

# THE JAPAN ROUTE THAT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE

GLOBAL & BEYOND TRAVEL



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# Alternative Japan Route

I can't even begin to tell you how much you need to factor in a calmer part to your Japan trip.

So many people rush through Japan trying to see everything in one go.

But that's honestly where you'll hit overwhelm, burn out and feel like you missed 'the real Japan.'

So if it's your first time in Japan, this is the route I wish we followed from the start



# The Simple Flow

Here's the exact order to map your trip:

**Tokyo**



**Nikko (day trip or overnight)**



**Nagano**



**Kanazawa**



**Kyoto**

It's one clean direction across the country

No zig-zagging, no doubling back, no unnecessary travel days

# Why This Route Works

Most people don't realise this until they're in Japan...

but the order you travel in makes a huge difference

This route helps you:

- avoid backtracking between cities
- break up busy places with slower, quieter stops
- keep travel days short and manageable
- see a mix of modern, traditional, and nature
- ease into Kyoto instead of arriving already exhausted

It just flows better and you feel it

# How To Travel This Route

Japan's train system is incredibly easy once you know the basics

Here's how this route connects:

Tokyo → Nikko

Direct train (Tobu Railway)

Easy as a day trip or stay overnight

Tokyo → Nagano

Shinkansen (bullet train)

around 1.5 hours

Nagano → Kanazawa

Shinkansen

just over an hour

Kanazawa → Kyoto

Limited Express train

about 2 hours

Tip: reserve seats in advance during busy seasons

# Each Stop

## **Tokyo**

Big city energy, incredible food, and iconic views

## **Nikko**

Peaceful nature and some of Japan's most beautiful shrines

## **Nagano**

Mountains, onsens, and a slower pace

## **Kanazawa**

Traditional streets, geisha districts, and stunning gardens

## **Kyoto**

Temples, culture, and historic streets



# How Long

- Tokyo: 3 to 4 nights
- Nikko: day trip or 1-2 nights
- Nagano: 1 to 2 nights
- Kanazawa: 1 to 2 nights
- Kyoto: 2 to 4 nights

Adjust based on your time, but keep the order



# Quick Planning Tips

- Travel with a small suitcase (train stations = stairs)
- Stay near train stations in each city
- Book trains early in peak seasons
- Don't try to do everything, this route is about balance

## **Klook**

Use code KLOOKGABTK for 10% off Japan experiences, tours and Shinkansen tickets

## **Airalo eSIM**

Stay connected as soon as you land  
Use code TAMRA10 or TAMRA15 for 10–15% off your first eSIM

## **YouTrip travel card**

The one we use overseas for spending  
Use code YTTB10 to get \$10 on sign-up

# Need Help Planning This Trip?

If you want help planning this properly:  
I've put together a full Japan planning  
guide with

- 300+ Google Map pins across the country
- simple guides for navigating each major city
- and all our best tips to make the trip feel easy

Find our Stress Free Guide to Japan [here](#).

