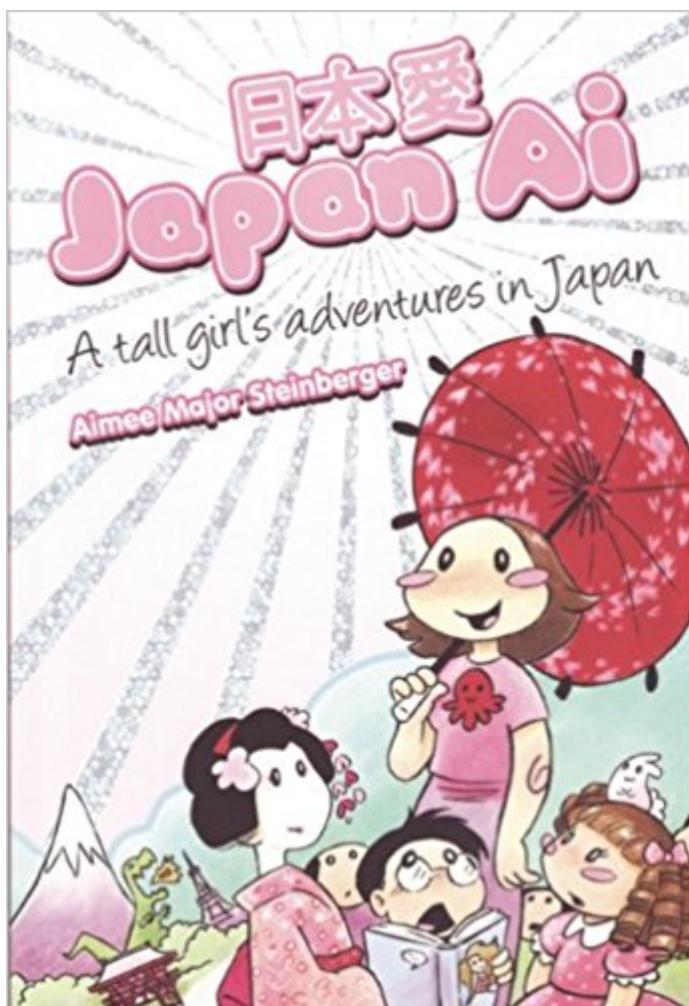


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# Japan Ai: A Tall Girl's Adventures In Japan



## Synopsis

In Japanese, "Ai" means "Love" ; and if you love Japan, get ready to dive head-first into the incredible world of Japanese pop-culture! Join Aimee Major Steinberger (a professional animator with a passion for all things cute) on the ultimate otaku vacation! Visit fantasy restaurants, maid cafes, and the world's most exclusive doll store! Cosplay on the infamous Harajuku Street! Attend an outrageous all-female Takarazuka musical! See beautiful shrines, hot springs, stores full of manga, and so much more! Aimee captures it all in a manga journal that is both adorable and breathtaking.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Aimee's a six-foot-tall cosplaying fangirl who visits Japan, land of her favorite hobbies. There, she visits historical Kyoto, shops, dresses as a geisha, visits a hot spring, goes to Tokyo and shops some more. The cute, cartoony sketches present a travelogue by an out-of-place but observant gaijin who is keen to absorb the intricacies of a new culture. Much of the story has a fairly straightforward went here, saw this, went there, saw that pace. Few incidents are given any dramatic weight. When her luggage is lost, it's a two-page incident, with the problem magically solved with no involvement on her part. Similarly, the developments from one of Aimee's companions being mistaken for a yakuza and being revealed as a narcoleptic are swiftly passed by in a one-page sequence. However, the cute characters cannot help becoming sympathetic, and Aimee missing a chance to go to dinner at a factory that makes her favorite dolls has real disappointment. The book resembles an illustrated travel sketchbook more than a manga, but the

otaku subject matter— and endless enthusiasm for the details of Japanese culture—is of built-in interest to readers of the latter. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr 9 Up—Accompanied by two friends, Steinberger travels to Japan to experience Asian pop culture, which includes cosplay and Volks dolls. Although at six feet tall she is an anomaly, Steinberger seems in her element. Her journal entries, illustrated with black-and-white drawings, serve as a captivating introduction to Japan. (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

As a tall man who lived in Kyoto I just love this book. It's an illustrated travel log of 3 self-proclaimed geek girls in Japan. It covers the wonders of life in Japan from bizarre foods, to tiny shoes to squat toilets all with wit and grace and no small amount of cuteness. HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT for anyone going to Japan for the first time or former residents looking for a reminder. EDIT (2017) - Since I wrote this I've gotten married and had kids and recently took it off the shelf to read to them, they love it! It is a very cool, very cute book.

I picked up JAPAN AI: A TALL GIRL'S ADVENTURE IN JAPAN by Aimee Major Steinberger because I'm planning on visiting the country next year and I'm doing all my research now. This book is fantastic! Not only does the author draw the cutest characters of herself and her two traveling companions, as well as the people of Japan, she describes the places and events that she encountered on this trip, so that you can't help but get a vicarious thrill reading it. The adorable drawings accompany succinct, but detailed text about places like Kyoto and Tokyo, including famous districts like Akihabara and Harajuku. The three friends also visit places like Kiyomizu - a famous temple in Kyoto, an "onsen" - natural hot springs, "Takarazuka Review" - an all-female cast that puts on musicals and plays, and do all sorts of other things like riding the train, getting dressed up in cosplay (costume play-where people dress up like anime characters or other outlandish outfits), to eating out. There are also drawings of maps for certain areas, including map legend with names of stores and other places of interest. And there are also funny incidences that the author, who is a 6-foot tall woman, and her friends experience in stores, riding the train, and going to the bathroom, that will have you laughing out loud! Steinberger also provides some historical information, as well as some Japanese phrases, and explains what a "Geisha," "Yakuza," and other Japanese terms that have become part of the American lexicon are -- including the different types of

fashion one encounters in the Harajuku area. There are also drawings that explain the traditional Kimono and other ornaments, and Japanese stuff like "Pocky" - cookie sticks and "koi" - large golden/orange fish, among other things. And to top it all off there's a glossary located in the back of the book, as well as an appendix that lists further information about the places, stores, and other books and resources about Japan, so the reader can do further research. Most of the book has black and white drawings, but there are some that are in vibrant color. I'm not sure why the entire book wasn't in color, maybe it was an editorial decision, but it's still good. Of course JAPAN AI won't take the place of an actual tour book, but it's a fun read and Steinberger's passion and excitement leap off the page. Plus it gave me good ideas on stuff to definitely see when I get to go on my adventure to Japan!

I've been a fan of Aimee's online journal for awhile now (she loves costuming, Dr Who, and is unapologetic about being a total geek) so even though I've never felt much interest in Japan I decided to buy her book. It was worth the price; full of great detail, fantastically cute artwork, and awesome geekiness involving cosplay. I now actually want to visit Japan myself!

Cute. Simple. A lovely guide book to one girl's adventures in Japan. So don't look for millions of pages of details. This is about her and her two friends and their journey to the VOLKS store in Tokyo by way of Kyoto. The cartoonist happens to also be six feet tall. It is a sketchbook and guide to many of Japan's little delights and, sometimes, tiny problems. It has a glossary and a appendix of websites of hotels, food places, stores and so on.

Love this book so much. Seller was great and shipped it quickly.

A really fun book, and it was actually pretty helpful in planning my own trip to Japan being a tall girl myself!

A great book where you can explore Japan through fun moments of the writer. I highly recommend it if you want to learn a little bit about Japan's culture or you want to visit this place or just to read it for fun.

A nice e-comic that is perfect for vicariously experiencing a trip to many of the most exciting and interesting parts of Japan!

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