

2026 Japan Cultural Experience - Applications now Open

Greetings from NZ Study Tours!

In association with Tauranga's Sister City activities, the Hitachi City Office, Priority One, and Education Tauranga, we are delighted to announce that applications are now open for the [**2026 JCE Japan Cultural Experience**](#).

The Sister City relationship between Hitachi City and Tauranga was established in 1988, laying the foundation for a long-standing cultural and educational exchange. Since 2002, NZ Study Tours (formerly Let's Homestay) has been welcoming students from Hitachi City into Tauranga homes, fostering meaningful connections at a grassroots level.

In 2018, NZ Study Tours expanded this partnership by launching the Japan Cultural Experience programme, enabling Tauranga-based students to travel to Japan and immerse themselves in life within Hitachi City. These programmes have resulted in many successful exchanges, with dozens of students gaining first-hand exposure to Japan's rich culture, traditions, and community life through our sister city.

Supported by a strong and trusted relationship with the Hitachi City Office, our groups are warmly received. Host families are thoughtfully arranged, and students are given a genuine insight into the city through well-coordinated local engagement and cultural experiences.

Delivered as part of Tauranga's Sister City activities, this programme offers a unique opportunity to broaden horizons, build international relationships, and open a wider world of understanding for our young people.

JCE 2026: Hitachi & Tokyo Trip

We will be hosting an online information evening:
Monday 16 February 2026 at 6:30pm

Registration is required to receive the meeting link. [**PLEASE REGISTER HERE**](#)

For further information please [**VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE**](#)

