

JAPAN TO INCREASE VISA FEES FOR FOREIGN TRAVELERS STARTING JULY 1, 2026



Starting next month, Japan will charge more for tourist visas - its first fee change since the 1970s. While costs had stayed fixed for decades, new pricing reflects updated administrative demands. Though long delayed, the shift breaks from past consistency without altering application steps. Because global processing standards have evolved, Tokyo aligns its rates with current operational needs.

Despite minimal public debate, the revision of visa fees signals quiet modernization within immigration policy.

On Friday, June 19, 2026, Japan moved forward with changes to its visa fee rules after official approval. Starting July 1, 2026, every application will follow these adjusted costs - no exceptions. Though long overdue, the shift reflects economic movement: inflation, cost increases, currency value adjustments since 1978 shaped the decision. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi shared details, noting how time had stretched between updates far beyond reasonable limits.

Fivefold Increase in Visa Fees

Under the new structure:

- Single-entry visas will rise from 3,000 yen to 15,000 yen (approximately \$18 to \$93).
- Multiple-entry visas will increase from 6,000 yen to 30,000 yen (approximately \$37 to \$186).

A sharp increase - five times higher overall - is now in effect. Though posts abroad might gather payments in regional money based on location, the standard figures used officially are still set in yen.

A draft paper issued by Japan's foreign ministry early this year pointed out how long-static costs no longer reflect today's economy. Because of shifts over many years, adjustments are being made so pricing better matches present conditions.

Minimal Expected Impact on Tourism

Despite concerns over possible impacts on tourist arrivals, Minister Motegi remained optimistic the rise wouldn't greatly reduce visitor numbers. With tourism rebounding sharply lately, Japan continues drawing international travelers in large numbers. Its appeal lies partly in cultural richness, partly in renowned food, along with reliable public services and low crime rates. The country still ranks among top global spots people choose to visit.

Digitalizing Entry Procedures

Now comes a fee change, part of Tokyo's broader push to update entry rules. Though built on current infrastructure, the digital visa tool lets certain visitors request short stays online - if origin, where they live, and reason for visiting align with set criteria.

So far, officials haven't clarified if the increased costs will affect eVISA submissions. Still, chances

are those prices will match - after all, digital filings are just another way to deliver an application, not a separate type of visa. Yet clarity remains limited.

Later on, Japan plans to launch JESTA - its digital entry check for tourists who now enter without short-term visas. Set to begin by 2028, the system asks travelers to send details before flying, tightening border checks. Still, those qualified won't face complicated steps getting through. Though starting years off, preparation is already moving forward.

What This Means for Travelers

Starting next month, those needing a visa before departure will see much higher expenses. People from countries that do not need visas for brief stays mostly won't feel the change in fees right away.

Travelers planning trips to Japan are advised to:

- **Verify whether a visa is required for their nationality and purpose of visit.**
- Check the exact fees and procedures applicable on their planned travel date.
- Consider using the eVISA system where available for greater convenience.
- Stay informed about the upcoming JESTA requirements for future trips.

Now adjusting visa fees for the first time since the 1970s, Japan aligns visa costs with current economic realities even as digital upgrades simplify border procedures. Although logistics grow smoother, visitors still need clear preparation and awareness of requirements to experience Japan's orderly appeal fully.

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