



Japan Study Tour 2010

DRAFT ITINERARY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Date	Activity	Overnight
DAY 1 Tues, Apr 6 (Meals on plane,D)	Depart Australian ports for Taipei. Brisbane flight departs at 1.05pm and arrives in Taipei at 8.05pm. Spend night at hotel near the airport before short morning flight to Tokyo.	Taipei
DAY 2 Wed, Apr 7 (B,L,D)	Morning flight to Tokyo to arrive at 1.25pm. Clear customs and head to our hotel to settle in before a city tour in the afternoon. Visit traditional area of Asakusa with the famous Kamunari-mon gate and Senjosi temple. Hopefully, we will have the timing right to view the cherry blossoms at their peak, although this varies widely with the season. Evening briefing by Austrade on Japanese agriculture.	Tokyo
DAY 3 Thurs, Apr 8 (B, L)	Early morning option to visit the Tsukiji fish market, the biggest in the world, handling more than 2000 tonnes of 450 types of seafood daily. Visit companies importing Australian soybeans and beef from central Queensland. Then free time to explore one of the world's greatest cities.	Tokyo
DAY 4 Fri, Apr 9 (B, L, D)	Coach out of Tokyo to the feudal-era town of Hakone for lunch with a view of Mt Fuji, then on to the Fuji Five Lake area near the foot of Mt Fuji and hope for some clear viewing weather for the magnificent mountain. Head up to the Kawaguchiko 5th station of Mt Fuji, one of the most popular starting points for climbing the mountain. Then back to Tokyo.	Tokyo
DAY 5 Sat, Apr 10 (B,)	In the morning, catch the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Nagano in the Japanese Alps. Meet our coach and transfer to the Jigokudani Wild Monkey Park, an incredible opportunity to interact with monkeys in the wild as they bathe in the hot springs. Continue on to Matsumoto with a visit to the castle in the afternoon.	Matsumoto
DAY 6 Sun, Apr 11 (B, L, D)	Continue by coach into the Japanese Alps to Takayama, a breathtaking town surrounded by 3000 metre peaks. Afternoon visit to rice fields then to one of the town's famous sake breweries. Sightseeing tour of Takayama.	Takayama
DAY 7 Mon, Apr 12 (B, L, D)	Visit to a Hida beef cowshed. Afternoon board an express train to Nagoya where we change to the Shinkansen (bullet train) bound for the beautiful city of Kyoto, which was the Japanese capital for over 1000 years.	Kyoto
DAY 8 Tues, Apr 13 (B, L, D)	Tour of this beautiful city including Nijo Castle, the Imperial Palace. Golden Pavilion, Kiyomizu temple and Marayuma Park, followed by Hozugawa river boat cruise. Free afternoon to enjoy the prettiest city in Japan. In the evening there are plenty of great restaurants along Pontocho Street and nightlife in the Gion area.	Kyoto
DAY 9 Wed, Apr 14 (B)	Visit to Kobe Wagyu cattle farm. Kobe beef refers to beef from the black Tajima-ushi breed of Wagyu cattle, raised according to strict tradition in Hyogo Prefecture. They are raised on only 262 farms, some with as few as five cows. Each animal is massaged daily and fed a strictly controlled diet including large quantities of beer and sake mash. Kobe beef BBQ lunch. Then continue on to Osaka.	Osaka
DAY 10 Thurs, Apr 15 (B)	Full day trip to Hiroshima via bullet train. Visit car manufacturers making flex fuel cars and a new biofuel production facility. Japan has ambitious targets for replacing oil with biofuel over the next 20 years. Visit the Peace Park and the A-bomb museum.	Osaka
Day 11 Fri, Apr 16 (B,L,D)	Morning catch the Shinkansen to Nagoya where we will be met by a coach and taken for a tour of the Toyota motor plant where Landcruisers are put together. Then continue to Nagoya airport for a flight to Obihiro in the highly productive agricultural region of Tokachi on Hokkaido.	Obihiro
Day 12 Sat, Apr 17 (B,L,D)	Hokkaido is Japan's 'frontier' island with the lowest population, beautiful national parks and some of the best agricultural areas. Farm visits in the largest cropping region of Japan which is also a major beef and dairy region.	Obihiro
Day 13 Sun, Apr 18 (B,L,D)	Travel west with afternoon farm visits on the way to Sapporo. Evening farewell dinner.	Sapporo
Day 14 Mon, Apr 19 (B)	Visit the Sapporo ag college farm before heading to the airport for afternoon departure direct to Taipei and Australia.	