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TOURS

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# EXPERIENCE JAPAN

10 or 13 days | Osaka | Kyoto | Takayama | 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:** Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine; Golden Pavilion; Kiyomizudera Temple; tea ceremony; Shirakawa-go open-air museum; Kanazawa castle; Kenroku-en Garden; gold-leaf chopstick activity; Imperial Palace Plaza; Meiji Shinto Shrine; purikura sticker photo booth; Suginami Animation Museum; Asakusa Kannon Temple; Zen meditation; Takayama morning market challenge; Akihabara electric town; *with extension:* N Seoul Tower; Gyeongbokgung Palace; National Folk Museum; Korean cooking class; Bukchon Hanok Village; T.um VR Station



**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**

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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 | Kyoto

- Enjoy a walking tour of Osaka's Dotonbori Canal Street.
- Travel to Kyoto, a city that conjures up images of sunlit walks around tiered pagodas and quiet lakes lined with cherry blossom trees.
- Visit Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine, located near the base of the Inari mountain. Originally constructed to honor the god of rice, the elaborate complex features stone foxes, the known messengers of Inari.
- Enjoy a walk along the banks of the Kamo Gawa River.

#### Day 4: 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 Kiyomizudera Temple, a Buddhist temple and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

#### Day 5: Kyoto | Takayama

- 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 | 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.
- Visit the Imperial Palace Plaza with your Tour Director.
- Tour Harajuku Fashion Street and Meiji Shrine with your Tour Director.
- Experience the power (and fun) of technology by taking and customizing photos in a *purikura*, a Japanese sticker photo booth.
- Spend time seeing more of Tokyo or [✚ enjoy an evening of karaoke.](#)

#### Day 9: Tokyo

- Visit the Suginami Animation Museum, dedicated to the art and technique of Japanese animation.
- Tour Akihabara's 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.

#### 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.
- Explore the National Folk Museum of Korea.
- Prepare a traditional Korean meal during a cooking class.
- Explore the narrow alleys and hanoks of the 600-year-old Bukchon Hanok Village.
- Explore the T.um VR Station, a virtual reality theme park.

#### Day 12: Seoul

- Free time to explore Seoul 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. Although if you like sushi, then the food is way better than what I thought. The shopping in Kyoto and Tokyo were fantastic (I wish I took more money with me). 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

“ 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.
- **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.



Education First