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Sumiko Kajiyama

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BY **SUMIKO KAJIYAMA**



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#687525 in Books Sumiko Kajiyama 2013-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.251, .90
#File Name: 0984633456288 pages Cool Japan | File size: 43.Mb

Sumiko Kajiyama : Cool Japan: A Guide to Tokyo, Kyoto, Tohoku and Japanese Culture Past and Present (Museyon Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cool Japan: A Guide to Tokyo, Kyoto, Tohoku and Japanese Culture Past and Present (Museyon Guides):

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, simple, introduction By Verax for one day offered a free

download for this Kindle book. Thank you, ! It got me hooked into reading it straight through and I just had to write a glowing review and look for more. I don't plan to visit Japan, but even so this book is a fantastic introduction to the country. It teaches much of the basics important to understanding the history and culture of the nation. Both what is rapidly changing and what valuable parts stay the same. The only objection I might have is the title, "Cool Japan," it is not about latest fads or cool fashions, even though some are mentioned in the Tokyo section. Instead, it should be "neat" as in "interesting" and "stimulating" and "elegant"; it sheds light on much of Japanese history and culture that would otherwise go unnoticed by foreigners, without giving too many details. So it is like the umami in Japanese food. After you look at the book you will want to read more about the four characters that are the focus of this little book. I have already ordered some by Kenji Miyazawa. As he wrote (translated by David Sulz): "Watch well and listen closely. Hold the learned lessons dear." The photographs and maps serve well to begin you on your own journey. Looks good and works well on a Kindle. Thanks, ! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. this is a nice introduction to three Japanese cities and the culture surrounding ... By Customer I bought this book in preparation for a three week trip to Japan this winter. Not quite a travel guide and not quite a history book, this is a nice introduction to three Japanese cities and the culture surrounding them. Told through a couple unique stories and biographies, it still includes the textbook guide book features with maps and location information. I really enjoyed reading this and it helped develop our itineraries for the trip. Nice illustrations to boot. If you are interested in Japanese culture, especially in preparing for a visit - I definitely recommend this book. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Cool Japan By Haley Keller I really enjoyed this book, although it contained more history than I was expecting it to for a travel guide. It was more like a book on the history of certain locations in Japan, and then there was travel information thrown in at the end of the sections. I can understand why that would be frustrating if you were looking for a travel guide, but I quite enjoyed it and thought it was very interesting. From the writing (and the fact that the writer is from Japan), it is clear that the writer's first language isn't English. I love the fact that the book is written by someone from Japan because they are more likely to know the area better. However, the book definitely could have been edited better. There were a lot of parts where the wording was awkward or just not right. That's probably my biggest complaint with the book. Overall, I enjoyed it and thought that the information it contained was cool to learn.

Written by local expert Sumiko Kajiyama, *Cool Japan* is a three-part travel guide that explores the heart of Japanese culture and must-see places from a uniquely Japanese perspective. First, visit Kyoto, where you will discover 1,000 years of history from the ancient love story the Tale of Genji to the traditional tea ceremony. Then head to Tokyo to experience Japan's cutting-edge capital, where the 21st-century kawaii culture collides with landmarks like the Kabuki-za Theater and the Imperial Palace. For a different perspective, venture outside the city to the serene towns of Tohoku, the region largely affected by the 2011 tsunami disaster. Informative, entertaining, and useful, this book is an ideal introduction for any traveler looking for a deeper understanding of Japanese culture, past and present.

"Few locations hold as much interest and require as thought-provoking a travel guide as Japan. This beautifully illustrated and formatted work by author and former TV producer Kajiyama (*Ghibli Magic*) is organized into three sections that focus on Kyoto, Tokyo, and Tohoku. The information related to Kyoto is framed in terms of heroes such as the fictional Hikaru Genji (created by novelist Murasaki Shikibu), warlord Oda Nobunaga, and reformer Sakamoto Ryoma. The section on Tokyo includes information on both traditional and new sights and on shopping and dining. Japan's poetry and folklore are reflected in the pages devoted to Tohoku, a seaside region devastated by the 2011 tsunami. Typical entries list address, contact information, a website, and historical nuggets. The title also includes full-color illustrations, photographs, maps, and a seven-page index; a single-page time line traces the history of the country from 14,000 BCE to 1931 CE." *Library Journal*, Oct 15.