



# Educational Tours

## 2023 SAMPLE TOUR SCHEDULE: JAPAN: LAND OF THE RISING SUN

**\*\*Note:** The below is an example of how this tour may run. All times and durations are subject to change, and the order of activities may be switched or substituted as needed based on availability. \*\*

### Day 1: Overnight flight to Japan

Depart North America on an overnight flight to Japan.

### Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo in late afternoon or evening depending on your international flight. Upon arrival at the airport the group should be prepared to wait up to 2 hours for consolidated groups to arrive. The Tour Director will meet you outside of baggage claim. Transfer to the hotel (about 2 hrs). After checking in, the group will either have dinner at a restaurant or at the hotel.

### Day 3: Guided sightseeing of Tokyo | Asakusa Kannon Temple

- Morning: Depart the hotel and pick up the local guide for the sightseeing of Tokyo. Sightseeing (4.5 hrs) including a drive by Tokyo Tower, and stops at the Imperial Palace Plaza, Harajuku shopping district and Meiji Shinto Shrine. Free time for lunch (on own) in the Harajuku area.
- Afternoon: Afterwards, visit Asakusa Kannon Temple.
- Evening: Enjoy a sumo-style hot pot dinner at a local restaurant in Tokyo.

### Day 4: Technology Showroom | Akihabara Scavenger Hunt | *Optional Joypolis Indoor Theme Park*

- Morning: Visit a Technology Showroom. Then head into Akihabara for a Tour Director-led sightseeing of Tokyo's famous electric town. While in Akihabara the group will have the option to do a scavenger hunt to find and experience some staples of Japan's mecca for "Otaku" pop culture.
- Afternoon: Free time to enjoy Tokyo, or:

*Add this in-depth excursion: Joypolis indoor theme park*

Explore the attractions at Joypolis, a unique indoor theme park, at your own pace. As you immerse yourself in the VR-style arcade games and thrilling rides, you'll also experience the culture and technology within the Japanese entertainment industry.

- Evening: Dinner at a local restaurant in Tokyo.

### Day 5: Hachimangu Shrine in Kamakura | Great Buddha Statue | Travel to the Hakone-Atami Region

*Before departing the hotel, the group will need to pack a small bag for their overnight in Hakone and the transfer to Kyoto. The luggage will be sent from Tokyo to Kyoto since it cannot travel on the bullet train and will meet the group in Kyoto when they arrive at the Kyoto hotel.*

- Morning: Transfer to Kamakura (2 hrs). Visit the Hachimangu Shrine (1 hr). Free time for lunch.
- Afternoon: Visit the Great Buddha statue (1 hr) and continue to the Hakone region (2 hrs). While in Hakone, groups might be staying at a western hotel or a traditional ryokan-style hotel where travelers will sleep on futon mattresses on top of tatami mats and could be up to five or six in a room (*NOTE: single and twin rooms will have western style beds. The traditional accommodation is provided for student type/triples/quads rooms only*). Groups might also stay at a hotel with a traditional Japanese bath called an Onsen. There are strict guidelines for any visitors wishing to experience this communal bath including no clothing or bathing suits, or people with tattoos are allowed in the bath. You must also shower before entering the bath.
- Evening: Enjoy a traditional dinner at the hotel.

**Day 6: Travel to Owakudani | Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park | Odawara Castle | Train to Kyoto**

- Morning: Transfer to Owakudani. Tour Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park (1 hr). Cruise on Lake Ashi. Ride the Mount Komagatake cable car.
- Afternoon: The group will then stop at the Odawara Castle for a photo stop before taking the bullet train to Kyoto (2 hrs).
- Evening: Dinner will be at the hotel or a restaurant upon arrival.

**Day 7: Guided sightseeing of Kyoto | Nishijin Textile Center | Arashiyama Bamboo Forest**

- Morning: Depart the hotel and pick up the local guide for the guided sightseeing of Kyoto (4 hrs). Visit Nijō Castle and the Golden Pavilion. See a kimono Show at the Nishijin Textile Center.
- Afternoon: Drive to Arashiyama to explore beautiful nature, including the famous Bamboo Forest.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel or a restaurant in Kyoto.

**Day 8: Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine | Nara | Osaka**

- Morning: Depart hotel and visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine.
- Afternoon: Transfer to Nara (1.5 hrs) and visit the Nara Park and Todaiji Temple (2 hrs). Continue the visit to Kasuga Shrine and view thousands of stone lanterns *[it is advised to wear comfortable walking shoes]*. Continue on to Osaka (40 mins), and enjoy a Tour Director-led walking tour of Dotonbori canal street.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel or restaurant in Osaka

**Day 9: Travel to the Osaka airport**

Transfer to the Osaka airport for the return flight home.

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## 2-Day Extension

### Day 8: Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine | Nara | Osaka

- Morning: Depart hotel and visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine.
- Afternoon: Transfer to Nara (1.5 hrs) and visit the Nara Park and Todaiji Temple (2 hrs). Continue the visit to Kasuga Shrine and view thousands of stone lanterns *[it is advised to wear comfortable walking shoes]*. Continue on to Osaka (40 mins), and enjoy a Tour Director-led walking tour of Dotonbori canal street.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel or restaurant in Osaka.

### Day 9: Train to Hiroshima | Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum | Miyajima Island

- Morning: Prepare for an early departure from the hotel for the bullet train to Hiroshima. Pack a small bag for one night in Hiroshima, and the larger suitcases will be shipped to the hotel. The bullet train is about 1.5 hrs long and arrival time is around 10:00 am. Transfer by bus (45 mins) to Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum and spend 2 hours exploring this area with a local guide.
- Afternoon: Transfer to the port (45 mins) and ride the ferry to Miyajima Island (10 mins). Explore Miyajima Park and Itsukushima Shrine (2 hrs). Return to Hiroshima to check into the hotel.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel or restaurant in Hiroshima.

### Day 10: Himeji Castle | Osaka

- Morning: Transfer by bus to Himeji Castle (4 hrs) and have time to visit the castle and have lunch.
- Afternoon: Transfer to Osaka (1.5 hrs). Upon arrival, check into hotel.
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel or restaurant in Osaka.

### Day 11: Travel to the Osaka airport

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

## TIPPING

Tour Director: 8 days \* \$6 - \$8/day = \$48 - \$64/traveler (add \$12 - \$16 for extension)

Bus Driver: 8 days \* \$3/day = \$24/traveler (add \$6 for extension)

Additional Local Tipping: 3 guides \* \$2/guide = \$6/traveler (add \$2 for extension)

**Total recommended per traveler = \$78 - \$94 (\$98 - \$118 for extension)**

*\*Suggested tipping does not include the Joypolis indoor theme park optional excursion. Additional local tipping experiences include the guided tour of Tokyo, the guided tour of Kyoto, and the guided tour of Nara (and the guided tour of Hiroshima on the extension).*

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