



FOR CANADIANS PLANNING JAPAN

What changed for Japan trips in 2026

Five changes, each checked on an official Japanese government or airline page.

✓ Checked on Oct 19, 2026. Confirm before you go.

FROM NOV 1, 2026

Tax-free shopping becomes a refund

You now pay Japan's consumption tax at the till and get it back when you leave, after a customs check at the airport or seaport.

- **At the till:** tax-free shops charge the full price, tax included.
- **Minimum:** ¥5,000 or more (before tax) per shop, per day.
- **Food, drinks and cosmetics** no longer need sealed bags, but don't open or use them in Japan, or they won't qualify.
- **At the airport, before you check bags:** within 90 days of buying, scan your passport at a tax-free kiosk in the international departure lobby. Green means you're done. Red means you show your purchases at the customs counter.
- **Keep each receipt's items together.** If one item from a receipt is missing, nothing on that receipt is refunded.
- **Major airports** (Narita, Haneda, Kansai, Chubu, Fukuoka, New Chitose, Naha) also let you do it on Visit Japan Web, on the dedicated Wi-Fi in the departure lobby, before security.
- **Leave extra time.** If you run out of time before boarding, the check isn't done, and neither the airline nor customs compensates you.
- **Flying home via a domestic flight?** Do it at the airport where you leave Japan.
- **How the money comes back** (card, transfer, app or cash) is up to each shop, so ask when you buy.

Sources: Japan Tourism Agency (mlit.go.jp/kankochotax-free), JNTO (japan.travel), National Tax Agency.

JUL 1, 2026

Departure tax is now ¥3,000

Japan's International Tourist Tax rose from ¥1,000 to ¥3,000 per departure. Airlines usually collect it in your ticket price. Eligible tickets issued on or before Jun 30, 2026 keep the ¥1,000 rate. Under-2s don't pay.

Source: National Tax Agency

APR 24, 2026

Power banks on Japan's domestic flights

Carry-on only, never in checked bags. Up to 2 per person, each 160 Wh or less. Don't charge them on board or use them to charge other devices, and keep them near you, not in the overhead bin. Protect the terminals (tape or a pouch). JAL notes the limit may drop to 100 Wh from Jan 2027. Your airline may be stricter.

Source: MLIT · JAL · ANA

MAR 1, 2026

Kyoto's accommodation tax went up

Charged per person, per night, by room rate: under ¥6,000 → ¥200; ¥6,000–19,999 → ¥400; ¥20,000–49,999 → ¥1,000; ¥50,000–99,999 → ¥4,000; ¥100,000 or more → ¥10,000. The rate follows the night you stay, even if you booked earlier.

Source: City of Kyoto

MAR 1, 2026

Himeji Castle admission is ¥2,500

For visitors 18 and over who don't live in Himeji. Under-18s get in free. A Himeji Castle + Kōko-en Garden ticket is ¥2,600.

Source: City of Himeji

Not changed: Canadians still don't need a visa for tourist stays of up to 90 days (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Government of Canada travel advice). You can fill in your arrival forms online with **Visit Japan Web** (vjw.digital.go.jp).

Want a plan built around these?

A custom Japan itinerary, founding beta, not on sale yet. Our founders lived in Japan. Every plan is checked against current official sources. northwestwa.com/itinerary