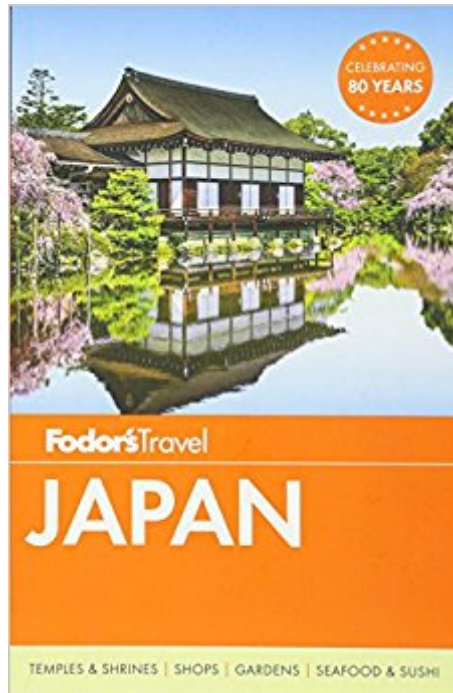




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Fodor's Japan (Full-color Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for 80 years. Over a million Americans visit Japan each year to experience this land of exquisite beauty, and recent fluctuations in the yen have made it more of an affordable destination than ever. In stunning full color, Fodor's Japan illustrates the country's eternal draws, from ancient temples and gardens and the deliberate pace of the tea ceremony, to the dizzying, frenetic pulse of its high-tech cities. This travel guide includes:

- Dozens of full-color maps
- Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations, with Fodor's Choice designating our top picks
- Multiple itineraries to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path
- In-depth breakout features on the intricacies of Japanese cuisine, traditional Japanese crafts, and Mount Fuji
- Major sights such as Tsukiji Fish Market, Senso-ji, Tokyo Sky Tree, Mt. Fuji, The Daibutsu, Sanjusangen-do, Ginkaku-ji, Fushimi-inari Taisha, Kinkaku-ji and Osaka-jo
- Side Trips from Tokyo including Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, Nikko, Kamakura and Yokohama
- Coverage of Tokyo; Nagoya, Ise-Shima, and the Kii Peninsula; The Japan Alps and the North Chubu Coast; Kyoto; The Kansai Region; Western Honshu; Shikoku; Kyushu; Okinawa; Tohoku; Hokkaido

Planning to focus on Tokyo? Check out Fodor's travel guide to Tokyo.

Book Information

Series: Full-color Travel Guide (Book 22)

Paperback: 864 pages

Publisher: Fodor's Travel; 22 edition (April 19, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101879718

ISBN-13: 978-1101879719

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #174,232 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Travel > Asia > Japan > General #385 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Tourist Destinations & Museums #682 in Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation

Customer Reviews

"Fodor's is pitched a few notches higher than aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. • New York

Times “The Fodor’s guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions.” • œ Chicago Tribune “In terms of comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series remains one of the best on the market.” • œ Booklist “Fodor’s super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail.” • œ Sacramento Bee “Fodor’s can help you plan the perfect adventure.” • œ Arizona Republic

For over 80 years, Fodor’s Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler’s trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

Absolutely lousy. This book is not worth its weight in your luggage. The book was not useful for designing itineraries, as it is mostly an alphabetical list of places to go. Nowhere in the book does it tell you how to get from point A to point B, such as in a neighborhood walking tour, as frequently provided by Lonely Planet and other guides that understand how travelers function. Sights are listed alphabetically instead of organized in a way that they should be visited. The restaurant suggestions were humorous. Most were >100 USD for a main course or were something you would have no business eating in Japan (e.g., Mexican food or Tony Roma’s).

Very thorough and informative

Whenever you plan a trip on your own or with a tour, there are 2-3 travel guides you need to the most out of your experience. Fodors, Frommers and Lonely Planet. This Fodors Japan is excellent.

Not too helpful to design a trip, no proper itineraries, poor maps

I used this guide for a recent 11-day trip to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. I found it to be substantially superior to the Lonely Planet guide that I lugged along as well (and thought about ditching because the Fodor’s was so much better). I also carried city-specific guides along with dedicated transportation guides/atlas’s for Tokyo and Kyoto. Frankly, for 3-4 days in a city, the general Fodor’s guide was fine because you can barely graze the surface no matter how many

guides you are carrying or how detailed they may be. Likewise, the transportation guides were essentially no better than the tourist maps and bus/subway guides available from the (mid-level) hotels I stayed at. Of course, the other transformative "guide" is Google Maps which is wildly helpful both in identifying how to get from point a to point b and in finding good places to eat around either point. So take the Fodor's, learn how to use Google Maps, and get the hotel transportation system map and you'll do fine.

This is a decent travel guide to Japan. With 860 pages, this book is thick and heavy, but reasonably compact enough to stow in your backpack for trip planning and quick on-location reference. It is printed in full color on quality paper with simple, easy-to-read maps that show the specific landmarks and places of interest. The book covers 12 major cities or regions/islands of Japan, which are color coded on the side of the book so that you can quickly flip to the desired chapter. Each city or region is covered in reasonable details, with top reasons to go there, how to get there, planning, must-see attractions, places to explore, just to name a few. There are also tons of suggestions on where to stay and to eat (sushi and ramen!). If you are visiting with your family, you will be glad that places suitable for exploring as a family are clearly marked as such. The guide attempts to cover a lot of grounds, perhaps too much and lose some focus in the process. It begins with nearly 100 pages on an introduction and a culture primer. Tokyo gets its own chapter of more than 100 pages. Many top tourist districts are covered in decent details. For instances, the Imperial Palace, Akihabara, Roppongi, Shinjuku, etc as well as the greater Tokyo. There are lots of information and it can be overwhelming at times. The adventurers will probably appreciate the bonus chapter on the side trips from Tokyo, including an informative article on the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park and climbing the Mt. Fuji. It is worthwhile to note that the printing in this book is quite small for aging eyes. Fortunately, the clean layout, color scheme and icons help a lot and make it easier to read and follow. There is also a useful chapter at the back of the book on Understanding Japan, which includes some essential Japanese phrases and menu guide. This is followed by the obligatory travel information in "Travel Smart Japan". One thing missing in the book (at least not nearly enough written) is an introduction to the Tokyo Metro subway system. Tokyo has one of the most efficient but complex subway systems in the world. You can't go far without some kind of guide on navigating through the subway map. The book has the subway map on a single page and that's about it. Also, there is hardly any information on the Japanese railway lines as well, so you will have to figure out the different railway lines and operators and how to get from one place to another. All in all, this is a decent travel guide to Japan. It has lots of information on many tourist places and attractions all

over Japan. It is useful for planning a trip, trying to sample and pick a list of places that may intrigue your interest. That said, it is not enough to plan your trip solely with this book. You will need to explore other travel resources that are more focused and specific, and to figure out the public transportation system on your own (e.g., Tokyo Metro). For a general travel planner for Japan as a whole, this is a decent guide to start with.

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