



BISHOP SEABURY ACADEMY TRIP TO JAPAN

March 17- 26, 2025

Day by Day Itinerary

<p>Day 1: Monday March 17th</p>	<p>DEPART USA</p> <p>Fly from MCI to Tokyo on United Airlines</p> <p>Departing MCI at 6am, will require each traveler to be at the airport by 4am for international check-in.</p> <p>Make sure you have your signed passports IN HAND at check-in. Connect through SFO and fly overnight to Tokyo!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight In Air</p>
<p>Day 2: Tuesday March 18th</p>	<p>ARRIVE TOKYO (D)</p> <p>Arrive in Haneda International Airport Tokyo around 3pm.</p> <p>Your meet-and-greet guide will escort you to the hotel for your check-in.</p> <p>After check-in, you will explore Shibuya district. Shibuya is one of the 23 city wards of Tokyo, but often refers to just the popular shopping and entertainment area found around Shibuya</p>

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	<p>Station. In this regard, Shibuya is one of Tokyo's most colorful and busy districts, packed with shopping places that you will discover. While in Shibuya, you will also see the famous Shibuya Crossing. It is said that in 30 minutes, the equivalent of 45,000 people cross here.</p> <p>Welcome dinner at Gonpachi Nishi Azabu</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Tokyo: Shinjuku Prince Hotel</p>
<p>Day 3: Wednesday March 19th</p>	<p>TOKYO (B, L, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Meet with your English-speaking guide at the hotel reception and transfer for Asakusa by private coach.</p> <p>Discover Asakusa – one of the few remaining old towns in Tokyo that still has the atmosphere of Edo. Explore the grounds that surround the temple complex either by checking the local shops along Nakamise-dori or by visiting Senso-ji Temple. Senso-ji, is the oldest temple in Tokyo. It was built in 645, dedicated to Kannon, bodhisattva of mercy. At the entrance to the arcade is the Kaminarimon, or Thunder Gate, with its lantern and statues, the symbol of Asakusa. The Asakusa district, which extends along the Sumida River, will immerse you in the unique universe of popular Tokyo where the spirit of old Edo, bathed in tradition, still lives.</p> <p>For lunch, you will be able to participate in a Sushi Cooking class. There, participants learn to craft sushi, a classic Japanese dish featuring vinegared rice and diverse ingredients. Expert chefs guide the sessions, addressing rice preparation, choosing</p>

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	<p>fish, mastering sushi rolling methods, creating appealing presentations, making sauces, and sharing cultural insights. At the end of this lesson, you will savor what you created.</p> <p>You will then head up to Akihabara district. It is also called Akiba after a former local shrine. It is a district in central Tokyo that is famous for its many electronics shops and has also gained recognition as the center of Japan's otaku (diehard fan) culture. Many shops and establishments devoted to anime and manga are dispersed among the electronic stores in the district.</p> <p>Then, transport to Odaiba where you will be able to see the Unicorn Gundam. It is a life-sized statue of the iconic RX-0 Unicorn Gundam from the "Mobile Suit Gundam Unicorn" anime. The statue is nearly 20 meters tall. With its intricate lighting effects and dynamic movements, it is a sensational encounter.</p> <p>Finally, finish the day with a visit of the Tokyo TeamLab Planets. This is an immersive digital art museum created by the teamLab collective. Renowned for its inventive digital art installations, the museum harmoniously fuses technology, art and nature. Exhibitions feature interactivity, reacting dynamically to movement through a captivating interplay of light, sound and projection, for a unique experience.</p> <p><u>Dinner at TY Harbor.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Tokyo: Shinjuku Prince Hotel</p>
<p>Day 4: Thursday March 20th</p>	<p>TOKYO- NIKKO -TOKYO (B, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p>

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	<p>Meet with your English-speaking guide at the hotel reception and transfer for Nikko by private coach.</p> <p><i>Nikko is a town at the entrance to Nikko National Park, most famous for Toshogu, Japan's most lavishly decorated shrine and the mausoleum of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate.</i></p> <p>Arriving in Nikko, you will do sightseeing at Toshogu shrine complex. Built as a mausoleum for Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate that ruled Japan for over 250 years, this lavish shrine complex consists of over a dozen Shinto and Buddhist buildings. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Lunch under your own arrangement.</p> <p>You next stop will be at the Lake Chuzenji, a scenic lake in the mountains above the town of Nikko. Then, proceed to Kegon Waterfall, the almost 100 meters tall and most famous of Nikko's many beautiful waterfalls. You will go to upper observation platform at the waterfall's base, which is reach via a paid elevator ride.</p> <p>Dinner at Momo Paradise</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Tokyo: Shinjuku Prince Hotel</p>
<p>Day 5: Friday March 21st</p>	<p>TOKYO – KYOTO (B, L, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p>

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	<p>Meet with your English-speaking guide at the hotel reception and transfer for Tokyo station by private coach.</p> <p>Board the Shinkansen, famous bullet train, to Kyoto station. For experimenting deeply the Japanese culture, you will have the opportunity to eat a bento lunch box in the train.</p> <p><i>Kyoto is the cultural capital of Japan. Former residence of Emperors and the first shogun until 1868, this provincial town, although modern, jealously perpetuates its cult of tradition. The city is a mix of modern neighborhoods with countless islands of traditional monuments. Not to mention the private residences with their gardens and tea pavilions, where ceremonies of floral arrangements, incense, dance and music on the lute and harp are still commonly practiced.</i></p> <p>Begin your journey in Kyoto with one of the most unusual Shinto shrines in Japan, Fushimi Inari. It is composed by thousands of vermilion torii gates following trails inside the forests of Mt Inari. The Shrine, also featured in “Memoirs of a Geisha”. It is very famous for the impressive contrast and mystical atmosphere created by the colors of the Torii and those of the surrounding nature.</p> <p>Then, visit the Kiyomizu temple - dera, a large temple emblem of the city and one of the most beautiful buildings in Kyoto. Located on the side of Mount Ottawa, overlooking Kyoto, this 1,200-year-old temple has as its centerpiece its main hall supported by eighteen 400-year-old wooden beams, whose structure supporting the temple is highly resistant to earthquakes. At 13m high, the veranda, projecting from the Main Hall, offers</p>
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	<p>you an astounding panoramic view of Kyoto whatever the season, because the temple adapts perfectly to each color of the landscape.</p> <p>After enjoying the view, your guide will take you out for a stroll in Gion District. It is known as the “geisha district” because it is one of the city’s hanamachi where geisha live and work. The highlight will be the Hanami-koji, the most popular street in Gion district where lavish chaya (lit. teahouses) are lined up. The local restaurants are mostly found in well-preserved machiya (old houses) and serve the ever-inviting kaiseki ryori (traditional Japanese multi-course meal).</p> <p>Dinner at Kyoto Modern Terrace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Kyoto: Renka-no-Yu On-Yado</p>
<p>Day 6: Saturday March 22nd</p>	<p>KYOTO (B, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Meet with your English-speaking guide at the hotel reception and transfer to Kinkaku-ji by private coach.</p> <p>Start the day by visiting Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion. Originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun, after his death it became a Buddhist Temple at his request, and is now one of Kyoto’s most famous temples.</p> <p>You will head to Nijo Castle, an ornamental castle that was originally built to serve as the private villa of a powerful feudal lord. The main building was completed in the early 1600s and</p>

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	<p>has since then been known for its Momoyama-style architecture, decorated sliding doors, and “chirping nightingale” floors.</p> <p>Lunch under your own arrangement.</p> <p>You will continue with the visit of the International Manga Museum that celebrates manga art and culture. Highlights include a vast manga collection with an open-stack system, interactive reading spaces, workshops, and events. The museum serves as an International Manga Research Center, features a visually striking "Manga Wall". Visitors can also explore a gift shop for manga-related merchandise.</p> <p>At the end of the day, visit Kodai-ji, one of Kyoto’s most famous Zen Buddhist temples. Although the sub-temples of Kodai-ji are usually closed to the public, special access has been granted for today’s tea ceremony (1.5 hours activity).</p> <p>Enter the stunning 400-year-old temple and stroll around its beautiful Zen garden. Then meet with a tea master who will explain about Japanese tea and the relationship between the ceremony and Zen Buddhism. Then the ceremony begins, with the master explaining each movement and its meaning in detail.</p> <p>During the ceremony, join the teacher to make tea, following the motions as he demonstrates. Once ready, sample some traditional confectioneries before sipping the tea to counter its bitter flavors.</p> <p>Dinner at Kyoto-Gatten restaurant.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Kyoto: Renka-no-Yu On-Yado</p>
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<p>Day 7: Sunday March 23rd</p>	<p>KYOTO – NARA – KYOTO (B, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Meet with your English-speaking guide at the hotel reception and depart to Nara by private coach.</p> <p><i>For 74 years during the 8th century Nara was Japan’s capital and many of the temples and shrines built at that time still remain.</i></p> <p>Visit the Todai-ji temple, an immense complex of religious buildings directly from the heritage of the Nara era, during which the city was the capital. The most notable building is the Daibutsu-den, which is the tallest wooden structure in the world. It houses a colossal Buddha. Its founder aspired to place Buddhism as the state religion, and Todai-ji was the guarantor, so it had to be impressive. Unfortunately this project placed the very young capital in a dangerous position.</p> <p>Then, you will head to Nara Park, a large park in the center of the city. Established in 1880, it is the location of many of Nara's main attractions. It is also home to hundreds of freely roaming deer. Considered the messengers of the gods, Nara's over 1000 deer have become a symbol of the city and have even been designated as a natural treasure. Deer crackers are for sale around the park, and some deer have learned to bow to visitors to ask to be fed.</p> <p>Nara's deer are surprisingly tame, although they can be aggressive if they think you will feed them, so make sure not to tease them with food. They are accustomed to humans who are only allowed to feed them “deer crackers (shika senbei)” sold in packs of about 10 for 200 yen.</p>
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	<p>Lunch under your own arrangement.</p> <p>In the beginning of the afternoon, you will then visit the Kasuga Taisha shrine which was founded at the same time as the ancient capital of Japan. It serves as the mausoleum for the famous Fujiwara family, some of whose members were emperors during that period. The shrine is surrounded by over 3,000 lanterns, all donated from across Japan. This site is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It can be called the Shrine of Wisteria due to the special connection the Fujiwara family had with this flower.</p> <p>Return to Kyoto.</p> <p>Dinner at the Sodoh (evening with geisha).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Kyoto: Renka-no-Yu On-Yado</p>
<p>Day 8: Monday March 24th</p>	<p>KYOTO- OSAKA (B, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Meet your English-speaking guide at the reception of your hotel and depart for Osaka by private coach.</p> <p><i>Osaka is the third largest city in Japan. Since ancient times, its ideal location made it a merchant city which prospered to such an extent that it was called: "the pantry of the nation". Its commercial power comes from the fact that the Shoguns built an imposing castle in its center, providing security and power, keystones to success in business.</i></p> <p>Your first visit of the day will be the Osaka Castle. The magnificent fortress that is Osaka Castle is undoubtedly one of the most famous in Japan. Built at the end of the 16th century by the reunifier of Japan, it allowed the city to prosper.</p>

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	<p>Unfortunately, the castle dungeon was destroyed due to a war between powerful Japanese lords. Its ruins had several military uses, including a reserve of weapons which reduced it to ashes again. Rebuilt in 1928, it was again used as a weapons cache, and American bombs gutted it. It was renovated in 1995, and is now a museum which traces its fabulous history, as well as the one of the region.</p> <p>Lunch under your own arrangement.</p> <p>Visit the bustling Dotonbori Street, certainly the busiest center of the capital of Kansai. This street has the particularity of being built on the edge of a canal, giving the street an air of Venice, but in a Japanese style. Formerly a pleasure district, the street today attracts all the great Japanese restaurants in the region, which has earned Osaka the name of capital of gastronomy. In the evening, the light from the neon lights of these different brands is such that you have the impression of being in the middle of the day!</p> <p>Dinner at Ajino Daimaru Shinsekai</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Osaka: Hotel Plaza</p>
<p>Day 9: Tuesday March 25th</p>	<p>OSAKA (B, D)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Meet your English-speaking guide at the reception of your hotel and depart for The Umeda Sky Building by private coach.</p> <p>It is a spectacular skyscraper built in 1993. Composed of two 40-story towers, they are connected by a deck housing an observation platform that offers a unique 360-degree view from 170 meters above ground.</p>

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	<p>Unfortunately, it doesn't have the bold shape originally envisioned by its architects due to the severe financial crisis that hit the Japanese real estate market in the early 1990s.</p> <p>Then you will transfer to the Tempozan area. You will be able to enjoy at your own pace and will visit the Tempozan Harbor Village. The complex features a variety of attractions, including souvenir shops, restaurants with local specialties, a Ferris wheel, one of the biggest aquariums in Japan and sightseeing cruises, ensuring a full day of enjoyment for all visitors.</p> <p>Lunch under your own.</p> <p>Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate this last day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Overnight Osaka: Hotel Plaza</p>
<p>Day 10: Wednesday March 26th</p>	<p>OSAKA -USA (B)</p> <p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p> <p>Meet your English-speaking assistant at the reception of your hotel and depart for Kansai International Airport by private coach.</p> <p>Depart KIX by your flight. Connect through SFO.</p> <p>Arrive Kansas City approx.. 9:49 pm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">WELCOME HOME</p>

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