

# Northern Japan: Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, Sapporo

Presentation by  
Paul Pacter

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## Japan's Four Main Islands



Japan has 6,852 islands. 260 are inhabited. 4 main ones are in red.

## Comparing Japan and USA

Some Facts	JAPAN	UNITED STATES
Capital	Tokyo	Washington, DC
Area	145,000 sq mi	Whole USA: 3,718,000 sq mi Florida: 66,000 sq mi
Population	123,000,000	340,000,000 Florida: 22,000,000
States	47 Prefectures	50 States
Language	Japanese	English
President / Prime Min.	Sanae Takaichi (Since 2025)	Donald Trump (Since 2025)

### Japan Brief History (1 of 2)

**600 BC:** Japan united (loosely) as single country under an Emperor.  
**1185-1867:** Shoguns (military) ruled Japan, not Emperor.  
**1500 AD:** Europeans arrived. International trade began.  
**1603-1867:** Edo period. Isolation from rest of world. Tokugawa Shoguns rather than Emperor.  
**1867:** Civil War. Shogunate ended. Emperor restored (Meiji Restoration).

### Japan Brief History (2 of 2)

**1867-1890s:** Modernization. Industry.  
**1890s-1945:** Wars with neighbors – China, Russia, Korea, Vietnam, even USA (Pearl Harbor). **Defeated in WW2.**  
**1950s-1980s:** Strong economic growth.  
**1900s-2000s:** Economic slowdown.  
**Since 2010:** Slow recovery. Ageing population.

### Head of Government: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi Since October 2025



- Leader of the majority party or majority coalition in the House of Representatives usually becomes Prime Minister.
- Cabinet: Prime Minister appoints.

### Japan also has an Emperor. Emperor Naruhito.



- Hereditary.
- Succeeded his father who abdicated on April 30, 2019.
- Powers are ceremonial.
- No power in running the government.
- Defined in Japan's Constitution as "the symbol of the state and the unity of the people".

### Bicameral Parliament (Diet): House of Councillors:

- 242 seats.
- 6-year terms, half renewed every 3 years.

### House of Representatives:

- 465 seats.
- 4-year terms.



# Japanese Money

The Yen

Symbol ¥

¥158 = US\$1

So this 10,000 yen note is worth about US\$63.



## Religion in Japan

“Religion does not play a big role in the everyday life of most Japanese people today.” [www.japan-guide.com](http://www.japan-guide.com)

Wikipedia: “Less than 40% of the population of Japan identifies with an organized religion”. Of that 40%:

- 35% Buddhism (imported from China).
- 3% to 4% Shinto (developed in Japan).
- 1% to 2% Christianity.

## Japan Median Age:

Historical:	Projection:
1955 22.8	2030 51.5
1960 24.8	2040 53.0
1970 28.2	2050 53.6
1980 31.6	
1990 36.9	
2000 40.7	
2010 44.2	
2020 48.0	
2023 49.1	
2025 49.8	

Implications (Examples):

- Economy general: Labor and skills shortages.
- Declining productivity.
- Lower tax collections (fewer workers).
- Increased health-care and pension costs (34% of Japan's 2023 national budget).
- Increased dependency on carers.
- Migration.

- #2 in world after Monaco
- USA = 39.1 (2024)

[population.un.org/wpp/](http://population.un.org/wpp/)

## Japan's Ageing Population

- 30% of population > age 65 (2023).
- 2nd highest in world (after Monaco).
- USA 18%. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator>

Due to ageing population, Japan actually sells more adult diapers than kids' diapers.



## Economy

GDP 2026 (est): \$4.5 Trillion  
(#5 after US \$31.8T, China \$20.7T, Germany \$5.3T, India \$4.5T).

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2025/10/14/world-economic-outlook-october-2025>

Public Debt as % of GDP (2024):  
237% (USA 120%, China 88%, UK 101%, India 81%, Germany 64%).

[https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/GG\\_DEBT\\_GDP@GDD/CAN/FRA/DEU/ITA/JPN/GBR/USA](https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/GG_DEBT_GDP@GDD/CAN/FRA/DEU/ITA/JPN/GBR/USA)

Energy: Nearly 100% dependent on foreign energy (oil, gas, etc).



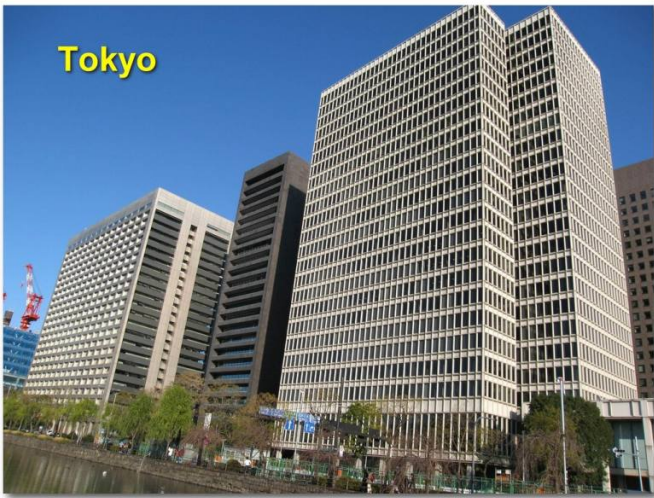
# TOKYO

## Tokyo

Capital of Japan  
Population 14 million.  
Second-most populated capital (after Beijing).  
Metro area 41 million.



**Tokyo**



**Imperial Palace -- Tokyo**



**Public can tour grounds only**

**Asakusa Kannon Temple Entrance**



**Students at Asakusa Kannon Temple**



**Asakusa Kannon Temple  
Built 628 AD**



**Incense burning at Asakusa Kannon Temple  
Buddhist (not Shinto)  
Kannon = Chinese Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy)**

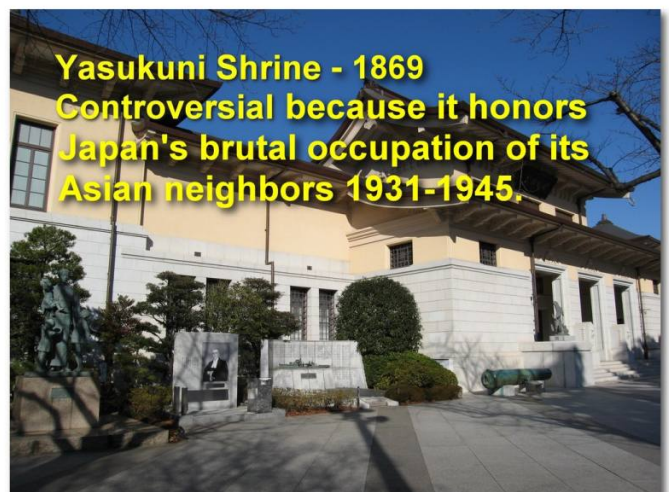


**Kane-ji Temple  
Temple of Shogun-gawa Shoguns\*  
1625**



**\*Japan's military government  
1603-1868**

**Yasukuni Shrine - 1869  
Controversial because it honors  
Japan's brutal occupation of its  
Asian neighbors 1931-1945.**



Ginza  
Tokyo's main shopping street



Kabuki-za Theatre -- Tokyo



In Kabuki shows, all parts  
are played by men



Toshogu Shrine  
1616



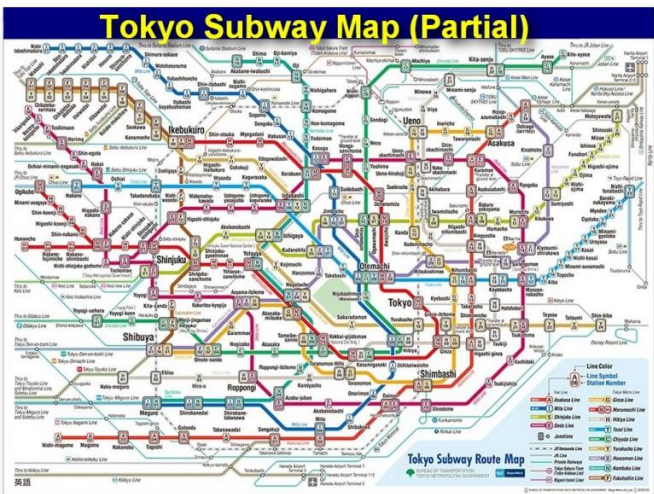
Shopping street in Ueno district



Smoking prohibited on Tokyo streets



Tokyo Subway Map (Partial)



Tokyo Metro (subway train)

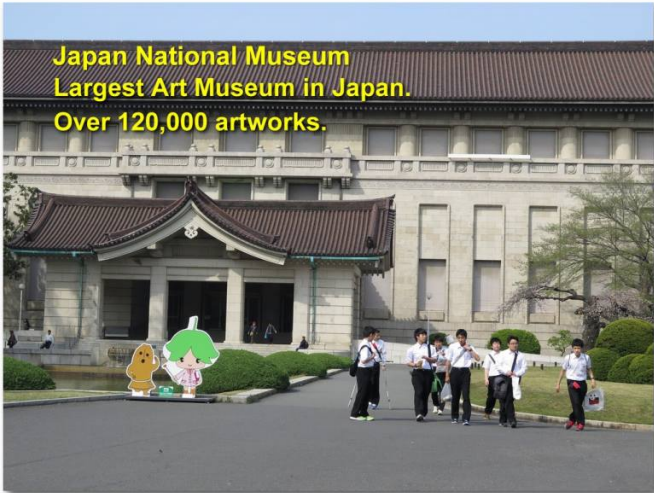




Tokyo Metro



Tokyo Metro



Japan National Museum  
Largest Art Museum in Japan.  
Over 120,000 artworks.



Japan National Museum

Nara Period - 8th c



Japan National Museum

Cast iron tea Kettle, 15th-16th c



Japan National Museum

Amitabha Triad - 703 AD



Japan National Museum

Mask - Kamakura period - 14th century

### Tsukiji Seafood Market

- Until 2018 wholesale, retail and restaurants one place in central Tokyo.
- In 2018 wholesale (old inner market) moved 1.5 miles outside Tokyo.
  - Visitors watch from above behind glass.
  - Closed Sun and most Weds.
- Retail and restaurants (old outer market) still function in same old Tsukiji place.
  - 400 shops.
  - 5am-2pm ex Sun.



Oct 11, 2018: Wholesale (inner) part of market moved to Toyosu 1.4 miles to away from central Tokyo. Old outer (retail, restaurants) part of Tsukiji market remains as before. At Toyosu, visitors must watch auctions and activity from above behind glass.



Tsukiji Market



Lobsters

<http://www.tsukiji-market.or.jp/>



Tsukiji Market

Prawns (shrimp)



Tsukiji Market

Geoducks -- a kind of clam

See these bubbles? These are alive and breathing.



Tsukiji Market  
Dried whale meat



Tsukiji Market

Oysters



Tsukiji Market

Scallops



Tsukiji Market  
Roe (fish eggs)



Tsukiji Market  
Crabs



Tsukiji Market  
Bulleye

Bulleye are NOCTURNAL. Live in DEEP WATER.  
Large eye lets in enough light for them to see.



Tsukiji Market  
Fresh wasabi (a radish)



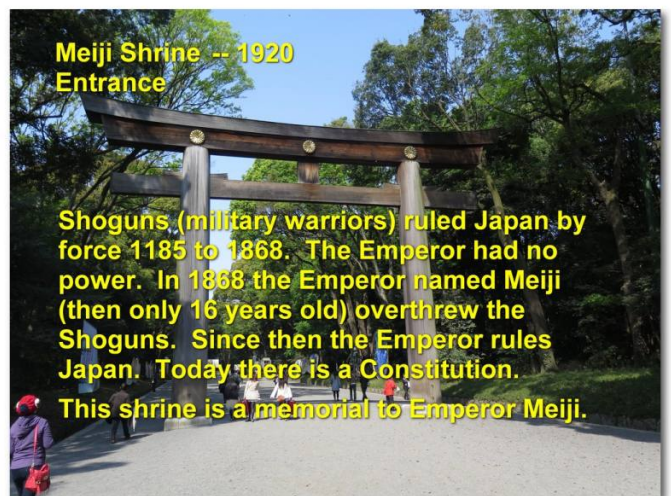
Tsukiji Market  
Octopus



Typical Tsukiji Market Restaurant  
Menu, Photos, Prices Outside  
A Bit Chaotic



Some are a mix of  
restaurant  
and retail.



Meiji Shrine -- 1920  
Entrance

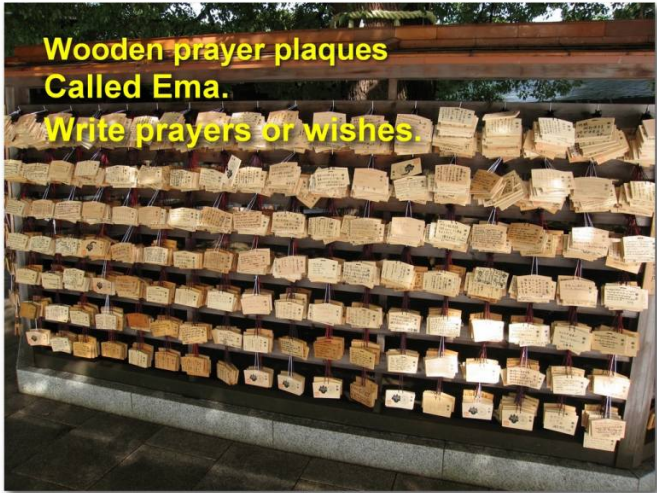
Shoguns (military warriors) ruled Japan by force 1185 to 1868. The Emperor had no power. In 1868 the Emperor named Meiji (then only 16 years old) overthrew the Shoguns. Since then the Emperor rules Japan. Today there is a Constitution. This shrine is a memorial to Emperor Meiji.



Sake drums  
Entrance to Meiji Shrine  
Sake = Fermented Rice Wine  
Table Wine and Offering to Gods



Meiji Shrine  
In honor of Emperor Meiji  
1852 to 1912  
122nd Emperor of Japan  
Shinto



Wooden prayer plaques  
Called Ema.  
Write prayers or wishes.



Safely travel throughout the journey. Getting into a good university for all. Good health to everyone. World peace to all.  
Huiyi, Rachel, Patricia

I wish Hana will love and snuggle with me more.

Wish Tiffa a healthy and long life together with me forever. Wish all our families and friends to be healthy and happy.  
Partha & Tiffa



Meiji Shrine  
Wedding  
Shinto



Shinto Priests  
Groom  
Bride



Groom and Bride



Akihabara electronics district



Akihabara electronics district



Harajuku - Role playing



Harajuku - Role playing



Harajuku - Role playing



Harajuku - Role playing



# KAMAKURA



Japan Rail Train  
Tokyo to Kamakura  
One hour.  
950 Yen.

Kamakura was capital  
of Japan 1183-1355.



Kamakura  
Tokeji Temple -- 1185

Kamakura has about 120 historic Buddhist  
temples and 40 Shinto shrines.



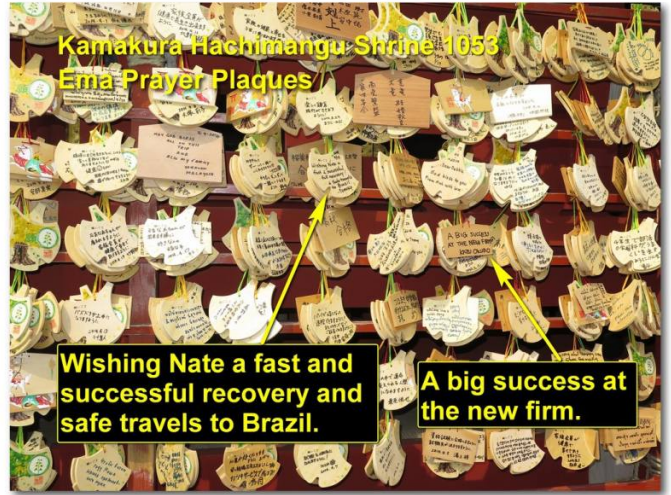
Kamakura  
Jochiji Temple 1282



Kamakura  
Kenchoji Temple  
1253



Kamakura  
Hachimangu Shrine 1053



Kamakura Hachimangu Shrine 1053  
Ema Prayer Plaques

Wishing Nate a fast and successful recovery and safe travels to Brazil.

A big success at the new firm.



Kamakura - Engakuji Temple 1282



Daibutsu  
Giant Buddha  
Kamakura 1252  
Bronze



Students on field trip to Kamakura



A kite is a kind of large bird of prey  
Similar to a buzzard

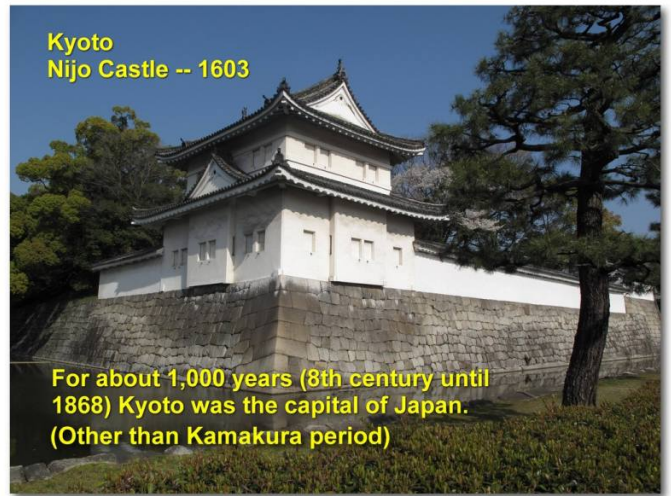
**BEWARE OF KITES**

They'll aim for your food, fly from behind and come to take it.

Their sharp claws will injure you. Please be careful!

# KYOTO

Kyoto  
Nijo Castle -- 1603



For about 1,000 years (8th century until 1868) Kyoto was the capital of Japan.  
(Other than Kamakura period)

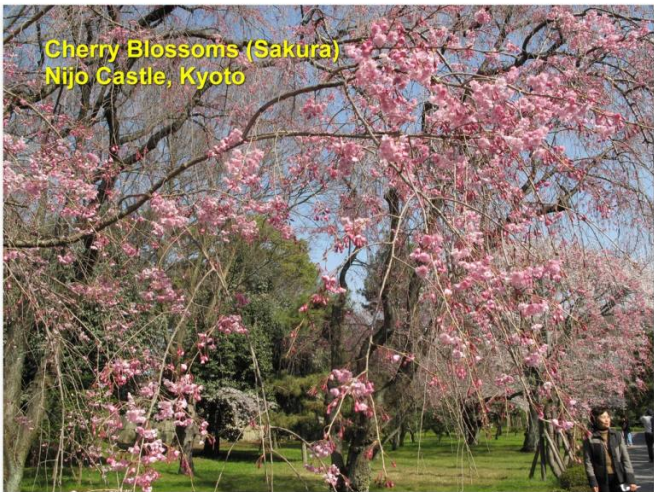
Nijo Castle  
Kyoto - 1603



Nijo Castle Gardens  
Kyoto



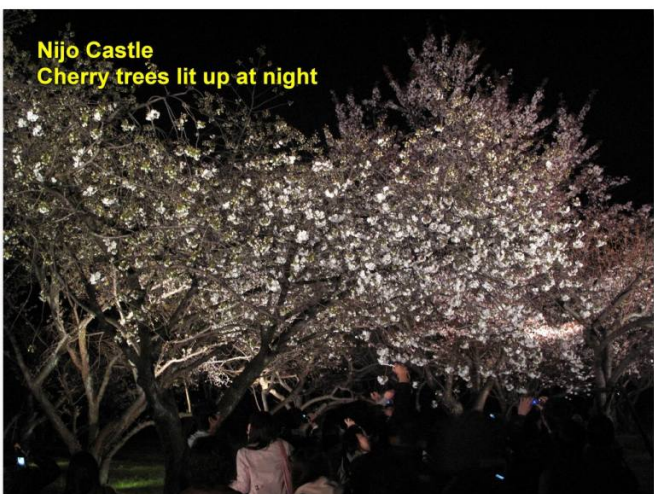
Cherry Blossoms (Sakura)  
Nijo Castle, Kyoto



Cherry Blossoms  
Nijo Castle, Kyoto



Nijo Castle  
Cherry trees lit up at night



Kyoto Bus

"Next: Horikawa Marutamachi"

Press for stop



**Kitano Tenmangu Shrine  
Kyoto, 947 AD  
Shinto**

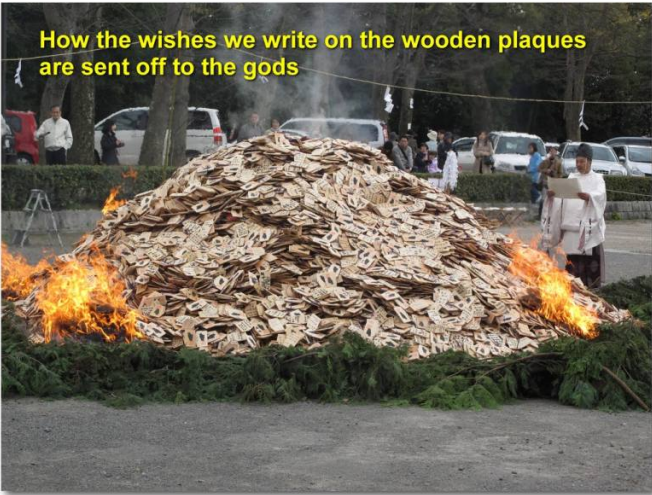


**How the wishes we write on the wooden plaques  
are sent off to the gods**



Next slide →

**How the wishes we write on the wooden plaques  
are sent off to the gods**



**Kitano Tenmangu Shrine  
Kyoto, 947 AD  
Shinto**



**Lanterns at  
Kitano Tenmangu Shrine  
Kyoto**

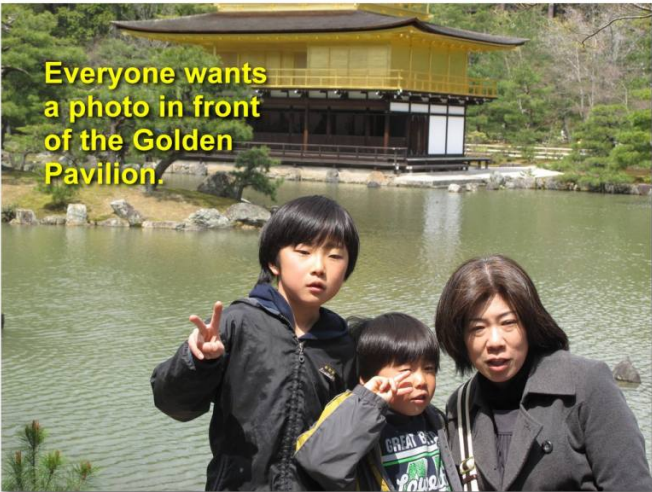


**Kinkakuji Temple  
Also Called Golden Pavilion Temple  
Kyoto**



**Originally 15th century.  
But in 1950, totally burned down by a  
mentally ill novice monk.  
So this temple was rebuilt 1955.**

**Everyone wants  
a photo in front  
of the Golden  
Pavilion.**



**Kyoto Supermarket**





Kyoto Supermarket



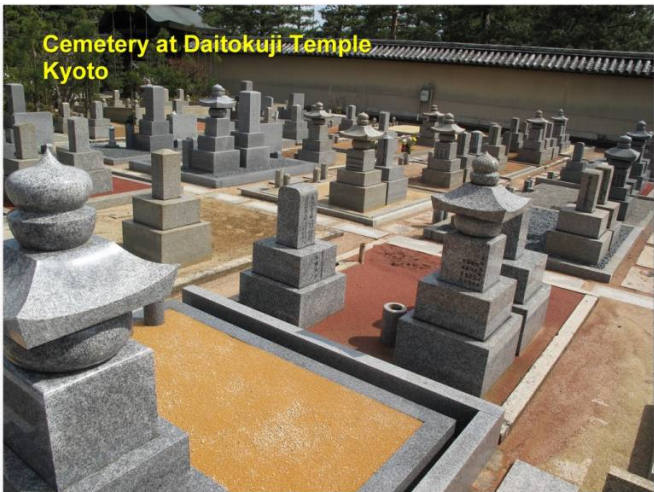
Kyoto Supermarket



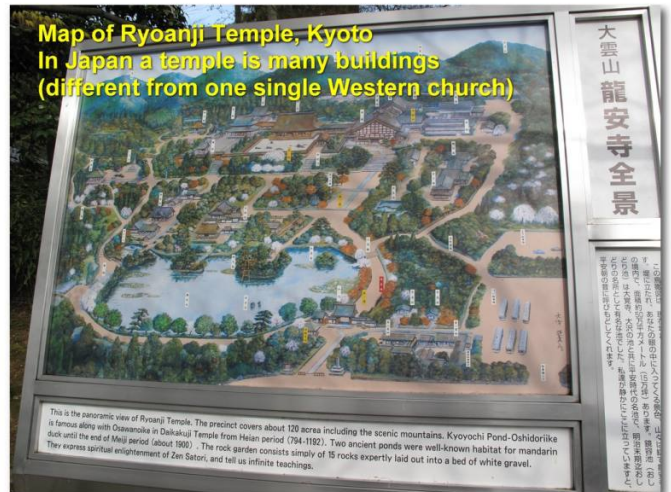
Kyoto Supermarket



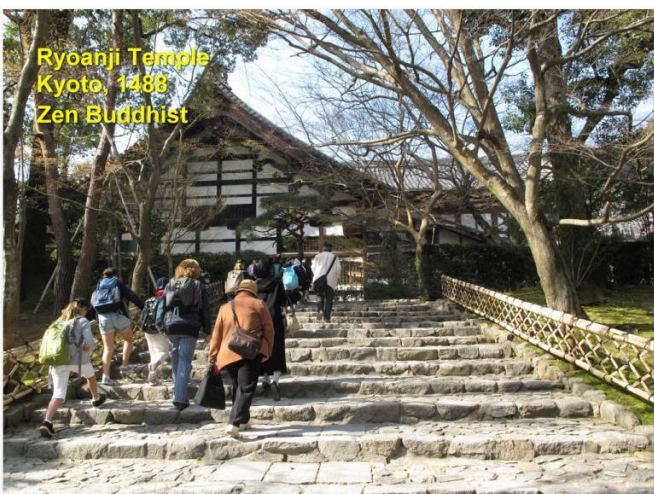
Daitokuji Temple  
1326, rebuilt 1474  
Kyoto



Cemetery at Daitokuji Temple  
Kyoto



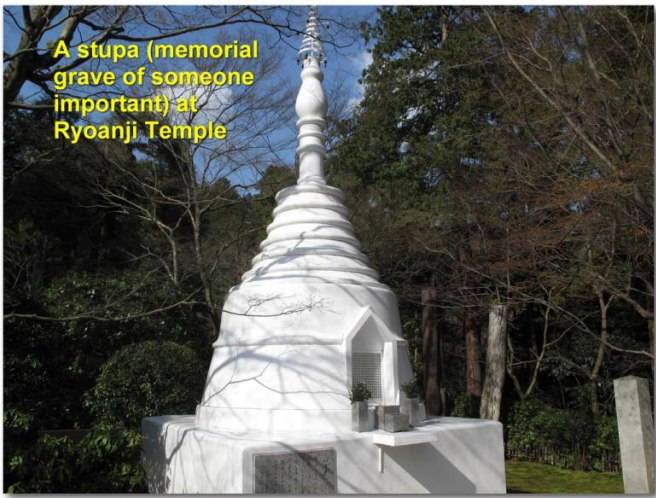
Map of Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto  
In Japan a temple is many buildings  
(different from one single Western church)



Ryoanji Temple  
Kyoto, 1488  
Zen Buddhist



Ryoanji Temple zen meditation garden



A stupa (memorial grave of someone important) at Ryoanji Temple



Cherry blossoms at Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto



Cherry blossoms at Ryoanji Temple Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple



**Ninnaji Temple**  
5-storied pagoda  
1644



**Philosopher's Path**  
Kyoto  
30-minute walk along a canal  
Built 1890



**Ginkakuji Temple**  
Kyoto, 1482  
Meditation garden



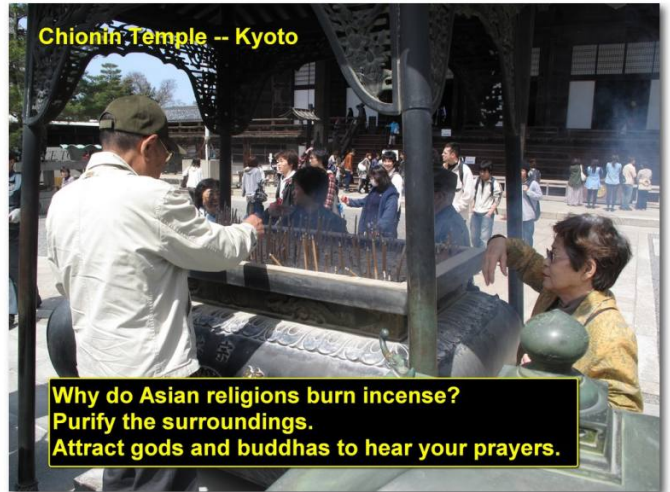
**Ginkakuji Temple**  
Kyoto



**Philosopher's Path**  
Kyoto



**Chionin Temple**  
Kyoto, 1234

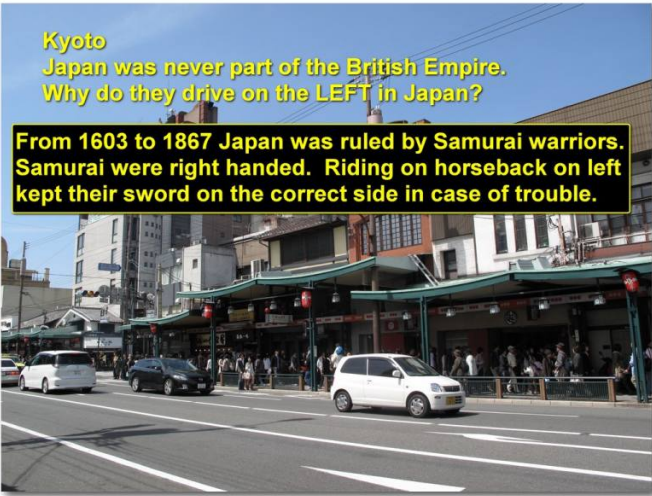


**Chionin Temple -- Kyoto**

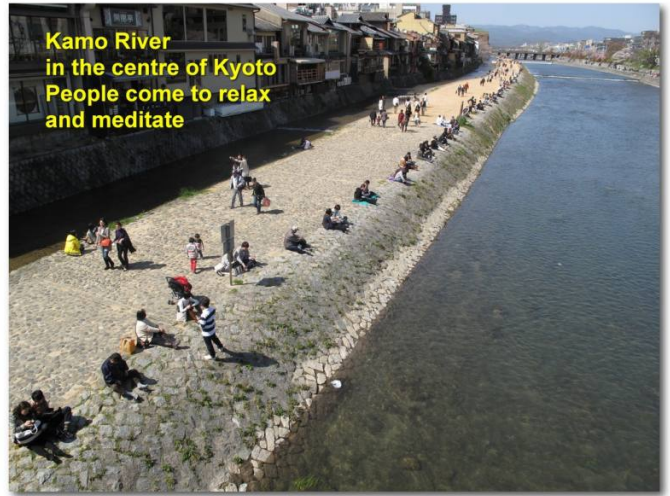
**Why do Asian religions burn incense?  
Purify the surroundings.  
Attract gods and buddhas to hear your prayers.**

**Kyoto**  
Japan was never part of the British Empire.  
Why do they drive on the LEFT in Japan?

From 1603 to 1867 Japan was ruled by Samurai warriors. Samurai were right handed. Riding on horseback on left kept their sword on the correct side in case of trouble.



**Kamo River**  
in the centre of Kyoto  
People come to relax  
and meditate



People playing GO in a Kyoto park.



19x19 grid. Put stones at intersections.  
Object is to surround your opponent.

Look where they are sitting!



Most Japanese cities have streets  
now closed to traffic and covered,  
many blocks long.



**Toji Temple**  
Kyoto, 796 AD



Toji Temple  
Golden Hall, 16th c  
Kyoto



Shimogamo Shrine  
Kyoto, 6th c



# SAPPORO

Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Held every year since 1950  
Around 2 million visitors!



Sapporo is on the northernmost  
main island of Japan: Hokkaido.  
1.5 hour flight from Tokyo.

Sapporo Snow Festival 2016



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
3 locations in Sapporo  
This one is Odori Park



Snow Sculpture of  
St Paul's Church  
Ruins, Macau



The Real  
St Paul's Church  
Ruins, Macau  
16th Century  
Destroyed 1835



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park  
Anime Characters



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Skiing in Odori Park



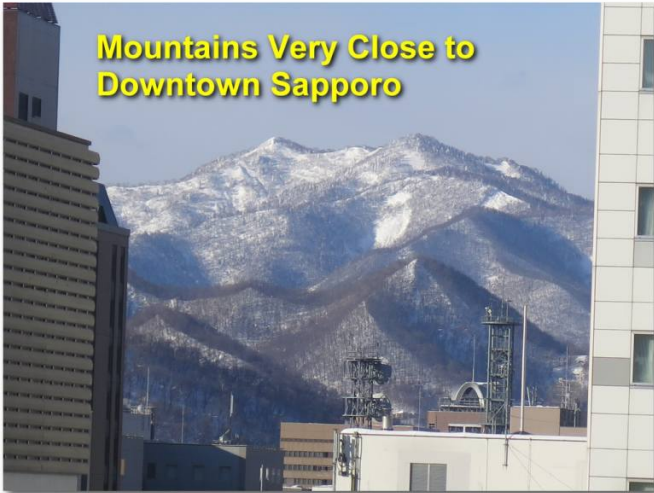
Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park at Night



Sapporo Snow Festival 2016  
Odori Park at Night



Mountains Very Close to  
Downtown Sapporo

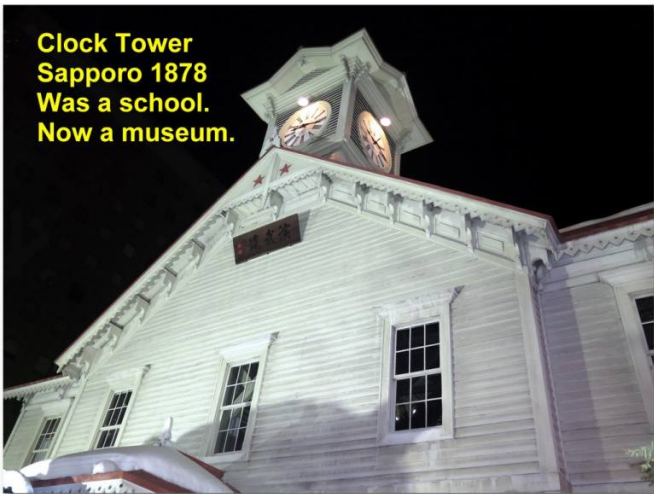


TV Tower  
Downtown  
Sapporo.  
Observation  
Deck.



Sapporo  
Population:  
2,000,000.  
Japan's 5th  
largest.  
Annual  
Snowfall:  
16 feet!  
Annual Snow  
Festival:  
2,000,000  
tourists.

Clock Tower  
Sapporo 1878  
Was a school.  
Now a museum.



Nijo Fish Market  
Sapporo



Nijo Fish Market  
Sapporo -- Crabs  
¥7,500 = US\$70  
for 1 crab!



Nijo Fish Market  
Sapporo





"Sumo" oranges at Nijo Market



Nijo Fish Market Sapporo



Roe (fish eggs)  
Nijo Fish Market  
Sapporo



Tongu Shrine  
1871



Downtown  
Sapporo



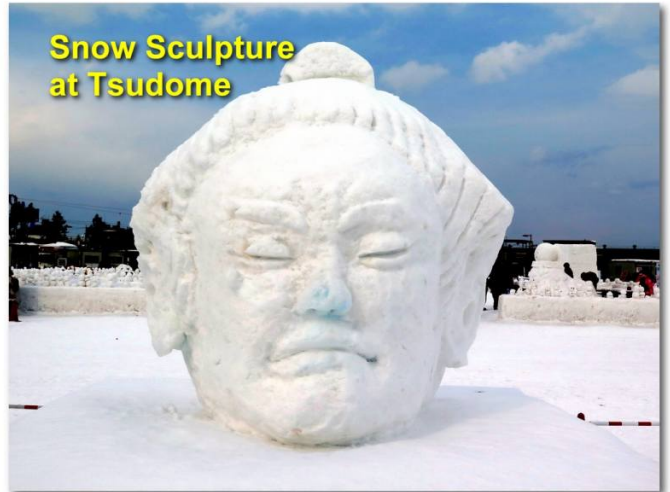
Street tram in Sapporo



Ice Sculpture - Sapporo 2016



Ice Sculpture - Sapporo 2016



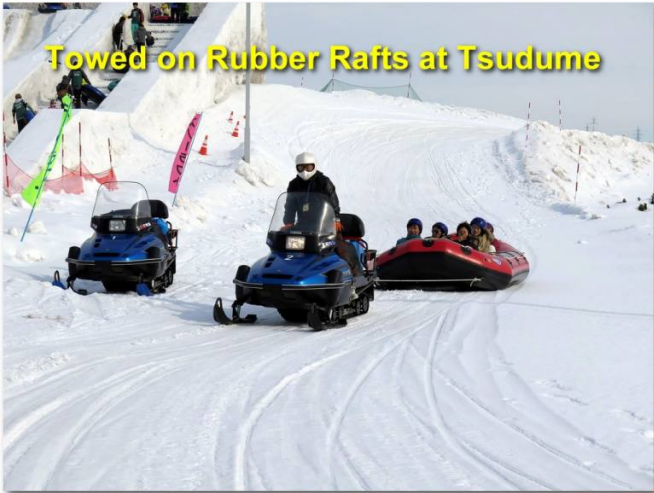
Snowboarding at Tsudome



Tubing on the Snow at Tsudome



Towed on Rubber Rafts at Tsudome



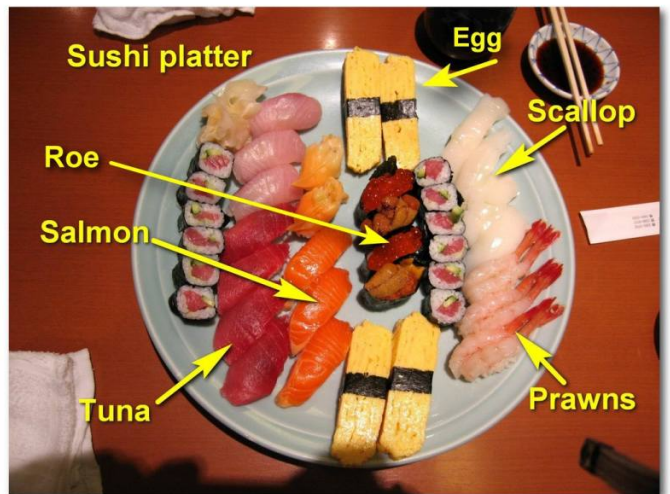
Deicing Our Plane at Sapporo



Spray chemicals that stop snow from sticking to wings

A novelty for Hong Kong people!

# JAPANESE FOOD SPECIALTIES



Revolving carousel-sushi

Price depends on color of the plate



Yakitori -- skewers of meat or veggies





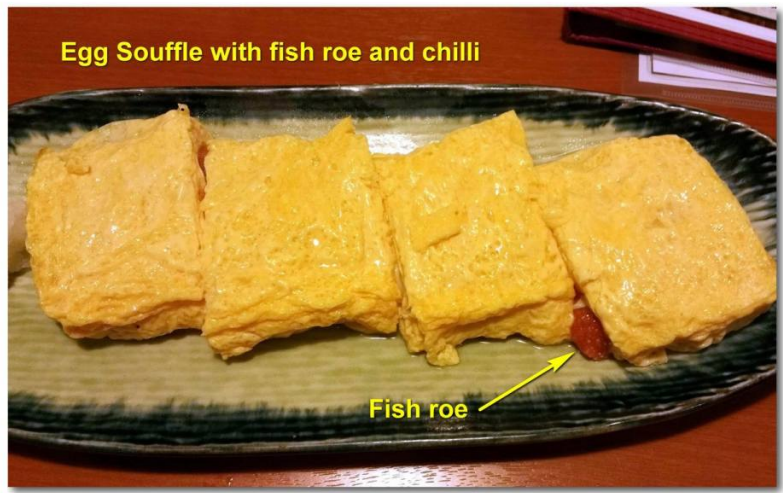
Broiled squid



Ramen



Okonomiyaki -- pancake made of flour, eggs, cabbage, pork, other things



Fish roe



Most restaurants have menus in English or with pictures



Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Red bean buns



Cooking tuna with a blowtorch at your table!

