Packing for Japan.

The Japan’s weather is very humid. You really don’t need to pay many clothes when you come. There are inexpensive clothes and the clothes are made for the Japanese climate which can be very hot and humid. They have various products for people here.

Unemployment insurance

In Japan it is possible to collect unemployment insurance after the JET program. Things you will need and things you need to keep in mind before deciding to take this route.

Dealing with Japanese culture

Coming onto JET as an early arrival

I was a JET that decided to tick off the box on the application saying I could come as an early arrival. I have mixed feelings about ticking this box, but I’ll try to outline the events that I believe happened because of me doing so. From what I could tell I was the first one to leave in my area. I don’t believe I was a better candidate then anyone else that year. There was no way of me know, but what I believe I did do right was have all my paper work and medical check ups sent in with my application. It was a very short time between receiving the call to actually arriving in Japan. I was receiving unemployment insurance at the time and really didn’t have a rush to leave early. The JET program organized getting the VISA and giving a very quick one on one orientation. I was living in the city where the orientation where being held. I felt I was missing some information for orientation and excitement of sharing the experience with others. There was some tax related things and leaving the country information I didn’t know what I was suppose to do about. I’m not sure if they would have covered those things at a proper orientation though.

The plane ride there was nice. I still remember they had ambassareders there to send me off. I had a great seat on the airplane. When I got to Narita Airport. I stayed for a night in Narita and left for my destination in the morning. Upon arrive at the prefecture I was to work at I was greeted my then supervisor. Said our hellos and nice to meet you and drove to the town where I was to live. My big shock. Was my apartment building. It was old felt more like a cabin than an actual apartment. This was not the Japan I was expecting. From there the rest was a blur. Getting a photo taken and registering at city hall. I can’t even remember if I had gone into school that day. It was jammed packed and I was really tired. Other things that I felt had happened because I was an early arrival was that I didn’t receive any training at all to prepare me. No explaination of the textbook I was to use or how to make the lesson. I was only told to make a introduction lesson. Looking back it really didn’t matter what my lesson was about. As a new teacher. Students are very excited to meet you, but I do have tips for an introduction lesson on another page.

Other things about leaving early was that everyone was already established. Friendships where made they where preparing sayanara parties as I came in.

By the time the new JETs came everyone came at the same time and had a chance to bond. I was able to make friends with old JETs and new ones, but I could tell the system was designed around welcoming those coming at a regular schedule.

I’ve seen it happening again. There is a big change in our area where there buildings are being condemn an a person that came 3 months earlier has to live in an old government housing apartment while new ALTs are getting setup in better housing facilities. The only reason for that is that they really didn’t have enough time to prepare things even though they new that these apartments would get torn down about a year later. I personally believe it was poor planning on their part, but teachers are already busy enough on the regular schedules to have them do more work outside of that schedule is asking a lot.

To get back to