

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

JAPAN

(Updated June 2019)

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

As you prepare to embark on your upcoming Affordable World journey, please log on to your My Affordable account and click on your trip confirmation ID to review the most up to date trip details including hotel information, flight schedules, and ticket number(s). Please make sure you have all travel documents, passports, and necessary visas ready before you depart for your trip.

CHECKING IN AT THE AIRPORT

Be sure to bring your **passport** as you will need to present it when checking in at the airport. Please be advised not all airlines assign seats in advance. Some airlines assign seats at the airport during check-in. We recommend all travelers arrive at the airport and check-in at the airline counter at least 3 hours prior to the flight departure time. **You will receive boarding passes at the airline counter when you check in for your flight.**

UPON ARRIVAL IN JAPAN

Please go through Customs and Immigrations on your own. After you pick up your luggage, exit the baggage claim area and look for the Affordable World representative holding an Affordable World flag or sign. Please wear your Affordable badge (enclosed) for easy identification.

Airport Transfers Upon Arrival (Land & Air Packages)

Affordable World tour guides/airport assistants will wait for arriving tour members outside the airport baggage claim area for up to **90 minutes** after the landing time of the tour member's flight before departing from the airport with transportation to the hotel. If for any reason a tour member does not meet the Affordable World representative within 90 minutes after the landing time of the tour member's flight, the tour member will be responsible for his or her own transportation from the airport to the hotel, along with all associated expenses.

Airport Transfers (Extended Stay & Land Only Travelers)

An important note for extended stay travelers: An airport transfer out is not included for those extending their stay in Japan. Please arrange your own airport transfer out from the hotel to the airport. Hotel accommodations are not included when extending your stay. Extended stay travelers are responsible for arranging post-tour accommodations; alternatively, hotel accommodations may be purchased up to 35 days prior to the trip departure date. To purchase hotel accommodations, please log on to your My Affordable account.

An important note for land only travelers: Round-trip airport transfers are not included for land only bookings. Please arrange your own airport transfer to/from the hotel as listed in your travel documents. The tour guide will leave information for you at the hotel regarding the meeting time for the Tokyo ½ day sightseeing tour.

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. Passports must be valid for 6 months from the return date of your trip. For all other passport holders, please consult with your relevant embassy.

BAGGAGE

Baggage allowance for international flights may vary by airline and is subject to change at any time. Please refer to the below information for Singapore Airlines and Air China baggage policy as of November 1st 2016. For up to date baggage allowance information, please check directly with the airlines.

Baggage Allowance:

- **Singapore Airlines International Flights** → Singapore Airlines allows 2 pieces check-in luggage (max 23 kg each) and one carry on piece not exceeding 7 kg for hand luggage on international flights
- **Air China International Flights** → The standard free baggage allowance on international flights from the U.S to Japan is 2 pieces per person, up to 50 lbs each. Carry on baggage is limited to one piece per person up to 5 kg
- **Please keep in mind the standard free baggage allowance on Inter-Asia flights is 1-piece check in luggage**

Important Luggage Info & Tips:

- **Please note, there is no porter service provided throughout your tour. During the tour, please always keep an eye on your personal belongings and valuables. Be aware of your surroundings when going out on your own.**
- Baggage is the sole responsibility of the traveler. We recommend using a TSA approved luggage lock and **Affordable World** luggage tags (enclosed) showing the name and contact information of the owner, and tour code
- DO NOT pack medicine, valuables, and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep these items in your carry-on bag
- Consider packing a change of clothing and toiletry in your carry-on bag to avoid inconvenience caused by delays or lost luggage
- Power bank chargers over 20,000 mAh are restricted from carry on and check in luggage
- Power bank mAh capacity must be clearly labelled by manufacturer on the charger
- Please visit www.tsa.gov for USA carry on restrictions
- **Important Note: Affordable World representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. After you collect your luggage and exit customs, our local Affordable World representative will be waiting for you with an Affordable World flag or sign. Please wear your Affordable World badge for easy identification.**

CURRENCY

Japanese currency is called Yen. The exchange rate is about 109 Yen to 1 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 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.

TIPPING

An important note on tipping - please note gratuities are not included in your tour cost; they are a way of showing your appreciation to our guides and drivers. Our guides and drivers greatly appreciate any tips you would like to give them Affordable World 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

HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS

Medical and vaccination requirements vary between countries and it is important you check with your family doctor or a qualified medical professional for the most up to date travel health information for the region you are visiting. Due to the length of the trip, it is advised you consult your doctor for existing medical/dental conditions before departure. It is advised to pack any prescription medicine in your carry-on hand luggage. Please make sure prescription medicine is fully labelled. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for the flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please notify your tour guide for immediate assistance.

Please keep in mind, some of our city and optional tours incorporate active elements such as ingress and egress from buses and/or vessels, walking long distances, or sightseeing; you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the level of activity that will be involved in your tour. Please note, some sightseeing and optional tours may involve walking around historic sites with uneven walkways, stairs, and/or long distances.

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

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

TIME DIFFERENCE

The time difference between major cities in North America and Japan is as below:

- Los Angeles & San Francisco + 16 hours
- New York + 13 hours

MEALS

Meals are included in Japan as per itinerary; meals provided during the tour are based on the local cuisine and menu. We regret to inform you that Affordable World is unable to confirm any special meal requests as it is based on the availability of the providing restaurants, hotels, and airlines. Please contact the airlines directly to place special meal requests for your flights.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

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

CULTURE & RESPECT

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

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.

CLIMATE & CLOTHING

The weather in Japan is generally mild. Since the nation stretches for over 3,000 km from north to south, the weather is varied depends on where and when you travel. Please note, shoes need to be removed prior to entering temples in Japan. Since the temples have no heater, during wintertime, we recommend you wear warm socks when visiting temples.

- Mar-May Spring – lightweight jackets & sweaters
- Jun-Aug Summer – light clothing, short sleeves
- Sep-Nov Autumn – lightweight jackets & sweaters
- Dec-Feb Winter – Wool and Warm overcoats, suits, sweaters & 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
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?	Hajimemshite
I came from America	Amerika kara kimashita

JAPAN TRAVEL INFO

For detailed Japan travel guides & maps please visit: <http://www.into.go.jp/eng/pdf/>

JAPAN EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

00 81 0 9079 615144

Our experienced staff of Japan specialists take pride in providing you with the very best in service and planning. Thank you for choosing Affordable World as your partner in travel. We are confident your trip will be happy and rewarding!

Bon Voyage!