

TRAVEL ITINERARY

# Kyoto, Japan • Tokyo, Japan

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7 days

Total budget: USD 500-1,200

*Your AI-crafted travel itinerary*

[monkeyeatingmango.com](https://monkeyeatingmango.com)

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## Overview

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This packed 7-day journey spans Kyoto and Tokyo for a couple, beginning with 3 nights in Kyoto to explore Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kiyomizu-dera, and the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, based in the Gion area. A Shinkansen ride then transports you to Tokyo for 4 nights, immersing you in Shibuya Crossing, Tsukiji Outer Market, and teamLab Planets. Expect a fast pace with 4-5 activities per day, one hotel per city, and efficient metro commutes.

## Why This Destination?

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Kyoto and Tokyo are chosen over alternatives like Tokyo and Osaka because Kyoto is uniquely the only place in Japan where pre-1868 temple districts, authentic kaiseki kitchens, and traditional textile arts still thrive at scale. While Osaka offers a modern food-centric experience, it lacks the ancient capital's preserved heritage. This pairing provides the widest possible cultural span within Japan for a 7-day trip, showcasing Kyoto's 400-year-old merchant houses alongside Tokyo's contemporary Shibuya district.

## Best Time to Visit

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Cherry blossom (sakura) season from late March to early April brings mild temperatures (12-20°C) and vibrant scenery, extending into pleasant May. October-November offers a beautiful autumn alternative with crisp air and striking fall foliage. Avoid mid-June to mid-July for the rainy season (tsuyu) and August for intense heat, humidity, and peak typhoon risk.

## Trip At-a-Glance

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- Pace: Comfortable
- Daily Average: USD 357/day
- Cities: Kyoto (3d), Tokyo (4d)
- Perfect for: Couples, History & culture buffs, Nature lovers, Food lovers

## Local Info

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<b>Currency</b>	Japanese Yen (JPY)
<b>Tipping</b>	Tipping is not customary in Japan and is generally not expected or accepted in restaurants, hotels, or taxis. Service charges are usually included in prices where applicable.
<b>Emergency</b>	110 (police), 119 (fire and ambulance). For non-emergency tourist inquiries, call the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) hotline: 050-3816-2787.
<b>Useful phrases</b>	Sumimasen - Excuse me / I'm sorry · Arigato gozaimasu - Thank you very much · - Konnichiwa - Hello (daytime) · Onegaishimasu - Please (when asking for something) · - Eigo ga hanasemasu ka? - Do you speak English? · Kanpai! - Cheers!

## Budget Pro Tips

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- **Practical:** Japan is mid-priced; expect casual lunches to cost ¥1,000-1,800 (~\$7-12) and decent hotels around ¥12,000-20,000 (~\$80-135) per night. Tap water is safe everywhere, and konbini (convenience store) meals offer great value for quick, affordable options.
- **Saving:** Utilize a Mobile Suica or Pasma card for all local trains and buses in Tokyo and Kyoto; load ¥3,000-5,000 (~\$20-35) for your initial balance, as individual rides are typically ¥150-500 (~\$1-3.50), significantly cheaper than taxis.
- **Saving:** Stretch your \$250 food budget by relying on 'konbini' convenience stores for breakfast and many lunches, where a satisfying meal costs ¥500-800 (~\$3.50-5.50). For dinner, seek out local eateries offering set menus (teishoku) often priced around ¥1,000-1,500 (~\$7-10).
- **Practical:** Given your lean \$100 activity budget, focus on free cultural sites like Meiji Jingu Shrine in Tokyo and Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto. Many temples and gardens in Kyoto have modest entrance fees of ¥300-600 (~\$2-4), which are more budget-friendly than larger attractions.
- **Practical:** For your \$100/night accommodation target, prioritize clean and efficient business hotels like Toyoko Inn or Dormy Inn. While rooms are compact, they offer consistent quality, safety, and are a reliable way to stay within budget.

## Must-Have Kyoto Experiences

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7 of 9 experiences covered in this itinerary

- **Ancient Temples & Shrines** — Day 2: Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)
- **Vibrant Urban Districts & Pop Culture** — Day 4: Explore Shibuya Crossing & Center Gai
- **Authentic Japanese Culinary Journey** — Day 1: Explore Nishiki Market
- **Iconic Natural & Scenic Views** — Day 2: Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and Togetsukyo Bridge
- **A Historic Japanese Castle Tour** — Day 3: Nijō Castle
- **A Serene Traditional Japanese Garden Experience** — Day 6: Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden
- **A Hands-On Japanese Cooking Class** — e.g., Tokyo Kitchen, Kyoto Cooking Class (not covered)
- **A Modern Art Gallery or Architectural Landmark** — Day 5: Tokyo Skytree
- **A Relaxing Onsen Hot Spring Experience** — e.g., Hakone Yuryo, Arima Onsen (not covered)

## Food Guide

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Tokyo thrives on high-low dining, where Michelin-starred ramen and tempura bars offer affordable lunch sets that are triple the price at dinner. Department store depachika food halls and Shinjuku's Omoide Yokocho yakitori alleys are essential eating formats. An early morning ramen breakfast near the old Tsukiji market is a uniquely Tokyo tradition.

### MUST-TRY DISHES

- **Onigiri** — Portable rice balls, often triangular, filled with various ingredients like salted salmon, pickled plum (umeboshi), or tuna mayo, wrapped in nori seaweed. (USD 1-4) · Any convenience store (konbini) or supermarket, Nationwide
- **Gyudon** — Thinly sliced beef and onions simmered in a sweet soy sauce broth, served over a bowl of rice; a quick, affordable, and satisfying staple often found at 24/7 chains. (USD 4-9) · Matsuya, Sukiya, or Yoshinoya (chains), Nationwide

- **Kitsune Udon** — Thick wheat noodles in a dashi broth, topped with sweet deep-fried tofu pockets (aburaage) that soak up the flavorful soup. (USD 6-12) · Any Udon specialty shop or train station stand, Nationwide
- **Tonkotsu Ramen** — A rich, milky broth made from simmered pork bones, often served with thin, firm noodles and chashu pork; Fukuoka is its birthplace, but it's perfected in various styles across Japan. (USD 8-15) · Ichiran or Ippudo (chains), Shinjuku Golden Gai (Tokyo), Nationwide
- **Yakitori** — Skewered and grilled chicken pieces (various parts like thigh, skin, liver, meatballs), seasoned with salt or tare (sweet soy sauce glaze); best enjoyed with a cold beer. (USD 10-30) · Shinjuku Omoide Yokocho (Tokyo), Nationwide
- **Tempura** — Lightly battered and deep-fried seafood and seasonal vegetables, served immediately for crispness; look for dedicated tempura-ya for the best experience where the chef fries each piece individually. (USD 12-35) · Asakusa (Tokyo) for traditional spots, Nationwide
- **Sushi/Sashimi** — Fresh fish, expertly sliced and often lightly vinegared rice; the quality and variety at even mid-tier places is far superior to outside Japan. (USD 15-50) · Tsukiji Outer Market (Tokyo) or any dedicated sushi-ya, Nationwide
- **Takoyaki** — Ball-shaped snacks made from a wheat-flour batter filled with diced octopus, pickled ginger, and green onion, cooked in special molded pans and brushed with sauce. (USD 4-9) · Dotonbori, Osaka

## Shopping Guide

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Japan's shopping landscape is a delightful blend of ancient craftsmanship, cutting-edge technology, and minimalist design, where quality and presentation are paramount. Major cities like Tokyo offer specialized districts for nearly every interest, while traditional markets in Kyoto offer local food and artisan goods. Generally, prices are fixed, and service is excellent.

### SOUVENIRS & LOCAL BUYS

- **Anime/Manga Merchandise** — Character goods, official figures, and limited-edition merchandise from series that often never leave Japan are abundant and of high quality. (USD 10-200) · Akihabara Radio Kaikan, Nakano Broadway, Animate Ikebukuro, Mandarake.
- **Matcha & Ceremonial Green Tea** — Experience the depth of flavor and quality of genuine ceremonial grade matcha and single-origin green teas that are unparalleled outside Japan. (USD 15-150) · Ippodo Tea Kyoto Main Store; Uji region tea shops; various tea specialty stores in department stores.
- **Japanese Kitchen Knives** — Hand-forged carbon steel blades with a sharpness and balance that Western knives can't match; many makers have been in business for generations. (USD 60-600) · Kappabashi Kitchen Town; Aritsugu in Nishiki Market for Kyoto.
- **Muji Homeware & Stationery** — Minimalist notebooks, pens, and household items are 30-50% cheaper than abroad with a much broader catalog than any non-Japanese Muji store. (USD 5-80) · Muji flagship Ginza (6 floors); Muji Yurakucho for the largest food section.
- **High-Quality Japanese Stationery** — Discover exquisitely designed pens, notebooks, and paper goods from brands like Pilot, Platinum, Midori, and Traveler's Company that offer unmatched quality and user experience. (USD 5-100) · Itoya Ginza, Tokyu Hands, Loft, or specialist stationery shops.
- **Uniqlo Heattech or Ultralight Down Jacket** — Stock up on Uniqlo's innovative thermal wear or lightweight down jackets, which offer superior quality, design, and a wider range of colors/sizes than international stores, often at better prices. (USD 15-80) · Uniqlo Ginza Global Flagship Store, Shinjuku West Gate Store, or any large Uniqlo outlet.

## Optimized Route

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## Budget Breakdown

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Local Transport	USD 150
Accommodation	USD 700
Food	USD 250
Activities	USD 100
<b>Total</b>	<b>USD 500-1,200</b>

*Highlight: Visiting the iconic Kiyomizu-dera Temple and exploring the vibrant Nishiki Market for local delicacies.*

- 08:00 AM** | **Arrive at Kansai International Airport (KIX) & Transfer to Kyoto** **USD 28**  
Arrive at Kansai International Airport (KIX). Take the JR Haruka Express train directly to Kyoto Station (approx. 75-80 minutes, ~JPY 3500 for non-reserved seat). This express train is the fastest and most convenient option to reach Kyoto city center.  
[Kansai International Airport \(KIX\)](#)
- 10:30 AM** | **Hotel Check-in in Kyoto** **Free**  
Check into your accommodation in Kyoto and refresh after your international flight. Take some time to settle in before beginning your sightseeing.  
[Kyoto hotel area](#)
- 11:30 AM** | **Kiyomizu-dera Temple** **USD 3**  
Explore this iconic UNESCO World Heritage site known for its impressive wooden stage offering panoramic views of Kyoto. Wander through its extensive grounds, reflecting on the profound spiritual and historical significance of this ancient Buddhist temple.  
[Kiyomizu-dera Temple](#)
- 01:30 PM** | **Lunch: Obanzai in Higashiyama** **USD 18**  
Savor a traditional Kyoto Obanzai lunch, featuring a delightful variety of small, seasonal, home-style dishes using locally sourced ingredients, showcasing Kyoto's authentic comfort food near the Kiyomizu-dera area.  
[Higashiyama area](#)
- 02:30 PM** | **Wander Sannenzaka & Ninenzaka Historic Streets** **Free**  
Stroll through these beautifully preserved, narrow pedestrian streets, Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka, lined with traditional wooden houses, quaint shops, and authentic tea houses, offering a picturesque glimpse into old Kyoto.  
[Sannenzaka](#)
- 03:30 PM** | **Yasaka Shrine** **Free**  
Visit Yasaka Shrine, also known as Gion Shrine, a vibrant Shinto shrine that is a hub for local festivals and an excellent example of traditional Japanese religious architecture. The shrine is especially atmospheric in the late afternoon.  
[Yasaka Shrine](#)
- 04:45 PM** | **Explore Nishiki Market** **USD 10**  
Immerse yourself in Kyoto's 'Kitchen,' a bustling covered market street. Explore countless stalls offering a wide array of fresh seafood, local produce, street food snacks, and unique traditional Kyoto delicacies.  
[Nishiki Market](#)
- 07:00 PM** | **Dinner: Kyoto-style Ramen** **USD 15**  
Enjoy a comforting bowl of Kyoto-style ramen for dinner. This regional variation often features a lighter, clearer chicken or soy-based broth, providing a distinct and flavorful culinary experience.  
[Central Kyoto](#)

**Stay:** Gion/Higashiyama — This area is ideal for its traditional atmosphere, proximity to many historic temples, shrines, and pedestrian streets like Sannenzaka. It offers excellent dining options and is well-connected by public transport to other parts of Kyoto.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

*Highlight: Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and witness the majesty of Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion.*

- 07:30 AM** | **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and Togetsukyo Bridge** **Free**  
Begin with a serene walk through the iconic towering bamboo groves, feeling the spiritual tranquility. Afterwards, stroll along the scenic Togetsukyo Bridge, enjoying panoramic views of the Hozugawa River and surrounding mountains.  
[Arashiyama Bamboo Grove](#)
- 09:30 AM** | **Tenryu-ji Temple** **USD 5**  
Explore this UNESCO World Heritage site, a prominent Zen temple in Arashiyama. Wander through its magnificent Sogenchi Teien garden, one of Japan's oldest and most beautiful landscape gardens, reflecting history and spiritual peace.  
[Tenryu-ji Temple](#)
- 11:30 AM** | **Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama** **USD 4**  
Hike up to the monkey park to observe over 100 wild Japanese macaques in their natural habitat. Enjoy feeding them from inside a designated hut while taking in stunning views of Kyoto city.  
[Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama](#)
- 01:00 PM** | **Lunch: Yudofu in Arashiyama** **USD 18**  
Savor a traditional Yudofu meal, a local specialty of delicately simmered tofu, reflecting Kyoto's refined vegetarian cuisine.  
[Arashiyama](#)
- 03:00 PM** | **Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)** **USD 4**  
Visit the iconic Kinkaku-ji, a magnificent Zen temple adorned in gold leaf, set against a stunning pond and garden. This historic site is a breathtaking example of traditional Japanese architecture and design.  
[Kinkaku-ji](#)
- 07:30 PM** | **Dinner: Nishin Soba in Kawaramachi** **USD 18**  
Enjoy Nishin Soba, a unique Kyoto dish featuring buckwheat noodles in hot broth topped with a piece of slow-cooked, sweetened dried herring, in the bustling Kawaramachi district.  
[Kawaramachi](#)

**Stay:** Gion/Higashiyama — This area is ideal for its traditional atmosphere, proximity to many historic and spiritual sites, and excellent access to local dining and evening entertainment.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

## Day 3 — Historic Castles, Spiritual Statues, and Cultural Immersion in Central Kyoto USD 87

*Highlight: Explore the historic Nijō Castle and experience a traditional Kimono Tea Ceremony.*

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>08:30 AM</b> | <b>Sanjūsangendō Temple</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 4</b></span><br>Immerse yourself in the serene atmosphere of this temple, famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, offering a profound spiritual and historical experience.<br><a href="#">Sanjūsangendō Temple</a>   |
| <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Nijō Castle</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 5</b></span><br>Explore the opulent former residence of the Tokugawa Shoguns, known for its Nightingale Floors, grand reception halls, and beautiful gardens that showcase significant Japanese history and architecture.<br><a href="#">Nijō Castle</a>  |
| <b>12:30 PM</b> | <b>Lunch: Kyoto-style Tempura in Naka Ward</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 18</b></span><br>Savor freshly fried tempura featuring seasonal vegetables and seafood, a light and crispy local specialty, in a traditional eatery near Nijo Castle.   |
| <b>01:30 PM</b> | <b>Kimono Tea Ceremony MAIKOYA Nishiki</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 40</b></span><br>Participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony while dressed in an authentic kimono, learning about the art of matcha preparation and etiquette, offering a deep cultural and spiritual experience.<br><a href="#">Kimono Tea Ceremony MAIKOYA Nishiki</a> |
| <b>03:00 PM</b> | <b>Wander Nishiki Market</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Free</b></span><br>Explore Kyoto's 'Kitchen,' a lively five-block market street filled with food stalls, specialty shops, and local delicacies, perfect for trying street food and experiencing local daily life.<br><a href="#">Nishiki Market</a>   |
| <b>07:00 PM</b> | <b>Dinner: Okonomiyaki in Shimogyo Ward</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 20</b></span><br>Enjoy a delicious and filling okonomiyaki, a savory pancake dish, at a local eatery in the bustling Shimogyo Ward, offering a different flavor of Kyoto's vibrant food scene.   |

**Stay:** Gion/Higashiyama — Central to many historic sites like Kiyomizu-dera and Yasaka Shrine. Offers charming traditional atmosphere with easy access to restaurants and public transport, providing an authentic Kyoto experience.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

*Highlight: Experience a speedy Shinkansen journey to Tokyo and witness the iconic Shibuya Sky views.*

<b>08:00 AM</b>	<b>Hotel Check-out in Kyoto</b> Check out from your hotel in Kyoto, ensuring all your belongings are packed and ready for the journey to Tokyo.	<b>Free</b>
<b>08:30 AM</b>	<b>Travel to Kyoto Station</b> Take local transport to Kyoto Station to board your Shinkansen (bullet train) for Tokyo.	<b>USD 5</b>
<b>09:00 AM</b>	<b>Shinkansen from Kyoto to Tokyo</b> Enjoy a comfortable and scenic 2.5-hour journey on Japan's famous high-speed bullet train, transitioning from the ancient capital of Kyoto to the bustling modern metropolis of Tokyo.	<b>USD 100</b>
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Travel to Shibuya Hotel &amp; Drop Luggage</b> Arrive at Tokyo Station and take local transport to your hotel in Shibuya to drop off your luggage before commencing your Tokyo exploration. Note: Check-in may be after 3:00 PM, but luggage drop is usually available.	<b>USD 5</b>
<b>12:30 PM</b>	<b>Lunch: Tonkotsu Ramen in Shibuya</b> Enjoy a hearty bowl of rich Tonkotsu Ramen, a popular pork-bone broth noodle dish, at a local shop in the vibrant Shibuya area, fueling up for your afternoon adventures.	<b>USD 15</b>
<b>01:30 PM</b>	<b>Hachiko Statue</b> Visit the famous bronze statue of the loyal Akita dog, Hachiko, an iconic and beloved meeting spot just outside Shibuya Station, symbolizing loyalty and patience. <a href="#">Hachiko Statue</a>	<b>Free</b>
<b>02:00 PM</b>	<b>Shibuya Sky</b> Ascend to Tokyo's newest and most spectacular open-air observation deck for breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views of the city, including the famous Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo Tower, and even Mount Fuji on clear days. This offers a fantastic 'modern' perspective of Tokyo. <a href="#">Shibuya Sky</a>	<b>USD 25</b>
<b>04:00 PM</b>	<b>Explore Shibuya Crossing &amp; Center Gai</b> Immerse yourself in the electrifying energy of the world's busiest pedestrian crossing, a true symbol of modern Tokyo. Afterward, wander through the bustling streets of Center Gai, famous for its fashion, shops, and entertainment, soaking in the vibrant urban culture. <a href="#">Shibuya Crossing</a>	<b>Free</b>
<b>07:30 PM</b>	<b>Dinner: Yakitori in Shinjuku</b> Savor delicious charcoal-grilled chicken skewers (yakitori) at a lively izakaya in Shinjuku, a perfect way to experience authentic Tokyo nightlife and local cuisine. Shinjuku is a short train ride from Shibuya.	<b>USD 18</b>

**Stay:** Shibuya — Shibuya is an excellent base for exploring Tokyo, known for its vibrant atmosphere, modern attractions like Shibuya Sky and the famous Shibuya Crossing, and an abundance of dining and shopping options. It's also a major transport hub, offering convenient access to other key Tokyo neighborhoods for the rest of your trip.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

*Highlight: Enjoy iconic views from Tokyo Skytree and explore the historic Sensō-ji Temple.*

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|-----------------|--|---------------|
| <b>08:30 AM</b> | <b>Sensō-ji Temple</b><br>Start the day at Tokyo's oldest temple, immersing yourself in its rich history and spiritual ambiance. Explore the main hall, pagoda, and the iconic Kaminarimon (Thunder Gate).<br><a href="#">Sensō-ji Temple</a>            | <b>Free</b>   |
| <b>10:00 AM</b> | <b>Nakamise-dori Market</b><br>Stroll through Nakamise-dori, the bustling shopping street leading up to Sensō-ji Temple, browsing traditional souvenirs, snacks, and crafts.<br><a href="#">Nakamise-dori Market</a>                                     | <b>Free</b>   |
| <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>Tokyo Skytree</b><br>Ascend to the observation decks of the Tokyo Skytree, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the city skyline, including Mount Fuji on clear days. Experience a marvel of modern engineering.<br><a href="#">Tokyo Skytree</a> | <b>USD 25</b> |
| <b>01:00 PM</b> | <b>Lunch: Tempura Don in Asakusa</b><br>Enjoy a delicious Tempura Don, a rice bowl topped with crispy deep-fried seafood and vegetables, at a local eatery in the Asakusa area.  | <b>USD 18</b> |
| <b>02:20 PM</b> | <b>Tokyo National Museum</b><br>Explore Japan's rich artistic and cultural heritage at the Tokyo National Museum, housing a vast collection of ancient artifacts, traditional art, and archaeological finds.<br><a href="#">Tokyo National Museum</a>    | <b>USD 10</b> |
| <b>04:30 PM</b> | <b>Ueno Park</b><br>Stroll through the expansive Ueno Park, a popular spot for relaxation and home to several museums, a zoo, and beautiful gardens. Enjoy the natural beauty and calm atmosphere.<br><a href="#">Ueno Park</a>                          | <b>Free</b>   |
| <b>07:00 PM</b> | <b>Dinner: Tonkatsu in Ueno</b><br>Savor a delicious Tonkatsu, a breaded, deep-fried pork cutlet, served with shredded cabbage and rice at a local restaurant in the Ueno area.  | <b>USD 20</b> |

**Stay:** Shibuya — Known for its vibrant atmosphere, excellent transport links, and proximity to shopping, dining, and entertainment. Offers easy access to other Tokyo districts.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

## Day 6 — Harajuku's Youth Culture and Shinjuku's Green Spaces & Views

USD 25

*Highlight: Experience the peaceful forest surrounding Meiji Jingu Shrine and the stunning city views from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building.*

- 09:00 AM** | **Meiji Jingu Shrine** Free  
Find serenity at this large Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, set within a vast, peaceful forest, offering a tranquil escape from the city bustle.  
[Meiji Jingu](#)
- 11:00 AM** | **Yoyogi Park** Free  
Stroll through one of Tokyo's largest city parks, known for its wide-open lawns, tranquil ponds, and forested areas perfect for relaxation and people-watching.  
[Yoyogi Park](#)
- 12:30 PM** | **Lunch: Gyudon in Harajuku** USD 10  
Enjoy a classic Japanese comfort food: a bowl of thinly sliced beef and onions simmered in a savory-sweet sauce, served over rice at a local eatery in Harajuku.
- 01:30 PM** | **Wander Takeshita Street** Free  
Immerse yourself in the vibrant and quirky youth culture of Harajuku, exploring its trendy boutiques, unique fashion stores, and lively street atmosphere.  
[Takeshita Street](#)
- 03:00 PM** | **Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observation Decks** Free  
Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of Tokyo's sprawling cityscape from the free observation decks of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, offering a modern perspective of the metropolis.  
[Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building](#)
- 04:30 PM** | **Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden** USD 5  
Discover a peaceful oasis featuring traditional Japanese, French, and English landscape gardens, offering a stunning contrast to the surrounding urban jungle of Shinjuku.  
[Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden](#)
- 07:00 PM** | **Dinner: Vegetable Set Meal in Shinjuku** USD 10  
Savor a healthy and balanced traditional Japanese dinner, featuring a variety of seasonal vegetables, rice, and miso soup, at a local eatery in Shinjuku.

**Stay:** Shibuya — Central location with excellent transit connections, vibrant nightlife, shopping, and dining options. Also provides easy access to Harajuku and Shinjuku.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

## Day 7 — Modern Wonders and Farewell Flavors of Odaiba and Tsukiji USD 69

*Highlight: Explore the bustling Tsukiji Outer Market and witness the impressive Unicorn Gundam before departing from Narita International Airport.*

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>07:00 AM</b> | <b>Tsukiji Outer Market Exploration</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 15</b></span><br>Immerse yourself in the bustling atmosphere of Tsukiji Outer Market, a vibrant hub of fresh seafood and Japanese culinary delights. Sample street food snacks and browse unique kitchenware.<br><a href="#">Tsukiji Outer Market</a>                              |
| <b>09:20 AM</b> | <b>Unicorn Gundam &amp; DiverCity Tokyo Plaza</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Free</b></span><br>Marvel at the impressive life-sized transforming Unicorn Gundam statue. Afterward, explore DiverCity Tokyo Plaza, a modern shopping and entertainment complex featuring Japanese pop culture and fashion brands.<br><a href="#">DiverCity Tokyo Plaza</a> |
| <b>11:20 AM</b> | <b>Odaiba Marine Park &amp; Statue of Liberty Replica</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Free</b></span><br>Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the scenic Odaiba Marine Park, taking in panoramic views of Tokyo Bay, the Rainbow Bridge, and the unique Statue of Liberty replica. A great spot for photos.<br><a href="#">Odaiba Marine Park</a>                |
| <b>12:50 PM</b> | <b>Lunch: Monjayaki in Odaiba</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 18</b></span><br>Experience the unique Tokyo specialty, Monjayaki, a savory, thin pancake-like dish prepared at your table. Enjoy the interactive cooking process with views of Tokyo Bay.   |
| <b>01:50 PM</b> | <b>Miraikan (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 6</b></span><br>Engage with interactive exhibits on robotics, space exploration, and sustainable technology at Japan's leading science museum, featuring cutting-edge research.<br><a href="#">Miraikan</a>   |
| <b>03:30 PM</b> | <b>Hotel Checkout &amp; Luggage Collection</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Free</b></span><br>Return to your hotel in Shibuya to complete checkout procedures and collect your luggage before heading to the airport.  |
| <b>04:30 PM</b> | <b>Depart from Narita International Airport (NRT)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>USD 30</b></span><br>Transfer from your hotel in Shibuya to Narita International Airport (NRT) for your flight home to New York, NY. Allow ample time for travel and international check-in procedures.<br><a href="#">Narita International Airport (NRT)</a>            |

**Stay:** Shibuya — The Shibuya area offers excellent access to shopping, dining, and major transportation hubs, making it a convenient base for exploring Tokyo.

[View day route on Google Maps](#)

## Travel Tips

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- Set up a Mobile Suica (or Pasma) on your phone before departure; it's a must-have for all public transit in Tokyo and Kyoto and many convenience stores.
- Use Google Maps extensively for all train travel in major cities like Tokyo; it works exceptionally well for specific routes, platforms, and estimated times.
- In large cities like Tokyo, pick just a few neighborhoods per day to explore to avoid burnout from constant cross-city travel and maximize your experience.
- Consider a small wheel suitcase over a large backpack for navigating crowded train stations and streets, as Japanese often use compact luggage.
- When boarding a bus, especially in Kyoto suburbs, always grab a numbered ticket immediately upon entry, as fares are often determined by your stop.
- Make Tokyo your first stop in Japan; it offers more readily available English signage and information, making it easier to adjust initially.
- If you encounter 'shoulder checking' (deliberate bumping) as a woman, especially in crowded areas, report it immediately to station staff or a Koban (police box).

## Packing Suggestions

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- Small wheeled suitcase (large backpacks can be awkward on trains)
- Yen cash (¥20,000-¥30,000 for smaller shops, street food)
- Slip-on shoes (frequent removal at temples, ryokans)
- Mobile Suica/Pasma (loaded on phone)
- Offline Google Maps + Translate (pre-downloaded Japanese packs)
- Compact umbrella (for sudden rain any season)
- Small plastic bag for trash (public bins are rare)
- Layered shirts + cardigan (heated indoors, cold outdoors)
- Lightweight cross-body bag (easier in crowded metro)
- Small quick-dry towel (for onsen or public restrooms)
- Eye mask (if sensitive to light in hotels)
- Moisture-wicking socks (for extensive walking)

## Booking Checklist

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- Kimono Tea Ceremony at MAIKOYA Nishiki — Kyoto (Book 2 weeks ahead — Popular tea ceremonies, especially those with kimono experiences, can fill up quickly, particularly for specific time slots. Booking in advance secures your spot.)
- Shibuya Sky Timed Entry Ticket — Tokyo (Book 3 days ahead — Shibuya Sky tickets are for timed entry and often sell out, particularly for popular sunset slots. Booking online in advance is recommended to secure your preferred time.)

- Tokyo Skytree Tembo Deck & Galleria Timed Entry — Tokyo (Book 1 month ahead — While tickets can be purchased on the day, booking Tokyo Skytree tickets online in advance (especially for evening/sunset views) saves time by allowing you to bypass queues and guarantees entry for specific time slots.)

## Visa & Entry

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Most citizens from countries like the US, Canada, UK, EU, Australia, and New Zealand can enter Japan visa-free for up to 90 days for tourism. Indian citizens typically require an e-Visa, which can take several days to process. All travelers need a passport valid for at least six months beyond their intended stay. For other nationalities, check the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for specific requirements.

## Travel Essentials

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### CONNECTIVITY

**WiFi** Free WiFi is not common in Tokyo or other major cities, and often requires registration even where available. Hotels generally offer reliable WiFi. You may find free WiFi at major transport hubs like ports or some larger hotels, but don't rely on it for consistent connectivity.

- Airalo/Holafly eSIM (various) — \$10-30 for 7-15 days / 5-10GB
- NTT Docomo/Softbank Physical SIM — Varies, e.g., ~\$30 for 7 days / unlimited data

**Useful apps** Mobile Suica (or Pasmo), Google Maps, Google Translate

*It is highly recommended to set up an eSIM and pre-load Mobile Suica to your phone (via Apple Pay/Google Pay) before arriving in Japan for immediate connectivity and transit ease.*

### SAFETY & TRAVEL ADVISORY

[US State Department advisory](#)

[UK Foreign Office advisory](#)

### LOCAL ESSENTIALS

**Currency** Japanese Yen (JPY)

**Tipping** Tipping is not customary in Japan and is generally not expected or accepted in restaurants, hotels, or taxis. Service charges are usually included in prices where applicable.

**Emergency** 110 (police), 119 (fire and ambulance). For non-emergency tourist inquiries, call the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) hotline: 050-3816-2787.

**Useful phrases** Sumimasen - Excuse me / I'm sorry · Arigato gozaimasu - Thank you very much ·-  
Konnichiwa - Hello (daytime) · Onegaishimasu - Please (when asking for something) ·-  
Eigo ga hanasemasu ka? - Do you speak English? · Kanpai! - Cheers!

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Do I need a visa to visit Japan?

Most major Western nationalities (US, UK, EU, Australia) enjoy visa-free entry for tourism for up to 90 days. Indian citizens typically require an e-Visa. All passports should be valid for at least six months beyond your stay. Always verify the latest requirements with the official Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs website for your specific nationality.

### **Is Japan safe for solo female travelers?**

Japan is globally renowned as one of the safest countries, and major cities like Tokyo and Kyoto are very safe for solo female travelers, even at night. Street crime is exceptionally low. However, be aware of specific incidents like 'shoulder checking' in crowded areas; if it occurs, report it to nearby station staff or a police box (Koban).

### **How do I use public transport in Japan?**

Public transport is highly efficient. The easiest way is to use a pre-loaded Mobile Suica or Pasma card on your phone, which works on nearly all trains and buses across major cities. Google Maps is indispensable for navigating routes and schedules. Avoid peak rush hours on commuter lines if possible, but generally, the system is clean and punctual.

### **What is the best way to stay connected in Japan?**

The most convenient option is to activate an eSIM (e.g., Airalo, Holafly) before you depart, ensuring you have data upon arrival. Physical SIM cards can also be purchased at major airports like Narita or Haneda. Free public WiFi is scarce and often requires registration, so rely on your mobile data or hotel WiFi.

### **What are essential items to pack for Japan?**

Pack yen cash for smaller purchases, slip-on shoes for frequent removal at temples/ryokans, and a small wheeled suitcase for easier navigation. Also useful are a compact umbrella for sudden rain, a small plastic bag for trash due to rare public bins, and offline maps/translate apps for navigation and communication without constant data.

### **When is the best time to visit Japan?**

The most popular times are spring (March-April) for cherry blossoms and autumn (October-November) for fall foliage, both offering mild temperatures and beautiful scenery. Be prepared for crowds during these seasons. Summer is hot and humid, while winter is colder but quieter, ideal for skiing or budget travel outside peak times.

### **What are some key cultural norms to be aware of in Japan?**

Always remove your shoes at the genkan (raised entryway) of homes, ryokans, or some restaurants; use provided slippers but take them off before stepping onto tatami. Slurping noodles is a sign of enjoyment. Avoid loud conversations on public transport, and do not stick chopsticks upright in rice or pass food chopstick-to-chopstick. Tipping is not customary.

### **How should I get around Tokyo efficiently?**

Tokyo's vastness makes efficient navigation key. Use Google Maps with a Mobile Suica for seamless train and subway travel. Focus on exploring specific neighborhoods thoroughly each day rather than constantly crossing the city. The Yamanote Line is a convenient loop for many major hubs.

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