

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: JAPAN

Thank you for choosing Ritz Tours! Our experienced team of Japan specialists takes pride in providing the best in service and planning. We hope you will have a wonderful and memorable trip to Japan.

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:

- US domestic and international airline e-tickets
- Day-by-day itinerary with hotel list and emergency contact information
- Airport shuttle bus vouchers (if applicable)
- Ritz Tours name badge
- Ritz Tours luggage tag
- A copy of "Things to Know Before You Go"

UPON ARRIVAL IN JAPAN - AIRPORT/HOTEL TRANSFER

Upon arrival please go through customs and immigration on your own. After exiting customs please use the airport shuttle bus voucher and check with the bus station staff to find the bus to the **Sheraton Miyako Hotel.**

TIPPING

Kindly note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost; they are a way of showing your appreciation to our guides and drivers. Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (in USD \$)

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 hope you have a wonderful trip!

Passports & Visas

Entry visas are not included as part of the tour and are the sole responsibility of the traveler. If you are holding a valid US passport and will not be staying in Japan for more than two weeks an entry visa is not required. For all other passport holders please consult with your relevant embassy.

Baggage

Baggage is the sole responsibility of the traveler. All luggage must have a lock and a Ritz Tours baggage tag with your name, US address, telephone number and tour code. Please use only luggage tags provided by Ritz Tours for easy identification. Please note there is no porter service provided throughout the tour. During the tour, please keep an eye on your personal belongings and valuables at all times. Beware of your surroundings when going out on your own.

Baggage on train journeys

For your convenience we will include a complimentary baggage transfer service so you do not need to carry your own check-in luggage on and off the bullet train. We will transport one piece of check-in luggage up to 50lbs per person from Tokyo to Kyoto. Please note you will need to have this bag packed and ready outside your hotel the day prior the bullet train journey (more details will be provided by your guide). If you wish, you may carry your own luggage on the bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto. Extra baggage or carry-ons will need to be carried on/off trains on your own so please try to pack light. Please be aware that the bullet-train stop time is limited to 1 minute to 2 minutes at different stations.

Mobile Phones

Most mobile phones can be used in Japan, however some older phones may not work. Compatible phones may work for voice calls via international roaming (check with your

home provider for details) or a SIM card (unlocked handsets only). Please ensure that you check your data plan before departing to check the data rates, as they can be expensive. Alternatively, phones with wireless network (Wi-Fi) connectivity can take advantage of the numerous paid and free Wi-Fi hotspots found around the country.

Electrical Requirements

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

Hotel Accommodations

Hotel accommodations are based on two adults sharing one twin bedded room and one single bed for solo travelers. Generally the hotel rooms and bed sizes in Japan are small, but clean and comfortable.

Meals & Water

Meals are included in Japan as per your itinerary. Automatic vending machines are more widespread in Japan than anywhere else in the world. The machines operate 24 hours a day at all rest areas, selling soft drinks, cigarettes, cup noodles, as well as prepaid 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

Culture and Respect

Always dispose of litter and cigarette butts thoughtfully. It is considered impolite to make loud phone calls, eat or drink on public transport.

Currency

Japanese currency is called Yen. The exchange rate is about 109 Yen to one US dollar as of May 2019. You may exchange your yen at a bank or hotel to obtain best exchange rates, or ask your local guide when in Japan. Most department stores, hotels and larger restaurants will accept major credit cards such as American Express, Visa and Mastercard, 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 varies based on where and when you travel.

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| 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