

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

Japan is a distant country, seemingly full of mystery to Westerners, with a wealth of old temples, shrines and cultural treasures. On top of that it has historic towns and a scenic diversity from bizarre volcanic mountains to wide plains full of cherry trees and archipelagos with tranquil bays.

1 ** Akan National Park

Sub-arctic virgin forests extend around three lakes, which have particularly vibrant colours in the autumn. ► **page 189**

2 ** Daisetsuzan National Park

Japan's biggest national park boasts 2000m/6500 ft mountains, which have earned it the name »Roof of Hokkaido«
► **page 229**

3 ** Towada-Hachimantai National Park

A crystal-clear, huge crater lake, surrounded by thick forests, hot springs and lava domes. ► **page 307**

Skyscrapers

With the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building the Japanese star architect Tange Kenzo has given the city a modern landmark.

Festivity

During the annual festival of the city's founding, Kyoto's inhabitants dress up in historic costumes from every period.

4 ** Hiraizumi

The one-time »Kyoto of the north« is now a quiet village with a famous temple.
► **page 264**

5 ** Matsushima

The magical bay with hundreds of rocky islands covered in pine trees is one of Japan's three most famous landscapes.
► **page 379**

6 ** Chubu-Sangaku National Park - Japanese Alps

In the summer these mountains are popular amongst hikers, in the winter large amounts of snow ensure fun on the ski slopes. ► **page 221**

7 ** Nikko

Nikko attracts visitors with magnificent mausoleums in a sea of cedars, the national park west of the town with scenic beauty. ► **page 437**

8 ** Takayama

This attractive small town in the Japanese Alps is an arts and crafts centre with a long tradition. ► **page 500**

9 ** Fuji-san

The country's highest mountain is a sacred place and Japan's hallmark, commanding awe in those who see it. ► **page 233**

10 ** Tokyo

Japan's capital is one of the world's largest cities; it is a trend-setter and the country's undisputed centre. ► **page 505**

11 ** Kamakura

Thanks to its many temples and shrines containing valuable art treasures, this town attracts great numbers of visitors. ► **page 295**

12 ** Matsue

Peaceful old castle town on the Sea of Japan. ► **page 374**

13 ** Kyoto

The former capital is Japan's cultural centre; despite having more than a million inhabitants Kyoto has managed to hold on to a lot of its old atmosphere. Countless temples, museums and cultural treasures make Kyoto the country's most significant travel destination. ► **page 337**

14 ** Himeji

The classical Japanese castle: in Himeji it has survived in its original state. ► **page 260**

15 ** Nara

The cradle of Japanese culture gave an entire period its name and now attracts many tourists with its extraordinary wealth of cultural attractions. ► **page 414**

16 ** Hiroshima

Impressive memorials as well as a modern city. ► **page 267**

17 ** Kurashiki

This picturesque town with its many canals and lovely museums has largely managed to hold on to the character of days gone by. ► **page 333**

18 ** Inland Sea · Setonaikai

Between the main islands of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu is the Inland Sea, an

attractive island landscape with small fishing villages and dreamy bays. ► **page 275**

19 ** Kotohira, Kōpira-san

Hundreds of steps have to be climbed to get to this shrine. It is the most important destination of pilgrimage to all seafarers and travellers. ► **page 499**

20 ** Yoshino-Kumano National Park

The national park's landscape incorporates mountains, gorges, waterfalls and plenty of cherry trees. ► **page 568**

21 ** Koya-san

This Buddhist monastery complex with inviting temple accommodation is situated between mountain peaks. ► **page 327**

22 ** Aso-Kuju National Park

This national park contains bizarre mountain ranges, wide, fertile plains and one of the world's largest craters. ► **page 199**

23 ** Beppu

Japan's most famous spa owes its reputation to its countless hot springs and simmering »hell ponds«. ► **page 208**

24 ** Nagasaki

This lively port with its Chinese and European heritage is considered to have one of the most beautiful locations in the country. ► **page 399**

25 ** Okinawa

Mild climate and subtropical vegetation make this island group an exotic destination for foreigners and Japanese travellers alike. ► **page 453**

Hot springs

The famous spa of Beppu is just the right place for a Japanese bath done in style

BAEDEKER'S BEST TIPS

This is a compilation of the most interesting Baedeker tips mentioned in this book! Experience and enjoy Japan from its best side.

How to get there

These tips will help you find even the most complicated Japanese addresses. ► **page 111**

Take an icebreaker through the pack ice

Every day in winter the *Aurora* sets off on a trip through the drift ice off the coast of Abashiri. ► **page 187**

Underwater world

Discover the beauty of Ashizuri Marine Park from a boat with a glass floor. ► **page 199**

Outdoor bathing

The spa of Kurokawa Onsen is known for its open-air baths. Why not give them a try, or, even better, spend the night here, too! ► **page 202**

Japanese paper

In the small town of Ogawa with its workshops for hand-made paper, tourists are allowed to try their own hands at the art of paper making.

► **page 219**

Mount Fuji at sunrise

Anyone willing to climb Mount Fuji at night time will be rewarded with a magnificent sunrise. ► **page 237**

Experiencing Zen

To dive deeper into Zen Buddhism, spend the night in the Eihei-ji temple and experience the daily lives of the monks. ► **page 242**

Thirst quencher

After visiting Hakodate's sights, why not stop for a refreshing, home-made beer at Hakodate Beer?

► **page 253**

Tea in the garden

In a garden west of Himeji Castle visitors have the chance to experience the tea ceremony. ► **page 261**

A taxi ride on the water

Hiroshima is a city on the water, so why not explore the city from the water, too? Gangitaxi makes it possible!

► **page 270**

Potatoes done differently

Kagoshima is known for its liquor made of sweet potatoes. More than 100 varieties and many other products made from potatoes can be found in the shopping quarter. ► **page 293**

No on Sundays

Kanazawa is a centre of No stagecraft and it has its own theatre specially for No performances. ► **page 309**

Market day

East of Kochi Castle a market rich in tradition is held every Sunday.

► **page 326**

Take a boat through the rapids

A boat trip through the Kuma rapids, among the most famous in Japan, is highly recommendable. ► **page 333**

Ivy Square

An old textiles factory in Kurashiki was transformed and now houses studios, cultural facilities and even a hotel.

► **page 334**

A rewarding walk

A stroll along the Philosophers' Walk in Kyoto is particularly lovely during the cherry blossom in the spring and when the leaves change colour in the autumn.

► **page 354**

Cycling on Shikoku

Shikoku is wonderfully suited to cycling. It is a great way to explore some of the 88 temples of pilgrimage around Matsuyama. ► **page 386**

Kettles and kokeshi

Morioka's best-known products are iron-ware and wooden dolls known as kokeshi. ► **page 395**

»Moving Forward«

Those who book on time can visit the Toyota factory in the town of Toyota near Nagoya. ► **page 408**

Colourful spring festival

Every year in May a lively spring festival is celebrated at Toshogu shrine.

► **page 444**

Underwater paradise

Okinawa is an attractive destination for divers and snorkellers. The island of Ishigaki is considered one of Japan's best places to go diving. ► **page 454**

Lively all-female opera

Anyone spending some time in Takarazuka near Osaka should not miss the famous Revue Theatre. ► **page 470**

Drum roll

Sado is home to the internationally famous taiko drum group Kodo, which puts on a world music festival every year in August. ► **page 475**

Dining on the water

A pleasure with hundreds of years of tradition is a meal in a yakata-bune, a narrow, covered boat, while it drifts in leisurely fashion across Tokyo Bay.

► **page 517**

Multimedia in the evening

Even after darkness falls it is well worth visiting the huge electronics quarter of Tokyo with its flickering neon advertisements and newest range of goods from the world of entertainment. ► **page 536**

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Price categories

► Hotels

Luxury: more than ¥ 20,000

Mid-range: up to ¥ 20,000

Budget: up to ¥ 8000

For an overnight stay
in a double room

► Restaurants

Expensive: more than ¥ 3000

Moderate: up to ¥ 3000

Inexpensive: up to ¥ 1500

for an entrée without drinks

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Most Famous Landscapes*
- Garden design**
*The lovely Golden Pavilion in Kyoto is
surrounded by an extensive, beautifully
designed pond garden*
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