

# Travelling and Cultural Information Courtesy Package

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## Meetings

It is essential for all NOVA members who wish to attend the Japan 2017 trip to attend the majority of meetings. At these meetings we will be planning crucial parts of the trip, and your opinion is important. As well, we will be giving you resources in order to prepare you for international travel. Please bring a pen and paper or journal to write down important details.

The most essential meetings will be given at least two weeks' notice. All events will be announced as Facebook events, by signing up for our telephone call announcements, or other pre-specified arrangement such as email. If necessary, you may attend the meetings via Skype.

## Flight and Essential Travel Information

The flight to Japan is approximately thirteen hours. The return flight's length is approximately fifteen hours long. These time frames may vary, but are based off a connecting flight. The length may be shorter if we purchase a direct flight to and from Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Narita, Japan.

Our main objective when purchasing airline tickets is to ensure each member travelling to Japan participates in achieving our group rates, therefore every joining member must depart with us in Toronto on the agreed dates.

You will need to get a passport. This can take up to a month or longer but you will need to apply as soon as possible. It is ***your sole responsibility*** to get your passport in time. Your local MP office may offer passport application assistance.

Prepare for your trip by calling your bank and credit card companies and letting them know you will possibly be using your card in Japan between the (travel dates). You may need to set up automatic payments for your bills and to your landlord while you're gone.

## Packing Basics

There are many online tutorials available that will assist you to efficiently pack a travel bag for international trips. However, there are a few things to keep in mind that specifically address travelling to Japan.

## What to bring to Japan

### Currency

Approximately two months before departure you should have your cash ready for travel. Around six months before leaving for Japan, NOVA will be doing a large cash conversion and if you would like a lower rate this is a good opportunity to save on rates.

It can take a few weeks for the bank to receive cash, so you will need to prepare at least three months before hand.

You also have the option of converting your Canadian dollars to Japanese yen at the airport. It is sometimes more costly to do it this way as airports often have higher conversion rates than banks: However this is not always the case.









Not all bank and credit cards work in Japan since they do not use the same chip technology. Please include in your budget extra money for emergencies. It might be helpful to bring any bank and credit cards with you to Japan.

***It is not advisable to carry more than \$10,000*** into the airport with; you will likely be brought in for questioning.

### Clothing

It is important when packing to select functional pieces of clothing. Keep in mind that you will want to purchase souvenirs while in Japan, and unless you are mailing them back, you will want to leave extra room in your luggage. You will have a place to do laundry. Most apartments have shared laundry facilities as part of the lease agreement.

A good general rule to follow when packing your essentials is to think of the clothing you need in one week. Typically this consists of the following items:

-  Tops (Blouses, t-shirts, long-sleeve, etc.) Anything showing shoulders is not recommended for women
-  Bottoms (Trousers, jeans, shorts, skirts, etc.)
-  Undergarments
-  Socks
-  A lightweight sweater or jacket (the nights can get cold in March and April)
-  Pyjamas
-  Walking shoes and a pair of dress shoes
-  Swimsuit

### Luggage Allowances

Here are some luggage guidelines for flying between Toronto, Ontario to/from Tokyo, Japan. Prices are subject to change based on the airline we select to travel with and inflation.

1st bag: Included and 2nd bag: Included each additional bag: \$225 CAD (per direction)

No overweight or oversize charges apply when the additional bag fee is paid. (Bag may be delivered late)

Max. Weight per bag: 23kg (50lb) Max. Linear dimensions per bag: 158 cm (62in)

Overweight and/or Oversized bag: \$100 CAD/USD (per direction) for bags between 23-32kg (50-70lb) and/or 158-292cm (63-115in)

You are also entitled to bring 2 Carry-on bags:

### **Standard article**

Maximum size 23 cm x 40 cm x 55 cm (9 in x 15.5 in x 21.5 in) Wheels and handles included.

Maximum weight 10 kg (22 lb)

### **Personal article**






Maximum size 16 cm x 33 cm x 43 cm (6 in x 13 in x 17 in) Maximum weight 10 kg (22 lb)

### **Power Adaptors**

Japan's power outlets are different than ours. There is no grounding prong so you will need an adaptor for almost all electronics. Check to make sure the voltage on your appliances works with the power in your apartment. It is advised to leave behind anything that heats up, such as hair irons, curling irons, etc. Japans electricity also differs per region it's always 100V (vs North American standard of 120V). But the frequency of electric current in Eastern Japan is 50 Hertz (includes Tokyo, Yokohama, Tohoku, Hokkaido) and in Western Japan it is 60 Hertz (includes Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Shikoku, Kyushu). If you're looking for an adapter you can buy some here. [http://www.amazon.ca/Eforcity-Insten-Universal-Charger-Adapter/dp/B000YN01X4/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1413769453&sr=1-1&keywords=universal+power+adapter](http://www.amazon.ca/Eforcity-Insten-Universal-Charger-Adapter/dp/B000YN01X4/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1413769453&sr=1-1&keywords=universal+power+adapter)

### **Kitchen Accessories for Apartment**

Your apartment does not come stocked with all kitchen supplies. You will need to either purchase supplies while visiting or bring some from home. Things you will need include:

-  Small fry pan and pot
-  Spatula
-  Cutlery and/or chopsticks
-  Dish cloth, tea towel, and hand towel
-  Bowl, plate, mug

Most small kitchen accessories can be bought at any 100Yen store (similar to our dollar store). Pots and pans can be picked up relatively cheap (cost is approximately \$20-\$40 for an inexpensive set). We would advise to buy them once in Japan to save room on luggage, or bring a set from home that you are ready to part with once leaving Japan.

### **Toiletries**

You may wish to bring your own toiletries if you have are particular about what you use. Japan has a large selection of toiletries, and since travelling is all about adventure you may fancy a new shampoo. Remember it's rare for labels to have English on them!

Feminine hygiene products are also drastically different. If you prefer the use of tampons you will likely prefer to bring your own. Pads are sold by length (measured in centimeters) and how many ounces of liquid they hold. You can buy pads at any convenience store, but tampons are more difficult to find.

### Compatible Internet Sticks






Despite being a wonderful land of technology, free Wi-Fi hotspots are a rare find (as most are secured). Japan Rail stations may have public Wi-Fi, but only at certain stations.

Copied from the NOVA to Japan document:

“Internet – Upon arrival in Osaka, Japan, KMS will go and procure WiMAX devices. These devices will provide you internet only. The WiMAX device will not allow you to make phone calls, or send SMS or MMS messages. WiMAX will allow you to Facebook, skype, or otherwise use internet (this includes GPS if you have a device that supports it) Couples will be sharing one (1) WiMAX unit unless otherwise discussed with KMS. You will need to provide your own device to connect to the WiMAX internet (e.g. smart phone, tablet, laptop, ect.)”

Upon leaving Japan all WiMAX devices will need to be returned to an Organizer of KMS/NOVA. If for any reason your device is missing or damaged you will be charged to replace the WiMAX device

### Other things to consider bringing:

-  An English book (keep in mind paper is heavy and will add weight to your luggage quickly)
-  A water bag (empty, you can't bring liquids on a plane)
-  A couple plastic bags (great for putting shoes in to keep clothes clean)
-  Compression bags to reduce the amount of room your clothes take up
-  A small shower towel (you may wish to purchase one upon arrival and leave it there upon departure, or travel with a small towel)

### Things NOT to Bring:

Should you be caught importing, trafficking, or travelling with anything that could jeopardize this trip it will be your sole responsibility to refund everyone's lost voyage in full. Since we are traveling in a group we would be rejected as a group. Total cost of this trip could range in excess of \$100,000. NOVA and KMS has a zero tolerance with regards to illegal activity.

### Illegal Drugs

Marijuana is strictly prohibited. If you are caught using it in Japan you will be immediately deported with zero chance of returning. You may also be charged under Japanese Law.

If you take any medication you will need to research beforehand to see if it is an illicit substance in Japan. There are different drug restrictions and you may not be able to bring certain medicines with you. If you have a prescription or daily medication, please advise organizing staff beforehand. Our e-mails are [alex@animecraze.ca](mailto:alex@animecraze.ca) or [kristin@animecraze.ca](mailto:kristin@animecraze.ca) .

If you need more information on this topic please refer to this.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/01.html>

## Weapons

Certain restrictions apply to carrying blades longer than 6cm in length while in Japan. Do not bring any weapons with you (guns, sword, pocketknife, scissors, etc.). Check with your airlines for more details, and the Transport Security Administration's (TSA) website for more traveller information.

Air Canada's Travellers Info:

<http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/airport/baggage/security.html?src=rt>

TSA's List of Prohibited Items: <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>

## What to Bring to Japan Tips and Pointers:

If you are looking to do some fine dining while in Japan you will want to bring some dress clothes and shoes as street wear is not acceptable everywhere. Some places also require you to remove your shoes before entering, so wearing footwear that is easy to slip on and off may be convenient. Keep in mind the Japanese take a great pride in their appearance, and it is in certain places courteous to look the same.

## Shopping:

The average size of Japanese people is considerably smaller than that of Canada. Shopping for new clothing in Japan can be challenging if you normally shop over a small or medium in Canada. There are specialty shops for larger sizes, but they can be a challenge to find. Men's shoes are difficult to find over a size 10.5.

Styles in Japan are different than here in the west. The majority of Japanese people wear clean, tailored clothing with no rips or visible stains. If you want to look stylish while visiting you can check out various Japan street style websites or blogs. As long as you are clean you will be fine in most public places in Japan. There are many different subcultures of style in Japan; however the majority of Japan is very conservative in how they dress.

If you plan on purchasing lots of souvenirs you may want to consider bringing a large unfolding duffel bag with you. Keep in mind that you may incur additional luggage charges through the airline companies if you go over your baggage/weight limits. These charges will not be covered by NOVA or KMS. After airline tickets have been purchased you will be able to find out exactly what the limits are for luggage. But as a guideline please refer to the guide from Air Canada mentioned above.

## Cultural Respect and Foreigners Etiquette

Anytime you are travelling can be a truly wonderful experience. It's easy to find yourself ecstatic while soaking in all the new sights. Make sure to educate yourself properly so that your trip is a comfortable experience.



## Onsen

There are a lot of little rules when it comes to the etiquette surrounding the public bathing experience that the Japanese call *Onsen*. If you follow these pointers you will be sure to have a comfortable, relaxing bathing experience.

Be prepared to pay a fee for the use of the facilities at an *onsen*. If you have tattoos there are very few places that will allow you to bathe publicly, so you may wish to pay extra for a private bathing experience.

Just like when you enter a traditional Japanese home, there is a place just inside the entrance of the *onsen* that is called a *genkan*. This is where you take off and leave your shoes. It is very rude not to do this. Not far from the *genkan* you will likely find a shelf to put your shoes and it is standard to put your shoes on the bottom shelf, as the top shelves are for your clothes (the clothing shelf may be located in the locker room).

In some places you may need to bring your own towel and body soap. Depending where you are, an *onsen* may allow you to rent a towel for a small fee.

Before you shower you must take off all of your clothes. There's no need to feel awkward as this is a normal thing to do. Before entering the water you will need to shower. Use your towel to lather the soap and clean yourself thoroughly.

Now you are ready to enter the water! Go slowly as the water will be very hot and it may take a minute to adjust to the heat.

When you are done dry yourself off and get dressed again. Don't forget to put your shoes back on in the *genkan*.

## Paying for merchandise

Many stores have a small tray for you to place your money on rather than handing it directly to the cashier. It is considered impolite to not use it when paying.

## Honorifics

Honorifics are vital to everyday conversations and to show your respect for the person you are talking to. You may wish to familiarize yourself with the list below for your own reference.

*Chan* - This is used primarily for girls, however this is very informal.

*Kun* – Used for boys and male junior co-workers.

*San* – *San* is the most generic honorific. You can use this for anyone above you (elders, boss, etc.), or when you speak to anyone you don't know all that well.

*Sama* – *Sama* is more formal than *San*. *Sama* is used in customer service to address customers, or to write formal business letters.

*Sensei* – This honorific is used to address teachers, doctors, politicians.

*Senpai* – Used to address senior coworkers or schoolmates.

While in Japan you will hear these honorifics used everywhere you go. If you are speaking to someone that you aren't really close to it is proper address them using their last name.

## Bowing

Bowing is such an important part of Japanese culture that this custom is well known throughout the world. Bowing shows respect to the person you are interacting with and the deeper the bow, the more respect you are displaying.

When you bow it should seem natural and fluid. Many times a nod of the head is just fine. It is appropriate to bow approximately at a 30 degree angle when meeting new acquaintances that are higher up in society than you (e.g. meeting a teacher, new boss, etc.). Unless you are deeply regretful or deeply appreciative there is no need to bow more than 30 degrees.

It can be difficult to assess if a person is higher ranking in society than you so a simple rule to follow is that you may return a bow by mirroring the other person. It is not necessary to bow back at people handing out information on the streets. If the person you are meeting is older than you show your respect to them as the Japanese treat their elders with a great deal of respect.

## Pointers:

Try to avoid shaking hands and bowing at the same time as this can be an awkward maneuver to pull off.

If you are unsure of which type of bow is appropriate for the situation, a 30 degree bow is fine.

Some Japanese people understand that foreigners may not understand everything about Japanese customs and as long as you are doing your best to be respectful and humble you won't have any issues.

## Eating and Drinking in Japan – Dining Etiquette

Much like our culture here in Canada, Japan has their own unique etiquette when it comes to eating and drinking. Keep in mind the following guidelines when dining in public places.

## Drinking and Smoking

It is considered rude to eat in public or to walk and drink at the same time. If you are out and about try to find a private spot to eat your meal or dine in at a restaurant. It is legal to drink alcohol in public if you are of age, but the same rule applies to alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks: Do not walk with an open drink in your hand. It's not illegal to do this; but it is rude. Many people stand by the vending machine until they are finished their drink. It is nearly impossible to find a garbage can elsewhere in Japan so if you come across a vending machine with a garbage can you will want to stay there until you are done with your drink anyway. It is not fun to explore all day while carrying a bag of trash. You might come across garbage and recycling cans outside of convenience stores too.

Legal alcohol drinking and smoking age in Japan is 20 years old. Some restaurants still allow smoking indoors, so if you are inclined to avoid smoke keep an eye out when selecting your place to eat.

The most polite way to consume alcohol is to serve your friends first, and have someone else serve your drink. It is considered rude to fill your own glass, and don't forget to refill the other persons drink. You can politely decline being served additional beverages by leaving your glass full.

## Dining

When you are dining in a restaurant do not set your purse on the table. It is okay to set it on the floor or a chair, but because the floor is considered to be a very unclean place it is disgusting to put your purse where you eat.

Before you begin eating it is polite to say "*itadakimasu*" (literally translates as "I humbly receive"). After eating the polite phrase is "*gochisosama-deshita*" (Translates as "you were a feast (preparer)"). You may notice that a lot of Japanese people do not say these phrases before and after eating, so it is at your discretion whether you would like to say them or not.

When you are served a hot meal many restaurants bring out the dish when it has just been cooked and the server may ask you to go ahead and eat before the others are served. This is to ensure you are having the freshest meal possible.

If you have a runny nose you may excuse yourself from the room and blow your nose in the rest room. Many men will snort loudly to avoid having to leave the room.

If someone has prepared a meal of any sort for you do your best to finish it even if you don't like the food. If you can't finish it then eat as much as possible then apologize and explain that you are too full to finish. It is rude to do this, don't do it often.

When you order a meal sometimes you will be served a plain bowl of rice. *Do not* put soy sauce on bare rice. The Japanese pride themselves on having the highest quality of rice in the world and it is very rude to do this in public. Depending on where you look it's also suggested that putting soy sauce on rice is not humble. If you don't like it please do your best to eat it without complaining.

## Chopsticks

When eating a dish served in a bowl it is proper to hold your chopsticks in your right hand and the bowl in your left, and raise the bowl to a position under your face to eat. Do not lower your face directly over your food to eat.

If you are eating with others and you are sharing a dish with them it is courteous to use the back of your chopsticks when taking from the community dish. This is done so that you are not directly sharing germs with others.

If you are cutting your food with your chopsticks it is considered childish to use two hands to slice your food. It is important that you don't leave your chopsticks in a bowl of rice pointing up, as this is how the Japanese offer food to the dead in burial rites.

## Community vs. Self – A Cultural Difference

In order for the Japanese society to function at a level where everyone can benefit fully the Japanese people tend to believe that acting with selflessness is a top priority. It is important to understand this before departing for Japan for the reason that there are certain behaviours that you will need to understand so that you may fully behave in a respectful manner.

In our Western culture we are concerned with you we are as an individual and establishing our own unique identity to put out to the world an identity that displays who we are as individuals. Self-expression is encouraged and even highly valuable in many professions. In other words, each identity of every person is what makes up our culture.

In Japanese society there is an emphasis on community. Individuals behave in a way that keeps a peaceful environment and therefore go out of their way to be considerate towards others. Take this scenario as an example:

*“It was my first time experiencing Japan and I was so excited to see all the beautiful sights, especially the Japanese architecture. After spending the first couple days in Tokyo after arriving my fiancé and I made our first trip to Osaka via the bullet train. After we got our luggage put away and we settled into our seats the four hour trip began. I noticed that the train was so silent you could have heard a pin drop, even though there were at least half a dozen other travellers in the same train car as us. I noticed that when someone would talk it would be a whisper so quiet you could barely hear it.”*

This experience demonstrates the amount of consideration shown to strangers when in a public place. It is normal to go as far as completely silencing your cell phone so that any incoming messages or phone calls do not disturb other travellers when on a train. In fact, it is very rude to answer your phone calls at all except in the case where you only take your call in the entrance hallways, away from others; these halls are separate from the cars by a sliding door, so chatting there is not considered rude. The only exception is elderly people and young children. Since elders are so respected it is acceptable for them to carry on a conversation while on a train.

When in public places do your best to keep your voices down and unless you are really hurt, never make a scene. If you find that you are upset, do your best to find a place to deal with your emotions privately. Crying or raising your voice in public will make others uncomfortable. Many times Japanese people will completely ignore a situation that makes them uncomfortable. It seems strange at first but it is all a part of the process of getting used to a different culture.

Do your best to avoid competition and open confrontation. Japanese values focus on empathy and identifying one's self with another. Displaying compassion and building community are important to the Japanese as they believe it helps create a healthy society.

Don't fret too much about being a perfect visitor; as long as you are courteous you will do just fine.

## Tipping

Customer service and guest experience is excellent in Japan and you may find that you want to tip these wonderful people. Japanese society is not one that gives or accepts tips so you do not do this (even the hotel staff who carry your bags do not get tips). If you are especially grateful the best way to thank them is to bow and say "arigatou gozaimashita" (thank you very much).

## Gift-giving

You may want to bring some souvenirs from home to give to the people you meet in Japan. Gift-giving is another important part of Japanese customs and your new friends will truly appreciate the gesture. Some ideas are maple syrup in cans, chocolate bars or sealed cookies from your home region. Other ideas may be small totem poles, key chains, or maybe even a moose plushie. Be creative and thoughtful with your gifts and when giving the gift make sure it is presented wrapped.

If you are travelling outside of the city while you are in Japan it is considered a courtesy to bring back small gifts for the Japanese people you know. This can get expensive quickly, if you want to avoid gift giving you may want to omit telling them that you are leaving or just came back from a trip.

If you are looking for gifts you can find specialty gift shops and bakeries with individually packaged treats for this purpose. These shops are really great to find the best snacks so if you want to try some regional delicacies look there first.

## Greetings

There are many greetings in Japanese but you can get by in any basic social situation by knowing the following greetings:

### ***Ohayou gozaimasu***

This is the formal way of saying "Good morning". In a non-formal setting you may say "*Ohayou*".

### ***Konnichiwa***

Konnichiwa means "Hello" but is normally used after noon and before dinner.

### ***Konbonwa***

This means "Good evening".

### ***Oyasuminasai***

"Good night". This is normally used late in the evening when departing or if you are heading off to sleep.

There are many great resources available to help you learn the Japanese language, both online and printed study books. Many Japanese people don't speak any English so it is important to understand enough to get by. Don't rely too much on translating apps and technology since literal word-for-word

translation completely changes the meaning of the sentence and phrases can become “lost in translation”.

## What to Expect Upon Arrival

### Navigating Through Immigration

Upon landing in Narita International Airport you will need to collect your carry-on bag and exit the plane when instructed. At this point of the trip you will likely be tired but excited. If you need a washroom at this point go before making your way to immigration because you could be waiting in line for a while.

It is possible that we will go through the United States at which point additional information will be provided to you.

Next you will follow the crowd of people or signs until you come to an area where you line up. This is immigration. You will need to go through to have your passport stamped before you gather your luggage. Have your passport and papers filled out (check the back) and keep these accessible until you are out of the airport. You may be asked how long you will be staying for, and the address of where they can find you while you are here. In most cases the name of the hotel you will be staying at the first couple of days in Japan is acceptable. Answer all questions clearly and only reply with the information they asked for, you do not need to get into elaborate details. For the most part, the immigration agents don't care about specifics, they are simply making sure you don't seem suspicious or acting nervously. Be calm and polite to the agents. We will also be providing you with your personal Japan address and details that you will need.

You will be asked how much money you are carrying, always answer honestly. Do not bring more than \$10,000 with you or you will likely be pulled aside for questioning. Do not bring weapons, explosives or knives with you and check the TSA website for up-to-date listings of prohibited items.

Be sure to remove any hats and sunglasses, hoods, etc... so that they can process you quickly and without suspicion. Do not use your phone or laptop until you have gone through the final luggage check.

Keep in mind that we will be travelling as a group, *but only one person can go through at a time*. This means that we will need to set up a meeting place after going through immigration and the security check both in the United States and in Japan. We will be discussing this in a meeting prior to departure.

After luggage check we will meet up and find the correct bus stop for transportation to our hotel. This service is usually provided with no fee. Keep track of your reservation information and keep your passport accessible, you will likely need it to leave the airport grounds.

## **Travelling in a Group and Alone**

While preparing for Japan you might want to download an app that will allow you to access the Japan Rail routes. HyperDIA is a map app for android.

Until you are hooked up to your WiMAX internet device you won't be able to use the app. Since we will be travelling from Tokyo to Osaka together this shouldn't be an issue, nonetheless you will likely want it before exploring on your own.

Japan is an overall safe place to travel, but do exercise caution and be aware of your surroundings. Try to make sure that your WiMAX device, phone and laptop are charged before leaving your apartment in case you need to contact the NOVA co-ordinators.

Be aware of when the trains stop service for the night, as it is earlier in rural areas. If you are not fluent in Japanese it is difficult to find help. Not all rural areas are covered by the internet service provider. Always travel with at least 2000 yen (about \$20) if you are travelling locally in Osaka, or 12,000 (about \$120) if you are heading out of Osaka. This ensures you can get assistance from cabs or hotels if you are stranded for a night.

Don't panic if you are lost, find try your communication devices to contact your NOVA co-ordinators for assistance or do your best to ask for help from the locals. It may help to ask young adults for help since they are the ones most likely to speak English.

## **Allergies in Japan and what to Expect**

Please advise Kristin McKenna of any allergies before making your deposit. This way we can educate you on how to communicate your allergies in Japanese and help to provide you with any information you may need before committing to travelling to Japan. Some drugs that are legal here are illegal in Japan or not available at all.

If you have an allergy you may also wish to speak to a nurse at the North Bay Health Unit, especially with seafood or shellfish allergies. The health unit can also give you advice about safely travelling out of country, including vaccinations.

## **Personal Costs to Account for while Planning for Travel**

In order to prepare yourself financially while planning an overseas trip you must carefully considering more than just the cost to get out there, stay, eat, and the return flight home. If you are renting or paying a mortgage, have car and insurance payments, or any other monthly cost these do not stop when you leave the country. Budgeting for these costs is important when calculating your unique travel expense.

Other things to consider are entertainment costs, souvenirs to bring home, whether or not you are mailing merchandise home (and extra taxes at the border), overweight luggage fees, kitchen supplies, bedding, or anything 'extra' you may wish to include in your experience.

Making a list of expected costs can help you to see how much your Japan experience will cost.

## Japan Rail Pass

Please see the Japan Rail Pass information document for complete JR details and exclusions. This excerpt is from the NOVA to Japan Contract page:

*“JR Pass – **Very important** – This will allow to you use any JR owned rail system and covers almost all of Japan (for additional details see JR PASS Annex). This will be your main method of transportation. **(Some JR routes cross into private lines and incur additional costs)**. You will have sufficient JR pass time for the duration of your stay in Japan. Depending on the duration of the stay there may be a “Blackout” period where the pass will expire, as each pass is only valid for 21 days. **Please see information packet for more details**. It is recommended to not activate your second or third pass immediately after the first one expires. This is because the cost of getting an additional pass doesn’t financially make sense and would be a waste. During that time we suggest you explore locally (within Osaka), staying within the Osaka loop line area. 700Yen (approximately \$7) should get you just about anywhere in that area. If you wish to make sure there is not a “blackout time” please discuss with KMS and we can secure you an additional pass but this will be an extra cost. KMS will do everything in its power to ensure that the “blackout time” is minimal to non-existent.”*

## Disclaimer

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