

TOKYO

Japan is the most extraordinary experience you will ever have. Go there now! Tokyo is a surprisingly open city – the teeming pedestrian crossings and neon-filled streets are there, but in some parts of town it's easy to forget that there another 23 million people sharing your home. Our clients are based in two main areas – the traditional business centre of Marunouchi, and the traditional expat haunt of Roppongi. They offer quite different pleasures. Marunouchi is next to the Imperial Palace, where teams of gardeners trim the imperial trees with scissors, and carp and turtles swim in the imperial moat. Roppongi is the most foreigner-friendly part of town, with English menus in restaurants and all the Anglo-style nightlife you could ever want.

Japanese is very hard to speak well, but speaking badly will still get you a long way. You'll want to learn something – English will be uncommon outside your office, and the more Japanese people you encounter the better time you'll have.

The hardest thing to get used to in Tokyo is the working hours. You will start and finish late – and regularly work into the night. Legally your working hours are the same as they would be anywhere, however many places have a culture of being at your desk round the clock. Do your research before you join. Just because Japanese is the only language to have a word for 'death from overwork' doesn't mean you need to be sucked in!

Where will I live?

Getting accommodation is complicated in Tokyo and you should enlist the help of your firm. Where you live may well depend on your language ability. The closer you are to Roppongi, the more likely you are to have access to English-language facilities such as bookshops and cafes with menus you can read. However the closer you are to Roppongi the more likely you are to encounter drunk men and Russian prostitutes on a daily basis. We like the nearby suburbs of Azabu Juban, Nishi Azabu, and Hiroo.

How much will it cost for essentials?

A latte - Y350

A glass of wine - Y600

A movie - Y2000

An apartment - Y100,000-150,000 p/mth

Useful links...

www.japantoday.com

<http://www.gaijinpot.com/>

To convert your currency:

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

