

Coastal Quiet to City Speed: A Transport Culture Shock

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When I think back to my first introductions to Japan – whether from travelling friends, in school classrooms, or from good old-fashioned Googling – transport always came up. I was enamoured by the thought of it all, especially the Shinkansen, a train so fast you couldn't feel the bumps of wheels hitting tracks. But even with some ideas in my head, I was still shocked when I stepped off the plane and saw the reality of it.

My Experience with Public Transport

I come from a tiny coastal town on the east coast of Australia where the beach is practically in everyone's backyard. But public transport? That's non-existent. We used to have a train, but it was scrapped before I was born, so now we use the overgrown tracks as a hiking trail. The nearest working train is an hour's drive away, so we've all but forgotten about it too. We do technically have a bus, but it's either wildly early, late, or a complete no-show. Miss it, and you're stuck for hours.



Japan: a Transit Dreamland

Then there's Japan. Here, buses, subways, trains, and taxis are everywhere, and they're easy to use! You tap on and off with a card, lines and platforms are clearly marked (and colour-coded!), and if you miss a train? No worries – another one will be there in a few minutes at most. Just be careful of rush hour, people are not afraid to travel close here.



So... How Do I Go back?

Honestly, I don't know how I'm supposed to go back to my sleepy little town after this. For now, I'm soaking it all in, making the most of every smooth ride and efficient transfer – and I plan to do so right up until the very last call for boarding my flight home.