

# VISA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1 February 2024 Updated

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- Q1. Do I need a visa to enter Japan?
- A1-1. Depending on your nationality you may need a visa to enter Japan. Nationals of visa-exempt countries/regions, including Australia, do not need a visa if the period of stay in Japan is 90 days or less and you do not engage in any income-earning activities. Please refer to the following link to check if you are exempt: ["Exemption of Visa \(Short-Term Stay\)"](#)
- A1-2. To check types of visas and the documents you need to prepare, please check [here](#).

**Q2. How can I apply for a visa?**

Online visa applications are available ONLY for Single-entry Tourism visas for short-term stays up to 90 days.

**For all other visas, you must apply in person.** If you live in “distant locations”, you may apply via post. You may also apply via an agent if the first two options are not suitable.

Please see below for more details.

**A2-1. To apply [online for a Tourism visa \(eVisa\)](#):**

Please visit [JAPAN eVisa - Online Visa Application](#) site for more information.

**A2-2. To apply [in person](#):**

When you are ready to apply for a visa, please make an appointment online to schedule a visit to our office through the [ONLINE booking page](#).

**A2-3. To apply [by post](#):** Applicants who live in ‘distant locations’ may apply for visas by post.

To be considered a “distant location” you must live in:

- **Newcastle and northward in NSW**
- **Lithgow and westward in NSW**
- **Nowra and southward in NSW**
- **Anywhere in the NT**

Refer to our website for [more details](#)

**A2-4. To apply [through an agent](#)**

You may apply for a visa through agents regardless of the location of where you reside (even if you live in Sydney CBD) as long as you live in our jurisdiction, NSW and the NT.

For more information please see: [Visa application by agents](#)

**Q3. I cannot see any available dates or times for a visa application appointment on the online booking site. Is that a system issue?**

**A3. No, it is because all available appointments are fully booked.**

Please note that there may be long wait times and that you may be asked to come back to the consulate at a later date if capacity has been reached or your application requires additional procedures. Please consider applying for a visa through an [agent](#) if it is urgent.

**Q4. How much is the visa fee?**

**A4. Please see [here](#).**

Citizens of countries listed [here](#) are exempt from visa fees (no charge).

**Q5. How many days does it take to get a visa?**

**A5.** The minimum assessment time for applications made in person, through an agent and by post, is **at least 5 business days** for all visas (except for [Designated activities visa: J-Find](#)). It generally takes longer if additional documents are required for further assessment. You may pick up your passport on or after the date written on the receipt you receive upon submitting your application. We will only contact you if we need more information for further assessment. In some cases, applications need to be referred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Tokyo, and it may take between 2 weeks and 2 months or more to complete the process.

**Regarding online visa applications, due to the high volume of applications, processing may take longer than usual (may take more than 5 business days). Please allow ample time for processing. We do not provide expedited services.**

**There is NO priority or urgent processing service.**

**Q6. When can I apply for a visa?**

**A6.** You may apply for a visa **3 months prior to entering Japan**. Please ensure you have enough time to apply for your visa, as there is no priority or urgent processing service.

**Q7. My departure date is approaching, so could you issue the visa as soon as possible?**

**A7.** There is NO priority or urgent processing service. The assessment time is at least 5 business days.

**Q8. Can I apply for a visa at the nearest Japanese Embassy / Consulate General while traveling in a foreign country?**

**A8.** No, you cannot apply for a visa at your travel destination. You must apply for a visa at the Japanese Embassy / Consulate General in your own country or country of residence (you can apply to the Japanese Embassy / Consulate General nearest to where you live).  
If there are unavoidable circumstances, please consult with the Japanese Embassy / Consulate General where you would like to apply for the visa before making an application.

**Q9. I cannot come in person to lodge a visa application. Can I ask a family member or colleague to apply on my behalf?**

**A9.** Yes, your representative may lodge your application and collect your passport after the assessment is completed as long as you provide us with [an authorisation letter](#). Your representative must show a valid photo ID when lodging or picking up your passport.

**Q10. Does my child need to come in person to apply for visas?**

**A10.** Children do not have to attend in person and they also do not need [an authorisation letter](#) as long as their parents/guardian lodge all family member visa applications together. Parents/guardians can

also collect all passports without their children being present when the visa assessment is completed.

**Q11. Is it possible to apply for multiple-entry visas?**

**A11.** You may apply for a multiple-entry short term stay visa if you meet all the requirements. Please see our website and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan site for more information:

- [Indian nationals](#)
- [Indonesian, Philippines, Vietnamese nationals](#)
- [Chinese nationals](#)

**Q12. I would like to work in Japan. How can I get a visa to work in Japan?**

**A12.** In order to get a work visa, you must first find a potential employer who is willing to act as your sponsor and arrange for your **Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**. Once you receive your COE, you can apply for a work visa at our office. Please refer to our website for the visa application for [“Certificate of Eligibility \(COE\) Holders”](#)

**Q13. I obtained a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). Do I still need to apply for a visa?**

**A13.** You must apply for and receive a visa after the Certificate of Eligibility is issued. You cannot enter Japan with only a Certificate of Eligibility.

**Q14. I have obtained a 15 day visa for Japan, if I arrive on the 1st of March, when should I depart Japan?**

**A14.** The number of days of your stay in Japan is counted from the first full day following your arrival. For example, if you arrive in Japan on the 1st of March, you begin counting 15 days from the 2nd of March, so your departure date should be no later than the 16th of March.

**Q15. I have obtained a 30 day visa for Japan. The expiry date on the visa sticker is the 3rd of March. Does that mean I need to leave Japan by that date?**

**A15.** The expiry date shown on your visa is the last day that you can enter Japan. Therefore if the expiry date is the 3rd of March, you must enter Japan before, or on, the 3rd of March and no later, and since you have a 30 day visa, you are allowed to stay for up to 30 days. As in question 14, you start counting from the first full day after your arrival.

**Q16. Once I enter Japan, can I change my entry status? For example, can I change it from a tourist visa to a work visa?**

**A16.** No. Once you are in Japan you cannot, in principle, change your visa. If you want to work in Japan, you must obtain a work visa from a Japanese diplomatic mission in your country of residence.

**Q17. Do I need at least six months validity on my passport to enter Japan?**

**A17.** No. As long as your passport is valid for your departure and return, and you have the relevant visa, you may enter Japan. We recommend that you check the regulations of your airline before traveling with a passport that has less than six months validity.

**Q18.** **Do I need to take a PCR test and receive a negative test certificate within 72 hours before my departure to Japan?**

**A18.** Anyone entering Japan on or after April 29, 2023 is no longer required to show a valid vaccination certificate or a test certificate before departure.

**Q19.** **Do I need a COVID-19 vaccination certificate?**

**A19.** Anyone entering Japan on or after April 29, 2023 is **no longer required to show a valid vaccination certificate** or a test certificate before departure.

**Q20.** **What is “Visit Japan Web”?**

**A20.** [Visit Japan Web](#) is a web service to ensure smooth arrival procedures at airports in Japan. This service is for both international travellers and Japanese citizens and can be used for Immigration and Customs declaration procedures.

**Q21.** **Do I need to use Visit Japan Web?**

**A21.** It is not mandatory but highly recommended to use [Visit Japan Web](#) in order to prevent congestion and delays at the airport upon arrival. You can register your information for Immigration and Customs procedures ahead of your trip through the Visit Japan Web.