

“Tokyo: the Musical Journey”

TOUR OBJECTIVE

To allow students to explore the practice of traditional Japanese music and how Western musical influences have impacted the development of music practice and consumption in Tokyo.

Highlights: Music, Cultural Exchange, Arts & Culture, Sightseeing

FOCAL POINT

How do the practice of musical instruments in Japan connect its practitioners to Japanese culture and society, and how are Western forms of music adapted into this practice?

IN DETAIL

This tour provides an in-depth look at the practice and proliferation of music in Tokyo, one of the world’s busiest crossroads and a beacon for both Japanese and Western culture. Students will have the opportunity to try out and explore traditional Japanese musical instruments such as the taiko drum and the koto and learn the roles of these instruments in society. The tour also includes a school exchange with local student musicians, so that students can engage in dialogue with their contemporaries and participate in musical exchange first-hand. Finally, Western styles of music such as classical music, jazz, and hip hop have all heavily influenced the culture of Tokyo and beyond, and have integrated themselves into sounds of the city.

The unique focus of this tour will allow students to dive deeper into the metropolis of Tokyo and get to know it on a far more personal level than the average tourist. It is most suitable for musically inclined student groups and traveling student ensembles.



Tour includes airfare to/from LAX, all ground transportation, all breakfasts and dinners, all activities, travel insurance, and all accommodations for the tour, with the guidance of a professional guide and supervision of adult chaperones. Does not include lunches and souvenirs.

Questions or Concerns? Contact us at PacSet Tours!

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PACset 

ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure!

We prepare to embark on the journey of a lifetime! We depart for Japan from LAX.



Day 2: Arrive in Tokyo

We will arrive at the airport in Tokyo in the afternoon. Time to get money exchanged, then hop on over to the hotel. The group will enjoy a casual dinner near the hotel, then get plenty of rest for the coming days!

Day 3: Rhythm and Tradition

In the morning, we will visit Tokyo's oldest and arguably most impressive temples, Senso-ji in Asakusa, Japan. Take a leisurely stroll down the traditional shopping street Nakamise-dori, sampling different sweet treats, before arriving to the main entrance of the temple, an iconic Tokyo landmark. After lunch, we'll get our first taste of traditional Japanese music by participating in a [taiko workshop](#), traditional Japanese drumming. We'll round off the day with a visit to Tokyo Sky Tree for a beautiful city view.

Day 4: Totoro Scramble

We'll visit the charming area of Mitaka for some breakfast bites before taking a leisurely stroll to the coveted Ghibli Museum, the studio responsible for creating some of Japan's most highly-regarded animated films. We'll break for a picnic lunch at the local park before heading off to wander one of the city's busiest neighborhoods – Shibuya! We'll visit the Hachiko statue and cross the famous Scramble Crossing, before visiting Fab Café for some hands-on, high-tech crafting fun.

Day 5: East meets West, Part One

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the various Japanese traditional instruments with a visit to the Japanese traditional music department at the [Tokyo University of the Arts](#) in Ueno. We'll enjoy lunch around Ueno Park and then head into one of the adjacent museums including Tokyo National Museum and Tokyo Metropolitan Arts Museum. In the evening we will enjoy a traditional Japanese music performance.

Day 6: Part Two

We'll have some free time in the morning after breakfast to do some local exploring before heading over to a local high school with our instruments to meet our peers from



across the world! Students will meet the school's music clubs and groups, have the chance to get to know each other over lunch, and engage in a musical cultural exchange in the afternoon. After bidding our new friends farewell, we'll head back for a delicious Okonomiyaki dinner!

Day 7: Fuji-san

Today is our day to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city and take in some of Japan's natural wonders. We'll head over for a day trip to Yamanashi to catch a view of the famous Mount Fuji. In the Fuji Five Lakes area, we can also experience the historical Edo village display at [Iyashi no Sato](#), or if in season, the [Shibazakura Festival](#).

Day 8: Hip and Happenin'

We can't leave Tokyo without experiencing its famous quirky fashion center, Harajuku. We'll start our morning off at Meiji Jingu before heading off to glimpse at cutting-edge, quirky Harajuku fashion. In the afternoon, we'll hop a train to Kichijoji to catch an afternoon jazz session and learn about the development of jazz music in Japan.



Day 9: The Last Hoorah

Let's finish Tokyo off with a bang! We'll take the Hotaluna Boat Cruise from Asakusa to Odaiba to catch a view of Tokyo from the water. Then it's time to find those last minute cute souvenirs at Diver City and catch some delicious eats. In the afternoon we'll tackle the beastly Shinjuku Station before closing off our adventure with a concert at [Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall](#).

Day 10: Return

After our amazing week of discovery, we return home happy, safe and sound to our families!