

iGo global

BASIC INFO

Ministry Partners: FFBC serves in Japan with iGo Global & The International Mission Board (SBC)

Location: Osaka, Japan

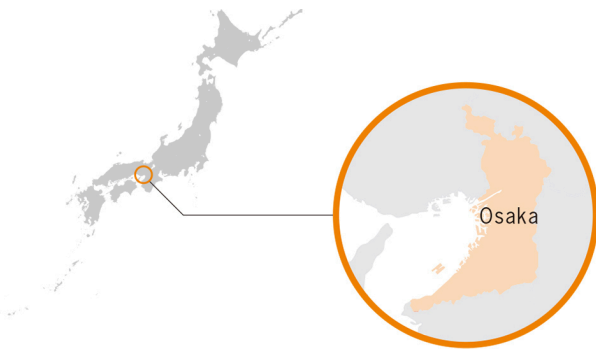
Dates: June 21-July 1, 2025

Cost: \$3700 (\$350 deposit due October 31st, 2024)

Covers meals, lodging, all airfare, training, in-country transportation & travel insurance,... everything but personal souvenirs.

- This cost **does not** include personal passport, personal medical needs or additional insurance.
- **Due to the volatility of fuel prices and their effect on travel costs, we can not provide the exact cost until closer to the trip dates.*

WHY OSAKA, JAPAN?



Osaka is a city of 2.7 million with millions more in the surrounding Kansai area (Kobe, Kyoto, Nara). Japan is a beautiful country with amazing people, but Japanese people have traditionally been skeptical of outsiders and their “foreign religions” and prefer to remain a mix of Buddhist and Shinto. They worship Buddha alongside their ancestors and the thousands of “gods” found in nature. Many have never heard the story of Jesus or have any concept of a singular Creator God who loves them.

Things are changing in Japan. A new generation has started to break from tradition. They have become fascinated with foreign culture, especially American culture. As Japan becomes increasingly exposed to the rest of the world (for example with the 2020 Olympics) being able to speak English has become a top priority for Japanese young people. Young people are also more likely to be abandoning the traditional Japanese idols and religions in favor of atheism, leaving them with no belief or hope in anything other than themselves. Young people are putting an extraordinary amount of stress on themselves when it comes to school and their career. As a result, Japan is suffering from one of the highest suicide rates in the world, especially among children and teens. We have an opportunity to

share the hope of the Gospel with people here who are desperately searching for a reason to continue living. We aim to employ a variety of activities to put you in front of a Japanese person who can understand English enough so that YOU can be the first to tell them the story of the One True God and his plan for salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.



Trey Fleming (IMB Missionary)

Trey Fleming fell in love with the people of Japan a few years back while on an iGo team with students in his youth group. God then led him and his wife to move their family to Osaka, Japan.

Japan has a fascinating culture, amazing technology, and some of the lowest crime rates in the world. But underneath all of Japan's accomplishments is a sense of loneliness and despair as evidenced by some of the highest suicide rates in the world. Less than 1% of Japanese people say they know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. That means that if you talked to 200 people out on the streets of Osaka, 1 or 2 of them might know Jesus and the rest would probably have never heard His story before.

The Flemings are seeking to make Jesus known through free English lessons, international parties, and university campus outreaches. Trey and his family are excited to invite you to join in this ancient work.

*Sign up for Fleming Family Ministry Updates at www.FlemingFaminJapan.com
(also on Facebook & Instagram @flemingfaminjapan)*

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

- **Relational Evangelism:** Our team will go to universities, parks, arcades, stations, markets, or other public places throughout this trip. Anywhere we go, we will stand out and make friends with people interested in meeting foreigners and practicing English with them. They will all want to know what compelled you to visit Osaka and you will have many opportunities to share your faith.
- **Park Ministry:** Our group will go to a local park to play games. Japanese students will want to join in on the fun! We will make friends and share Jesus.

• **Prayer Walking:** Your team will spend a lot of time praying for God to break up the hard ground there and to reveal truth to those around you. Walking in a group of believers and praying might not sound like you are doing much, but most people you see on the street have NEVER had anyone pray specifically for them in the name of Jesus. Prayer IS the work of every missionary!

• **5 Minute English:** We will go to a major crossroads (usually a train station or footbridge) and hold up signs offering a free English lesson. How can you find the English speakers in a sea of 2.7 million people? This is how! Business people, college students, and people who have lived abroad will jump at the chance to brush up on their English skills. After a short practice there is a natural transition to talk about religion. If a person shows interest we can share the Gospel in a variety of ways and follow up with them throughout the week.

TRANSPORTATION

Osaka has a great public transportation system to get you around the city.

LODGING

Local Church Accommodations or Alternative AirBNB type lodging is usually the cheapest and most convenient. You will be provided with more info on this in the Base Camp Travel Packet that you will receive in the spring.

WEATHER

It's similar to Texas weather in the Summer so think HOT. That being said, iGo has a dress code for you to follow and it really does help here to dress in a more professional manner.

SCHEDULE

Basic Schedule:

2-Day Base Camp Training (Dallas, TX)

These first two days of your trip will be focused on preparing you for your trip.

Travel to Osaka

You will wake up early on the morning of departure day and take a bus from Base Camp to DFW. You will fly the entire route to Osaka. (13hours*)

Japan Ministry Days

Most of the organized ministry you will be doing will take place morning to evening each day. A free-day will happen towards the end of the week, to be planned by our in-country partnerships.

Return to the USA

On-site Training: In addition to the training you will receive at iGo Base Camp, there will be a training each day with special guests that will serve as an orientation for that specific day's work. This meeting time will also include corporate worship through music and teaching, and some time will be given to you for your own personal devotion.

Ministry: In addition to training time, you will split up into treks. A trek is a group of about 5-15 people with at least one FLT (Field Leadership Team) leader and adult chaperones who will provide supervision and assistance. The treks will spread out all over the city and will each do relatively the same type of ministry at their location: prayer walking, relational evangelism, and university/park ministry. Keep in mind that your FLIGHT will be there to help you every step of the way.

Celebration / Integration: At some point each day all of the trek groups will meet together to celebrate what God has done. This is a great time to hear stories you may have missed as well as discuss ways to integrate what you're learning back into your everyday life once you return home.

FIRST STEPS

- PRAY!**
- Learn more about our partners by following iGoGlobal and the Fleming Fam.**
- Apply for a US Passport** ****Must obtain by December 31, 2024**
- Submit iGo Application:** August/September 2024
- Fundraising Planning Meeting:** September 26th, 2024 6:30pm at FFBC - This meeting will cover the methods of fundraising that will and will not be allowed, strategies for fundraising, and how to write and send a ministry support team letter..
- Initial Deposit:** \$350 non-refundable deposit due October 31st 2024.
- What to expect once accepted & committed:**
 - Electronic Release Forms
 - Training Details
 - Emergency Contact Details
 - Packing Instructions
 - Team Fellowships
 - Travel Details & Flight Itinerary

Month	Task(s):
Summer 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apply for US Passport ● Pray & Explore Opportunity
August-September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receive Travel Dates ● Start iGo Global Application Process ● Submit iGo Global Application ● Attend Fundraising Planning Meeting
Fall 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$350 Deposit to FFBC due 10/31 ● Set Up Payment Plans
December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Obtain US Passport before 12/31
January-April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make payments ● Prepare for trip/attend team meetings
May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Balances due in May

Introduction / History

Japan is a large group of islands located between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan. The five main islands are Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and Okinawa. Honshu contains the capital, Tokyo, as well as many major industrial areas.

Rugged mountain chains containing several active volcanoes account for more than 71% of Japan's total land area. Most of the countryside is covered by dense forests, leaving little land for farming. Japan is subject to numerous earthquakes, typhoons, and monsoons.

Racially, culturally, and ethnically, the Japanese are one of the most homogenous people groups in the world. They identify themselves in terms of biological heritage, birth in Japan, a shared culture, and a common language (Japanese). One group, the Burakumin, speaks a unique Japanese dialect. Society considers them undesirable outcasts.

What do Japanese people live like?

Sixty percent of the Japanese live in nuclear families, while slightly over one-fifth live in extended family units, or ie. The ie consists of a three-generation household of grandparents, parents, and children. Japanese couples are free to choose their own marriage partners; however, many marriages are still arranged. The divorce rate is one quarter of that in the United States.

Japan's economy is based on a competitive market/private enterprise system. Many families farm as a secondary occupation. Typically, the wife tends to the farm while the husband works full-time in a business or industry. Rice remains the principal crop, though its production is strictly controlled. Other sources of income include livestock production, fishing, shipbuilding, foreign trade, scientific research and technology development.

Traditionally, Japanese buildings are made of wood with deep projecting roofs as protection against the monsoons. Rural Japanese homes are built with a joined skeleton frame of post and beam construction. The floor is raised above the ground with its posts resting on a foundation stone, which allows the structure to bounce during earthquakes. In cities, most people live in apartments or housing corporations.

Many men, women, and children enjoy wearing Western clothing for their daily activities; however, traditional costumes are worn during special religious ceremonies or festivals. Japanese women are also often seen wearing their traditional silk Kimonos.

The uniqueness of Japanese culture can be seen in their art forms, which include the highly refined flower arrangements ('ikebana'), tea ceremonies ('cha-no-yu'), calligraphy, and puppetry. The theater of No and Kabuki have also remained.

Traditional and Western forms of recreation include baseball, Sumo wrestling, judo, karate, table tennis, fishing, volleyball, shogi (Japanese chess) and go (a complicated game of strategy). Gardening is the most popular hobby of both men and women.

What do Japanese Believe?

Shintoism is the native religion of Japan. It is rooted in animism (belief that non-living objects have spirits). Its many gods or spirits are known as kami. Buddhism was introduced to Japan in the sixth century. Today, most Japanese claim to be both Shintoist and Buddhist.

Traditions of Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism have all contributed to Japanese religious principles: ancestor worship; a belief in religious continuity of the family; a close tie between the nation and religion; a free exchange of ideas among religious systems; and religious practices centered on the use of prayer meditation, amulets, and purification.