

CRAFTED VACAYS

Japan, decoded.

A first-timer's visual playbook for Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka - with an 11-day route, transport, food, shopping and the details people usually learn too late.

TOKYO • KYOTO • OSAKA



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One route. Three versions.

Use the 11-day plan as the default. The route is open-jaw: arrive in Tokyo, depart from Osaka. That saves a full backtrack.

Tokyo	Kyoto	Osaka	Depart
4 nights / Days 1-4	3 nights / Days 5-7	3 nights / Days 8-10	Day 11 via KIX

7-DAY EXPRESS

Tokyo 3 nights, Kyoto 2, Osaka 1. Skip theme parks and Nara. Keep one landmark cluster per day.

11-DAY SWEET SPOT

The complete plan in this guide: Tokyo 4, Kyoto 3, Osaka 3, with Nara as a day trip.

14-DAY UPGRADE

Add one night in Hakone or Kawaguchiko and two nights in Hiroshima/Miyajima - not both as rushed day trips.

Choose your airport pair

- **Best:** Tokyo in (HND/NRT), Osaka out (KIX).
- **Round-trip Tokyo:** take the Shinkansen back on Day 10 and sleep near Tokyo/Shinagawa.
- **Round-trip Osaka:** reverse the route.

IMPORTANT ASSUMPTION

This is a season-neutral, first-time route for able-bodied adults at a moderate pace. Opening hours, weather, festival closures and final prices must be rechecked for actual dates.

Do these six things before buying attractions.

- 1 **Visa.** Indian passport holders need a visa before travel. Applications from India are generally submitted through VFS/authorized channels; use the current Embassy checklist.
- 2 **Flights.** Prefer open-jaw tickets: Tokyo arrival, Kansai departure.
- 3 **Insurance.** Cover medical care, delay, cancellation and baggage; Japan treatment costs can be high.
- 4 **Connectivity.** Install an eSIM before departure or collect a SIM/pocket Wi-Fi at the airport.
- 5 **Payments.** Carry at least two cards plus some yen. Smaller restaurants, temple counters and recharge machines can still prefer cash.
- 6 **Digital folder.** Save passport, visa notice, insurance, hotel addresses and reservations offline.

PACK SMARTER

- ☐ Comfortable shoes: 15,000-25,000 steps is normal.
- ☐ Small coin pouch and compact tote.
- ☐ Universal adapter; Japan uses Type A plugs.
- ☐ Prescription copies and medicines in original packaging.
- ☐ Light layer for air-conditioning; rain layer in wet seasons.

AIRPORT ARRIVAL SEQUENCE

Immigration and customs - cash/ATM - SIM/eSIM check - IC card - airport transfer. Do not activate a time-based subway pass at the airport unless you will immediately use the covered subway network.

Land gently; Tokyo is not won on arrival day.



- **Arrival** Clear immigration, connect data, withdraw yen and set up Suica.
- **Transfer** Haneda is easiest by Keikyu, Tokyo Monorail or limousine bus. Narita is easiest by Narita Express, Skyliner or airport bus depending on hotel.
- **Hotel** Base near a useful station, not just a famous neighborhood.
- **Evening** Walk your local block, eat close by, and sleep early.

GOOD FIRST-TIME BASES

Shinjuku: nightlife and western Tokyo.

Shibuya: trend-led, busy, expensive.

Ueno/Asakusa: traditional east, better value.

Tokyo/Shinagawa: easiest for Shinkansen.

Budget: airport transfer roughly ¥500-¥3,500, depending on airport, operator and destination. Do not buy a rail pass just for one airport trip.

Meiji calm, Harajuku style, Shibuya lights.

- 08:00** Meiji Jingu and forest approach. Free; allow 60-75 minutes.
- 10:00** Harajuku: Takeshita Street for pop culture; Cat Street for cleaner fashion browsing.
- 12:30** Omotesando lunch. Reserve shoe shopping for after you know your walking size.
- 15:00** Shibuya Crossing, Hachiko and PARCO/Loft/Hands.
- Sunset** Shibuya Sky if you secured a timed ticket.
- Evening** Nonbei Yokochō or a department-store food hall dinner.



Save Onitsuka customization and Ginza shopping for Day 4; availability is discussed later.

TRANSIT LOGIC

Start at Harajuku/Meiji-jingumae and walk south toward Shibuya. One directional day saves repeated station changes.

Temple morning, kitchen streets, city views.



- **07:30** Senso-ji before Nakamise becomes crowded. Temple grounds free.
- **09:30** Kappabashi for knives, ceramics, chopsticks and realistic food models.
- **12:00** Ueno or Ameyoko lunch.
- **14:00** Choose: Ueno museums, Akihabara or Tokyo Skytree.
- **Evening** Akihabara arcades/anime retail or Sumida river walk.

HOW TO REACH

Senso-ji: Asakusa Station; short walk.

Kappabashi: Tawaramachi Station or walk from Asakusa.

Akihabara: JR Yamanote/Keihin-Tohoku, Hibiya Line or Tsukuba Express.

Keep knives in checked baggage and retain packaging/receipts. Ask the shop about sharpening, steel care and export restrictions.

Pick one anchor; do not stack four ticketed worlds.

Modern art + bay

Morning: teamLab Planets in Toyosu, then Toyosu market area or waterfront.

Afternoon: Ginza, Itoya stationery, department-store basements and Onitsuka.

Plan ¥4,000-¥6,000 + shopping

Old Tokyo + neighborhoods

Morning: Tsukiji Outer Market breakfast.

Afternoon: Yanaka Ginza, Nezu or Shimokitazawa vintage stores.

Plan ¥1,000-¥4,000

Disney full day

Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea needs a full day. Stay near Maihama or accept a late return.

Date-based ticket; buy early

Fuji day trip

Choose Kawaguchiko for lake-and-Fuji views or Hakone for onsen/art/volcanic scenery. Weather controls the view.

Plan ¥6,000-¥15,000+

THE WEATHER SWITCH

If Fuji visibility is poor, keep the Tokyo choice day and move Fuji only if transport and timed tickets remain flexible. Never sacrifice Kyoto sleep for a late, clouded detour.

Book first: teamLab, Disney, Shibuya Sky sunset and any themed café.

Keep flexible: markets, shopping streets, parks and neighborhood walks.

The station name is only half the answer.

Four systems you will actually use

JR EAST

Yamanote and other surface lines. Useful for Shinjuku, Shibuya, Ueno, Akihabara and Tokyo Station.

TOKYO METRO + TOEI SUBWAY

Dense urban coverage. A tourist Tokyo Subway Ticket covers both operators for 24/48/72 hours, but not JR.

PRIVATE RAILWAYS

Keio, Odakyu, Tokyu, Keisei, Tobu and others reach suburbs, airports and day trips.

BUSES AND TAXIS

Buses fill local gaps. Taxis help with luggage or late nights but cost much more.

How to ride without stress

- 1 Search the exact destination, then note operator, line color/letter, platform and exit number.
- 2 Tap the same IC card/device at entry and exit. Never mix a QR ticket and IC card for one journey.
- 3 Follow signs for the next operator during transfers; some transfers require leaving one gate system.
- 4 Stand left on escalators in Tokyo; follow local practice in Kansai. Do not block both sides.
- 5 Missed the train? Wait. Frequent local services make running unnecessary.

TOURIST SUBWAY PASS

Official 2026 price: 24h ¥1,000; 48h ¥1,500; 72h ¥2,000. It is time-based from first use and covers Tokyo Metro + Toei, not JR or airport rail.

Think wallet, not pass.

Tap. Ride. Buy.

Suica and PASMO are stored-value IC cards. They deduct the correct fare and work on most urban trains, subways, buses, convenience stores, lockers and vending machines displaying the IC mark.

Your options

- **iPhone:** Welcome Suica Mobile is designed for overseas visitors; top up via Apple Pay where supported.
- **Physical card:** regular non-personalized Suica/PASMO sales resumed in 2025; availability and sales points vary.
- **Cash top-up:** station machines and convenience stores are useful when foreign cards fail.

Do not make these mistakes

- Do not expect an IC card to cover reserved Shinkansen fares automatically.
- Do not tap in if you intend to use a separate paper/QR ticket for that local leg.
- Do not let the balance fall below the minimum needed to exit.
- Do not confuse mobile Suica compatibility with every phone; the tourist mobile option is iPhone-focused.

BEST FIRST-TIMER SETUP

Use Suica for local rides in all three cities. Add a Tokyo Subway Ticket only on days with four or more covered subway rides. Buy Shinkansen separately.

Shinkansen, without the guesswork.



- **Morning** Forward large luggage to Kyoto or travel with compliant baggage.
- **Board** Tokyo or Shinagawa - choose the station easiest from your hotel.
- **Ride** Nozomi is fastest on the Tokaido route; Hikari is slightly slower.
- **Arrive** Kyoto Station. Allow 20-30 minutes to navigate exits and hotel transfer.
- **Evening** Kyoto Station architecture, Higashi Hongan-ji or a relaxed Pontocho walk.

TICKET STRATEGY

For a simple Tokyo-Kyoto-Osaka route, point-to-point tickets are normally cheaper than the nationwide 7-day Japan Rail Pass. A reserved Tokyo-Kyoto seat is typically around ¥14,000-¥15,000; verify the travel date.

SmartEX can use a QR ticket, collected paper ticket, or a linked IC card. Register and test payment before travel; some foreign cards may fail 3-D Secure.

Train type, seat and luggage are three separate choices.

Choice	What it means	First-timer recommendation
Nozomi / Hikari / Kodama	Fastest / medium / all-stations services on the Tokaido route.	Nozomi for time; Hikari if using JR Pass coverage without a Nozomi supplement.
Reserved / non-reserved	A fixed seat versus finding space in designated cars.	Reserve for pairs, luggage, weekends and holidays.
Ordinary / Green	Standard versus wider premium seating.	Ordinary is comfortable; spend on Green only for space or peak travel.
Oversized baggage	Total dimensions over 160 cm up to 250 cm require a seat with baggage area on covered routes.	Reserve the correct seat or forward the bag.

AT THE GATE

- 1 Use the gate method tied to your booking.
- 2 Collect any seat-information slip.
- 3 Find car number painted on platform floor.
- 4 Queue behind the correct door position.

FUJI-SIDE SEAT

Tokyo to Kyoto/Osaka: Mount Fuji is generally on the right side in the direction of travel (seat E in standard 3+2 ordinary cars). Views depend on weather.

Keep noise low, rotate seats only with permission, and take calls in the vestibule.

JR PASS REALITY CHECK

The nationwide pass does not cover city subways and, for Nozomi/Mizuho, requires an additional ticket. Calculate your actual long-distance rides before buying.

Fushimi first; Higashiyama after breakfast.



- **06:30** Fushimi Inari. Free; 60-150 minutes depending on how high you climb.
- **09:00** Breakfast near Kyoto Station or Gion.
- **10:30** Kiyomizu-dera, then Sannenzaka and Ninenzaka downhill.
- **13:30** Gion and Yasaka Shrine; pause for lunch.
- **16:00** Kennin-ji or Maruyama Park.
- **Evening** Pontocho/Kiyamachi dinner.

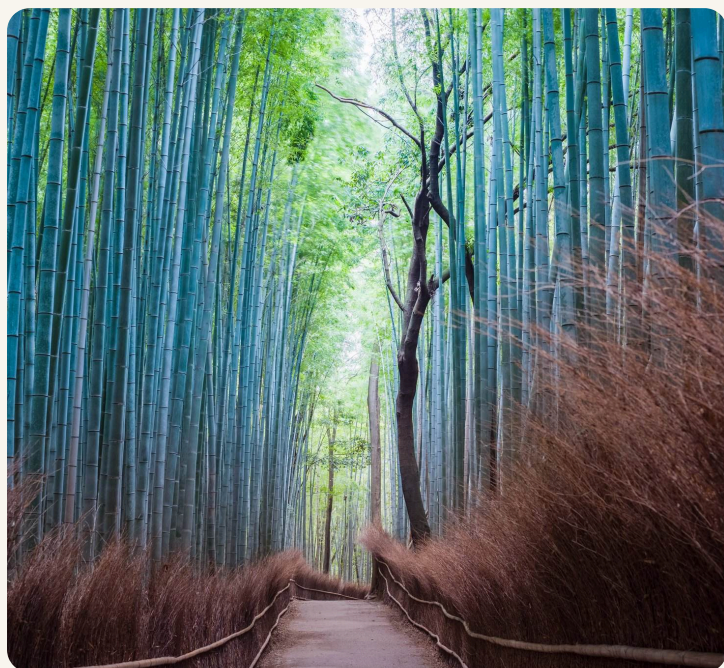
HOW TO REACH

Fushimi Inari: JR Nara Line to Inari (not the similarly named metro stop).

Kiyomizu: bus to Gojo-zaka/Kiyomizu-michi, then uphill walk; taxi can save energy.

Wear respectful clothing, keep voices low, and never block residential lanes for photos. Gion has explicit private-lane restrictions.

Bamboo at dawn, gold before closing.



- 07:00** Arashiyama Bamboo Grove.
- 08:00** Tenryu-ji garden or riverside walk.
- 10:30** Optional monkey park; steep climb.
- 13:00** Randen/JR toward Kinkaku-ji area.
- 14:30** Kinkaku-ji. Planning price ¥500.
- 16:30** Nishiki Market or Nijo Castle only if time and closing hours allow.

DO NOT OVERPACK THIS DAY

Arashiyama and Kinkaku-ji are on different sides of Kyoto. Add Nijo only if you start early and have energy.

NIJO PRICING ALERT

Current combined castle + Ninomaru Palace planning price is about ¥1,300. Kyoto has announced possible non-resident increases for fiscal 2027; recheck your date.

Deer, the Great Buddha, and an easy return.



- 08:00** Depart Kyoto (JR/Kintetsu) or Osaka (Kintetsu convenient for Nara Park).
- 09:30** Kofuku-ji area and Nara Park.
- 11:00** Todai-ji Great Buddha Hall.
- 13:00** Lunch: kakinoha-zushi, udon or kamameshi.
- 14:30** Kasuga Taisha lantern paths.
- 17:00** Return to Kyoto or continue to Osaka check-in.

DEER ETIQUETTE

Feed only official deer crackers. Show empty hands when finished. Deer can nip, butt or grab paper; keep maps and food secured.

TRANSIT BUDGET

Plan roughly ¥1,500-¥3,000 round trip depending on base and operator, plus attractions and food.

Castle history, market energy, neon night.



- 09:00** Osaka Castle park and museum. Planning admission about ¥1,200.
- 12:30** Kuromon Market lunch; compare prices before ordering premium seafood.
- 15:00** Den Den Town or Shinsaibashi shopping.
- 18:00** Dotonbori food crawl and Hozenji Yokocho.

HOW TO REACH

Castle: Morinomiya or Osakajokoen (JR), Tanimachi 4-chome (metro).

Kuromon: Nippombashi Station.

Dotonbori: Namba or Shinsaibashi.

Eat small portions at several stops; one takoyaki tray, one okonomiyaki shared, one dessert. Dotonbori is the experience, not the cheapest dinner.

One blockbuster day, one local day.



Day 9: choose one

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS JAPAN

Full day. Studio Pass prices vary by date; Express Pass is separate and can cost more than admission. Super Nintendo World access rules can change.

ALTERNATIVE: BAY OSAKA

Kaiyukan Aquarium + Tempozan + sunset.
Easier pace and more weatherproof.

Day 10: Osaka finish

Morning: Umeda, Grand Front and department stores.

Afternoon: Nakazakicho cafés or Shinsekai/Tennoji.

Sunset: Umeda Sky Building; planning admission about ¥2,000.

Final dinner: kushikatsu, yakiniku or a reservation-worthy counter.

BEST BASE

Namba: food and nightlife, direct Nankai airport access. **Umeda:** excellent for Kyoto/Kobe day trips and city transport. Choose based on departure plan, not photos.

Order by dish, not hype.



What	Where to aim	Planning budget	First-timer move
Sushi / kaisendon	Tsukiji Outer Market, Toyosu area, neighborhood counters	¥1,500-¥8,000+	Breakfast for markets; lunch sets offer value.
Ramen	Shinjuku, Tokyo Station Ramen Street, Ebisu	¥1,000-¥1,800	Buy ticket at vending machine; hand it to staff.
Tonkatsu	Aoyama, Shinjuku, Ginza	¥1,500-¥3,500	Choose pork cut and set; cabbage refills vary.
Gyukatsu	Shibuya, Akihabara, Shinjuku	¥1,500-¥2,800	Cook slices briefly on the tabletop stone.
Yakitori / izakaya	Shinjuku, Yurakucho, Ebisu	¥2,500-¥6,000	Ask about table charge and smoking policy.

LOW-FRICTION WINNERS

Department-store basements, station food halls, conveyor sushi, family restaurants and convenience stores are reliable when the group is tired.

DIETARY LANGUAGE

Vegetarian is not automatically fish-free; dashi often contains bonito. Allergy cards in Japanese are safer than verbal explanations.

Kyoto is refined; Osaka is proudly messy.



Kyoto specialties

- **Yudofu:** delicate tofu meal near temple districts.
- **Obanzai:** Kyoto home-style seasonal dishes.
- **Nishin soba:** buckwheat noodles with sweet-simmered herring.
- **Kaiseki:** seasonal multi-course dining; reserve ahead.
- **Matcha:** choose Uji tea specialists over fluorescent novelty desserts.

Osaka specialties

- **Takoyaki:** creamy center; let it cool before biting.
- **Okonomiyaki:** griddled cabbage pancake with sauce and toppings.
- **Kushikatsu:** fried skewers; follow the sauce rules posted.
- **Negiyaki:** scallion-heavy Osaka pancake.
- **Butaman:** steamed pork bun, ideal for a quick snack.

LUNCH

Use set menus for quality at lower prices. Aim ¥1,200-¥2,500.

DINNER

Casual izakaya ¥3,000-¥6,000; specialist counters can be much higher.

QUEUE RULE

A long line is not a quality guarantee. Keep one backup within the same neighborhood.

Save room for the things Japan does differently.

TOKYO: HARBS MILLE CRÊPE

Layers of thin crêpes, fruit and fresh cream. Expect roughly ¥1,000-¥1,400 per slice before drinks; branches and slices vary.

KYOTO: MATCHA PARFAIT

Look for Uji tea specialists serving matcha ice cream, jelly, red bean and mochi. Deep bitterness is the point.

TOKYO: TOTORO CREAM PUFFS

Shiro-Hige's Cream Puff Factory is known for character-shaped choux filled with seasonal creams. Reserve when possible.

KYOTO: NAMA YATSUHASHI

Soft rice-flour sweet, often filled with red bean or seasonal flavors. Buy near the end of the trip; shelf life is short.

TOKYO: KISSATEN CAKE

Try old-school shortcake, Mont Blanc or cream soda in a traditional coffee shop for a slower counterpoint to neon Tokyo.

OSAKA: RIKURO'S CHEESECAKE

Fresh, airy Japanese cheesecake with raisins at the base. Queue for the just-baked stamp, but packaged cakes travel better.

CARRY-HOME TEST

Fresh cream cakes rarely survive a flight. For gifting, choose boxed biscuits, tea, castella, mochi with a clear shelf life, or department-store wagashi packed for travel.

SHOPPING

Each city has a different superpower.

City	Where	Buy
Tokyo	Ginza, Omotesando, Shibuya, Kappabashi, Akihabara, Shimokitazawa	Japan-only fashion, stationery, knives, cameras, anime, vintage clothing
Kyoto	Nishiki, Teramachi, Gion, Kiyomizu-zaka, Uji	Tea, ceramics, incense, furoshiki, sweets, craft textiles
Osaka	Shinsaibashi, Namba, Doguyasuji, Den Den Town, Umeda	Kitchenware, street fashion, character goods, value cosmetics, snacks

ONLY-IN-JAPAN FEEL

Goshuincho temple books, tenugui cloths, regional KitKat/Calbee flavors, gachapon, eki-ben boxes and local train goods.

CRAFT WORTH PAYING FOR

Sakai knives, Kyoto pottery, handmade chopsticks, washi paper, incense and regional tea with origin clearly stated.

CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Voltage, warranty region, battery transport rules, knife baggage, cosmetic ingredients and food import restrictions.

DEPARTMENT-STORE BASEMENT STRATEGY

Depachika food halls are best in the last hour before hotel: precision gift boxes, seasonal fruit, bento and desserts. Fresh items are often meant for same-day eating.

Customization needs a Plan A and a verified Plan B.



GINZA EMBROIDERY

2026 visitor reports describe same-day Mexico 66 embroidery at the Ginza Orange Concept Store, with limited daily capacity and early queueing. Current official store pages do not consistently publish the service rules.

Treat this as unconfirmed until the store verifies it.

VERIFIED CUSTOM-ORDER SERVICE

Onitsuka's 2026 factory/gallery in Tottori has been reported as offering a custom-order shoe service. Tottori is far outside the Tokyo-Kyoto-Osaka route and should be a separate trip decision.

BEFORE QUEUEING

Confirm service, model, characters, fee, daily slots and pickup time directly with the store.

FIT FIRST

Try both feet late in the day; customized footwear may not be returnable.

BACKUP BUY

Look for Nippon Made or Japan-seasonal colorways even if embroidery is unavailable.

The rules change on 1 November 2026.

Through 31 October 2026

- Eligible short-term visitors usually show their physical passport.
- Minimum generally ¥5,000 pre-tax at one participating store on one day.
- Tax may be removed at purchase or refunded at the store counter.
- Consumables are sealed and must stay unopened in Japan under the old system.

From 1 November 2026

- Pay the tax-inclusive price at the shop.
- Register refund details at purchase.
- Complete customs verification at the departure airport/seaport.
- Refund follows the new method; carry eligible goods out of Japan.

DEPARTURE-DAY ORDER

Keep tax-free goods accessible until customs verification. If valuable items are in checked baggage, complete the required customs step before handing over the bag. Ask each store how its refund provider will pay you.

Always carry

- ☐ Physical passport
- ☐ Receipts and purchase record
- ☐ Goods and identifiable packaging
- ☐ Payment card used, when requested

Do not assume

- Every store participates.
- The displayed price excludes tax.
- A refund is instant.
- Mailed goods qualify the same way.

Plan in yen; convert only when paying.

Category	Budget	Comfortable	Notes
Hotels, 10 nights, per person twin-share	¥45,000- ¥75,000	¥80,000- ¥140,000	Season and Kyoto weekends move prices sharply.
Food	¥35,000- ¥55,000	¥60,000- ¥100,000	Mix convenience breakfast, set lunch, better dinner.
Local transport	¥10,000- ¥16,000	¥16,000- ¥25,000	Includes airports and local rides; not Shinkansen.
Tokyo-Kyoto + Kansai intercity	¥16,000- ¥19,000	¥19,000- ¥25,000	Reserved Shinkansen plus Kyoto-Osaka/Nara transit.
Attractions	¥10,000- ¥22,000	¥25,000- ¥55,000	Disney/USJ/Express Pass can push higher.
Total land, excluding flights/shopping	¥116,000- ¥187,000	¥200,000- ¥345,000	Per person, twin-share planning range.

WHERE TO SAVE

Open-jaw flights, lunch sets, business hotels near useful stations, point-to-point Shinkansen, luggage forwarding only on transfer days.

WHERE TO SPEND

One excellent meal, one signature view, a central hotel on arrival night, and seats with luggage space when needed.

These are planning bands, not quotes. International flights, visa, insurance, phone data, shopping and date-based theme-park pricing are excluded.

Small habits make Japan much easier.

TRAINS

Queue at floor markings. Keep calls off local trains. Make room for priority seating and backpacks.

FOOD

Do not eat while weaving through crowded streets. Finish market food near the stall where permitted.

TRASH

Bins are scarce. Carry a small bag and dispose of waste at your hotel or where purchased.

SHRINES

Bow lightly at torii, purify hands when the basin is open, and never photograph prohibited interiors.

ONSEN

Wash before entering, keep towel out of bath, and check tattoo policy before booking.

CASH

Convenience-store and postal ATMs are useful. Keep coins for small counters and lockers.

Emergency

Police: 110

Fire / ambulance: 119

Japan Visitor Hotline: confirm current JNTO number before departure.

Show your hotel address in Japanese. Earthquake alerts and rail disruption information should come from official apps/operators.

Three phrases

Sumimasen - excuse me / sorry

Arigato gozaimasu - thank you

Eigo no menyuu wa arimasu ka? - Is there an English menu?

Buy scarce things first. Keep the city flexible.

8-12 weeks out

- ☐ Flights and visa pathway
- ☐ Hotels with cancellation terms
- ☐ USJ/Disney if essential
- ☐ Special restaurants with fixed release dates

4-6 weeks out

- ☐ Shinkansen reserved seats
- ☐ Shibuya Sky sunset
- ☐ teamLab / themed cafés
- ☐ Luggage forwarding plan

48 hours before each day

- ☐ Weather and Fuji visibility
- ☐ Opening hours / last admission
- ☐ Train disruption notices
- ☐ Restaurant closure day
- ☐ IC balance and battery pack

NEVER PREPAY EVERYTHING

Neighborhood walks, markets, shrines and local meals are your recovery tools when weather or energy changes.

FINAL HOTEL CHECK

Save the Japanese name, full address, nearest station exit, check-in cutoff and phone number for each hotel. Kyoto bus stops and Tokyo station exits can matter more than distance on a map.

CRAFTED VACAYS

For a date-specific plan, hotel shortlist, attraction booking order and restaurant reservation strategy:

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Use this as a plan, then recheck your dates.

Transport, pass and policy details were checked on 11 October 2026.
Admission, hours, service availability and tax rules can change.

1. Japan National Tourism Organization, JR Pass guide: japan.travel/en/guide/jr-rail-pass/
2. Tokyo Metro, Tokyo Subway Ticket prices and coverage: tokyometro.jp/en/ticket/travel/
3. JR East, Welcome Suica Mobile: jreast.co.jp/multi/welcomesuicamobile/
4. SmartEX, registration and IC/QR ticket use: smart-ex.jp/en/beginner/entry/
5. JNTO, Kyoto-Nara-Osaka itinerary: japan.travel/en/itineraries/the-kansai-trio-kyoto-nara-and-osaka/
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7. Visa overview for Indian travelers; confirm against Embassy/VFS before applying: Business Today, 19 Jan 2026
8. Tax-free system change summary based on Japan Tourism Agency notice: matcha-jp.com/en/27460
9. Onitsuka 2026 factory and Tottori custom-order reporting: saindiamagazine.com
10. Nijo Castle 2026/2027 pricing change report: Japan Times, 1 Oct 2026

PHOTO NOTE

Place photographs are sourced from public web image results, primarily Wikimedia Commons and Pexels. The visuals identify the real destinations shown; operating details come from the sources above.