

Your Japan Trip

Example
Info-Pack

INSIDE
Japan 

Welcome to InsideJapan's example Info-Pack

If you book a Small Group Tour or Fully Tailored Japan Trip with InsideJapan Tours, you will receive a detailed Info-Pack around three weeks before departure.

Written by our team of Japan experts, the Info-Pack is your essential travel companion.

Each Info-Pack contains:

- Our Japan office contact details and emergency help line numbers
- Accommodation details (in English & Japanese)
- Sightseeing guides to every place on your itinerary
- Restaurant recommendations
- Maps
- Cultural tips
- Japanese language hints

If travelling on a Self-Guided Adventure, the Info-Pack will also contain:

- Personalised instructions for each journey you'll make
- Directions to every hotel or ryokan inn
- Details of all cultural activities and guiding

We hope this sample slice will provide an informative taste of all that is to come...



■ Example journey

Day 5 12 May 2018

Highway Bus from Matsumoto to Takayama

Your next journey is from Matsumoto to Takayama by highway bus, travelling high into the Japan Alps before winding down through the valley and along the river, whilst the dramatic peaks of the Alps rise skywards on either side—a truly scenic ride in every season!



We are providing your bus ticket. The ticket is valid on any of today's departures, but we recommend taking the following bus.

Recommended departure:

DEPART 12:48	MATSUMOTO BUS TERMINAL 松本バスターミナル
↓	HIGHWAY BUS 特急バス松本-高山線
ARRIVE 15:36	TAKAYAMA NOHI BUS CENTRE 高山濃飛バスセンター

Alternative departures:

MATSUMOTO BUS TERMINAL 松本バスターミナル	TAKAYAMA NOHI BUS CENTRE 高山濃飛バスセンター
07:50	10:15
09:55	12:20
11:05	13:30
13:05	
14:05	



Boarding point: Matsumoto Bus Terminal, Bus Stop



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We've given train and station names in English, so if you're stuck you can show this page to station staff or a passerby!



■ Example accommodation

Matsumoto

Kagetsu Matsumoto Hotel

松本ホテル花月

Front Desk: 0263-32-0114

Check-in 15:00 | Check out 10:00

4-8-9 Oote Matsumoto Nagano 390-0874

〒390-0874 長野県松本市 大手 4-8-9



Arrive 11 May 2018 | Depart 12 May 2018 (1 night)

The Hotel Kagetsu has been a part of the fabric of Matsumoto for over 100 years, and now the hotel retains an authentic Meiji-era atmosphere complete with traditional Japanese architecture.

Rooms

Mr Richmond Bauer Western Twin (Main Building) (24sqm) - 1 room
Mrs Laurence Bauer

Hotel Information

Dining

Breakfast – one of our favourite breakfasts in Japan, you can look forward to an enormous Japanese style breakfast served in the restaurant I;caza.

Lunch & Dinner – these are both available in the I;caza restaurant, at 11:30-14:00 (last orders 13:30) and 18:00-21:00 (last orders 20:30) respectively.

Café – there is also a fantastic little café onsite called Yatoro Onkan, offering teas, coffees and light meals.

Hot spring baths

An onsite bathhouse is available for guests to use from 16:00-10:00 the following day. The male baths can be found on the basement 1st floor of the *kyukan*, and the female baths on the 1st (ground) floor of the *honkan*.

Many taxi drivers will not recognise the English address. We've given the name, address and map in English & Japanese.

■ Example cultural activity

Arts and Crafts in Kyoto

As the ancient centre of Japanese culture, it goes without saying that Kyoto is home to a wealth of traditional arts and crafts.

Whether you want to see, learn about or purchase crafts, Kyoto has you covered. Here is a non-exhaustive list of our recommendations for different crafts in the city – please check your Kyoto Destination Guide for more information about access and opening times.



For an excellent overview of Kyoto crafts, we recommend heading to the Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts Fureaikan, which houses exhibitions of every craft imaginable in a bright and modern building. There are explanations in English by all of the displays so you can learn about the production process and history of these traditional crafts. Depending on when you visit, you might be able to view live demonstrations by experienced artisans. The museum is located south of the Heian Shrine, near the National Museum of Modern Art.

If you're pressed for time, the best one-stop shop for all things arts and crafts is the Kyoto Handicraft Centre. Located slightly out of the way north of the Heian Shrine, it's well worth a visit and offers everything from inexpensive dolls and prints up to high-end lacquerware and antiques, making it a great place to pick up last minute souvenirs or a treat for yourself.

For fabric enthusiasts, there are several great places to visit. The Nishijin district is the centre of weaving in the city, and it's where gorgeous silk has been produced for centuries. At the Nishijin Textile Centre you can view the exquisite silk products and kimonos, and for an additional fee even try your hand at weaving yourself.

About a 12 minute walk away from the Textile Centre is the Orinasukan Handmade Fabric Museum. This small museum has information about the history of textiles in Kyoto, as well as displays of fabric and kimono. Everything is in Japanese but an English pamphlet is available. Also in the Nishijin textiles district is the Aizen Kobo Indigo Dyeing Workshop, located in a 130 year old traditional building. You can learn about the natural, traditional indigo dyeing process from the artisans and peruse the one-of-a-kind items available for sale – be warned, they come with a high price tag!

■ Example destination guide

Hot Spring Baths (Onsen)

温泉

Hakone is one of Japan's most famous hot spring areas and no stay here is complete without a dip in the famous waters. There are *onsen* baths round every corner in this region but here are a couple of suggestions. Check out the 'General Info' section for some cultural tips on taking a hot spring bath in Japan. We feel the abundance of *onsen* here warrants a section all of its own.

Hakone-Yumoto 箱根湯本

This is where the Romance Car express train from Tokyo terminates and the Tozan Densha begins. Yumoto literally means "source of hot water" and so this is a good place to try out a hot spring bath. Recommended is the **Tenzen public bath** located 2 kilometres south-west of town - there's a free shuttle bus to the bath from the bridge outside Hakone-Yumoto station.

Tenzen Tojikyo 天山湯治郷

Open: 0900 - 2300 (Last admission 2200)

Closed: Mid-December for 5 days

t. (046)086-4126

Admission: 1,300 yen (adult), 650 yen (child)

Location: 〒250-0312 足柄下郡箱根町湯本茶屋 208 / 208 Yumoto-chaya, Hakone-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun 250-0312

Access: 10 min from Hakone Yumoto station by shuttle bus. Costs 100 yen

Online booking: [here](#)



Our destination guides offer you our top tips for sight seeing and our 'perfect day' itineraries.

...experience, few places offer the decadence that can...
...minute taxi ride from the station, this four-story...
...bubbling hot springs (both indoors and out),...
...a restaurant.

■ Example country information



Visas

Entry visas not required by UK, USA, CAN, AUS & NZ citizens. For other countries please check with the Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country.



Power and Plugs

Japan uses 100v with two pin flat blade plugs. Travellers from the USA will find that their two pin plugs will fit into nearly all Japanese sockets but not all. Plug adaptors are readily available in electronic stores in Japan and are not expensive. US appliances will work in Japan even though the voltage is slightly lower than North America. Travellers from the UK should purchase a plug adaptor before arrival in Japan as three pin adaptors are somewhat hard to find once you arrive. Please note that due to the much lower voltage UK electrical appliances will not work unless they have a variable voltage power-pack (such as a lap-top computer, most mobile phones, digital cameras etc). If you are bringing a digital camera make sure it has a power-pack or it will NOT recharge!



Mobile Phones

Until relatively recently overseas mobile phones have not worked at all in Japan. However, with the advent of 3G if you have a 3G enabled handset and your phone contract includes 'roaming', you will be able to use your mobile across most of Japan.



Internet and Wi-Fi

In these days of facebook, twitter, smart phones and iPads access to the internet and keeping in touch with friends and family

online has become an important part of many people's trip experience. However, Japan is surprisingly not the best place to keep in touch.

Free Wi-Fi is available in many accommodation in the cities and many bars and advertising only and ad-hoc bars. Free Wi-Fi zones are not the norm. Free service for tourists, with limited success getting on line with this.

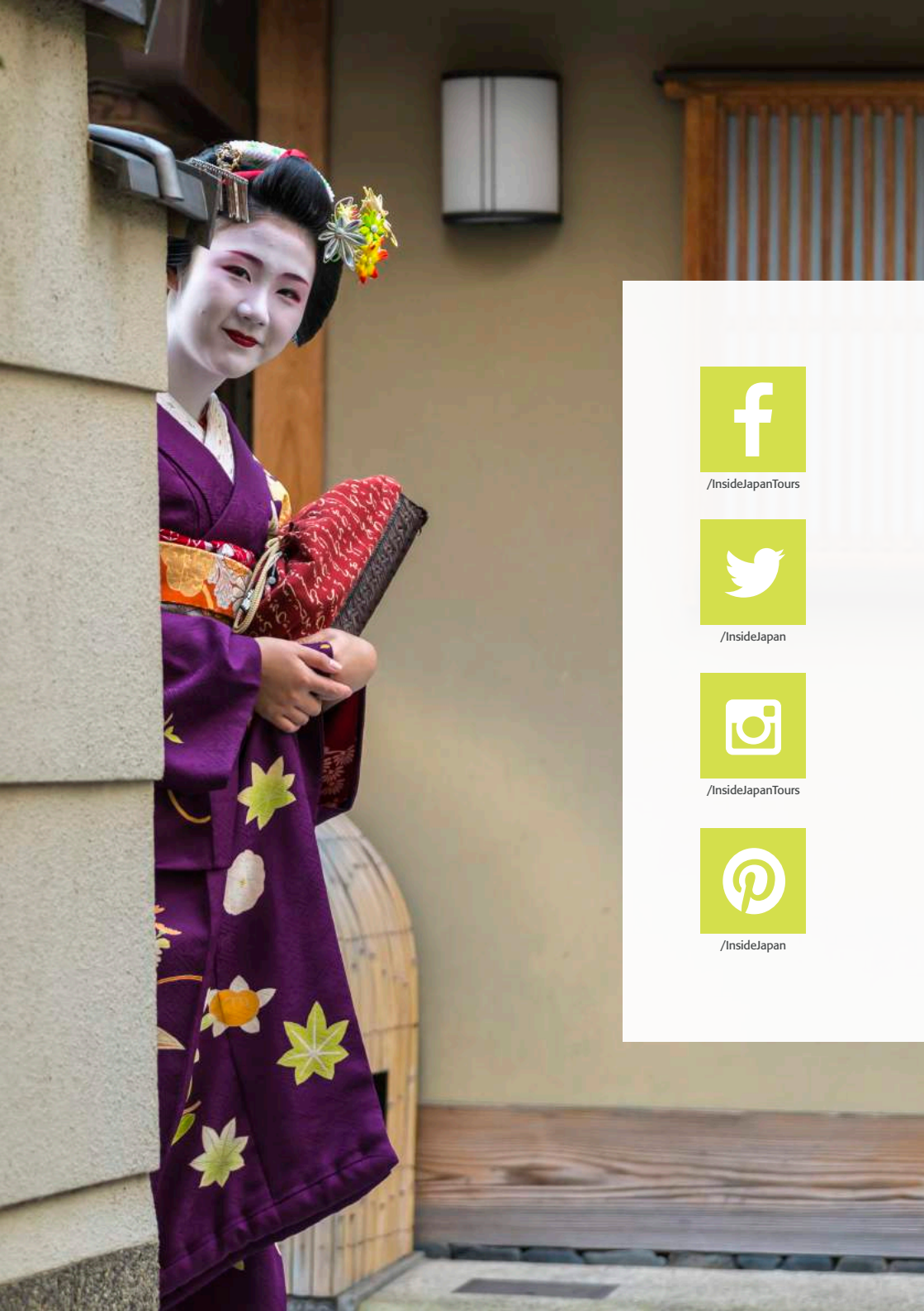


Pocket Wi-Fi

If you would like to have internet available for the duration of your trip you may like to consider hiring a 'Pocket Wi-Fi' device. This is a smart phone sized device which acts as a mobile wireless router. It fits comfortably into any pocket or handbag and creates a Wi-Fi zone with a reach of around 10 metres. You can wirelessly connect up to 10 devices simultaneously so even if you are a family of 5 all wielding your i-Phones you can all still get on line through a single Pocket Wi-Fi device.

Mobile coverage is very good in Japan meaning you can have Wi-Fi internet with you almost wherever you travel. Of course, some rural areas might not have such a good signal but in the cities, you will be connected all the time. Even on the Shinkansen 'Bullet Train' you will find you are online all the way.

Our general guide gives lots of easy to follow travelling tips, cultural info and more.



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