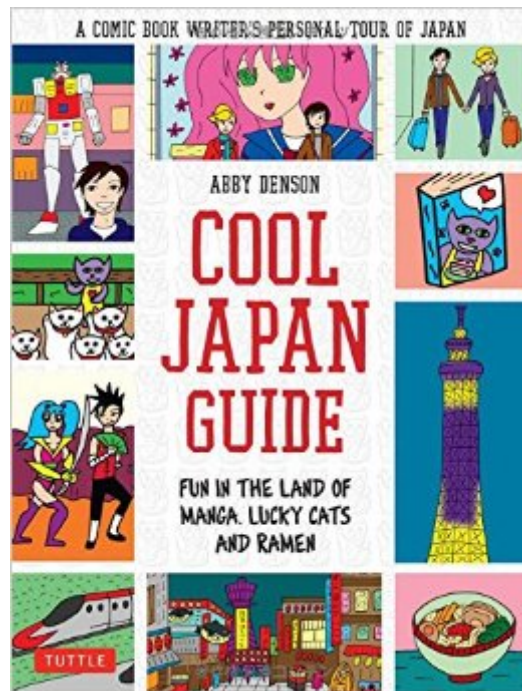


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# Cool Japan Guide: Fun In The Land Of Manga, Lucky Cats And Ramen



## Synopsis

Traveling to Japan has never been so much fun! Visit the land of anime, manga, cosplay, hot springs and sushi! This graphic Japan travel guide is the first of its kind exploring Japanese culture from a cartoonist's perspective. Cool Japan Guide takes you on a fun tour from the high-energy urban streets of Tokyo to the peaceful Zen gardens and Shinto shrines of Kyoto and introduces you to the exciting world of Japanese food from bento to sushi and everything in between. The otaku (geek) culture of Japan, including a manga market in Tokyo where artists display and sell their original artwork. The complete Japanese shopping experience, from combini (not your run-of-the-mill convenience stores!) to depato (department stores with everything). The world's biggest manga, anime and cosplay festivals. Lots of other exciting places to go and things to do like zen gardens, traditional Japanese arts, and a ride on a Japanese bullet train. Whether you're ready to hop a plane and travel to Japan tomorrow, or interested in Japanese culture, this fun and colorful travelogue by noted comic book artist and food blogger Abby Denson, husband Matt, friend Yuuko, and sidekick, Kitty Sweet Tooth, will present Japan in a unique and fascinating way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I remember buying those huge 300+ page travel guides when I used to travel to faraway places, and then more recently just searching online knowing I would be missing some key points of information and just doing what the masses do. Either approach is not ideal. There needs to be a format that contains what to do and what to see yet is in a more digestible format that those huge books are and now that I have read the Cool Japan Guide, I am convinced

that this book is it. This book covers how to prepare for the trip (learned about the JR pass), what to eat (yes to Onigiri and no to drinks containing bits of grape jelly!), Japan customs (always come prepared with a omiyage), what to see and do (such as the Tokyo Sky Tree), and lots of other important pieces of information presented in a format that is both entertaining and informative. The comics are colorful and keep your interest, and the text is well-written for an all-around must buy book if you are planning to visit Japan.

I am, in fact and by coincidence, planning my first trip to Japan next month -- and no other book could be as helpful as this one. Whenever I plan a visit to an unfamiliar new city, before I embark I first go to Google Maps as a way to sort of "walk through" the upcoming city, to give myself a sense of orientation when I arrive. That's exactly the effect I feel Ms. Denson accomplishes in this book. I feel as though I walked beside her (and her husband, and her Japanese friend, and her cartoon cat) step-by-step through the entire vacation procedure -- off the plane, out of the airport, and through so many sublime vacation moments in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. So many options! Her cartoon style and her conversational tone seem instantly familiar and authentic -- so I feel as though a very cool young friend has prepped me in detail for my big trip. My anxiety is gone. Not to mention -- even if you only \*dream\* of visiting Japan, it's a fun book to read on its own!

Useful information, easy-to-read layouts, bright colors, likeable characters, and a true sense of fun make this graphic guide to Japan a joy to read. While many travel guides come across as cold and sterile, Abby Denson's Cool Japan Guide sends you on a fun trip where you are not alone. You are joined by Abby, Matt, and (my favorite) Kitty Sweet Tooth! If you've ever thought of visiting Japan and want to get an overview of what sort of things you can see there, what the culture is like, and some helpful travel tips that will save you a great deal of time and frustration, then this is the book for you. And if you've already been to Japan and just want to read about it through a cartoonist's eyes, then you will enjoy this book as well.

After several books with lots of postcard pictures and paragraphs of text of history, hotels, restaurants that I'll likely get lost finding, then I came across this guide. She takes you along on a trip like a friend, and gives fun tips that no one else mentioned varying from collecting stamps at train stations (eki stampu) and getting food at convenience store, how to distinguish hot and cold drinks in vending machines and letting you know you might be carrying your own trash from snacking on the street as street trashcan are not as common. She reminded me it's about the

journey not just the destinations in a guidebook and that's what makes this a great book. She covers things to do and eat but at a high level knowing you can easily get details on the Internet - instead she focuses on unique, memorable, and cool fun experiences that are beyond a normal guide checklist that only an insider who knows from experience yet outsider who can appreciate the differences in Japan and still has such enthusiasm for Travel would know to share. Great to change your perspective during your travel planning, a much needed dose of fresh air to make your trip about fun again.

I picked up this book because I have been fascinated by Japan for a very long time. I think Japan is special, even among other Asian countries. I visited Japan in 2012 with my family and it met my expectations. Japan is not perfect. There is no such thing as the perfect country. Still, I enjoy the politeness and civility of the Japanese people. There can be exceptions since after all, they are still human and can feel crabby that day and not be at their best right then, but the vast majority of my experiences with Japanese people were very satisfying. On to the book. Abby Denson's book surprised me on how informative and accurate it was. As I mentioned, I've been to Japan, and I had to agree with the vast majority of her comments and observations. I've experienced first hand a lot of what she talks about and her book/guide is spot-on. She provides us with a ton of tips on what to expect and what to see and experience, and even how to behave in the Japanese society. Like I said in my header, it's incredibly practical. I wish I could give it more than 5 stars. Highly recommended for those who are curious about Japan and specially if you are planning on visiting Japan. I want to go back to Japan and would plan on taking this book with me for guidance. It's the most user-friendly and entertaining guide I have read so far on Japan.

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