



# BRANCH-OUT JAPAN TOUR 2026



Dear Parents,

After a very successful trip to Japan in 2024 to visit our Sister School, Lilyvale Elementary School, Kalinda Primary School and Warranwood Primary School are pleased to announce our next trip there in 2026.

A large amount of planning between our schools and Lilyvale Elementary School has been undertaken, and we are now keen to ascertain whether there is sufficient interest for the trip to go ahead. It will be a wonderful experience for all of the students involved, but we also are aware that it is a very large expense for families.

Due to the large cost of such a trip, we are seeking this Expression of Interest now, before going any further with the planning of the trip. If we do not have enough students able to attend to make the trip viable, we will still continue to maintain our strong Sister School relationship with Lilyvale Elementary School via the regular online connections we have.

This trip will be for approximately 30 Year 5 and Year 6 students (15 from each school) to visit our sister school Lilyvale Elementary School and to experience a range of cultural activities.

At this stage, our plan is to travel from the **13<sup>th</sup> October to until the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2026.**

The full cost will depend on the final itinerary, however, will approximately be between \$4,800 - \$5,300. The trip will be for 13 days and will include visits to Tokyo, Mito, Kyoto and Osaka. Please see the draft itinerary on the next page for further details.

In case we have more students nominate to attend the trip than places available, we have established a set of selection criteria based on Education Department guidelines. As we are not only representing our schools, but the Victorian government school system and indeed Australia it is imperative that the students we select are the very best ambassadors we have. The selection criteria are as follows:

- Capacity to be ambassadors for school, community and country.
- Capacity to work effectively as a team.
- Good communication and social skills
- Ability to undertake and maintain engagement in learning activities prior to, during and after the overseas learning experience.

Please complete the expression of interest via this [link](#) by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** Following that date we will notify our community if the trip will proceed, and if required we will go through the selection process for students to attend in Term 1 of 2026. Prior to the selection process we will hold an information session at school to provide further information about the trip and answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun McClare  
Principal  
Kalinda Primary School

Shane Harrop  
Principal  
Warranwood Primary School

# BRANCH-OUT JAPAN TOUR 2026

## DRAFT ITINERARY

Itinerary Day	Date(s)	Day In Week	Itinerary Detail
DAY 1	13/10/2026	Tuesday	MELBOURNE – TOKYO (NARITA) – MITO CITY  Farewell parents and catch bus from Kalinda PS to Tullamarine Airport  Fly from Melbourne to Tokyo (Narita)  Upon arrival in Tokyo meet and greet and transfer from Narita to Mito City.  Accommodation: 1 x night at a hotel in Mito City for students with breakfast
DAY 2	14/10/2026	Wednesday	MITO CITY Make our way to your sister school for homestay program.  Spending the day at school.  Accommodation: 5 x nights homestay arranged by sister school.
DAY 3	15/10/2026	Thursday	MITO CITY  Spending the day at school.  Homestay Program
DAY 4	16/10/2026	Friday	MITO CITY  Spending the day at school.  Homestay Program
DAY 5	17/10/2026	Saturday	MITO CITY  Homestay Program

DAY 6	18/10/2026	Sunday	MITO CITY  Homestay Program
DAY 7	19/10/2026	Monday	MITO CITY – TOKYO  Spending the day at school.  Farewell your sister school and make our way to Tokyo.  Sightseeing, shopping and dinner In Tokyo  Accommodation: 2 x nights at Shinagawa Seaside or similar with breakfast
DAY 8	20/10/2026	Tuesday	TOKYO  Today enjoy a full day at Disneyland including night parade and fireworks!  Accommodation: 2 x nights at Shinagawa Seaside or similar with breakfast
DAY 9	21/10/2026	Wednesday	TOKYO – KYOTO  This morning travel to Kyoto by bus.  Stopping at viewing point for Mount Fuji and lunch.  Upon arrival in Kyoto check in to your accommodation.  Accommodation: 3 x nights at S-Peria Hotel Kyoto or similar with breakfast
DAY 10	22/10/2026	Thursday	KYOTO  Today board your chartered bus for a guided tour of Nara, including feeding deer at Nara Park and visiting historic Todai-ji Temple.

DAY 11	23/10/2026	Friday	KYOTO - OSAKA – KYOTO  Today make your way to Osaka to enjoy the rides and attractions of Universal Studios Japan. Including Express Pass Tickets.
DAY 12	24/10/2026	Saturday	KYOTO – TOKYO – MELBOURNE  This morning check out of your accommodation and travel to Shinagawa Station by bus to Narita Airport. Check-in to your flight home.
DAY 13	25/10/2026	Sunday	MELBOURNE  Arrive home.  Pick up from airport.

**Total cost will be approximately \$4800-\$5300 which includes:**

All activities including some breakfasts, accommodation, guides, entry fees, Japan Rail Pass.

**Students will need a current passport**

**Along with the spending money the students will need money for:**

Dinner x 6 @ \$15 each, Lunch x 7 @ \$ 10.00 each \$160 approx.

**Please note: this is a draft itinerary only. We will work on best possible experience for our students.**