

WELCOME TO JAPAN

Welcome to Japan, where neon skylines meet tranquil temples and sushi. One moment you're lost in a cityscape, the next you're surrounded by serene gardens. This guide is your companion, offering essentials to explore Japan's wonders without feeling overwhelmed.





FAST FACTS & CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Must-Know Basics

- Language: Japanese (urban signs also in English)
- Currency: Yen (¥) carry cash.
- Time Zone: JST.
- Best Time: Spring (cherry blossoms)
 and autumn (vibrant foliage)
- Capital: Tokyo.
- Population: ~125 million.

Cultural Etiquette

Bowing is essential in Japan—like a graceful handshake. When greeting or thanking someone, a modest bow goes a long way. Remove shoes when entering homes or traditional inns (ryokan), and never stick chopsticks upright in rice—it's bad luck.

TOP DESTINATIONS TO EXPLORE



Tokyo

Busy, neon-lit Tokyo never sleeps. Explore Shibuya's streets, Ginza's elegant high-end shopping, and Harajuku's pop culture. For a refreshing break, visit Meiji Shrine's urban oasis.

Kyoto

Ever step into a dreamscape? That's Kyoto.

Ancient temples, gardens, and teahouses evoke
a timeless ambiance. Wander Arashiyama
Bamboo Forest or admire Kinkaku-ji's golden
splendor.



Osaka

Osaka blends friendly vibes, mouthwatering street food, and laid-back charm. Visit neon Dotonbori for takoyaki, explore Universal Studios, or soak in history at Osaka Castle.

Hiroshima

Hiroshima, reborn from ashes, offers profound lessons at Peace Memorial Park, vibrant spirit, and mouthwatering cuisine—don't miss its Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki, a must-try.



Fun Quirks

Love vending machines? Japan is your paradise. From hot drinks to

flowers, they're

practically every corner. And don't be surprised if you find an

unexpected flavour of KitKat

(green tea, anyone?).

Japanese **FOOD & DINING ADVENTURES**

Food in Japan is more than sushi. It's a rollercoaster for the taste buds with savoury ramen, crispy tempura, kaiseki meals, and quirky fusion dishes waiting to be discovered.

Sushi & Sashimi:

Freshness is key. Try a conveyor-belt sushi spot (kaiten-zushi) for a casual, walletfriendly feast.



Ramen:

Slurp away your worries. From miso ramen in Hokkaido to tonkotsu (pork bone) in Kyushu, each region has its own spin.

Street Food:

Takoyaki (octopus balls) in Osaka, yakitori (grilled chicken skewers) in Tokyo, and the sweet mochi treats in Kyoto are unmissable.



Bento Culture:

Convenience stores (conbini) offer surprisingly good bento boxes—perfect for a quick on-the-go meal.



Getting Around & Practical Tips

Transportation:

The Japanese rail system is legendary for punctuality. Grab yourself a Japan Rail Pass if you're planning multiple train rides—it could save you a bundle. Plus, bullet trains (Shinkansen) are an experience in themselves—like gliding on a sleek silver arrow through the countryside.

Accommodation:

You'll find everything from capsule hotels (tiny but futuristic pods) to traditional ryokans (tatami-mat rooms and hot springs). If you want a real taste of Japanese hospitality, a ryokan stay is a must.





Communication:

Pick up a pocket Wi-Fi device or SIM card at the airport, so you're never lost in translation. That said, local folks are super helpful—gestures and a smile can go a long way if language becomes a barrier.

Money & Budgeting:

Japan might have a reputation for being pricey, but it caters to all budgets. You can find affordable meals and discounted travel passes if you do a bit of research. Keep cash handy for smaller shops and rural areas.

TRAVEL COSTS

Wonder if your wallet can handle Japan's delights? Options suit every budget—from upscale Tokyo rooftop bars to cozy capsule hotels.

For mid-range daily spending, budget **¥8,000–¥12,000** (USD \$70–\$110) for meals, transit, and entertainment.

Accommodations include capsule hotels (¥2,000-¥4,000 per night), budget hostels

(¥3,000–¥6,000), or traditional ryokans (around ¥10,000+).

Save with lunch specials, a JR Pass for multi-city travel, and free attractions like parks and shrines.

Monthly, a single person may comfortably spend just roughly **¥80,000–¥120,000 (USD \$600–\$900)** on living costs.

Immersive EXPERIENCES

Cultural Classes

Fancy learning the art of tea ceremony? Want to rock a kimono for a day? Japan offers countless hands-on experiences that help you step right into the culture.



Onsen Etiquette

Communal hot springs are central to Japanese life—like the ultimate spa. Always rinse off before entering the water, and avoid swimsuits for a natural, truly relaxing soak in authentic style.

The Japan eVisa

Skip embassy lines with the Japan eVisa—a digital VIP pass for entry.

Apply online anytime, with 3 steps:

- 1) Fill online—upload passport scans and verify details.
- 2) Pay securely (credit/debit).
- 3) Download your approved eVisa—print or save it.

Valid for **90 days** with up to **15 days' stay (single-entry)**, this eVisa lets you plan side trips wisely.



Enjoy quick turnaround:

Choose from <u>Standard</u> (26–32 work days), <u>Rush</u> (20–26 days), or <u>Super Rush</u> (14–20 days) processing, depending on your timeline.





Final Thoughts

Parting Advice:

Japan is all about respect—respect for tradition, for other people, and for the little details that make life smooth. Embrace that mindset, and you'll find the locals are more than happy to share their country with you. Slow down, try new foods, wander side streets, and don't fret if you get lost—that's part of the magic!

Handy Phrases:

- Konnichiwa (Hello)
- Arigatō gozaimasu (Thank you very much)
- Sumimasen (Excuse me / Sorry)
- Eigo ga hanasemasu ka? (Do you speak English?)
- Doko desu ka? (Where is it?)
- Oishii! (Delicious!)

Encourage Curiosity:

Think of Japan like a tapestry—beautifully woven with threads of ancient tradition and cutting-edge innovation. Unraveling each thread reveals new adventures, so let your curiosity lead the way.

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