



TOPDECKER, meet Asia (TD)

(Previously called: Japan Express) TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Remember when you spent that INCREDible week soaking up all the sushi, sake, soba and shrines Japan could throw at you? Huh, that wasn't you. Then what are you waiting for?! This intro to Japan is all about the weird-and-wonderful in Tokyo, the ancient wonders of Kyoto, and the foodie delights of Osaka. Swipe right for a week's worth of mind-blowing Japanese culture. You won't regret it.

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Visit the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo
- + Walking tour of Tokyo's Harajuku and Shibuya districts with Trip Leader
- + Group karaoke experience in Tokyo
- + Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto
- + Walking tour of Kyoto with Trip Leader (including Kinkaku-ji Temple)
- + Visit the Arashiyama bamboo forest
- + Visit the Umeda Sky Building
- + Visit Osaka Castle

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Visit the Meiji Shrine
- + Walking tour of Harajuku and Shibuya with Trip Leader
- + Group karaoke experience
- + Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine
- + Train ticket to Kyoto
- + Walking tour of Kyoto with Trip Leader (including Kinkaku-ji Temple)
- + Visit the Arashiyama bamboo forest
- + Train ticket to Osaka
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- + Visit Osaka Castle

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Tokyo
Japan

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Osaka
Japan

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Japan -

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | TOKYO, JAPAN

Seven days. Three legendary cities. And all the ancient temples, glittering skyscrapers, quirky neighbourhoods and local eats you can handle. Ready to experience this jaw-dropping country properly? You're in exactly the right place. First: say konnichiwa to your fellow explorers. Then: prepare for your first taste of Japan – we've got a group dinner in the traditional Asakusa district lined up. Yep, you're really here.



MEALS:

- + Dinner

DAY 2 | TOKYO

Rise and shrine! We're off to check out Meiji Jingu this morning – Tokyo's grandest Shinto shrine. Take in all the spiritual vibes, make an offering and wander the blooming (or not) gardens. Next, we're heading to the uber-kooky Harajuku district (aka cosplay heaven) with our in-the-know Trip Leader. Expect: neon tutus, rainbow-coloured wigs, bubble tea and fairy floss. We'll also swing by the iconic Shibuya Crossing to watch the Mario Karts zoom past. It's all the crazy. And this afternoon? Add 'sushi-making-ninja' to your LinkedIn profile after learning from the pros at an optional sushi lesson. Non-sushi-lovers should check out Omoide Yokocho (aka Piss Alley – we know, stay with us). Despite the unfortunate name, this tiny narrow street is lined with all the best izakaya restaurants. Pull up a pew with the locals, order a yakitori grill and dig in. Then: thought you could come to Japan and not get involved in some K-A-R-A-OKE? Think again! Gather the gang and bust out some bangers at tonight's included karaoke bar experience.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit the Meiji Shrine
- + Walking tour of Harajuku and Shibuya with Trip Leader
- + Group karaoke experience



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Sushi-making experience: from 8,824 JPY

DAY 3 | TOKYO

This is your day, 100% your way. But if you need some recommendations, we've got your back. Get the low-down on East Tokyo with an optional cycling tour. Pedal past the district's awe-inspiring shrines and temples, uncover the local sake bars and hip art galleries, and get inside scoop on those hidden gems with a local guide. Ready to plunge into a world of manga and anime? Put on your Sailor Moon outfit and explore Tokyo's famous Akihabara district on an optional tour. Or if the snow-topped peaks and gleaming lakes of Mt Fuji sound more like you, there's a day trip to the Fuji Five Lakes region on the cards too. Later, you can wander the futuristic neon-lit streets of Shibuya or join an optional tour of the buzzing Shinjuku district. With heaps of restaurants, bars and blaring dance joints, this is where the locals go to party.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Day trip to Mount Fuji: from 16,471 JPY
- + East Tokyo neighbourhood cycling tour: prices available locally
- + Anime & manga tour: prices available locally
- + Evening walking tour of Shinjuku: prices available locally

DAY 4 | TOKYO TO KYOTO

Up and at 'em: it's an early start to get the Shinkansen (bullet train FYI) to Kyoto. Home to over 2,000 temples and shrines this place ticks all the spiritual boxes. After lunch, we'll visit the incredible Fushimi Inari Shrine – with plenty of time to hike to the top and explore the torii gates. Then the afternoon is yours. If you want, spend the rest of the day dressed up as a geisha or samurai (we told you it would get weird). Tonight, we'll regroup for an included dinner – another chance to show off your chopstick skills. Or not.

 MEALS:	 INCLUDED TODAY:	 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
+ Breakfast + Dinner	+ Visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine + Train ticket to Kyoto	+ Dress as a geisha or samurai: from 9,600 JPY

DAY 5 | KYOTO

Time to explore this place with our expert Trip Leader. We'll tick off the Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion before moving on to Arashiyama to visit the Tenryu-ji Temple. Grab a bite to eat then head out to explore the sprawling bamboo forest and Togetsu-kyo bridge. Then, the rest is up to you. Lose yourself, find yourself, then grab a biru at a local watering hole. And for dinner tonight, head to Nishiki Warai for seriously good yakisoba and okonomiyaki *wipes drool from chin*.

 MEALS:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast	+ Walking tour of Kyoto with Trip Leader (including Kinkaku-ji Temple) + Visit the Arashiyama bamboo forest

DAY 6 | KYOTO TO OSAKA

Just when you thought your jeans couldn't get any tighter – today we're headed for Osaka: the foodie capital of Japan. Here, they even have a word for "scoff till you drop": kuidaore. Down your cup of matcha – we've got an intro tour to the city starting with the majestic Osaka Castle and the Umeda Sky Building. SD cards full of EPIC views over the city – the rest of the afternoon is yours for the taking. History buff? There are plenty of temples and an awesome castle to explore. Or hunt down Ichiran Ramen for a unique lunch experience. Whatever you get up to, just make sure you're back in time for tonight's included dinner. Later: make the most of your last night with the gang and head to the buzzing Uranamba district for micro bars, plenty of sake and round two of a slightly-out-of-tune battle of the ballads. The Drunken Clam karaoke bar is where it's at.

 MEALS:	 INCLUDED TODAY:
+ Breakfast + Dinner	+ Train ticket to Osaka + Visit the Umeda Sky Building + Visit Osaka Castle

DAY 7 | OSAKA

Time to say sayonara to the Land of the Rising Sun. Swap those Insta handles – you're going to need them to organise next year's reunion trip. What's next? We've got Delve Deep trips to Southeast Asia which you can hop straight on. Just saying...

 MEALS:
+ Breakfast

TIPPING

NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

OTHER INFORMATION

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



THAT'S IT!