

Guide to Japanese Bathing Etiquette

For the Japanese, the Onsen is not just a place for cleansing the body. Most people also consider it as a special place to soothe their tired minds and bodies, unwind, and gain energy for the next day. For everyone to enjoy a bath in the onsen, there are several bathing etiquettes that one must follow.

Master these basics to fully enjoy your bathing experience.



Remove your clothes, place it in a basket or put inside your locker.

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You are responsible for any valuables you bring in the onsen. Coin lockers are also available.

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Take off your shoes and slippers before entering the dressing room.

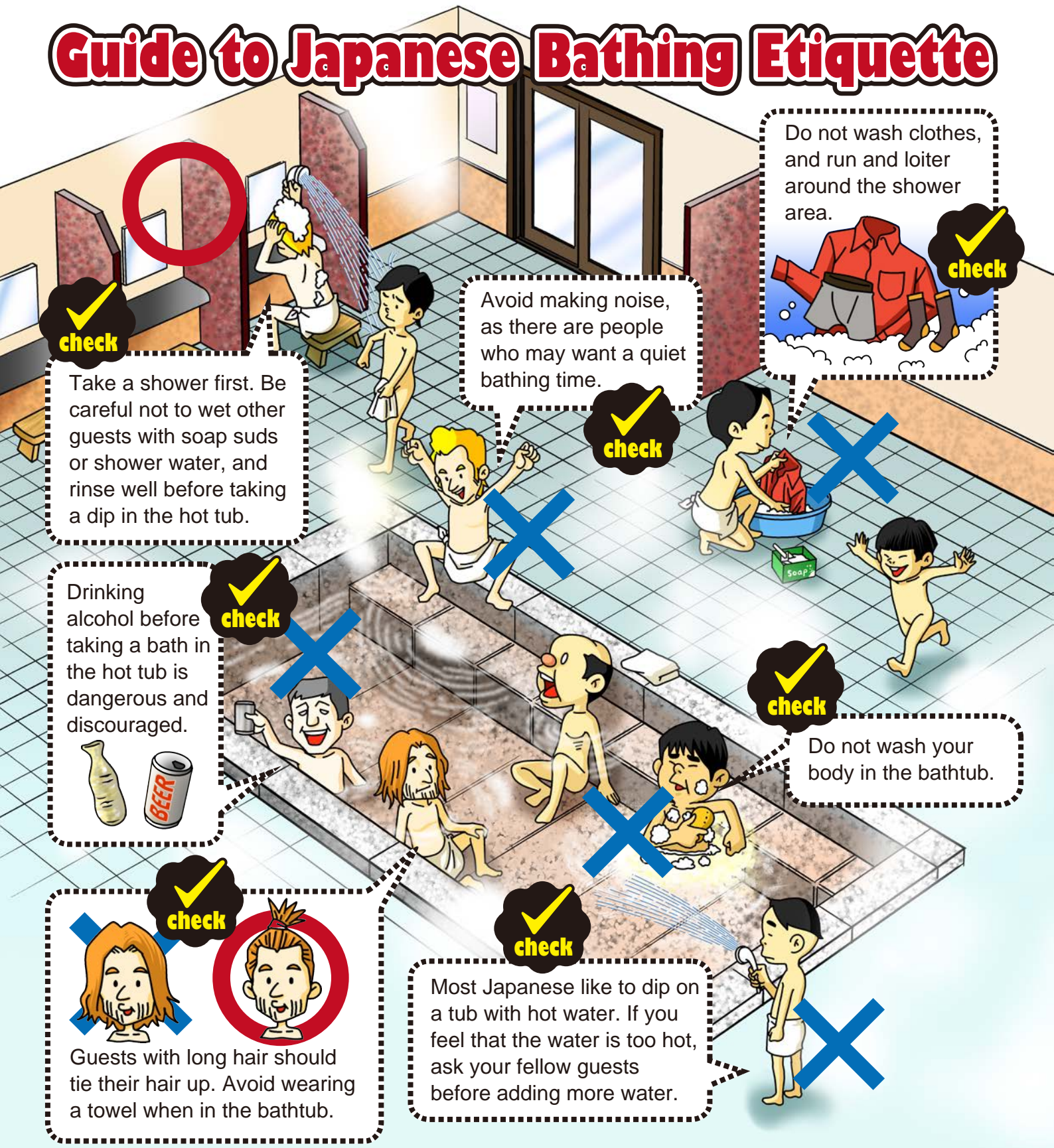
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In most cases, guests should enter the tub naked. Unless you are in a public bath that allows swimwear, you are not allowed to enter the tub with clothes on.



Follow these bathing etiquettes and enjoy bathing the Japanese way.

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Take a shower first. Be careful not to wet other guests with soap suds or shower water, and rinse well before taking a dip in the hot tub.

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Avoid making noise, as there are people who may want a quiet bathing time.

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Do not wash clothes, and run and loiter around the shower area.

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Drinking alcohol before taking a bath in the hot tub is dangerous and discouraged.

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Do not wash your body in the bathtub.

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Guests with long hair should tie their hair up. Avoid wearing a towel when in the bathtub.

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Most Japanese like to dip on a tub with hot water. If you feel that the water is too hot, ask your fellow guests before adding more water.

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Thoroughly wipe your body dry before returning to the dressing room.

