

# Japan Tour

May 2026

Join ANZCO Foods and experience Japan: a country where scenic rural landscapes contrast with vibrant modern cities. As well as gaining insights into ANZCO Foods in Japan, as well as the country's beef industry, you'll explore markets, meet local people, and experience some of the country's iconic cities and regions, soaking up the centuries-old tradition and fast-paced modern life for which Japan is known.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 **Wednesday 13 May** FLY AUCKLAND - TOKYO

- AM** Assemble at Auckland Airport early this morning and check in for your 10:15am Air New Zealand flight direct to Tokyo (11 hours).  
FYI domestic connections to be added as required (extra cost depending on Air NZ regional fare) – either early morning 13<sup>th</sup> or evening before if weather a consideration.
- PM** Around 6.15pm, arrive into Tokyo's Narita Airport and complete entry formalities. Meet an airport guide and transfer by coach to central Tokyo – Japan's incredible capital city and home to 14 million people, 37 million in greater Tokyo! Check into your hotel and relax after your travels.

**Meals:** Airline meals

**Overnight:** Toyko Shibuya/Shinjuku

### Day 2 **Thursday 14 May** TOKYO

- AM** Today you will explore the huge city of Tokyo with ANZCO Foods and partner hosts. You will gain an insight into the local food industry and the role the company plays in supplying the local supermarkets and restaurant trade. This morning's visits include OK supermarkets, Summit for lamb and Yoshiya for Ocean Beef. A good introduction to how produce is sold – quite different to what you see at home.
- PM** After lunch at Bikkuri Donkey restaurant, visit Niku no Kiwami to see how Wagyu beef is sold in Japan. After some time to relax, enjoy a welcome dinner at Nagaokaya. Here you will have an opportunity to try your product from far away New Zealand, as well as sampling local specialties.

**Meals:** B L D \*  
\*ANZCO costing

**Overnight:** Toyko Shibuya/Shinjuku

### Day 3 **Friday 15 May** TOKYO – TSUKUBA

**AM** An early start for those wanting to visit the expansive Toyosu wholesale market where you can observe tuna auctions taking place (5:30–6:30am), as well as seeing other seafood, fruit and vegetables prepared for sale. After the market visit and breakfast, you have an opportunity for some personal sightseeing (options to be suggested).

**PM** Later this afternoon, depart Tokyo by coach, travelling north to Tsukuba City in the countryside of Ibaraki Prefecture (approximately 1hr 30 mins drive). Check into your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Meals:** B – D

**Overnight:** Tsukuba City

### Day 4 **Saturday 16 May** TSUKUBA – KYOTO – SHIGA

**AM** Depart after breakfast to visit Hitachi Wagyu beef cattle enterprise. This traditional Japanese breed has evolved over centuries of breeding and unique management to become regarded as one of the finest meats on the planet. It is renowned for its flavour, tenderness and internal marbling. Learn about the farming operation and enjoy sampling Hitachi beef over lunch at a local restaurant.

**PM** Return to Tokyo and board a bullet train for a high-speed trip to Kyoto Station (2 hours, 15 minutes). On arrival, transfer to a traditional style inn ("ryokan") in Shiga Prefecture. Enjoy the tranquil surroundings and perhaps experience a traditional Japanese onsen (hot spring bath).

**Meals:** B L D

**Overnight:** Shiga Ryokan

### Day 5 **Sunday 17 May** SHIGA – KYOTO

**AM** In the morning, visit Omi Wagyu farm. Omi beef, known as "Omi-gyu" in Japanese, is a premium brand of wagyu beef that originates from the Shiga Prefecture in Japan. It is as famous as Kobe beef. From breeding to fattening, they produce beef cattle produced in Omi and manage about 500 cattle. In addition to Omi beef, they also produce F1 cattle through a partnership with a nearby dairy farm (about 50 cattle).

**PM** A chance to sample Omi beef at local restaurant before visiting a nearby tea farm – another of Japan's iconic industries. Learn about the production process and importance of tea in Japan before travelling on to the elegant city of Kyoto for a two-night stay.

**Meals:** B L D

**Overnight:** Kyoto City

## Day 6 **Monday 18 May** KYOTO

**AM** Today we take in the sights of the ancient city of Kyoto – Japan's former capital. Kyoto is a city with a rich cultural heritage, thousands of Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, Imperial palaces, gardens and traditional wooden houses. We begin our day taking a stroll through Kyoto's famous bamboo forest, then there's an opportunity to enjoy a traditional tea ceremony or visit a sake (rice wine) brewery.

**PM** After a break for lunch, visit the exquisite Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion and zen rock garden, Ryoanji. Later we enjoy a captivating dinner show with a traditional Maiko performance (apprentice Geisha).

**Meals:** B – D

**Overnight:** Kyoto City

## Day 7 **Tuesday 19 May** KYOTO – TOKYO

**AM** Depart Kyoto by bullet train this morning and return to Tokyo. On arrival, see a little more of the city including landmarks such as the Imperial Palace, Sensoji and the lively Ginza and district.

**PM** A chance to freshen up before this evening's farewell dinner at Wakanui Restaurant, enjoying night views of Tokyo Tower.

**Meals:** B – D

**Overnight:** Tokyo City

## Day 8 **Wednesday 20 May** FLY TOKYO TO AUCKLAND

**AM** Free time today for personal activities or shopping.

**PM** Mid-afternoon departure to Narita Airport and check in for your evening flight to Auckland.

**Meals:** B –

**Overnight:** In flight

## Day 9 **Thursday 21 May** ARRIVE AUCKLAND

**AM** Arrive into Auckland around 9am this morning and continue home.