Welcome to Japan

Japan Travel Guide
You might be surprised to find out that English isn’t commonly spoken in Japan, especially outside of Tokyo. However, by using ili you’ll be able to explore much easier by translating your words.

**Sapporo**

Located in the northern part of Japan, Sapporo is known for its Snow Festival that is held every winter. The city is also the birthplace of miso ramen.

**Nagoya**

For being one of the bigger cities in Japan, Nagoya is surprisingly quiet. However, you can visit the Nagoya castle and surrounding museums.

**Central Tokyo**

The country’s capital, Tokyo is the most well-known city in Japan. There’s a mix of everything from the traditional to the totally outrageous. You’ll never get bored here.

**Okinawa**

If you enjoy clear sand and blue waters, Okinawa is the place for you. Sit back, relax, and go for a snorkeling.
Hiroshima is probably best known for the nuclear attacks during WWII. Today, many visitors travel to this city to see its museums and Hiroshima castle.

Fukuoka

Many tourists visit Fukuoka’s famous Marine Park, Uminonakamichi, which contains a zoo, gardens and much more. You can also visit the beaches along the coast too.

Kansai (Osaka, Kyoto)

One of the more popular tourist destinations, both Osaka and Kyoto present two sides of Japan. If you enjoy the modern sites of Japan, go for Osaka. If you want to go the more traditional route, check out Kyoto.
Using ili to Help You Shop

From matcha kit-kats to traditional souvenirs, Japan has a ton of great things for you to buy and bring back home. Now, you can use ili to make shopping easier.

Is this duty free?  How much does it cost?

Do you have something under 1000 yen?

Do you have different colors?  Can I try this?

ili tip 3 things to know when shopping in Japan

1. Duty-free
   Large department stores usually offer duty-free goods. So be sure to bring your passport.

2. Wrapping
   More often than not, you can get your items beautifully wrapped. So don’t forget to ask.

3. Extra bags
   Japanese stores often provide extra bags free of charge.
Dine Out with ili

Japan has some of the BEST food in the world (we’re not just saying that). ili can help make your dining experience even more enjoyable and easier too.

Is this spicy?  Can I have a fork and knife?
Can you remove the wasabi?  I don’t like garlic.
I’m allergic to shrimp.  What do you recommend?

3 things to know when eating in Japan

1. Appetizer
   Appetizers are usually given without asking in many restaurants. If you prefer not to have one, you should let the staff know.

2. Tipping
   There’s no tipping in Japan. Yes, that means you can use your extra money for another meal or two.

3. Vegetarian
   Be aware, if you’re a vegetarian, it may be difficult to find meals that suit your appetite. Please ask before being served.
Taking a Taxi in Japan

You’ll find trains are the easiest way to commute around Japan. However, sometimes a taxi may be the only option. Here are a few sentences ili can help translate for you to make things easier.

- It’s too cold.
- May I open the window?
- Can you stop here?
- Take me to this address.
- Can I use Amex?
- How long does it take to get there?

ili tip

2 things to know when riding a taxi

1. Signs
   - 空車: Available
   - 支払: Payment
   - 割増: plus alpha

2. Fare
   - Be aware, taxis aren't cheap in Japan. Most fares start off at ¥410.
Riding Trains in Japan

Japanese trains are extremely convenient and can take you to almost anywhere you want to go. However, if you’re new to the transit system, the maps and route may be a bit confusing. You can use ili to help get around these problems.

Which platform should I go to?  Which line should I take?

How long does it take to get to Shibuya?

What’s the fare?  I don’t know how to buy the ticket.

 ili tip  2 things to help make riding transit easier

1  JR pass
If you plan on visiting more than two prefectures in Japan, the rail pass will save you tons of money.

2  Smart card
A Suica or Pasmo card can easily be charged before riding the train so you don’t have to buy individual tickets.
More useful situations where ili can help

1 Conversation starter
Need something to help break the ice? Give ili a try and let it do the talking for you.

2 Ask for recommendations
A simple recommendation can go a long way. Use ili to ask the locals where to go, what to eat, and what to do. You might end up discovering something new and exciting.

3 Ask directions
Japan isn’t the easiest country to navigate, especially in big cities like Tokyo. Ask someone if your destination is nearby using ili.

4 Express gratitude
If you find yourself pleasantly surprised with the service in Japan, why not say so? Use ili to compliment those who helped you and you’ll be remembered forever.

5 Shop till you drop
Most shops in Japan have little to no English signs. You can use ili to ask where certain items are located and their price. Heck, maybe try asking for a discount while you’re at it too.
Using ili in trouble situations

Japan is regarded as one of the safest countries in the world. However, here are a few tips in case things don’t go as planned.

1. Getting lost
   If you find yourself lost in Japan, don’t panic. You can always ask for help using ili. Also, it’s always good to bring a map incase your phone dies.

2. Lost items
   More often than not, items you lose in Japan are often found and returned to local Kobans (police boxes). Ask a friend to call if you find that you’ve lost something recently.

3. Cash
   Always bring cash. There are still an abundance of shops in Japan that don’t accept credit card.

ili tip: Asking for assistance

I’m lost. Do you know how I can get to this place?

Can you show me where I am on the map?

I forgot my phone on the train. Can you find it?

My phone is a Samsung Galaxy. This is my phone number.

I don’t have cash. Where is the closest police station?
Try something new

You can use ili for a variety of situations. Our recommendation is to have fun and try saying something new.

**Getting a haircut**

Japanese hair salons are quite the experience (and a little more pricey). They often include a cut, massage, and shampoo.

- Can you show me some pictures?
- Can you cut my hair like this picture?

**Sake tasting**

One of Japan’s best known exports, sake is a rice wine that is enjoyed throughout the country. It taste so good and you may forget its a strong drink.

- Can I try different kinds of sake?
- I like dry sake.

**A night out**

Nightlife in Japan (especially in Tokyo) is renowned for its vast bars, clubs, and restaurants. Hope you’ll meet someone new and explore somewhere cool. (Or say something making a memory)

- Are you free tonight?
- Why don’t we drink together?
Make new friends

Meeting new people is what makes traveling so special. So why not try and use ili to strike up a conversation? Here are a few phrases you can try to catch someone’s attention.

**ili tip** Say something more than just hello

- Your clothes look amazing!
- Do you want to go drink a coffee with me?

**ili tip** Say something nice to the waiter/waitress

- You are beautiful/handsome.
- I will tell my friends about this place!

**ili tip** Complement the hotel you stayed at

- I really enjoyed my stay.
- I want to come here again.
5 Japanese Dishes We Highly Recommend You Try

1. **Ramen** / ラーメン
   Ramen consists of Chinese style noodles served in a meat or fish-based broth, often flavored with soy sauce or miso, and comes with a wide range of toppings. Ramen is also great for hangovers ;)

2. **Udon** / うどん
   Udon is made of thick wheat flour noodles which are served in mildly flavoured broth called kakejiru, which is made of dashi, soy sauce, and mirin.

3. **Yakitori** / 焼き鳥
   A type of Japanese skewered chicken, Yakitori is a widely popular dish amongst both locals and visitors of Japan. Its seasonings are primarily divided among two types: salty or salty-sweet.

4. **Yakiniku** / 焼肉
   Yakiniku, also known as grilled meat, consists of cooking bite-size meat (usually beef and offal) and vegetables on gridirons or griddles over a flame of wood charcoals.

5. **Takoyaki** / たこ焼き
   A tasty octopus dish that consists of wheat flour-based batter and cooked in a special molded pan, Takoyaki can often be found on the streets of Osaka.

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**ili tip**

**Asking the locals for recommendations**

I want to eat yakiniku.  
Do you know a popular restaurant nearby?
1. **Karaoke / カラオケ**
Nothing screams more excitement than when a bunch of friends gather in a private room and do their best (or worst) rendition of their favorite song. Karaoke is a staple here in Japan and can be found almost everywhere and anytime.

2. **Cat cafe / 猫カフェ**
Who knew eating and drinking with cats would be a thing. There are over 150 cat cafes in Japan and each year they're becoming more and more popular with visitors.

3. **Hot spring / 温泉**
Japanese hot springs, also known as onsen, are usually outdoors and can be found throughout the country through a quick web search. Enjoy a dose of natural warm water and nature mixed into one.

4. **Game Center / ゲームセンター**
Game centers, known as arcades in the west, draw large crowds of hardcore gamers throughout Japan. Tokyo's Akihabara is the epitome of gaming in Japan and here you can find more video games than you could ever dream of.

5. **Maid cafe / メイドカフェ**
If you're open to trying something completely out of the ordinary, check out a maid cafe. They're weird, quirky, and a ton of fun. Sing along to J-pop anthems while being served up sugary desserts from a maid or two.

**ili tip**

**Ask a friend to join**

Let's go to a karaoke together!

Do you have any songs in English?
The top 5 hidden gems of Japan

If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, we recommend the following cities. These areas are not too well known amongst travelers (and maybe even some Japanese) but you should definitely check them out if you have time.

1. Naoshima / 直島
An island that consists of roughly 3000 people, Naoshima is famous for its contemporary art museums as well as outdoor contemporary art installations throughout the island.

2. Miyagi / 宮城
Known for being struck by the 2011 Tsunami that devastated the Tohoku region, Miyagi is one of the most mountainous regions of Japan. Here you can see some of the greatest sights Japan has to offer.

3. Kanazawa / 金沢
Kanazawa is the capital city of Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. Kenrokuen Garden is probably the best known tourist attraction found in Kanazawa and is considered one of three great gardens of Japan.

4. Beppu / 別府
Beppu is a city in Ōita Prefecture on the island of Kyushu, Japan. It is best known for its hot springs.

5. Nara / 奈良
Located in Kansai, Nara is filled with shrines and temples. A short stroll through Nara Park and you’ll be greeted by deer who may be looking for some treats to eat.
5 Things You Shouldn’t Do

As with any other country you visit, Japan has a few rules to abide by.

1. **Tips**
   As we mentioned earlier, tipping isn’t customary in Japan and best avoided.

2. **Overstaying at restaurants**
   In Japan, especially the busier cities, overstaying at a restaurant after you’ve finished eating should be avoided. Especially the smaller restaurants such as ramen shops.

3. **Train etiquette**
   You’ll notice that when you ride the trains, even when they are packed, it’s quiet. Best to keep it that way :)

4. **Entering rooms**
   Please take off your shoes when entering someone’s home or designated restaurants where customers sit on the floor.

5. **Hot springs and onsens**
   Sorry, there are no swimsuits allowed in sentos, onsens, and hot springs.
How to use ili

3 quick steps

Step 1: Hold the Button.
Step 2: While holding the button, begin to talk.
Step 3: After talking, release the button.

One phrase translation

“Where can I find a good restaurant?”

“Um... Where can I find, like you know, a good restaurant?”

Translation tips

Tips 1: Speak slowly, clearly, and correctly
Tips 2: Keep the sentence short and simple
Tips 3: Avoid fillers and slangs
Translation not working well?

Check if ili captured your word correctly by pushing the side button.

Ex. “Where is the bath room?”

“Where is th...”
Make sure you don’t release the main button until you finish your sentence.

“...is the bathroom?”
Press and hold the button and start speaking after the beep sound.

“Where is the path room?”
Please retry by speaking slower and clearer.

When the recipient doesn’t understand the translation
Please try rephrasing your sentence.

Can’t hear the translation?

Use the repeat function!

If you have any other questions, please contact the user support below.

support@iamili.com

ili isn’t meant for

Business language, medical terms, proper nouns, and technical terms.

Software optimized for traveling
We took the most common travel sentences and added them specifically for travellers such as yourself.
Try some phrases that travelers use when shopping!

How much is this?

Do you have different colors?

Do you know where I can find this?

Do you have any sale today?

I’m looking for a souvenir for my sister.

Do you think this would look good on me?

Can I have this in blue?

Can I use VISA/Master Card/Amex?

I don’t have cash.

Can I have a receipt?

Do you have extra bags?

Can you do wrapping?

Which is the most popular?

Can I mail this to the United States?
Try some phrases that travelers use when dining!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent phrases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What’s your recommendation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to have something that is popular among locals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My order hasn’t come yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve never tried this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I cook this dish at home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the name of this dish?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can’t use chopsticks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a vegetarian menu?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can’t eat meat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have local beer?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which sake do you recommend?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you think it’s enough for 4 people?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I have a glass of water?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Try some phrases that travelers use when riding the train & metro!

I don't know how to buy the ticket.

What is the fare to reach to this station?

Which exit do I take to get here?

How long does it take to get to that station?

I'm looking for the nearest exit.

Which way is the escalator?

Where can I buy a subway ticket?

My son lost his ticket.

Which platform should I go?

Which line should I take?

What is the fastest way to get to Shibuya?

How can I get to Shinjuku?

Is there any bathroom in the station?

When is the next express train?
Try some phrases that travelers use when taking a taxi!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequently used phrases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Taking a taxi**

Try some phrases that travelers use when taking a taxi!

**How long does it take to get there?**

**Can you turn on the air-conditioner?**

**Can you close the window?**

**I’m in a hurry.**

**How much does it cost to get to Shibuya?**

**Can you put my baggage in the trunk?**

**Can I use my credit card?**

**Is it going to take more than 15 minutes to get there?**

**Can you take me to the airport?**

**Check please.**

**Can you go to Shibuya station?**

**Can you hurry up?**

**Can you make a right turn?**

**Can I get there by noon?**
Try some phrases that travelers use when asking directions!

Can you show me where I am on the map?

I’m lost, where am I?

Can you show me how to get to the station?

Where is the nearest metro station?

How can I get to this address?

Is there an ATM nearby?

Do you know where Shinjuku Station is?

How do I get to Roppongi hills?

I’m looking for a convenience store.

Where is the nearest bank?

I’m looking for a bathroom.

Do you know any good restaurant near here?

Can I walk to Tokyo tower from here?

Should I take taxi to get to Shinagawa station?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I lost my passport.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I use your phone?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you call an ambulance?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need to file a police report.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is the nearest police station?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I missed my flight.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have any stomach medicine?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please call a doctor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where’s the nearest drugstore (hospital)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a doctor who speaks English?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a cold.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I feel nauseous.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I have an allergy to eggs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May I continue my trip?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Have a nice trip with ili!

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support@iamili.com