



Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



COUNTRY INFORMATION, FACTS & ADVICE

Japan



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● ARRIVING INTO JAPAN

Passport and Visa

All travellers can freely access Japan by air, sea, and land. As of 1 January 2024, travellers from 70 countries will be allowed to stay for 90 days without requiring a visa.

To find out if your country is included on this visa exemption list, please check the below link.

[Japan Visa Exemption List](#)

Entry Information

We recommend visiting the Visit Japan website, which allows you to perform immigration procedures (immigration inspection, customs declaration) in advance of your arrival to save time.

[Japan Immigration and Customs declaration](#)

Useful tips:

- Check your passport expiry date and ensure it is valid for more than six months beyond the date of your expected return to your country.
- Ensure you have at least two blank pages in your passport prior to arrival in each country of your journey.
- Print all important documents and keep them handy, such as airline tickets and visa approval letters.
- If your passport is lost or stolen overseas, please contact your local Asia Concierge representative or hotel staff. They will assist you in contacting the relevant embassy or consulate.

Whilst we do our best to provide the most up-to-date information, visa requirements may change at short notice. Obtaining the correct visa is the responsibility of each guest. Therefore, we recommend that you check with your consulate or embassy for current visa information before leaving home.

● KEEPING HEALTHY IN JAPAN

Drinking Water

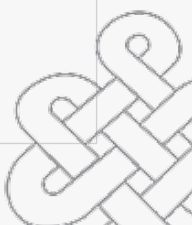
Tap water in Japan is safe to drink and of a good quality. We recommend bringing a water bottle from home, as you can fill this up in your hotel each day to cut down on plastic usage.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is highly recommended for the duration of your entire trip.

Special Requirements

If you are on prescribed medication, ensure that you take a copy of your prescriptions in case of loss of supply. Be sure to pack enough medication in your hand luggage for the duration of your trip as it may not be available locally. It is important to keep it in its original packaging. Check with the relevant embassy or consulate that your medication is legal in the countries you plan to visit and find out whether you need to take a doctor's letter with you.





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● TIPPING

If you are from a country where tipping is routinely practiced, it may come as a surprise that this is rare in Japan. If you are visiting bars, cafes, or restaurants, taking taxis, or staying in hotels, tipping is not expected. In fact, it can cause discomfort and confusion if you do. A service charge is generally added on to the final bill in restaurants.

If you have a private guide, or interpreter—someone who is used to western practices—then they may accept a tip from you (although it is certainly not expected). If you do decide to tip, make sure to put any bills in an envelope. You can buy these at convenience stores or 100-yen shops.

● WEATHER

Japan's land area stretches from the northernmost island of Hokkaido, close to Russia, to the subtropics of Okinawa. The weather varies greatly from region to region, so it is always best to check the weather forecast for the areas you'll be traveling to.

Japan has four very distinct seasons:

Spring (March-May)

Spring is celebrated throughout the country with the arrival of the cherry blossoms. Starting in the south and gradually moving north, the blossoms bloom depending on your location. Cool and breezy with generally sunny skies, spring is a comfortable time to get out and explore the cities and countryside. Leading into summer, the rainy season begins in May to June.

Summer (June – August)

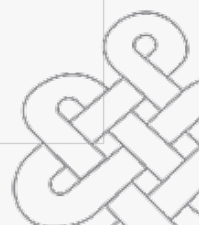
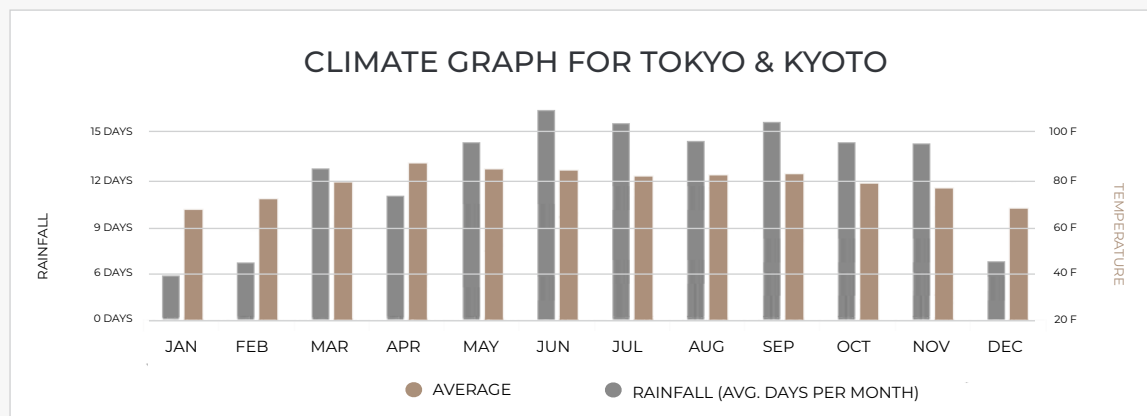
Summer throughout Japan is hot and humid—make sure to keep hydrated. The beaches are packed, firework displays explode above the nation's rivers, and street festivals are held around every corner. The mountains offer some respite from the major city cities.

Autumn (September – November)

As the weather cools, the autumn colours light-up the countryside. Starting in the northern island of Hokkaido and traveling south, the dazzling autumn leaves blanket the country between late September and early December. Like spring, the fall season is perfect for outdoor exploration and a great time to taste what's in Japan's larder.

Winter (December – February)

The ski season begins, and the northern areas are covered with Japan's peerless powder snow. The weather varies from region to region, but in cities like Tokyo and Kyoto, winter brings mostly sunny days and beautiful blue skies.





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● PLUGS, ELECTRICITY & CONNECTIVITY

Plugs & Electricity

The voltage used throughout Japan is uniformly 100 volts, A.C. Plugs have two flat blades, the same as the US.

WiFi & Connectivity

Free WiFi is not common in public areas in Japan, so we recommend looking at a roaming package with your mobile phone provider, a travel sim or pocket WIFI.

● MONEY

Currency & Exchange

Japan's currency is the Japanese Yen (JPY). Yen comes in bills of 1,000 yen, 2,000-yen, 5,000 yen and 10,000 yen, and coins of 1 yen, 5 yen, 10 yen, 50 yen, and 100 yen. Carrying a purse for your Japanese coins throughout your stay in Japan is a good idea since the value of them (and weight in your wallet) soon adds up.

If you haven't prepared cash in advance, it's easy to exchange any currency into Japanese yen once you arrive in the country. All major airports have exchange points in their respective arrival halls. Changing money in cities can be a longer and more difficult process – the easiest way is at your hotel, but do check the rate first.

Whilst it is getting easier to get by on credit cards, Japan is still quite a cash-based society, so keep cash on you to use in smaller shops and restaurants, as well as in more rural areas.

Credit Cards

Credit and debit of international brands are generally accepted throughout the country. Even though it is possible to pay for most services with international credit cards, carrying some cash is recommended.

Prepaid Cards

If you are uncomfortable carrying a large amount of cash with you, another option is to purchase a Suica Card or Pasma Card. These cards aren't simply for using the trains—you can use them on many other forms of public transport, as well as at convenience stores, and an increasing number of shops and restaurants. While they can't be used everywhere, they can be a useful alternative to carrying cash.

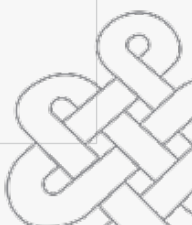
Pasma Card

Banks & ATMs

The easiest place to withdraw money out is at 7-11s, which are ubiquitous throughout Japan. They are open 24 hours and have English instructions.

You can also dispense cash from one of the many Japan Post Bank ATMs located nationwide. Most of them are in the Post Offices, but you can also find some at train stations and supermarkets. Service hours differ by ATM. The service is available in English.

In more rural areas, access to ATMS may be limited.





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● TIME ZONE

Japan Standard Time (JST) is GMT + 9 hours, Pacific time + 17 hours, and Eastern Time + 14hours. Daylight saving is not observed.

● SHOPPING

Shops in Japanese major cities are generally open from 10am – 8pm.

Japan has a tax exemption program for foreign tourists visiting Japan which applies to all items, from general items such as home appliances, accessories, and shoes, to consumable items such as alcohol, food, cosmetics, and medicines.

Purchases that total 5,000 yen or more qualify for a tax refund, and the terms and conditions of tax refunds depend on the type of product. The tax refund procedure must be carried out while at an airport or similar location. To carry out the procedure, you must show your actual passport.

Tax is exempt only under certain conditions. See below for information about the current tax exemption in Japan.

[Japan Tax Exemptions](#)

Japan

