

A DAY IN THE LIFE AT SASS JAPAN

In order to help you out with packing, we figured we'd give you a bit of additional information about what your days will look like...

IN TRANSIT:

Figuring out where to be and how to get there before meeting the group will be easier than you think. Japan is known for its efficiency and signs are written phonetically in our alphabet clearly. Make sure to print out the **“SASS Japan Travel Document”** and have it in your carry-on to be fully prepared. Do not hesitate to ask for help from information desks. These workers all tend to speak English and are known for being friendly and helpful to all travelers.

After meeting up with the group we will still be mobile for parts of your trip. This simply means to keep it to the essentials when packing and realize that we will be doing some traveling once in Japan. That said, we will be based out of the same hotel for your entire stay, so you will have the ability to keep your stuff in one place for the majority of your time.

ON MOUNTAIN:

Most days we will be hitting up Kiroro Resort 25 min. from where we are staying. We typically find that there is no reason to leave Kiroro as it snows more here than anywhere else and the lack of crowds gives us even more access to fresh lines. We will be using the lifts to access mostly backcountry (we do not use the term “sidecountry” as it gives a false impression of security, whereas these zones are still completely uncontrolled and unpatrolled) terrain via some hiking/ bootpacking. This means layers are key and always having your backcountry gear is required.

There will be days with the option of going for full-on backcountry touring missions. It is not required that you have the necessary gear, and if you would rather continue to hit the lift-access terrain, that is more than okay. Touring missions will consist of either multiple shorter laps, or one or two longer laps. It is also possible that we use touring gear to access more skiing after exiting a ski area and using their lifts. We will keep you posted on all available options every day. The key is to be prepared for a wide variety of options each day and to ask questions the night before. If touring is not something you are interested in, don't worry. This is your trip and we are here to make sure you get to enjoy the snow in the way that most pleases you.

If you do not have your own touring gear, no worries, our partners have you covered. We have a full fleet of [Jones Snowboards](#) splitboards with [Spark R&D](#) bindings, skins and collapsible poles for snowboarders. For skiers, we have a full fleet of [Folsom Custom Skis](#) with frame touring bindings that will work with any boot type. All boards and skis are designed for deep pow.

OFF MOUNTAIN:

As for the time spent off of the mountain, expect to be walking around outside in harsh winter conditions. It is both windy and very cold at night and, as you know, it is snowing often. Snow boots or, at the very minimum, over the ankle hiking boots will be your typical footwear when out and about or traveling between towns and mountains. For nightlife, the dress is quite casual, but sweatpants and tattered hoodies are not recommended.

SASS JAPAN PACKING LIST

SKI/BOARD BAG (wheels preferred):

- 1-2 snowboards/pairs of skis - *Remember, this is Japan. The fatter, the better.*
- 1 pair of poles - *Powder baskets required. You will hate it if you bring poles with racing baskets.*
- 1-2 pairs of snow pants - *Bibs are suggested to keep deep snow out.*
- 2 pairs of gloves or mittens
- 1 helmet
- 1 pair of ski/snowboard boots - *Keeping as carry-on is never a bad idea in case bags are lost.*
- 1-2 jackets - *Powder skirt recommended for keeping deep snow out.*
- 2-3 pairs of Goggles - *Low light (storm) and clear (night) lenses recommended.*
- 2 winter hats - *For both skiing and walking around town and while in transit.*
- 2 facemasks/neckies - *Ideal for copious faceshots and storm skiing.*
- Touring gear (skins, proper bindings, collapsible poles, etc) - *Touring gear is not required.*

AVALANCHE SAFETY GEAR (if not renting from SASS):

- 1 beacon
- 1 avalanche specific shovel - *No plastic shovel blades.*
- 1 avalanche probe
- 1 backpack with waist strap and ski/board carry

SMALL DUFFLE OR ROLLER BAG:

- 2-3 pairs of long underwear
- 3+ pairs of ski/snowboard socks
- 2+ wicking baselayer tops - *Non-cotton layers are better for hiking.*
- Casual T-shirts
- Underwear
- Relaxation wear (sweatpants, pajama pants, etc)
- Sweatshirts/hoodies
- 2+ jeans/pants
- Nightlife/on-the-town wear
- Toiletries
- 1 pair of shoes
- 1 pair of snow/hiking boots - *You will be walking through deep snow on a regular basis.*

CARRY-ON:

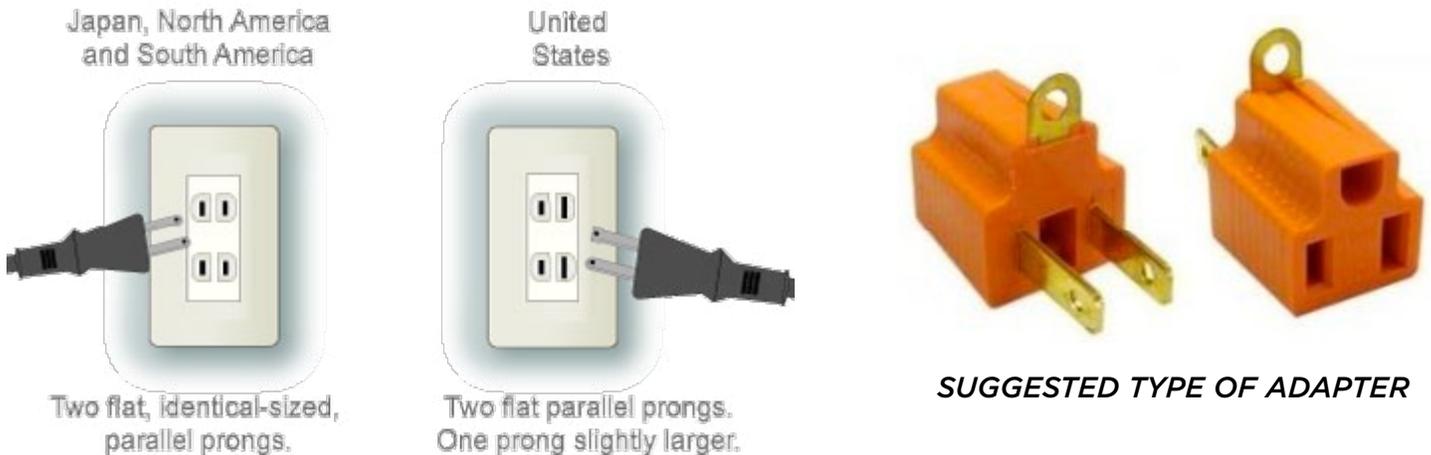
- Passport
- SASS Japan Travel Document
- 1 full change of clothes
- Computer or tablet - *Wi-fi is prevalent in Japan and will be available in your room.*
- Camera/GoPro - *Gotta get the shot.*
- All necessary cords for your electronics
- Lightweight jacket or fleece
- Headphones
- Toothbrush and deodorant - *Its a long flight.*

ON MOUNTAIN ACCESSORIES:

- Sunblock
- Lip Balm
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle - *Camelback tubes will freeze even if you have an insulated sleeve.*
- Small first-aid kit
- Multi-tool

POWER ADAPTER/CONVERTER:

Japanese outlets are almost the same as ours in North America. The exception being that both prongs are of equal size and there is not a third prong (ground) hole. Some plugs will fit, others will not. For example, Apple USB wall plugs will fit. If you have products that have the third prong (ground) you will need a small adapter (see below). No need for a converter as Japanese voltage is only slightly lower than in North America. Your hair dryer might be a little less powerful, but it will not blow it up. See image for visual explanation...



RENTAL EQUIPMENT:

If you plan to rent avalanche safety equipment from us, make sure we know. It will be available for you upon your arrival.

If you are planning on renting any other ski equipment, *make sure we know* so we can make the necessary arrangements.

AIRBAG PACKS:

Japan has their own regulations on airbag cylinders. You can only fill cylinders there that have a Japanese stamp on them (Japanese cylinders have a different pressure relief valve than the ones we sell in NA and Europe). The best option for most people will be to either sneak their cylinder in their ski or boot bag (and risk confiscation) or to rent a cylinder when they arrive in Japan. Please contact us if you have specific questions.

PERSONAL 2-WAY RADIOS

UHF radios, like the Motorola Talk-Abouts or the Backcountry Access BC Links, are illegal in Japan. **Do not bring them with you.** They will be confiscated, and if you are caught using them, you could face significant fines. This may seem extreme, but the law is due to the fact that they use similar frequencies for emergency services and interference is a major issue.