

A proposed itinerary for the whole stay in Japan (up to 12 months), including details of prearranged employment, if any.

Mid September – Early January

I plan to arrive in Tokyo by mid September. During my year abroad I lived in the international dormitory 'DK House Warabi' located in Nishikawaguchi, Saitama-ken. I still have many friends living at the dormitory and plan to stay there for 3 and half months. Costing approx. 65,000 yen a month. To support myself I intend to look for a part time job and also I'm considering teaching English independently a few hours a week as I used to do this to earn extra money during my year abroad.

During my 3 and half months I plan to spend some time re-discovering the sprawling metropolis that is Tokyo but also to visit the surrounding areas and prefectures. Specifically Yokohama, Kamakura to see the Great Buddha and Shizoka-shi to witness its natural beauty, overshadowed by Mt.Fuji. It has always been a dream of mine to see Mt.Fuji up close, something I never managed to do when in Japan two years ago. I hope to explore the Fuji Go-Ko and Kawaguchi-ko area. I will welcome the New Year in the capital before moving onto northern Honshu.

Early January – Mid April

In order to explore northern Honshu I will find accommodation in Iwate-Ken's capital city Morioka. Using the Internet I've found multiple dormitories including breakfast and evening meals for approx. 60,000 yen a month. I've read that that Morioka has a relatively high foreign population considering how north it is and will apply for part time jobs common for foreigners such as restaurant work or teaching.

From Morioka I plan to visit Akita, Aomori and the surrounding areas. I also have a friend teaching through JET in Sapporo and hope to visit them as well as explore southern Hokkaido. Catching a ferry from Aomori to Hakodate then going through to Sapporo.

Mid April - Mid July

Towards the end of my stay in Japan I plan to spend my time in the Kansai region. Staying in Osaka, I have found dormitories and guesthouses for around 40,000 – 50,000 yen a month, such as Orange House. My friend worked part time as an English teacher at 'Go to English' in Osaka at a rate of 2,000 yen an hour. They accept short-term contract and I plan to apply myself.

I'm a big fan of Manzai so hope to watch some live acts in Osaka while discovering the city and brushing up on some Kansai ben. I also hope to spend time in the historical city of Kyoto, going to the famous temples -Kinkakuji, Kiyomizu and Ninnaji to name a few. Before leaving kansai I also aim to visit Kobe as well as Hiroshima to see the Peace Memorial Park.

Mid July – Late August

During my last month in Japan my main aim will be to fully enjoy the summer in Japan before coming back to the UK. I love walking and camping so will spend a few days making my way back to Tokyo from Osaka staying at Ryokans along the way. I have a few friends in Tokyo who share the same passion for hiking as me and as it will be the season for climbing Mt.Fuji aim to climb it with them. Spending the final weeks in Tokyo saying goodbye to friends and taking in the city for the last time. Heading back to the UK in late August.