11 days

JAPAN: LAND OF THE RISING SUN
Journey to the Land of the Rising Sun to discover the unparalleled landscapes of Japan. Visit the memorials of Hiroshima and the shrines and castles of Kyoto. Cruise along Lake Hakone and see breathtaking Mount Fuji. Then, walk through sacred Shinto shrines and explore Tokyo’s unique culture. Experience 11 centuries of history and culture in one trip.

Through it all, you’ll return home prepared for whatever path lies ahead of you. Beyond photos and stories, new perspectives and glowing confidence, you’ll have something to carry with you for the rest of your life. It could be an inscription you read on the walls of a famous monument, or perhaps a joke you shared with another student from around the world. The fact is, there’s just something transformative about an EF College Study Tour, and it’s different for every traveler. Once you’ve traveled with us, you’ll know exactly what it is for you.
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INCLUDED ON TOUR:
- Round-trip airfare
- Land transportation
- Hotel accommodations
- Light breakfast daily and select meals
- Full-time Tour Director
- Sightseeing tours and visits to special attractions
- Free time to study and explore

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
- Nara • Nikko

Optional excursions let you incorporate additional sites and attractions into your itinerary and make the most of your time abroad.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
efcollegestudytours.com/JPNA

DAY 1 FLY TO JAPAN
Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Japan.

DAY 2 OSAKA
Arrive in Osaka • Welcome to Osaka, the industrial and commercial center of western Japan. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

Okonomiyaki dinner • Enjoy these Japanese-style savory pancakes, which can be filled with meat, vegetables or cheese for a customizable meal.

DAY 3 OSAKA • HIROSHIMA
Osaka Castle • Take in the grandeur of the gates, moats, turrets, main tower and sword-repelling stone walls of Osaka Castle, commissioned in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, one of Japan’s “great unifiers.”

Travel to Hiroshima • Continue on to Hiroshima, the largest city in the Chugoku region of Honshu, Japan’s biggest island.

DAY 4 HIROSHIMA • KYOTO
Miyajima Park • “The Sacred Island,” as it’s known, is most famous for its “floating” torii, the gate guarding the entrance to the Itsukushima Shrine.

Sightseeing tour of Hiroshima • An expert local guide introduces you to Hiroshima, where the world’s first atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. First visit Peace Memorial Park, a UNESCO Heritage Site that contains the Atomic Bomb Dome. The Peace Memorial Museum here focuses on the devastation of the nuclear attack and its toll on the community, both on that fateful day and in the months and years to come.

Bullet train to Kyoto • Reach speeds of 180 miles per hour on your way to Kyoto, the former capital and one-time hub of Japanese civilization.

DAY 5 KYOTO
Sightseeing tour of Kyoto • Kyoto’s past becomes your present as you explore the city with a local guide. Begin at Nijo Castle, a structure built almost entirely out of Japanese cypress. The castle was built under the orders of the powerful Tokugawa shogun, who would live here during his visits to Kyoto. Your tour concludes at the Kinkaku-ji Temple—also known as the Golden Pavilion.

DAY 6 KYOTO
Inari Taisha Shrine • Kyoto’s head shrine honoring Inari, the Shinto spirit of agriculture and industry, is full of torii donated by local Japanese businesses hoping to be blessed with worldly success. Follow the various lined footpaths for a beautiful view of Inari Mountain.

Optional: Nara • Alternatively, opt to join a half-day excursion to Nara, one of Japan’s ancient capitals. Visit the Todai-ji Temple and see the Daibutsu, the world’s largest bronze Buddha. Then walk through the wooded Nara Park, also known as “Deer Park” thanks to its many four-legged inhabitants. Just outside the park, you will visit Kasuga Shrine, one of the most famous Shinto shrines in the country. Those who decide not to join the excursion will have free time in Kyoto.

DAY 7 HAKONE
Bullet train to Hakone • Enjoy another ride aboard the bullet train. Before you know it, you will arrive in Hakone, one of Japan’s most popular inland resort cities.

Odawara Castle • Continue on to Odawara and visit the Odawara Castle, originally constructed in 1447. Discover how the castle changed hands time and again over the next five centuries because of war, and was demolished several times for political reasons and by earthquake.

Hakone National Park • A popular getaway for Tokyo residents, Hakone offers hot springs, lakes, historic sites and close-up views of majestic Mount Fuji. Soak in the natural beauty of this remarkable spot on a boat cruise across the sparkling Lake Hakone and a cable car ride up Mount Komagatake.

Spend the night at a ryokan • Enjoy a good night’s sleep this evening at a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn featuring tatami-matted rooms.

DAY 8 KAMAKURA • TOKYO
Kamakura • Stop in the small town of Kamakura for a photo opportunity at the Great Buddha—behind the Buddha image in Nara—this one tops out at more than 37 feet.

Travel to Tokyo • Continue on to the Japanese capital, a city as tied to the future as it is to the past. Tokyo’s metropolitan area is the world’s most populous, home to an astounding 35 million people.

DAY 9 TOKYO
Sightseeing tour of Tokyo • The sights, sounds and smells of Tokyo come at you from all directions, but your licensed local guide will put it all in perspective. Begin with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine and its elaborate wooded Inner Garden. Pass through Harajuku, the trendy district popular among the younger Tokyoites, and continue on to fashion-forward Shibuya and then Shinjuku, home to the busiest train station in the world.

Optional: Nikko • Trade the bustle of Tokyo for the natural beauty of Nikko on this half-day excursion. Begin your guided tour with a visit to the five-story pagoda of Toshugo Shrine—be sure to “see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil” beneath the three monkeys whose poses represent the age-old proverb. Then witness the awesome power of Mother Nature at the 300-foot Kegon Waterfall, and trace your way to the falls’ origin—the deep blue waters of Lake Chuzenji. Those who decide not to join the excursion will have free time to choose their own path in Tokyo.

DAY 10 TOKYO
Optional: Hakone • Enjoy the scenery of Lake Ashi and Owakudani, a volcanic valley with hot springs, hot baths and sulfur fumaroles.

Day 11 DEPART FOR HOME
Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

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WHAT OUR TRAVELERS SAY

BARBARA L.
Concordia University
Portland, OR

“The overall experience of the trip was amazing, unforgettable. I went on the tour not knowing many of the students in my group, and came back with really good friends and amazing memories. With the guidance of the Tour Director, I got to experience new culture without feeling completely lost. I now know that I can succeed and survive in a foreign country.”

ERIN H.
Itasca Community College
Grand Rapids, MN

“I had such an amazing time, and I learned so much. We saw so many different sights. My experiences enriched my understanding of another culture, and created a realistic concept of an entirely foreign culture I would never have been exposed to otherwise.”

CHELSEA S.
Northern Oklahoma College
Stillwater, OK

“I can’t believe we had the opportunity to see and do so many things for what we paid. I traveled on my own soon after my trip, and the flight alone cost more than the entire tour—which included meals, shows, tourist sites. I will never ever forget this experience. You’d be crazy not to take a tour with EF—they take great care of you.”

VIRGINA M.
Palo Alto College
San Antonio, TX

“Every student should go. I enjoyed flying to a foreign country, getting completely out of my comfort zone and truly seeing what this world has to offer. We tried new food, spoke different languages, and saw so many of the best sights on our walking tours. I love history, and being able to experience what I’ve studied for years was so moving it left me speechless. If there is ever an opportunity to go, take it!”

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  • See other students who have traveled on your tour and ask questions

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