

Japan Travel Guide

A practical guide to planning, budgeting, transport, packing, etiquette, apps, and first-time travel tips.

How to Plan Your Trip to Japan

A first trip to Japan is easier when you decide your trip length, route, season, and key bookings before you leave.

Plan Your Route

A practical first-time route can connect Tokyo, the Mount Fuji area, Kyoto, and Osaka. Group nearby attractions together so you spend less time moving between places.

Plan Around the Season

Spring and autumn are popular travel periods. If you want cherry blossoms or autumn foliage, expect higher demand and plan important bookings early.

Before You Leave

- Valid passport and required entry documents
- Accommodation and important transport reservations
- Japanese yen plus a backup payment method
- Reliable mobile data such as an eSIM or Wi-Fi device

Essential Japan Travel Information

Visa Requirements

Check the current entry rules that apply to your nationality before booking your trip. Keep your passport valid for the full period of travel and prepare any required documents.

Currency and Payment Methods

Cards are widely accepted in cities, hotels, and larger stores, but cash is still useful for smaller businesses and some traditional experiences. Carry some Japanese yen.

Internet and SIM Cards

Reliable mobile data is useful for navigation, translation, tickets, and communication. An eSIM can be convenient when your phone supports it; pocket Wi-Fi is another option.

Transportation

Japan has an efficient public transportation system. The Shinkansen connects major cities, while metro systems, local trains, and buses make getting around cities convenient.

Where to Stay

Japan offers business hotels, hostels, capsule hotels, vacation rentals, and traditional ryokans. Staying near a convenient train station can save travel time.

Budget for Your Japan Trip

Your daily budget depends on accommodation, dining, transport, and activities. Plan separate amounts for accommodation, food, transport, attractions, shopping, and emergencies.

Simple Ways to Save Money

- Use convenience stores and casual local restaurants for affordable meals.
- Compare individual fares with rail passes before buying a pass.
- Stay near convenient transport hubs.
- Travel during less busy periods when possible.
- Book popular accommodation and experiences early.

Safety & Etiquette in Japan

Japan is known for orderly public spaces and strong social customs. Stay aware of your surroundings and prepare for natural events such as earthquakes and typhoons.

Japanese Etiquette

- Remove shoes where expected.
- Keep voices low on trains and avoid phone calls in quiet areas.
- Follow local rules about photography and queues.
- Carry rubbish until you find a suitable place to dispose of it.

Packing Checklist

Passport and travel documents; Japanese yen and payment cards; comfortable walking shoes; phone, charger and power bank; suitable adapter; weather-appropriate clothing; small day bag; personal medicines.

Must-Have Travel Apps

Google Maps for routes and stations; Google Translate for signs and menus; Japan Travel by NAVITIME for route planning; and a currency converter for checking prices.

Common Mistakes First-Time Visitors Should Avoid

1. Trying to visit too many cities. 2. Booking too late. 3. Not carrying cash. 4. Ignoring local etiquette. 5. Overpacking. 6. Skipping travel insurance. 7. Overplanning every minute.

Travel information can change. Check current official sources before booking flights, accommodation, transport, or visa-related services.