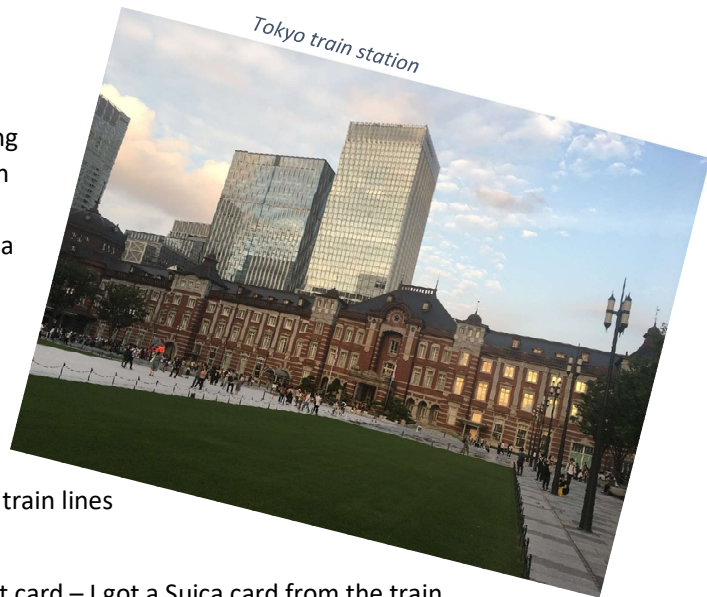


Postcards from Tokyo – day 1.

Hi all!

Have arrived safely in Tokyo – it was a long flight but worth it! Made a miscalculation though – should have arrived at Haneda Airport instead of Narita. Haneda is only a short distance from the Oi Hockey Stadium, which is near the Omori district. The Omori area has a lot of hotels, restaurants and a massive shopping centre, so it's a really easy place to stay while doing some sight-seeing. And it is right between two main train lines – you can get anywhere!



First thing I did was get myself a transport card – I got a Suica card from the train station and loaded it up with 5000yen (about 42 euro). That should last me for a week or more – the average price of a train ride is between 200-300yen. The train and monorail stations all use the tag-on and tag off system and using the transport card is so much easier than getting tickets. You can even use the cards on buses and some shops will even let you pay for your purchases with them! The train stations are very well signposted – in Japanese – but there are English translations everywhere. And if you can't work out which way to go or which platform to use, there are very helpful staff everywhere.

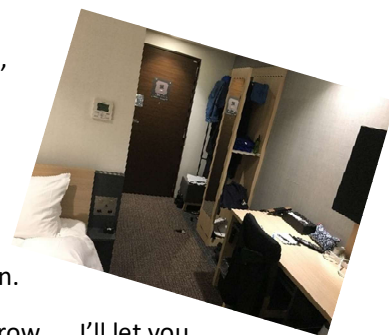


Even the locals take pity on us tourists and try to help out where they can.

They also have a load of small stores in the train stations – tiny restaurants, newsagents, convenience stores, clothing – you name it, it's there!

Anyway, got to the hotel and the check in process was really simple. I was lucky and scored a single room all to myself. The rooms here are very small, so pack light! And it was a great idea to book a room with breakfast included – there aren't a lot of options for breakfast elsewhere. The buffet style set up is great – and I got to try a lot of different things. Miso soup for breakfast is fantastic! There are some western options, but the Japanese selections are a lot more interesting and very so much tastier....

Walking around the neighbourhood, there are a heap of convenience stores that sell everything from chocolates to alcohol, prepacked meals and umbrellas, and they even have microwaves to heat up your snacks! There are a few coin laundries around for washing (always good to find them early) but you hit the jackpot when you find a multi storey shopping centre. There is a massive array of shopping options! Plastic bags aren't outlawed here, so you always get something to carry your purchases home in.



That's it for now – I'm going exploring towards the stadium tomorrow.... I'll let you know what I find!