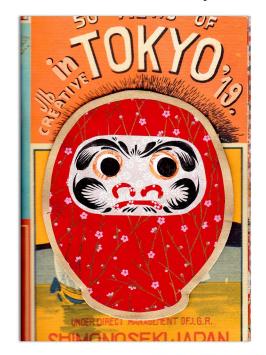
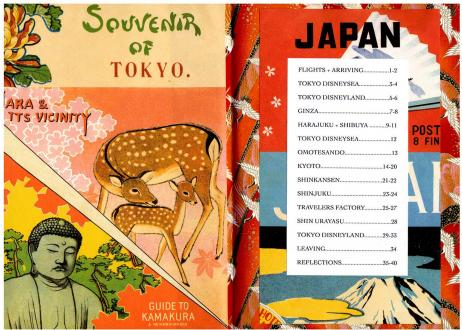
## jibcreative in Japan





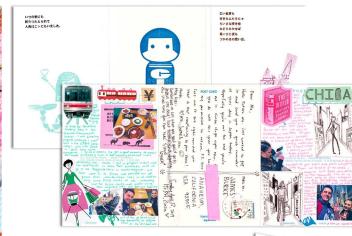












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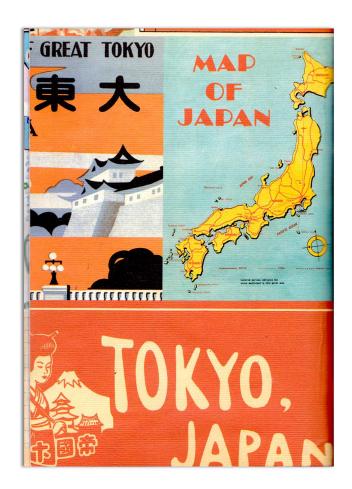








































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So this ends the travel journal, but if history means anything, it will hopefully be a short wait until the next one begins. I don't think I would ever not want to be in Japan. This trip was so special for so many reasons, chief among them (haha DWP reference), having Stella join me. It was so fun to see Japan through her eyes, noticing things that I remember noticing when I was 18, but forgot I used to think was crazy once I was used to it. Stella is a great friend to travel with and the ultimate baddie when it comes to photo-documenting anything and everything.

I think one of the most obvious high points from the trip was watching One Man's Dream II – the magic lives on. Being in Showbase was EXACTLY the same as I remember it, it always is. This will be the last time I see the show before it closes in December 2019 and I tried to soak up as much nostalgia as I could. It was like a memory binge session, haha, mixed with tears. Sense memory is so strong and sitting in the audience brought back such vivid memories of obvious moments – like the first time we watched the show as a cast, and less obvious ones, like the night Marisa and I made "She-Wolf" the music video on one of our many Cinderella VHS, popcorn, chu-hi, bunny slipper and ghost nights. I have to say, my current life triggering these memories bring about a slight sense of sadness. I yearn to dance on stage again, but beneath all of my wishes, my dream never stopped being dancing at Tokyo Disney Resort. Mix that with my current life as a journaler and now I have the regret of not buying ALL journal supplies while I living there. Anyway, I can't reflect too deeply on this because after a while my nostalgia turns to sadness and I just want to be grateful for what I had and the opportunity I have now to re-visit those experiences.

Traveling to Kyoto was another great highlight. It's fun to watch the landscape of Japan flash by the Shinkansen windows. It changes from cityscape to countryside so quickly and makes me wonder what my life in Japan might have been like outside of the Disney bubble. I noticed the signs included less and less English the further we left the Metropolis. I am reminded of my contract on the Legend of the Seas in 2010 and all the rural towns and quaint villages we popped into up and down Japan. They were still Japanese, but they were so quiet, sometimes silent. It felt comfortable, but distant to my experience having lived in a city like Tokyo. I imagine I would have enjoyed it, but I know that a huge part of my love for my early adult experiences had to do with what Disney provided. In any case, Kyoto was beautiful and the Tobichi store in Kawaramachi was totally worth getting lost for! Another moment in Kyoto that sent me into a contemplative state was when Stella, Shannon and I all crashed mid-afternoon. I never take for granted how comfortable you have to be to fall asleep in front of someone. In awe, I thought of how strange it is that we are just 3 adults who all met one day and now we're thousands of miles from our homes and feeling relaxed, happy, safe and free. What a blessing.

The trip just went from highlight to highlight (to ultra highlight) ahhaha, seriously, the worst part was my blister (which was also the most gross part). Even being sick that day wasn't the end of the world, because now I know I can spend 24 hours sleeping on a rock and still walk afterwards... haha. As we were getting ready to leave we were both in agreement that losing our passports (for real, not just like I thought I did in Kyoto haha) and being stranded in Japan forever wouldn't have been bad. I hope to be back as soon as possible, if not before. With the expansions at TDR I will be stalking Google flights. I'm so grateful for the blessings. Until next time, MATA NE!





