

Sensoji temple in Asakusa

Tour Code: KNAJ25



Rochester's sister city tour to

Japan

August 7 - 14, 2025

OPTIONAL HIROSHIMA
PRE-TOUR
Aug. 4 – 8, 2025

Akita



Hosted by:
Mayor Kim Norton



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Torii Gate at Hiroshima



*Historic funaya
boathouses in Kyoto*



OPTIONAL PRE TOUR

Day 1: August 4, 2025 • Depart USA

Our journey begins as we board our flights for Hiroshima Japan. We cross the international date line in the middle of the Pacific, so our arrival is two days later (local time). Plenty of time for a few movies, a couple of meals and a nice nap.

Days 2: Tuesday August 5, 2025 • Hiroshima

Upon arrival, we meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel with time to relax from our flight and freshen up before dinner at a local restaurant. **D**

Day 3: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 • Hiroshima

We visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, which was the epicenter of the first atomic bomb attack during WWII. We tour the museum and the many monuments in the park. This afternoon we visit Hiroshima Castle and Museum of Art. We have time to enjoy the Hondori Shopping Street. *(Note: There is a ceremony on August 6 to mark the detonation of the bomb.)* **B, D**

Day 4: Thursday, August 7, 2025 • Hiroshima

Mijajima Island is a small island a short distance outside of Hiroshima. We take a short ferry to the island where feral deer greet us. We tour the shrine at the entrance to the island and take the ropeway up to the top of Mount Misen. There is time on our own to visit the aquarium, the temple site on the side of the mountain, or enjoy a leisurely lunch of grilled oysters (a local delicacy). This evening, we return to the city

Imperial Palace, Tokyo



for a group dinner, and possibly a baseball game if the team is in town. **B, D**

Day 5: Friday, August 8, 2025 • Tokyo

We check out of our hotel and take the bullet train to Tokyo where we meet up with the rest of our group. **B**

MAIN TOUR

Day 1: August 7, 2025 • Depart USA

Our journey begins as we board our flights for Tokyo, Japan. We cross the international date line in the middle of the Pacific, so our arrival is two days later (local time). Plenty of time for a few movies, a couple of meals and a nice nap.

Day 2: Friday, August 8, 2025 • Tokyo

Upon arrival we meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel in Tokyo with time to relax from our flight and freshen up before dinner at a local restaurant. We meet up with the early arrivals on the pre tour. **B, D**

Day 3: Saturday, August 9, 2025 • Tokyo

Today, we explore the magnificent Imperial Palace East Gardens and soak in the serene beauty of the heart of Japan's imperial history. Then we venture to the lush and tranquil Meiji Shrine in Harajuku. We stroll through the forested paths and experience a moment of peace at this revered Shinto shrine. The Meiji Shrine, a perfect blend of historical charm and natural beauty. We continue to the bustling district of Ginza for a leisurely lunch on our own and some time to explore the shops. This afternoon we visit the Edo-Tokyo Museum in Ryogoku and learn about the rich history and vibrant culture of Tokyo from the Edo period to the present day. **B, D**

Day 4: Sunday, August 10, 2025 • Tokyo

Our day begins as we visit one of Tokyo's historic districts, starting with a visit to Asakusa. Starting at the iconic Kaminarimon (Thunder Gate), we stroll through Nakamise Shopping Street where we admire the towering two-storied Hozomon Gate and the striking five-storied pagoda before reaching the centerpiece of the complex, the Senso-ji Buddhist Temple, a revered site first built in 645 AD. We continue to the Asakusa Shinto Shrine, a beautifully preserved structure dating back to 1649. Afterward, we enjoy some free time to wander through the charming side streets, savor a leisurely lunch, and capture memorable photos. We

Sensoji Temple



return to the hotel and later, we enjoy dinner in Shinjuku, where the dazzling neon lights provide a spectacular backdrop. **B, D**

Day 5: Monday, August 11, 2025 • Akita

This morning, we board the Shinkansen Bullet Train for Akita. The 370-mile ride takes approximately four hours, so settle in with a good book or movie. You may want to visit the dining car for a snack, or order from one of the vendors passing through the train. Upon arrival we renew friendships and form new friendships in our sister city. **B, D**

Day 6: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 • Akita

This morning, we tour the city's Senshu Park and Museum of Art. In the afternoon, we have some demonstrations of Akita's heritage - the soba noodle, kiritanpo rice skewers, lacquerware, and the Namahage Ogre. **B, D**

Day 7: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 • Akita

We spend one final day with our friends in Akita. Later, we have time to reflect on our journey over dinner. **B, D**

Days 8: Thursday, August 14, 2025 • Return

We say "Sayonara" to Japan, as we head to Akita Airport for our flights back to the USA. Our hearts are full of the memories we made and friendships formed in Japan.

Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast, D=Dinner

Register: tinyurl.com/KNAJ2025

Use Code:KNAJ25

Tokyo skyline and Mount Fuji



Tour Price: \$4,779* per person

Includes estimated air from Minneapolis

**Price is based on a minimum of 20 paying participants, double occupancy*

Single supplement = \$660

Hiroshima Pre-Tour: \$1,889

Pre-Tour Single Supplement: \$420

Your Tour Includes:

- Estimated **Roundtrip** airfare from Minneapolis to Tokyo with return from Akita. Pre-tour is from MSP to Hiroshima and return from Akita, related taxes and fees (\$1,900)
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Pre-tour includes bullet train from Hiroshima to Kyoto
- Bullet Train from Tokyo to Akita
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in superior tourist and moderate first-class hotels
- **Meals per the itinerary**
- Services of a **professional tour manager**
- Local step-on guides for city tours and major attractions
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person at hotels where available
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services except as noted below

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals not indicated on itinerary
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- **End of tour gratuities** for tour manager and coach driver
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. *(This insurance is available and offered by Ed-Ventures.)*

Payment Schedule:

Deposit with registration: \$1,000 per person

2nd deposit due Feb. 7, 2025 \$1,000 per person

Final payment due April 8, 2025: Balance per person

Invoices will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 120 days before departure a \$100/person administrative fee plus any airfare & land penalties will be assessed. From 119-31 days, a \$300/person cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling 30 days or less prior to departure will receive no refund.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

I grant Ed-Ventures, Inc and its agents the right to take photographs and videos of me during the tour and any meetings related to the tour before or after the tour. I authorize Ed-Ventures Inc, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



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