



# THE EPIC DISPATCH

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## Rethinking Japan, Beyond the Usual Route

Most people start planning Japan with the same three names in mind.

Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka. Routes that are well connected and often the default starting point for most trips.

The journeys I design in Japan tend to move away from these well-trodden paths, towards places that retain the quieter, more familiar charm of Japan.

Places where the pace slows and the experience feels more personal.

It is often in these quieter places that Japan reveals itself differently.

And it is this side of Japan that I will be sharing more of in this issue.

**BEST TEO**  
**CHIEF TRAVEL DESIGNER**



# Going Deeper Into Japan

Some of you first travelled with me through Taiwan.

Over time, my work has expanded, and Japan has become a more significant part of what I design.

Across more than 20 trips, I have travelled through different parts of Japan. From Hokkaido in the north, to Kyushu and Okinawa in the south. Each region offering something different, and requiring a different approach.

With each visit, the work becomes clearer.

We test routes on the ground. Through self-driving journeys, train networks, ferries, and when needed, escorted arrangements.

It is not just about connecting places on a map, but understanding how a journey actually unfolds.

What works in theory does not always work in practice. And what appears complex can often be the most seamless when designed well.

Over time, you begin to understand what makes Japan come together as a destination.

The precision of service.

The environment you are in.

The atmosphere of a place, especially when it is not crowded.

It is knowing where a ryokan sits by the sea, where dinner is served in your room, and where the experience feels complete without needing to go anywhere else.

# What Makes Japan Stay With You

There are certain aspects of Japan that stay with you long after the trip ends.

Scenic train journeys are one of them. When designed into a journey, they become more than transport. A slower, quieter way of seeing Japan.

Then there is the ryokan experience.

Dinner served in your room, often overlooking the sea or mountains. A kaiseki meal that reflects the season.

Onsen culture is another.

After a day of travel, stepping into a hot spring becomes a way to unwind and reset.

And then, the quieter moments.

A tea ceremony. A slower morning. Time set aside to experience something with intention.

These are the elements I try to weave into every Japan journey I design.



# A Thoughtfully Designed Japan Journey

If this is something you have been thinking about, perhaps it is time to approach it a little differently.

A Japan journey, when designed well, is not just about where you go.

It is about how you experience it. The pace, the atmosphere, and the small details that shape the entire trip.

At Epic Travel Designer, I design journeys that are built around you. Thoughtfully planned, carefully paced, and supported from start to finish.

If you would like to explore what a well-designed Japan journey could look like, let's have a conversation.

**Start a Conversation**

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