



Virginia Tech RSAP Summer 2024

Tokyo 東京 | Nagoya 名古屋市 | Kyoto 京都 | Osaka 大阪

Each year, Solstice partners with a select number of universities to create one-of-a-kind, fully customizable study experiences around the world. With careful guidance from Solstice's team of American and international educators, Virginia Tech RSAP students will gain invaluable insight into the ancient history and modern marvels of Japan.

Solstice provides three core services: (1) assistance in developing your program itinerary; (2) comprehensive pre-departure support; and (3) facilitation of all logistical provisions (e.g., domestic and international airfare, buses, hotel accommodations, restaurant recommendations and bookings, activity planning, and Solstice program leaders).

Please note that while the spirit of the below schedule will remain unchanged, certain aspects — in consultation with VT faculty leaders — are subject to be updated. Company and university visits are typically scheduled one to five months prior to the program start date. As a result, our proposal may include a few placeholders for unspecified visits. Each will be specified in the months leading up to May 2024, and this process will be completed in close collaboration with Virginia Tech faculty leaders. Solstice maintains a strong track record of providing engaging and impactful visits to local firms, multinational corporations, local educational institutions, and more. As always, please contact us anytime if you have questions, requests, or suggestions during the program planning and implementation process.

Our team looks forward to welcoming Virginia Tech RSAP to Japan in 2024!

May 12 - May 18: Tokyo | Innovation and Culture in Japan

Day 1 | Sunday, May 12 (*Washington, DC to Tokyo*)

All Day Fly from Washington Dulles to Tokyo, Japan

Day 2 | Monday, May 13 (*Tokyo*)

Early Afternoon Arrive in Tokyo and transfer to central Tokyo, check into Tobu Hotel Levant

Late Afternoon Embark on a tour of the Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku and Shinjuku neighborhoods, and Shibuya Crossing

Rumored to be the busiest intersection in the world, Shibuya Crossing has been compared to an enormous beating heart, sending locals and visitors in all directions with every pulsing traffic light.

7:30 PM Welcome to Tokyo! Enjoy a festive welcome dinner near our hotel



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Day 3 | Tuesday, May 14 (Tokyo)

8:30 AM	Breakfast at hotel
9:15 AM	Transfer to the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
10:00 AM	Explore the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation <i>Known as the Miraikan, this futuristic museum houses an array of interactive exhibits that shed light on the world's most pressing scientific inquiries, from the relationship between humans and AI to the origins of the universe.</i>
12:00 PM	Group lunch at Odaiba
2:30 PM	Company visit to ALE, a satellite development firm aiming to create the world's first man-made shooting stars
5:00 PM	Ascend the Tokyo Skytree for panoramic views of the city
7:00 PM	Small group dinners and free time to explore

Day 4 | Wednesday, May 15 (Tokyo)

8:30 AM	Transfer to Keio University (~30 minutes)
10:00 AM	Visit the Yagami Campus of Keio University <i>Tour the campus engineering laboratories and engage in cultural exchange with local students.</i>
12:00 PM	Enjoy a group lunch on Keio University campus
1:00 PM	Attend a seminar and discussion on global leadership with local university students from the Faculty of Science and Technology
2:30 PM	Return to Tokyo
5:30 PM	Optional activity at teamLab Planets Tokyo or free time to explore!
Evening	Free time and small group dinners on your own

Day 5 | Thursday, May 16 (Tokyo)

Morning	Attend a company visit to a Tokyo-based engineering firm
12:30 PM	Group lunch nearby
2:30 PM	Learn about Japanese religious traditions during a visit to Sensō-ji <i>Established in 628 AD, Sensō-ji is Tokyo's oldest and most significant Buddhist temple, steeped in rich cultural history and housing a revered statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. The temple's intricate architecture, vibrant festivals, and role as a symbol of resilience—having been rebuilt after World War II destruction—provide insight into Japan's religious traditions, historical evolution, and cultural resilience.</i>
Evening	Free time for small group dinners in Tokyo



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Day 6 | Friday, May 17 (Tokyo)

9:00 AM	Transfer to Shimadzu
9:30 AM	Attend an engineering company visit to Shimadzu <i>Shimadzu is a leading company in the field of biotechnology, pursuing cutting-edge science and technology in the field of analytical and measurement instruments such as chromatographs and mass spectrometers, and recently won a Nobel Prize for one of its studies.</i>
12:00 PM	Group lunch at Shimadzu Lounge nearby
Afternoon	Company visit to SONY
Evening	Enjoy free time for small group dinners and exploring on your own

Day 7 | Saturday, May 18 (Tokyo)

All Day	Free time to explore Tokyo!
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May 19 - May 21: Nagoya & Kyoto | The Automotive Heart and Cultural Capital

Day 8 | Sunday, May 19 (Tokyo to Nagoya)

Late Morning	Hotel check out
Midday	Small group lunches on your own at Tokyo Station <i>Witness the marvel of Japanese engineering prowess at Tokyo Station, the city's main intercity rail terminal and the starting point for numerous Shinkansen (bullet train) lines. Exploring this station offers firsthand experience of Japan's world-renowned bullet train system, celebrated for its advanced civil engineering, punctuality, and speed, which has significantly transformed public transportation in Japan and inspired railway developments worldwide.</i>
Early Afternoon	Travel by bullet train to Nagoya (~2 hours)
Late Afternoon	Arrive in Nagoya, check into our group hostel, and free time to explore the surrounding areas <i>Nagoya is one of Japan's major cities and a key economic hub, primarily recognized for its significant role in the nation's automotive and aerospace industries.</i>
Evening	Small group dinners on your own

Day 9 | Monday, May 20 (Nagoya)

Morning	Visit to Toyota Motor Corporation's Tsutsumi Plant <i>Get an inside look at the operations of one of the world's leading automotive manufacturers, Toyota, at their Tsutsumi plant. Witness firsthand the intricate assembly line and automation processes that make Toyota's production system a global benchmark in the automotive industry.</i>
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Midday	Group lunch nearby
Afternoon	Explore the Atsuta Shrine and Shirotori Garden <i>Immerse yourself in Nagoya's rich cultural heritage with a visit to Atsuta Shrine, one of the most important Shinto shrines in Japan, followed by a tranquil walk through the meticulously landscaped Shirotori Garden.</i>
Evening	Small group dinners on your own

Day 10 | Tuesday, May 21 (Nagoya to Kyoto)

Morning	Travel by bullet train to Kyoto (~45 minutes)
Afternoon/Evening	Free time to explore Kyoto!

May 22 - May 25: Osaka | Vibrant Streets and Innovative Engineering

Day 11 | Wednesday, May 22 (Kyoto to Osaka)

9:00 AM	Hotel check-out
10:30 AM	Board the bullet train to Osaka (~30 minutes) <i>Japan's second largest metropolitan area after Tokyo, Osaka has been the economic powerhouse of the Kansai Region for many centuries.</i>
12:00 PM	Drop off luggage at group hostel
1:00 PM	Group lunch Juppo Japanese restaurant
3:00 PM	Walking tour through the vibrant Dotomburi, Shinsekai and Nipponbashi DenDen Town neighborhoods with a local guide
5:00 PM	Check into our group hostel and enjoy free time for small group dinners

Day 12 | Thursday, May 23 (Osaka)

9:30 AM	Visit an innovative local engineering firm
12:00 PM	Small group lunches nearby
1:00 PM	Guided tour of the historical Osaka Castle <i>Take a step back in time with a visit to Osaka Castle, a symbol of Osaka that stands as a testament to the city's historical significance during the feudal era of Japan, particularly the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1568 - 1600).</i>
Afternoon/Evening	Free time to explore Osaka!

Day 13 | Friday, May 24 (Osaka)

Morning	Visit Kansai Gaidai University for a morning of cultural exchange activities
Midday	Small group lunches on campus with KGU students
Afternoon	Optional activities and free time to explore on our final day in Japan!
7:00 PM	Enjoy a festive group dinner and program reflection with your program leaders and peers!



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Day 14 | Saturday, May 25 (Osaka to Washington, DC)

All Day

Fly back to the United States

Please see the following page for additional information.