Università di Scienze Gastronomiche di Pollenzo
University of Gastronomic Sciences of Pollenzo

Viaggio Didattico Giappone
Japan Study Trip

Data / Dates:	A.A / A.Y:	Tutor:
16/11/2026 - 26/11/2026	2026/2027	Graglia Martina

Monday, November 16, 2026

6:15

Meeting at Bra Movicentro

6:30

Departure by private transfer to Milan Malpensa airport

If you plan to meet us directly at Malpensa, just make sure you've cleared it with your tutor beforehand and got a written okay. In that case, see you at 8:30 AM at Terminal 1, right by the Air China check-in desks.

Once we get there, we'll check our bags, head through security and we'll have time to grab some breakfast before boarding (just save your receipts, as they'll be reimbursed per university policy). All other meals will be served during the flight.

11:30 am - 5:50 am (+1)

Flight to Shanghai (Air China CA968). The flight time is 11h 20m. After landing, we'll have a 5h 40m layover before our next flight.

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

11:30 - 15:00 (Japanese local time)

Flight to Osaka (Air China CA857). The flight time is 2h 30m.

After clearing immigration and picking up our luggages, we can take some time at the airport to exchange currency, grab a SIM card if you need one and meet up with our local contacts. From there, our private transfer will pick us up for the 2-hour drive over to Sumoto on Awaji Island. We'll drop our bags and settle in at Minshuku Hagiwara. Following the long journey, we're keeping it simple with an early dinner.

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

8:00

Breakfast e check-out with luggages.

9:00

Setting off for Kamebishiya, a traditional soy sauce brewery in Kagawa that's been around since 1753. They're famous for their mushiro koji method, which involves cultivating koji on woven straw mats. We'll get to know more about their production methods and the different soy sauces they make. Lunch on site.

Afternoon activities to be confirmed.

In the evening we'll check in at Underground Sake and wrap up the day with dinner together, featuring bbq and local beef.

Thursday, November 19, 2026

8:30

Breakfast.

We're spending the morning with Kentaro-san at Underground Sake, a craft brewery on Awaji Island that specializes in doburoku (a traditional unfiltered rice drink). The spot sits on the grounds of a former sake

brewery dating back to the Edo period. Kentaro has revived the place, keeping its history alive through traditional brewing methods and a focus on local ingredients. He'll show us how the production process works and how koji drives the fermentation. Plus, we'll take part in a miso-making workshop before having lunch on site.

Check out with luggages.

For dinner, we're having sushi and tempura to round off the day with two classic Japanese dishes.

Friday, November 20, 2026

7:00

Early start today! We're heading to the harbor early to meet our fisherman and get ready to head out on his boats. **Weather permitting**, we'll spend about 5 hours at sea with him, seeing what his daily work and life on the water are like. After lunch, we should have the chance to relax and warm up at an onsen. Later on, we'll visit Hiraokano Orchards to see how local mandarins are grown.

In the evening, we are invited to our fisherman's home for dinner, where we'll share a final meal with him and his family.

Saturday, November 21, 2026

9:00

Breakfast.

In the morning, we'll visit the city's farmers market together with our local contacts, where we'll have a chance to explore local produce and get a feel for the area's food culture.

After the visit, we'll take the highway bus to our accommodation for the next five nights, NOOSA in Takatsuki. Once there, we'll check in and settle in before dinner.

Sunday, November 22, 2026

You'll have the whole day free to explore the area at your own pace. Breakfast, lunch and dinner for the day will be reimbursed per university policy.

Monday, November 23, 2026

8:00

Breakfast.

We'll take the train to Kyoto and visit Uneno, a family-run company that has been making dashi and traditional Japanese ingredients for over 120 years. They specialize in katsuobushi, dried and smoked fish flakes used to prepare dashi, a broth that plays an important role in Japanese cooking. We'll visit their facility to see how it's made and have lunch there.

In the afternoon, we'll meet Kenichi-san at his butcher shop. He's a fourth-generation butcher from Kyoto, with a particular interest in Wagyu and the science behind meat quality and aging. We'll spend some time talking with him about his work and Japanese meat. We'll also have an early dinner together before heading back to our accommodation.

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

8:00

Breakfast.

We're spending the morning with Atsushi-san to look into Japan's tradition of fermented foods and seasonings. He works with products from all over the country, each with its own background, ingredients and production methods. We'll talk about how fermentation developed in Japan and the different ways these ingredients are used in everyday cooking.

For lunch, Chef Atsushi will prepare a meal centered around these fermented foods and seasonings. Afterward, we'll walk over to another spot to discuss the role of water in Japanese food culture, which will lead us into a talk about Japanese tea and its different varieties.

In the evening, we'll have dinner with our local contacts before heading back to the accommodation.

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

8:00

Breakfast.

A final morning dedicated to the connection between food, spirituality and everyday life in Japanese culture. It'll also be a good moment to look back on the trip and how these traditions tie into everyday life.

After having lunch together, you'll have free time for the rest of the day. Dinner is on your own tonight and will be reimbursed per university policy.

Thursday, November 26, 2026

10:00

Requested check-out time at our accommodation and will then take public transport over to Osaka Kansai Airport. The ride should be about 2 hours.

16:30 - 18:20

Flight to Shanghai (Air China CA858). After landing, we'll have a 7h 25m layover before our next flight.

Friday, November 27, 2026

1:30 - 7:15 (Italian local time)

Flight to Milan Malpensa T1 (Air China CA967). After landing, we'll go through passport control, collect our luggages and meet our private transfer back to Bra.

11:30

ETA in Bra Movicentro

Arigatō gozaimashita!