GEEO ITINERARY

Japan 7/17/2027

Day 1: Tokyo Arrive in Tokyo by 3:00 p.m. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 5–6 p.m.

Arrive in Tokyo by 3:00 p.m. to ensure you are able to attend the welcome meeting. There are no planned activities before the welcome meeting, but the tour leader must collect everyone's passports during the meeting to pick up your JR rail passes.

The nearest airport is **Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) (HND)**, which is much closer to central Tokyo (~30-45 minutes). **Narita International Airport (NRT)** is farther from the city (~60-90 minutes) but often offers more international flight options and sometimes cheaper fares.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city (e.g., to see Sensō-ji Temple or Tokyo Tower), adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, around 5-6 p.m. It is very important that you attend this meeting so that your tour leader can collect your passport and pick up your rail pass. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader is made aware.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

> **Joining Instructions**
> **From Narita International Airport (NRT) to Hotel En Michi**
> Train – JR Narita Express & JR Tokaido Line: (¥3,500 | ~90min) Take the JR Narita Express (N'EX) to Shinagawa Station. Transfer to the JR Tokaido Line (Orange) toward Yokohama and exit at JR Kawasaki Station. Exit the station via the East Exit and walk approximately 10 minutes (~800m) to the hotel..
> Train – Keisei Skyliner: (¥2,920 | ~90min) Take the Keisei Skyliner to Nippori Station (~36 min). Transfer to the JR Keihin-Tōhoku Line (Light Blue) toward Kawasaki Station (~37 min). Walk ~10 minutes from the Kawasaki Station East Exit to reach the hotel.
> **From Haneda International Airport (HND) to Hotel En Michi**
> Taxi/Uber: (¥5,000-7,000 | ~15-20min) A taxi or Uber is the fastest door-to-door option.
> Train: (¥330-480 | ~20-30min) Take the Keikyu Airport Line from Haneda Airport Terminal 1·2 or 3 toward Keikyu Kamata Station. Transfer (or stay on the same train if it's a direct service) to the Keikyu Main Line and exit at Keikyu Kawasaki Station. Exit the station and walk ~5 minutes (~350m) to Hotel En Michi.
> Limousine Bus: (¥300-800 | ~45-50min) Board the Keikyu Airport Limousine bus from Haneda Airport (Terminal 1, 2, or 3) directly to Kawasaki Station. From Kawasaki Station East Exit, it is an 8-minute walk to the hotel. Note: Buses typically run every 30 minutes; check schedules as some services may be restricted or suspended.
> **Pre-Booked Transfer Shuttle**: If you have paid in advance for an arrival shuttle, our driver will be waiting for you with a sign with the transfer company name "GREEN TOMATO" on it outside of the luggage hall. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call Emergency Phone number: +81 50-3096-0911. Luggage limit: 2 suitcases per person.

Day 2: Tokyo Take a walking tour of eclectic modern Tokyo from the hub of Shinjuku to Shibuya through to Harajuku. The rest of the day is free for

exploring more of the city.

Your tour leader will lead the group on a walking tour of eclectic modern Tokyo from the hub of Shinjuku to Shibuya through to Harajuku.

Start with a birds-eye view of the city from Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building (opt to return this evening for a nighttime view!). Visit the beautiful Meiji Shrine, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shōken. Then see the famous scramble crossing in Shibuya—automobile traffic is stopped from all sides, and pedestrians scramble across the intersection in every direction, with as many as 3,000 people crossing at one time!

The rest of the day is free to explore more of the city.

Day 3: Tokyo/Nagano Journey to Nagano, located in the Japanese Alps and host city of the 1998 Winter Olympics. Visit the world-famous Jigokudani Monkey Park and watch Japanese snow monkeys bathing in the natural hot springs.

This morning, board a bullet train and journey to Nagano, located in the Japanese Alps and host city of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

While you ride the bullet train, your main luggage will be sent on Japan's *takkyubin* service (luggage transfer) to the next destination. Please note, **you will NOT have access to your main luggage for approximately 24 hours**. You must pack an overnight bag with everything you'll need until you're reunited with your luggage the following day. Only one bag per passenger is permitted on the luggage transfer. If you have more, there will be an additional charge at the traveler's expense.

After arriving in Nagano, take a public bus to visit the Jigokudani Monkey Park, where wild snow monkeys can be seen bathing in the natural hot springs. The pool where most of the monkeys soak is man-made, but fed by the hot springs. Along the walking paths up to the pools, other monkeys tend to stop and watch visitors curiously. The beautiful walk through the forest from the bus stop to the hot springs takes about 30–45 minutes.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by bullet train

Day 4: Nagano Enjoy a day-trip to quaint Matsumoto and visit one of Japan's most treasured castles. Return to Nagano and explore historic Zenkoji Temple.

Today, we travel by local train for a day trip to quaint Matsumoto, where we will visit one of Japan's most treasured castles. Amazingly, Matsumoto Castle still retains its original wooden interior and stone exterior. Explore this castle where 16th-century Samurai once roamed before venturing out with the group to wander Matsumoto's ancient streets or dine in a traditional storehouse.

We then return to Nagano and visit the Buddhist temple of Zenkō-ji, one of the last remaining pilgrimage sites in Japan. Built in the 7th century, the city of Nagano grew around the temple. The first Buddha image in Japan, brought from Korea in 522 AD, is known as a hibutsu, or 'secret Buddha,' because it is kept completely hidden from the public eye. The temple laws prohibit the statue from being shown to anyone, including the chief priest of the temple.

Approximate travel time: 3-4 hrs round trip by local train

Day 5: Nagano/Ōtsu Travel to Ōtsu in Shiga prefecture. Settle in and relax with a stroll around the picturesque Lake Biwa before heading out to enjoy a delicious bowl of ramen for dinner.

Today we travel to Ōtsu in Shiga prefecture, located on the banks of Lake Biwa, Japan's largest freshwater lake. Settle in and relax with a stroll (or bike ride) around this picturesque lake before heading out to enjoy a delicious bowl of ramen for dinner. Your time in lovely Ōtsu will be brief.

Approximate travel time: 4.5 hrs by train
Meals included: Dinner

Day 6: Ōtsu/Hagi Grab a quick breakfast before a long travel day. Arrive in Hagi, a former castle town that boasts feudal architecture. Meet your host family at a community homestay and get to know each other as you enjoy dinner together.

Grab a quick breakfast before a long travel day. Pick up a bento box in Ōtsu from Lawson's or FamilyMart to eat during the train journey.

You will need to prepare your day pack/overnight bag before leaving Ōtsu for a **two-night stay in Hagi**. Your main luggage will be sent ahead to Tottori. Remember to include comfortable clothing for a cycling excursion and two nights at the homestay. Only one bag per passenger is permitted on the luggage transfer. If you have more, there will be an additional charge at the traveler's expense.

In the late afternoon, arrive in the quaint city of Hagi, a former castle town that boasts feudal architecture. Take part in a welcome ceremony with the local residents—your host families! Get to know a local family during your community homestay in Hagi. In recent years, due to the rapidly aging population and limited income opportunities in many of the rural areas of Japan, young people and other community members have had to leave Hagi to make a living in larger cities, like Osaka and Tokyo. Learn about local history and customs from your host family, and help make a home-cooked meal with your hosts.

Approximate travel time: 6.5 hrs by train
Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 7: Hagi Explore rural Hagi on a guided morning cycle. Enjoy free time to wander the narrow streets or opt to visit some of the beautiful old residences. Later return to your homestay and help make dinner with your host family.

Explore rural Hagi on a guided morning cycle through town. Enjoy the slow pace of life as you pedal past the city's Tokugawa-era architecture, and cycle along the Japanese Sea. Opt to jump in and go for a quick swim. Your clothes will dry off as you cycle back to the visitor center.

Afterward, you will have free time to try some local cuisine and wander the narrow streets or visit some of the beautiful old residences that are open to the public. In the late afternoon, return to your homestay and help make a home-cooked meal with your host family.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 8: Hagi/Tottori Bid farewell to your host family after enjoying breakfast together. Travel to Miho-misumi by train. Learn the art of making "washi," a Japanese paper, before continuing to the seaside town of Tottori.

This morning, you'll bid farewell to your host families after enjoying breakfast together. Later, travel to Miho-misumi by train, taking in scenic views along the way. In Miho-misumi, learn the art of making "washi," a UNESCO-recognized traditional Japanese paper, and take home your handmade washi as a memento. Then, board another train to the seaside town of Tottori, where you'll end the day.

Approximate travel time: 6 hrs total by train
Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 9: Tottori/Kyoto Spend the morning exploring Tottori's scenic sand dunes. After, visit the local fish market and opt for a fresh seafood lunch. Later travel to Kyoto.

Located along the coast of the Sea of Japan, the Tottori Sand Dunes (or “Tottori Sakyu”) were formed thousands of years ago when sand was washed away from a nearby river. This morning, we’ll walk along the dunes and climb one to take in scenic views of the coastline.

Afterward, take a bus to Tottori’s harbor fish market, home to fresh seafood and some of Japan’s best crab. Walk among the stalls and watch the locals in action. Opt to try a tasty dish in the market’s restaurant section.

In the late afternoon, travel to Kyoto, the traditional heart of Japan.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by train

Day 10: Kyoto Visit the iconic Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine, famed for an impressive 10,000 red torii gates. This afternoon, enjoy free time in this picturesque city.

We will start off the day with a visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, located just outside of Kyoto. Walk under the thousands of iconic torii gates (as seen in the film *Memoirs of a Geisha*) and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. The shrine itself is at the base of the Inari mountain but includes many trails up to smaller shrines in the area. If you’re up for a challenge, hike all the way to the very top!

Kyoto is home to over 2,000 temples, including some of the most magnificent in the country, dating back centuries. Use your free time to continue exploring—the city also boasts museums, castles, and traditional gardens—or opt to visit neighboring Nara or Osaka.

Day 11: Kyoto Depart Kyoto at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Kyoto at any time. Kyoto does not have its own airport, but the nearest airports are **Osaka International (Itami) Airport (ITM)** and **Kansai International Airport (KIX)**. Both airports offer an “Airport Limousine Bus” from Kyoto; see the timetables and fares for ITM here and for KIX here.

If a round-trip airline ticket (e.g., flying into and out of Tokyo) is much more affordable than a multi-city ticket, you can return to Tokyo on a bullet train ($100–120). Please make sure to allow 2.5 hours to travel from Kyoto Station to your airport in Tokyo, and plan to arrive at the airport at least three hours prior to your scheduled departure.

We highly recommend extending your stay in Kyoto by at least one day or more to allow more time to explore this incredible city and/or take day trips to Osaka and Hiroshima (by Shinkansen). You may book post-trip accommodation at your hotel in Kyoto through us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

> **Want more adventure?** Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.

Interested in extending your time abroad? Beyond our educator programs, we can also help you book from G Adventures' extensive catalog of tours. These tours aren't tailored to educators the way our programs are, but booking through GEEO means you'll receive a discounted educator rate while supporting our nonprofit work.

Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Kawasaki (Jul 17): Hotel Enmichi

Day 2 Kawasaki (Jul 18): Hotel Enmichi

Day 3 Nagano (Jul 19): Hotel Nagano Avenue

Day 4 Nagano (Jul 20): Hotel Nagano Avenue

Day 5 Ōtsu (Jul 21): Biwako Otsu Prince

Day 6 Hagi (Jul 22): Homestay in Hagi

Day 7 Hagi (Jul 23): Homestay in Hagi

Day 8 Tottori (Jul 24): New Otani Tottori

Day 9 Kyoto (Jul 25): Prince Smart Inn Kyoto Shijo Omiya

Day 10 Kyoto (Jul 26): Prince Smart Inn Kyoto Shijo Omiya

*****Itinerary Disclaimer****: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*