



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO VISITING JAPAN IN SUMMER

June, July, August

THEWANDERINGSUITCASE.COM

SUMMER 夏 "Natsu"

June, July, August

After the excitement of Spring, you'd think that Summer in Japan was a pretty boring affair. Thankfully for those traveling this time of year, this is NOT the case! While summer gets humid + rainy, for my friends visiting this time of year, you're in for a fun time!

Summer, also known as "Natsu" 夏 in Japanese, is filled with many festivals and locals enjoying the warmer weather. During this time of year, you'll spot local Japanese dressing up in Yukata (summer robes) to attend festivals at nearby shrines and temples. School is also back during this time of year, so while summer can get busy, it's not nearly as busy as spring.

Public holidays + major events:

- 15th July Marine Day: long weekend of 13th - 15th is particularly busy
- 11th August Mountain Day: the weekend of 10th - 12th is particularly busy
- 13th - 16th August Obon Day: not a public holiday, but will be busy couple of days

Average temperatures across Japan:

	June		July		August	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Tokyo	26 C / 78 F	19 C / 66 F	29 C / 85 F	23 C / 73 F	31 C / 88 F	24 C / 75 F
Kyoto	28 C / 82 F	19 C / 66 F	32 C / 89 F	23 C / 73 F	33 C / 92 F	24 C / 75 F
Osaka	28 C / 82 F	20 C / 68 F	32 C / 89 F	24 C / 75 F	33 C / 92 F	25 C / 77 F
Hiroshima	27 C / 80 F	19 C / 66 F	30 C / 87 F	23 C / 74 F	32 C / 90 F	24 C / 75 F
Sapporo	21 C / 70 F	13 C / 55 F	25 C / 77 F	17 C / 63 F	26 C / 79 F	18 C / 65 F
Fukuoka	27 C / 80 F	19 C / 67 F	31 C / 88 F	24 C / 75 F	32 C / 89 F	24 C / 76 F

Note: the above temperatures listed are historical averages, and are meant to be an indicator. Remember: temperatures can vary every year! If you're worried, I recommend you check the weather a few days before you leave for an up-to-date forecast!

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Packing for this time of year

While the temperatures listed don't look *too* hot, what really adds to the heat is the humidity. Summer can be SWELTERING, especially if you're in Tokyo or Kyoto.

To add to the humid weather, early summer (June - July) also sees high amounts of rain. This rainy season is known as Tsuyu in Japanese (also pronounced Baiyu) which translates to "plum rain" as the rainy season coincides with plums ripening. Cool name, right?!

When it comes to packing for summer, make sure you pack light, breathable layers and don't forget a raincoat or umbrella (especially important if you're visiting from June to July!)

My summer packing list for Japan includes:

- Light raincoat
- Umbrella
- Sandals
- Comfortable walking shoes/sneakers
- Swimsuit (if visiting coastal areas)
- Sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Deodorant
- Insect repellent: especially if you are outside during dawn or dusk, or hiking outdoors
- Breathable T-shirts
- Shorts, skirts, or pants made from a breathable fabric
- Dresses
- Fans
- Light, long-sleeved top for evenings



If you're visiting more northern areas (like Hokkaido), make sure you bring warmer layers, as it can still get cold during the summer, especially in the evenings!

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Tips for traveling Japan during summer

- Stay hydrated! Summer in Japan can get incredibly humid, and for those who aren't visiting from humid countries, the weather may come as a shock.
- In most buildings in Japan, temperatures are set to 24 deg C or 75 deg F. This means that in the summer, even if you enter a public building it won't be very cool. In some countries, air conditioned environments can get cold, but this is not likely to happen in Japan!
- Look up local festivals before you visit: this is what makes Japan so special during summer, and you don't want to miss out!
- Rent a colorful yukata: yukata are Japanese robes made for the summer, typically made from cotton (they're a summer version of the kimono!) Wearing a yukata during summer is a fun way to embrace Japan's unique culture, and you won't be alone - many young Japanese rent or wear Yukatas during this time of year
- If this isn't your first time visiting Japan, this is a great time of year to visit destinations off the typical tourist trail. Hokkaido is great place to escape the heat, filled with beautiful flower fields, and cooler temperatures.



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Other things to know about summer in Japan

- Summer is also typhoon season: while this is not all that common in major cities like Tokyo or Osaka, if a typhoon is forecasted, you will hear about it on the local news, and your hotel will alert you. Just follow their advice and instructions, and stay indoors during this time. Since typhoons are so common in Japan, there are processes and advice in place for when this happens.
- You might spot Japanese women carrying umbrellas and wearing long sleeved tops during this time of year. Depending on where your home country is, this might seem a little strange, afterall, it's so hot! Like many other East Asian countries, fair skin is seen as more "beautiful". So many Japanese women cover up and wear sunscreen with high SPF to avoid their skin tanning during summer.



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Summer festivals ("Matsuri" in Japanese) and events

Mitama Matsuri: This is one of Tokyo's most popular festivals. Held at the Yasukuni Shrine, you'll see 20,000 lanterns light up the shrine (yes - that's a lot of lanterns!) There are also food stalls (who could resist a festival like this?!) Held from 12th - 15th July.

Gion Matsuri: This is Kyoto's most popular festival during the summer, and occurs near the Yasaka Shrine in Kyoto. Many of Kyoto's streets are closed to traffic to allow floats to make their way through. These floats are nearly 25 m high (and weigh 12 tonnes!) Occurs during the month of July (most popular events happening between 14th - 17th July).

Tenjin Matsuri: Held in Osaka, the Tenjin Matsuri is a boat festival. Here, you'll spot more than 3,000 performers dressed in traditional attire carrying portable shrines. In the evenings they also hold fireworks. The Tenjin Matsuri is held 24th - 25th July.

Climbing Mt Fuji: the official climbing season runs from July to mid-September. If you're visiting during these months - lucky you! While some do climb outside of this season, it isn't recommended as the weather can be unpredictable.

Flowers in Hokkaido: If you're after cooler temperatures, a visit to the northern prefecture of Hokkaido is a *must*. Here, fields and fields of flowers bloom from mid to late July.

PLUS many more! Remember: there are SO many events and festivals during Japan during the summer! Japan is bursting with events during this time of year.



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Do you have more questions about traveling Japan during summer?

Send me an email hello@thewanderingsuitcase.com

OR, you can also [send your questions or feedback through to our summer lovin' survey here!](#) (all feedback can be anonymous - just don't leave your email address!)