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JAPAN: BACKTRACKING THE GOLDEN ROUTE

9 or 12 days | Kansai region | Fuji-Hakone-Izu region | Tokyo | Extension to Sapporo City

Experience rich culture, historic landmarks, and breathtaking natural beauty while backtracking Japan's Golden Route, an immersive journey that includes the country's must-see cities and sights. From the centuries-old spirit of Kyoto to the legendary Mount Fuji to the modern metropolis of Tokyo, this adventure is a beautiful collection of the many shining gems of Japan.

EVERYTHING YOU GET:



Full-time Tour Director



Sightseeing: 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides;
3 sightseeing tours led by your Tour Director (6 with extension);
1 walking tour



Entrances: Osaka Castle; Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine; Kiyomizudera Temple; Golden Pavilion; Fugaku wind cave; Narusawa ice cave; Lake Saiko and Iyashi no Sato Nenba; Meiji Shinto Shrine; Asakusa Kannon Temple; sumo-style hot pot; Hamarikyū Gardens; Tokyo Tower; with extension: Asahi-yama Observatory; Sapporo TV Tower; Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park; Noboribetsu Hell Valley and Oyunuma Pond; dairy farm



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; comfortable motorcoach; 1 bullet train; 2 internal flights with extension; 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension); dinner on arrival day; breakfast and dinner on Days 3–8 (and 9–11 with extension); breakfast on departure day; lunch on Day 10 with extension



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



A view of Mount Fuji



Water purification fountain at the entrance of the Meiji Shinto Shrine



See the friendly deer of Nara



CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT

Watch the videos at
eftours.com/

Your teacher's Tour Website

What you'll experience on your tour

Day 1: Fly overnight to Japan

Day 2: Kansai region

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Osaka.

Day 3: Kansai region

- Visit Osaka Castle, a renowned landmark surrounded by moats and gardens, rich with Samurai history.
- Travel to Nara and take a guided tour. Visit the Todaiji Temple, see the Daibutsu, the world's largest bronze Buddha, say hello to the area's famous and friendly deer in Nara Park, and visit Kasuga-taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine.
- 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.

Day 4: Kansai region

- Take a tour of Arashiyama, known for its shrines and temples—and, most of all, its incredible bamboo forest.
- 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 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.
- Visit the tranquil Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf.

Day 5: Kansai region | Fuji-Hakone-Izu region | Tokyo

- Travel by bullet train to the Fuji-Hakone-Izu region, an area known for its crater lakes, sulfur springs, and awe-inspiring views of Mount Fuji.
- Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of the awe-inspiring Mount Fuji.
- Explore the Fugaku Fuketsu wind cave and Narusawa Hyoketsu ice cave.
- Visit Iyashi no Sato Nenba, a former farming village on the shores of Lake Saiko at the base of Mount Fuji. After a landslide in 1966, the historic village has been reconstructed into charming shops, museums, and galleries.
- Continue on to Tokyo.

Day 6: Tokyo

- Take a guided tour of Tokyo. With your expert local guide you will see the Imperial Palace Plaza grounds and the Metropolitan Government Building.
- 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 tour of Akihabara Electric Town.
- Enjoy a sumo-style hot pot dinner.

Day 7: Tokyo

- Enjoy a free day to explore Tokyo or [visit the Joypolis indoor theme park.](#)

Day 8: Tokyo

- Stroll among the greenery and seawater ponds of Hamarikyu Gardens.
- Take a walking tour of the Harajuku area, a vibrant district known for its quirky fashion scene, colorful street art, and eclectic shops.
- 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.
- Venture up the Tokyo Tower, the second tallest structure in the country.
- Spend time exploring more of Tokyo or [enjoy an authentic karaoke experience.](#)

Day 9: Depart for home

✈️ 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 9: Tokyo | Sapporo City

- Fly to Sapporo City.
- Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of Sapporo City to see the Asahiyama Observatory, Sapporo Clock Tower, and Sapporo TV Tower.
- Stop for a photo at Lake Shikotsu.

Day 10: Sapporo City

- Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of Shikotsu-Toya National Park.
- Explore the Nijo Seafood Market.
- Learn about the Indigenous Ainu people on a guided visit to the Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park.
- Take a guided tour of the natural hot spring at Noboribetsu Hell Valley and Oyunuma Pond.

Day 11: Sapporo City | Otaru | Tokyo

- Visit a local dairy farm in Otaru.
- Fly back to Tokyo.

Day 12: Depart for home

“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

“ Tour review

“The traditional setting, high-tech gadgets everywhere, and the taste of urban and rural—it's like walking into the future yet stepping into Japan's past.”

– HELEN, STUDENT

“ Tour review

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

“ Tour review

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.
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- **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.



Education First