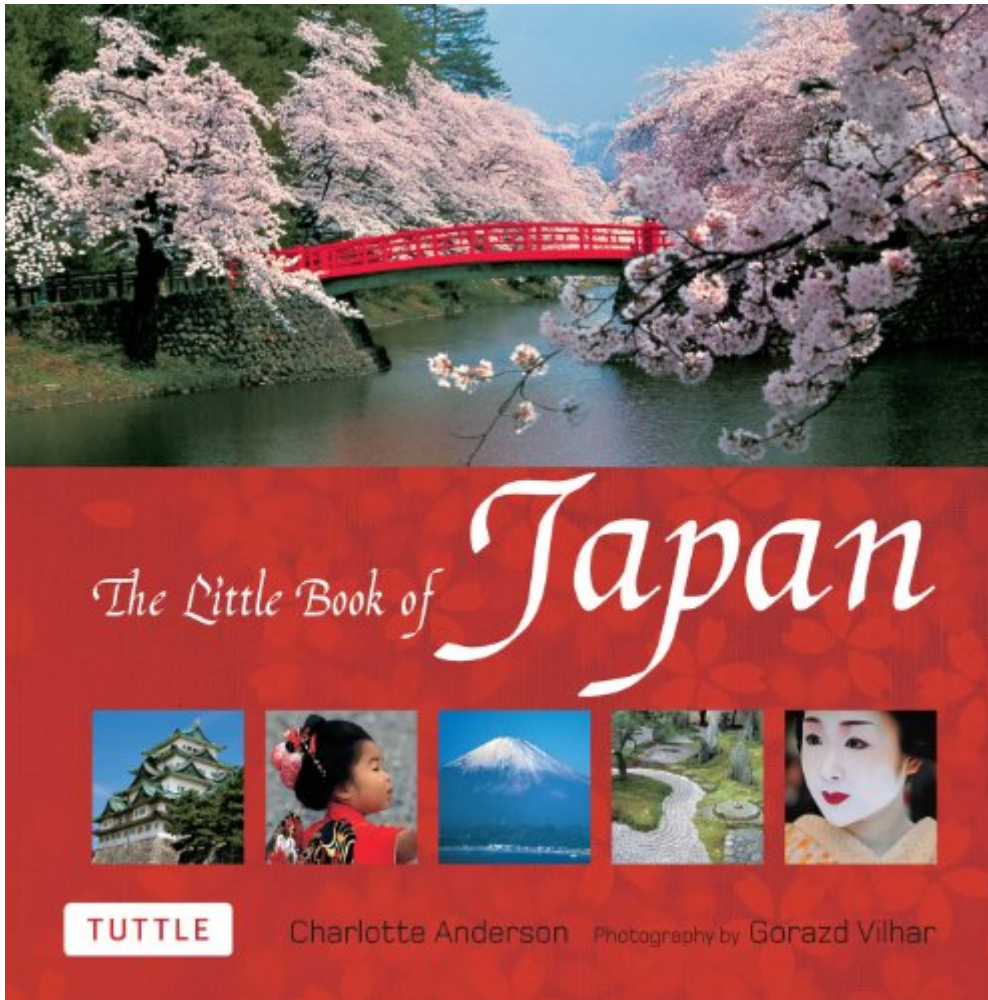


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The Little Book Of Japan



Synopsis

This compact travel pictorial and Japan travel guide is packed with cultural and historical information along with charming photographs. Japan is a country shrouded in mystery, even now in the 21st century. The myriad facets that, when put together, compose the whole of this nation are impossible to fully capture. But in *The Little Book of Japan*, the dynamic photographer-writer team of Gorazd Vilhar and Charlotte Anderson do an admirable job of creating a celebration in words and images that encapsulates what makes this country so extraordinary. Small and easily portable, *The Little Book of Japan* is organized in a series of 44 essays with photographs contained within four chapters: Cultural Icons, Traditions, Places and Spiritual Life. Under these four overarching ideals, Vilhar and Anderson explore a wide range of topics from Japanese cultural icons and traditions to Japan's spiritual life to its unique cities and villages. Broad enough to satisfy anyone with an interest in the culture, art, and beliefs of this unique island nation, yet comprehensive enough for the true Japanophile, *The Little Book of Japan* is a stunning collection of photographs and thoughtful essays.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a Japonologist teaching also a seminar on Japanese society I am usually sceptical about popular books "on Japan" in general, since they usually portray Japan one-sidedly, their main feature being exoticism (Japan as "different" from us) and a collection of stereotypes beginning with geishas and kimonos and ending in sakura blossoms and Zen-buddhism. The Little Book of Japan by Anderson and Vilhar doesn't shy away from these stereotypes presenting a full collection from bonsai and onsen to sushi and Japanese festivals. However, the way it does present them and the effects it achieves by it made me like this book immensely. First of all it is an extremely beautiful book. Not just the stunning photographs page after page, but its design, layout and form as well must make every book-fetishist love this little square hard-cover beauty (in the case of this book, Kindle version probably cannot come close to the experience of holding it in your hand). But more than that, the book brings all the afore-mentioned classical "topoi" of Japan through an extremely well-organised structure of four chapters, from "Cultural Icons", "Traditions", "Places" to "Spiritual Life", each of them featuring from 10 to 12 subchapters on specific topics. These topics are all introduced with short but extremely concise explanations where a large majority of each page is always reserved for stunningly beautiful photographs. Short but very informative explanations are extremely useful for anyone with an interest in Japan who wants to get the general idea about almost fifty different topics relevant to Japanese culture. This is a big plus for the book because even though the interest in Japan is widespread among the general public, there are many confused ideas and misconceptions floating around about this country.

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