

VISA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

4 July 2023 Updated

Q1. Do I need a visa to enter Japan?

(Answer)

People from some countries or regions do not need a visa if their period of stay in Japan is 90 days or less and they are not going to be engaged in income-earning activities. Refer to the website for “Exemption of Visa (Short-Term Stay)”: https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

Q2. How can I apply for a visa?

(Answer)

1. Apply in person

If you are ready to apply for a visa, please make an appointment online to schedule a visit to our office through our website: https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/online_appointment_booking.html#booknow

Note: **We do NOT accept walk-in applicants due to the high volume of applicants.**

If online booking spots are unavailable before your trip, please consider to use the agent.
https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/visa_info/visa-agent.pdf

2. Apply by post (ONLY for those who live in distant locations)

Applicants who live in distant locations may apply for visas by post. Distant locations are

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

Refer to the website for more details to : https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa_bypost.html

3. Apply through an agent

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

For more information about the agents, please see the link below.

https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/visa_info/visa-agent.pdf

Q3. I cannot see any available date and time for a visa application appointment on the online booking site. Is that a system issue?

(Answer)

No, it is because that the appointments are fully booked and there is no available spot.

We do NOT accept walk-in applicants due to the high volume of applicants. If the online booking is unavailable, you may consider using the agent.

https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/visa_info/visa-agent.pdf

Q4. How much is the visa fee?

(Answer)

Please see our website: https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa.html#Visafee

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

(Answer)

The minimum assessment time is 5 business days for all visas. It generally takes longer if additional documents are required for further assessment. We will call 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, and it can take between 2 weeks and 2 months or more to complete the process.

There is NO priority and urgent processing service.

Q6. When can I apply for a visa?

(Answer)

You may apply for a visa 3 months prior to entering Japan. Depending on your travel plan, please apply for a visa accordingly.

Q7. As my departure date is approaching, could you issue the visa as soon as possible?

(Answer)

There is NO priority and 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?

(Answer)

No, you cannot. You can apply for the visa at the Japanese Embassy / Consulate General in your own country (region) or country (region) of residence (if there is more than one, apply to the Japanese Embassy / Consulate General nearest to where you live). In other words, you cannot apply for a visa at your travel destination; however, if there are unavoidable circumstances, consult with the Japanese Embassy / Consulate General where you would like to apply for the visa before making the application.

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

(Answer)

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 his/her valid photo ID on application.

The authorisation letter form can be downloaded from the link below:

https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/visa_info/VISA-Authorisation-Letter.pdf

Q10. Do our children need to come in person to apply for visas?

(Answer)

Children don't have to come and even the authorisation letters are not required from them as long as the parents lodge all the family members' visa applications together. The parents can even collect their passports without the children being present when the visa assessment is completed.

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

(Answer)

You may apply for a multiple-entry short term stay visa if you meet the requirement.

Please see our website and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan site for more information.

https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa_00.html#TypesofVisas

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/other_visa.html

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

(Answer)

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" :

https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa_coe.html

Q13. I obtained a certificate of eligibility (COE). Do I still need to apply for a visa?

(Answer)

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

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

(Answer)

The number of days of your stay in Japan is counted from the first full day following your arrival. Therefore, 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?

(Answer)

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 to a work visa?

(Answer)

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 Australia or in a third country.

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

(Answer)

The remaining period of validity on your passport does not have to be at least six months. Please ensure your passport is valid for your trip and return. We recommend that you check the regulations of your airline before traveling with less than six months passport validity.

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

to Japan?

(Answer)

Anyone entering Japan on or after April 29, 2023 will no longer be required to show a valid vaccination certificate or a test certificate obtained before departure.

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

(Answer)

Anyone entering Japan on or after April 29, 2023 will no longer be required to show a valid vaccination certificate or a test certificate obtained before departure.

Q20. What is “Visit Japan Web”?

(Answer)

Visit Japan Web is a web service for smooth arrival procedures at airport in Japan. This service is for both international travelers and Japanese citizens and this can be used for Immigration, Customs declaration procedures.

Visit Japan Web: <https://vjw-lp.digital.go.jp/en/>

Q21. Do I need to use Visit Japan Web?

(Answer)

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.

Please refer to the Visit Japan Web site: <https://vjw-lp.digital.go.jp/en/>