JAPAN: LAND OF THE RISING SUN
9 or 11 days | Japan

Japan has had many identities through the centuries; its story is a fascinating one. Tokyo is the modern-day centre of pop culture and business, while Kyoto remains the most traditional of the big cities. The country has unsurpassed natural beauty—see it from the window of the high-speed shinkansen train and in the majestic lakes and mountains of Hakone National Park.

EVERYTHING YOU GET:

- Full-time Tour Director
- Sightseeing: 2 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides (3 with extension); 1 walking tour
- Entrances: Meiji Shinto Shrine; Asakusa Kannon Temple; Tokyo National Museum; Hachimangu Shrine; Lake Hakone cruise; Mount Komagatake cable car; Nijo Castle; Odawara Castle; Nijo Castle; Gold Pavilion; Kiyomizu Temple; Gion Corner performances of traditional Japanese arts; Inari Taisha Shrine; With extension: Itsukushima Shrine; Peace Memorial Museum; Himeji Castle
- weShare, our online platform that taps into each student’s interests for a more engaging learning experience
- All of the details are covered: Round-trip flights on major carriers; Comfortable motor coach; Bullet train; 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 with extension); Breakfast and dinner daily
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 travellers on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our online learning platform, weShare, 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 of 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, TRAVELLER

Via Twitter

CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT

Watch the videos at eftours.ca/
What you’ll experience on your tour

Day 1: Fly overnight to Japan

Day 2: Tokyo
- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Tokyo, city of contrasts. During your stay you’ll encounter the Imperial Palace’s stately grandeur close to stories-tall jumbotrons, bound to wow even the most seasoned city-dwellers. See Harajuku’s young denizens blaze a path for fashion lovers everywhere in this inimitable shopping district. Counteract the bustle of Tokyo’s streets with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine. Quiet and stillness reign inside the elaborate Inner Garden, a wooded oasis in the middle of the city. Make your way to the largest Buddhist temple, Asakusa Kannon. Here, restaurants, theatres and cinemas surround a five-story pagoda—a perfect symbol of Tokyo’s enduring past and ultramodern future.

Day 3: Tokyo
- Take an expertly guided tour of Tokyo: Ginza District; Imperial Palace Plaza; Shinjuku District
- Visit the Meiji Shinto Shrine
- Visit the Honda Welcome Centre
- Visit Asakusa Kannon Temple

Day 4: Tokyo
- Visit the Tokyo National Museum
- Enjoy free time in Ueno Park
- Take a tour of Akihabara
- Time to see more of Tokyo or
  - Participate in an origami class
  - Take a walking tour of Shibuya

Day 5: Kamakura | Hakone
- Travel to Kamakura
- Visit the Hachimangu Shrine
- See the Great Buddha
- Continue on to Hakone. Boasting botanical gardens, an open-air museum and spectacular views of Mt. Fuji, Hakone welcomes tens of millions of visitors every year. Your stay includes a boat cruise on the sparkling Lake Ashi and a cable car ride up Mount Komagatake. Experience true Japanese hospitality when you spend the night in a traditional inn, or ryokan. During your stay, enjoy the simplicity of your surroundings and sleep on a futon atop tatami-matted floors—remember to remove your shoes before you enter.
- Spend the night in a traditional Japanese ryokan

Day 6: Hakone | Kyoto
- Travel to Owakudani
- Tour Hakone National Park
- Take a cruise on Lake Hakone
- Ride a cable car up Mount Komagatake
- Visit Odawara Castle
- Travel by bullet train to Kyoto, a city that conjures up images of sunlit walks around tiered pagodas and quiet lakes lined with cherry blossom trees. Experience this scenery firsthand on your visit to the tranquil Gold Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf. As the national capital for over a millennium, Kyoto offers you a unique glimpse into the history of Imperial Japan. Long rows of iconic vermilion torii (gates) lead to the inner shrine of Fushimi-Inari Taisha, located near the base of the Inari mountain. Originally constructed to honour the god of rice, you can still see stone foxes, known messengers of Inari, standing throughout the elaborate complex. On your visit to Nijo castle, wander through the Japanese cypress halls that the powerful Tokugawa shogunate called home.
- Take an expertly guided tour of Kyoto
  - Visit Nijo Castle
  - Visit the Gold Pavilion
  - Time to see more of Kyoto or
    - Visit Nara: Todajji Temple; Deer Park; Kasuga Shrine

Day 8: Kyoto
- Take a tour of Arashiyama Bamboo Forest
- Visit Inari Taisha Shrine
- Visit the Kiyomizu Temple
- Enjoy traditional Japanese art performances at Gion Corner

Day 9: Depart for home

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 9: Kyoto | Hiroshima
- Travel by bullet train to Hiroshima
- Take an excursion to Miyajima Park
- Visit Itsukushima Shrine
- Take an expertly guided tour of Hiroshima
- Visit the Peace Memorial Museum

Day 10: Osaka
- Visit Himeji Castle
- Return to Osaka
- Day 11: Depart for home

The Land of the Rising Sun 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!

— JENNIFFER, 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, TRAVELLER

TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY OR EXPLORE

1. 

2. 

3. 

Optionals and excursions
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, Daughter travelled June 2014

Tour review

THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For 50 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.

- We always offer the lowest prices guaranteed so more students can travel.

- All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities and visits to the best sites.

- We’re completely committed to your safety. We have 500 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.