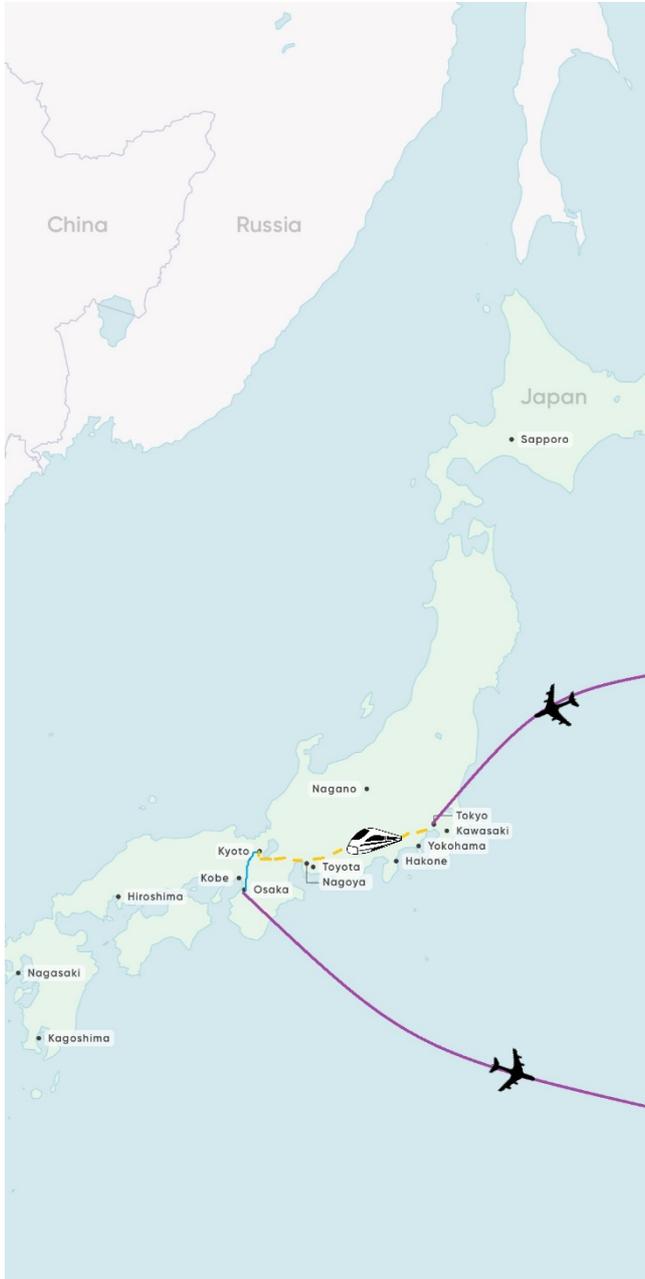


# Japan: Week Without Walls (6 days)



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.**

Land of Transformers, the Samurai, bullet trains, *Manga* and Sushi. Japan's cities look like sci-fi film sets even though many of them are decades old. Old-world practices are merged with modern life as if it were the most natural thing in the world. In Japan, people by-pass the aggravation of airports, opting instead to travel safely on 300 kilometres an hour bullet trains.

Students on the activity-rich trip of Japan will have the chance to experience all these iconic cultural features of Japan as they enjoy this comprehensive and insightful trip to explore the nation's most important places of interest.

The highlight of this trip will include a thorough exploration of vibrant Tokyo, a visit to the national museum of emerging technology to learn of the country's robotics industry, as well as an excursion to the town of Toyota to visit one of the planet's most hi-tech automobile manufacturing plants.

This trip will also include time spent in the beautiful city of Kyoto, a Japanese cooking class, a very physical martial arts session and a cycling activity to provide students with a very memorable and fulfilling introduction to this friendly and highly developed nation.



David Eales  
Asia Manager

## Day 1

### Arrive Japan (Tokyo)



Tokyo – a city that is forever pushing the boundaries of what's possible on densely populated, earthquake-prone land, adding ever taller, sleeker and ever more amazing structures.

After being greeted at Tokyo international Airport by our tour leader we will venture out to explore this legendary and its most important sites.

One of our first stops today will be Chuo-Dori Street, famed as the centre of the *Anime* pop culture phenomenon, sometimes played out by Japanese youth who dress up in costumes imitating their favourite cartoon and fantasy characters. Some groups of young people in Japanese society spend hours

preparing their costumes, hair and makeup and enjoy being photographed, most often on Sunday afternoons. After a delicious Tokyo-style dinner we will visit the city's Shinjuku/ Shibuya districts to experience some of the most vibrant streetscapes and human energy to be experienced anywhere on our planet. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

## Day 2

### Tokyo



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

This afternoon we will visit the Bank of Japan. During this special tour we will learn of the Japanese banking system, the role central banks play in to maintain a stable currency and dealing with issues of inflation and confidence

in the country's monetary system.

There will be time set aside to explore Tokyo's vibrant Akihabara District – home to a most amazing array of electronic shops, department stores and information technology exhibition outlets showcasing the bleeding edge of the global electronics technology industry. We will return to our hotel this evening, at which time there will be a short opportunity for some exploring before dinner. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

## Day 3

### Tokyo - Toyota



Today our new adventure begins as we farewell Tokyo to travel on one of Japan's famous high-speed trains for our journey to the south of Japan. The bullet train, or Shinkansen, has long been a symbol of Japanese efficiency, but its importance in shaping Japan's economy is much more significant. 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.

Around midday, we will arrive in the famous town of Toyota – named after the iconic car company. 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. Today, Japanese car manufacturing is still the benchmark for automobile manufacturing in terms of best practice and efficiency which we will learn more about. We visit the Toyota Kaikan Museum to learn of Toyota's production process and its innovations in motor vehicle technology as well as advances in hybrid, driverless and environmentally-friendly cars. Later we will enjoy a tour of the city's major manufacturing plant. This evening we will stay in Toyota city. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

## Day 4

### Toyota - Kyoto



Following breakfast, we will depart Toyota and travel to Kyoto. While the rest of Japan has adopted modernity with abandon, the old ways are still clinging on in Kyoto. Kyoto is home to many of Japan's traditional arts and crafts that are kept alive by artisans from generation to generation.

We will learn of these old-world traditions this afternoon when we wander the streets of the historic Gion precinct and past *machiya* (traditional Japanese townhouses). We will also visit the Nishijin textile district to find ancient specialty shops peddling exotic sweets, exquisite lacquerware as well as handcrafted copper. En route our tour leader will show us fine examples of Geisha houses,

passing by Geishas and Mikos (shrine maidens) who are very much part of this historic municipality. Later today we will visit the splendid Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and the cavernous expanse of Higashi Hongan-ji surrounded by sublime Zen gardens.

Tonight, we will stay at a traditional Japanese Ryokan to learn more about Japanese customs and its ancient traditions. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

## Day 5

### 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 delightful Bamboo forests. We will also 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. Here we will learn of the various technique and ingredients that go into making this quintessential Japanese dish, before enjoying a wondrous meal along with some other famous Japanese dishes.

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 priceless structures survive in the city. We will stroll around the streets close to our hotel to start to get a feel for the city. Afterwards, we will 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 6

### Depart Kyoto (Osaka)

Time permitting, we will visit Osaka Castle this morning. A 'screen saver' image of Japan, the castle is at its most beautiful during the country's cherry blossom season and it's a must-see site for any traveller to the city. We will also visit the city's Dōtonbori retail district 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, lunch) **Flight details to be advised**

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## 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.

### 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
- All meals and water with meals
- Pre-departure support, briefing and planning meetings for students & parents
- 24/7 in-country support

### Exclusions

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