



Our Top 20 Japan Travel Tips

1. If you are a serial cereal eater then bring your own packet of cereal. We couldn't find any on sale.
2. Be sure to get your mobile unblocked at least 3 days before departure so that you can buy a local Simm . We recommend you buy the unlimited data local Simm, but be aware that you will not be able to make or receive calls on that Simm.
3. If you do not buy a Simm make sure to turn off your Roaming. WiFi is reasonably prevalent throughout Japan.
4. American two straight pin style electrical adapters (lots).
5. Cash is king, particularly in small shops and restaurants and everywhere outside of Tokyo.
6. Come prepared for mixed weather.
7. Check if your hotel has an airport coach service, makes life simpler.
8. Make sure you have Google Translate or similar on your phone.
9. When you purchase tea or coffee, be sure to specify "hot" if that is your preference.
10. If you are going to use Japanese baths, you do not need to pack swimming gear (ala nude).
11. Be advised that when you order a meal, then is generally no order to the way it will be served. More often than not it will all come together. Japanese prefer to order each course singularly.
12. If Japanese person bows to you, it is only courtesy to bow back.
13. If you are going to do a lot of rail/metro travel, it is more cost effective and efficient to purchase a JR pass and a complementary Suica/Paseo card.
14. There does not seem to be a problem with mosquitos, but be advised that if you visit the countryside or parks, there are other bugs that bite.
15. Non-Japanese food is considerably more expensive in restaurants so be brave and sample the local dishes, which are delicious.
16. If using the metro for any journey, allow an extra half an hour, at least, for the inevitable directional mistake.
17. Taxi journey prices can be priced before any journey on the google maps App, and compared with train options and timings.
18. The wealth of information on Google Maps is a must have when navigating the metro and train system. Be advised that we found it better to do a screen grab of our initial chosen journey route and then to proceed using the screen grabs. If you continue to use the App during your journey, your route plan may keep changing depending on your changing location. There are so many different routes available that it can become extremely confusing when using the App in realtime, underground.
19. If you are a long distance traveller to Japan, try to schedule your flights to arrive around mid morning. So that you can: purchase your Japanese Simm card; activate your JR pass; and have access to your hotel room on arrival.
20. In Japan it isn't customary to tip. Tipping creates confusion with recipients questioning why they've been given too much money. In addition, tipping can be seen as unnecessary.

