



'Deb'stinations Highlights

JAPAN

Japan is a cultural wonder of quirks, cleanliness, temples, shrines, and geeky wonders. Most who visit never want to leave, and it's easy to see why!

LANGUAGE

The official language of Japan is Japanese. English isn't widely spoken, but Japanese are extremely polite, friendly, and go out of their way to help foreigners. It's advisable to learn a handful of key Japanese phrases before you come here - it's both respectful and easier for you.

SAFETY

Japan is very safe, making it a great destination for solo travelers. However, remember to use common sense when out at night and at tourist attractions.

CURRENCY & CASH

Japanese Yen (¥, 円) is the main currency. \$1 USD ~ ¥107 (fluctuates daily; download a currency app).

For such a technology-driven country, it's strange that you'll need to carry cash and coins almost everywhere. ATMs are abundant, but the only places that accept credit cards are usually large chain restaurants or hotels. Try to always withdraw Yen beforehand when traveling to remote areas.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

The best time to visit is early - mid April, when cherry blossoms bloom. Spring (March - May) yields the most favourable weather. Japanese winters are extremely frigid and summers are dry and humid.

If you're keen on hiking Mt. Fuji, remember that the hiking season is generally only July – mid-September (summer), which is quite warm. Do your research thoroughly and hire a guide if going during this time.

BEST FOOD

Okonomiyaki ("Pancake" with eggs, cabbage, protein, and sometimes fried noodles)

Ramen, soba, udon

Gyoza (Fried potstickers)

Takoyaki (Fried octopus balls)

Gold leaf sushi (in Kanazawa)

Yakitori (Chicken skewers at izakaya/bars)

Donburi & Gyudon (Rice bowls)

Natto and rice (Fermented soy beans)

Tonkatsu (Fried pork cutlets)

Melon Pan (Sweet bread bun, sometimes with cream or ice cream fillings)

Miso soup

Curry rice

Unagi (eel)

Taiyaki (Fish-shaped cakes with sweet bean fillings)



WORDS & PHRASES

Ohaiyo gozaimas: Good morning

Konnichiwa: Good afternoon

Konbonwa: Good evening

Hajime Mash-te: Nice to meet you

Jaa, mata: See you

Ogenki des-ka? How are you?

Kudasai: Please

Sumimasen: Excuse me

Eigo o hanashi mas-ka? Do you speak English?

Wakarimasen: I don't understand

Onegaishimas: Please do your best (or "do me this favour")

Watashi wa ____ kara kimash-ta: I'm from ____ (country)

Ikura des-ka? How much is this?

**Romaji not spelled correctly to emphasize correct pronunciation*

BEST HIKES

TOKYO

Mount Takao

Mount Mitake

Mount Fuji (July - mid-September only)

KYOTO

Mt. Daimonji-yama

Shogunzuka & Seiryuden (from Chion-in Temple)

HOKKAIDO

Akan National Park

Daisetsuzan National Park

KYUSHU

Yakushima National Park

Kirishima (volcanic mountain range)

