

# **A Comprehensive Guide For Those Who Don't Speak Japanese, Don't Want To Be On a Typical Tour, and Want to Explore Japan Like a Local**

Are you dreaming of experiencing the rich culture and beauty of Japan but worried about the language barrier? Do you dislike the idea of being herded around on a typical guided tour? Don't worry; we've got you covered! In this comprehensive guide, we will provide you with valuable tips and tricks on how to explore Japan like a local, even if you don't speak Japanese.

## **1. Use Translation Apps**

Thanks to advancements in technology, carrying a pocket-sized translator is now possible. Translation apps like Google Translate or Japanese-specific ones such as Yomiwa can be real lifesavers when it comes to decoding signs, menus, or having basic conversations. Download your preferred translation app before your trip and ensure it works offline in case you don't have reliable internet access.

## **2. Learn Basic Phrases**

While technology is helpful, it's always good to have a few basic phrases up your sleeve. Learning greetings like "hello" (konnichiwa), "thank you" (arigatou gozaimasu), or "excuse me" (sumimasen) can go a long way in showing respect and politeness. Japanese locals appreciate the effort and may be more willing to assist you.

**Go to Japan Anyway: A Guide for Those Who Don't Speak Japanese, Don't Want to Be on a**



## Tour, and Want an Authentic Experience

by Lasar Hurd-McCabe (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4160 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 119 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### 3. Research Local Customs

Understanding and respecting Japanese customs will earn you brownie points with the locals. Research common customs such as bowing, removing your shoes before entering certain places, and proper etiquette during meals. Demonstrating cultural awareness fosters positive interactions and helps you blend in seamlessly.

### 4. Stay in Traditional Accommodations

Avoid the typical tourist hotels and consider staying in traditional accommodations like ryokans or minshukus. These offer a unique experience where you can immerse yourself in Japanese culture. Ryokans often provide delicious traditional meals and relaxing hot spring baths, giving you a taste of authentic Japanese hospitality.

### 5. Explore the Local Cuisine

Don't miss out on Japan's incredible culinary scene! Be adventurous and try local delicacies like sushi, ramen, or tempura. Many restaurants have picture menus or

even realistic plastic food displays to help you order. Don't be afraid to try new things; you might discover a new favorite dish!

## **6. Public Transportation Made Easy**

Japan has one of the most efficient and extensive transportation systems in the world. Utilize the bullet train (Shinkansen) or local trains to explore different cities. Download useful transportation apps like Hyperdia to plan your routes and navigate seamlessly from one destination to another.

## **7. Engage with Local Communities**

Japanese locals are known for their warmth and kindness. Don't hesitate to strike up conversations with locals, whether it's in a café, a public park, or while shopping. They can provide valuable insights, recommend hidden gems, and enhance your overall experience in Japan. A friendly smile goes a long way!

## **8. Hire a Local Guide**

If you truly want to explore Japan like a local, consider hiring a local guide. Local guides have extensive knowledge about their cities and can take you off the beaten path to lesser-known attractions. They can also bridge the language gap and ensure you have a more fulfilling experience.

## **9. Visit Non-Touristy Areas**

Avoid the typical tourist traps and explore lesser-known areas. Venture beyond Tokyo and Kyoto to places like Kanazawa, Hokkaido, or Hiroshima. You'll be rewarded with unique experiences, stunning landscapes, and a chance to interact with locals away from the crowds.

## **10. Embrace the Serendipity**

One of the most exciting aspects of traveling is stumbling upon unexpected adventures. Embrace the serendipity of exploring Japan as a non-speaker. Get lost in quaint alleyways, discover hidden treasures, and let the beauty of the country surprise you.

Remember, not speaking Japanese shouldn't hinder you from experiencing Japan's incredible wonders. With a little preparation, an open mind, and a willingness to immerse yourself in the local culture, you can have an extraordinary trip exploring Japan like a true local!



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### GO TO JAPAN ANYWAY

A Guide for Those Who Don't Speak Japanese, Don't Want to Be on a Tour, and Want an Authentic Experience. And Those Crazy Enough to Take their Kids with Them (or Not). Includes an itinerary for Tokyo, Hakone, and Kyoto; as well as Incredibly Useful Advice about getting around Japan.

This book strives to provide concise information for an enjoyable, adventurous vacation to a few of the most fascinating locations in Japan. It leaves the reviews of hundreds of hotels and restaurants to other people, and focuses on the basics of etiquette, transportation, money, and staying at a ryokan (Japanese-style inn).

Why do I add “Anyway,” to the title? So many people have said that they would like to visit Japan but don’t speak the language, don’t like tours, and don’t have tons of money. I say, “Go anyway! It’s not as hard or as expensive as you might think!”

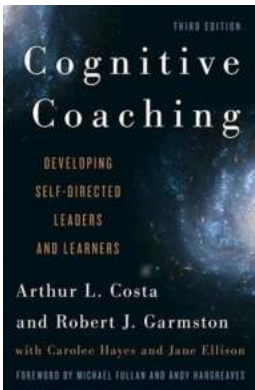
I love to travel light, and I found that the travel books were too heavy and filled with a lot of useless information. Being in eBook form, I suppose this will be as light as the device you bring, if you bring one at all. It is also a short book, but it will give you valuable tips that I never found in the many books I read. They were gleaned from experience, friends who visited Japan, and Japanese friends.

Besides the appeal of huge financial rewards (ha!), what is my motivation for writing this book? I wanted very much to encourage quite average people such as myself to visit a country that may seem too intimidating to attempt. The benefits of doing so have proven to be immensely rewarding to me and my family. I hope to educate you so that you take the leap to visit Japan on your own, without a tour to constrict you. Your adventures and misadventures will be yours, and I’ve found that they are some of the best mementos I have ever brought home.



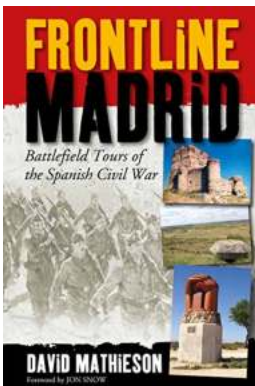
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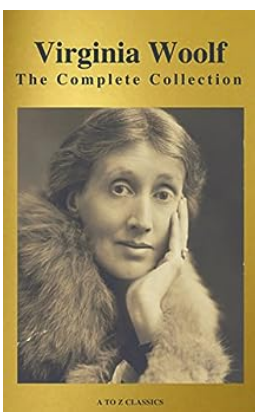
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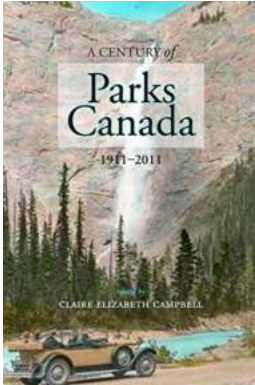
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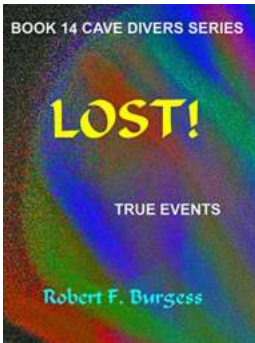
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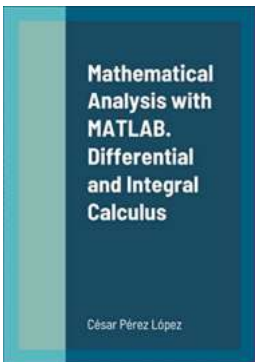
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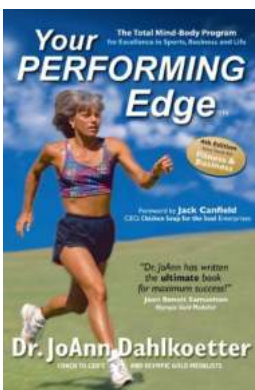
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