

Japan - Commerce & Technology (10 days)



Departs anytime (2018 -19)



Please note: This itinerary can be modified in any way to best suit your school's particular aims, learning objectives and budget.

Please contact us detailing any changes you'd like to make.

Japan – a decades-old paradox. Ultimately modern yet completely traditional. A country that perplexes observers who wonder how this nation can be so advanced, yet so attached to traditional cultural approaches to all things corporate.

Whilst a rising China receives much attention these days, Japan has managed to retain its position in the global economic league, continually innovating and constantly redefining the benchmarks of modern technology.

This comprehensive travel program is designed especially for students interested in Asian business and technology. It includes a thorough exploration of Tokyo, an excursion to the 'future cities' of Kawasaki to learn of the green technology initiatives Japan is racing to implement, and a visit to Toyota's flagship design facility to learn of the country's robotic and manufacturing innovations. This trip will also allow us to explore the delightful city of Kyoto, as well as the dominant commercial hub of Osaka to take part in a special session to learn of Japan's unique business etiquette.

This itinerary will also include a special excursion to Fukushima Prefecture to learn of the county's experiences with nuclear energy and its efforts to find new power sources in the wake of the tumultuous events in 2011. A visit to the Tsukuba Space Centre is yet another feature of the trip.

Other highlights of this amazing trip will be student-initiated activities including the option of a sushi cooking class or a very physical Kendo (or Judo) session, as well as a visit to a manga museum studio to acquaint students with Japan's artistic traditions and youth culture.



Signature

David Eales
Asia Manager

Day 1

Arrive Japan (Tokyo)



On arrival in Japan, we will be greeted at Tokyo International Airport by our tour leader. As our guide for the trip, we will be given a thorough overview of the program before heading out to our first adventure.

Our experience today will begin with a trip to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building. From the top of this structure, we can enjoy incredible views of this amazing city (which also happens to be the world's biggest). With favourable weather conditions, we will explore famous landmarks such as Mount Fuji, the Tokyo Skytree, and the Meiji Shrine.

In the evening, we will venture out for our first taste of this city of superlatives and enjoy Japanese cuisine at a popular sky-high eatery. After dinner, there will be a short time for us to explore one of the city's buzzing walking street adjacent to our hotel for a glimpse of the city's dynamic youth culture. (dinner) **Flight details to be advised**

Day 2

Tokyo



This morning we will visit Japan's National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) to learn of Japanese innovation, robotics and new technologies. Despite the recent rise of China, Japan remains at the forefront of quaternary industries and research into artificial intelligence. Here we can meet 'ASIMO' – a famous Japanese robot and will have the opportunity to talk to researchers about Japanese robotics and technology.

Following this we will venture out to visit Chuo-Dori street. This main section of Ginza is not only known as a major shopping and dining hub, but also famed as the centre of the anime pop culture phenomenon. Here, we will find people in

various fashion styles, including *Harajuku* - a fashion movement that has emerged into a variety of subcultures, including cosplay. We will also visit the Shinjuku / Shibuya districts to experience some of the most vibrant

streetscapes and human energy to be experienced anywhere on our planet. Later we will learn of the pop culture phenomena of *manga*; Japan's famous illustrative genre. We will visit a manga exhibition to learn the drawing techniques that have spawned a generation of inspiration, procreating the developments of series such as *Pokémon* and *Transformers*.



OPTIONAL Activity: while visiting the manga exhibition this afternoon, students are invited to take part in a manga workshop to learn first-hand the techniques and practices of this Japanese art form (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 3

Kawasaki 'Future Cities' (day trip)

Today we will visit one of the country's inspiring future cities, Kawasaki. As issues of overpopulation, rapid urbanisation and an aging population becoming particularly acute in Japan, the Japanese government has for nearly a decade been working on meaningful solutions to this common challenge of humanity. The Smart City Project is one such initiative that we will be looking at today. While aiming to provide a more sustainable approach, the project also works to reduce its heavy industrialization footprints in the post-war years.

Through visiting industry sites, we will be learning of the business models in Japan's eco-cities. This activity will be as informative as it is rewarding for future young city planners. We will return to Tokyo later this evening. (breakfast, dinner)

Sites:

A) Hydrogen plant: start constructing at Namie by 4 energy companies:

*New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), *Toshiba, *Iwatani, *Tohoku

B) Minamisoma substation with huge storage battery

C) Solar Panels and solar power plant at Minami Soma

D) Mega Solar plant constructed by Toshiba at Minami Soma

- E) Former Power Grid (Nuclear) is now reusing for renewable energy
 - F) In order to build 100 wind generators
 - G) Floating wind turbine on the sea (from bus window)
 - H) Constructing Coal gasification combined cycle at Hirono
- Topics: Study about the problem of power grid and influence of Nuclear power accidents

Day 4

Fukushima (day trip)



The excursion that awaits us today is an unusual one – appreciated by very few travellers to Japan. It will entail travel to the country’s remote northeast to learn more of the Japanese approaches to energy and environment.

Fukushima has become most unlikely tourist attraction, but a place that the Japanese are keen for the world to learn more of following events in March 2011, when the impact of a magnitude 9 earthquake and a tsunami was worsened by a nuclear accident at the plant.

This safe and controlled excursion has naturally been fully sanctioned by the Japanese Government and World Atomic Agency. It will provide students with

a unique insight into the Japanese approach to energy as well as the resilience of a culture which has suffered more than most from the effects of nuclear energy. Though several years have passed, there is still an exclusion zone around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. We will also venture outside the prefecture exclusion zone to learn more of what happened here from a local perspective.

(breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 5

Tsukuba Space Centre (JAXA) Hakone



Space rockets are probably the last thing you’d expect to find on a small island a thousand kilometres from Tokyo, but Tsukuba is home to Japan’s largest space centre, JAXA and Japan’s biggest rockets. Established in 1969, rockets are built, tested and launched at the centre, which also monitors and controls all of Japan’s satellites.

The biggest attraction is, of course, the rocket launches themselves, with launches taking place about 4 to 5 times annually in the country’s south.

This morning we will travel by train from Tokyo to JAXA which is located on an island far from the main areas of the population (and closer to the equator)

where conditions are most ideal for launches. We will enjoy a tour of the facilities’ museum and have time to learn much about the Japanese space program, as we talk to local management about its upcoming launches and its aspirations for the future.

Late afternoon we will transfer to Tokyo Station from where we will board a very memorable journey on one of Japan’s world-famous bullet trains (Shinkansen) bound for the city of Hakone. The Shinkansen has long been a symbol of Japanese efficiency, but its importance in shaping Japan’s economy is much more than symbolic. Most of Japan’s population lives in a surprisingly small number of places—only 20 per cent of the country’s land is habitable—and a high-speed train is an elegant solution for shuttling workers from one dense city to another.

Tonight, we will stay in a traditional Japanese *Ryokan* – an experience not to be missed. We will be guided by our tour leader regarding proper etiquette when staying in this typical Japanese accommodation. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6

Hakone (Mt. Fuji) – Nagoya



This morning we will depart our Ryokan for a full day excursion to Mt. Fuji and its surrounding hinterland. Arriving at the Yoshida Trail, we will be able to enjoy terrific views of the enigmatic Mount Fuji. Mount Fuji is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and it is Japan’s highest mountain with a height of 3,776 meters.

This nearly perfectly shaped volcano has been worshipped as a sacred mountain, and many artists in the early 19th century produced images which had a profound influence on the development of Western art.

After lunch, we will travel to nearby Lake Ashi, located in Hakone National Park to board a boat for a short cruise across the lake. The views from our boat are spectacular indeed from where we may admire the pristine waters surrounding Mt Komagatake, Mt. Fuji and other mountains. In the afternoon we will once again board the Shinkansen for our trip further south to the city of Nagoya. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 7

Toyota (Design Headquarters) Kyoto



We will travel a short distance to the town of Toyota – birthplace and epicentre of the design and manufacturing of the world’s most recognisable automobile. During the Meiji periods, the area was a major producer of silk until the decline of the industry in the 1930’s when Kiichiro Toyoda set up the Toyota automobile manufacturing base. Japanese car manufacturing is today still the benchmark for automobile manufacturing in terms of best-practice and efficiency, which we will learn more about. Whilst here, we will also visit the Toyota Kaikan Museum to see Toyota’s production processes, innovations and patents; in particular, advances in

hybrid, driverless and environmentally friendly cars. We will all take a comprehensive tour of the city’s major manufacturing plant to learn of ‘just in time’ production and the commercial technique that manufacturers throughout the world endeavour to emulate.

This afternoon we will depart Toyota and travel to the historic city of Kyoto. On arrival, we will have a quick meal before heading out for an exploration of Kyoto. Kyoto served as Japan’s capital and the emperor’s residence for over 1000 years, enduring through times of war and fire. We have a short time to stroll around the streets close to our hotel to start to get a feel for the city. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 8

Kyoto (Student-Initiated Activity Day)

Prior to travelling to Japan a Student Educational Adventures staff member will talk to you and your students about specific activities that student might like to add to their itinerary. These activities might be based on students’ prior knowledge of the country based on their interests or passions for any aspect of the culture. For example: a visit to a centre of Technology (Panasonic, Sony, Mitsubishi), youth cultural district (Akihabara), martial art activity (Kendo/Judo), Japanese cooking class, sporting pursuits (activity e.g. Sumo, Japanese Baseball, cycling) or designing, creative arts (or performing arts) experiences. Alternatively, we can suggest a great number of highly enjoyable activities including the following:

OPTION 1:



Kyoto cycle with the locals: This morning we will visit explore this famous Japanese town by way of a leisurely cycling tour around its old district. En route we will visit some of Kyoto’s famous temples, charming waterways, tea houses, and a delightful Bamboo forest. In addition, we will journey through merchant houses purposely designed to be impossibly narrow and long architecture to avoid the land taxes in the past.

We will also pass by the abodes of Geishas of whom we will see several strolling around the streets in their traditional costumes and white painted faces.

OPTION 2:



Japanese martial arts activity: Today we will take part in a highly enjoyable (and physical!) session of ancient Japanese martial arts - Kendo. Meaning “Way of the Sword”, Kendo is the traditional Japanese style of fencing whose roots can be traced to early Samurai. Both a sport and an art form, it aims to achieve a state of balance between the physical and spiritual realm. For many ‘Kendokas’, Kendo is also a way of living and building of character.

OPTION 3:



Japanese cooking class: Today we will enjoy a hands-on cooking class to learn the secrets of Japan's most famous culinary export – sushi. We will learn of the various technique and ingredients that go into making this quintessential Japanese dish, before enjoying an amazing meal with other famous Japanese dishes. Please note: Ramen or Udon noodles are other cooking class options.

Kyoto served as Japan's capital and the emperor's residence for over 1000 years. Over the centuries, the city has endured through war and fire outbreaks.

Owing to its historical value, the city was dropped from the list of target cities for the atomic bomb and spared from bombing raids during World War II.

Today countless temples, shrines and other historical structures have survived in the city. We will stroll around the streets close to our hotel, before we embark on a cycling tour visiting a myriad of back streets to enjoy a glimpse into Japan of years gone by. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 9

Osaka (Japanese business etiquette)



We will set out this morning to explore Osaka. Osaka is the third largest cities in the country and the second most important economic powerhouse for centuries.

Our first stop will be the Osaka International Peace Centre. This museum focuses on the destruction of the Osaka City during World War II, and the broader themes of the tragedy of war and the importance of peace. There is a large section on U.S. air raids over Osaka Prefecture between December 1944 and August 1945.

The museum originally showed the atrocities committed by Japan's military actions in Asia, but they were later removed. Other exhibits include Japanese domestic life during World War II, civil defence, why Japan waged war on the U.S, and Osaka's post-war recovery.

This afternoon we will partake in a Japanese business etiquette seminar. Japanese companies are renowned for their ability to innovate and disrupt business, while retaining strong alignment to traditional hierarchical structures, risk aversion and obsession to detail.

Surprising, many very successful foreign companies never start a business in Japan or only enter the Japanese market through a distributor. This is often due to fear or intimidation of its business culture. Our activity today will give us insight into this often-confusing procedure.

Dinner this evening will be at a quaint local eatery adjacent to one of the cities thriving retails districts. (breakfast, dinner)

Day 10

Depart Osaka 🗺️



This morning we will visit the iconic Osaka Castle that one often sees in images of Japan, particular at its most beautiful during the country's cherry blossom season. The castle was first built in 1583 and over the centuries has been renovated and extended, owing to repeated fires and sieges. Later we will visit the Dōtonbori district, where we will enjoy our final meal in Japan at an authentic Japanese eatery.

Being the commercial capital of Japan, Osaka is home to some of the country's best retail districts. We will have a short time to explore this evening to pick up any last-minute keepsakes for family and friends back home.

Following this, we will transfer to Osaka's international airport where our tour leader will take care of all our onward travel arrangements and wave us farewell. (breakfast) **Flight details to be advised**

Summary

Grading

Moderate; Students will be required to be in good health to get the most out of this trip while any one of reasonable fitness will be able to take part. There are no real physical difficulties however students will be expected to walk every day. It will be necessary for you to carry your own luggage throughout the trip but only for short distances.

Accommodation

Student accommodation is on a twin/triple share basis. Teacher accommodation is on a single room basis. Hotels hold a 3-star equivalent rating.

Transport

Modern air-conditioned bus, train and boat

Group Size

Minimum group size 20 students & 2 staff members travelling *free of charge*.

▲ [Smaller group sizes can be quoted upon application](#)

Your Tour Leader

Your tour leader is probably the person who most influences the success of your trip. Thus, Student Educational Adventures employs our own team of meticulously trained student dedicated, local tour leaders - not foreigners, imported at your students' expense with no language skills or insight into your host culture.

These nationals are not only the best folk to show you their country. They are your teachers, translators and an enthusiastic purveyor of authentic experiences. They are there to facilitate your immersion into new cultures and are the bridge between you and the world of education and new experiences.

Your tour leader is always with your students throughout your trip and is thoroughly versed in safety protocols and duty of care responsibilities. This ranges from assisting in the most basic of health and safety measures to ensuring that teachers & students are always safe during our trips. All have been chosen because of their ability to deal with the needs and unique issues associated with escorting young people through this wonderful and at times, most foreign of regions.

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Inclusions

- All accommodation and transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees for museums, attractions as described in the itinerary
- **All internal transport (bullet trains etc.)**
- Student Educational Adventures Group Leader throughout your trip
- Local guides where required
- Meals (+ water) as described in the itinerary
- Pre-departure support, briefing and planning meetings for students & parents
- 24/7 in-country support

Exclusions

- International flights to/from Japan
- Some meals
- Japan Visa (if required)