

@MATTJHANNAN PRESENTS

Tokyo Golf Guide

東京ゴルフガイド

The complete guide to a legendary golf day with the boys

3 COURSES

FULL LOGISTICS

SAMPLE DAY PLAN

"Do not go golfing in Japan.

This shit is too fun."

I promise this will ruin golf everywhere else.

— Matt

QUICK OVERVIEW

What Golf in Japan Actually Looks Like

Schedule (standard day):

- Early start: most tee times are around 7:30 - 9:30.
- 18 holes with a mandatory break after 9 (lunch + beers, usually 45 - 60 min).
- Finish by mid-afternoon, bath, head back to Tokyo for dinner.

Price reality (ballpark):

- Good but not insane courses:
 - Weekdays: ¥12,000 - ¥20,000
 - Weekends/holidays: ¥18,000 - ¥30,000+
- Iconic bucket-list course (Kawana Fuji):
 - ¥47,800 weekday / ¥63,700 holiday. Group-of-four discounts bring it to ¥24,000 - ¥34,500 per person.

What's usually included:

- Green fee
- Shared cart or caddie fee (depends on course)
- Locker + access to big bath/onsen style facilities
- Restaurant on site (pay separately, but food is legit).

Dress code (don't get turned away):

- Collared shirt, golf pants/shorts.
- No jeans, no T-shirts, no tank tops. Showing up in jeans is aura damage.
- Hat off inside the clubhouse.
- Golf shoes (soft spikes). Rental shoes are usually available.

Skill level:

- You don't need to be amazing, but you DO need to keep pace.
- Play ready golf, pick up your ball if you're in triple-bogey hell, and you're fine.

HOW TO BOOK IF YOU DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE

Three Options

OPTION A: Book directly on the English websites

Some courses (especially Taiheiyo Club Narita and Kawana Hotel) have English pages and instructions for overseas guests.

What you do:

- Google the course name + "overseas guests" or "English reservation".
- Use the email / inquiry form.
- Send them: date options, number of players, whether you need club rental, caddie preference.

COPY-PASTE EMAIL TEMPLATE:

"Hi, we're a group of 4 visiting from overseas and would love to play 18 holes on [DATE OPTIONS]. We'll be coming from central Tokyo by train and would need [club rentals for X players]. Could you let me know available tee times and the total price per person (including all taxes and caddie/cart)?"

OPTION B: Use booking sites (Japanese UI but doable)

- "Accordia Golf English" - big chain, some English support.
- Rakuten GORA - main Japanese tee-time site; can be navigated with Google Translate.

More work, but opens more courses if you're comfortable clicking around.

OPTION C: Ask your hotel concierge

If you're in a nicer Tokyo hotel, the concierge can call the course, book the tee time, and confirm rentals and transport. Just send them the course name and your preferred dates.

TRANSPORT PLAYBOOK (NO CAR NEEDED)

The Pattern for All 3 Courses

- 1 Train from central Tokyo**
Tokyo / Shinjuku / Ikebukuro depending on course.
- 2 Final station near the golf course**
Usually a main JR or private line station.
- 3 Taxi 10 - 20 minutes to the club**
Taxis in the countryside are not insane - split between 3 - 4 guys, it's chill.

THE THREE COURSES

Quick Comparison

Taiheiyo Club Narita

Chiba
Championship
class
¥21k - ¥33k+

Shin Musashigaoka

Saitama
Chill + easy
logistics
¥12k - ¥17.5k+

Kawana Hotel Fuji Course

Shizuoka
Bucket-list
cliff views
¥30k - ¥60k+

Detailed breakdown of each course on the next pages.

Taiheiyo Club Narita Course

Chiba Prefecture

THE VIBE:

"Nice as hell, classic Japanese championship course, but still accessible if you plan it." Designed by Gary Player, known as one of Japan's more memorable layouts.

WHY I'D SEND YOU HERE:

- Private members' club with overseas guest access - you'll need to contact them via their English site in advance. Weekday play only for visitors.
- Beautiful layout with marshes, rolling fairways, proper bunkering.
- Near Narita Airport - perfect timing if you're arriving/leaving Japan.

ACCESS FROM TOKYO:

Tokyo Station → Narita Station: JR Narita Line rapid (~82 min)

Narita Station → course: about 10 minutes by taxi.

Alt: Keisei Line from Ueno → Keisei Narita, then taxi.

ROUGH COSTS:

Weekday with caddie (full 18): around ¥21,000+ (visitor rates vary - contact for current pricing)

Visitors are weekday-only. No weekend/holiday access for non-members.

They sometimes limit visitors in peak months - book well in advance.

BOOKING:

Google "Taiheiyo Club Narita Course English" and use the overseas guest contact. Or use a booking service like Golfsavers that lists Narita Course with English info.

WHO THIS IS FOR:

You want something properly nice, you're ok paying a bit more, and you want a very "Japan golf" experience with caddies and all the rituals.

Shin Musashigaoka Golf Course

Saitama Prefecture

THE VIBE:

"Solid, modern, easier logistics, and a bit cheaper." Great for a chill guy's day out if you want less formality and more just-play-some-golf.

WHY I'D SEND YOU HERE:

- Easy access from Tokyo via the Seibu Ikebukuro Line.
- Only about 7 minutes by taxi from Hanno Station.
- 18 holes, GPS carts, "all-self" style - less stuffy, more casual.
- Weekday prices are pretty reasonable.

ACCESS FROM TOKYO:

Ikebukuro Station → Hanno Station: Seibu Ikebukuro Line (~50 - 60 min)

Hanno Station → course: taxi ~7 minutes, super easy.

ROUGH COSTS:

Weekday: around ¥12,000

Weekend/holiday: around ¥17,500+

Usually cart self-play, no caddie required.

BOOKING:

Google "Shin Musashigaoka Golf Course Prince Hotels". Site is in Japanese but Google Translate works, or have your hotel call.

WHO THIS IS FOR:

You want value, easier logistics, and a bit more relaxed vibe with your friends. The "we're in Tokyo for a week and want one golf day" move.

Kawana Hotel Golf Course (Fuji Course)

Shizuoka Prefecture

THE VIBE:

"Bucket-list, clifftop ocean views, one of the most famous courses in Japan." This is the "flex on Instagram, boys trip core memory" option.

WHY I'D SEND YOU HERE:

- Ranked #2 in Japan by Golf Digest, #50 in the world. People fly in specifically for this.
- Fuji Course runs along the coast with views of the Pacific and even Mt. Fuji on clear days.
- C.H. Alison design, opened 1936. Your Instagram is about to go crazy.
- To play Fuji, you basically need to stay at the hotel. It's a full resort experience.

ACCESS FROM TOKYO:

Tokyo Station → Ito: JR Odoriko Limited Express (~100 min)

Ito Station → Kawana Hotel: ~20 - 25 min by taxi or local train to Kawana Station then short taxi.

Expect this to be more of a 1-night trip. Hardcore day trip is technically possible if you start very early.

ROUGH COSTS:

Fuji Course green fee: ¥47,800 weekday / ¥63,700 holiday (group discounts available) depending on season/plan.

Fee usually includes caddie + locker etc.

Oshima Course is cheaper if you want the vibe but not the full damage.

BOOKING:

Google "Kawana Hotel Golf Course Fuji Prince Hotels". Use the official reservation email or phone. They are used to overseas guests; English support is much better here.

WHO THIS IS FOR:

You want to say you played one of the best courses in Japan. You're ok spending more and probably staying overnight.

RENTING CLUBS, SHOES & GEAR

What They Have vs. What to Bring

Most larger clubs (including all 3 above) offer:

- Club rentals (full set)
- Shoe rentals
- Towel, locker, bath amenities

What you should still bring:

- Golf glove
- Balls (you can buy, but they're pricey)
- Tees
- Hat, sunscreen (Japanese sun can be aggressive)
- A small towel if you like your own.

ADD THIS TO YOUR BOOKING EMAIL:

"We will need rental clubs for [X] players and rental shoes for [Y] players. Right-handed, standard men's sets."

ETIQUETTE + JAPAN-SPECIFIC THINGS

Quick Stuff So You Don't Accidentally Be "Those Guys"

"When you roll up, based ojisans will take care of your golf bag, even if you're a dirty weeb. No tip, free of charge."

— Matt

Be early.

Aim to arrive 45 - 60 min before tee time. You'll need time to check in, change, maybe hit a few balls.

Check in at reception, then go to locker room.

Change into golf clothes inside, not in the parking lot. Aura damage.

Lunch break is part of the culture.

After 9 holes, everyone goes back to the clubhouse, sits down for a proper meal, then goes out for the back 9.

Bath (ofuro/onsen).

Completely normal to shower and use the big bath naked after the round. Rinse thoroughly before you get in the tub.

Noise / music.

Japan is quieter. Keep music low or off, don't yell across fairways.

Smoking.

Still relatively common on course, but only in designated areas or cart ashtrays.

SAMPLE DAY PLAN

Shin Musashigaoka Weekday from Central Tokyo

You can just follow this.

- 5:45** **Wake up** Grab convenience store breakfast.
- ~6:30** **Train** Ikebukuro → Hanno (Seibu Ikebukuro Line).
- ~7:40** **Arrive Hanno** Taxi ~7 min to course.
- ~8:00** **Check in** Change, small warm-up.
- 8:30** **Tee off** Front 9. Let's go.
- 10:45** **Lunch break** Lunch + beers. 45 - 60 min. This is mandatory.
- 11:30** **Back 9** Finish strong.
- ~13:30** **Bath + chill** Use the onsen. You earned it.
- ~15:00** **Taxi back** Hanno Station.
- ~16:30** **Back in Tokyo** Shower, then hit izakaya.

DECISION TIME

Which Course?

Pick your vibe. You can't go wrong.

First time, want it easy + not too expensive?

Shin Musashigaoka Golf Course



Saitama | ¥12k - ¥17.5k+

Casual, GPS carts, 18 holes. Perfect "one golf day" energy.

Want a "proper" high-end Japan golf experience?

Taiheiyo Club Narita Course



Chiba | ¥21k - ¥33k+

Gary Player design, caddies, full rituals. Near Narita Airport.

Want the bucket-list, cliff-edge flex?

Kawana Hotel - Fuji Course



Shizuoka | ¥48k - ¥64k

Top-100 world course, Pacific cliffs, Mt. Fuji views. Overnight trip.

"I promise this will ruin golf everywhere else."

— Matt

ナイスショット

Now Go Shank 'Em.

You got the courses, the trains, the lunch beers, and the onsen after. Go have the best golf day of your life.

WANT THE FULL 132-PAGE GUIDE?

The Tokyo Bible

Every neighborhood, bar, restaurant, and local move I know.
It's almost ready. Get on the list.

[Get on the Waitlist](#)

Want my bar list + local spots guide?

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@mattjhannan's Tokyo Golf Guide Guide

From Tokyo. This shit is too fun.

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