

Japanese Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Japan. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour. Relations between Japan and North Korea are strained. The situation could escalate with little warning. See [Safety and security](#). Japan experiences earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons and volcanic activity. The [Japan Meteorological Agency](#) provides up-to-date information on these issues. See [Natural disasters](#). Exercise a high degree of caution in Areas 1 and 2 near the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant and do not travel to Area 3 near the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant because of health and safety risks, as directed by the Japanese Government. See [Health](#).

Japanese family law is very different from Australian law, including in relation to child custody and divorce. Child abduction issues between Australia and Japan are governed by international law. See [Laws](#). The drinking age in Japan is 20. See [Laws](#). Travellers visiting for less than 90 days must carry their passport at all times. Foreigners residing in Japan must always carry their residence card. See [Entry and exit](#). Every year a number of people are injured or killed during the winter months in snow-related accidents in Japan. See [Natural disasters](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the full advice, subscribe to updates to this information and register their presence in Japan at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Frequent travellers or those intending on an extended stay in Japan should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Those spending at least 4 weeks in rural areas of the transmission zone may require vaccination against Japanese encephalitis. Tick-borne encephalitis is present throughout Europe and Asia, predominately in forested areas during summer. Tick avoidance measures may be required depending on a travellers itinerary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Japan should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

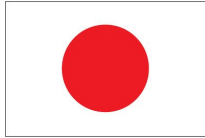
Japanese Representation in Australia

Embassy of Japan, Canberra
112 Empire Circuit
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6273 3244
Web: www.au.emb-japan.go.jp

Consulate General of Japan, Sydney
Level 12, 1 O'Connell Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9250 1000

Consulate of Japan, Melbourne
Level 25, 570 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9679 4510

Japan also operates other missions which are contactable on the below numbers:
Adelaide Tel: (03) 9679 4510
Perth Tel: (08) 9480 1800
Brisbane Tel: (07) 3221 5188
Cairns Tel: (07) 4051 5177
Darwin Tel: (08) 8982 5435



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Time differences between Japan and Australia

Japan is Greenwich Mean Time +9 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone used in Japan is called Japan Standard Time (JST).

Japan, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 11am, Darwin 12:30pm, Brisbane 1pm, Adelaide 1:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2pm.

Japan, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 11am, Darwin, Adelaide 12:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 1pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Japan: +81

Domestic Prefix: 0

To Dial Australia Call:

KDD - 001 Cable & Wireless - 0061

MYLINE - 010 Japan Telecom - 0041

Followed by 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:

KDD 005 39 611 IDC 0066 55 661

Japan Tel 0044 11 611 NTT 003 4811 061

Users may need to insert phone cards or coins.

Travelex Card Services: 00531 78 0167

Visa Global Assistance: 00531 44 0022

MasterCard: 00531 11 3886

AMEX Travellers Cheques: 0120 779 656

Emergency Services:

Police - 110

Fire/Ambulance - 119

Japan Help Line (English) - 0120 461 997

These services may not always have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a Japanese speaker call on your behalf or contact an Australian mission.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Japan

Australian Embassy, Japan

2-1-14 Mita
Minato-Ku
TOKYO 108-8361

Tel: (+81 3) 5232 4111

Fax: (+81 3) 5232 4149

Web: www.australia.or.jp

Australian Consulate General,
Osaka

16th floor, Twin 21MID Tower
2-1-61 Shiromi, Chuo-ku
OSAKA 540 6116

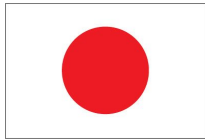
Tel: (+81 6) 6941 9448

Australia also maintains consulates in other Japanese cities that can be contacted on the following numbers:

Fukuoka (+81 92) 734 5055

Sapporo (+81 11) 242 4381

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians in Japan are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Japan:

Alcohol: 3 bottles (approx. 760 ml per bottle).
 Tobacco: 400 cigarettes or 100 cigars or 500 g of tobacco.
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to ¥200,000.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Japan and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further information on Japanese customs visit www.customs.go.jp, or for Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: Japanese (type A) and USA (type B).

Supply: 110-120 V, 60 Hz (different to Australia). A voltage converter may be required to use Australian appliances. If the electrical info panel on a device says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.



Driving in Japan

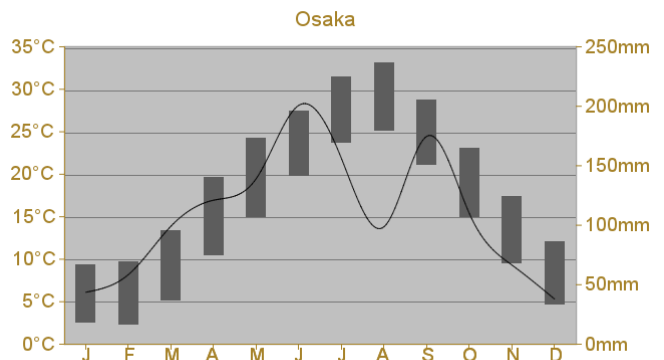
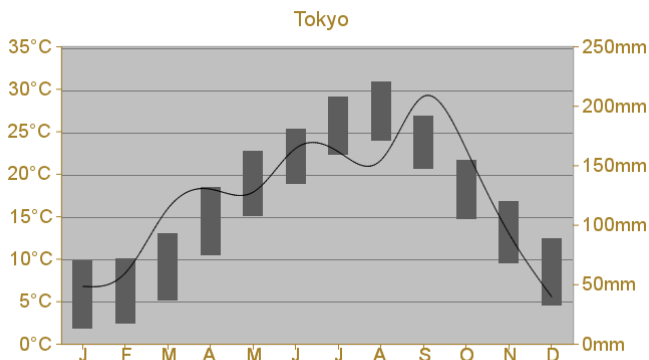
The Japanese drive on the left hand side of the road (the same as Australia). Australians wishing to drive a motor vehicle in Japan require an International Driving Permit (IDP) which should be obtained before leaving Australia. IDP's can be purchased from your local Automobile Association. For the contact details of your local Automobile Association please go to www.aaa.asn.au.

For information on Japanese road rules and to confirm that you are eligible to drive in Japan, please visit the Japanese Automobile Association at www.jaf.or.jp/e/. The Australian Embassy in Tokyo also has information for those wishing to drive in Japan at www.australia.or.jp/en/consular/driving/.

Japanese Holidays 2018

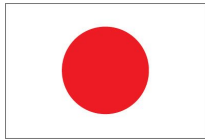
01 Jan: New Year's Day	16 Jul: Marine Day
08 Jan: Coming of Age Day	11 Aug: Mountain Day
11/12 Feb: National Foundation	17 Sep: Respect for the Aged
21 Mar: Vernal Equinox	23/24 Sep: Autumnal Equinox
29/30 Apr: Showa Day	08 Oct: Health & Sports Day
03 May: Constitution Day	03 Nov: National Cultural Day
04 May: Greenery Day	23 Nov: Labour Thanksgiving
05 May: Children's Day	23/24 Dec: Emperor's Birthday

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Japan



For local forecasts please visit the Japanese Meteorological Agency at www.jma.go.jp.

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Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 81 Japanese Yen
 100 Japanese Yen (JPY) = 1.23 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 78 Japanese Yen
 100 Japanese Yen (JPY) will cost 1.28 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

¥50 = \$0.64 AUD	¥1,000 = \$12.78 AUD	¥10,000 = \$127.78 AUD
¥100 = \$1.28 AUD	¥2,000 = \$25.56 AUD	¥20,000 = \$255.57 AUD
¥200 = \$2.56 AUD	¥3,000 = \$38.34 AUD	¥30,000 = \$383.35 AUD
¥300 = \$3.83 AUD	¥4,000 = \$51.11 AUD	¥40,000 = \$511.14 AUD
¥400 = \$5.11 AUD	¥5,000 = \$63.89 AUD	¥50,000 = \$638.92 AUD
¥500 = \$6.39 AUD	¥6,000 = \$76.67 AUD	¥60,000 = \$766.71 AUD
¥600 = \$7.67 AUD	¥7,000 = \$89.45 AUD	¥70,000 = \$894.49 AUD
¥700 = \$8.94 AUD	¥8,000 = \$102.23 AUD	¥80,000 = \$1,022.28 AUD
¥800 = \$10.22 AUD	¥9,000 = \$115.01 AUD	¥90,000 = \$1,150.06 AUD
¥900 = \$11.50 AUD		¥100,000 = \$1,277.85 AUD

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Japanese Yen and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 484 Japanese Yen
 Big Mac Japan: ¥380 (JPY) = 4.67 Australian Dollars

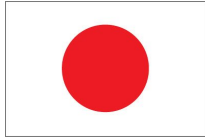
A Big Mac in Japan is therefore 22% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of Japan is the Yen (plural Yen), which is abbreviated using the symbol ¥ (for example ¥100) and has the currency code "JPY". There is no subunit of the Yen. The following units of currency are the most common in Japan but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About Japan

Full Name: Nippon-koku (Japan).

Size: 364,000 sq km (almost 50% of NSW).

Population: 127 million (2% of the world population, almost 6 times Australia's population). Tokyo: 37 million.

Ethnicity: Japanese 98.5%, Korean 0.5%, Chinese 0.4%.

Language: Japanese is spoken almost uniformly.

Religion: Shintoism* 84%, Buddhism* 72%, Christianity 2%. *Shintoism and Buddhism are not mutually exclusive to each other.

GDP Per Capita: \$37,100 (Australia US\$43,000).

Significant Dates:

- 300's AD - Japan is united for the first time.
- 500 AD - Buddhism is introduced along with other Chinese culture including the writing and legal systems.
- 1603-1868 - Edo period. Japan isolates itself from the world, cutting off all international trade. Japan is ruled by the Tokugawa shogunate.
- 1853 - The US forces a trade agreement.
- 1868 - Meiji Restoration. Japan begins to industrialise after western contact.
- 1904-5 - Japan defeats Russia, showing it to be a world power.
- 1910 - Japan conquers and rules Korea.
- 1914 - Japan joins the allies in WWI.
- 1937 - Sino-Japan war. Japan captures Shanghai, Beijing and Nanjing.
- 1939-45 - WW2. Japan occupies several countries and attacks the US.
- 1945 - The US drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders, US occupies Japan.
- 1952 - Japan regains its independence.
- 1945-91 - The Japanese economic miracle.
- 1991 - Economic stagnation begins.
- 2011 - A large earthquake and tsunami devastate north east Honshu.

