

Top Five Reasons to Visit Japan Now!

Japan holds a lifetime's worth of amazing discoveries: here are just a few reasons why you should take the plunge and visit now!

Know before you go



Sydney, Cairns and the Gold Coast are only a 7 to 10 hour flight from Tokyo, while Cairns and the Gold Coast are just 9 hours from Osaka.



No visa is required for Australian and New Zealand passport holders for stays of up to 90 days.



Japan Standard Time (JST) is one hour behind AEST, half an hour behind ACST, and one hour ahead of AWST. Japan does not use daylight saving time.



Situated between Japan's subtropical south and subarctic north, Tokyo records an average of 5.8°C in January, 14.4°C in April, 25.4°C in July and 18.2°C in October.



Cash is generally the preferred method of payment in Japan, and it can be withdrawn from Japan Post Bank and Seven Bank ATMs with internationally recognised bank cards.

2 Affordable



The record highs being enjoyed by the Australian dollar in 2013 have translated to substantially increased buying power against the yen. In addition, prices in Japan have fallen to the point where the country has well and truly broken its traditional image of being an expensive destination, with a variety of affordable, quality dining, shopping, accommodation and entertainment options readily available.

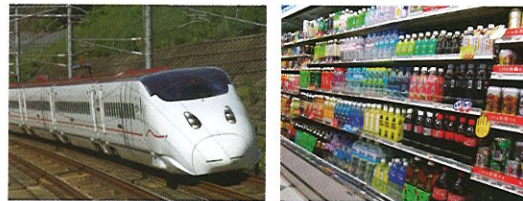
1 Unique



Japan is a land where ancient traditions and cutting-edge technology exist side-by-side, across a mountainous, volcanic landscape that varies widely in climate from the subarctic Hokkaido in the north, to the subtropical Okinawa in the south. These contrasts create a unique destination that offers a truly memorable journey for every visitor.



4 Convenient



Convenience is effectively a religion in Japan, where 24 hour shopping and dining are commonplace in the downtown areas of major cities, and some 5.5 million vending machines, along with over 40,000 convenience stores across the nation provide access to every day necessities around the clock. Its public transport system is also world-famous for punctuality, speed and cleanliness.

3 Friendly



Many Australians visiting Japan return with stories of the exceptional generosity and kindness they have received from Japanese people. This spirit of hospitality, known in Japanese as 'motenashi no kokoro,' is everywhere in Japan, particularly in its tourism industry where standards of customer service are impeccable.

5 Delicious



The diversity of Japan's climate is one of the key factors behind the variety in its regional cuisine, and the further one travels across the archipelago, the more delicious local specialties there are to discover! Major cities are paradise for foodies, with 350 Tokyo restaurants recognised in the *Michelin Guide Tokyo Yokohama Shonan 2013*.