



Short Term Missions Trips

Tsukuba, Japan

Tsukuba Grace Chapel

Japan is home to the **second-largest unreached people group** in the world. Despite being "reached" by modern standards (infrastructure, freedom of religion, etc.), it remains a place where the vast majority of people will live and die without ever meeting a Christian or hearing the Gospel. The mission of Tsukuba Grace Chapel is to change this reality. We travel to Japan to:

- **Stand with the Local Church:** Being a follower of Jesus in Japan can often feel isolating. We go to remind our friends at Tsukuba Grace Chapel that they are part of a global family, offering the relational energy needed to keep laboring in a difficult field.
- **Create a "First Contact":** Most people in Tsukuba have never had a real conversation about faith. Our presence helps break the ice, creating natural opportunities for locals to meet a Christian for the first time and opening doors for the local church to build long-term relationships.

Onboarding Process

1. Apply through the Restoration Short Term Missions Application found on the Restoration Website. Applications due December 1st.
2. Meet with Restoration's Missions Minister for a Follow Up Meeting.
3. Receive trip or waitlist placements by December 31st.

Requirements

- Must have a passport with at least six months of validity remaining, starting from the day of departure, to be accepted to the trip.
- Must attend Pre-Trip Trainings.
- Must follow the prescribed support raising deadlines for trip.

Pre-Trip Trainings

Preparation is vital to ministry impact. Our time in country is short, and we want to be as helpful and effective as we can. Pre Trip Trainings are designed to equip every team member with the practical skills and spiritual preparation necessary for their specific ministry context. In the Pre-Trip Trainings, we will cover the following:

- Meeting #1
 - Support raising
 - Gospel for all people
 - Team Building
 - Prayer
- Meeting #2
 - How to Share my Testimony
 - Culture Crash Course
 - Team Building
- Meeting #3
 - Fellowship
 - Team Building
 - Prayer
- Meeting #4
 - Pre Departure Meeting
 - Safety
 - Expectations
 - Logistics
 - Final Questions

Details & Logistics

Trip Cost

Total: \$3000

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

All trip goers are expected to complete the payment deadlines found in the application and discussed at the first Pre-Trip Training.

A \$200 deposit is due 48 hours upon acceptance to the trip (nonrefundable).

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.

Luggage & Packing

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, as shoes indoors is not typically allowed.
- 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.

General Trip 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.

- 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

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
- Radical's Japan series on Youtube

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

Frequently Asked Questions

Travel

- What airline will be used?
 - We typically fly United, but it is subject to the best cost. We use Highpoint Travel to help us book.
- What transportation is used once in country (bus, train, other)?
 - We depart from College Station as a team, carpooling to the airport.
 - Typically it takes 2 flights to get to Japan. Once in Japan, we are picked up from the airport by an in-country contact and driven to Tsukuba.
 - While in Tsukuba, we either travel by train, car, or walking.

Accommodations/Food

- What are the accommodations during all phases of the trip? (Hotels, hostels, other?)
 - We always stay at the upstairs apartment in Tsukuba Grace Chapel.
- Will there be separate sleeping areas?
 - Yes, unless married, men and women will always have separate rooms. on how much you want).

Emergency Protocols

- What are the crisis response plans for medical emergencies, political/civil unrest, terrorism, or natural disasters? Emergency evacuation plans? Is there a designated contact person at home to relay info to families?
 - Please refer to our document on [Safety and Security on Short-Term Missions Trips](#)
 - Trip Leaders, Hannah Davin (Missions Mobilization Minister), and Matt Ullrich (Executive Pastor) are the designated people of contact in the event of crises on a Short Term Trip with Restoration.
 - Hannah Davin, (hdavin@restorationbryan.com)
 - Matt Ullrich, (matt@restorationbryan.com)

Insurance

- What insurance coverage is there?
 - We use Faith Ventures Basic Plan. Learn more [here](#).

Local Resources

- What is the location and contact information for the nearest hospital and U.S. Embassy?
 - Hospital - University of Tsukuba Hospital
 - Japan, 〒305-8576 Ibaraki, Tsukuba, Amakubo, 2 Chome-1-1
 - [Website](#)
 - U.S. Embassy in Japan
 - 1 Chome-10-5 Akasaka, Minato City, Tokyo 107-8420, Japan
 - [Website](#)

Documentation

- Will there be a "master folder" containing photocopies of all required documentation?
 - Yes, there is a digital master folder that will be kept by the trip leader. However, trip participants are responsible to keep up with their own documentation (i.e. passport, trip visas, proof of trip insurance, etc.)
- Are medical release forms required?
 - No.

Communication

- Will there be reliable Wi-Fi or cellular access to allow contact in case of emergency? Will those in the US be able to contact in case of family emergency?
 - Yes, there is Wifi available at the Church where we stay.