CHECKLIST

FREE CHECKLIST · JAPAN FROM AUSTRALIA

# Japan has changed

The new rules Australians meet in 2026, from packing to the tax refund at the airport on the way home.



| VISA | DEPARTURE TAX | POWER BANKS | TAX-FREE SHOPPING |
|---|---|---|---|
| **None** | **3,000 yen** | **2 at most** | **Full price first** |
| For tourist stays up to 90 days | Per departure, usually in the fare | Cabin bag only, no charging on board | Refund after a customs check, within 90 days |

## BEFORE YOU FLY

- [ ] **1 Read Smartraveller's Japan page**
  No visa for up to 90 days. Japan has strict medicine rules, including some ingredients in ADHD and cold and flu medication: **check any medicine is legal** in Japan before you pack it. Carry your passport at all times.
  **www.smartraveller.gov.au**/destinations/asia/japan

- [ ] **2 Know the departure tax**
  **3,000 yen per person, per departure** since 1 July 2026 (it was 1,000). Airlines usually add it to the ticket price. Under 2s are exempt.
  **www.nta.go.jp**/english/taxes/indirect/basic_knowledge.htm

- [ ] **3 Pack power banks the new way**
  Since 24 April 2026: **two at most**, each 160 Wh or less, in your cabin bag (never checked). No charging the power bank, or anything from it, on board. Flying a non-Japanese airline? Check its own rules too.
  **www.japan.travel**/en/ca/news/new-carry-on-power-bank-regulations-are-coming-into-effect-from-apr-24-2026-jst

- [ ] **4 Set up Visit Japan Web**
  Free, from Japan's Digital Agency. Register your arrival details (immigration and customs) before you leave home and show the QR code when you land; it now also does tax-free shopping.
  **services.digital.go.jp**/en/visit-japan-web

## WHILE YOU'RE THERE

- [ ] **5 Tax-free shopping: pay full price first** FROM 1 NOV 2026
  Show your passport at the tax-free shop, pay the tax-inclusive price and register how you want the refund. **5,000 yen or more** (excluding tax) per day at one store. Consumables used in Japan don't qualify.
  **www.mlit.go.jp**/kankocho/tax-free/page01_000001_00028.html

- [ ] **6 Big suitcase on the Shinkansen? Book the seat**
  Over **160 cm** (length + width + height) on the Tokaido, Sanyo or Kyushu Shinkansen: reserve a seat with an oversized baggage area (same price). Without one, a 1,000 yen fee. Over 250 cm can't go on board.
  **global.jr-central.co.jp**/en/info/oversized-baggage

- [ ] **7 Nozomi peak periods: every seat reserved**
  21–23 Nov 2026 · 25 Dec 2026 to 5 Jan 2027 · 9–11 Jan 2027 · 20–22 Mar 2027. Reserve your seat in advance on those dates.
  **global.jr-central.co.jp**/en/nozomi

- [ ] **8 Budget for hotel taxes (Kyoto)**
  New rates since 1 March 2026: 200 to 10,000 yen per person, per night, by room rate (400 yen for 6,000–19,999 yen a night).
  **kyoto.travel**/en/news/tax-change

- [ ] **9 Budget for hotel taxes (Hokkaido)**
  Since 1 April 2026: 100 to 500 yen per person, per night, by room rate, paid to your accommodation. Some towns add their own tax on top.
  **hokkaido-shukuhakuzei.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp**/index_en.html

**Fees and rules change; always check the official site before you travel.**
Every link and fee here was checked on the official sites on 17 November 2026.

## WHILE YOU'RE THERE (CONTINUED)

- [ ] **10 Himeji Castle costs more**
  Adults (18 or older) **2,500 yen** since 1 March 2026; under 18s free.
  **www.himejicastle.jp**/en

## GOING HOME the tax refund

- [ ] **11 Tax-free kiosk BEFORE you check your bags** WITHIN 90 DAYS
  At departure, show your passport at a tax-free terminal within 90 days of buying. Have every tax-free item with you: one missing item means **no refund for anything on that receipt**. Green result: done. Red: customs checks the goods.
  KIOSK FLOOR MAPS
  **www.customs.go.jp**/kaigairyoko/taxrefund/map.htm

- [ ] **12 Or do the check on your phone**
  At 7 airports (New Chitose, Narita, Haneda, Chubu, Kansai, Fukuoka, Naha): Visit Japan Web, on the airport's dedicated Wi-Fi, before security. "Not Completed" means go to the customs counter.
  **www.nta.go.jp**/publication/pamph/shohi/menzei/201805/format/002/onlinetetsuzuki/guideeng.htm

- [ ] **13 Leave time for an inspection**
  Neither the airline nor customs will compensate a missed flight. The refund itself is paid by the shop or its refund provider, as they explain when you buy.
  **www.mlit.go.jp**/kankocho/tax-free/page01_000001_00056.html

## TAX-FREE RECEIPTS claim each within 90 days

| Shop and date bought | Refund check due by |
|---|---|
| | |
| Shop and date bought | Refund check due by |
| | |

## NOTES