

Yomu Travel — Japan Starter Kit

Read Japan. Then go. Free field kit — independent, affiliate-supported. Not an official tourism board. Verify ticket prices on official pages before you buy. Last checked August 2026.

Who this is for

First-timers with 7–12 days. You want a finishable spine, not 40 pins. Classic order: Tokyo then Kyoto then Osaka (or open-jaw in/out).

Classic 10-day spine

Days	Base	Job of the days
1–4	Tokyo	One neighborhood cluster per day. Sleep near a Yamanote / Metro interchange.
5	Travel	Shinkansen to Kyoto. Afternoon east-side or Gion edge — not 6 temples.
6–7	Kyoto	Fushimi Inari early. One temple cluster, not the whole map.
8–9	Osaka	Food city + optional Nara half-day. Skip if you need rest.
10	Buffer	Rain day, teamLab if you care, or fly.

JR Pass — 2026 math (do not memorize forever)

Official nationwide ordinary 7-day: 50,000 yen through 30 Sep 2026; 53,000 yen from 1 Oct 2026 (japanrailpass.net). Tokyo–Kyoto one-way reserved is typically far below half a 7-day pass. Classic 10 (one Shinkansen pair) usually should SKIP the nationwide pass. Buy point-to-point or look at regional passes only if your map is rail-heavy.

Sleep bases (not hotel names)

City	First-timer base	Why
Tokyo	Shinjuku / Ueno / Tokyo Sta. belt	Night access + day-one orientation
Kyoto	Kawaramachi / Kyoto Sta.	Bus/subway without a taxi every move
Osaka	Umeda or Namba	Food + airport/rail, pick one pole

Hidden texture (not Shibuya cosplay)

Yanaka / Nezu slower east side. Miyano-Yu (■■■■) is a former sento café — mosaic, quiet tables. Search Maps for ■■■■ Yanaka and verify hours the morning you go. Do not treat any blog (including this kit) as live hours.

Packing shortlist

Walking shoes you already trust. Compact umbrella. One smart-casual layer for nicer meals. eSIM or paper backup QR. IC card (Suica/Pasmo) on phone if your wallet supports it. Cash for small vendors; cards work in most hotels and many restaurants.

Etiquette that actually matters

Quiet trains. No eating while walking through temple precincts. Photo lines: do not block doors for ten minutes. Trash bins are rare — carry a bag. Onsens: wash first, tattoos policies vary by bath — check the house.

Money / disclosure

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