



# Japan 2020

A guide to a trip to Japan in 2020

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# 1. Introduction

In 2020, we are planning a trip to Japan at the blossom time of year (late March - early April) - a bit of a taster trip really as Japan is too vast to cover it all. Japan was on my personal bucket-list of places to go to so I am excited to be doing this!

## Money

Japan has the yen as its unit of currency.

Although Japan is high-tech, we are advised to take sufficient cash as many places e.g. restaurants, shops etc. do not accept debit or credit card payments.

Weird eh? As with any holiday abroad, you are recommended to let your bank know that you will be using your card(s) in Japan before you leave.

Current exchange rates (as at Saturday 14 September) is 135 Yen to the pound.

Credit cards (and pre-paid credit cards such as FairFX) are accepted for certain things in Japan e.g. trains tickets, hotels (maybe not ryokan, though?)

## 2. The Trip - Potentials

### Tokyo

Lots to see here - so busy and yet nowhere near as noisy as UK and US cities! For example, the Shinjuku area near Tokyo's station. Include Izakaya tour (An izakaya is a type of informal Japanese pub. They are casual places for after-work drinking. They have been compared to Irish pubs, tapas bars and early American saloons and taverns.) and Robot Restaurant (not a restaurant) - EDWARD

### Kyoto

Here the Philosophers Walk is a great place to enjoy the cherry blossoms.

### Mount Fuji

Iconic, must see place. Maybe combine with a Ryokan stay with views to Mt Fuji?

## **Walk Some of the Nakasendo Way**

From Joanna Lumley programme, 5-mile stretch from Tsumago to Magome (or the other way - whichever is most convenient). Lovely scenery and distance is manageable - just over 2 hours (7.9km)

## **Shinkansen -**

Bullet train ride. Several opportunities as several lines exist e.g. Tokyo to Kyoto.

## **Ryokan stay**

Typical (stereotypical?) Japanese guest house stay. Also try hot spring bathing and banquet dinner EDWARD

## **Golden Palace**

No idea what this is or where EDWARD

## **Pontocho Alley**

Another EDWARD recommendation

## **Miyajima Island**

Includes Floating torii gate, lots of deer EDWARD

## **Takayama Destival**

Depends on timing EDWARD