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THE RUGBY FAN'S TRAVEL GUIDE TO JAPAN

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INSIDER
GUIDE

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GUIDE



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JAPAN RUGBY TRAVEL

By InsideJapan Tours

Japan Rugby Travel is part of **InsideJapan Tours**; a multi award-winning independent Japan specialist travel company offering unique small group tours, tailored travel and cultural experiences throughout Japan. Everyone on our team has worked, lived and travelled extensively in Japan and we offer unrivalled advice and support, whatever your budget or personal interests.

We are extremely excited that Japan is hosting the world's biggest rugby tournament in 2019 and cannot wait to share our love for this fascinating country with rugby fans the world over. With a dedicated team of experts on-hand at every stage of your trip, you can rest assured that we'll get you to the right place at the right time for all the rugby action. And in between matches, we'll take you beneath the surface of this wonderful country for the cultural adventure of a lifetime.

WHY CHOOSE INSIDEJAPAN:

- We are a multi award-winning independent Japan specialist travel company founded by two Japan-loving Brits in 2000.
- We have a team of 150 Japan travel experts, including an operations team on the ground in Nagoya, Japan and our team of experienced, multilingual tour leaders.
- We know the best places to stay, the best cultural experiences, the best places to eat and drink, and the best way to get around.
- We have a full range of great value for money Small Group Tours and Self-Guided Adventures all designed to make sure you get the very best out of your rugby travel experience.
- We offer expert knowledge, trustworthy customer service and straightforward, honest pricing.



KONNICHIWA!



We have been organising travel to Japan ever since we returned from living there in the year 2000. Our founding goal has never changed: we want to help everyone 'get beneath the surface' of Japan and, ultimately, fall in love with it like we did some twenty years ago.

We are looking forward to welcoming thousands of rugby fans to the country we love in autumn 2019. It is a great time of year to see Japan and our travel packages include some incredible experiences. Our trips are fun, informative, hands on, and showcase the best of Japan. Our tour leaders and guides will take you to some of our favourite places, restaurants and bars – and even introduce you to some of our Japanese friends along the way.

This will be the first time that the tournament has been held in Asia, making it a celebration unlike any other. It will be an unforgettable experience in one of the world's most incredible countries. Blend this with everything you already know about Japan, and it'll be something you remember and treasure forever.

By taking the unofficial route, we are not constrained by having to include match tickets, which means we can offer great value alongside our high levels of service. We are proud that year after year 98% of our customers rate their trips with us as good or excellent.

Remember, our packages do not include match tickets, but our small group tours and self-guided adventures have transport, accommodation and experiences around the matches. Get your match tickets through the ballot or by taking the hospitality route and let us do the rest.

See you in Japan in 2019!



Simon King & Alastair Donnelly

Founders, InsideJapan Tours



THE INSIDEJAPAN TOURS DIFFERENCE

We believe that the best service is highly personalised, and the best holidays are tailor-made to meet your exact requirements.



Planning your trip

Our expert travel consultants can be reached either by the phone, by email or in person for an initial consultation to discuss your requirements and put together a personalised itinerary.

Once you're happy with your itinerary, we will work with our team on the ground in Japan to make all the arrangements on your behalf to ensure your holiday is as hassle-free as possible.



Support in Japan

We have our own offices in Japan, which enables us to make all client arrangements directly. This means we are in full control of the trips we organise and are usually more competitively priced than other operators. We also have an bi-lingual customer support team on hand 24/7 to assist in the unlikely event of any problems.



Your Info-Pack

Around a month before departure you will receive our detailed Info-Pack, containing cultural tips, Japanese language hints, our restaurant recommendations and specific sightseeing guides to every place on your itinerary. The Info-Pack is your essential travel companion.



Online Client Portal

You can administer your booking with us via our online client portal. Wherever you are, you can update your personal details, access your itinerary and make payments via the site.

MEET THE TEAM



Louise Lee

Rugby Project Manager
Location: Bristol

Relevant Experience:
Previously worked for the British & Irish Lions on the 2013 and 2017 tours and England Rugby World Cup tournaments in 2011 and 2015.

Most memorable rugby moment:

“ Watching the British & Irish Lions playing their third and final test at the ANZ stadium on Saturday 6th July 2013 against Australia. We won the final test and the series and people were hugging and dancing in the streets until the sun came up. It was a magical time. ”



Ben Guest

Rugby Travel Consultant
Location: Bristol

Relevant Experience:
Worked at InsideJapan for just over three years, lived and studied Japanese in Tokyo.

What are you looking to most about RWC in Japan?

“ Japan is an incredible place full of contrasts; it is going to be unlike any other tournament. ”



Kester Wright

Rugby Travel Consultant
Location: Bristol

Relevant Experience:
Worked at InsideJapan for almost three years, lived and studied Japanese in Kobe, Okinawa and Nozawa Onsen.

Any top tips for Japan first-timers?

“ Don't be worried about walking into one of the tiny restaurants or bars that are so common in Japan. They can seem daunting from the outside, but the small space usually makes for great interaction with the staff and other customers and leads to a great night. ”



Rachel Rykala

Rugby Travel Consultant
Location: Bristol

Relevant Experience:
Worked at InsideJapan for four years, lived and studied Japanese in Tokyo and Hokkaido.

Which of our rugby packages would you

“ Any of the Welsh packages! Welsh supporters are the most passionate and patriotic and I would love to soak up the match day atmosphere with like-minded people. ”



Aya Inoue

Senior Operation Assistant
Location: Nagoya

Relevant Experience:
Worked at InsideJapan for four years and current Nagoya resident.

Which is your favourite host city and why?

“ Hands down Fukuoka! The people there are one of the friendliest you can find in the country and the foods are amazing as well. I'd recommend trying as many local cuisines as possible and visiting a nearby city of Dazaifu should be fun. ”

STADIUM FACTS



Toyota Stadium

How to get there: 15-minute walk from Meitetsu Toyotashi Station.
Fun Fact: Retractable roof folds like an accordion.

Capacity: 45,000



Kobe Misaki Stadium

How to get there: Take the Kobe subway to Misasikoen station, which is a 5-minute walk from the stadium.
Fun Fact: Built to serve as one of the playing venues for the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

Capacity: 30,132



Kumamoto Stadium

How to get there: 50-minutes on the Kyushu Sanko Bus to 'Park Dorm Kumamoto mae' from Kumamoto Station.
Fun Fact: Kumamoto means 'origin of the bear'.

Capacity: 32,000



Tokyo Stadium

How to get there: 5-minute walk from Sendgaya Station on the JR Chuo/Sobu line.
Fun Fact: The stadium is also home to a library with around 30,000 books and 60,000 sports periodicals.

Capacity: 50,000



Hanazono Rugby Stadium Osaka

How to get there: 10-minute walk from Higashi-Hanazono station on the Kintetsu Nara Line.
Fun Fact: Japan's oldest rugby stadium.

Capacity: 30,000



Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa

How to get there: 20-minute walk or shuttle-bus from Kakegawa Shinkansen station.
Fun Fact: The walk to the stadium is notable for sixteen works of art that line the route.

Capacity: 50,889



Yokohama Stadium

How to get there: Take the Shinkansen from Tokyo to ShinYokohama station in 20 mins
Fun Fact: Japan's largest stadium

Capacity: 72,327



Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium

How to get there: 25-min walk from Fukuoka Airport or take subway and get off at Fukuoka Kuko Station, then take Nishitetsu bus and get off at Higashi-Hirao Koen-riguchi stop.
Fun Fact: Known locally as Level5 Stadium.

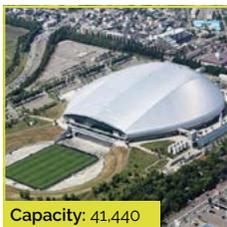
Capacity: 22,563



Kamaishi Recovery Memorial Stadium

How to get there: Catch the Shinkansen from Tokyo which takes 2 hours 10 minutes.
Fun Fact: Japan's newest stadium, built specifically for the tournament.

Capacity: 16,187



Sapporo Dome

How to get there: 10-min walk from Fukuzumi Station on the Toho Line.
Fun Fact: First dome in the world equipped with a system for switching between turf for baseball and football.

Capacity: 41,440



Oita Stadium

How to get there: Take the bus from Oita station to Oita Sport Park Higashi and walk for 5-mins
Fun Fact: Features the biggest retractable roof in Japan.

Capacity: 40,000



Kumagaya Rugby Stadium

How to get there: Take the Shinkansen or local JR train from Tokyo to Kumagaya station, located 40 mins north of Tokyo.
Fun Fact: The stadium is part of a larger sports complex which includes an athletic stadium and arena.

Capacity: 24,000

TOP THINGS TO DO IN HOST CITIES



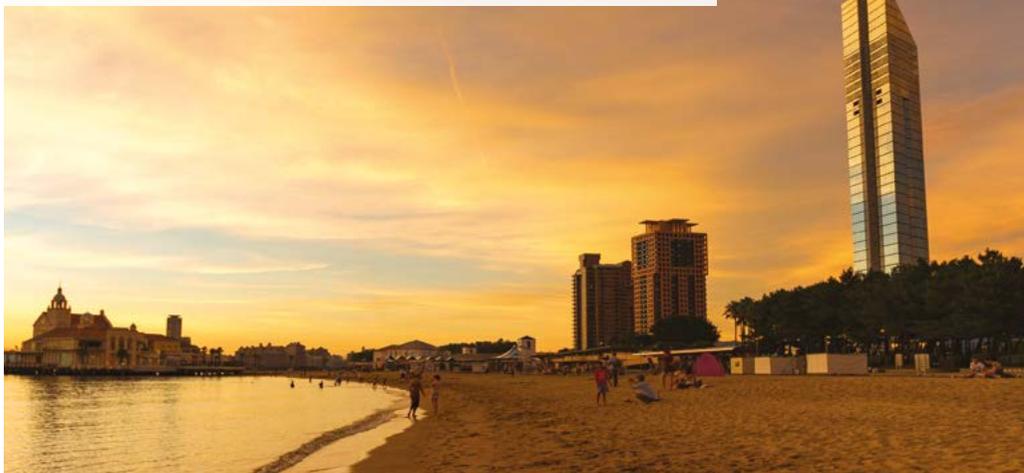
BEN WALKER
FUKUOKA

Ben, an InsideJapan tour leader and rugby aficionado, made Fukuoka his home seven years ago. He insists, rather controversially, that it is in fact the best city in Japan.

Despite having oodles of entertainment, restaurants and shopping, Fukuoka is an underdog of the Japanese cities – unknown to many first-time visitors to Japan. This cosmopolitan city certainly has enough to keep you entertained though. I suggest starting with a good dose of culture in the temple district; Shofukuji is not only the oldest Zen temple in Japan, but also home to some friendly temple cats!

Indulge in some retail therapy at Canal City (a huge shopping complex) or escape the hustle and bustle at Ohori Park or Momochihama beach. If you do travel to the beach, go up Fukuoka Tower to see the best views of the city. In the evening, lots of *izakaya* (Japanese pubs) serve delicious food, but there are also endless *yatai* – street stalls – selling tasty fare. Head to one of the hip bars in the vibrant areas of Nakasu or Tenjin to round off a busy day.

STADIUM: FUKUOKA
HAKATANOMORI STADIUM
MUST-SEE MATCH: IRELAND VS. SAMOA – 12TH OCTOBER 2019



KESTER WRIGHT
KOBE

Senior travel consultant Kester went to university in Kobe, so he might be a little biased when he says “Kobe epitomises Japan”.

With the Rokko mountain range on one side, and Osaka Bay stretching beyond on the other, Kobe will make you reach for your camera. The city was one of the first Japanese ports to open to foreign trade and although some of the old merchant buildings remain, it was largely rebuilt after a devastating earthquake in the mid-1990s. If I had one piece of advice for first-time (meat-eating) visitors it would be to try the

city's most famous export: Kobe beef. It is expensive, but always worth it. Rumour has it that the cows are raised on a healthy diet of beer; whatever they're eating (or drinking), it's certainly working. While I lived in Kobe, I was lucky enough to have my *Seijin no Hi* (Japanese coming of age ceremony) at the Kobe Misaki Stadium. If the atmosphere was electric when my peers and I celebrated turning 20, I can only imagine what the city will be like during the Rugby World Cup.

STADIUM: KOBE MISAKI STADIUM
MUST-SEE MATCH: ENGLAND VS. USA – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2019





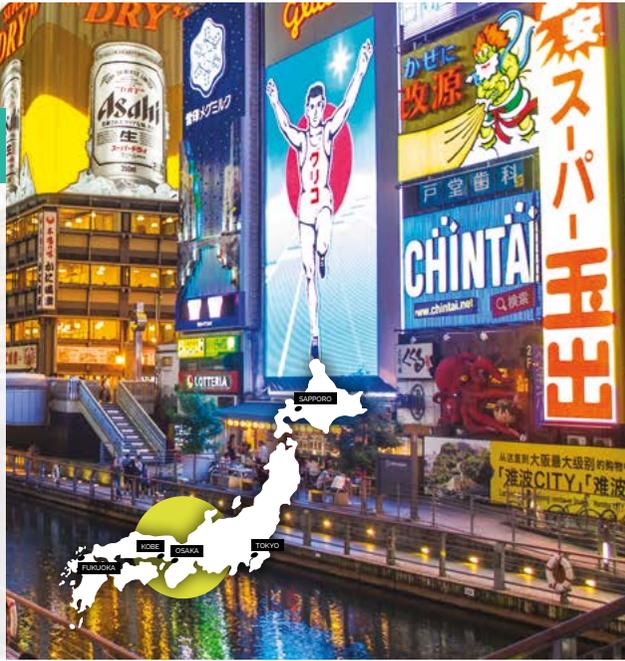
LOUISE LEE
OSAKA

There's nothing Louise doesn't love about rugby or Japan (she's the mastermind behind our rugby travel packages).

The city of Osaka doesn't do things by halves. In the evening, the streets wake up - expect flashing neon, delicious wafts from food stalls, and entertainment quarters buzzing with karaoke bars and pachinko (video game) parlours. This is the place to try the best of Japanese street food; fill up on octopus dumplings, *okonomiyaki* (savory pancakes), ramen noodles and *yakitori* (skewered chicken). There are lots of sports fans here too, so it's likely to be

even livelier than usual during the Rugby World Cup. In fact, enthusiastic residents have even been known to jump into the city's canal when their team is victorious. I wouldn't recommend it though... While Osaka also has daytime attractions, such as the aquarium, endless shopping centres and even The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ at Universal Studios Japan, it's also only a short distance from Kyoto, and the impressive Himeji Castle.

STADIUM: HANAZONO RUGBY STADIUM
MUST-SEE MATCH: TONGA VS. ARGENTINA – 28TH SEPTEMBER 2019



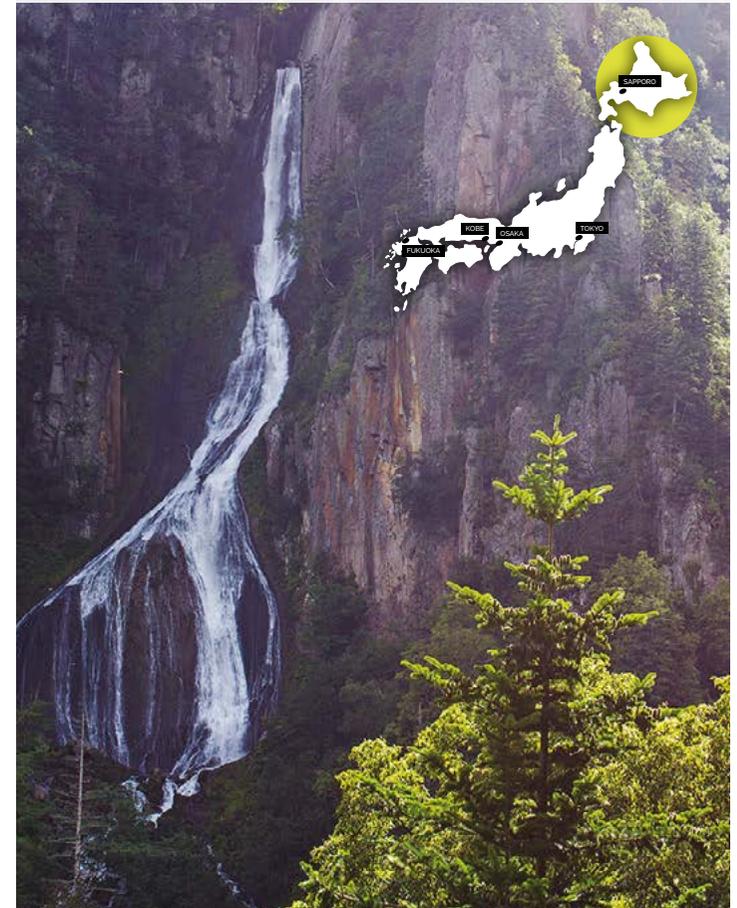
RACHEL RYKALA
SAPPORO

Having lived on Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido, senior travel consultant Rachel knows Sapporo and the island's areas of natural beauty very well.

England's Rugby World Cup journey starts in Hokkaido's capital, Sapporo. The city's known for its sparkling snow festival in February, but there's loads to do at other times of year too; my personal highlights include a thirsty trip to the Sapporo Beer Museum and a laidback day at nearby

Otaru, a picturesque town with a canal running through its centre. If you have a week or two to spare, drive out to some of Hokkaido's incredible National Parks – including Shikotsu-Toya, Daisetsuzan and Shiretoko – to see volcanic mountains, huge crystal lakes and steaming *onsen* (hot spring baths).

STADIUM: SAPPORO DOME
MUST-SEE MATCH: ENGLAND VS. TONGA – 22ND SEPTEMBER 2019



BENJAMIN GUEST
TOKYO

Senior travel consultant, Benjamin did a lot of exploring during his six years in Japan, but he will always have a soft spot for Tokyo.

Japan's enormous, sprawling capital has so many personality-packed districts it's hard to know where to start. I lived in and around here for six years, and still haven't seen it all. Like much of Japan, it has a wonderful way of encompassing old-world charm with hyper-modernity. I recommend taking in the old by starting in the quaint Asakusa area; this old merchant quarter with the incredible Senso-ji temple feels like a world

away from the city's heady skyscrapers. Then head to the Harajuku area – home to all things *kawaii* (cute), before walking through Yoyogi Park to Meiji Shrine. Dart across the city to tackle Shibuya's famous crossing, go shopping in swish Ginza, visit museums in Ueno, see the bright lights of Akihabara's gaming districts (complete with maid cafes), and finish it all off with a frozen beer in Shinjuku's Golden Gai area. All that and we haven't even scratched the surface...

STADIUM: TOKYO STADIUM
MUST-SEE MATCH: AUSTRALIA VS. WALES – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2019



ONLY IN JAPAN

Ah Japan, a country that broadens the mind and stretches the imagination – a place where ancient cultures and cutting-edge technology stand side-by-side. It's a country quite unlike anywhere else; a country where you should expect the unexpected! We've asked our team to come up with their top reasons why they love Japan...

1. Endless politeness

Sam Hall,
Special Groups Manager

One evening, I went to a 5-star hotel bar, looking like a drowned rat after being caught in the rain. I hadn't had the opportunity to go back to my hotel room to change so I was also wearing a Harry Potter Gryffindor t-shirt (nothing to be ashamed of) and trainers. Unlike the reception you might normally expect in such a situation, I was treated like every other, smartly dressed guest there.

2. Silence is golden

Marky Hobold,
Tour Leader

Whenever I go abroad, I hear phones ringing everywhere and when people answer, they seem to shout as if the microphone can't pick up their voices. However, the Japanese often prioritise the comfort of those around them. 99% of the time they keep their phones set to vibrate – or more likely, silent (called "manner mode" in Japanese). Making loud noises on the train, including phone calls, is strongly frowned upon. At restaurants, on trains, and in public spaces, you'll see people remove themselves from the group to take a call outside to not bother others.

3. Vending machines

Steve Parker,
Tour Leader

Not long after you arrive in Japan, it becomes immediately apparent that you can buy just about any drink you could ever want out of a vending machine. The same machine will sell you tsumetai (cold drinks), as shown with a blue strip or a snowflake icon, as atakai (hot beverages), indicated by a red flame icon. Hot chocolate, coffee, soups and vitamin lemon drinks for cold sufferers are all just a button away.

Beyond the standard machines, others sell a remarkable array of products: tofu, shirts, bananas, confectionery, newspapers, books, cup noodles, hot chicken and chips.. there are even "lucky dip" vending machines, where 1000 yen buys you who knows what?

4. Toilets

James Mundy,
PR & Marketing Manager

In my 10 years of living/travelling in Japan, I have seen an array of super loos from automatic seats that lift up as soon as you walk into the room (Super Jet Foil to Matsuyama), to toilet seats that light up different colours as you use them (restaurant in Kyoto) to toilets that play the sound of running water and birds singing to disguise any "other" noises. Many toilets also have a tap above the cistern, so you can wash your hands as you flush. Genius water saving measures from the Japanese.

5. Everything runs on time

Ali Muskett,
Expert Travel Consultant &
Accessible Travel Specialist

Unlike certain other countries (mentioning no names... *cough*... England) you can actually rely on train and bus timetables in Japan. It's possible to plan quite a full-on day of sightseeing and know that you should always be able to make your connection and catch the next bus or train. Of course, delays do happen occasionally, but every precaution is taken to ensure there is the least possible disruption to your journey.



Rugby Small Group Tours - Starting from £3,495 per person*

WHY CHOOSE AN INSIDEJAPAN SMALL GROUP TOUR?

- 24/7 support from your InsideJapan Tour Leader.
- Free time to break away from the group at any point.
- Private coach ready to take you to and from the games.
- Save money on activities and entrance fees.
- Maximum of 25 people.
- Pre-arranged accommodation. No worries about fully-booked hotels.
- Travel with like-minded rugby fans.
- Great for solo travellers.
- ➕ **PLUS** VIP invitation to our exclusive InsideJapan rugby events.



Ben Walker

Tour Leader

Location: Fukuoka

Ben lived in rural Yamaguchi Prefecture for ten years before settling in the city of Fukuoka five years ago. He brings a vast depth of knowledge of Japanese language and culture to every tour he leads. In his spare time, he is an avid book collector, tea ceremony enthusiast, and chronic karaoke microphone hog - not to mention self-confessed 'rugby tragic'.

ANY TOP-TIPS FOR JAPAN FIRST-TIMERS?

“ Don't be afraid to get out and get lost. Japan is one of the safest places in the world, and the people are some of the kindest. ”

Check out our full range of Rugby Small Group Tours: www.japanrugbytravel.com/tour-types/small-group-tour/

*excl. international flights and match tickets



Recommended trip

THE FULL ENGLISH

SELF-GUIDED
ADVENTURE

The best way to watch all of England's pool matches and see the best of Japan.

Start date **20th September – 15th October 2019**

Duration **25 nights**

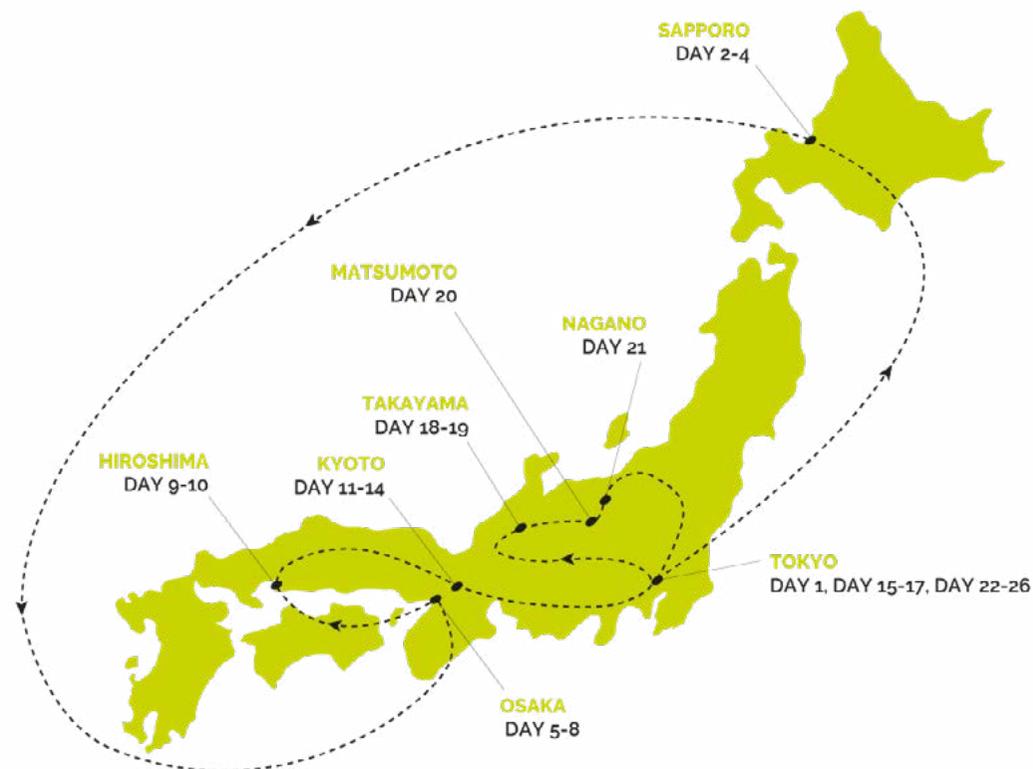
Price **From £5,640 per person**
(excl. international flights and match tickets)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow England throughout the rugby pools
- Cycle through rural countryside in the Japan Alps
- Get hands-on with Japanese cuisine in a Kyoto cookery class
- Visit Hiroshima and Miyajima shrine island
- Celebrate the rugby at our pre-match special events

GO ENGLAND!

Which Japan Rugby Travel package to choose if you're an England fan...



Find out more: <https://bit.ly/zBDqzXN>

TRIP FITS WITH:

England v Tonga
Sapporo, Sun 22 Sept, KO 19:15 (local time)

England v Argentina
Tokyo, Sat 5 Oct, KO 17:00 (local time)

England v USA
Kobe, Thurs 26 Sept, KO 19:45 (local time)

England v France
Yokohama, Sat 12 Oct, KO 17:15 (local time)



Recommended trip

WALES & WALLABIES TRY-UMPH IN JAPAN

**SMALL
GROUP TOUR**

Follow the rugby excitement both on and off the beaten track on this group tour.

Start date **18th September – 1st October 2019**

Duration **13 nights**

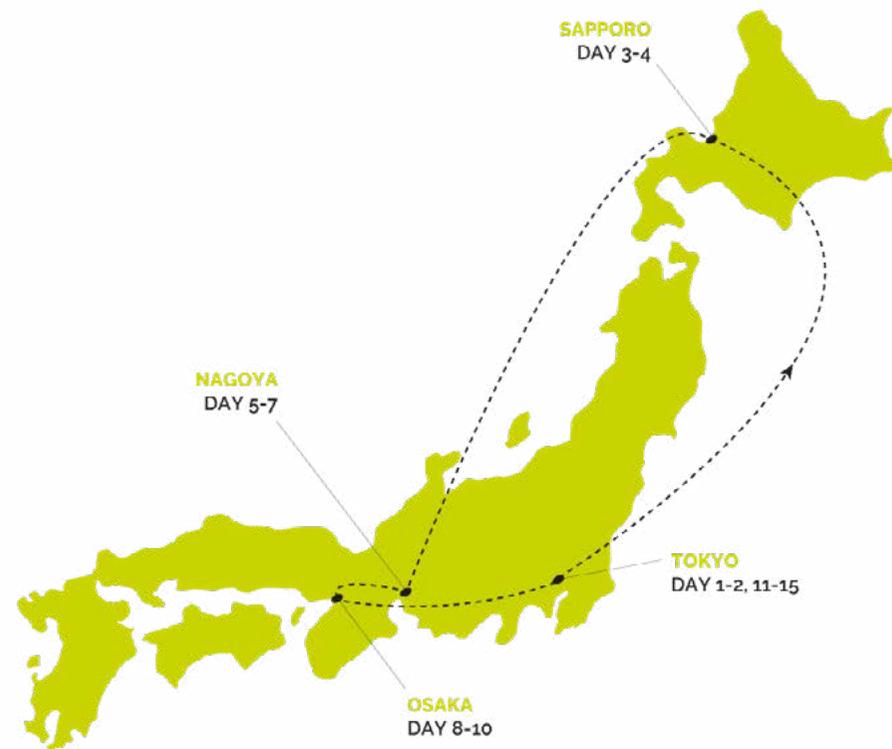
Price **From £3,495 per person**
(excl. international flights and match tickets)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel to three Pool D rugby matches (match tickets not included)
- See Tokyo's mind-blowing Robot Restaurant show
- In-depth guided tours in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Toyota
- Try your hand at *taiko* drumming
- Dine out with a street food tour in Osaka
- Visit the traditional village of Asuke & the Toyota Automobile Museum

GO WALES!

Which Japan Rugby Travel package to choose if you're a Wales fan...



Find out more: <https://bit.ly/2LjQSSk>

TRIP FITS WITH:

Australia v Fiji
Sapporo, Sat 21 Sept, KO 13:45 (local time)

Wales v Australia
Tokyo, Sun 29 Sept, KO 16:45 (local time)

Wales v Georgia
Toyota, Mon 23 Sept, KO 19:15 (local time)



Recommended trip

SCOTLAND OF THE RISING SUN

SELF-GUIDED
ADVENTURE

Get the best out of Japan's culture, cuisine and history as you travel between the host cities and our favourite destinations.

Start date **20th September – 15th October 2019**

Duration **25 nights**

Price **From £5,440 per person**
(excl. international flights and match tickets)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Take in the mountain scenery on a bike tour in the Alps
- Stay in a traditional Japanese ryokan inn.
- See the sights of Kyoto and Tokyo with a private local guide
- Join fellow fans at a special pre-match party

GO SCOTLAND!

Which Japan Rugby Travel package to choose if you're a Scotland fan...



Find out more: <https://bit.ly/2PznnzF>

TRIP FITS WITH:

Scotland v Ireland
Yokohama, Sun 22 Sept, KO 16:45 (local time)

Scotland v Romania
Shizuoka, Wed 9 Oct, KO 16:15 (local time)

Scotland v Samoa
Kobe, Mon 30 Sept, KO 19:15 (local time)

Scotland v Japan
Yokohama, Sun 13 Oct, KO 19:45 (local time)



“ You will never see a **better, faster, more passionate style of rugby** played anywhere in the world ”

RUGBY IN JAPAN

BEN WALKER

Ben is an Inside Japan tour leader and our resident rugby fanatic – and he has good cause to be, with a son in Japan's national under-18 squad! Here, Ben looks into Japan's recent incredible rugby success and what it's like to play rugby in the land of the Brave Blossoms.

Rugby has been played in Japan since 1899 and there are over 120,000 registered players. Despite this, rugby has languished towards the bottom of the popularity pile until very recently – and we are talking the past few years here.

You can actually date the day it all changed: September 19th 2015. Any rugby buff will know that on this date, the Japanese rugby team pulled off a miracle, and possibly the greatest rugby upset ever, by beating South Africa 34-32 (bookmakers had Japan at odds of 66-1 for a win, I wish I had backed them). I'll never forget watching that game with my son, the pair of us oblivious to the early hour. We woke up the whole house – and probably the whole neighbourhood – with our whoops of joy. This was the

day that Japan, and the rest of the rugby world, became aware that they weren't just there to make up numbers anymore.

The Eddie Jones-orchestrated win was one of the most exciting games I have ever watched, and the passion of the players was outstanding. The following game versus Scotland attracted some 20 million viewers, and Japan's final match versus Samoa was watched by a whopping 25 million people: the biggest national viewing audience in rugby history.

So where do I fit in to the Japanese rugby picture? Well, my son Alex (remember that name!) has been playing here since he was five years old, and earlier this year represented Japan at the under-18 level

So, although I don't have first-hand experience of playing rugby Japanese-style, I have lived it vicariously through my son.

Playing rugby in Japan is incredibly tough. My son and I have a running joke, every time he gets injured, has to over-train, or just gets mentally tired, we shout at each other – THIS IS SPARTA!

Jokes aside, the Japanese approach rugby like they approach many things in life: with an all-consuming, almost military dedication. Since he was five years old, Alex has never had a true off season. That's right – 13 years of nonstop rugby. In Japan there are no winter or summer seasons for sport, and most kids don't flit from sport to sport like Western children.

Anyway, dragging my son to all those practices paid off for us. He managed to get himself accepted to one of the best rugby schools in Japan, and in 2015 and 2016, played in the All Japan rugby tournament, better known as Hanazono.

Although little known outside Japan, Hanazono is the Mecca of Japanese rugby, and to even get to the tournament, and stand on that hallowed ground, is a major achievement in itself. The tournament has been held annually since 1917.



closely followed sporting events on the Japanese calendar (and here there's the potential for another whole blog: the Japanese obsession with high school sports, and high school students in general. It is strange, sometimes disturbing, and I have a theory about it, too!)

To win at Hanazono, named after the ground it is held at, Hanazono in Osaka, you must first beat everyone in your prefecture, then battle it out in a knockout competition with another 51 teams. It is nigh on impossible for a school with a normal rugby program to win. The teams that do win at Hanazono are practically professionals, and the players put their sport before their studies.

Hanazono starts the day after Christmas, and goes until the end of the first week of January, and the games are screened live. Not even New Years, about the only time Japan comes close to a standstill, stops the rugby.

As I mentioned before, I was lucky enough to experience Hanazono first



hand, both in 2015, and at the beginning of this year. Both years were emotional rollercoaster rides, but I feel blessed to have witnessed them. If you are a rugby fan, I can tell you honestly, you will never see a better, faster, more passionate style of rugby played anywhere in the world (you were warned I was going to be biased.) In all seriousness, if you are in Japan at the right time it is well worth a visit.

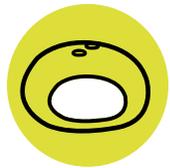
The team my son was a member of in 2015, were Japan Champions, and won in emphatic style. We watched this tournament live on television as we didn't think he would be playing – let me

explain. On Christmas day, Alex tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). Actually, it exploded. We talked with his doctor and trainer, and they both agreed his knee couldn't get any worse, and that he could play on it if he wasn't in any pain. I thought he might get five minutes in a less important game, as a kind of consolation prize for trying so hard all year. No. To our surprise he came off the bench in each game, and started in the semifinal and final. With a torn ACL. Think about it. That is the rugby I know: sacrificing yourself for your team; putting your body on the line – but the Japanese take it to the next level. *Samurai damashi* they call it, or "samurai spirit" in English.

“ **The Japanese approach rugby like they approach many things in life: with an all-consuming, almost military dedication** ”

Here is an interesting aside – Japanese high school and university sports are often more popular, and better attended, than a lot of professional and international games, and that is across all sports. The most obvious example being Koshien, the All Japan High School Baseball Tournament, which is one of the most

FOOD IN JAPAN: 8 DISHES YOU *NEED* TO TRY



1. Mochi

Mochi are small rice balls which have been repeatedly pounded, shaped, and then topped with a flavoured powder or sauce. They can be found all over Japan and are usually served sweet. The texture of *mochi* is unlike anything found in the West. They make for the perfect sightseeing snack.



2. Soba

Soba (buckwheat) noodles are the perfect dish in any season. In summer you can slurp down a cold bowl, and in winter the warm clear broth will heat you up.

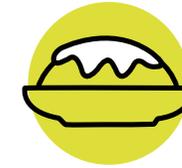
The buckwheat flour means that the noodles are light, so they're great for a second lunch or a sightseeing pit-stop. Although soba can be found all over Japan, Matsumoto is particularly famous for it.



3. Ramen

Many hours, if not days, go into creating the broth for a solid bowl of ramen. This warming dish comes in hundreds of varieties, from lighter, clear soups, to thick heavy broths that pack a meaty punch.

The noodles are often handmade, and the best are cooked al dente. Best of all, a standard serving only costs around 700 yen (\$8/£5). Ramen is hugely regional, so try it everywhere you visit!



4. Japanese Curry

Japanese food doesn't tend to be spicy and their curries aren't any different. The slightly sweet, rich sauce matches Japanese rice perfectly.

Curries are usually topped with a lightly breaded pork cutlet (*katsu*) and pickled ginger. I recommend that you get a cheese topping too (don't knock it until you try it!). It may not look like much, but Japanese curry has great depth of flavour. It can be a welcome break from more conventional Japanese food.



5. Yaki-Tori

Literally meaning grilled chicken, *Yaki-Tori* highlights Japan's mastery of simple, yet delicious food. *Yaki-Tori* makes the produce the star of the show; whether you're eating Japanese beef or regional vegetables. The only seasoning is usually a sweet sauce or just some salt and pepper. I always recommend eating *Yaki-Tori* at the counter and watching the masters of the skewers at work.



6. Takoyaki

Takoyaki or octopus balls may not sound like the most appealing dish in the world. But once you bite through the crisp batter and into the tender centre you'll be wolfing them down in no time. *Takoyaki* are most famous in Osaka and can be bought from many of the city's street stalls.

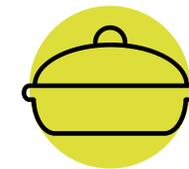
They are topped with a slightly sweet sauce, mayonnaise and fish flakes, and make a great snack to have on the go.



7. Gyoza

Gyoza, or Japanese dumplings, are a cheap countrywide staple. Usually filled with pork, a little ginger, and cabbage, these potstickers can be dangerously addictive. In many restaurants you'll have the option of making your own dipping sauce from soy sauce, vinegar and chilli oil.

Gyoza are the perfect accompaniment to a cold beer, and a nice reward from a hard day's exploration.



8. Shabu Shabu

The name *Shabu Shabu* comes from the Japanese onomatopoeic word of dipping food in and out of a hotpot. You're given a plate of meat and local vegetables. You cook them in a pot of boiling water, adding any of the dipping sauces and other tasty accompaniments as you go. After you've cooked everything, you will have a flavoursome broth that you can finish with an extra order of noodles.

How to onsen

Experiencing a traditional hot spring bath, or onsen, is an essential part of visiting Japan – but be sure to brush up on your etiquette beforehand

Hot spring bathing isn't just a popular pastime in Japan; it's a hallowed cultural institution. Until you've tried it, you can't even begin to call yourself a true Japanophile.

Hot springs, known as onsen in Japanese, are created wherever volcanically heated water emerges from the ground – which is all over the country. The baths can be indoors or outdoors, private or public, housed in city

bathhouses or in beautiful natural locations. Although they're for communal use, they're nearly always segregated by gender, unless you rent a kashikiri (private) bath.

You're most likely to come across an onsen at a ryokan, or traditional Japanese inn – but before you soak your cares away, be sure to familiarise yourself with onsen etiquette!

1



Bring two towels with you to the onsen (at ryokan inns, these are usually provided at the baths). The big one is for drying yourself, and the small ones for washing. Shampoo and soap are usually provided too, but bring your own if you like.

2



Get undressed in the changing room and leave your clothes and belongings in the baskets or lockers provided. Leave your large towel with your clothes, but take the small towel with you. Be warned – it's strictly birthday suits only once you leave the changing room!



3

Enter the bathroom and find a shower that's free. There are small stools and buckets provided. Sit down on a stool, fill the bucket with water and use your small towel to wash yourself thoroughly with soap and water. It's rude to stand up, in case you splash your neighbour.

4



Once you've rinsed yourself clean of soap, get into the bath for a soak. Be careful not to dip your hair or your small towel in the water; do as the Japanese do and place your towel on your head while you bathe.

5



When you've finished bathing, get out and wash yourself at the showers. Wipe any excess water away with your small towel before heading into the changing room, so that you don't make the floor slippery for others.

6



Get dry, get dressed and go! Most onsen provide hairdryers, and some provide all kinds of fancy products too. If you've borrowed towels, deposit them in the indicated bins before heading out to conclude with a nice cold drink.

A REMINDER

Those with tattoos might be refused entry to onsen. In Japan, tattoos are closely associated with organised crime and gang membership, so it's something of a social taboo. If you have a tattoo, you can use private baths, or (if it's small enough) cover it with a plaster to visit the public baths.



IS JAPAN EXPENSIVE?

It's no secret that Tokyo and Osaka are commonly referenced as the most expensive cities in the world. But is that really true? In actual fact, eating out and entrance fees in Japan are often surprisingly cheap compared to the UK, thanks to 0% inflation rates over the last few years. Japan is now about 30% cheaper than it was back at the beginning of 2013. If you budget for what you would spend in the UK, you should be fine.



Get your souvenirs at 100 yen shops

100 yen* shops are like pound shops in the UK or dollar stores in the US – but better. So much better. They sell everything, from sewing supplies to hair clips, Tupperware to garden pots, fancy dress costumes to make-up, and from food and kitchenware to stationery. There is no better place to pick up cute trinkets and souvenirs – and nobody at home will know how little they cost!

One of the best-known 100 yen chains is Daiso, and you'll find multi-storey outlets in every major city in Japan. If you visit Harajuku, look out for one on your left-hand side as you walk down Takeshita Street.

(*FYI, 100 yen = 0.70p/\$0.91 at the time of writing)



Cheap eats

Yes, Japan has the most Michelin starred restaurants in the world, but there are plenty of affordable eateries too. Conveyor-belt sushi joints (kaitenzushi) are the cheapest places to grab a bite to eat; some of them offering plates for as little as 100 yen* Plus you can select what you like the look of from the belt without needing to ask for it! You can get a hearty bowl of ramen for as little as 300-500 yen, and many restaurants do a 1000 yen lunch deal – three courses for the equivalent of £6!



Free entrance

Visitors may be surprised to hear that entrance to many temples and shrines in Japan is completely free... and even those that aren't only have a nominal fee.



Japan Rail Pass

If you plan to travel around Japan by train, the Japan Rail Pass offers exceptional value for money. Even if you make just one journey from the airport and from Tokyo to Kyoto and back, you'll save money compared to purchasing individual tickets. You can purchase a 7, 14 or 21-day pass which is valid for all JR Group local and regional trains throughout Japan (excluding Nozomi and specific shinkansen trains). InsideJapan Tours can arrange the Japan Rail Pass in advance on your behalf.



Tipping in Japan

Despite being known for exemplary customer service and impeccable hospitality, it is not customary to tip in Japan. Even if you attempt to do so, you'll most probably find that your money is swiftly returned to you. Service in Japan is about people doing their job with pride rather than hoping for a tip. Note: If you do wish to tip a guide, you should put the money in a sealed envelope and hand it over with a slight bow.

WHY AUTUMN IS A GREAT TIME TO TRAVEL

Autumn leaves

Whilst the springtime cherry blossom season (sakura) has become a famous symbol of Japan, the blazing autumnal foliage is an often-overlooked spectacle. As the temperatures drop, indigenous maple trees flame magnificent in vibrant reds; a picturesque backdrop to city temples and city hikes. The 'koyo' front begins in Hokkaido and sweeps south through the country – good news for anyone attending matches in Sapporo in October.

Good weather

After the sticky hot summer, autumn provides a comfortable respite before winter sets in. Warm and dry, it's an ideal season for walking and sightseeing, and generally seeing Japan at its best.

Unique festivals

Some of the best festivals in Japan take place in October – a fun way to get an insight into traditional Japanese culture. There will usually be a parade with music, dancing, intricately decorated floats and people dressed in traditional costume. (As an added bonus, there's usually plenty of food and free-flowing sake too).

Halloween

Halloween is big in Japan! The Japanese don't tend to go in for trick and treating, but they don't need much persuading to dress up. Walking around Harajuku offers photo opportunities aplenty at the best of times, but this is magnified tenfold at Halloween. Be prepared for lots of zombie encounters...

Watch a sumo match

Fukuoka plays host to the November sumo tournament, where you can see the various divisions compete – A great day out and a rare chance to see the big guns of this sport do their thing. InsideJapan Tours can arrange tickets to the sumo for anyone travelling around Japan after the rugby tournament.

Setouchi Triennale Arts Festival

The Setouchi Triennale Arts Festival takes place every three years across 12 islands in the Seto Inland Sea (between Shikoku and Honshu). It covers three seasons – spring, summer and autumn – with a short hiatus in between to update each seasonal exhibit. The autumn session coincides perfectly with the rugby tournament.



Dining etiquette in Japan

1

Don't stick your chopsticks upright in your rice – that's only for funerals



2

You'll be given a hot, damp towel at the start of your meal – wipe your hands first, then your face if you like



3

Japanese tea and drinking water are free of charge – drink up



4

Order the chef's 'omakase' set menu – best price, best taste – nom nom nom



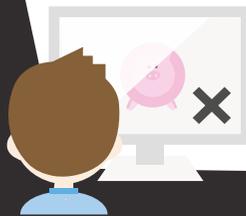
5

Don't cancel your reservation at short notice – a big cultural no-no!



6

Let us know your dietary requirements in advance – we don't like surprises



7

Pour beer for your friends (not yourself!) - "Kampai!" (that's cheers in Japanese)



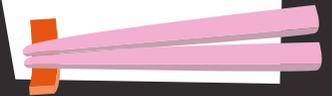
8

Use the provided slippers in the restaurant restroom – don't forget to take them off when you return to your table!



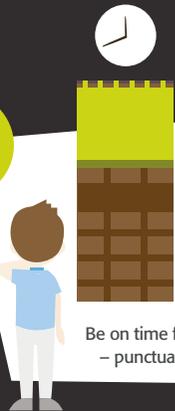
12

At the end of your meal, replace lids on dishes, rest your chopsticks on the holder – nice and neatly as the meal began



9

Be on time for your reservation – punctuality rules in Japan



10

Give your noodles a loud slurp! – it's not rude, but conveys your appreciation of the meal



11

Don't burp, munch audibly or blow your nose at the table please – not the done thing

ACHOO





RUGBY & TRADITIONAL ARTS



MEET A MAIKO

Many Kyotoites spend their whole lives in Kyoto but never have an opportunity to meet a geisha. However, thanks to our links with a Gion tea house, we're delighted to offer an exclusive maiko (apprentice geisha) experience. Following a traditional tea service, the maiko will entertain you with dances and a few traditional games.

DO IT: Have a memorable encounter on our [England, Islanders and Eagles](#) Small Group Tour, from £4,300 p/p for 13 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.



TAIKO DRUMMING

Taiko drumming is more about enthusiasm than inherent ability. From experience, we've learned that even the most reluctant turn out to be proficient percussionists deep down. Learn the basic rhythms and moves (yes, there is a dance element), and build up to a polished performance.

DO IT: Make a noise on our [Ruck and Rolling into the Knockouts](#) Small Group Tour, from £4,400 p/p for 14 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.



TEA CEREMONY

Could there be anything more Japanese than peeling back a sliding screen door, kneeling on a tatami mat floor and slowly learning the revered art of the tea ceremony? InsideJapan are pleased to offer a hands-on tea

ceremony experience conducted in English in a beautiful Kyoto tea house. The kimono-wearing instructor will guide you through the preparation and drinking of the tea. During the lesson, you're free to ask questions and take photos.

DO IT: Stop for a cuppa on our [Cymru Kick-Off](#) Self-Guided Adventure, from £2,230 p/p for 10 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.

RUGBY & J-POP CULTURE



INSIDER EXPERIENCE: MANGA & ANIME TOKYO TOUR

If you're a fan of Japanese Manga and Anime, let us hook you up with one of our "Insiders" who hail from all parts of the English-speaking world and who have made Tokyo their home. They'll take you on a tour of Tokyo to remember, from the electronics and anime district

of Akihabara which is home to hundreds of manga stores as well as the craziness of ultra-trendy Harajuku and Shibuya. Perhaps we'll also swing by Nakano Broadway - our top tip for second-hand cosplay and J-pop goods. We might even throw in lunch at a maid café if you fancy it.

DO IT: Call one of our Japan rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.



STREET GO-KARTING IN TOKYO

Take the ride of your life in a go-kart through the neon streets of Tokyo, dressed as your favourite video game or cartoon character. Courses range from two to three hours, during which your guide will lead you on an exhilarating tour of Tokyo including the Rainbow Bridge across Tokyo Bay!

DO IT: Call one of our Japan rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.



NINJA TRAINING SCHOOL

In a traditional reed-mat martial arts hall in the heart of Kyoto, we can arrange for you to embark upon an hour-long hands-on training adventure to learn the ninja art of stealth. Dressed in the full ninja gear you can try your hand at traditional ninja weapons, such as *shuriken* (metal stars), *kunai* (daggers), and blow guns.

DO IT: Call one of our Japan rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.

RUGBY & THE OUTDOORS



CYCLING IN THE JAPANESE ALPS

For those who wish to really delve into the pretty countryside around Takayama, we can arrange a guided cycle ride taking you through the ride fields and rural farming villages of the Hida district. As well as rural scenery, the tour also visits a natural spring,

a local temple, minka (traditional wood farmhouses) and an orchard. In total you will be cycling a distance of 22km and you will get a real insight into the country way of life, hopefully meeting a few Hida residents along the way.

DO IT: Get on your bike on our [Scotland of the Rising Sun](#) Self-Guided Adventure, from £5,400 p/p for 25 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.

SEA KAYAKING

Sightseeing and exercise combine in the form of sea kayaking, a great way to see Miyajima's 'floating' shrine gate up close. Setting out from Hiroshima's mainland, you will paddle the short distance to the beautiful island of Miyajima and have the unique experience of approaching Itsukushima Shrines' famous torii gate from the sea. At a full high tide you may even get to paddle through the gate itself.

DO IT: Call one of our Japan rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.



HIKING/WALKING

Hiking isn't always the first thing that springs to mind when you think of Japan, but the hiking in the Japanese Alps and Hokkaido is world class. Japan is blessed with magnificent scenery and a geography that is more than two thirds mountainous, so Japan offers walking enthusiasts some of the most diverse terrain in all of Asia. Autumn is a great time for hiking – warm during the day and generally dry. The Japanese are very keen hikers themselves, so walking the trails and staying in traditional ryokans along the way is arguably one of the best ways to appreciate rural Japan's natural beauty.

DO IT: Call one of our Japan rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.

RUGBY & FOOD AND DRINK



WAGASHI CONFECTIONERY CLASS

Traditional Japanese sweets known as *wagashi* are delicate works of art eaten before receiving tea. Each piece is appreciated for its flavour but also its aesthetics, as well as expressing the season. The variety of *wagashi* is so wide that it's unlikely you'll ever try the same type of *wagashi* twice!

We can arrange for you to meet one of Tokyo's top pâtissiers at his well-known confectionary shop. Here he will introduce you to the philosophy behind the preparation of *wagashi* before guiding you to create your own sweets.

DO IT: Satisfy your sweet tooth on our [England: A Rose Between Two Thorns](#) Small Group Tour, from £3,600 p/p for 12 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby Wexperts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.

OSAKA STREET FOOD TOUR

Experience down-to-earth Osaka's motto: *kuidaore* - "eat drink and enjoy life" - on an evening tour of Dotonbori's best street food. With your local guide, you'll take a night time safari through the city, hopping from street food stall to snack bar to *izakaya* pub. Dotonburi is famous throughout Japan for its vast array of casual dining options and street food. Here bars and eateries line the neon illuminated streets along with hole-in-the-wall food stands and ramen bars. And everywhere people, young and old, are out to enjoy the culinary pleasures of the nation's most famous restaurant district.

DO IT: Tantalise your tastebuds on our [Spirit of Samurai](#) Self-Guided Adventure, from £4,440 p/p for 21 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.



BREWERY TOUR IN SAPPORO

Beer first found its way to Japan in the 17th century when the Dutch opened a beer hall for sailors en-route from the Dutch East Indies. Later during the Meiji Period, the art of brewing was brought from Germany to Hokkaido as a development project and today beer accounts for two thirds of all alcohol consumed in Japan. Many Japanese beer brands including Asahi, Kirin

and Sapporo are now famous around the globe.

In order for you to get a true understanding (and tasting!) of Japanese beer, we can arrange a guided visit to a brewery in Sapporo. After a tour of the plant to learn about the production process, you'll have time to enjoy a free sampling session with some light snacks.

DO IT: Drink up on our [England, Islanders and Eagles](#) Small Group Tour, from £4,300 p/p for 13 nights (excl. intl. flights and match tickets). Call our rugby experts on 0117 992 7068 to find out more.

HANDY JAPANESE PHRASES

A lot of Japanese rugby words are very similar to the corresponding English words. Generally, most Japanese rugby fans will understand rugby terminology in English. From experience, Japanese rugby fans are more fluent in English than the rest of the population. Any Japanese player who has played at a higher level will have a pretty good grasp of English.



THE BASICS

Hello – **Konnichiwa**
Goodbye – **Sayonara**
Thank you – **Arigato**
Yes – **Hai**
No – **Ije**
How are you? – **Genki desu ka?**
Excuse me – **Sumimasen**

Where? – **Doko?**
Where is the train station? **eki wa doko desu ka**
Where is the subway/underground? **chikatetsu wa doko desu ka**
How much is this? **kore wa ikura desu ka**
Is there an English menu? **eigo no menyū wa arimasu ka**
Two draught beers, please - **nama biiru futatsu kudasai**

My name is... – **Watashi wa.....desu**
What is your name? – **Anatano namae wa nan desu ka?**
Do you understand English? **eigo wa wakarimasu ka?**

USEFUL RUGBY TERMS

Pass – **pah-soo**
Kick – **ki-koo**
Ruck – **ra-koo**
Scrum – **su-ku-ra-moo**
Turnover – **tahn-oba**
On side – **on saido**
Off side – **ofu saido**
Going over the ball – **oh-bah**

First half - **Zen-han**
Second half - **Kou-han**
Full time - **No saido**

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Do your best! Fight on! Keep going! – **Gan-ba-reh!**
Fight – **Faito!**
Nice play! (said in English will be well understood, the Japanese use it themselves)
Ike!/Go go! - (the 'I' is pronounced like the 'I' in igloo. So it's said as i-kay.)
Awesome/superlative/the best - **Saiko!** (pronounced like psycho)
Great/Amazing/Wow - **Sugoi!**
Congratulations - **Oh-meh-de-tou!**

TALKING ABOUT YOUR TEAM

I'm an England fan - **Watashi wa (ingurando) no fan desu**
England – **in gu ran doh**
Ireland – **ai ru ran doh**
Scotland – **su koto ran doh**
Wales – **way roo zoo**
Australia – **oh su toh ra ria**

Which team are you going for? **Dono chiimu ni oh-oo-en shi teh ee masuka?**
Who is your favourite player? **Su ki na sen shu wa da reh desuka?**
I'm (player's name) biggest fan – (player's name) **no dai fan desu**
e.g. **Richie McGaw no dai fan desu!**

And to use wisely... Damn it!/bullshit! – **Kuso!**
What are you thinking? - **Nani kan ga eh teh roo?**

FAQ'S

Why should I choose InsideJapan Tours?

Because we know Japan inside out and back to front! We pride ourselves on our expert knowledge, trustworthy customer service and straightforward honest pricing. With the help of our team on the ground, we can organise an incredible trip to Japan for you to enable you to make the most of your time in between those all-important matches. You do the tickets; we'll do Japan.

What is the difference between Japan Rugby Travel and InsideJapan Tours?

InsideJapan Tours have been arranging small group tours and self-guided trips to Japan since 2000. With the news that the Rugby World Cup will be taking place in Japan in autumn 2019, we have put together a series of rugby-themed itineraries to coincide with key match dates and formed Japan Rugby Travel under the umbrella of InsideJapan Tours.

Why do your packages appear so much cheaper than other operators?

Our packages do not include match tickets or international flights. However, we can help you get hold of tickets without paying through the nose, and we can book competitively priced flights on your behalf as part of our service. By piecing these things together individually, we are confident that we can offer you a significantly cheaper package than you might find elsewhere...

I don't have any match tickets yet. Does this matter?

First things first, don't panic! Applications for the next ticket ballot will open on 19th September 2018, with results announced on 12th November. There will then be a final phase of ticketing from January 2019, when any remaining tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. To enter the ballot, visit www.rugbyworldcup.com/tickets/

Alternatively, if there's a game you've got your heart set on, you can secure hospitality tickets at www.hospitality.rugbyworldcup.com

Don't forget that you can join any of our rugby travel packages with or without match tickets. It's a once-in-a-lifetime time to be in Japan and our packages will put you right in the thick of all the action.

What can I do in between matches?

This is where we come into our own! All of our packages include a range of exclusive cultural experiences, ranging from afternoon tea with a maiko to a brewery tour and cycling in the Japanese Alps. We can organise in-depth tours with private guides. If you are joining one of our Self-Guided Adventures, there's plenty of scope to add on experiences and activities to suit your interests, and if you're joining one of our Small Group Tours, we've factored in plenty of free time to enable you to explore at your own pace.

What is the weather likely to be like in Autumn 2019?

As luck would have it, late September – November is one of the best times of year to be in Japan. Temperatures in Tokyo and Kyoto tend to be in the comfortable mid-twenties (a little hotter in September) – lovely conditions for sightseeing in between matches. You might experience the occasional shower in southern Japan, so packing an umbrella is recommended. For more details about the weather in Japan, check out our When to Travel site: <https://www.insideasiatours.com/when-to-travel/>

I don't speak Japanese. Does this matter?

English is not as widely spoken in Japan as in many other Asian countries, although there will be more English speakers in hub destinations such as Tokyo and Kyoto. There tend to be English signs at the train and subway stations in Japan, and even if Japanese restaurants do not have English menus, many have handy picture menus or plastic models of the food, which takes a lot of the stress out of ordering!

If you're really worried about being lost in translation, you might prefer to join one of our Small Group Tours where you'll have around the clock assistance from your Japan-speaking tour leader.

Isn't Japan really expensive?

Day-to-day expenses for travelling in Japan are no more expensive than in Europe or North America and often less so. Most people come back from Japan pleasantly surprised at how affordable it can be.

I am a wheelchair user. Can you arrange a trip to Japan for me?

Yes, we would be delighted to. We have arranged a number of trips for wheelchair users in the past. Many Japanese hotels have accessible rooms and the trains and subways are generally extremely well-equipped for those with mobility issues. Do let us know your needs and we'll tailor the trip to suit you.

Do I need a visa to travel to Japan?

Visitors from the UK, US, Australia, Canada and many European countries do not need a visa to visit Japan. You can find a list of countries and regions that have visa exemption arrangements with Japan here: http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

If your country of residence (or your passport country) does not have an exemption arrangement then you will need to apply for a visa through the Japanese Embassy in your country of residence.

A list of embassies can be found here:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/protocol/

It is YOUR responsibility to arrange the visa but we will help you as much as possible.

Regarding the visa application, please note that we CANNOT act as a guarantor. You will therefore need to get a visa to enter Japan for "tourism" as opposed to a visa for "tourism with a travel agency guarantee".

Usually this means that rather than getting a guarantee from a travel agency, you need to provide your own evidence that you have sufficient funds to support you whilst in Japan (bank statements etc) and evidence of flight tickets back home. We CAN provide evidence of an itinerary of what you are doing and evidence that accommodation has been booked.



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**SIGN UP
FOR
RUGBY
UPDATES**