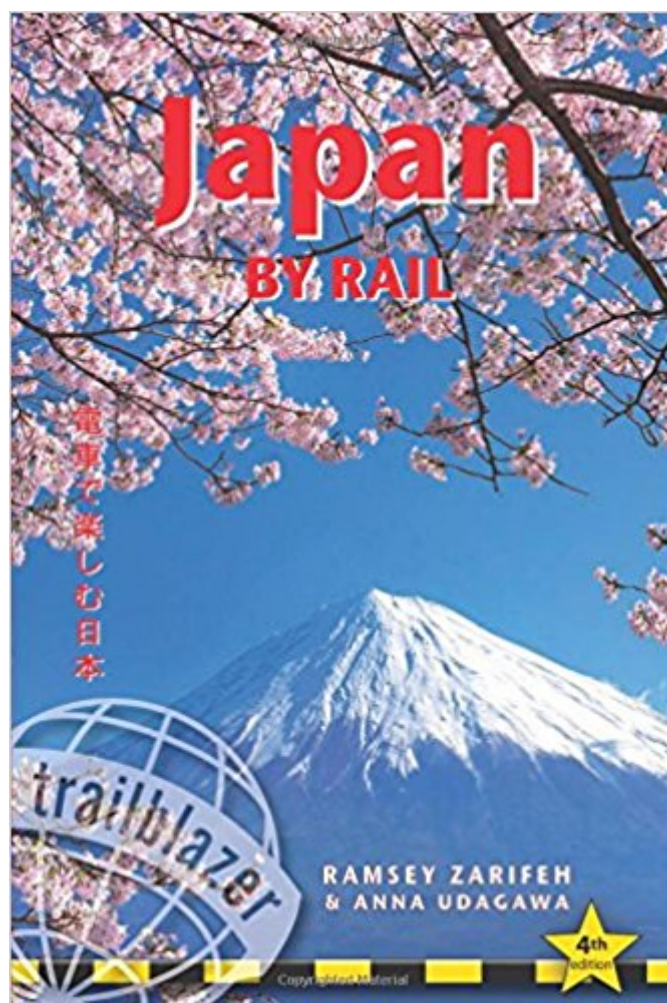


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# Japan By Rail: Includes Rail Route Guide And 30 City Guides



## Synopsis

Japan is steeped in legend and myth, perhaps the greatest of which is the popular misconception that the country is simply too expensive to visit. The truth is that flights to Japan are cheaper than they've ever been, accommodation can be great value, while the warm hospitality which awaits every visitor costs nothing at all. The real secret to travelling around the country on a budget, however, is the Japan Rail Pass. Use this comprehensive guide in conjunction with a rail pass to get the most out of a trip to Japan.

- Practical information
  - planning your trip; when to go;
  - suggested itineraries; what to take; festivals and events
- City guides and maps
  - where to stay, where to eat, what to see in 30 towns and cities; historical and cultural background
- Kilometre-by-kilometre route guides
  - covering train journeys from the coast into the mountains, from temple retreat to sprawling metropolis;
- 33 route maps
- Railway timetables and frequency charts
- Bullet trains and main routes
- Customs, etiquette, Japanese words and phrases
  - with kanji
- This new edition also now includes:
  - kanji/hiragana/katakana for all place names mentioned in the book so readers can point to the text when asking Japanese speakers for directions.
  - The extension of the shinkansen route from Nagano to Kanazawa. This is now called the Hokuriku shinkansen.
  - Additional side trips from Tokyo including to Kawaguchi-ko for magnificent views of Mt Fuji, and to Mito for Kairakuen, the only one of the three great landscape gardens in Japan not currently mentioned in the book.
  - Expanded coverage of Nikko, Nagasaki, the side trip to Asosan, Beppu, and many places in the Kansai region

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

âExcellent guide (The Sunday Times (UK))âA must for any travel or train buffs collection... covers everything from Japanese words and phrases to railway timetables. This new edition includes recent extensions to several train lines plus further coverage of popular tourist destinations and less-traveled areas nearby. (California Bookwatch (USA))âA findâ |Well researched. (The Japan Times (Japan))âTrailblazers new guide is practical, highly interesting and should enable the visitor to save money and add to the enjoyment of Japan. (National Railway Museum Journal (UK))âA great primer. (The Daily Telegraph (UK))âAn invaluable companion. (Railway Magazine (UK))

Graduating from Cambridge University, Ramsey Zarifeh, spent two years teaching in Japan. Now a journalist, he works for Reuters, Swiss Radio International and the BBC. Anna Udagawa lives in the UK and was an English teacher in Japan before getting married there. She revisits Japan regularly and now works as a travel guide-book editor.

Good information for a reasonable way to travel around Japan without driving or flying

The book is very thorough and full of detailed information about Japan.

Before my travels I buy or borrow about a dozen travel guides. For a 1-month first-ever trip to Japan with very light luggage, I took only three guides and Japan by Rail was one of them (the others DK Japan and Lonely Planet Kyoto). Although moving by plane to some distant Japanese destinations may be faster (not always), the Japanese Rail system is the best in the world and it should not be missed in any tour of the country. This book is geared to the Train traveler with everything that he or she may need. The hotels nearby the Stations are exactly rated and can be trusted. The food evaluations are also trustworthy. Thanks to this book I log thousand of miles trouble-free throughout Japan, remarkable for a first timer non-Japanese speaker.

Before our trip to Japan I was looking at this book, but was skeptical as I did a TON of research online as we would only be in country for 1 week and I wanted to do as much as we could in that time. I received this book about a month before our flight out and would study it at my kids after school activities. While they were doing their thing, I was reading and highlighting all the things we wanted to do and any information I thought was good to know (which was A LOT). I did bring it with us but didnt use while in country as I planned our itinerary before we left and thankfully our air B&B

host had a pocket wifi so getting around was easy with google maps. Some advice. If you're not using the shinkansen don't get the JR pass. We were there almost 4 days and were regretting getting the JR Pass as basically every line we took was not a JR line. We stayed by the Tozai line and had to pay out of pocket every time. Do your research as there are some JR lines in the metro area, but I figured we saved MAYBE 20 or 30 bucks. On the 5th day we went to northern Japan using the Shinkansen and thankfully we did since it was quite a bit if you didn't have the JR pass. Basically the JR pass was "paid" for using the Shinkansen (in our travels. YMMV) otherwise we would have wasted probably \$500 (2 adults and 1 child). Back to the book. A great read, even if you think you know a lot. As far as my experience there are more places that take foreign credit cards than I imagined. I was worried and we brought a lot of yen with us but my Capital One card with 0 foreign transaction fees was accepted at quite a bit of places. I was also able to take yen out at the 7-11 ATM with my bank credit card. \$88 for 10000 yen when I did it in early March 2017.

Comprehensive and informative.

well thought out.

This is the best guide book to bring to Japan. Don't be misled by the title into thinking that it is only about the rail system. It is a first rate guide book to the places and sights, plus a detailed guide to the train and bus systems. We traveled with both this book and the Lonely Planet guide, and after a while stopped looking at Lonely Planet and left it behind because we found that Japan by Rail did a better job of covering all the sightseeing and historical information, and would be the better guide even if it did not also include great, fine-grained information about using the trains and the buses (not just which train goes where and how long it takes, but things like which side of the station to exit from, where to buy tickets, etc.).

We're visiting Japan for the third time this fall and I wanted to see if I could do better than the Guide Series of various sorts. Of the several Japan guides I've bought this is by far the best. The authors have obviously really been to the places they describe and really know the way things work traveling in Japan. A first class guide.

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Trans-Siberian Handbook: Includes Rail Route Guide and 25 City Guides (Trailblazer Guides)  
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