

CHCA Intersession 2024

May 20-30, 2024

Course Name: Japan: Immerse in the Land of the Rising Sun	
Instructor(s): Tracy Early, Heather Snell, Jennifer Rogers	
Course Type: International	Service Hours: 0
Maximum enrollment: 40	Minimum enrollment: 18
Length of trip (if applicable): 9 days	8 nights
Cost:	\$ 4950

Overview: Come and experience all Japan has to offer! From the bustling and busy metropolis of Tokyo, to the historical and traditional city of Kyoto, to the quiet and serene lakes and mountains of the countryside, we will spend 9 days exploring this ancient country.

- Course Goals:**
- Engage in the culture of Japan and experience what life is like in this vibrant country
 - Investigate and learn more about the history of Imperial Japan
 - Hike, explore, and enjoy the magnificent lakes and the towering mountains of this beautiful landscape

Writing Component: Final Project—Journal reflection from our time in Japan

Description:

Day 1: Fly to Japan

Day 2: Tokyo – Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Tokyo, a city of contrasts.

Day 3: Tokyo – Take an expert-led tour of Tokyo including the Imperial Palace Plaza grounds, Harajuku shopping district, and the Metropolitan Government Building. – Counteract the bustle of Tokyo’s streets with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine. Quiet and stillness reign inside its elaborate Inner Garden, a wooded oasis in the middle of the city. – Take a walking tour of Shibuya, a major commercial and finance center with a famously crowded pedestrian crossing. – 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. – Enjoy a sumo-style hot pot dinner.

Day 4: Tokyo – Visit a technology showroom to learn more about Japan’s visionary scientific and technological achievements. – Take a tour of Akihabara Electric Town.

Day 5: Tokyo | Kamakura | Fuji-Hakone-Izu region – Travel to Kamakura – Visit the Hachimangu Shrine. – See the Great Buddha. – Continue on to the Fuji-Hakone-Izu region, an area known for its crater lakes, sulfur springs, and awe-inspiring views of Mount Fuji.

Day 6: Fuji-Hakone-Izu region | Kyoto – Travel to Owakudani. – Tour the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. – Take a cruise on sparkling Lake Ashi. – Ride a cable car up Mount Komagatake (weather permitting). – Stop for a photo at Odawara Castle. – Travel to Odawara Station. – 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.

Day 7: 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. – On your visit to Nijō Castle, wander through the Japanese cypress halls where the powerful Tokugawa shogunate kept a second home. – Visit the tranquil Golden Pavilion,

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a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf. – Take a tour of Arashiyama, known for its shrines and temples—and, most of all, its incredible Bamboo Forest. – Enjoy a kimono show at the Textile Center in Nishijin.

Day 8: Kyoto | Osaka – Visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine, located near the base of Mount Inari. Originally constructed to honor the Shinto god of rice, the elaborate complex welcomes visitors through thousands of red torii gates. – Travel to Nara and take a guided tour. Visit the Todaiji Temple, see the Daibutsu, the world's largest bronze Buddha, say hello to the area's famous and friendly deer in Nara Park, and visit Kasuga-taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine. – Continue on to Osaka and explore the famous Dotonbori, a street along a canal known for its bustling neon cityscape, on a sightseeing tour led by your Tour Director.

Day 9: Depart for home

This course is well suited to:

Students who enjoy being very active and fully immersed in new experiences that may take them outside of their comfort zones. This itinerary is jam-packed with exciting activities! Participants can expect a lot of walking and physical activity, in addition to new experiences in Japanese culture.

Cost: \$4950 Includes 2 meals a day, hotels, bus, airfare, tips, entrance fees/tickets.

While traveling students will need additional money for snacks, souvenirs, meals in airports, lunches each day (approximately \$15 per day).

Additional costs: Passport fees are also not included in the cost.

EF Tours offers two optional travel insurance policies – the option to select one available in UltraCamp during registration \$190 Basic Global Travel Protection, \$490 Global Travel Protection PLUS.

Other Information: Students will need a valid U. S. passport, please apply if needed or if passport will expire before November 30, 2024. Passport information will be requested when registering in UltraCamp.

\$190 – Basic Global Travel Protection.

\$490 – Global Travel Protection PLUS.

Information can be found here: <https://www.eftours.com/help-center/policies/coverage-flexibility>