

Japan Internet Setup Checklist

A practical pre-trip checklist for eSIM, physical SIM, and pocket WiFi.

For short-term visitors to Japan.

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Use this checklist to prepare and verify your internet setup. It does not guarantee device compatibility or service quality. Check official provider, device manufacturer, carrier, and airport information before purchase or travel.

1. Choose your setup

- ☐ I have considered eSIM, physical SIM, pocket WiFi, or a hybrid / backup setup.
- ☐ If I am considering eSIM, I have checked whether my phone supports eSIM.
- ☐ I have checked whether my phone is unlocked for another SIM or eSIM where required.
- ☐ I have considered whether each traveler needs an individual connection.
- ☐ I have considered whether the group may split up.
- ☐ I have estimated my needs for maps, translation, messaging, work, streaming, and hotspot use.
- ☐ I have checked whether tethering or hotspot use is needed.
- ☐ I have planned charging for my phone and any shared router.
- ☐ If I am considering pocket WiFi, I have considered pickup, carrying, charging, and return requirements.

2. Before you buy - official check required

- ☐ Device model, purchase region, OS, carrier lock, and provider compatibility.
- ☐ Plan start date, activation timing, and validity period.
- ☐ Data allowance, speed limits, and fair use policy.
- ☐ Tethering or hotspot availability and limits.
- ☐ Official setup instructions.
- ☐ Official support contact and support scope.
- ☐ Cancellation and refund terms, where relevant.
- ☐ Pickup, return, deadline, late return, loss, and damage rules if using pocket WiFi.
- ☐ Order confirmation and official instructions saved somewhere accessible.

Do not rely only on old screenshots, social media posts, or outdated blog instructions.

Before Departure, After Landing, and During the Trip

3. Before you fly

- ☐ Save setup instructions for offline access.
- ☐ Follow the provider instructions on when to install and activate an eSIM.
- ☐ Save the provider official support information.
- ☐ Save first-day maps, transport details, and essential destination information offline.
- ☐ If using pocket WiFi, save the pickup location, opening information, return method, and deadline.
- ☐ Pack the required cables, charger, and power bank.
- ☐ Keep a backup option in mind, such as offline maps, public Wi-Fi, or another traveler connection.

4. After you land

- ☐ Complete and test the setup before relying on it for an important journey.
- ☐ Confirm that mobile data works.
- ☐ Test maps, translation, messaging, and other essential apps.
- ☐ Confirm that travel companions can connect as planned.
- ☐ Keep offline information available until the connection is working reliably.
- ☐ Avoid postponing the first test until late at night or until reaching a remote area.

Follow the provider official instructions for mobile data, data roaming, APN, or other device settings.

5. During your trip

- ☐ Monitor data usage.
- ☐ Monitor phone and router battery levels.
- ☐ Remember that hotspot use may increase battery consumption.
- ☐ Keep official support information accessible.
- ☐ Do not delete an eSIM profile unless you are sure it is no longer needed and have checked the provider instructions.

Before Returning Home and Next Steps

6. Before returning home

- ☐ Return pocket WiFi using the official method and deadline.
- ☐ Include all required devices, cables, cases, and accessories.
- ☐ Keep proof of return, shipping, or counter handover.
- ☐ Check late return, loss, and damage rules if relevant.
- ☐ Follow the provider instructions before deleting or keeping an eSIM profile.
- ☐ Keep order, payment, and return confirmation messages until the service and any return are complete.

7. Quick option reminder

eSIM	May suit travelers who have a compatible unlocked phone, want an individual connection, and are comfortable following digital setup instructions.
Physical SIM	May suit travelers whose phone has a compatible physical SIM slot or when eSIM is not suitable. Check device and provider requirements.
Pocket WiFi	May suit groups staying together or travelers connecting multiple devices. It must be carried, charged, and returned.
Hybrid / backup	May be useful when a group may split up or when backup connectivity is important. It adds extra setup and management.

8. Next steps

Compare eSIM, SIM, and pocket WiFi

<https://www.japanreadyandbeyond.com/compare/japan-esim-vs-pocket-wifi/>

Take the quick internet setup quiz

<https://www.japanreadyandbeyond.com/tools/japan-esim-vs-pocket-wifi-quiz/>

Open the current checklist and related guides

<https://www.japanreadyandbeyond.com/downloads/japan-internet-setup-checklist/>

Provider terms, compatibility, pickup and return rules, and support options can change. Always check official details before purchase.

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