

📍 Mount Fuji

Trip Notes: Japan

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Visitors from the US and Canada in possession of a passport with at least 6 months' validity from date of return and one blank visa page, will be granted an entry stamp on arrival, at no cost. Visitors must possess a round-trip flight ticket and the first night accommodation confirmed. Stays of up to 90 days are allowed. People of other nationalities must inform your travel agent who will advise on your requirements.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- Visitors must create an account on the Visit Japan Website/ app
- Add traveler(s) info
- Declare your trip details
- Complete the health, immigration and customs form
- Get a QR Code

Travelers to Japan can streamline their arrival by pre-registering their Immigration, Customs, and Vaccination information through the official Visit Japan Web service. Once registered, travelers can use the "Fast Track" process at major airports across Japan, reducing paperwork and saving time at arrival. Registration is completed online prior to departure via: <https://vjw-lp.digital.go.jp/en/>

ARRIVAL PROCESS

- Show the QR Code at quarantine, immigration and customs checkpoints.
- QR Code must be shown digitally - screenshots or printed copies are not accepted
- You need internet access at the Airport (WiFi is available)
- Without it, you will need to complete forms on paper on-site.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Japan is 14 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 17 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.

VACCINATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to Japan.

CURRENCY

The Japanese yen (¥ or ¥; code: JPY) is the official currency of Japan. A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

LANGUAGE

Japanese is the official language of Japan. English is a mandatory subject in school but the cultural reserve of the Japanese people makes them hesitant to speak English with visitors. Simply phrased, polite questions prefaced by "Excuse me, ..." are recommended.



Itsukushima Shrine



Bamboo Forest Path, Japan



The Senbon Torii, Japan

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are accepted, American Express less so however, Japan is a cash economy. Cash is often needed for shopping at local restaurants and shops. ATMs are easily found outside banks, in major hotels and inside most convenience stores.

POWER

The voltage in Japan is 100 Volt, which is slightly different from North America (120V) and may require a voltage adaptor for some devices. Japanese electrical outlets take two, straight pins, just like the US. For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit:

<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

CLIMATE

Japan is mostly temperate. June and July are hot and rainy, and in September, the country experiences heavy rain and typhoons.

PHONES

To dial Japan from the US: 011 + 81 + number.
To dial the US from Japan: 1 + area code + number.

TIPPING

Tipping is not customary in Japan, Instead, gratitude is shown through polite words like “gochisosama deshita” after a meal, reflecting respect for service without monetary reward.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Japan is exceptionally safe, ranking globally as one of the most secure countries with very low violent crime and a high level of public order, earning a Level 1 travel advisory from the U.S. State Dept., meaning “

exercise normal precautions,” but travelers should still watch for petty theft (pickpocketing, drink spiking in nightlife) and be prepared for natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, and tsunamis, using local koban police boxes for help and following official alerts for weather events.

SHOPPING

Japan is known for high quality pearl jewelry, knives, wood block prints, kimono, pottery, lacquerware and fans.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

For a Japan packing list, prioritize comfortable walking shoes, layers for varying A/C, a portable charger, and a refillable water bottle, plus adapters, basic toiletries, light rain gear, and essentials like masks/hand sanitizer; pack light with versatile, breathable fabrics and easy-to-remove shoes for temple visits, and consider specific items like plastic bags (for trash) and preferred meds/toothpaste if needed.

ETIQUETTE

Shoes: Remove your shoes and use the visitor slippers provided to enter homes, Japanese inns and other public places. Sometimes, a second set of slippers that are only used to enter the toilet room are provided. Wearing socks and easily removable shoes is a good idea.

Bathing: In Japan, one washes before entering the soaking tub; never using soap in the tub. Sit on the small footstool, and use the bucket or hand held shower to wet your body. Lather body, shampoo hair, shave, rinse off. Then enter the tub to soak and relax with a completely clean body.



📍 Geishas, Japan



📍 Tokyo Temple



📍 Nagano, Japan

BAGGAGE FORWARDING

To make traveling around Japan easier—especially when taking the bullet train—we highly recommend using Takkyubin, a convenient and reliable luggage-forwarding service unique to Japan.

For approximately \$20-\$25 per bag, your luggage can be sent overnight from one hotel to the next. All major hotels offer this service, and the hotel concierge will help you complete the form and process payment. You'll just need the name and postal code of your next hotel. Be sure your bags are clearly labeled with your full name so they're easy to identify upon arrival.

Since your luggage will arrive the following day, pack a small overnight bag with essentials such as a change of clothes, medications, toiletries, and any valuables. Always keep your passport with you.

If you're traveling on the bullet train, please note that luggage space is very limited. There is no dedicated baggage storage—only an overhead rack designed for bags up to 12" x 20" x 30". Green (First) Class has limited extra space, but it fills quickly. If your bag doesn't fit overhead, it must be placed between your knees and the seat in front of you, which can be uncomfortable.

Using Takkyubin allows you to travel light, move easily through stations, and enjoy a far more comfortable journey.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026

- 1 January - **New Year's Day**
- 12 January - **Coming of Age Day**
- 11 February - **National Foundation Day**
- 23 February - **Emperor's Birthday**
- 20 March - **Spring Equinox**
- 29 April - **Showa Day**
- 3 May - **Constitution Memorial Day**
- 4 May - **Greenery Day**
- 5 May - **Children's Day**
- 6 May - **Constitution Memorial Day observed**
- 20 July - **Sea Day**
- 11 August - **Mountain Day**
- 21 September - **Respect for the Aged Day**
- 22 September - **Bridge Public holiday**
- 23 September - **Autumn Equinox**
- 12 October - **Sports Day**
- 3 November - **Culture Day**
- 23 November - **Labor Thanksgiving Day**
- 25 December - **Christmas**
- 31 December - **Bank Holiday**

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Taiwan](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)