



Educational Tours



Learn more
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Far East Journey

15 days | Summer 2023





Educational Tours

Far East Journey

Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; weShare, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily

Sightseeing: Beijing; Hiroshima; Kyoto; Tokyo

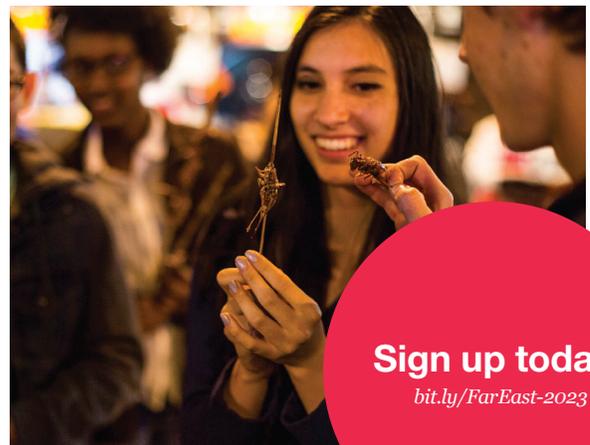
Entrances: Tiananmen Square; Forbidden City; Summer Palace; Dragon boat ride, Beijing; Cable car, Mutianyu; Great Wall of China, Mutianyu; Tea ceremony, Beijing; Acrobatics show, Beijing; Temple of Heaven Park; Tai chi exercise, Beijing; Yonghe Lamasery Temple; Calligraphy lesson, Beijing; Peace Memorial Park & Museum, Hiroshima; Fushimi Inari Shrine; Zen meditation experience, Kyoto; Indigo dyeing experience, Kyoto; Kiyomizu Temple; Golden Pavilion; Hakone National Park; Lake Ashi cruise; Mount Komagatake cable car; Suginami Animation Museum and workshop; Robot show, Tokyo; Harajuku shopping district; Meiji Shinto Shrine; Imperial Palace Plaza; Asakusa Kannon Temple; Tokyo Skytree; Sushi making class & lunch, Tokyo; Karaoke evening, Tokyo

Overnight stays:

- Beijing (4)
- Osaka (2)
- Kyoto (2)
- Hakone (1)
- Tokyo (4)

Questions? Contact the Group Leader:
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Enroll at: bit.ly/FarEast-2023



Sign up today

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Your itinerary

Day 1: Fly to China

Board your overnight flight to Beijing!

Day 2: Beijing

Arrive in Beijing

Touch down in Beijing. It was in this city that Chairman Mao proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949. Meet your bilingual Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay in Beijing, then transfer to your hotel.

Day 3: Beijing

Guided sightseeing of Beijing

Tour the Chinese capital, a treasure chest of imperial monuments, with an expert local guide. See Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world, and visit the Forbidden City, once accessible only to the Emperor. Get a close-up look at the golden-roofed Imperial Palace. Then visit the Summer Palace, a magnificent example of China's classical garden architecture that was once divided into three sections: one for court activities, one for imperial residence, and one for sightseeing. End your visit at the Summer Palace with a ride across Kunming Lake aboard a dragon boat! *(Please note: dragon boat ride is weather permitting)*

Peking duck dinner

Tonight you will be treated to the sumptuous dish that northern China is famous for: Peking duck! During this special feast, learn about the ritual preparation and savory side dishes that accompany this regional specialty.

Day 4: Beijing

Visit the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China

Travel northeast to Mutianyu to view one of the wonders of the world: the Great Wall of China. Its construction began in the 5th century B.C. as a defense against the Mongols: 300,000 people labored on it over several centuries. Today the wall extends across mountains and valleys for more than 3,000 miles, but many argue that it is currently only one-tenth of its original length! In fact, if one were to take all of the stone used in the Great Wall's construction, one could build another wall - 8 feet high - around the entire globe.

Visit a tea house

You'll better understand the importance of tea in Chinese culture when you visit a tea house. Not only for refreshment, Chinese tea holds a place in medicine, art, and even literature. Inhale the earthy aromas and experience the culture and custom surrounding this ancient pastime as you are served a traditional tea.

Acrobatics show

Witness a thrilling display by talented performers during tonight's acrobatics show. For more than 2,000 years, Chinese acrobats have been perfecting this unique form of performance art. Acrobatic troupes continue to dazzle audiences with unusual feats of balance and flexibility complemented by vibrant costumes, elaborate sets and traditional music.

Day 5: Beijing

Visit the Temple of Heaven

Built between 1406 and 1420, the complex of Taoist buildings that make up the Temple of Heaven cover 273 hectares and represent the pinnacle of Ming and Qing Dynasty architecture. In early morning when the air is filled with the fragrance of old cypresses, the temple grounds are full of people practicing a dozen or more forms of exercise, from qigong to martial arts, opera singing to disco.

Morning tai chi exercise

Start your day as the locals do: with a gentle series of stretching exercises in a local park led by an experienced practitioner.

Explore the Hongqiao Market

Located opposite the Temple of Heaven, this market is somewhat of an institution in Beijing. Come here to find antiques, jewelry, clothes, food, souvenirs, gifts, toys, shoes and more.

Visit the Yonghe Lamasery Temple

Featuring a combination of Han and Tibetan architectural styles, the Yonghe Lama Temple originally served as an imperial palace beginning in the Qing Dynasty. The temple and monastery of Tibetan Buddhism is currently home to about 70 Mongolian lamas, a Tibetan title for venerated spiritual masters and similar to the Sanskrit title "guru". The temple is considered the largest and most perfectly preserved lamasery in China.

Explore Old Beijing with your Tour Director

Follow the Hutong, which were built around the Forbidden City during the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, as you see where both the aristocrats and others lived during these ancient times. You will stop at the Drum Tower, which was built in 1272 during the Yuan Dynasty and Prince Gong's Mansion. Built in 1777-1787, it was home to one of Emperor Qianlong's favorite ministers.

Calligraphy lesson

The word calligraphy comes from the Greek for "written beauty," but the Chinese name for calligraphy translates to "the way of writing." In China, calligraphy is full of fluidity and dynamic life, and is an important and appreciated aspect of Chinese cultural arts.

Dinner with a local Chinese family

This evening students will be split into small groups to join local families in the Hutong area for dinner and get a glimpse into the daily life of these families.

Day 6: Beijing | Osaka

Fly to Osaka

Depart Beijing and fly to Osaka. Osaka is the third-largest city in Japan and was once the nation's capital. Meet your Japanese Tour Director at the airport then transfer into the city.

Walking tour of Dotonbori Canal Street

Take a short walking tour through the heart of Osaka. The famed Dotonbori district is a great place to experience the neon madness of Japanese pop culture. *(Time permitting, dependent on flight arrival)*

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Day 7: Osaka

Take a day trip to Hiroshima

Enjoy traveling on Japan's super-efficient, super-fast shinkansen bullet trains to Hiroshima. Remembered as the world's first victim of an atomic bomb attack, Hiroshima today is a thriving and prosperous city, with just a few stark reminders of that terrible day; August 6, 1945.

Guided sightseeing of Hiroshima

First visit the Peace Memorial Park, and the A-Bomb dome. The dome is what remains of the Industrial Promotion Hall after receiving a near direct hit by the atomic bomb. The shell of the building was left as a reminder of the tragedy. Peace Park is host to quite a few memorials, including the cenotaph which contains the names of all the known bomb victims and the Children's Peace Memorial. After, visit the Memorial Museum. Reflect back on what a momentous impact this event had on both Hiroshima and the rest of the world as you make your way through exhibits explaining the history of the city before the bomb, the lives of its citizens during the war, the development and decision behind the use of this particular nuclear weapon, and see firsthand the damages of the bomb through pictures, artifacts, and personal effects of victims.

Okonomiyaki dinner

Tonight enjoy a traditional Japanese meal in Hiroshima. Okonomiyaki is a mix between pizza and pancake. Various ingredients such as seafood, vegetables and meat can be mixed and placed as a topping. After dinner, return to Osaka by train.

Day 8: Osaka | Kyoto

Travel to Kyoto

Travel to Kyoto, home to imperial power in Japan for over 1,000 years. The city boasts over 2,000 temples and shrines, 3 palaces, 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 24 museums, and 37 universities and colleges making Kyoto the cultural, educational and religious center of the country.

Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine

Fushimi Inari Shrine is the most famous of several thousands of shrines dedicated to Inari across Japan. Inari is the Shinto god of rice, and foxes are thought to be his messengers. Therefore, many fox statues can be found at Inari shrines. Fushimi Inari Shrine is also famous for its many torii gates, offerings by worshippers, which cover the hiking trails of Inari-san, the mountain behind the shrine's main buildings.

Zen meditation experience

Take a deep breath and relax during a guided meditation!

Indigo dyeing experience

Take part in a traditional dyeing method known as *roketsu*. Choose your textile, sketch your design and trace it with wax before you submerge your textile in beautiful indigo dye. Be sure to leave room in your suitcase because you'll bring your creation home! (Note: Large groups may be split into smaller groups for this activity.)

Day 9: Kyoto

Guided sightseeing of Kyoto

Begin your guided sightseeing of Kyoto at Kiyomizu Temple. Located on Mount Otowa, Higashiyama-ku's most famous temple was founded in 798 and reconstructed in 1633. Most visitors come to marvel at its height which has become so famous in Japan that "jumping from the veranda of Kiyomizu Temple" means that a person is taking on some great and courageous adventure. After, visit Kinkaku-ji, the famous gold-gilded temple, which was constructed in 1397. It is perhaps the most photographed attraction in Japan with its gilded walls reflecting in the pond that surrounds it.

Walking tour of Arashiyama

This afternoon, spend some time exploring the Arashiyama district in Kyoto. You can see the Togetsukyo bridge which is a famous symbol of the area and opt to explore the bamboo groves near Tenryuji Temple. There are also cafes, restaurants and shops to explore.

Day 10: Kyoto | Hakone

Travel to Hakone

Board a bullet train to Hakone, an alpine city known for its crater lakes, botanical gardens, open-air museum and awe-inspiring views of Mt. Fuji.

Visit Hakone National Park

Today your group will visit the spectacular Hakone National Park. This experience begins before you even step foot inside the park, with a cruise across Lake Ashi! Once inside the park, ride a cable car up Mount Komagatake and take in the spectacular views of Mt. Fuji.

Day 11: Hakone | Tokyo

Travel to Tokyo

Drive north to the metropolis of Tokyo. Truly a modern marvel, Tokyo was almost completely destroyed by air raids in World War II, only to rebuild itself into one of the world's most prominent economic centers. With a population of over 9.2 million in the city center itself, Tokyo can be a bit overwhelming to the first-time visitor.

Visit the Suginami Animation Museum

Learn and enjoy the art and history of Japanese animation at this museum which has a collection of preserved and displayed original pictures, cells and other anime related objects. Special exhibits of the latest animations and a permanent exhibit of the Japanese animation industry is contained here. After exploring the museum try your own hand and drawing your own anime designs during a workshop.

Attend a robot show

Prepare for an exciting evening with a Japanese cabaret show at the Robot Restaurant in Tokyo's Kabukicho red-light district! Each show features fun - and sometimes outrageous - performances full of flashing lights, taiko drums and techno music. (Please note: Dinner is not included at the restaurant)

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Day 12: Tokyo

Guided sightseeing of Tokyo

The sights, sounds and smells of the largest city in Japan 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. Then visit the Imperial Palace, residence of the Imperial family, with its gigantic stone walls, a spacious plaza and a large garden open to the public. Finish your tour in Asakusa, Tokyo's amusement center. The 7th-century Asakusa Kannon Temple, dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy, is a five-story pagoda surrounded by shops, restaurants, theaters and cinemas.

Enjoy a Sumo-style hot pot dinner

Learn about sumo, a Japanese style of wrestling and the country's national sport, as you dine on a traditional sumo-style hot pot dinner.

Day 13: Tokyo

Visit Tokyo Skytree

Opened in 2012, this tower in Tokyo acts as not only a tourist destination but also a broadcast tower for this technologically advanced country. Take a trip up to the observation deck 350m (1150 feet) in the sky and marvel at the city below.

Participate in a sushi making class & lunch

Join an experienced chef at a local restaurant to learn the art of sushi making. Sushi making in Japan dates back to around the 9th century, and the dish is considered one of the country's best-known foods. You'll try your hand at crafting this well-known staple during your cooking class, where you'll learn to make both sushi rolls and nigiri, a Japanese dish that consists of seafood placed on top of rice. Then, sit down to enjoy the sushi lunch you have created.

Karaoke evening

Sing along with friends during a popular cultural night out in Japan: karaoke night! Unlike in the US, karaoke in Japan typically takes place in a private room with a small group. While English songs are always available, this is a great opportunity to show off your Japanese skills through music.

Day 14: Tokyo

Explore Tokyo on your own

The day is yours to explore the frenetic streets of Tokyo's most popular districts. The heart of Japan's pop-culture can be found along the streets of Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Harajuku. Just stops away from each other on the Yamanote subway line, they are some of the best spots in Tokyo for people-watching. Some may choose to organize a trip to Tokyo Disney for themselves!

Day 15: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

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“My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.”

–CHARLOTTE, PARENT

