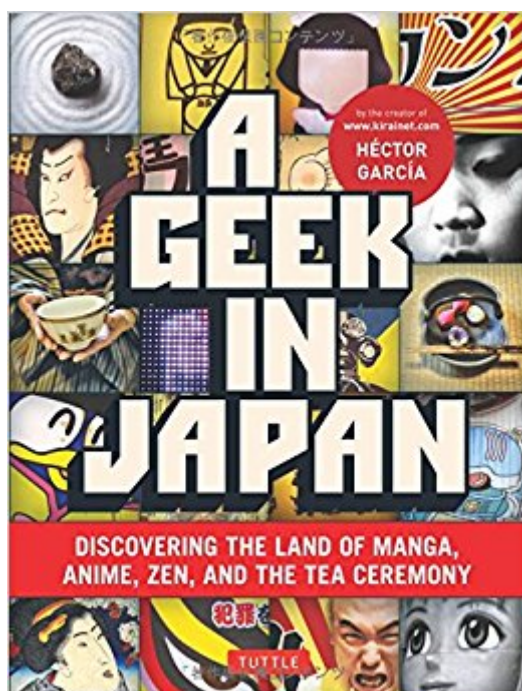


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A Geek In Japan: Discovering The Land Of Manga, Anime, Zen, And The Tea Ceremony



Synopsis

For every fan of manga, anime, J-pop, or Zen, *A Geek in Japan* is a hip, smart and concise guide to the land that is their source. Comprehensive and well informed, it covers a wide array of topics in short articles accompanied by sidebars and numerous photographs, providing a lively digest of the society and culture of Japan. Designed to appeal to the generations of Westerners who grew up on Pokemon, manga and video games, *A Geek in Japan* reinvents the culture guide for readers in the Internet age. Spotlighting the originality and creativity of the Japanese, debunking myths about them, and answering nagging questions like why they're so fond of robots, author Hector Garcia has created the perfect book for the growing ranks of Japanophiles in this inspired, insightful and highly informative guide.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Paperback with Flaps edition (June 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4805311290

ISBN-13: 978-4805311295

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 147 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,121 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Travel > Asia > Japan > General](#) #31 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions](#) #35 in [Books > History > Asia > Japan](#)

Customer Reviews

"Hector Garcia's *A Geek in Japan* is a lightweight but enjoyable romp through modern Japanese culture, seen through the eyes of its writer, an amazingly inquisitive young Spaniard living in Tokyo."
— [Lonely Planet](#) "The geek in Japan of the title is of course Garcia. He has written a sharp and concise guide to Japan. It is comprehensive and well done. Among many topics, *A Geek in Japan* covers traditional culture, history, character, work, society, manga & anime, music, movies & television, Tokyo, and visiting the rest of Japan. This is a book by and for Japanophiles. Each section comes with photos, sidebars, and the knowledge of a long-time Japanhand. Very well done."
— [Japan Visitor](#) "Everyone who is interested in Japan will find this book fascinating."
— [Larry Ellison](#), cofounder and CEO, Oracle Corporation "One of the funniest and yet most

accurate descriptions of modern Japanese culture that I've ever seen. Highly recommended!"

—Joichi Ito, director, MIT Media Lab"Hector and I share a deep interest and affection for all things Japanese. But in my case, I only get to enjoy Japan on my business trips. Back in Spain, I like to keep in touch. And that I do reading kirainet, 'A geek in Japan.' Now you can do the same. And in book format. Enjoy!"

—Martin Varsavsky, entrepreneur, founder of Fon and Safe Democracy Foundation"Filled with a load of photos and information about Japan"

—a must read."

—Danny Choo, Tokyo entrepreneur and owner of www.dannychoo.com"While not a traditional guide book, A Geek in Japan certainly makes a reader want to hop on a plane to experience everything firsthand."

—San Francisco Book Review"Comprehensive and well informed, A Geek in Japan covers a wide array of topics in short articles accompanied by numerous photographs, providing a lively digest of the society and culture of Japan."

—Japan Today

Hector Garcia was born in Spain, in 1981. After earning his MS in software engineering and working for CERN in Switzerland, he moved to Japan, where he worked on voice recognition software and later for Digital Garage, developing the technology needed for Silicon Valley startups like Twitter and Technorati to enter the Japanese market. He has been living in Tokyo since 2004 and is the creator of the popular blog www.kirainet.com

I have a number of travel guides and books on Japan, I have several language books as well. I've gotten interested in Japanese culture through manga and anime, which while it may be fiction, it often tells things about a culture I find fascinating. Most of the travel books are more from a tourists perspective on what to see, where to eat, with a few cultural references thrown in on the given areas visited. This book is more of a culture book which explains or at least tries to demystify the what and who is Japan and Japanese. From the origins of some of the more quirky customs to the influence of past history and the modernization of Japan. Along the way you learn a few words and terms and what they stand for. Some interesting cultural behaviors like Honne and Tatemaie, which don't translate very well in Western terms but in general explain a lot about the people of Japan. Other cultural topics explored include Bushido, the Real Geisha, Martial Arts, Zen, and the use of the Swastika called the Manji symbol in Japan. It explained the use of wearing masks, which I thought was just not to spread germs, but is mainly used as a filter for all the pollen released in cherry blossom season. Food and other pastimes are explained as well, each in a nice concise little story fashion conducive to easy reading. They also explore the culture I like the manga, and the anime, and the craziness of it all. The festivals, the shrines and what the different beliefs represent. It does

this all is such a way, it's like reading a good book you can't put down. The book does a nice job of weaving its tales through a historical perspective of Japanese history and without being boring doing so. Highly recommended for anyone looking to learn more about Japan or just someone who likes other cultures. Be forewarned if you know nothing about Japan and you read this book, you can be their will likely be a trip to Japan in your future.

Wish I had read this before my trip to Japan!Excellent review of Japanese culture and very helpful for planning, even though the writing style is sometimes not quite refined (avoid absolutes such as "All Japanese do this or that....")

Very detailed and informative. I've had to reread already read sections and parts of sections in order to understand a topic I was reading. A Japanese man I knew once told me that if one had not been raised in Japan, he/she would not fully understand Japanese culture. After reading this book, I agree. While it's not necessary to know Japanese culture as a tourist, I find this book gave me more insight into the Japanese "character" than other books I've read, such as, "The Chrysanthemum and the Sword," by Ruth Benedict. Must read if one is going to Japan to live or work for an extended period of time.

The book isn't bad... But all the "geeky" stuff is such a small portion of the book. It really wasn't what I expected from the title and descriptions. My brother likes it though and that's all that matters. This was a birthday gift.

Living in Japan this book has come in handy quite a few times and we have been able to experience a lot of different things. Love it!Seller shipped fast and arrived in one piece![...] If you have any questions about this let me know and I can answer them for you!

What a fabulous book! I loved how it compared Japanese work ethics, culture, technology, socializing, diet, and values to our Western society. The book opened up with taking an in depth look into how Japan was able to rise after World War II to become the world's second largest economy. That alone made this book worth reading. But then the author continues on to provide insight into some of the possible reasons for Japanese longevity as well as the reasons for their high suicide rates and other fascinating points that as an American, I would have never thought of. Great book!

In in-depth and thorough analysis of Japanese culture from the perspective of a European that's been there for 10+ years. Interesting, insightful, expansive, and unique. The book's pacing is perfect! it's highly visual and provides the perfect amount of information on each topic. This book was one of the most interesting books I've ever read. The only topic I wish had more analysis was the section on tv and movies. There's an over-the-top style to their entertainment that I didn't really understand any better after reading this book.

Worth getting if you are interested in Nihon

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