



## JAPAN: THE SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto,  
Tokyo, Japan

10-DAY PROGRAM



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Make sushi with local chefs and learn traditional techniques.
- Visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Museum to reflect on its history.
- Explore Nara National Park, home to free-roaming deer and historic temples.
- Practice traditional Japanese calligraphy and learn its cultural significance.
- Ride the famous Bullet Train and experience Japan's renowned rail system.



### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

From the vibrant neon lights of Tokyo to the tranquil temples of Kyoto and the awe-inspiring views of Mt. Fuji, this journey offers a unique balance of Japan's modern energy and timeless traditions. Explore some of the country's most iconic landmarks while taking part in hands-on cultural experiences that bring Japan's history and heritage to life.

Along the way, gain a deeper understanding of the traditions, innovations, and values that have shaped Japanese society. From bustling cities to peaceful temples and breathtaking landscapes, each experience offers a new perspective on the people, culture, and history of Japan.





## **PROGRAM ITINERARY**

*Activities and the daily schedule may vary based on weather, local events, and group needs.*

### **DAYS 1-2: WELCOME TO JAPAN!**

Travel as a group to Osaka, likely crossing the international date line along the way. Upon arrival, meet GLA Groups leaders and begin getting acquainted with the local area and the program. Take part in a welcome activity and program orientation to connect with fellow travelers, review the itinerary, and prepare for the exciting experiences ahead.

### **DAY 3: BULLET TRAIN TO HIROSHIMA**

Ride Japan's famous Bullet Train to Hiroshima and experience one of the country's most impressive and efficient forms of transportation while taking in the scenery along the way. Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Museum to learn about the city's history, understand the impact of the past, and reflect on its lasting message of peace and hope. End the day with an engaging okonomiyaki cooking class, where you'll learn how to prepare this popular Japanese dish while connecting with local food traditions and enjoying a hands-on cultural experience.

### **DAY 4: OSAKA HIGHLIGHTS**

Explore two of Osaka's most iconic landmarks, starting with Osaka Castle, a historic symbol of the city surrounded by beautiful gardens and scenic walking paths. Take some time to admire the castle's impressive architecture, learn about its fascinating history, and enjoy views of the surrounding area. Later, visit the Umeda Sky Building, known for its striking modern design and spectacular panoramic views of Osaka. For a memorable day trip, travel to nearby Nara and experience the city's rich history and peaceful atmosphere. Visit Todaiji Temple, one of Japan's most famous Buddhist temples and home to the enormous Great Buddha statue, before exploring Nara Park. As you walk through the park, you'll encounter the friendly and famous deer that roam freely throughout the area, creating a unique and memorable experience.

### **DAY 5: KYOTO HIGHLIGHTS**

Spend the day exploring some of Kyoto's most memorable sights and historic neighborhoods. Begin in Arashiyama with a peaceful walk through the famous bamboo forest, followed by a visit to Monkey Park for scenic views and a chance to see the local macaques. Continue to Tenryu-Ji Temple, taking time to admire its beautiful traditional architecture and serene gardens. Later, explore the Kyoto International Manga Museum, where you can discover Japan's rich manga culture and browse an extensive collection. Finish the day with a leisurely stroll along historic Hanamikoji Dori in Gion, known for its traditional wooden machiya houses, charming atmosphere, and glimpse into Kyoto's historic geisha district.



## DAY 6: TRADITIONAL CULTURE OF KYOTO

Immerse yourself in Kyoto's traditional culture with a hands-on experience learning the art of Japanese calligraphy, where you can practice the careful brush techniques and graceful characters that have been passed down through generations. Afterward, explore the historic Gion District, wandering through its charming streets, traditional wooden buildings, and atmospheric alleyways. In the evening, experience a cultural performance at Gion Corner, featuring a variety of traditional Japanese arts and entertainment. This offers a wonderful opportunity to experience Kyoto's rich cultural heritage in an engaging and memorable way.



## DAY 7: TOKYO HIGHLIGHTS & SUSHI-MAKING WORKSHOP

Ride the famous bullet train to Tokyo and enjoy the fast, comfortable journey while taking in the scenery along the way. Once in the city, visit Sensoji Temple in Asakusa, one of Tokyo's most historic and well-known temples, and explore the traditional streets and shops surrounding it. Take part in a hands-on sushi-making workshop to learn how to prepare this iconic Japanese cuisine while enjoying a delicious meal. Finally, explore Akihabara, also known as "Electric Town," where you can discover its colorful streets, electronics shops, anime and manga stores, and unique pop-culture attractions.



## DAY 8: LOCAL SCHOOL VISIT & RIVER CRUISE

Join lessons and interactive activities at a local school to experience everyday life as a student in Japan and learn more about the country's education system and culture. This is a great opportunity to connect with local students, participate in classroom activities, and gain a better understanding of Japanese traditions and daily routines. Later, enjoy a relaxing cruise along the Sumida River, taking in beautiful views of Tokyo's skyline, bridges, and riverside neighborhoods. The cruise offers a different perspective of the city and provides a peaceful way to experience Tokyo's vibrant atmosphere.



## DAY 9: TOKYO VIEWS & CELEBRATORY DINNER

Take in breathtaking panoramic views of Tokyo from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, where you can see the city's impressive skyline and sprawling neighborhoods from above. After enjoying the views, visit Tokyo Character Street to explore a fun collection of shops featuring popular anime, manga, and Japanese pop-culture characters. Browse for unique souvenirs, collectibles, and gifts while experiencing one of Tokyo's most colorful shopping destinations. End the day with a celebratory dinner, enjoying delicious Japanese cuisine and reflecting on the memorable experiences and adventures from the trip.



## DAY 10: DEPARTURE

After enjoying the final moments in the city and gathering any last souvenirs, we'll travel as a group back to your departure airport where GLA staff will help you check in for your flight and see you off on your journey home. Take time to reflect on the memorable experiences, cultural discoveries, and adventures from the trip as you head back home.





## **PROGRAM SAFETY**



**SAFE  
TRANSPORTATION**



**CARING SUPERVISION  
& EXPERT LOCAL  
KNOWLEDGE**



**24/7 SUPPORT &  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



**GLA HOME BASE:  
SAFE & SECURE  
LODGING**



**HEALTHY MEALS &  
PURE WATER**

**GLA'S  
5 POINT  
SAFETY  
SYSTEM**



## **GLA HOME BASE**

You'll stay in comfortable hotels that provide a balance of convenience and local charm. Rooms are gendersegregated and feature ensuite bathrooms, offering privacy and comfort after busy days of exploration.



## **CLIMATE**

Japan experiences four distinct seasons, with mild to warm temperatures in spring and autumn, hot and humid summers, and cold winters. Rainfall is moderate yearround, with occasional typhoons in late summer, so it's best to be prepared for changing weather no matter when you visit.



## **FOOD**

Meals in Japan typically feature rice, noodles, vegetables, and fresh seafood, with flavors that balance savory umami and delicate seasonings. You'll enjoy a variety of traditional dishes alongside familiar options to keep everyone comfortable.



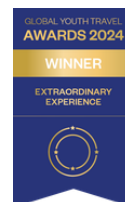
## **PROGRAM INCLUSIONS**

Inclusions:

- Healthy Meals and Drinking Water
- Accommodations in a trusted GLA Home Base
- Safe Transportation - private and public
- Activities and entry fees
- Expert Staff to guide the group
- Secondary medical insurance & emergency evacuation insurance for every traveler

Exclusions:

- Airfare to and from the program
- Additional snacks or drinks outside of mealtimes
- Travel Insurance (lost luggage, etc)



+1 (858) 220-7878



[experiencegla.com/groups](https://experiencegla.com/groups)



[groups@experiencegla.com](mailto:groups@experiencegla.com)