



KOSHER WORLD ADVENTURES

OFFERING KOSHER VACATIONS THROUGHTOUT THE WORLD SINCE 2015

JAPAN ORIENTATION

By Cindy Kline

Arrival to Tokyo

Upon your arrival in Tokyo, please proceed to our designated hotel (refer to the hotel list below).

From Narita Airport (approximately 90 minutes to the hotel):

- The most convenient option is to take the Narita Express train from the airport to Shinagawa Station. Exit via the Takanawa exit, where you will find a taxi stand. A short 5-minute taxi ride will bring you to the hotel. Please note, a private taxi from Narita Airport will cost approximately \$240.

From Haneda Airport (approximately 25 minutes to the hotel):

- The easiest option is to take a taxi directly to the hotel. Alternatively, if you're feeling adventurous, you can take the train to Shinagawa Station, exit via the Takanawa exit, and take a taxi from the stand for a 5-minute drive to the hotel. A private taxi from Haneda Airport will cost approximately \$40.

Taxis accept cash (Yen only) and most major credit cards.

Our Japanese guide and I will be waiting for you at the hotel to assist with your check-in.



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Passports & Visas

A valid passport is required, with an expiration date at least six months beyond the conclusion of the tour or return flight. Visas are not required for citizens of the US, UK, or Australia.

We recommend making copies of your passport and storing them separately—either in your luggage, on your phone, or with family or trusted individuals back home.

Carry on Baggage

In your hand luggage, pack items you will need immediately upon arrival. Suggested items include cameras, medications, Tefillin, your Chumash, Siddur, a change of clothes, underwear, pajamas, etc.

Please be mindful of airline regulations regarding sharp objects (e.g., scissors, knives, razors) and liquids. These items should be placed in your checked luggage, as airport security will confiscate them if found in hand luggage. Liquids in your carry-on must be in containers of 100 ml or less, packed in a clear plastic bag with a zip or adhesive closure, with a maximum total capacity of 1 litre.

Each airline has specific size and weight limits for carry-on luggage, so please review these guidelines carefully.

Additionally, your carry-on should be a small roller suitcase or bag that can double as an overnight bag, as there will be two instances on the tour where we will travel by bullet train with only an overnight bag. Your main luggage will be transported separately by luggage truck to the next destination. Note that we are limited to ****one large piece of luggage per guest****, and ****large suitcases cannot be taken onto the bullet train****.



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Checked in Baggage

Please verify the weight allowance for your checked baggage, which is typically 23 kg (50 lbs) per suitcase. We recommend keeping your luggage under 20 kg (44 lbs) to allow room for any gifts or souvenirs you may purchase during the trip.

Insurance

Travel and health insurance are essential. Please ensure that you arrange comprehensive coverage for the entire duration of your trip, from departure to return. Your policy should include both cancellation and medical coverage to protect against any unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, ensure that any pre-existing medical conditions are fully covered in your insurance plan.

Currency and Budgeting

The local currency in Japan is the Japanese Yen (JPY), and exchange rates fluctuate. Currently, the approximate rate is \$1 USD = 150 yen = 40 shekels. It is recommended to bring US dollars, British pounds, or Euros, which can be exchanged at the airport or the hotel. Most of our hotels have currency exchange machines, and exchange rates are consistent across locations.

Credit cards are widely accepted in Japan. Please note that prices are fixed, and bargaining is considered impolite.

Many souvenir shops offer reasonably priced items, and there are also ¥100 stores (equivalent to dollar stores). Popular souvenirs include calligraphy, lacquerware, dolls, Japanese paper products, and ceramics. Some travelers may also wish to purchase electronics or Uniqlo clothing, including coats. During the tour, we will visit both markets and, potentially, department stores.



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Tips

Recommended gratuities for the English-speaking/Israeli guide are \$10 per day. Additionally, it is customary to tip the local Japanese guide and driver \$5 per day.

Saftey

Japan is one of the safest countries in the world, and its major cities are welcoming and secure. Generally, it is quite safe to walk alone at night, even for women. However, it is important to adhere to some basic safety precautions, such as keeping valuables close, especially in crowded areas.

It is advisable to avoid carrying large amounts of cash or your passport during the day; instead, these items should be stored in the hotel safe, which is available in every room. While pickpocketing is less common in Japan, it is still prudent to remain vigilant, as it can occur anywhere.

Weather and Recommended Clothing

We recommend traveling light and bringing casual clothing along with comfortable walking shoes.

- August: Loose-fitting clothing is advisable.
- November: A light sweater is recommended.
- March: Dress in layers, as temperatures can be chilly. It is also advisable to bring a warm hat and thin gloves, as there may be a chance of rain; consider packing a poncho or compact umbrella.

We will provide a small cloth backpack for use during our daily tours. However, if you prefer a sturdier or larger option, you are welcome to bring a small backpack of your own.



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Meals & Food

Breakfast and dinner will be served as sit-down meals. During breakfast, we will prepare our own lunch-to-go.

Breakfast will take place in a designated private dining room at our hotels, which allows us to bring in food items. This may include kosher cheeses, granola, spreads, lox, and various certified products from Costco. Additionally, Chabad will provide us with eggs, tuna, and bread. The hotel will supply certain items, such as vegetables, fruits, cereals, juices, coffee, tea, yogurt, and hard-boiled eggs prepared in a separate pot. Please note that the milk and yogurt served will be Chalav Stam, while the cheeses will be Chalav Israel.

We recommend bringing small plastic containers for storing fresh vegetables and fruits.

The Chabad Houses in Tokyo and Kobe will offer us delicious kosher meals, allowing us to sample a variety of traditional Japanese, Western, and Jewish dishes throughout the tour.

Please inform us of any dietary restrictions, including vegetarian preferences or allergies.

Water

The tap water in Japan is safe to drink and is often regarded as very tasty. Some hotels provide complimentary bottled water daily for guests. Additionally, Japan is home to numerous vending machines that offer a wide variety of cold and hot beverages.



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Hotel Lists

Monday-Wednesday at Grand Prince Hotel Shin Takanawa,

- Tokyo Website: <https://www.princehotels.com/shintakanawa/>
- Address: 3-13-1 Takanawa, Minato-ku Tokyo, 108-8612 Japan
- Phone: +81334421111

Thursday- Monday at ANA Crowne Plaza, Kobe

- Website: <https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/hyogo/osakb/hoteldetail>
- Address: 1 Chome Kitanocho, Chuo Ward, Kobe, Hyogo 650-0002, Japan
- Phone: +8178 2911121

Last night at Grand Prince Hotel Shin Takanawa, Tokyo

- Website: <https://www.princehotels.com/shintakanawa/>

Wake-Up

It is recommended that you set your own alarms each morning. You will be given a schedule the night before. If you wish, you can order a wake-up call at reception.

Hotel Extra Charges

If there is a mini-bar in your room, snacks and drinks in the mini-bar are for purchase. Free items such as water and tea will normally be on the desk or on a table. If you have utilized any hotel services, please ensure that you have settled your bill before we leave our hotels.

Handy Items - Snacks & Special Foods

We suggest you bring small packages of tissues and hand wipes in small sealed packets, and of course, hand sanitizer. We supply snacks and you may want to bring along dried fruits, nuts, seeds, crackers, granola bars and/or some of your other favorite snacks.



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Medications

Please ensure you bring all necessary medications, including regular prescription drugs and any remedies for allergies, cold symptoms, stomach upsets, headaches, etc. If you have allergies and require an Epipen, kindly bring it with you. We recommend carrying your prescriptions in case a medication is misplaced. For your convenience, it is advisable to pack your medications in your carry-on luggage.

Glasses

If you wear glasses, we suggest that you bring a spare pair and your prescription in case you need to replace your glasses or lenses when we are in Japan.

Electricity

The power supply in Japan is 100 V, 2 flat pins, if you are not from USA, bring an adaptor for phones and laptops.

Internet

Our hotels offer complimentary Wi-Fi, available in all guest rooms as well as in the main areas of the hotel. We recommend arranging a roaming or internet package with your mobile service provider for your stay in Japan, as local SIM cards can often present challenges for international travelers.

Tefilot

Please bring a siddur, tallit and tefillin.



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Seating

The first row on each side of the bus is reserved for the guides. To foster group interaction and facilitate introductions among participants, we encourage everyone to vary their seating arrangements daily on the bus and during meals.

If anyone has specific health concerns, such as motion sickness or hearing issues, and requires a special seating arrangement, please reach out to the tour guide for assistance.

If you are seperated from the group

This tour is designed to be highly engaging and packed with activities. To ensure we can fully enjoy each day of our itinerary, it is crucial that we adhere to the scheduled times. We kindly ask all participants to be considerate of one another and to arrive at the bus at the specified departure times.

In the event that we pause for regrouping, please make sure to be present at the designated time and location. If you become separated from the group, proceed to the designated meeting place; if one is not specified, please remain at the last location where you had contact with the group. Stay there and contact me immediately. Please refrain from trying to find us, as it can be challenging to locate someone who is moving.

Additionally, we recommend that you carry a hotel business card or a key card cover that includes the address of our hotel for your convenience.

Time Difference

During our time in Japan, the local time will be two hours behind Sydney (GMT+10), seven hours ahead of Israel (GMT+3), eight hours ahead of Johannesburg (GMT+2), 14 hours ahead of New York (GMT-4), and 15 hours ahead of Chicago and Houston (GMT-5).



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Daily Departure & Check Out

We typically depart from the hotel 1 to 1.5 hours after breakfast begins, allowing guests ample time to return to their rooms before our daily activities. Please plan your morning schedules accordingly.

On the morning prior to our checkout, you will be asked to leave your large suitcase in a designated area in the lobby, where it will be sent ahead to our next destination. Please complete this task before heading down to breakfast.

Punctuality is essential for our itinerary. Our schedule is carefully organized, and to ensure we make the most of our planned activities, we must strive to remain on time.

Shabbat

- **Rooms:** We will use the services of a goy shel Shabbat to operate the elevators for us to get to the higher floors. Accessing the emergency stairs is forbidden and will cause the alarms to ring. PLEASE do not try using the emergency stairs.
- **Electronic Doors to your room:** We recommend that you place all valuables in the safe, leaving your door closed but unlocked by taping the tongue of the lock and putting the Do Not Disturb sign on outside door handle. We can help you do this on Erev Shabbat.
- **Lights:** Leave whichever lights you wish to have on Shabbat. You may additionally want to bring a travel Shabbat lamp.
- **Eruv:** Please note that there is no eruv in Japan.
- **Tefillot:** On Shabbat we will daven with the Jewish Community of Kobe. There are Talitot at the shul.
- **Candle Lighting:** Tea lights will be provided.
- **Shabbat Meals:** Dinner and Lunch will be served at the Synagogue.
- **Coffee and Cake** will be served in the hotel lobby and also at the synagogue. Lunch will count as Seudah Shlishit.

Smiles!

Part of the enjoyment of the trip is sharing it with others. This is the time to try leave your worries behind and just relax and have fun. It is the staff's job to do the worrying, so if you have any questions or concerns, please share them-they will be welcomed ☺