



# Discovering Kansai:

## A Student Tour of Culture and History

Embark on an unforgettable 10-day journey through the Kansai region of Japan, designed specifically for students eager to immerse themselves in the country's rich culture and captivating history. From ancient castles and serene temples to bustling markets and modern cityscapes, this tour offers a diverse range of experiences that will leave you with lasting memories and a deeper understanding of Japan.



## Day 1: Arrival in Wakayama - Castle and Market

Your adventure begins upon arrival at Kansai International Airport, where a private bus will whisk you away to Wakayama (approximately 1.5 hours). First stop, the vibrant Kuroshio Market, where you can sample local delicacies and witness an exciting tuna auction. Then, step back in time as you explore Wakayama Castle, delving into its fascinating history and admiring its stunning architecture. After checking into your Wakayama City hotel, enjoy some free time to unwind and explore at your own pace.

# Day 2: Zen and Soy Sauce in Wakayama

And

Immerse yourselves in the tranquility of Mt. Koya, a UNESCO World Heritage site and center of Shingon Buddhism. Participate in Zen meditation and sutra copying to experience the spiritual heart of Japan. In the afternoon, experience Japanese food culture with a visit to Yuasa Soy Sauce Brewery. Finally, experience true Japanese culture by spending the night with a homestay with a local family.



## Day 3: Natural Wonders of Wakayama & Onsen Experience



Start your day with local interaction! Spend time with your homestay family before saying goodbye and venturing to the coast to witness the breathtaking Senjojiki and Sandanbeki rock formations, sculpted by the powerful ocean waves. In the evening, unwind at a traditional hot spring hotel in Wakayama and immerse yourself in the soothing waters of a 1,000-year-old onsen (hot spring), a quintessential Japanese experience.



## Day 4: Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage and Nachi Falls

Embark on a trek along a section of the Kumano Kodo, an ancient pilgrimage route and UNESCO World Heritage Site, surrounded by lush forests and serene landscapes. Witness the awe-inspiring Nachi Taisha Shrine and the cascading Nachi Falls, one of Japan's tallest waterfalls. Check into your hotel in Mie and reflect on the spiritual and natural beauty of the day.

# Day 5: Spiritual and Cultural Immersion in Mie

Delve into Japanese religious culture with a visit to Ise Jingu Shrine, one of the most sacred Shinto shrines in Japan. Afterwards, take a stroll through Okage Yokochō, a charming traditional townscape that recreates the atmosphere of the Edo and Meiji periods. Conclude your day with a unique pearl cultivation experience at Mikimoto Pearl Island, learning about the fascinating process of pearl farming.





## Day 6: Kyoto - Temples, Kimonos, and Tea

Travel to Kyoto by bus (approximately 2 hours) and prepare to be captivated by the city's rich history and culture. Begin with a visit to Kiyomizu-dera Temple, famous for its wooden stage and panoramic views. Immerse yourself further by experiencing a traditional kimono dressing and tea ceremony, gaining insight into the elegance and artistry of Japanese traditions. Check into your hotel and enjoy free time to explore Kyoto's enchanting streets.

# Day 7: Zen Gardens and Bamboo Forests of Kyoto

Today, explore the Zen culture of Kyoto with visits to Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and Ryoan-ji Temple, famous for its enigmatic rock garden. Immerse yourself in the serenity of Arashiyama, strolling through its iconic bamboo forest and crossing the picturesque Togetsukyo Bridge. Finally, experience Japanese film culture at Toei Kyoto Studio Park, a working film set where you might catch a glimpse of samurai or geisha.



# Day 8: Osaka - Castle, Cuisine, and City Exploration

Take a short train ride to Osaka (approximately 30 minutes) and discover the city's vibrant energy and modern attractions. Visit Osaka Castle, a symbol of the city's resilience and grandeur. Learn to prepare takoyaki, a local street food favorite, during a hands-on cooking experience. In the evening, immerse yourself in the dazzling lights and bustling atmosphere of Dotonbori and Shinsaibashi, Osaka's premier entertainment and shopping districts.



# Days 9 & 10: Free Day in Osaka and Departure

Enjoy a free day in Osaka to pursue your own interests, whether it's exploring more of the city's culinary scene, visiting museums, or indulging in some retail therapy.

On Day 10, transfer to Kansai International Airport (approximately 1 hour) for your departure, filled with memories of your incredible Kansai adventure.

