



WORLD PROJECTS  
EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH MUSIC



## DANVILLE MUSIC AMBASSADORS

### 2019 JAPAN PERFORMANCE TOUR

#### PRE-DEPARTURE TOUR NOTES

#### 1. AIRPORT ARRIVAL ON JUNE 9

*All travelers are responsible for their own transportation to SFO on June 9. Please pay close attention to the prescribed arrival time as check-in for the flights cannot proceed until the majority of the group has arrived. Jenna Eggering from World Projects will meet you at SFO and give further instructions upon arrival.*

**a. Are there any restrictions on items I can carry-on the flights?**

TSA Guidelines for liquids in carry-ons:

All liquids, gels, and aerosols must be in 3 ounce or smaller containers. Larger containers (even containers that are only half full) are **not allowed**.

All liquid containers must be placed in a single, quart-size, sip-top, clear plastic bag. Gallon-size bags or non-zip top bags are **not allowed**.

Each traveler must remove their quart-size bags from their carry-on and place it in a bin or on the conveyor belt for x-ray screening. X-raying separately will allow TSA security officers to more easily examine the declared items.

Medications:

If you need to take prescribed or over-the-counter medication, leave it in the original labeled containers. This precaution will make clearing baggage inspection easier, if airport inspectors decide to take a closer look. If you have allergies, reactions to certain medications, or other unique medical conditions, consider wearing a 'medical alert' bracelet or dog tags or other similar warnings. Medication that is required on a regular basis should be packed in your carry-on bag, not in the suitcase. Please be sure your chaperones are advised of these required medications.

**b. Passports / Other Forms**

Each person will need to have their valid passport (valid at least through the tour) as well as appropriate visas / Green Card. Each director will collect passports from students upon arrival into Japan.

**c. Baggage**

Each traveler (including adults / family members) is restricted to 1 checked bag, 1 musical instrument (checked or carry-on), and 1 small carry-on (should fit under the seat in front of you). No roller bags will be carried on the plane. Checked baggage must weigh less than 50 lbs, and be less than 62 linear inches (h x w x l).

World Projects staff will cover the costs for 2<sup>nd</sup> checked / oversize / overweight instruments up to \$5,000 roundtrip.

Individuals whose baggage weighs more than 50 lbs, is larger than 62 linear inches, or has a 2<sup>nd</sup> checked bag that is not an instrument, will be responsible for any additional charges levied by the airline.

**World Projects Headquarters: 601 First Street, Suite 200 • Benicia, CA 94510**

**Toll Free Tel: 1-800-922-3976 • Tel: (707) 556-5885 • Fax: (707) 556-5896**

**Web-site: [www.world-projects.com](http://www.world-projects.com) • CST#2025574**



**d. Check Instruments vs. Carry-on Instruments**

The following instruments will be carry-ons: small woodwinds, bassoons, small percussion toys, trumpets, violins, violas and bass bows.

The following instruments will be checked: baritone saxophone, cellos, electric bass, euphoniums, larger percussion, heavy equipment.

The following instruments will be carried on or gate checked: trombones, horns, bass clarinets.

The following instruments will be provided in Japan: piano, string bass, and large percussion.

Everyone is responsible for bringing their instruments to the airport.

**2. CHAPERONES / DIRECTORS / TOUR MANAGERS / TOUR ESCORTS**

Ultimately, all decisions will be made by the directors. Directors will carry bus and rooming lists as well as code of conducts.

Chaperones will be responsible for room checks and supervision during “free time” (see below).

The World Projects Tour Manager is responsible for making sure all tour aspects are running smoothly and acting as the liaison and advocates for DMA – they are NOT responsible for supervision or discipline of students.

Japan Tour Managers are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the tour and keeping travelers informed of tour aspects and movements – they are NOT responsible for supervision or discipline of students.

**3. FREE TIME**

Each day of the tour, parameters for free time will be established by the directors and chaperones.

Students will be required to sign-out with directors and may be required to meet chaperones at specific times and locations as established by the directors as well as be accompanied by chaperones at other times. Students must ALWAYS be in groups of at least four (4).

**4. HEALTH ISSUES / VACCINATIONS / PRESCRIPTIONS**

There are no required vaccinations for entry into Japan from the US.

It is recommended that all your routine vaccinations are up to date prior to travel, including typhoid, hepatitis A and B, measles (MMR), etc. More information on routine vaccinations and travel recommendations for Japan can be found on the Center of Disease Control website – [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/japan](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/japan).

Medical facilities are, in general, of high standard, particularly in urban areas where large hospitals and private clinics are in good supply.

Be sure all prescriptions are in the original packaging. It is a good idea as well to bring the doctor’s prescription in case medications need to be replaced.

Note: Students should NEVER dispense medications to other students. Should you need medication, please talk to your chaperone or group leaders.

As you are traveling during the summer, it can get very humid during the middle of the day. Be sure to bring layers (like a rain jacket) that you can take off when it’s hot. Be sure to wear sunscreen whenever you are outside of extended periods of time. Stay hydrated at all times as dehydration can come on quickly and without notice.



## 5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

As with traveling to any overseas destination, by being vigilant and using common sense, you should have a safe and pleasant trip. The key is to know and stick to general safety precautions (i.e. don't walk around in deserted areas at night, don't advertise possession of money or expensive goods, etc.).

Wearing a money belt underneath your clothing is a good way of avoiding pick pocketing and concealing any cash or documents you may have. Try to avoid looking like a tourist by not wearing a camera around your neck or wearing obvious or flashy jewelry, for example.

Limit the amount of money you carry on you. It's wise to keep your cash in your hotel room safe along with copies of any credit cards you may have with you.

Be vigilant of your surroundings when withdrawing money from an ATM. Try to utilize ATMs in shopping malls or other buildings.

Never leave your luggage / bags unattended at any time (including at the airport, outside, at the hotel, etc.).

Purses and bags should not be slung over your shoulder. They should lay across your body.

Do not set your wallet or phone on counters. Place in front pockets or in zipped bags.

A copy of your passport should be with you at all times.

Emergency number in Japan is 119 (not 911).

## 6. WEATHER

June can be warm to hot and humid:

TOKYO: Average high is 78°/ average low is 66°

KYOTO: Average high is 82°/ average low is 65°

Rain is common in June (~10-12 days per month) so bring an umbrella.

Plan on bringing light / breathable / layer-able attire and comfortable/appropriate footwear.

## 7. TIME DIFFERENCE

There is a 16-hour time difference between Japan and California.

For example: if it's 12:00pm in Japan, it will be 8:00pm in California the day before.



## 8. CURRENCY IN JAPAN

*The currency used in Japan is the Yen (JPY). Notes are in denominations of ¥1,000, ¥2,000, ¥5,000, and ¥10,000. Coins are in denominations of ¥5, ¥10, ¥50, ¥100, and ¥500. The USD / JPY exchange rate as of May 24, 2019 is roughly ¥100 to \$1. This means if something is advertised at ¥1,000 it is approximately \$10.*

### a. Spending Money:

The only real costs the will need to be budgeted for are meals not included in the tour package. All breakfasts are included at the hotels, one (1) lunch, and four (4) dinners are included.

Seven (7) lunches and four (4) dinners are not included: World Projects recommends ¥13,000-¥22,500 total for meals.

In addition to meals, spending money can be brought for souvenirs, clothes, keepsakes, etc. This is at the traveler's discretion. Your directors recommend ¥5,000 minimum.

### b. What's the best way to carry money (cash, card, traveler's checks)?

It is always recommended to arrive in a foreign country with at least a small amount of the local currency. You can pre-order Yen at your bank.

ATMs linked to all major international networks are widespread and easily accessible in the larger cities and town. You can use major credit and debit cards (other than AMEX) at the ATMs. Be sure to contact your bank and inform them of your travel plans.

ATMs are common in larger towns and major cities

### Travelers checks are not recommended.

Credit & Debit cards are accepted at larger establishments and in major cities – cash will be required for smaller towns/villages.

Travelex offers a 'Money Card' – a pre-paid foreign currency card.

### c. Tipping

Tipping for any services (restaurants, hotels, transportation, etc.) is not customary in Japan.

## 9. TAP WATER

Tap water in Japan is safe to drink. For those that prefer it, bottled water is widely available.



## 10. LANGUAGE

The main language spoken in Japan is Japanese. English is not widely used with the exception of major tourist areas. The group will be escorted by bi-lingual Tour Managers throughout the tour in Japan who will assist with the language barrier, although it is appreciated by the locals if you attempt to speak some Japanese:

Hello:	Kon'nichiwa
Goodbye:	Sayōnara
Yes:	Hai
No:	Īe
Please:	Onegaishimasu
Excuse me:	Sumimasen
Thank you:	Arigatō
You're welcome:	Dōitashimashite
How are you?:	Ogenkidesuka?
Very well, thanks:	Dōmo arigatō
Do you speak English?:	Eigo o hanasemasu ka?
I don't understand:	Wakaranai
Where is the bathroom?:	Keshō-shitsu wa dokodesu ka?

## 11. ETIQUETTE

Here are some etiquette tips you may find useful during your time in Japan:

- ✓ Japanese people are fiercely proud individuals and will not react well to “better in America” comments
- ✓ Tipping is not common and can be considered rude in Japan
- ✓ Do not leave chopsticks sticking up in rice or other foods (this is a symbol of death in Japan)
- ✓ Bowing is considered a polite greeting – foreign visitors are not expected to know all nuances but a bow is appreciated
- ✓ Pay close attention to shoes – if there is foyer with rows of shelves for shoes, you are expected to remove yours / make sure to ALWAYS have socks with you
- ✓ Sometimes slippers are provided – do not leave with the slippers
- ✓ The Japanese slurp their noodles audibly
- ✓ Do not pass food from chopstick to chopstick
- ✓ When visiting shrines and temples, speak quietly and dress modestly – look to other visitors for specific cues for bowing and rinsing hands
- ✓ Japanese are very orderly – lining up and waiting your turn is correct etiquette (even at pedestrian crossings)
- ✓ It is considered rude to talk on the phone on trains and quiet voices everywhere are expected
- ✓ It is considered rude to blow your nose in public
- ✓ It is considered rude to eat/drink and walk in public (or even to eat sitting on steps or other public places unless designated so)



WORLD PROJECTS  
EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH MUSIC

## 12. CELL PHONES / INTERNET / WI-FI

It is always recommended that you check with your cell phone provider prior to departing overseas. Your provider will be able to advise if your particular phone will work throughout Japan and may even be able to provide you with discounted international roaming plans / rates as well as plans for data.

Purchasing a SIM card for an unlocked phone is an option in Japan, however, World Projects does not recommend this for the average traveler as international texts and phone calls will still cost more even with a Japan SIM card.

In regards to internet access, all hotels have free Wi-Fi available as well as business centers with computers connected to the internet. In addition, internet cafes and wireless hotspots can be found throughout major cities.

Those traveling with a laptop may also be able to utilize Skype as a free or inexpensive way to call home.

## 13. PLUG ADAPTERS

Japan utilizes a Type A outlet / plug. This is the same as the USA, however, Japan power plugs do NOT have the 3rd "ground" plug – you will need a plug adapter if your plug has 3 prongs (common with computers).



#### 14. PACKING LIST

##### a. Instruments

- Instrument(s) and music.
- Instrument accessories (valve oil, extra reeds, extra strings, rosin, mutes, etc.)

*There should be no loose items in your case.  
Reed kits need to be packed in checked luggage.*

##### b. Clothing

- Appropriate clothing for warm / humid days and comfortable evening temperatures
- Rain jacket
- Umbrella
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Closed-toed shoes with good traction  
*High heels will not be appropriate for many areas due to uneven surfaces*
- Jeans / pants
- Socks / underwear
- Pajamas / overnight clothing
- Tour t-shirts
- Performance Uniform

*WOMEN – Dressy Black – cap sleeve or sleeveless (no thin straps) black pants or skirt (skirt must go past the knees), black shoes, Tour Polo*

*MEN – black trousers, long-sleeve white button shirt, black shoes and socks, Tour Polo*

##### c. Toiletries

TSA allows 3-ounce bottles of liquid in your carry-on. All bottles must be packed in a clear plastic zip-lock bag. Any toiletries (shampoo, hand sanitizer, etc.) that exceed 3 ounces must be placed in your checked bag.

- Soap / Shampoo / Conditioner (this is provided by the hotels)
- Cosmetics
- Shaving gear
- Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Comb/ Brush
- Tissues
- Sanitary items (women)

##### d. Other Items

- Cell phone (please check with your cell provider for roaming fees / international plans)
- Camera
- Electronics chargers
- Alarm clock
- Plug adapter (3-prong adapter if needed)