



Perfect moments, always



JAPAN TRAVEL GUIDE

BASIC INFORMATION

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN APRIL

	Average High Temperature (°C/°F)	Average Low Temperature (°C/°F)	Rainy Days
WINNIPEG	11°C /52°F	-2°C/28°F	8
TOKYO	18°C /64°F	11°C/52°F	16
HAKONE	12.5°C/54.5°F	2.3°C/°F36.1	11
HIROSHIMA	18.2°C/64.8°F	8.9°C/48°F	10
KYOTO	19°C/66°F	9°C/48°F	14
OSAKA	19°C/66°F	11°C/52°F	14

CLIMATE IN APRIL

JAPAN

Besides November, April is often considered the best time to visit Japan because the cherry blossoms are in full bloom in most regions of the country and the weather is pleasantly mild.

CLOTHING

- Lightweight clothes. You should also bring a light jacket, cardigan and other similar kind, since temperatures may drop in the mornings and at night.
- Formal attire is not required during this tour.
- Comfortable walking shoes that slip on and off easily are strongly recommended .

TIME DIFFERENCE

All of Japan is in the same time zone. 14 hours ahead of Winnipeg.
For example : Winnipeg / 6:00p.m. Japan / 8:00a.m.

DRINKING WATER

Tap water is safe to drink anywhere in Japan. Mineral water including major imported brands can be easily purchased at super markets, convenience stores , other similar places or vending machines.

BASIC INFORMATION

CURRENCY & MONEY EXCHANGE

There is no limit on the amount of any currency that may be brought into or taken out of Japan. However, if you transport (any currencies, checks, securities or other monies) exceeding 1,000,000 yen worth in Japanese currency into or out of the country then you must complete a customs declaration.

The unit of Japanese currency is yen. Coins are available in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 yen and bank notes in denominations of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 yen.



You can buy yen at foreign exchange banks and other authorized money exchangers. At the international airports, currency exchange counters are usually open during normal office hours. The exchange rate fluctuates daily depending on the money market.

[1 US Dollar = JPY110 \(as of June.5, 2017\)](#)

TRAVELERS CHECKS

Travelers Checks are accepted by leading banks, hotels, ryokan (Japanese inns) and stores in major cities.

CREDIT, DEBIT, PREPAID CARDS

Credit, debit and prepaid cards of International brands are acceptable at wide variety of merchants. There will be instances where merchants may not display the card acceptance marks so do not hesitate to ask the salesperson if your card is accepted. Outside the major cities, cards not may be widely accepted. And you may need to pay in cash for buses, subways, trains, taxis, and admission to some museum, facilities, temples, shrines, etc.

ATMS

You can withdraw cash using your international brand credit, debit, prepaid and cash cards nationwide at ATMs of Japan Post Bank and Seven Bank.

Seven Bank ATMs <http://www.sevenbank.co.jp/intlcard/card2.html>



Citibank ATMs are also in service but number of ATMs is very limited with most of their ATMs located in major international airports and in their branch offices. Please note that no other Japanese banks currently accept international transactions. To find ATMs near your destination, Visa provides an ATM locator on their website which you can use to locate ATMs by your nearest subway/train station. <http://www.visa-news.jp/visitjapan/atm/index.phtml>

BASIC INFORMATION

HOW TO MAKE A PHONE CALL

Public telephones accept 10 yen and 100 yen coins and/or telephone cards. A local call (within Tokyo's central 23 Wards and some other metropolitan cities) costs 10 yen per minute. If you put in two 10-yen coins and speak for less than one minute, one of the coins will be returned to you. No change is given for partial use of a 100 yen coin. Prepaid telephone cards cost 1,000 yen from vending machines, kiosks at train stations, and convenience stores.

International Call from Japan

To make an international calls from Japan, dial either 001 010 (KDD) or 0033 010 (NTT) followed by the country code and then area code and phone number.

For example, to call JTB USA Inc. Los Angeles office , dial 001-010-1-310-303-3742.

An international telephone card or a credit card is required to make calls from certain public phone (regular telephone cards can not be used to make international calls).

To make an international call with your credit card, dial 0055 first, provided by KDDI , and then follow the Japanese/English guidance.

International Call from US

If your family member in US needs to contact you in Japan, please dial 011 followed by the country code (81) and then omit the first 0 from the telephone number.

For example, to call Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo, 011-81-3-3344-0111

Note : Most of the foreign cell phones do not work in Japan and the ones that work may bring you very expensive bills. A smart phone like an iPhone may work depending on your plan, however data usage charges will be also very expensive. Therefore we recommend you to keep your smart phone on “airplane mode” in Japan and only use it to connect to the Internet by WIFI.

LANGUAGE

There is only one official language spoken in Japan, which is of course Japanese. However, many Japanese are able to understand English to a certain extent since English is the foreign language that everyone must learn as part of compulsory education.

Even if you don't understand Japanese, you can still certainly enjoy Japan. But if you know a few everyday Japanese phrases then it will make your trip even more memorable. A few words make a big difference.

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/touristhandbook/eng.pdf>

Good Morning	Ohayou gozaimasu	Excuse me	Sumimasen
Good Afternoon	Kon'nichiwa	I am sorry	Gomen nasai
Good Evening	Kon'banwa	I don't understand	Wakarimasen
Good Night	Oyasumi nasai	Thank you	Arigatou
Good-Bye	Sayounara	Yes / No	Hai / lie

USEFUL TRAVEL TIPS

For the most part, Japanese society is more formal and conservative than American or Canadian society. Knowing the basic rules and manners before you leave home would help you communicate and befriend the local people in Japan.

AT JAPANESE-STYLE INNS

In many of Western countries, walking around in public areas in hotels such as a lobby or a hallway in pajamas is not allowed. However, that does not apply to Japanese-style inn with big common bathtubs. You can walk around freely in the inns and Onsen resort areas wearing Japanese-style pajama 'yukata'. In Japan, this is a popular custom and also represents a taste of tradition adding to the natural atmosphere.



AT JAPANESE-STYLE ROOMS

When entering a Japanese-style inn and room, make sure to remove your shoes. It is also the same when you enter a tatami-matted room, which is often seen in Japanese-style restaurants including sushi restaurants. If you are worried about getting your feet dirty, then you shouldn't, these places are usually clean!



AT THE COMMON BATHING AREA AND HOT SPRING FACILITIES

There are several codes you might want to keep in mind when going to a big tub or a hot spring facility. Remove your shoes when entering a changing room and put your clothes into any one of the empty lockers or the baskets provided. Valuables are best to be placed in a coin locker. If there are no lockers, leave them at the front desk. You are not allowed to wear swimsuit in the bath. Before entering the hot water, you need to wash your hair and body and then rinse off yourself thoroughly. Using the scoop provided, splash hot water over your body and go into the hot tub. Remember not to put the towel into the hot water. If you have a long hair, tie your hair up so that your hair does not go into the onsen. It is not allowed to scrub your body or swim in the hot water. When bathing with your friends, avoid talking in a loud voice. In the sauna room, twisting a wet towel, or taking up too much space should be avoided. When leaving the sauna, make sure to wipe your own sweat off the seat. Before going back to the changing room, dry your sole or body briefly.



TOILET

Japanese hotels or many other buildings have high-tech toilets. They shoot cold or warm water and wash your bottom before using toilet paper. Follow the instructions posted on the wall before using. If you don't understand, it may be better not to hit any buttons as it might start spraying water all over the bathroom.



SMOKING

Smoking cigarettes is banned in most of public facilities and on public transport. If you are a smoker, remember that you are only allowed to smoke at the designated areas with an ashtray or an air filter. Never smoke while walking or throw cigarettes butts on the streets.



USEFUL TRAVEL TIP

TIPPING

Individual tipping is not common in Japan, not even to waitresses, taxi drivers, or bellboys. Rather, in lieu of tipping, a 10 to 15 percent service charge is added to bills at leading hotels, ryokan and higher-class restaurants. No tip is necessary unless you request some extra special services.

BOWING

In Japan, people greet each other by bowing. It is also common to bow to express thanks, to apologize, to make a request or to ask someone a favor.



MEAL ETIQUETTE

Typical feature of Japanese food is that it can all be eaten with chopsticks. Chopsticks are placed to the front of each place at a table or tray, pointed to the side instead of straight up and down. Knives, forks, individual soup ladles, and spoons are not needed for Japanese food. Even soups can be consumed in this manner by lifting the bowl directly to the mouth to drink. Food portions are served in edible sizes, and it is considered polite to finish every dish that you touch with your chopsticks. Soups like miso soup come in bowls large enough to hold in one hand. You lift the rice bowl with your left hand as well, and etiquette calls for you to eat every single kernel of rice in the bowl before finishing.



Sushi

Eat sushi with your hands. It is not rude to eat sushi with your hands. Put your own soy sauce serving into a small plate. When eating nigiri-zushi, turn the sushi over so the "neta" (topping) is facing downwards, apply soy sauce, and put it in your mouth without turning it back over. This method of eating keeps the rice from getting wet and falling apart and places the neta directly onto the tongue, giving a better sense of the topping flavor.

TAXI

Taxis are widely available at major cities in Japan. Taxis that display a red light above the dashboard are free to pick up passengers; those with a green light are occupied. Be careful when approaching a taxi's left rear door: it is opened and closed automatically from within by the driver. We recommend that it's wise to write down the name of your destination in Japanese, since few taxi drivers understand English. It is possible for you to have a hotel front desk or someone who writes Japanese to help you writing.

VOLTAGE

In Japan voltage is 100volts vs. US 110volts. It may take little longer to charge your digital camera or other appliances. Most of hotels has US standard outlet (also hotel has adaptors available to rent) but it is different in Japan and US, to bring own adaptor is suggested.

USEFUL TRAVEL TIP

PROHIBITED ARTICLES

- 1. Narcotic drugs, stimulants, marihuana,psychotropic substances, MDMA etc.
- 2. Firearms such as Pistols revolvers and machineguns, and bullets or parts thereof.
- 3. Explosives (dynamite etc), materials for chemical weapons.
- 4. Counterfeit, altered or imitated bank notes, coins or securities, and forged credit cards.
- 5. Obscene or immoral materials, and Child pornography.
- 6. Articles which infringe upon intellectual property rights. (patent, utility model, design, trademark, copyright, neighboring right, etc.)

RESTRICTED ARTICLES

- 1. Hunting guns, air guns, swords, etc.
- 2. Internationally protected endangered animals, plants, or their products.
(crocodiles, Cobras, Turtles, ivory, musk, cactus, etc.)
- 3. Live animals and plants, meat products (including sausage etc), vegetables, fruits, rice etc.
(Quarantine inspection is required prior to Customs inspection.)

PROHIBITED/RESTRICTED ITEMS TO USA

Fresh, dried (canned meat permitted if cooked in can and can be stored without refrigeration) or meat products, poultry meat, narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, plants, some seeds, fresh vegetables & fruits, soil, live insects, snails, and other living plant or animal pests. Imports from or exports to Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Korea (North), Libya & Sudan. Matches and match-books in luggage unless tightly packed in a closed container. Eggs and dairy products, except fully-cured cheese .

TSA REGULATION FOR YOUR CARRY-ON BAGGAGE (3-1-1 RULE)

3-1-1 for Carry-ons
Prepare for Take-off →

3

3.4 ounces or smaller containers of liquid or gel

More than 3.4 ounces permitted in checked baggage

Container size is a security measure



1

1 quart-size, clear plastic, zip-top bag holding 3.4 ounces or smaller containers

Bag limits total volume per person



1

1 bag per traveler placed in the security bin

Isolating liquids speeds screening



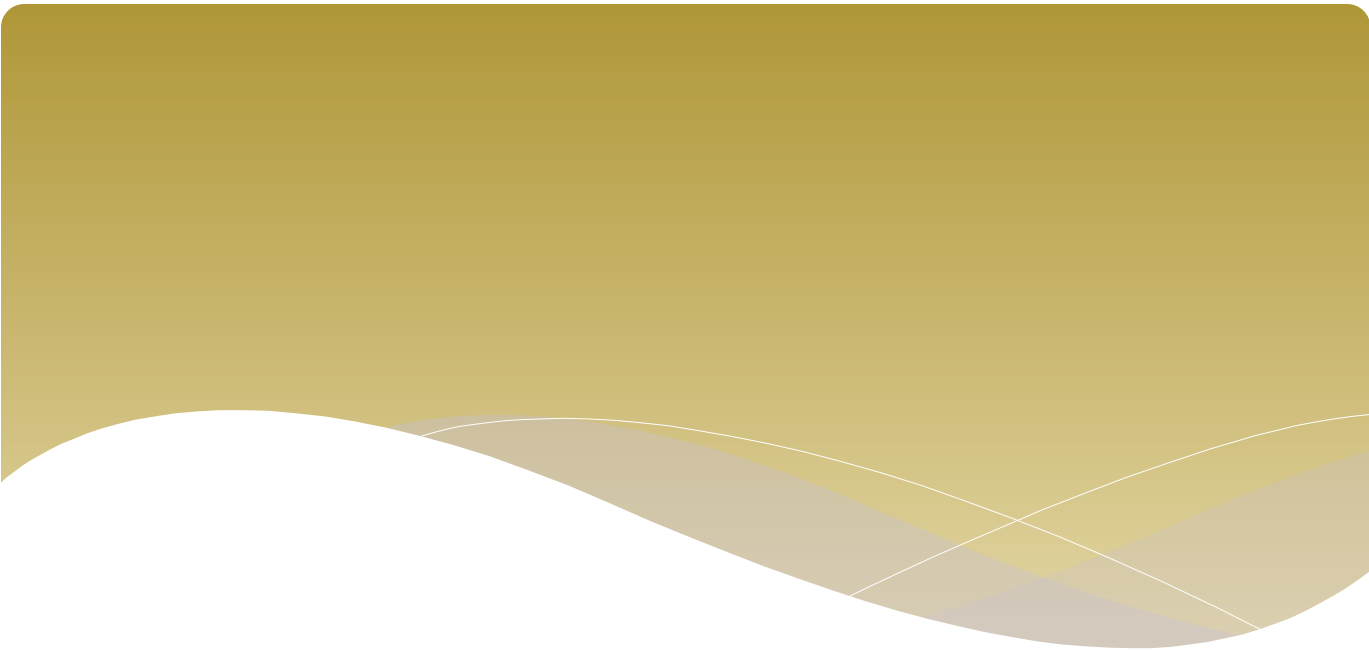
USEFUL TRAVEL TIP

DUTY-FREE ALLOWANCE FOR NON-RESIDENTS TO JAPAN		
ITEM	QUANTITY	NOTES
Alcoholic beverages	3 bottles	Approximately 760 ml per bottle
Cigarettes	400	If a visitor brings in more than one kind of tobacco product then the total allowance is 500 g.
Cigars	100	
Others (e.g. loose tobacco)	500g	
Perfumes	2oz	1 oz is equivalent to approx. 28 cc. (excluding eau de cologne and eau de toilette)
Other items	200,000yen (Approx. \$2040)	The total overseas market value of all articles other than the above items must be under 200,000 yen. Any item whose overseas market value is under 10,000 yen is free of duty and/or tax and is not included in the calculation of the total overseas market value of all articles. There is no duty-free allowance for articles having a market value of more than 200,000 yen each or each set.

DUTY-FREE ALLOWANCE FOR RESIDENTS TO USA		
ITEM	QUANTITY	NOTES
Alcoholic beverages	1 litre	For persons of 21 years or older: 1 litre of alcoholic beverage
Cigarettes	200	For residents returning from other countries 200 cigarettes plus a reasonable quantity of tobacco and 100 cigars.
Cigars	100	
Perfumes		Perfumes, lotions, Eau de Cologne if not under a trade mark restriction recorded in the United States Treasury Dept.
Other items	\$800.00	Returning residents of the United States up to \$800 worth of articles acquired abroad provided their stay abroad was at least 48hours and their duty-free exemption was not used in the preceding 30days.

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

Passport	You only need passport when you travel foreign country, you can put away your state I.D. Make sure your passport has your intended travel length plus more than 6 months validation.
Money / Credit Card / ATM Card	Best to have cash in Yen to get around and you can use credit card (no Discover card. Visa card, Master card and Amex cards are fine) . It is suggested to let your credit card company know that you are traveling to Japan so that way you can avoid security block on any oversea charges. You can also buy traveler's check in USD and exchange in Japan. Try to use up your left over coins before you come back. Coins cannot be exchanged back to USD (only bills are accepted to exchange).
Photocopy of documents	Photocopies of your passport and credit cards (stored in a separate place from those items), in case you misplace the originals.
Prescription medications	Ensure you take an adequate quantity in the original containers
First Aid Kit	Anti-diarrhea medication, Pain relievers, Anti-bacterial ointment, etc.
Glasses and Contact Lenses	
Handkerchief / Pocket tissue	A mini-towel is handy if you carry in your bag for drying your hands. Most restrooms, in spite of their extreme cleanliness, do not provide paper towels. Carrying a mini towel is a very common in Japan.
Camera	Along with back up batteries and memory cards.
Umbrella	
English/Japanese Dictionary	
Walking shoes	Take comfortable shoes for walking.
Clothes	Jacket, Night wear, Socks, Underwear, etc.
Toiletries and beauty products	Shaver, Cosmetics, and your own amenities.
Empty water bottle	Carry the water battle for drinking, while you are sightseeing.
Pen / Memo note	
Other travel necessities	Such as a smaller travel bag for field trips and daytrips, iPod, pocket calculator, travel alarm clock, zip-top bags, a travel pillow, extra batteries, address list for sending postcards, sewing kit, earplugs, etc.



Perfect moments, always

**JTB USA Inc.
Japan & Asia Travel Department
19700 Mariner Ave. Torrance, CA 90503
1-800-882-0268 (310-404-4742)
www.jtbusa.com**