



Restoration Short Term Missions

Japan

July 16th-26th, 2026

This trip exists to continue our church partnership with Tsukuba Grace Chapel, a local church in Tsukuba, Japan. Our hope through this partnership is to provide mutual encouragement and support as we make disciples of all nations. Japan is the second largest unreached people group, meaning that the majority of Japanese people will die without ever coming into contact with a Christian. Tsukuba Grace Chapel's desire is for all the people of Tsukuba to the ends of the earth to know Jesus.

Requirements & Pre-Trip Trainings

Must have a passport with at least six months of validity remaining, starting from the day of departure, to be accepted on the trip. Missing pre-trip trainings are not allowed except for extenuating circumstances.

In the Pre-Trip Trainings, we will cover the following:

- Meeting #1 - 1/25/26 - 5:00-7:00 PM
 - Support raising
 - Gospel for all people
 - Team Building
 - Prayer
- Meeting #2 - 3/22/26 - 5:00-6:30 PM
 - How to Share my Testimony
 - Japan Culture Crash Course
 - Team Building
 - Prayer
- Meeting #3 - 6/28/26 - 5:00-6:30 PM
 - Pre Departure Meeting
 - Safety
 - Expectations
 - Logistics
 - Final Questions

Pre-trip trainings are designed to help prepare you for the trip. You will get out of the trainings as much as you put into the trainings. You will be expected to share a testimony and/or Bible Story at least once during the trip.

Cultural Norms & Expectations

Japan is primarily an honor/shame culture. Japan culturally follows the religions of Buddhism and Shinto, but the majority of people in Japan are unreligious. If these phrases do not make any sense to you, don't worry—we'll cover them in one of our pre-trip trainings.

What you need to know:

- Japanese society is group-oriented. Conformity, even in appearance, is a common characteristic of the Japanese. The general rule is to act similar to, or in harmony with the crowd.
- Politeness is considered extremely important. However, the politeness of Japanese culture may come off as cold. Don't expect to have conversations or to make eye contact with strangers. Expect silence on trains and in elevators. This is all done in the name of politeness, so that you are not inconvenienced.
- Customarily, most Japanese people feel an obligation to return gifts and favors. They honor age and tradition.

Some helpful books and resources are:

- 3D Gospel by Jayson Georges
- Beneath the Surface: 30 ways to pray for Japan by OMF International

Language

Japanese is the official language of Japan. Some core components of Japanese culture are apparent in the Japanese language and its usage. For example, a traditional sense of social status is reflected in linguistic differences used to show different levels of politeness (plain, polite, and honorific or humble. Direct language is often seen as impolite and therefore avoided. For example, the polite way to say I love you, "Aishite imasu", is more direct than most people are typically comfortable with, so even among couples, it is more common to use less direct language.

Below are some phrases that you can expect to hear and use:

- Konichiwa = Hello
- Sumimasen = Excuse me
- Watashi wa (name) desu = My name is (name).
- Arigato gozaimasu = Thank you
- Dōitashimashite = You're welcome

Trip Specific Details

Luggage/Packing List

Everyone will be allowed one carry on for travel and a personal item (i.e. backpack. Must fit under the seat below)

Official packing list to come, but for now here are some things to keep in mind:

- People tend to dress nicer than we do in the states (no graphic tees, athletic shorts, leggings, etc.). Plan on packing clothes comfortable for travel and walking, but appropriate dress for the cultural context.
- Slip on shoes would be helpful
- Culturally, Japanese women tend to dress more modestly. Their shoulders and chest are typically covered. If you pack a skirt, it needs to be at least to your knees.

Trip Cost

Total: \$3000

Includes airfare, supplies, transportation, lodging meals, and fees/administrative costs. We recommend you bring some money for souvenirs.

We will use Managed Mission for payment collection and support raising. You will have your own personalized link to use. Any checks written to the trip must be made out to “Restoration Church Bryan” and have “Japan Mission Trip: FirstInitial LastName” written in the memo.

Mock Trip Itinerary

Included below is a mock itinerary. We are still working to solidify details of what we will be doing on the trip, so here is a small glimpse of what you can expect. We will be working with Tsukuba Grace Chapel

- Day 1 - Depart
- Day 2 - Arrive & Rest
- Day 3 - Tokyo Tour
- Day 4 - Attend Church at Tsukuba Grace Chapel
- Days 5 through 10 - Ministry Days
- Day 11 - Rest, pack, and clean apartment
- Day 12 - Travel Home

