



EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF JAPAN

Tokyo, Kanazawa, Shirakawa-Gō, Kyoto, Nara and Osaka

DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - TOKYO

Depart Australia on your flight to the Japanese capital.

DAY 2 TOKYO

Upon your arrival at the airport, meet your guide. Board your coach and transfer to the city centre to commence your half-day guided tour. Your tour will take you to the Tokyo Skytree to enjoy the panoramic views of the city skyline. You will also see the Tokyo Imperial Palace, the former site of Edo Castle, it is now the residence of the Imperial family. After lunch, you may wish to visit the Edo Tokyo Museum, which displays pieces from the Edo Period to recent decades. Near the museum is the Sumo Stadium, a venue for Japan's national sport. Dinner will be at a traditional Japanese 'sushi train' restaurant in the exciting Harajuku area. Here you can experience the fun, teen pop culture.

DAY 3 TOKYO

After breakfast, take a half-day Japanese language class and also learn about the famous 'Japanese Tea Ceremony'. Have lunch near the beautiful Asakusa Sensouji Temple and then enjoy a Sumidagawa River cruise. Alternatively, spend the rest of the day at Tokyo Disney Resort, a theme park with dozens of fun rides and exciting attractions.

DAY 4 TOKYO/ KANAZAWA

Depart Tokyo this morning for Kanazawa. You will travel on the famous bullet train 'Shinkansen'. Upon arrival, enjoy a half-day guided coach tour of the historical district known as "little Kyoto". Kanazawa is also known as the City of Crafts and Folk Art. You will visit traditional art and craft shops for "Kaga - yuzen" dyed silk or "Kutaniyaki" pottery. Later in the day, walk through Ken-roku-en, one of the most beautiful landscaped gardens in Japan.

DAY 5 KANAZAWA

This morning, go shopping with the locals at the Omicho Market, which was established around the middle of the 18th century and has as many as 170 fish, vegetable, grocery and clothing stores. After the market visit, you will have a traditional Japanese cooking lesson, using ingredients that you have purchased from the market.

DAY 6 SHIRAKAWA-GŌ

After breakfast, board your coach and travel to the UNESCO World Heritage listed traditional village of Shirakawa-gō. You will visit the 'Gassho-zukuri Minka-en' open air museum which is made up of 27 thatched roof houses that have been relocated from various places throughout Shirakawa-gō. The village also has a watermill, shrines and temple halls. Whilst visiting, you will see demonstrations of the traditional methods of dyeing and weaving. Return to Kanazawa for dinner.

DAY 7 KYOTO

In the morning, catch the limited express train "Thunderbird" to Kyoto. Enjoy a half-day guided walking tour of the Higashiyama district. Visit the Kiyomizu-dera temple, which is listed on the UNESCO site and the Sanjusangendo temple, known for its 1,001 life-sized wooden statues of the goddess Kannon. Whilst sightseeing, try one of Kyoto's delicious matcha parfaits, soft-serve ice cream and shaved ice.

DAY 8 KYOTO

This morning you might like to take a leisurely stroll through the Bamboo Grove in Arashiyama to admire the scenery. During your free afternoon, you may wish to visit the Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion temple and the Kyoto National Museum, which displays pre-modern Japanese and Asian art.

This evening, dine in the Gion district, which is famous for its Geisha community and traditional Japanese architecture.

DAY 9 NARA/ KYOTO

In the morning, take the local train (one hour journey) to Nara for a full day excursion. On arrival, you will be met by your guide. You will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Todai-ji, where the 15m high great Buddha of Nara sits. See the Horyuji temple with its famous pagoda that is one of the oldest wooden buildings existing in the world. Your tour also includes a visit to the ruins of Heijokyu Palace, which served as the imperial residence during most of the Nara period and is also listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 10 OSAKA

After breakfast, board your coach and transfer to Osaka. On arrival, meet your guide for a half day tour. See the famous reconstructed Osaka Castle, travel through the district of Namba which is a popular business and shopping area. Then head to Dotonbori where you will see many electric signs for restaurants and shops on both sides of Dotonbori River. This evening, you will attend a traditional Japanese Puppet show known as a "Joruri".

Osaka is famous for its cuisine, so remember to try Kushikatsu, one of its best known specialties. Alternatively, you may wish to spend some time at Universal Studios Japan.

DAY 11 OSAKA - AUSTRALIA

This evening, transfer to the airport for your flights back to Australia.

DAY 12 AUSTRALIA

ARRIVE HOME.