

## THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO JAPAN

(Nov 2017 updated)

Thank you for choosing Ritz Tours !

Our experienced staff of Japan specialists take pride in providing you with the very best in service and planning. We offer the best quality tours at the most affordable prices. We hope you will have a wonderful and memorable trip.

### PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:

1. US domestic and international airline e-tickets
2. Day-by-day itinerary with hotel list and emergency contact information
3. Vouchers (if applicable)
4. Ritz Tours name badge
5. Ritz Tours luggage tag
6. A copy of “Things to Know Before You Go”

Upon arrival, please go through Customs and Immigrations on your own. After exiting the Customs area, please look for a Ritz Tours representative with the sign of “Ritz Tours”. Please make sure that you wear your Ritz Tours name badge for easy identification.

### AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING:

Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation to our guides and drivers. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (expressed in US dollars):

- **Local guide** - \$7 per person per day given at the end of the stay in each city.
- **Local driver** - \$3 per person per day given at the end of the stay in each city.

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your partner-in-travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding.

We wish you have a nice trip !

**Travel Documentation:**

Entry visas are not included as part of the tour and are the sole responsibility of the traveler. Prior to departure, we encourage you to ask either your travel agent whether entry visas are required. If you are holding a valid USA passport and will not be staying in Japan over two weeks, an entry visa is not required.

**Electrical Requirement:**

Leading hotels in big cities within Japan have two outlets of 110 and 220 volts, but their sockets usually accept two-prong plugs only.

**Hotel Accommodations:**

Based on two adults sharing one twin bedded room, double occupancy. Generally the hotel rooms in Japan are small, but very clean and comfortable

**Meals & Water:**

Meals are included in Japan as per itinerary. Automatic vending machines are more widespread in Japan than anywhere else in the world. The machines operator 24 hours a day at all rest areas, selling soft drinks, cigarettes, cup noodles, as well as pre-paid telephone cards, and usually accept 10, 50, 100, 500 yen coins (some accept 1,000 yen bills also).

**Time Difference:**

The time difference between major cities in North America and Japan is as below:

- Los Angeles & San Francisco +17 hours
- New York +14 hours

**Baggage:**

Baggage is the sole responsibility of the traveler. All luggage must have a lock and a Ritz Torus baggage tag with the name, US address, telephone number of the traveler and also the tour code. Please use only luggage tags provided by Ritz Tours for easy identification. No porter service provided throughout the tour. During the tour, keep an eye on your personal belongings and valuables at all time. Beware of your surroundings when going out on your own. For Singapore Airline international flights, 2 pieces check-in luggage max. 50 lbs each, carry-on: one piece not exceeding 15 lbs.

**Currency:**

Japanese currency is called Yen. The exchange rate is about 112 Yen to one US dollar as of February 2017. You may exchange your yen at a bank or hotel to obtain best exchange rates. But department store, hotels and its restaurants will accept major credit cards such as American Express, VISA, Diners Club, Master Card. However, it is more convenient to use cash especially if you are planning to shop and eat in smaller shops.

**Climate, Season & Clothing:**

The weather in Japan is generally mild. Since the nation stretches for over 3,000 km from north to south, the weather is varied depends on where and when you travel.  
 Mar-May Spring - lightweight jackets and sweaters  
 Jun-Aug Summer - light clothing, short sleeves  
 Sep-Nov Autumn - same as Spring  
 Dec-Feb Winter - wool and warm overcoats, suits, sweaters and jackets

***Temperature/Rainy Days in Major Cities, Japan***

Major Cities	Spring (Mar-May)			Summer (Jun-Aug)			Autumn (Sep-Nov)			Winter (Dec-Feb)		
	T (F)	T (C)	Rainy Days	T (F)	T (C)	Rainy Days	T (F)	T (C)	Rainy Days	T (F)	T (C)	Rainy Days
Tokyo	58.1	14.5	10.0	81.9	27.7	10.0	65.8	18.8	8.9	45.7	7.6	4.3
Nagoya	56.8	13.8	10.6	82.4	28.0	12.2	66.0	18.9	8.3	43.0	6.1	5.3
Osaka	58.3	14.6	10.5	83.7	28.7	12.0	67.5	19.7	8.1	44.6	7.0	6.3
Kyoto	57.0	13.9	10.5	79.7	26.5	12.0	62.8	17.1	8.1	39.2	4.0	6.3

***Useful Japanese Phrases***

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>JAPANESE</u>
Hello	Konnichi wa
How are you ?	Ogenki desu ka ?
I am fine	Genki desu
Thank you very much	Arigatou Gozaimasu
Good morning	Ohayo Gozaimasu
Good evening	Konban wa
That looks delicious	Oishii sou
How much ?	Ikura desu ka ?
What is this ?	Kore wa nan desu ka?
too expensive	Taka sugimasu
How do you do?	Hajimemashite

I came from America

Amerika kara kimashita