



Albert Lea Area Schools Extended Field Trip Form

Albert Lea Area Schools – Extended Field Trip Form

1. Name of sponsoring person:

Carissa Blizzard

2. Name of school activity or class:

International Explorica trip to Japan

3. Proposed dates of trip:

June 8th- June 15th

4. Brief description of proposed trip:

Students will travel to Japan via Explorica Trips.

5. Educational objectives of the proposed trip:

Students may never get to experience the culture and the biological applications of this trip. We plan to go and see the Nara deer, who have adapted to Japanese culture and now bow to humans as they pass. Things like this are absolutely amazing experiences for those who love zoology, biology, or sociology. After living there for two summers myself, I can confidently say that these students will learn so much even just in one week.

6. How will the money be raised to finance the trip?

It will be raised by the students. We may do a group fundraiser, but none are planned at this time.

7. Itemize the full cost to students:

**BEST PRICE
guaranteed**

Total Fee:* \$4,499.00

Tour Quote Breakdown

The following fees apply to your full-paying participants:

Tour Fee*	\$4,877.00
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** Travel Scholarship	\$ -378.00
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Total Fee*	\$4,499.00
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OR 7 monthly payments of \$635.57

After initial payment of \$50.00

* Last day for this Tour Fee is Sep 25, 2026.

** Only valid with voucher code Sushi378



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8. List travel and lodging arrangements:

Explorica will be planning flights and lodging.

9. List itinerary (include dates):

Day 1 Overnight Flight to Japan (Tokyo) June 8th

Day 2 Konnichiwa Tokyo June 9th

Meet your tour director and check into hotel

Day 3 Tokyo June 10th

Tokyo guided sightseeing tour

Senso-ji temple visit, Meiji Shrine visit, Harajuku District visit

Akihabara Electric Town visit

Shibuya Crossing

Karaoke experience and dinner

Details: Tokyo guided sightseeing tour

Jangling neon and tranquil temples, radical fashion choices and quietly practiced traditions. Japan's sprawling, chaotic capital combines cutting-edge technology with an age-old culture, generating a directed energy and graceful drive unique to Tokyo. See what all of the buzz is about with a local licensed guide. Start with a whiff of the miraculous at the Senso Temple, where sacred incense smoke is said to have curative powers. Built to commemorate Emperor Meiji and his empress, the Meiji Shrine is one of the most important Shinto shrines in the country. Yearly festivals bring various groups to its iris garden and Treasure House, including the "Seven-Five-Three Festival," in which young children arrive dressed in mini kimonos.

Details: Meiji Shrine visit

Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken. Emperor Meiji was the first emperor of modern Japan, born in 1852 and ascending to the throne in 1868 at the peak of the Meiji Restoration when the power was



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switched from the feudal Tokugawa government to the emperor. Learn the difference between Shinto and Buddhism

Details: Akihabara Electric Town visit

Take a trip to the Akihabara district, a mecca for electronic goods and home to Japan's otaku (diehard fan) geek culture. Explore the thousands of shops dedicated to anime, manga and video games.

Details: Karaoke experience and dinner

Karaoke is a popular form of entertainment which originated in Japan. Immerse yourself in this environment, grab a mic, your favorite song and sing your heart out in a Tokyo karaoke venue.

Day 4 Tokyo--Hakone region June 11th

Travel to Hakone region by bus

Hakone excursion

Owakudani Boiling Valley visit, Hakone Ropeway, Lake Ashi cruise, Hakone Shrine visit

Overnight in a Ryokan

Details: Hakone excursion

Step into the misty beauty of a traditional Japanese watercolor. Peaceful lakes, stunning gardens, Hakone one of the prettiest destinations for city-weary Tokyoites. Experience Owakudani, the area around a crater created during the last eruption of Mount Hakone some 3000 years ago. Today, much of the area is an active volcanic zone with sulfurous fumes and hot springs. Watch how far you travel, though -- Hakone was once the feudal checkpoint for visitors to the capital, with all guns required to stay outside the borders and all women required to stay in. Please note: Owakudani Boiling Valley and the Hakone Ropeway are subject to weather conditions, and an alternative activity will be provided.

Day 5 Hakone region--Takayama June 13th

Travel to Matsumoto by bus



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Matsumoto Castle visit

Details: Matsumoto Castle visit

Matsumoto Castle is one of the grandest castles in Japan. Its five-tiered, six-story main tower, built in late 16th century, is the oldest surviving castle tower in the nation. This medieval fortress is famously photogenic, with a wide moat, swimming swans and hundreds of cherry blossom trees in the Spring.

Day 6 Takayama--Kyoto June 13th

Takayama guided sightseeing tour

Morning Market visit, Old City visit

Shirakawago Village visit

Travel to Kyoto

Details: Takayama guided sightseeing tour

Takayama is a historic city in Japan's mountainous Hida region, known for its well-preserved Edo-period streets and traditional architecture.

Details: Morning Market visit

Visit the morning market, where local independent farmers and craftsmen sell fresh produce and handmade goods, offering an authentic glimpse into Takayama's traditional lifestyle and community.

Details: Old City visit

Stroll through Takayama's beautifully preserved Old Town, especially Sannomachi Street, where centuries-old breweries and tea houses offer a glimpse into traditional Japanese culture and craftsmanship.

Details: Shirakawago Village visit



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This UNESCO World Heritage Site, is renowned for its traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are over 250 years old. These unique houses feature steep, triangular thatched roofs that resemble "praying hands."

Day 7 Kyoto June 14th

Nara excursion

Nara Deer Park visit, Todai-ji temple visit, Kasuga Grand Shrine visit

Kyoto guided sightseeing tour

Kinkaku-ji temple (Golden Pavilion) visit, Fushimi Inari Taisha visit

Details: Nara excursion

Nara can be an eye-opening experience. The enormous 50-foot bronze Buddha statue in Todai-ji was dedicated in AD 752 by having a priest symbolically "open his eyes" by scrambling up and painting them in (the original paintbrush remains at the temple); strings dangling off the brush allowed the dignitaries on the ground to hang on and participate in the action. The sense of "more is better" continues at Kasuga Shrine, where a thousand intricate bronze lanterns hang prettily off the building. Don't bother the wild deer roaming the adjacent Nara Park -- once considered messengers of the gods, they are still a nationally protected treasure.

Details: Todai-ji temple visit

Todai-ji is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples and a landmark of Nara. The massive building houses one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha (Daibutsu). At 15 meters tall, the seated Buddha represents Vairocana and is flanked by two Bodhisattvas.

Details: Kasuga Grand Shrine visit

Nara's most celebrated Shinto shrine.

Details: Kyoto guided sightseeing tour

With over 2,000 Buddhist temples and shrines still intact, Kyoto shines as one of the best preserved Imperial cities in Japan. Visit the famous Zen Buddhist Temple Kinkakuji, or Golden Temple, that gets its name from the pure leaf gold that covers



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the top two floors. Next, head to Inari, the main shrine of the god of business, and see the thousands of red torii, or Japanese gates, that snake their way up the hill to the inner shrine. The Sanjusangendo Temple offers visitors an unusual and unbelievable sight. Its main hall is filled with 1,000 life-size statues of soldiers of the Thousand Armed Kannon which stand to protect the main deity of the temple.

Day 8 Flight home from Osaka June 15th

Travel by bus to Osaka

10. List chaperones and any special security provisions:

Chaperone: Carissa Blizzard/Krystal Viktora. Background checks on file.

11. Project the number of students unable to go:

N/A

12. Have alternative opportunities been explored?

Yes, different routes in Japan. This was the cheapest route.

13. Do the trip dates conflict with any school or community activities?

No. During the summer.

14. Arrangements for emergencies:

Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately using district-provided emergency contacts.

As sponsor of the extended field trip I will ensure all school district policies, rules, and regulations are followed. I will ensure all chaperones have current background checks and follow all school district policies, rules, and regulations. I will alert the administration if there is any disciplinary or emergency situation.

____Carissa Blizzard____ 8/24/26
Signature of Sponsor Date



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Recommendation

Approved or Not Approved

Building Principal or Activities Administrator

Date

Signature

Approved or Not Approved

Superintendent

Date

Signature

Approved or Not Approved

School Board Chair

Date

Signature