

# Japan: A Journey of Surprises and Delights!

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Japan captivated me from the moment I arrived, revealing a blend of affordability, **unique travel logistics**, and **stunning natural beauty**. Even though I had lived here in the past, this first month of my exchange seemed to have revealed different sides I had never noticed before.

## Affordable Food Options

One of the most surprising aspects of my time in Japan was the affordability of food. Despite its reputation for high living costs, I found delicious meals at **incredibly reasonable prices**. From convenience store **bento boxes** to bustling street vendors serving **takoyaki**, I could enjoy a satisfying meal without breaking the bank. As an example, my meal at a **Teishokuya**, on the right, was under 1000 Yen (around 10\$)!



## Lack of Night Trains

Another unexpected discovery was the absence of night trains for **overnight transport**. Coming from a place where trains run all through the night, I anticipated a similar experience in Japan. Instead, I learned that the train network typically shuts down around **midnight**, making late-night travel challenging. As someone who likes going out for the night, I learned the importance of **planning your travels in advance**.

## Nature and Serenity



Finally, the abundance of natural beauty surprised me. Despite being known for its bustling cities, I was amazed by how quickly I could escape into **serene landscapes**. Visiting places like **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove** and **Yamanashi** showcased Japan's breathtaking nature and highlighted the importance of harmony between urban and natural environments. Even in the city, there are amazing scenery... the picture on the left was taken right next to Hosei University!