tea ceremony; Zen meditation; Takayama morning market challenge; Shirakawa-go open-air museum; Kanazawa castle; Kenroku-en Garden; gold-leaf chopstick activity; Meiji Shinto Shrine; arcade; Asakusa Kannon Temple; *with extension:* N Seoul Tower; Gyeongbokgung Palace; Korean cooking class; Bukchon Hanok Village; Hyundai Motorstudio



**Personalized learning guide:** Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.



**All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; *internal flight with extension;* comfortable motorcoach; bullet train; 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (11 *with extension*); breakfast and dinner daily



Golden Pavilion



Traditional Japanese tea ceremony



*Anyone can see the world.*

# YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your Tour Director in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning experience, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. Expert local guides will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views on history, art, architecture, or anything you may have a question about.

When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

*@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday*

— MELISSA, TRAVELER



Via Twitter



**CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT**

Watch the videos at  
[eftours.com/](https://www.ef-tours.com/)

Your teacher's Tour Website

## What you'll experience on your tour

### Day 1: Fly overnight to Japan

#### Day 2: Osaka

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Osaka.

#### Day 3: Osaka

- Visit the Osaka Castle, a famous landmark surrounded by moats and gardens that's filled with Samurai history.
- Travel to Kyoto, a city that conjures images of sunlit walks around tiered pagodas and quiet lakes lined with cherry blossom trees.
- Visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine, located near the base of Mount Inari. Originally constructed to honor the Shinto god of rice, the elaborate complex welcomes visitors through thousands of red torii gates.
- Take a walking tour of Nishiki Market and the Pontocho district with your Tour Director.

#### Day 4: Osaka | 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.
- Visit the tranquil Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf.
- Visit the Kiyomizudera Temple, a celebrated house of worship best known for its large wooden stage that sits on a colorful hillside.
- Experience the rich flavors of matcha green tea ice cream, a Japanese culinary and cultural delight.
- Enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

#### Day 5: Kyoto | Takayama region

- Travel to the small mountain town of Takayama.
- Enjoy free time for lunch.
- Take a deep breath and relax during a guided Zen meditation experience.

#### Day 6: Takayama region | Shirakawa-go | Kanazawa

- Visit the Takayama morning market, a market that's been held everyday for centuries.
- Travel to Kanazawa.
- Make a stop to learn about Samurai-style mountain architecture.

#### Day 7: Kanazawa

- Visit Kanazawa Castle for a look at feudal Japanese life and architecture.
- Learn the six qualities of the perfect landscape garden at Kenroku-en Garden.
- Discover how gold leaf is created, then make your own gold-leaf chopsticks to take home.

#### Day 8: Kanazawa | Tokyo

- Travel to Tokyo by bullet train.
- Take an expert-led tour of Tokyo including the Imperial Palace Plaza grounds, Harajuku shopping district, and the Metropolitan Government Building.
- Counteract the bustle of Tokyo's streets with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine. Quiet and stillness reign inside its elaborate Inner Garden, a wooded oasis in the middle of the city.
- Take a walking tour of Shibuya, a major commercial and finance center with a famously crowded pedestrian crossing.
- Discover the world of Japanese gaming culture with a visit to a local arcade.
- Spend time seeing more of Tokyo or [enjoy an authentic karaoke experience.](#)

#### Day 9: Tokyo

- Take a tour of Akihabara Electric Town.
- Visit Asakusa Kannon Temple, the city's largest Buddhist temple. Here, restaurants, theaters, and cinemas surround a five-story pagoda—a perfect symbol of Tokyo's enduring past and ultramodern future. Take a moment to reflect as a group on what you all have learned while traveling through this country of contrasts together.

#### Day 10: Depart for home

### 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

#### Day 10: Tokyo | Seoul

- Travel to Seoul, a modern city that stays close to its ancient roots.
- View the gorgeous Seoul landscape, including Namsan Mountain, from N Seoul Tower.

#### Day 11: Seoul

- Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of Seoul, and see the Blue House (the residence and office of the President of South Korea) and the Gyeongbokgung Palace, where you'll witness a guard-changing ceremony.
- Prepare a traditional Korean meal during a cooking class.
- Explore the narrow alleys and hanoks of the 600-year-old Bukchon Hanok Village.
- Visit Hyundai Motorstudio to see Hyundai's cutting-edge car models and get a peek into the future of mobility.

#### Day 12: Seoul

- Explore Seoul on your own or [take a full-day tour of Korea's Demilitarized Zone.](#)

#### Day 13: Depart for home

*This was an amazing trip! I highly recommend it to everyone! We saw and experienced so many things. Japan is a beautiful country with very welcoming people. Looking forward to my next EF Tour!*

– JENNIFER, GROUP LEADER



*This was the best trip I have ever been on. Japan was absolutely beautiful and so very clean. The dining experiences were fascinating and something I would like to dive into again. The shopping in Kyoto and Tokyo were fantastic. Everything in Japan is just so...so...efficient!*

– SAMANTHA, TRAVELER



### TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

— The easiest ways to —

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*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



## THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 55 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.



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