



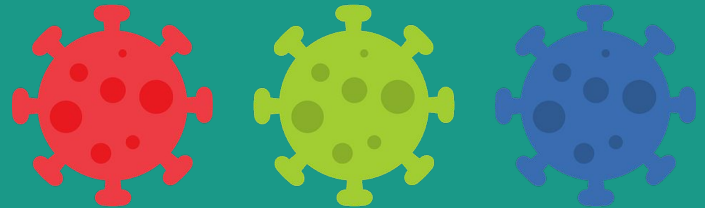
How to Prepare For Your Departure to Japan



Dayana Mendoza (Hyogo, 2017-2020)

COVID-19

The info in this Powerpoint is based on my JET experience prior to COVID-19. Please Keep in mind that the current experience may be different based on changing global conditions and restrictions related to the current pandemic.



Saying your Goodbyes



- Inform your friends and family that you are going to Japan.
- Spend time with your loved ones before your big departure (friends, family significant others)
- If applicable, give your job notice with ample time that you are leaving (Don't burn bridges)
- Take a stroll, enjoy your favorite spots, eat your favorite food, and take some pictures of your hometown.

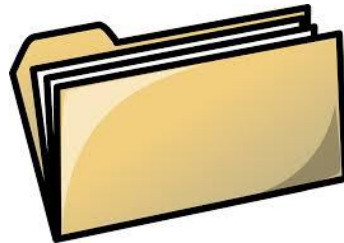
Let's Talk Money!

- Try to bring 200,000¥ to 300,000¥ to help with initial costs in Japan
- Exchange money at the Bank ahead of time (cheaper than exchanging in Japan)
- Let your bank know you will be traveling to Japan
- Make sure your bank card is renewed and won't expire in Japan
- Set up a Paypal, Apple Pay, Venmo, etc. & Online student loan payments
- Government:
 - Notify your County Office that you'll be out of the country
 - Jury summons
 - Voting
 - Legal matters



Prepare your Documents

- Bring your Contract (if you have it)
- International Driving Permit & Driving License
- Tax exemption Form
- Any Documents the Consulate or your CO ask you to bring
- Have a Digital Copy of other doc (College Diploma, Transcript, IDs, Credit cards, Passport, etc.)



Connect with Your Predecessor/Co-workers

- Find out about your living situation
 - Furniture/ Hand-me-downs
 - Local area, Transportation, etc.
- Ask about your working situation
 - Class Schedule, travel route, etc.
- Internet, cell phone options
- Join your area's Facebook groups
 - AJET Blocks and Chapters
 - JET-run Special Interest Groups



Shopping/Packing

- Any preferred hygiene products: toothpaste, deodorant, hair care products, etc.
- Over the counter medicine /Prescription medicine
- Casual / formal clothes (suit, blouse, gym clothes, jackets, sweaters, underwear, etc.)
 - *Tip: Ask a family member or friend to send any extra or winter clothes/boots to your Japan address after you arrive*
- Shoes (sneakers indoor/outdoor, formal dress shoes, boots, etc.)
- Laptop / tablet / unlocked phone
- Pictures / USB loaded with pictures
- Something small that reminds you of home
- Omiyage!



Omiyage (Souvenirs)

- Don't overthink it!
- *Talk with your predecessor first to double check you can still bring omiyage despite COVID*
- Get something small: e.g., postcard, keychain, snacks, stickers (for students)
- If food, best to have them individually wrapped (e.g., bags of fun-size sweets)
 - Be careful with Chocolates
- Get something for your supervisor, teachers, VPs, Principals, JET coworkers
- Dollar store, Costco, Sam's Club, etc.



Final Tips

- Set up Line/Zoom/Social media
 - Facebook is still the best way to connect with your area
- Study basic Japanese (genki and minna no Nihongo is a good start)
- Basic Japanese law (e.g., drinking and driving)
- Basic greeting
- Make and practice your Jikoshokai = self-Introduction
- Learn your JET Terms
- Triple check and weigh all of your bags
- Practice eating with chopsticks
- Read the JET general Information Handbook (GIH)
- Any official matters? Ask the consulate



“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”



~Lao Tzu



TIME FOR SOME Q&A



Feel free to ask me anything!