



Te Kura Tuarua o
Ruawai College
Kimihiā ngā maunga teitei | Seek the highest peak

Year 13 Japan Trip 2026

Late 2026

10 October 2025

Kia Ora,

Enclosed is your information pack regarding the 2026 Year 13 trip to Japan.

The purpose of this trip is to experience life beyond the Kaipara in a city that has transformed from a fishing village in the 1600s to a metropolis of 37 million people. When there we will conduct research for students who would benefit from this, which would be worth NCEA credits. Our recent trip to Tokyo was a success with all students who completed the trip earning 16 credits which can be used for University Entrance.

Our students will gain an insight into the world beyond Aotearoa, which I trust will reap benefits for them as they move into employment or onto tertiary studies. We envisage this will broaden their horizons and see a very different society here in Aotearoa.

This is an amazing opportunity to offer our students. The opportunity to travel overseas and experience a society that is very different from Ruawai is one that students will remember for their lives. We will be visiting some businesses and seeing urban sustainability in action, which may broaden the pathway of students' thoughts. We would also seek to visit Kagoshima, which is home to the Kumara (they call it *Sweet Potato!*) Capital of Japan. Japan produces 1.5 million tons of sweet potatoes annually, which is a popular food item, much like here.

We understand that this trip comes with a financial cost, and we aim to make it as cost-effective as possible. Please read the enclosed information and return the expression of interest form if you / your child is interested in attending.

After you have had time to review this information pack, if you have any questions, please contact the school office on admin@ruawaicollege.school.nz to make time to talk to Myself or Ms Ward.

Ngā mihi,

Mr. Aidyn Rasmussen
Principal

Ms. Deb Ward
Associate Principal

Cost information

Through our fundraising plans and the commitment of the School Board, we are working to reduce the cost of this as much as possible. **The maximum the trip will cost is \$2,200 per person.** Unfortunately inflation has impacted the economy of Japan and prices are higher for food, activities and transport than they once were.

The per-student cost covers **flights, accommodation, food, travel insurance and attractions.** Students will be able to bring additional spending money should they wish, but this will not be required. The School Board is covering the travel costs for three accompanying staff members. Final staffing numbers would depend on student numbers.

Staff who are joining the trip will mentor a group of students to support them in maximising their fundraising efforts. We will also actively pursue grants and other forms of funding.

Fundraising plans

We have a robust fundraising plan and will apply for several grants early next year to further offset costs as \$2,200 contribution is only a portion of the actual costs.

For fundraising activities we will have an ongoing time sheet for students to log their hours to ensure there is equity in participation. Participation in all fundraising activities is compulsory to ensure fairness and shared commitment.

Important Dates

- **October 31, 2025** - Students must return the completed *Intentions Form* to the front office by this date to confirm their interest in joining the Japan Trip.
- **February 27, 2026** – The first deposit of \$500 needs to be paid to accounts by this date. **This deposit is non-refundable as we will buy the flights after this date when a good deal is sourced.**
- **May 29, 2026** – A second payment of \$550 is due.
- **July 24, 2026** – A second payment of \$550 is due.
- **September 4, 2026** – The remainder of the money should be paid by this date.

Links to assessment

Students would most likely complete AS91597, 91599 and AS91600 (16 Credits - Internals). There are also unit standards that could be completed. The context is focused on the urban development of Tokyo and its development over time. These standards will allow students to earn up to **16 Level 3 Social Studies credits** which count towards **University Entrance**.

Criteria for participation

In addition to cost, there are criteria that will be applied in order for students to participate in this trip.

- Fundraising must not interfere with academic studies or class attendance
- Students must maintain a minimum attendance rate (to be specified)
- Academic tracking sheet must be signed off one month before departure
- Compulsory attendance of study sessions for students behind in any subjects

Ruawai College – Level 3 Japan Draft Itinerary

Day	Activities Planned and a brief rationale
Day 1	Departure. Meet at the airport at Ruawai College to travel down or meet at the airport.
Day 2	First day in Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and curriculum links• Understanding modern Japan and urban density
Day 3	Shrine visit and Sky Tree Tower <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Tokyo has changed around shrines (continuity vs change)• Students understand links with other cultures and the future of urban planning in Aotearoa (Geographic Issue)
Day 4	Shinagawa Shukuba Matsuri Festival <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will experience Yamanobe Road (the oldest road in Tokyo) and the culture of this road and its people.• Urban planning and how traditional culture can continue when urban societies change
Day 5	Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At Edo Wonderland, we will see what life was like at the “start” of Tokyo. This is important to reflect on how life has changed.
Day 6	Agglomeration in the suburbs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring a range of suburbs, the sumo wrestling industry, clusters of electronic stores and hubs of subculture (Harajuku).
Day 7	Visit to Mt. Fuji <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We plan to visit Mt. Fuji on the outskirts of Tokyo. This is the tallest mountain in Japan, and on our visit, we will experience what makes this maunga important to the people. In the Edo times (which we are studying), the mountain was worshipped, and this is where the religion of Fujiko flourished.

Day 8	<p>Kagoshima</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take the bullet train to visit the home of Kumara in Japan, Kagoshima. Kagoshima exports over 1 million tonnes of Kumara to North America and Asia a year.
Day 9	<p>Disney Experience Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, we will be visiting Disneyland in Tokyo.
Day 10	<p>Business Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, we will be visiting a range of businesses in Tokyo (tbc) We will depart this evening
Day 11	<p>We will arrive in Auckland</p>



Above - one of the rooms we will stay in at Mystays Kameido

Below - One of the Sumo restaurants in Tokyo





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INTENTIONS FORM

September 2026

(dates may change by 1-2 days and will be confirmed when we book the cheapest airfare!)

Details	
Student Name:	
Student LA:	

Details	Tick if YES
My child would like to be considered for the Year 13 Japan Trip	
I agree to the details of the pack including the criteria for participation and the payment dates	

Student Signature		Date:
Parent / Caregiver Signature		Date:

Please return this sheet if you are interested in the Japan trip to **THE FRONT OFFICE** by the end of school day on **31 OCTOBER 2025**

If you are interested, we will then collate numbers and inform you of a time for an information session (whanau hui).