



A Travel Guide to
JAPAN

THE
ESSENTIAL
THINGS



PLACES CUISINES CULTURE HACKS and MORE!



It's a blessing for us to take people to places and make them smile every day.

- CEO David Dao



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**EXPLORE
ENJOY
REPEAT**



**UNBEATABLE
PRICES**



**7-DAY
MONEY BACK**



**DEPARTURE
GUARANTEE**

Greetings from

Asia Vacation Group

Inspired by the passion of travelling and exploring the extraordinary, Asia Vacation Group travel agency was born in 2015 with the vision of delivering the ultimate travel experience to group and individuals around the world.

Guests Lover

Our dedicated services are with you all the way. Just sit back and relax.

Local Leaders

With more than 60 itineraries to 7 countries in Asia, we will take you the most beautiful corners of the land.

Responsible Travel

We implement only good ethic practices to protect the environment and historical wonders for mankind.

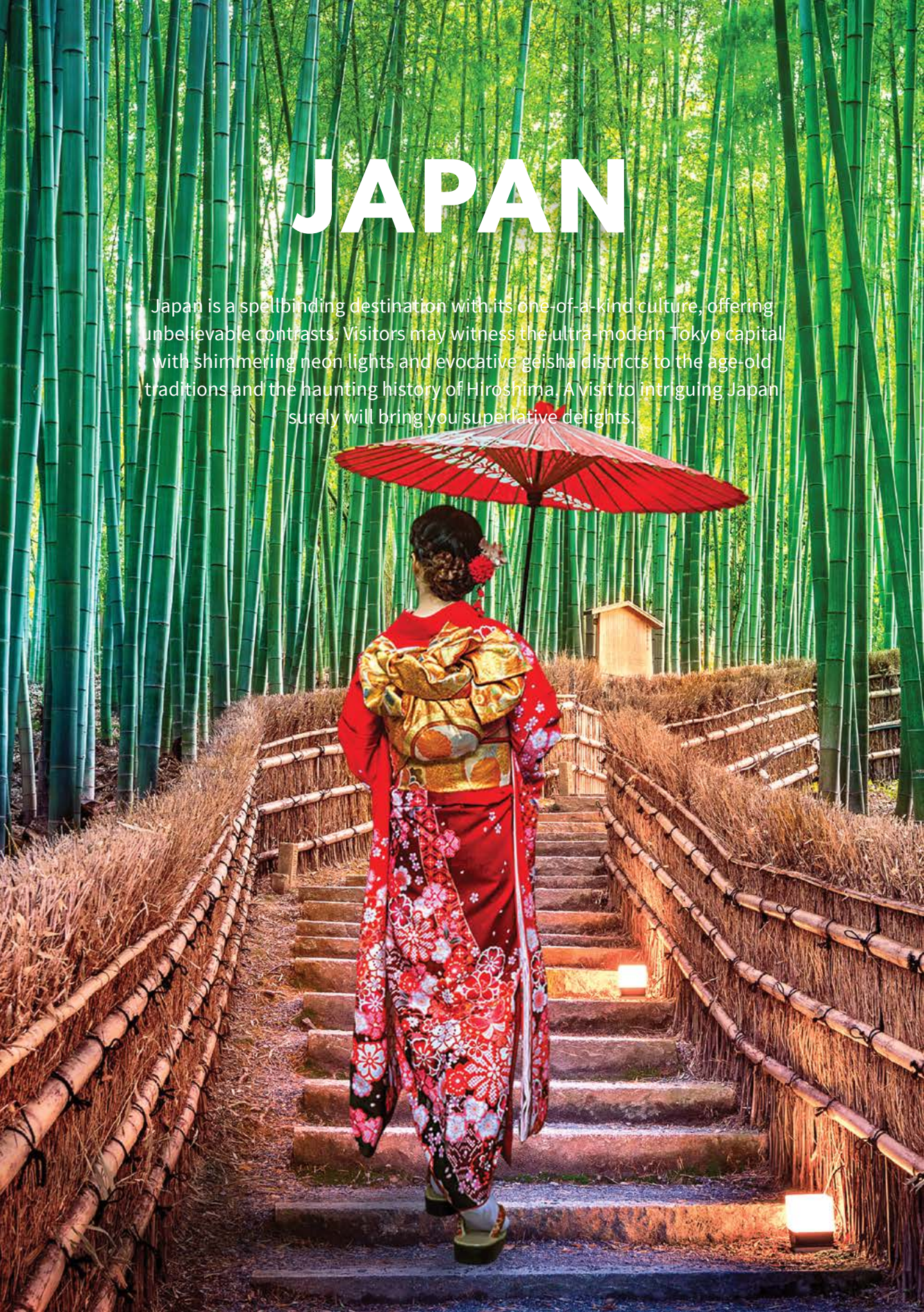
The accommodation was exemplary in the four hotels we stayed in and every tour was terrific with the highlight for me being the Saigon River dinner cruise. The food everywhere was fantastic. Thank you for arranging such a great holiday.

- Norm Avent
Asia Vacation Group Customer



JAPAN

Japan is a spellbinding destination with its one-of-a-kind culture, offering unbelievable contrasts. Visitors may witness the ultra-modern Tokyo capital with shimmering neon lights and evocative geisha districts to the age-old traditions and the haunting history of Hiroshima. A visit to intriguing Japan surely will bring you superlative delights.





OVERVIEW

Quick Facts



POPULATION
127,300,000 (as of Feb, 2018)



LANGUAGE
Japanese



CURRENCY
JPY (Japanese Yen)



TIME ZONE
UTC + 9 hours



EXCHANGE RATE

	1 USD	1 AUD	1 Euro
to JPY	110	78	124



ELECTRICITY
100V-50Hz
Plug type A & B

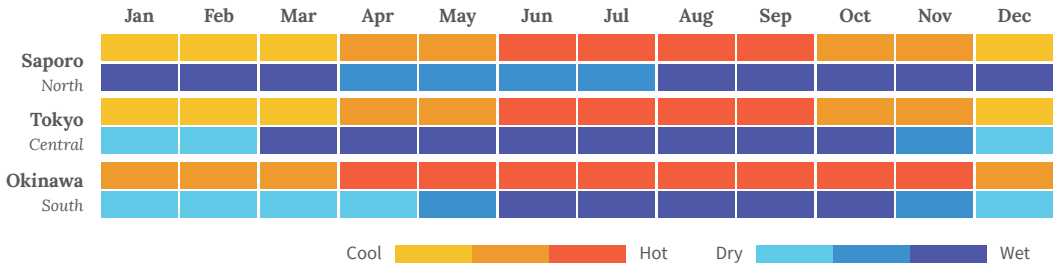


POPULAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
Narita Airport (NRT), Tokyo
Kansai Airport (KIX), Osaka
Chubu Airport (NGO), Nagoya



Weather

Japan can be visited year-round. There are 4 distinctive seasons in a year, including Spring (Mar-May), Summer (Jun-Aug), Autumn (Sep-Nov) and Winter (Dec-Feb). Cherry-blossoms bloom during springtime.



WHERE TO GO

**Prefectures are similar to “states” except they don’t have their own governments.



1
Tokyo

An ultra-modern capital, well-known for its world’s highest Tokyo Skytree, the gigantic Tsukiji Fish Market and unique recreational areas.



2
Hakone

A part of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, famous for the scenic Lake Ashi and the Yumoto Onsen hot spring. Also, Hakone is an ideal place for the breath-taking view of Mt.Fuji.



3
Matsumoto

The second largest city of Nagano Prefecture. This place is famed for its Matsumoto Castle, which is one of Japan’s oldest fortresses.



4
Takayama

This is home to the historic village of Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This peaceful small town will bring you back to the early days of Japan with their ancient architectures and customs.



5
Kanazawa

Being the beautiful capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, this city offers an abundance of intact historic treasures and Kenroku-en Garden, one of Japan’s three most beautiful gardens.



6
Kyoto

As the former capital until 1867 and regarded as the soul of Japan with innumerable sacred temples and shrines, Kyoto is proud to own 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites along with interesting local culture.



7
Nara

The first permanent capital until 784. Nara is home to the many age-old cultural values and the incredible public Nara Park with hundreds of freely roaming deer.



8
Osaka

Referred to as the “Venice of the East” and also Japan’s second largest city, Osaka offers the numerous canals and river channels as well as a large number of lively bars.



WANT MORE?

There are much more beautiful destinations not being mentioned here. Visit our website to explore the bigger Japan.



WHAT TO DO

01

Observe cherry blossoms

Cherry blossoms are considered as an iconic image of Japan. Annually, from the middle of March to the end of May, the “Land of Rising Sun” will emerge in the shade of pink. Hanami Festival is celebrated during this time and this is also an occasion for Japanese to party, drink sake and picnic under the cherry blossom trees.



02

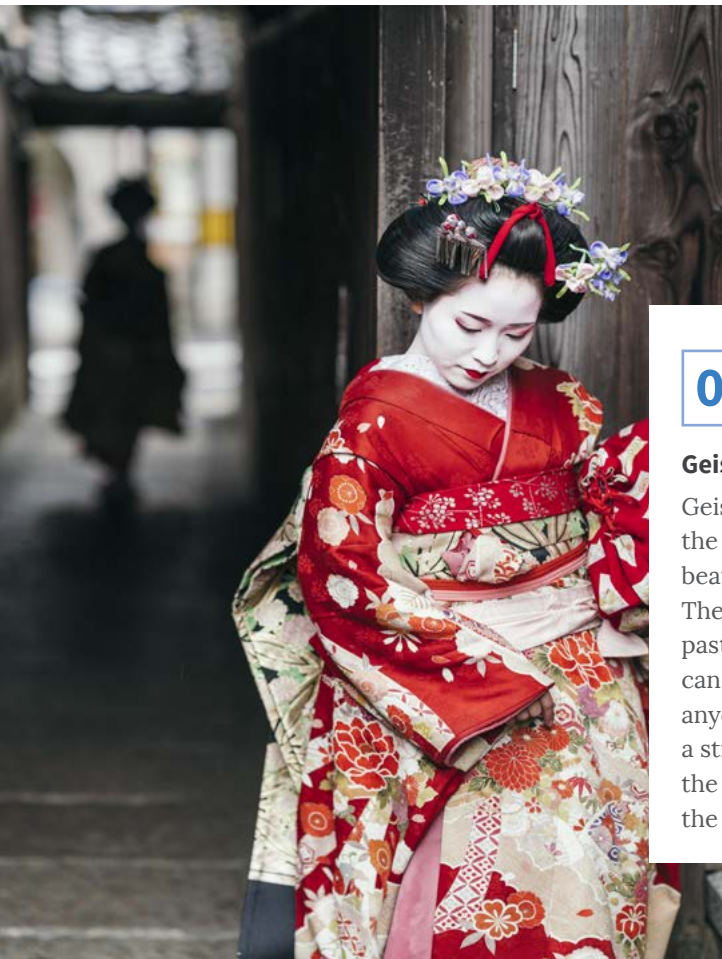
Eat sushi

Making sushi is an art in Japan and the world has to agree. While sushi is widely available throughout the country, the best places to try sushi gather in Tokyo. For high-budget travellers, there are 34 Michelin-star sushi restaurants alone in Tokyo. However, anyone can dive in the Tsukiji Fish Market for affordable yet outstanding tasting sushi!

03

Geisha hunting

Geisha has always been famous, worldwide, as the professional dancer and entertainer, in their beautiful kimono and a distinctive makeup layer. There were tens of thousands of them in the past, but today, there is not much left. While it can cost around US\$1,000 per 2 hours of service, anyone can have fun “hunting” down a geisha on a street in Kyoto for a picture. Tips: 5:45 pm on the Hanami lane in Gion district seems to work the best.





04

Stay in Japanese traditional inn

Ryokan is a kind of a traditional Japanese inn from the Edo period, available throughout the country. This accommodation style features tatami floors, futon beds, Japanese styles bath and dedicated local cuisines. While travellers may feel intimidating with the traditional procedures and etiquettes at first, it is still an extremely authentic experience that one can have in their life.



05

Bath in a hot spring

The Japanese natural hot spring, or “Onsen”, will bring you the most relaxing feeling ever. Some popular hot springs are Hakone, Kusatsu, and Kawaguchi Lake (with scenic views of Mt. Fuji).

06

Themed coffee shops

There are such interesting and even “bizarre” places in Tokyo prefecture like the Robot Restaurant in Shinjuku, where robots can dance better than you, or Maid Café in Akihabara, where customers will be served as masters. Indeed, these one-of-a-time experience is priceless.

07

Watch Sumo Wrestling Games

Probably the best way to witness this national sport is at the Grand Sumo Tournament, held 6 times a year. Each tournament starts and ends on a Sunday, and lasts for 15 days. The schedules are as follow, Tokyo in Jan, May and Sep; Osaka in Mar; Nagoya in July; Fukuoka in Nov.



INSIGHTS

Getting a Visa

If a visitor is coming to Japan merely for leisure purposes, he or she will more likely need a short-term and single-entry visa to Japan.

Type	Self-apply	Authorized Agency
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Visa Application Documents (Please refer to the official website of Embassy of Japan at your country for a list of required documents). • Submit the application in person at your nearest Embassy of Japan. • Pay the visa application fee. • Collect the visa (stamped to your passport). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Visa Application Documents with the guidance from the agency. • Submit the application in person or via mail to the agency. • Pay all the fee. • Collect the visa (stamped to your passport) in person or via mail.
Pros	Only pay application fee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get assistance in preparing the application. • Apply and receive visa via mail.
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must submit in person. • Must prepare the application by yourself. 	Cost a bit more.

Living Costs

	Low Range USD 70/day	Mid Range USD 70-200/day	High Range USD 200/day
	USD 15-30/night Hostels or dorms	USD 40-80/night Standard hotels	From USD 90/night Premium hotels
	USD 5-12/day pass JR trains USD 1-3/ride Bus	USD 5-12/day pass JR trains USD 1-3/ride Bus	USD 6/ride Taxi USD 110/ride Shinkansen (high-speed train)
	USD 3-9/meal Economical vendors	From USD 20-40/meal Decent restaurants	From USD 100/meal Premium restaurants

Local Money

Local currency can be exchanged at the banks or authorized agencies.

Popular banks are Japan Post, Mizuho, Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, Mitsui Sumitomo and Resona.

Do not make any transaction at unauthorized shops. There's a fine and the difference is not worth it.



1 yen



5 yen



1,000 yen



10 yen



50 yen



5,000 yen



100 yen



500 yen



10,000 yen

MOVING AROUND

AIRLINES

Airlines in Japan provide lots of choice for travellers. Premium airlines are ANA, JAL and Starflyer. Mid-range airlines are Skymark, Solaseed Air, Air Do. Budgeted airlines are Peach, Jetstar Japan, Vanilla Air and Spring Airlines Japan.

FERRY

Possessing 4 many islands including Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku, Japan offers an extensive network of ferry routes. Travellers can purchase ferry tickets through the ferry companies or travel agencies. A Japan Ferry Pass costs 21,000 yen and offers 6 trips during a 21-day period.



TAXI

Japanese taxi is considered as the most expensive transportation. Since trains and buses stop operating at midnight, taxi is the only choice. A red sign shows the taxi is vacant and a green one indicates the opposite. Cash, credit card or IC card are widely accepted payment.



BUS

Local or short-distance buses: In some prefectures (like Tokyo), travellers pay a flat fare per ride, about US\$2. In others, you would pay when getting off.

Highway buses: The cost will vary according to the ride. Travelling between Osaka and Tokyo typically cost US\$73.

***There are 2 ways to pay the fare, cash or IC card (prepaid card).*



TRAIN

Regular Trains: They are classified into Futsu (usually stop at all the stations), Kaisoku (faster than Futsu and stop at less station), Kyuukou & Tokkyuu (only stop at the major stations). The travel time between Tokyo and Osaka is between 3 – 4 hours.

High Speed Trains (Shinkansen): From Tokyo to Osaka, it takes only 2 hours and 30 minutes and costs US\$110.



RENT A BICYCLE

Usually, the rental fees are US\$1-3 per hour, US\$5-8 for half a day and from US\$10 for a day. Most shops do not accept overnight rentals and you may be required a deposit or passport or photo identification for rentals.

***Pay attention to the parking zones or a fine may occurs.*



HUNGRY?

01 Sushi/Sashimi

Best place to get: Tokyo, Osaka

The most famous dish in Japan, made out of vinegared rice, some seasoning, and filling or toppings, which can be seafood, tofu or vegetables. Popular restaurants are Sukiyabashi Jiro, Sushi Masuda, Ginza Kyubey and Tsukiji Fish Market, which are located in Tokyo.



02 Noodle Soup (Ramen)

Best place to get: Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka

A popular dish in Japan with noodles, boiled egg, Chashu pork, corn and chopped green onions. The main types of Ramen include Shoyu (soy sauce), Shio (salt), Miso (soybean paste) & Tonkotsu (pork bone).



03 Japanese Pizza (Okonomiyaki)

Best place to get: Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima

A popular sizzling cake consisting of batter and cabbage, topped with seafood, cheese, onions then fried.



04 Rice Balls (Onigiri)

Best place to get: Anywhere

The famous snack that can be found literally anywhere within the country. Rice is rolled into different shapes (typically triangle) with various fillings like egg, meat or veggies, plus some seaweed wraps.

05 Green Matcha Tea

Best place to get: Kyoto, Tokyo

The exotic aroma along with the bold and bitter taste will soothe your soul and pull you closer to the authentic Japanese culture. Look for tea houses like Ippodo in Kyoto or Happo-en Garden in Tokyo.



STAY HEALTHY

While Japan's health system and medical facilities are high-standard, doctors and nurses in hospitals rarely speak English. However, there are clinics that specialize in taking care of foreigners, with a bit more expensive services. Tap water is safe to drink anywhere in Japan. Food is also hygienically prepared under high-level of control for safety, even for street food. For the best protection, we highly recommend that all travellers should purchase travel insurance for peace of mind.



EMERGENCY DIAL

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MEDIC



STAY CONNECTED

4G SIM Cards can be as low as US\$10 for 1GB of data, valid to use in 6 days. For voice/data, it may cost US\$90 for 60 minutes and 3G of data (B-mobile Network). Pocket Wifi Rental costs from US\$6/day with unlimited data. Refer to the Ninja Wifi Router Rental.

Popular Network Providers are NTT Docomo, B-mobile, Softbank.

STAY SAFE

Natural disasters like earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption are potential risks that travellers may encounter while travelling in Japan. The public warning systems and evacuation procedures are strict. Just pay attentions to the local news and alerts.

In some places, you are not allowed to smoke in public.

If you want to take medicine into Japan, prepare the prescription provided by your doctor.

CULTURE

FESTIVAL



› Tenjin Festival

July - Osaka

The festival originated from the Tenmangu Shrine and pays tribute to Sugawara No Michizane (the god of learning and art). There are drummers, dancers and performers dressed in traditional costumes from day to night. While also taking place on Okawa river, participants may witness more than 100 illuminated boats along with fireworks display.

› Cherry Blossom Festival

April - Nationwide

The cherry blossom is considered as an iconic image of Japan, when the spring comes, from the early of March to the end of April, entire Japan will be covered by the shade of pink. This is also a great occasion for all people to celebrate parties, drink sake and picnic under the cherry blossoms. Usually, Tokyo is the first place witnessing the full bloom, then Kyoto and other mountainous areas such as Takayama and Matsumoto.



› New Year's Eve

December 31st - Nationwide

As the most important holiday in Japan, New Year's Eve is held for about one week. People will be at home with their families, clean up their houses, watch fireworks together and go to the temples. During the festival, it is a tradition to enjoy Toshikoshi-Soba, a kind of food symbolizing wishes for good luck in the coming year.



ETIQUETTES



Stay local. Stay right

#1

Do not leave tips, as this is part of Japanese culture. However, if you do want to do so, place the money in an envelope before giving it out.

#2

Bowing is a common way to greet others. The deeper the bow, the more respectful!

#3

Punctuality is gold in Japan. Do not be late.

#4

Place the money, for your payments, on the designated trays or counters. Money should be avoided to be passed from one hand directly to another.

#5

When using chopsticks, do not pass food from chopsticks to chopsticks and do not point them at another person.

#6

Wet towels, provided at certain restaurants, are used to clean your hands, not your faces.

#7

Say “i-ta-da-ki-mas” before eating. It literally means “I will receive”, giving respect to the food.

#8

Do not pour your own drink from a shared bottle, when drinking. You should have someone else do it for you and help them back.

#9

When entering the shrines, wash your hands at the designated spots (if there is).

#10

Keep quiet during public transportation.

TRAVEL AGENCY

Employed by Asia travel experts, Asia Vacation Group understands deeply WHERE to go, WHAT to do, and HOW to take your holiday to the fullest



Best Prices



7-day Money Back



100% Departure Guarantee

Our tours typically include



Flights



Accommodation



Selective Meals



Transportation



Sightseeing



Tour Guides

**Prices are on per person twin share basis and subject to change without notice.*



Best of Japan

Tour Code JP10

Tokyo – Mt. Fuji – Osaka

- Embark on a cruise trip along the scenic Lake Ashi.
- Stand astounded by Japanese iconic Mt. Fuji.
- Discover Nara's beauty: Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Taisha.
- Explore the exquisite Osaka Castle.



Japan Discovery

Tour Code JP16

Tokyo – Matsumoto – Takayama – Kanazawa – Kyoto – Osaka

- Immerse yourself in a country brimming with urban Centers and ancient shrines.
- Visit the neon lights and electric pace of Tokyo.
- Be awed by Mt Fuji and see the nation's icon, Matsumoto Castle before heading to the crown jewel of Japan, Kyoto!
- Experience authentic Japan at traditional town in Kanazawa.

Have your own itinerary in mind?

Call us today and let us make your desired journey come alive. Our travel experts are always waiting for you.

TRAVEL HACKS

the CHECKLIST for PACKING

You don't need to pack your whole apartment into your luggage...

Documents

- Passport with at least 6 months expiry date.
- Visa documents.
- E-tickets or printed ticket.
- Hotel list.
- Tour itinerary.

Clothes

- Tshirts, shorts.
- Swimsuit.
- Jackets.
- Hat or cap.

Electronics

- Chargers.
- Electrical adapter and converter.
- Camera kit, including batteries and memory cards.
- Phone, earphones.

Medicines

- Cold/Flu, Diarrhea, Pain Relief,
- Allergy.
- Prescription drug with label and doses description.
- Sunscreen and insect spray.



Money

- Foreign currency in cash.
- Credit card (Mastercard or Visa are more widely accepted).

Packing Gears

- 1 check-in luggage (up to 20/30kg).
- 1 carry-on luggage (up to 7kg).
- 1 small travel bag/backpack.

Shoes

- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Sandals.

Accessories

- Sunglasses.
- Umbrella.
- Hat or cap.

Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste.
- Soap/shower gel.
- Feminine product.
- Hand sanitizer or wet wipe.

TRAVEL HACKS

ON THE GO SURVIVAL



BRING CASH

Japan is a cash-based society and travellers usually get surprised at places that typically accept cards like Mc Donald's.

Bring plenty of Japanese yen, if you could, and a small purse for the coins. Also, carry a card that can get you some cash at local ATMs.

A *Suica Card* is a pre-paid e-money card for moving around and shopping. It may help.

TALK LOCAL

Some common Japanese phrases that may come in handy.

English	Japanese
Hello	kon-ni-chi-wa
Thank you	a-ni-ga-to go-za-i-ma-shi-ta
Sorry	su-mi-ma-sen
To the airport	ku-ko e
To the hospital	bee-o-in e



PERSONAL CONVENIENCE

There are a few things to keep in mind to get comfortable when wandering around Japan.

- Carry plastic bags for garbage disposal. Public trash cans are not common in Japan.
- Bring slip-on shoes. A lot of places will require visitors to take off their shoes.
- Cover up tattoos when entering public pools, saunas, or onsen (hot springs). Since tattoos are associated with criminal gangs (yakuza), visitors may be denied access to certain places.
- No smoking in the streets except in the designated spots.



BOOKING FORM

Please fill in the form below and kindly send them to our office. Our address is on the last page of this guide.

SECTION 1: TRIP DETAILS

1. Which tour do you want to book?
.....

2. Preferred room type

Twin Double Triple

3. Where will you depart from?

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane
 Adelaide Canberra Perth
 Auckland Other (Please specify below)

4. Would you like to purchase travel insurance

Yes No

5. Preferred Flight Class

Economy Premium Economy
 Business First Class

6. When do you want to travel
.....

(dd/mm/yyyy)

7. Number of passengers
.....

8. Add-on Tours (Please name all of them)
.....
.....
.....

9. Special Request (transport, accommodation, etc)
.....
.....
.....

* Final price will vary based on your selections. But don't worry, you are still having the best rates possible

SECTION 2: LEAD PASSENGER

10. First Name

11. Middle Name

12. Last Name

13. Street Address 1

14. City

15. State

16. Postal Code

17. Street Address 2

18. Country

19. Nationality

20. Email Address

21. Phone Number

SECTION 3: OTHER INFORMATION

22. Would you like to hear about our latest offers and promotions? Yes No

Terms & Agreement (Please read carefully)

If submitted by one party only, I confirm that I am authorized to sign on behalf of all passengers listed on this booking form. All parties have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms, booking conditions and responsibilities.

Your signature

Today's Date:...../...../.....

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Reservation & Deposit

Tour prices are subject to availability of tour, airlines, special economy class fare and specific airfare class availability. All services are subject to availability.

Typically, a deposit (from \$199 per passenger) is required within three (3) days of receiving confirmation that the company is holding space for you. Actual amount of deposit may vary depending on tours. *Note that Private Tours and Tailor-Made Tours require a 30% deposit.* Passenger names must be provided exactly as per passport, including middle names, at the time of deposit/booking. Any spelling corrections made after a deposit is paid must be sent in writing and will incur additional fees, including any ticket reissue fees. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to correct any errors in rates quoted or calculated, or any commissions made at any time during your booking. Any verbal quote given is an indication only of the final price and is subject to confirmation in writing.

Amenments & Extra Fees

The following fees will apply:

- Amendments to confirmed and deposited itineraries outside of 30 days prior to departure where the value of the booking is decreased: \$50 per change for admin fee.
- Transferring between tours (within 75 days): See "Cancellation by Customer" for applicable fees and details.
- Reissue of airline tickets: From \$100 per person.
- Once a booking is confirmed, name transfers may incur additional charges.

Cancellation by Customers

All cancellations must be made in writing to Asia Vacation Group and will be subject to the following cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received:

- If airline and rail tickets are issued, up to 100% of the airfare and rail fare surcharged.
- If your booking is made with the Budget airlines, up to 100% of package tour.
- If customer wants to change the travel dates and visa issued,

up to 100% of visa fee.

- More than 75 days prior to departure: loss of deposit plus any administration fees
- Between 74 and 59 days prior to departure: 25% of total cost
- Between 58 and 46 days prior to departure: 50% of total cost
- 45 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total cost
- Any "No Show": 100% of total cost

In the event of a cancellation any refunds will be less administration fees and any applicable amendment fees. Asia Vacation Group will endeavour to recover as much as possible from suppliers to pass on to the customer. Regrettably cancellation charges and fees cannot be waived. There can be no exceptions. No refund will be made for any unused portions of the holiday after the departure date. Please note that employees of any overseas company or staff of Asia Vacation Group outside Australia are not authorised to give any guarantees or agreements to customers in respect of refunds or any other matters.

Cancellation by the Company

Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to cancel or vary a tour prior to departure due to insufficient numbers. In such an event, alternative guaranteed travel dates will be offered. Should these options not be acceptable Asia Vacation Group will refund the full price paid, less visa cost. If a tour is cancelled or varied prior to departure due to unforeseeable circumstances such as, but not restricted to, severe weather conditions or force majeure, Asia Vacation Group will refund all monies prior to departure less visa cost, fuel surcharge and any other cancellation fees levied by airlines and other third parties. Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather, flight rescheduling, hotel overbooking and faults with transportation or road conditions may also have an effect on the tour itinerary after the commencement date. Any decision made in respect of tour services by independent operators to re-route or amend the itinerary due to any of the above or similar circumstances

is at the discretion of the tour service provider and Asia Vacation Group will not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events.

Responsibilities

Asia Vacation Group acts as a coordinator for all persons taking these tours in the making of all arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodation. The Company does not own, manage, control or operate any transportation vehicle, any hotel or restaurant or any other supplier of services. All receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and all services are subject to the laws of the country where the services are provided. The Company acts only as an agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers of transportation and/or other related travel services provided and assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to baggage or property or for any injury, illness or death or for any damages or claims whatsoever caused arising directly or indirectly from accidents, loss, theft or damage to person or property, delays, transport failure, strikes, wars and uprisings or acts of God etc. over which the Company has no control. We strongly urge all customers to undertake a high level of personal responsibility in order to ensure that possessions, equipment and personal documents are closely monitored and protected at all times.

Privacy

We are collecting your personal information so that we can process your booking. We will also keep you up to date with other Asia Vacation Group's offers and product information that may be of interest to you if you have consented to this. You can opt out of receiving information at any time if you choose to do so. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with Asia Vacation Group's privacy policy.



We are living in a connected world.



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You
NEVER
have to travel
ALONE

