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# National Geographic Traveler: Japan, 4th Edition



## Synopsis

Active travelers trust National Geographic to deliver what they want in a guidebook--expert advice, insider tips, and the cultural feel of each destination not easily found online. These guides are pitch-perfect for today's experiential travel enthusiasts who want an authentic, enriching immersion. Bornoff describes the best ways to tackle Tokyo and other must-see sites in Japan such as Mount Fuji, imperial Kyoto, historical Nagasaki, Hokkaido and its national parks, and dozens of other major and lesser-known places. In-depth features discuss the fascinating contrasts between Japan's modern, cutting-edge technological facade and its ancient core. The guide highlights traditions such as Kodo drumming, the exquisite beauty of garden design, and the spirits and demons that animate Noh and kabuki theater. Numerous city walking tours, a hike through feudal Hagi, and a stunning array of photos and artwork complement this exciting insider's guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fresh out of a Parisian film school, NICHOLAS BORNOFF worked in Indonesia, sparking his lasting fascination with the Far East. Later he moved to Japan for a job in a Tokyo advertising agency, and then was a film critic for [The Japan Times](#). Now in London with his Japanese wife and young son, Bornoff writes articles appearing in [The Guardian](#) and many other publications in Europe and the United Kingdom. Bornoff is the author of two books.

While this book does show the highlights of Japan, it didn't go into enough real in depth information

to help me plan my trip. It does have a section dedicated to traveler advice in the back of the book, but the section is fairly inadequate. For example, the book will frequently talk about a destination but then give incomplete information on how to get there. Many of the more rural locations are only accessible by bus (such as Nikko, Hakone area, etc.), which this book doesn't get into. The subway map of Tokyo in the back of the book is also incomplete, be sure to pick up a tourist guide to Tokyo at a JR station (they're free, but they disappear from shelves very quickly, be sure to ask the clerks if there are no copies out), it was a life saver.

My husband and I are reading this guidebook in anticipation of our upcoming trip to Japan. The book is very thorough and informative. Some aspects of Japanese culture and history are showcased in shorter articles. We both feel that what we're learning will be an asset when we're in Japan. I just wish the print were larger and not gray. It would be easier to read.

Love it! Very informative and full of gorgeous pictures!

Helpful book in helping us prepare for and plan for our upcoming trip to Japan. Well-illustrated and helpful text, but not a hotel guide, etc. Recommended if you are planning to travel in Japan instead of just visit Tokyo.

The book is informative and well illustrated. We have a major complaint with the very small text.

Very well written. Covers all the must-see tourist destinations of Japan and gives historic significance of each of them. Moreover, the history written like a story, making it really enjoyable to read. Since it gives a lot of background story about each place, when you actually visit them they stay in memory forever. I am really glad I read this book before visiting. Has some wonderful pictures too !

I'll start this review explaining the background of why I purchased this book. If you just want the review, please scroll down, thank you.  
BACKGROUND: My girlfriend wants to travel to Japan someday and is really, really interested in almost everything about Japan. I saw this book and I thought: "Maybe this will give her even more reasons to want to go there" However, I wasn't so sure about the kind of content that I would find within this book (a lot of people have written reviews but to me they seemed very general, sorry). Anyway, my review will try to be more thorough and

hopefully someone in my situation will benefit my review so... here goes

something.**REVIEW:INTRODUCTION:** Let's start with the external part of the book: The picture in the cover is beautiful, this image shown here doesn't make it justice. It feels and looks fantastic, not too big nor heavy and feels solid. Every single page has information about something! There is not one page that is useless, a lot of content here but... what kind of content you may ask?**CONTENT:** You will read about a little about the history, the culture, the maps, the places and the people from Japan. This is meant for traveller's but I assure you even non-travellers will find interesting stuff here. Anything from breakfast manners to how you must behave in specific places such as temples, restaurants, etc. You will read about the major cities and towns but also you will learn about those small events that you would only know if you lived there. Example: There was a section about a certain city that had an all out sell out the 7th of every month since October or something like that. My point: Those kind of small details that you would love to know as a traveller. This is a very complete guide on how to get to Japan and, depending on how long you stay, what are the "must do" stuff before you leave. Buy this book! You will not regret it.

**National Geographic Traveler: Japan** is a comprehensive, information-packed, well-organized travel guide that will benefit both armchair travelers and those actually visiting Japan. In preparing for a visit to that country, Nicholas Bornoff and Perrin Lindelauf's book has been invaluable. Ken Shimizu's exquisite photographs are amazing and significantly enhance the informative text. Beginning with an overview of Japanese history and culture, the book is divided into chapters that focus on Tokyo and eight other areas of Japan. A color square surrounding the page number denotes each separate portion of the book. This makes it easy to find and focus on the specific area of interest. Rather than having the entire section run as a continuous text, the authors have thoughtfully divided the information into smaller chunks. Within those sections, light blue boxes surround interesting and informative sidebars. The map reference, address, telephone number, days closed and journey time for walks and hikes, and subway stop for some of the different points of interest appear in the outside margin of some pages. Throughout **National Geographic Traveler: Japan**, maps and longer articles focusing on historically or culturally significant events appear. Scattered throughout the book, are suggestions and detailed information on walking tours printed on light, lime green pages. A final **Travelwise** section concludes the book. This section provides brief information on hotels and restaurants, shopping, festivals, and entertainment in various cities. If you are truly adventurous or intrepid, a subway map

on the inside back cover may give you an idea about how to best navigate through the system. National Geographic Traveler: Japan is not a quick, easy travel guide. It is a detailed, concise information source for travelers or for those who want to learn more about that country. The one major drawback to this fine volume is the size and font of the text. The contrast may not be sufficient for those who require reading glasses. Further, an e-version of this book, possibly abridged, would be very useful for travelers.

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