



Japan, Summer 2023

Jordan Huang

The following is a collection of photos from a trip to Japan in the summer of 2023. All photos were shot with a Minolta Freedom Zoom 125 on 8 rolls of Kodak Portra 400 film.

Hoping to record special memories, I brought my journal to this trip. I carried that journal, with its black ink pen, everywhere I went. For most of every single day, it sat inside my bag, inches from my fingers. By the end of the trip, I had not journaled once. I had experienced what I can only describe as a kind of curation paralysis.

What is worth recording? Is it worth recording if it can't be done well? What is an appropriate environment to engage in such a thing? Being so busy every day, there never seemed to be a time to sit down and journal in an environment that I felt was appropriate for such contemplation.

In great irony, the importance I placed on the activity of recording led me to not record at all. I find ironies of this structure to be a recurring theme in my life. So instead of crisp words, I am left with a collection of images without text, images without contemplation. When I look at them, I feel the nostalgia of emotion, but missing is the context of memory.

I sometimes wonder if my memory is strikingly bad. I often find that I struggle to recall what I did the previous day, the previous weekend, or any time period in my day-to-day life more than half a day prior. I suspect that it has partly to do with a lack of mindfulness. I tend to be caught up in my work most of the day, every day. Because of this, time flies by with alarming speed.

For many years, I have been fascinated with the idea of being mindful. Of taking notice of what is going on around you, to take notice of yourself.

I wonder if I could remember more if I was more mindful. It makes sense in a certain way—if I am more present in the moment, then it seems to me that I should remember it better.

Interestingly, I find that taking photos often takes me out of a mindful state of mind. It's hard, after all, to enjoy the moment when you are worrying about getting a nice photo. But here's the thing—if I don't take photos, then how will I remember the moments? I don't have photographic memory, and I am reasonably sure that mindfulness by itself won't give me that.

For a long time, I eschewed the idea of taking photos. Why waste time doing such a thing when I can enjoy the moment? It was an idea born out of rebellion. All I can say is that, looking back, I am sometimes left with wonder over what I won't remember. An occasional joy is when I stumble upon an old photo that reminds me of some period of my life that I never really forgot but needed the appreciative nudge to remember. I wonder what memories are lost and will never be triggered because I never took that photo.

Memory for me has always been snippets of scenes, flashes of emotions, and triggers irregularly placed around me. I hope you find in these photos a flavor of the Japan I experienced.



Tokyo











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Shinjuku Central Park City

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Chiyoda Central Park Building





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TOWER

焼肉  
一叙ノ苑

CHINESE  
CUISINE SON

Bloom

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美容外科

銀座みゆき通り  
美容外科

SALOWIN

SHIMA  
ANTEA

ENOTECA

SUZURAN St









消火栓



GREEN SEED

南青  
Min





















寛保二年  
成年











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Kyoto



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PROJECT

木野



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禁煙  
NO SMOKING

運転室立ち入り禁止







改札口  
Gates  
闸替子 檢票口  
トイレ

4  
改札口  
闸替子 檢票口  
トイレ

鞍馬  
Kurama





































大華嚴寺









祝祇園祭

金サンビルは祇園祭を応援しています

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Here's a  
cold beer!

Special lunch

500ml  
2,200円  
3,200円  
4,200円











# Osaka





















YANZAKI  
KUKA

めっちゃ面白いを  
仕事に

ヤー・介護事業まで  
プロデュース

動産業の  
ニグローズ

にっぽん  
薬局

だるま

いちごなび  
高収入  
バイト

大阪王座





Bistro Quatre

花屋

CRYSTAL

Fine Dining Bar

お釜たよ  
たく丸

200m

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Mino Station W.













高野山  
奥行寺

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高野山  
奥行寺  
面行寺  
安堂堂



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非常停止ボタン  
Emergency Stop Button  
緊急停止ボタン  
非常停止ボタン

11 箱根湯本 方面

202

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雪山経由

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# Hakone









湯  
HOT



水  
COLD





























