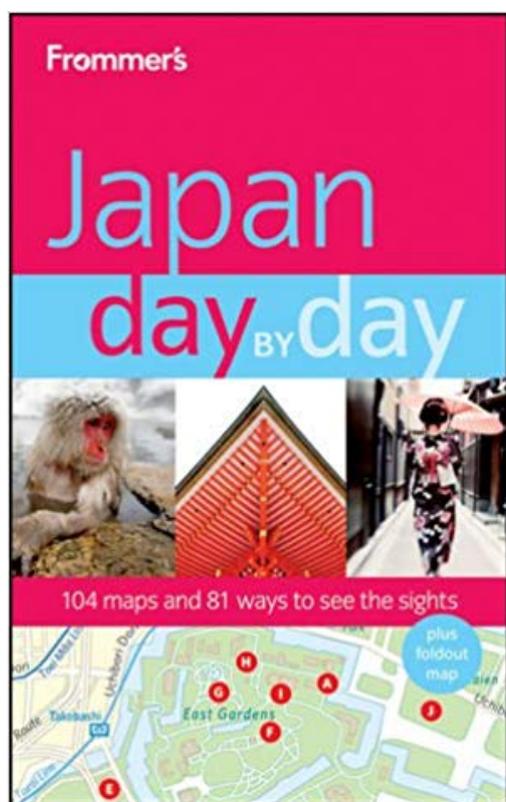


Frommer's? Japan Day by Day (Frommer's Day by Day - Full Size) by Melinda Joe, Matt Alt



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Map your own adventure.

Japan Day by Day is the perfect answer for travelers who want to know the best places to visit and the best way to see the Land of the Rising Sun.

Packed with 107 detailed full-color maps and more than 700 full-color photos 83 regional and city itineraries that will help you maximize your time while touring the country's top sights. Tour the Tokyo's top museums, the subculture of Osaka, Hiroshima's Peace Park, brave the arctic winds of Hokkaido, or just relax on the Okinawan Islands. Our authors, longtime Japan experts, hit all the highlights, from the top temples and castles to more offbeat destinations like Tokyo's fish market, Jigokudani's snow-monkey hot springs, or Naruto's whirlpools. They've checked out all of the country's best hotels and restaurants in person, and offer authoritative, candid reviews that will help you find the choices that suit your tastes and budget. You'll also get coverage of shopping and nightlife in the major cities; a full chapter on Japan's rich history and culture, information on special-interest tours, and advice on planning a successful Japanese vacation. The cultural "Spotlight" sections take a closer look at the most compelling aspects of Japanese culture and include how to drink sake, the history of the samurai, and a crib sheet on contemporary Japanese writers. *Frommer's Japan Day by Day* also includes a color fold-out map.



Reviews of the **Frommer's? Japan Day by Day (Frommer's Day by Day - Full Size)** by Melinda Joe, Matt Alt

Landarn

There are 1000 reasons why you should not buy this book but to save you time I've boiled it down to 4.

1) It's HEAVY. I like guidebooks that can be taken around with you during the day so if plans change you have a reference but because this one is entirely printed on magazine paper its incredibly heavy! Many days we were traveling I considered leaving it behind because its usefulness to weight ratio was not working for me. Which brings me to my next point...

2) The information in it was not really that helpful. The sections seem very random and lots of things that are mentioned (outside of the day by day guides of things to do) are no where on the maps. So it makes it hard to figure out where to insert other things that interest you.

3) The maps are TERRIBLE. Because it's broken into these day to day itineraries there are no cohesive maps of a place. We decided to do some things in Kyoto from day 1 and day 2 in one day but figuring out the maps was almost impossible (and I'm really good with maps).

4) Inconsistently includes addresses or signs in Japanese so if you're lost or looking for something there is no way to show someone and point or play a fun character matching game.

So if getting accurate information with good maps and portability are important to you in a guide avoid avoid avoid. Ironically I also have the Korea guide (not day by day) and found it amazing and light and useful...

Mmsa

When you read this book back in the US it makes things sound so easy. As you actually travel you will find that for a given destination the book lacks enough detail to help you find it which is a huge waste of time. I traveled with a friend who knew some Japanese and could read the characters. Even with that many locations in this book didn't have a street address or the map was too high level to locate something.

Syleazahad

My go to travel books! The Day to Day series has Great information & Great pictures! I always add a trip to the Frommer's website and I'm all set. I usually make my list of must do's from the books, and then leave the books at home for my next trip.

Love Me

My brother says he will read it...other than that it came on time. From what little bit I saw it had up to date information and nice visuals!

Made-with-Love

Great book if first timer for reference to Japan. We actually don't go to Japan till next year, but this book has helped me plan.

Xwnaydan

FROMMER'S JAPAN DAY BY DAY is an elegant 590-page guidebook printed on glossy paper. The authors are Matt Alt, Hiroko Yoda, and Melinda Joe. Every single page contains either a color photo or a color map.

JAPAN DAY BY DAY contains 15 chapters, including:

Ch.3. TOKYO;

Ch. 4. CENTRAL HONSHU;

Ch. 5. KANSAI;

Ch. 6. KYOTO;

Ch. 7. WESTERN HONSHU;

Ch. 8. SHIKOKU;

Ch. 9. KYUSHU;

Ch. 10. TOHOKU;

Ch. 11. HOKKAIDO;

Ch. 12. OKINOWAN ISLANDS;

Ch. 13. Japanese history and culture (pages 506-540).

The other chapters contain material of an introductory nature or material on specialized topics, such as a narrated list of holidays and festivals (pages 550-554). The rear cover contains a clear plastic pocket that contains a glossy map of Japan (a very elegant feature of this guidebook). The most recurring topic in this guidebook is traditional architecture, that is, old temples and shrines. For reasons unknown, there is not much coverage of the natural landscape. Unexpectedly, there are only two photos of Mt.Fuji. Where there are photos of the landscape, these tend to show formal gardens (not actual images from nature).

PHOTOGRAPHS. Regarding the photos, we find photos of robots in the KITAHARA TIN TOY MUSEUM (pages 12, 112); Kumamoto Castle (p. 17); a thick bamboo forest (p. 18-19); Mount. Sakurajima erupting (p. 31); photos of ninjas (pages 35, 165) with accompanying comments on a ninja academy, ninja museum, and Koga Ninja Village; a photo of a Godzilla statue in Tokyo (p. 41); an ancient sailing ship on Lake Ashi (p. 118); and statues of Buddha (pages 8, 15, 124, 196, 223, 252, and 510). There are plenty of photographs of sushi (pages 91, 93, 191, 235, 260, 304, 394, 421, 495, 499, 534) and, in addition, there are also several photographs of noodles and of sake bottles (filled with sake). We also find a nice selection of photos of animals in aquariums, including crabs, whale-sharks, jellyfish, seahorse, stingrays, and a tiny sea animal called, "clione" (pages 132, 213, 348-349, 359, 392, 451, and 480). Also found, are photos of Mt. Fuji (pages 134, 136), a rice farm (p. 170), and waterfalls (Shiraito Falls, p. 176; Anmon Falls p. 411; Shiretoko Falls p. 472). As mentioned above, the most recurring topic is traditional architecture, and we find plenty of photos of temples and shrines, including Meiji Jingu Shrine (p. 14); Hachimangu Shrine (p. 122); Matsumoto Castle (p. 144, 180); Kofuku-ji Temple (p. 200); Kodai-ji Temple (p. 262), and many others.

WRITING. Plunging into the text, we find narratives on a wealth of inviting attractions, including the Horikawa boat tour for seeing Matsue Castle (p. 284); the tour of Himeji castle (built in 1618) which can be taken on foot or by bus (p. 289); Edo-Tokyo Museum, which is devoted to the history and architecture of Tokyo (p. 68). We learn that 100 kinds of sake are available at Kuri, a restaurant located in the Ginza district of Tokyo (p. 106). We read that Toshogu Shrine in Nikko, built in 1636, is the most elaborate temple in Japan (p. 127). We learn about Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park, located in Honshu, where nothing separates people (visitors) and the monkeys (p. 149). We learn

that Bubatei in Osaka is a good place to eat octopus dumplings (p. 216).

CONCLUSION. Because of the great abundance of color photos in JAPAN DAY BY DAY, this particular guidebook is unlike most or all other guidebooks, that is, from the Fodor's series, Frommer's series, or Lonely Planet series, which tend to have color pictures on only every other page. (The Lonely Planet series of guidebooks is the worst of these three publishers, since most of the Lonely Planet books are totally lacking in photographs, aside from a handful of photos in the first 20 pages.) Because JAPAN DAY BY DAY is only 590 pages, and not 5,900 pages, there is not adequate coverage of the many museums, volcanos, formal gardens, and other features of Japan. For example, there is only one photograph of a work of pottery. But the goal of guidebooks is not to pretend to be an encyclopedia, but to entice and orient the potential tourist. JAPAN DAY BY DAY does an admirable job at enticing and orienting the tourist.

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