

# "A Golden Journey"

## TOUR OBJECTIVE

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To provide students with an in-depth experience of some of Japan's most historically and culturally significant cities and with an opportunity to interact first-hand with local residents and establishments.

*Highlights: Cultural Exchange, Hands-on activities, Historical sites*

## FOCAL POINT

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How do the cultural activities, historical sites, and structures of the Japanese cities visited reflect on the values and dynamic of Japanese society as you experienced it?

## IN DETAIL

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This tour covers the highlights of what is known as Japan's Golden Route, with a unique PacSet twist: Tokyo, the capital and largest city, Kyoto, the old capital, Osaka and Kobe, and Hiroshima. Each of these cities play an important role in the development of Japan as a country in various points in history. Students will not only be able to experience these sites first-hand, but will have plenty of chances to interact with locals and also immerse themselves in the flow of living in everyday Japan. This tour is built with a social studies focus in mind for teachers who wish their students to analyze their experiences through a lens of social inquiry.



Price includes airfare to/from LAX, all ground transportation, all breakfasts and dinners, all activities, travel insurance, and all accommodations for the tour, with the guidance of a professional guide and supervision of adult chaperones. Does not include lunches and souvenirs.

**Questions or Concerns? Contact us at PacSet Tours!**

[info@pacsettours.com](mailto:info@pacsettours.com)

1-310-218-3816

**PACSet** 

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Departure!

We prepare to embark on the journey of a lifetime! We depart for Japan from LAX.

### Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo

We will arrive at the airport in Tokyo in the afternoon. Time to get money exchanged, then hop on over to the hotel. The group will enjoy a casual dinner near the hotel, then get plenty of rest for the coming days!

### Day 3: Iconic Neighborhoods

We kick off our adventure by exploring some of Tokyo's most distinct areas. First, we'll hit Akihabara, the hub for everything electronic, anime, and otaku-related where you can find the latest gadgets and hottest manga. Then, it's off to the whimsically colorful fashion center of Harajuku for those who are more stylistically inclined. We'll finish off our day at the famous crossroads of Shibuya, where *hundreds of thousands* of people cross through in a single day with barely a single collision.

### Day 4: Sport & Tradition

In the morning we have the rare opportunity to sit in and observe a real sumo training session called "keiko." We'll learn the dedication required of sumo wrestlers and the significance of the sport in Japanese society. Afterwards, we'll head to Asakusa to visit the city's oldest temple Senso-ji. We'll wander the traditional vending booths on Nakamise-dori and join hundreds of visitors in exploring the gorgeous temple grounds. To carry on today's theme, we'll close off our day with a *chanko nabe* dinner, a traditional hot pot designed for sumo wrestlers to gain their optimal weight.

### Day 5: Kyoto, the old capital

We'll take off to Kyoto today by bullet train. As the former capital of Japan, Kyoto is a city bursting to



the seams with cultural relics and historical sites. After we check into our hotel, we'll try our hands at some traditional crafting before heading off to explore some of the city's districts on foot. We'll stroll through Gion, the traditional geisha district, where we'll have the chance to glimpse a traditional tea house and try some of the most delicious green tea. We'll then wrap up the day with a traditional Japanese banquet feast.

## **Day 6: Castles and Temples and Shrines, oh my!**

Ready for a hike? Our first stop today will be to Fushimi Inari Shrine, a shrine nestled on top of a mountain dedicated to the god of rice and sake. Hike up the mountain, then enjoy the many street food stalls waiting for you at the bottom. We'll then head into central Kyoto to visit Kiyomizu Temple and the surrounding shopping streets before making our final stop at Nijo Castle. Today is the day to jump back in time and discover a Japan of the past.

## **Day 7: New places, new faces**

We move on today to Hyogo Prefecture where new friends are anxiously awaiting our arrival! Today is the day we get to visit and exchange with local Japanese high school students. Students will sit in on classes with their peers, engage in conversation over a typical Japanese school lunch, and learn what it's like to be a student in Japan, firsthand! After classes, students will join in on club activities such as basketball, dance and music. In the evening we will stay at a local inn and try the local cuisine.

## **Day 8: Kobe**

A visit to Hyogo Prefecture is incomplete without a visit to Kobe City! After the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, the city was nearly destroyed, but bounced back and rebuilt stronger than ever. In the morning we will visit the Kobe Harbor and stop by the Earthquake Museum. After some light shopping and lunch at the elegant Kobe Harborland, we'll make our way to Kitano to explore European influences on the city. We'll then take a scenic ropeway up to a beautiful garden with a splendid view of the city.



## **Day 9: Hiroshima**

Last but not least, a beautiful, strong city with a terrible past, Hiroshima is an essential stop on our journey. We will be visiting Hiroshima Peace Park and the Peace Museum, recounting bombings of WWII and the city's influence as an advocate against nuclear war. We'll have the opportunity to explore the city after lunch before heading back to Kobe for a last night's celebratory dinner.

## **Day 10: Return**

After our amazing week of discovery, we return home happy, safe and sound to our families!