Tips:

* Get a Public Transport card
  + 3 best to get are PASMO, ICOCA, and SUICA
    - Don’t overload cause these can’t be refunded
    - Can also be used for vending machines
  + Try to do this ahead of time on the phone because the machines are confusing
  + Will also maybe need the JR pass
    - If we get a JR pass we need to do it ahead of time, you get a pass mailed to you and then you have to an office and exchange it for the card
* Bring passport if shopping because many shops offer a tax refund on things over 5,000 yen
* Book museums, theme parks, fancy restaurants in advance (like a few months)
* Do a day trip to Mt. Fuji when you know the weather is good rather than booking a place to stay there.
* If trying to see Mt. Fuji from the train you can see it when heading from Tokyo to Kyoto or Osaka if you sit on the right side.
* Japanese supermarkets will sometimes have the same foods as 7/11 but cheaper (Like all the full meals people get at 7/11
* Trains stop at midnight
* Comfortable shoes
* Depending on size of luggage we may need to reserve a seat for it or we could get hit with a fine
* Trash bins are apparently rare so if buying street food eat it in the immediate area to throw away there
  + Also apparently people don’t eat and walk? They get street food and eat it in that area
* Visit in February for cherry blossoms ☹
* Apps:
  + Tabelog – Japanese Yelp
  + JapanTravel – Official app from Japan national tourism organization with a lot of info
  + Yurekuru Call – earthquake
  + Mymizu – app that locates places to refill water
  + Papago – More accurate translations
  + Klook – offers tickets for events and stuff
  + ChargeSpot – Portable chargers you can use and return to any Charge Spot location
  + Discover Another Japan App – Shows “underrated” spots and you can get passes on this app
* Always book hotels for number of people not number of rooms
* No Tipping
* TA Q BIN – Ships your luggage to wherever you’re going
* Curry bread from 7/11
* Keep all receipts
* Apparently airport information desks have stamps so you could bring a little journal for that which would be cute
* $2 Zen train that only runs on weekends goes between Osaka and Kyoto – Each car is decorated for a different season
* Conservative clothing (Apparently no jeans with holes and men don’t wear shorts)
* Arigato Food Tours are apparently good
* Daily backpack recommendations
  + Bag for trash
  + Coin purse
  + Water
  + Power bank
  + eSIM App or Pocket wifi
* Spend the least amount of time in Kyoto and Tokyo to save money
* Apparently, you can take ferries to travel overnight to some places and they look amazing
  + Supposedly save money because its travel and sleep in one price
* Don’t rub chopsticks together, don’t put chopsticks vertical on plate, when sharing food move it to their plate instead of them using your chopsticks, lay chopsticks flat on the table rather than on the plate
* Just interesting – In East Japan people stand on the left side of escalators and walkers use the right, it’s the opposite in West Japan

Places

* Shinjuku - 35.7006507580449, 139.70876350434693
  + Kabukicho – Entertainment district - 35.69602008771688, 139.70257185143782
  + Ninja Trick House - 35.69655670479658, 139.70368246611523
* Toshima City - 35.73168042506713, 139.7111534798391
  + Animate Ikebukuro - https://ex.animate.co.jp/shop/ikebukuro/
* Kyushu - 32.87336715181202, 130.94369486707808
  + Kamishikimi Kumanoimasu Shrine - 32.854152425800955, 131.15853753051738
  + Takachico Gorge - 32.71606377241934, 131.3013152628766
  + Amanoiwato Shrine - 32.73475850641449, 131.3507412854985
  + Udo Jingu - 31.65049729507138, 131.46668110680386
  + Kuratake Shrine - 32.4277120855671, 130.32731868581408
  + Canal City Hakata Shopping Mall - 33.58979884200171, 130.41105719877893
* Shibuya - 35.66880301840309, 139.6949253510389
  + Shibuya Sky
  + Dolci Café Silkream
  + Shibuya Crossing
* Oarai - 36.298438, 140.553870
  + Oarai Isosaki Shrine
  + Kamiiso Tori
  + Aqua World Oarai
* Nara - 34.683722, 135.805128
  + Nara Park (Feeding deer place)
  + Gosashi Tomb
* Otsuki - 35.642125, 138.920748
  + <https://en.activityjapan.com/publish/plan/16084>
  + Saruhashi Bridge
* Shirakawa - 36.257424, 136.906443
  + Historic villages Shirakawa-go and Gokayama
* Mt. Fuji - 35.356057, 138.738150
* Kyoto - 34.99908260576544, 135.76610574981834
  + Kiyomizu-Dara Temple
  + Kyoto Imperial Palace
  + Nijo Castle
  + Kinkaku Ji
  + Heian Shrine
  + Fushimi Inari Taishi
    - Get there early
  + Arashiyama
    - Monkey Park
    - Bamboo Forest
* Tokyo - 35.69270995470355, 139.38423910665543
  + Meiji Jingu Shrine
  + Ghibli Museum - https://www.ghibli-museum.jp/en/tickets/
  + Bunkyo hydrangea festival - <https://tokyocheapo.com/events/bunkyo-ajisai-festival/>
    - Schedule 2023
      * June 11 and June 18 (from 13:00): Free toothbrushes for the first 100 people
      * June 10–11: Hydrangea concert
      * June 17–18: Hydrangea concert
      * June 18 (From 10:00): Hydrangea mikoshi procession
* Tottori - 35.481294, 133.865631
  + Mount Daisen
  + Tottori Castle Ruins
  + Sand Dunes
  + Kannonin Temple
* Osaka - 34.66835913132374, 135.50631166852025
  + Osaka Castle
  + Minami (Namba Station)
  + Sumiyoshi Taisha
  + Minoo Park
  + Super Nintendo World - https://www.usj.co.jp/web/en/us/areas/super-nintendo-world
* Togakushi - 36.77035750589228, 138.06953321923672
  + Mt. Togakushi
  + Togakushi Shrine
  + Hiking
* Takayama - 36.139769433886094, 137.2587832343377
  + Traditional Homes
  + Hida beef
  + Takayama Ramen
* Hakone - 35.230953592517004, 139.03060133432137
  + Hot springs
  + Hakone Shrine
  + Shoanji Temple
  + Hakone Ropeway
* Kanazawa - 36.56651507386879, 136.65008364349447
  + Kanazawa castle ruins
  + Kenroku-en Garden
  + Higashi Chaya District
* Nikko - 36.72440238525655, 139.69578951172673
  + Nikko National Park
  + Shinkyo Bridge
  + Kegon Waterfall
  + Nikko Toshogu

Suggested itineraries (Places to go and order of visits)

1. Tokyo, Hakone (Stop on way to next place), Kyoto, Nara (Stop on way to next place), Osaka, Kanazawa, Takayama, Nikko