

## 2024 SMCCCD Japan Community Travel Program

### Tentative Itinerary

#### Day 0

Sun 07 Apr

#### Departure

#### Day 1

Mon 08 Apr

#### Arrival

Arrive at the airport where our enthusiastic Adventure Leaders will be waiting for you at the arrivals gate, waving our Learning Adventure flag.

Private Coach for Airport Transfer

Transfer to your accommodation and once you are refreshed and settled, come together for a **trip briefing**. Your adventure leaders will explain details about your travel plans, give advice on how to adapt to the local culture and outline how you will stay safe during your travels.

#### Dinner

Take in the cityscape with an incredible view from atop the **Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building**.

Back to the hotel for some well deserved rest

#### Day 2

Tue 09 Apr

#### Breakfast

Enjoy a **half-day sightseeing tour of Tokyo**. You'll experience Japanese culture as you board the bus with our local guide and be part of your own private tour! Itineraries may vary according to the tour but typical stops may include Tokyo Tower, the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Skytree.

Coach for sightseeing tour, Public Transport in the afternoon

#### Lunch

# The Learning Adventure

## Day 3 Wed 10 Apr

Private Coach

Visit the beautiful **Meiji Shrine**, dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and his wife who, in the early 20th century, began Japan's transformation from a feudal to a modern society. Then, move on to the **Harajuku** shopping district to see pokémon, punks, goths and fashionistas – anything goes in Harajuku!

### Dinner

See the famous **Shibuya Crossing**. When the lights turn red at this busy intersection, pedestrians surge into the junction from all sides, like a floodgate opening.

### Breakfast

Visit the **Tokyo National Museum**. The museum houses one of the world's largest collections of art works and archaeological objects of Asia, with a special focus on Japanese artifacts

### Lunch

Walk through the district of **Asakusa**, where an atmosphere of ancient Tokyo survives. Discover the charming streets lined with traditional craft shops and street-food stalls and visit **Sensoji Temple**, one of Tokyo's most colorful and popular Buddhist temples.

### Dinner

Take a trip to **Akihabara**, nicknamed Japan's 'electric town' thanks to its postwar industry. Today, it's a cultural centre for anime and manga lovers, and is also home to Japan's most famous J-pop group, AKB48.

## Day 4

### Breakfast

# The Learning Adventure

Thu 11 Apr

Private Coach  
(morning)

## Day 5

Fri 12 Apr

Private coach transfers to Tokyo station, and all afternoon in Kyoto.

Experience the hustle and bustle of the world-famous **Tsukiji Fish Market** (outermarket only) – Learn how the Japanese demand for fresh seafood drives a huge fishing industry and try fresh fish from this morning’s catch! Next, explore the beautiful and historical **Hamarikyu Gardens** in Tokyo, which used to be part of the family residence of the Tokugawa shogun and which functioned as an outer fort for Edo Castle.

### Lunch

Enjoy an afternoon of free time!

### Dinner

Take the **Sumida River Cruise** for a breathtaking view of the Tokyo Skyline.

### Breakfast

Bullet Train Transfer from Tokyo to Kyoto

### Lunch

Visit the district of **Arashiyama**, on the Western outskirts of Kyoto. Navigate through Arashiyama’s lush bamboo forests, before starting the 30-minute climb up to Arashiyama Monkey Park. At the top, feed mischievous monkeys or simply enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto below. Move on to the Tenryu-Ji Temple. It’s the most important of Kyoto’s five great Zen temples, but the temple’s gardens are the real show-stopper. Designed in the 14th century, they have survived the fires and wars that damaged the buildings, and have remained in pristine condition for centuries. Whilst there, make sure to look into the Dharma Hall to see the dragon’s eyes on the mural – they’ll follow you as you walk past.

### Dinner

## Day 6 Sat 13 Apr

Private Coach

Witness the enchanting beauty of cherry blossoms in full bloom during the **Nijo Castle Sakura Illuminations** in Kyoto. As dusk descends, the castle's grounds are adorned with breathtaking light displays that illuminate the surrounding cherry blossom trees.

### Breakfast

Visit the **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, a major Shinto shrine complex on Mt Inari. To get onto the beautiful walking trails at the back of the shrine, you'll pass through corridors of thousands of bright red gates. The seemingly endless path of vibrant gates is an impressive setting and is one of the most famous images of Japan.

### Lunch

Walk through quaint side streets to the 1,200-year-old **Kiyomizu Dera Temple**, where you'll enjoy postcard-worthy views over Kyoto. Stroll around **Higashiyama District**, one of the city's best preserved historic districts, where you can get some souvenirs from traditional merchant shops. Next, treat your tastebuds at Nishiki Market, with over 100 stalls and shops lining the covered, narrow street, it has been nicknamed "Kyoto's kitchen".. Take a stroll through this thriving 400-year old market and taste some of the fresh and preserved treats.

### Dinner

Walk down the bustling **Hanamikoji Dori**, a street that runs from Sanjo Dori in the north to Kenninji Temple in the south. On both sides of the street are shrines and temples such as **Kenninji Temple** and Toto Temple, facilities for enjoying traditional performing arts such as the Gion Koubu Utamai Neriwa, as well as numerous restaurants and souvenir stores. Wandering around during the day is enjoyable, but we recommend walking around at night.

# The Learning Adventure

## Day 7 Sun 14 Apr

Public  
Transport,  
private coach  
transfer to  
and from  
stations

### Breakfast

Learn about the artistic movements in Kyoto gain an understanding of Japanese art by paying a visit to one of the four national museums across the country, the **National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto**.

### Lunch

Enjoy an afternoon of free time!

### Dinner

Transfer by bullet train from Kyoto to Hiroshima

## Day 8 Mon 15 Apr

Public  
Transport

### Breakfast

Learn about Hiroshima's tragic past connected with the atomic bomb - and its subsequent recovery and pacifist mission - at the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum**.

### Lunch

Enjoy an afternoon of free time!

### Dinner

# The Learning Adventure

## Day 9 Tue 16 Apr

Public  
Transport

Indulge in a shopping spree and discover the vibrant retail scene of Hiroshima. The city boasts a range of shopping districts, each with its unique charm and offerings.

### Breakfast

Explore **Miyajima**, an island where tame deer accompany you as you explore the stunning shrines, beaches, mountain, and waterfalls. You'll get an iconic glimpse at the UNESCO world heritage Itsukushima shrine and large torii gate. This sight is ranked as one of Japan's three best views.

### Lunch

For an incredible view of Miyajima Island and the surrounding waters, take the **ropeway** to the summit. Then, stretch your legs with the 2-hour hike back down to sea level.

### Dinner

Belt out some ballads at your own private **Japanese karaoke** spot. Sing in English - or show off your Japanese skills!

## Day 10 Wed 17 Apr

### Breakfast

Bullet Train from Hiroshima to Tokyo

# The Learning Adventure

Private coach  
to and from  
station

**Day 11**  
Thu 18 Apr

## Lunch

Enjoy an afternoon of free time!

## Dinner

Suggestion: Head over to the Roppongi Hills for a taste of Japan's electrifying night life (ID required – legal drinking age in Japan is 20 years old).

## Breakfast

Departure day