

POST TRIP ITINERARY WITH MY COMMENTS

15 days

Did it during Thanksgiving cause

11-Work days (2 Holidays and one half day) 7-½ PTO needed

4-Weekend days

The weather around end of November

Should be 46F-66F

Cold/dry air, Windy

Layers, gloves, windbreaker

Stays Booked everything on Expedia and had no issues (you can book now and pay at the hotel)

Tokyo Nov.16-20

HOTEL GROOVE SHINJUKU (TOKYU KABUKICHO TOWER) Hotel is probably my favorite hotel of all time, clean, easy to get to, Shinjuku is the nightlife of Tokyo and the view is amazing. Lobby is on the 18th floor. Also, the bus to the airport and back is at the foot of the building (a separate ticket is required, it was through a company, more info later on)

[424 Izutsuyacho, Rokkaku-Sagaru, Yanaginobamba-Dori, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto, 604-8113 Japan](#)

Kyoto Nov. 20-24

Miru Kyoto Nishiki Two blocks away from Nishiki market which is a long avenue of food, main shopping area is nearby as well as the Gion district. The hotel was clean and the location was great, but feel free to book somewhere else if desire.

[424 Izutsuyacho, Rokkaku-Sagaru, Yanaginobamba-Dori, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto, 604-8113 Japan](#)

Osaka Nov. 24-28

The Royal Park Hotel Iconic Osaka Midosuji

4 min walk to the train, really clean and nice hotel, the view faced the non-interesting side, so it was okay for me. I would get a hotel closer to fun landmarks or with a better view, this one had the lobby on the 15th floor.

4-2-3Hiranomachi, Osaka, 541-0046 Japan

Expedia 72870687709462

Tokyo Nov. 28-30

Same as the first

Stamps - Japan has stamps everywhere, so you can buy a little notebook at Muji. I think I found over 50 stamps. Maybe more.

Day	City	Agenda	Notes/To Dos
Day 0 Friday, November 15	New York in transit to Japan	Departure Time: 12:35 AM Flight Info: Japan Air - Airbus351- I wanted this flight cause I wanted to experience the plane, cause the Airbus A350-1000 is the newest Airbus in the market....lol. Anyways, Japan Air has amazing customer service. Highly recommend taking them and avoiding non-asian airline. I heard this and ANA are the best airline to take to Japan. Flight Time: 14 hours, 05 minutes	Japan Immigration Form (QR) - You can do it the day before. Make sure you have the QR code on your phone via screenshot, you will need it after arrival. It will be an inconvenience if you don't have this ready.
Tokyo Hotel: Hotel Groove Shinjuku - Tokyo Kabukicho Tower Nights: 4 Dates: November 16 - November 20			
Day 1 Saturday, November 16	Arrival in Tokyo	Arrival Time: 5:10 AM Arrive at Haneda Pick up Suica Card at the airport, we buy it there (iphone has a wallet option) Haneda Terminal 3 has vending machine, near monorail ticketing. Welcome card (we can't get refund on leftover) Regular Green Card we can, but only in Tokyo. Card can be reloaded many times. We can use the card anywhere that has a suica logo (like visa sticker in store) Maybe we can start with \$150? That's 7,333 yen (per 9/2/24). When we buy the card, we get a reference paper, we keep in case we are asked for it. So when you leave immigration and get your bag you will be near the monorail area. The suica atm is easy to spot. Suica card you will use it for the all the bus/trains (spent \$100 on	Tokyo is known for Shoyu ramen- Did not have this cause there is food everywhere Exchange money at the airport or 7-11 for the best rates. Maybe \$300 to start? Don't bring US cash, use your debit card at the 7-11. For 2 weeks take out \$200 (you will use it all, trust me lol) If you need more cash go to any 7-11, they are everywhere. Apps to Download: Klook - Ticket buying in Japan Google translate -

		this alone, maybe more lol) you can use it at 7-11, shops, etc. It's basically a debit card in Japan. So all you will need at the end of the day is a suica card and cash. Shinjuku Rest and Explore Shinjuku (hotel area) • Golden Gai (small bars, area looks cool) - Tourist heavy though • Shinjuku Gyeon - Nice botanical garden • Shinjuku batting cage • Omoide Yoko - Golden gai but for food. • Nakano Broadway mall - Great for souvenirs and discounted stuff, but didn't go cause we had bought a lot of stuff. • Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building (Free observation deck) Opened on weekdays, so I missed out on this.	download Japanese offline Google maps - download Japan offline, will take about 5 mins, so it before your trip. Bathrooms - there is bathroom in all the train station, malls, everywhere, you will be fine in this department. In Japan you don't tip, some places you pay before your meal.
Day 2 Sunday, November 17	Tokyo	Asakusa Tokyo • Kaminarimon Gate - Translates into "Thunder Gate" at the start of Nakamise-Dori and leading up to Senso-ji • Senso-ji - Oldest established Buddhist temple in Yokyo • Nakamise-dori Street (recommended to go either in the morning or evening for unique experiences) - Souvenirs, shops and food	Senso-Ji is worth seeing, but be mindful is tourist central, so go early unless you don't care for the crowd.

		Akihabara • Good for today cause Akihabara electric town closes road from 1-6pm, we can walk in the street. • Check out Akihabara(anime/ game area plus retro game center) • Internet makes it seem easy to explore, but this is just a zone to buy anime figures and retro items, but due to the number of stores, you have to go on a treasure hunt. Also, don't buy things right away, take a photo and go back to it later. I ended up getting a lot of figures in Osaka and Kyoto, it was cheaper outside of Akihabara. The shop chain Lashinbang and Suragaya sells second hand figures (they look brand new) for half the price of most figure stores.	
Day 3 Monday, November 18	Tokyo	Setagaya City • Gotokeji Temple - Buddhist temple known for manekineki "good luck" cats Shibuya • People say go to Meiji Shrine in the morning, go to Takeshita Dori Street (Harajuku-Fashion Kawii district), then walk to Shibuya) • Cross Shibuya Intersection FAMOUS CROSSWALK DOWNTOWN TOKYO	We did Shibuya at the end of the trip cause we needed some resting time from the first few days. Make sure to eat, sleep, recover, walking in Japan isn't for the weak. We did about 15k steps on average per day. Shibuya, aside from the street, it's basically

		• Shibuya PARCO (big mall) go to the 6th floor • Don Quijote Mega Store (best place for souvenirs) • Pokemon center at Parco	a shopping zone.
Day 4 Tuesday, November 19	Tokyo - Mt. Fuji (Day Trip)	• Arakurayama Sengen Pk. (Chureito Pagoda) 35 from station. It's a lot of steps, but the view is worth it. • Oishi Park - Recommend going if you can see Mt. Fuji. The local bus that we can take within the town You can use your suica card http://bus-en.fujikyu.co.jp/pdf/heritagetour/routemap_retro_omni_2021.pdf Mt. Fuji was one of the highlight of the trip. If possible I would stay in Kawaguchiko for a day. It's a nice town it's an amazing vibe. The only downside is that you have to hope for a good day so Mt. Fuji can be visible.	I booked a bus through https://highway-buses.jp/ in advance. I took this risk cause I didn't know the weather at the time, but I didn't want to the bus to be full. You can also take a train, but the bus is direct. Also- Arakurayama Sengen is a way out, so if you take a bus or train, go see this first.
Kyoto Hotel: Miru Kyoto Nishiki Nights: 4 Dates: November 20 - November 24			
Day 5 Wednesday, November 20	Tokyo to Kyoto (Travel Day) 2 hour train	Check-out at 11 am • Nishiki Market 3 minutes from the hotel. Gion • 15 mins from Hotel - Kyoto(Kyoto's most famous entertainment district and the center of its traditional arts, famous geisha district.) • Higashiyama District (Yasaka Pagoda)	BULLET TRAINS! Book via their app called EX. The JR Pass used to be worth it, but nowadays with the price increase, it's better to book your trip individually. Book seats D & E to see Mt. Fuji for the roundtrip.

		• Maruyama Park	If you book 21 days in advance on the app you get a discount, it's gonna be called. Hayatoku-21 Wide
Day 6 Thursday, November 21	Kyoto	The Path of Philosophy - Quiet and scenic path • Ginkaku-Ji Temple (North) • Eikan-do Temple (South) Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Kinkaku-ji Temple - Didn't have time to go. • We added the Hozugawa River Boat cruise which ended at the Bamboo Forest. • Bamboo Forest is another Tourist Center so be ready for that.	
Day 7 Friday, November 22	Kyoto	• Kiyomizu-dera - Touristy heavy. Honestly, aside from that one picture, honestly, this can be skipped, unless you really want to go. • Honnō-ji Temple - Not much to see here unless you wanna go to where the unifier of Japan died. • Fushimi Inari-taisha - Is open 24hr so you can go super early or late at night. This one was fun to see.	
Day 8 Saturday, November 23	Kyoto - Nara/Uji (Day Trip)	Day trip to Nara - • biggest bronze Buddha statue • Nara Deer Park • comeco cafe sarasoju • Nakatanidou - fresh mochi and see famous mochi pounding.	We did Uji first and it was great. We went to Nara after and it was a bit underwhelming. Uji is known to be Matcha Central.

		Uji - Half a dayish - 30mins from kyoto, on the way to nara, is where they make matcha. Went to Byodoin, which is a famous temple on the 10 cent yen.	
Osaka Hotel: The Royal Park Hotel Iconic Osaka Midosuji Nights: 4 Dates: November 24 - November 28			
Day 9 Sunday, November 24	Kyoto to Osaka (Travel Day) 15 minute bullet train	- Kaiyukan osaka aquarium (world 2nd largest) - Pokemon Center Osaka - Osaka Castle Park - Public urban park with Osaka Castle as its main attraction. No need to go inside according to the internet.	
Day 10 Monday, November 25	Osaka	Himeji Castle. Going to Himeji was a highlight of the trip. We went 3 hours before closing and went up and explored the area, really nice half day trip. Dotonbori - Lights up 30 minutes after sunset with over 140 thousand LED lights - Glico Man - A landmark in Dotonbori Tombori River Walk - Recommended for a calm daytime walk through shops and restaurants - Don Quijote Ferris Wheel - If you buy something from the store you can ride for free! Shinsekai - Known for its unique retro atmosphere and iconic landmarks - Janjan Yokocho Alleyway Information	Osaka for Tonkotsu Ramen Okonomiyaki Takoyaki

		Shinsaibashi - Osaka's major retail center since the mid-1800s Namba Yasaka Jinja - One of the most photographed places in Osaka with its famous lion head	
Day 11 Tuesday, November 26	Osaka	Katuso-ji Temple - On top of a mountain with views of the area known for its Daruma dolls (symbol of perseverance and good luck) • Info • 2914-1 Aomatani, Minoo, Osaka 562-8508, Japan	
Day 12 Wednesday, November 27	Hiroshima	Hiroshima Spots • Peace Memorial Park • Hiroshima Peace Memorial • Atomic Bomb Dome • Shukkeien Garden (optional if there's time. • Miyajima Island (We TAKE A FERRY) - Cool trip, the ferry I took was near the A-Dome, buy a roundtrip. • Last train to Osaka leaves at 10pm	Buy Bullet Train ticket when we get there • JR West Kansai-Hiroshima pass which is cheaper than 2x single tickets. I waited to get tickets because I wanted to see what the weather was going to be like. I ended up buying two single tickets cause I forgot about getting a pass lol.
Day 13 Thursday, November 28	Osaka to Tokyo (Travel Day) 3 hours 15 minutes	Shinjuku (Re-explore) or go somewhere else • Toshima City - Sunshine City - Ikebukuro - Largest Gacha Machine store and ONE PIECE Straw Store Ikebukuro	Did Shibuya this day.
Day 14 Friday, November 29	Tokyo	• Last Min Buy and places re-visit, buy nail clippers cause is recommended • Walk around Tokyo Tower • Walk around Tokyo Skytree	Ended up going around Tokyo Tower and then I took a bus to Mori Tower, you get an amazing view of

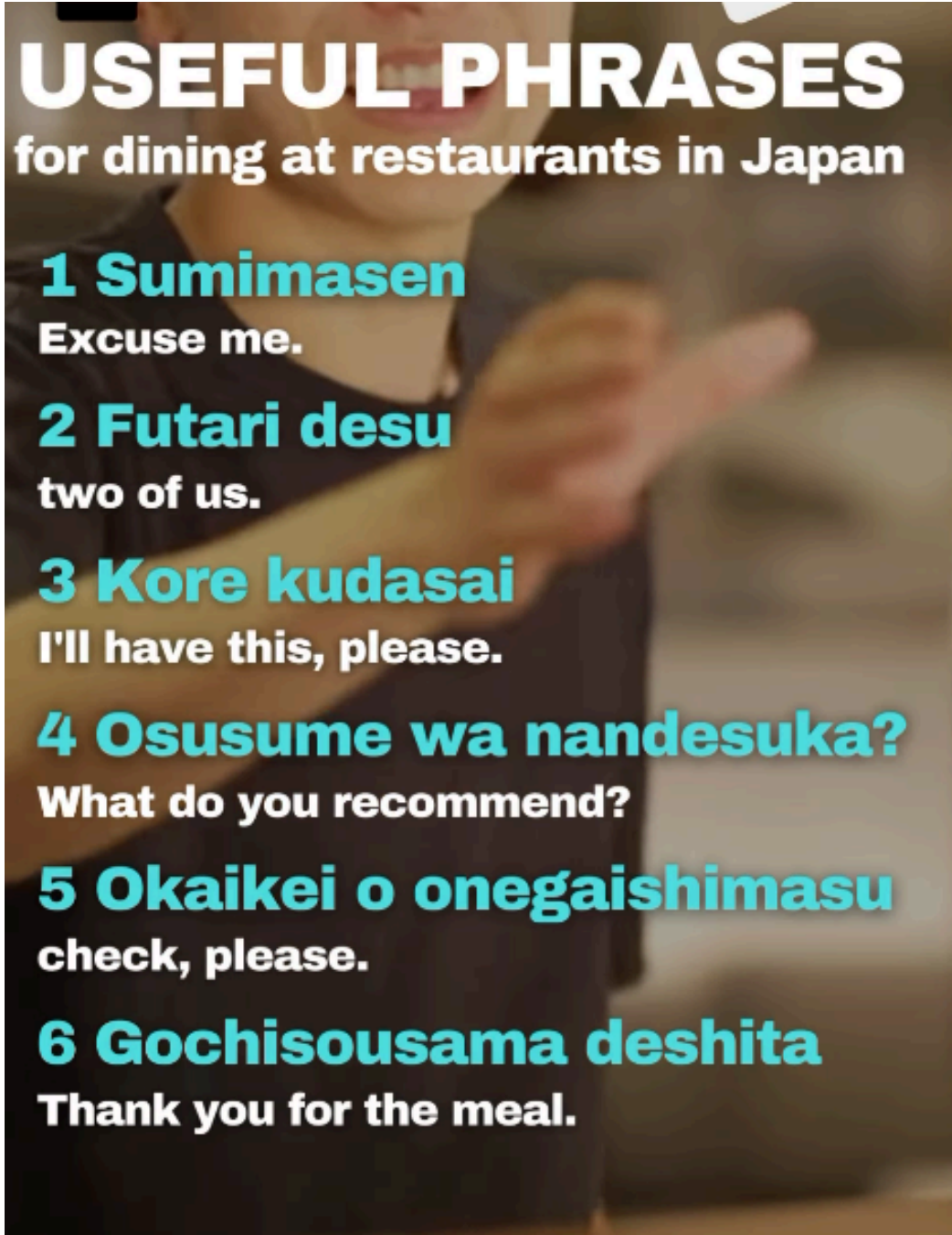
		area	Tokyo. HIGHLY RECOMMEND. You even see Mount Fuji, so maybe go when the sun is out and before sundown, if not MT. Fuji will be a shadow.
Day 15 Saturday, November 30	Tokyo in transit to New York	Shuttle to airport leaves at 11:30am, Internationals are in Term 3. The airport has an observation deck before security.	

We can book cooking classes: <https://www.cookly.me/>

Travel Checklist:

- Portable
- Outlets - they don't have 3 prongs only 2.
- Clothing (It's gonna be winter)
- Sleek Coat
- Gloves
- Hat
- Scarf
- Warm Socks
- Comfortable warm shoes for walking
- Sim Card or check tmobile perks,
- Bandages
- Napkins, apparently they are bad at restaurants
- Let card company know we're traveling, specially for debit card
- Download google maps offline
- Plastic bags for trash cause it is hard to find a bin (7-11 has them btw)

Hit me up if you have additional questions!



USEFUL PHRASES

for dining at restaurants in Japan

1 Sumimasen

Excuse me.

2 Futari desu

two of us.

3 Kore kudasai

I'll have this, please.

4 Osusume wa nandesuka?

What do you recommend?

5 Okaikei o onegaishimasu

check, please.

6 Gochisousama deshita

Thank you for the meal.

Arigato-Gozaimasu - most used word , meaning thank you. A-ri-ga-to + gu-zai-mas