

NORTHERN JAPAN
Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, Sapporo
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Some facts

	JAPAN	UNITED STATES
Capital	Tokyo	Washington, DC
Area	145,000 sq miles	Whole USA: 3,718,000 sq mi Florida: 66,000 sq mi
Population	127,000,000	320,000,000 Florida: 20,000,000
States	47 Prefectures	50 States
Language	Japanese	English
President / Prime Min.	Shinzo Abe (since 2012)	Donald Trump (since 2017)

Head of government: Prime Minister Shinzo ABE (since December 26, 2012).

- The leader of the majority party or majority coalition in the House of Representatives usually becomes prime minister.
- Cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the prime minister.



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".

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako



Former Emperor Akihito



Reigned 1989 to 2019

Reigned since May 1, 2019

With the Trumps May 2019



Daughter Aiko, Princess Toshi

Viola

Prince Akishino and son Prince Hisahito

With Prince William

Bicameral Parliament (Diet):

House of Councillors:

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

House of Representatives:

- 465 seats.
- 4-year terms.



Japan Citizenship

Citizenship by birth: No.

Citizenship by descent only: At least one parent must be a citizen of Japan.

Dual citizenship recognized: No.

Residency requirement for naturalization: 5 years.

Japanese Money

The YEN

Symbol is: ¥

About Yen = 1 US\$



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



Religion in Japan

"Religion does not play a big role in the everyday life of most Japanese people today." 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.

Name of Japan

In Japanese: "Nihon" or "Nippon", which means "sun origin". Why? It was once believed that Japan was the first country to see the sun rise in the East.

Flag: White with a large red disk representing the sun in the center.



Japan Median Age (2018):

- Total: 47.7 years.
- Male: 46.4 years.
- Female: 49.2 years.

Second oldest in the world (Monaco is first).

USA Median (total): 38.2 years.

UK: 40.5 years.

China: 37.7 years.

Japan's Ageing Population:

21% of population is over 65 – highest in the world.

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

Currently, the oldest (verified) humans in the world are two Japanese people at 116 and 115 years old. Both women.

Also 9 of oldest 20 are Japanese women.

Japan has so many vacant homes it's giving them away

By Emiko Jozuka, CNN, December 6, 2018 **CNN!**

Four years ago, Naoko and Takayuki Ida were given a house. For free....

A free house may sound like a scam. But Japan faces an unusual property problem: it has more homes than people to live in them. In 2013, there were 61 million houses and 52 million households, according to the Japan Policy Forum. And the situation is poised to get worse.

Japan's population is expected to decline from 127 million to about 88 million by 2065, according to the National Institute of Population and Social Security, meaning even fewer people will need houses. As young people leave rural areas for city jobs, Japan's countryside has become haunted by deserted "ghost" houses, known as "akiya."

Economy

GDP (nominal) 2018: (World Bank, in Trillion US Dollars)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 USA | \$20.494 |
| 2 China | 13.608 |
| 3 Japan | 4.970
(PPP \$5.443 trillion) |
| 4 Germany | 3.997 |
| 5 United Kingdom | 2.825 |

Economy:

Public debt (total government borrowings 2017):

- Japan: 237.6% of GDP. Highest in the world.
181.8%: Greece. Second highest in the world.
USA: 78.8%.
China: 47.0%.
Hong Kong: 0.1%.

Major Economic Slowdown 1990-2013.

Some recovery since 2013.
But still a long way from 1989.



History 1

660 BC: Emperor Jimmu began rule of whole of Japan. Founder of the imperial dynasty. Considered the start of Japanese history.

For next 2,000 years: Internal battles, regional shogunates, reunifications. For most of the period there was an Emperor of Japan with limited powers.

Late 1500s: Europeans arrived. External trade began. Civil warfare continued.

History 2

1592: Japan invaded Korea. Heavy losses but Korea prevailed.

1603: Tokugawa Shogunate (military dynasty) began rule of all of Japan. Political, economic, and cultural stability. Near-total isolation from foreign influence. Called Edo Period.

1854: US Admiral Perry invaded Japan to open its ports to foreign trade. Unequal Treaty of Kanagawa.

History 3

1867: Civil war. Edo period ended. Meiji Restoration (of Emperor's powers).

1860s-1890s: Japan determined to avoid becoming colonized by West. Emperor decided on course of rapid modernization and industrialization to make Japan self-sufficient.

1890s: Wars with China, Russia, Korea.

History 4

1894-95: First Sino-Japanese War. Japan won. Obtained Taiwan and Korea, which had been a vassal state of China.

1904-05: Russo-Japanese War. Cause: Rival imperial ambitions in Manchuria and Korea. Japan won. Russia acknowledged Japan's control of Korea and got some Russian territory.

1910: Korea was completely annexed into Japan.

History 5

1931-32: Japan invaded Manchuria (N.E. China) and won. Began second Sino-Japanese War.

1937: Japan launched full scale invasion of China. Captured many areas of eastern China. Estimated Chinese war dead (military and civilian) 20 to 30 million.

1940: Japan invaded French Indo-China (Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos).

1941: Japan invaded USA – Pearl Harbor. US entered WWII.

History 6

1945: Surrender of Japan. WWII ends.

1950s-1980s: Strong economic growth.

1990s and 2000s: Major economic slowdown began. Just beginning to recover now.

– Dec 1989: Nikkei Index reached its peak of 38,957.

– March 2009: Low 7,055. 82% below its 1989 peak.



TOKYO



Imperial Palace -- Tokyo



Tokyo



Tokyo





Kabuki-za Theatre -- Tokyo



In Kabuki shows, all parts are played by men



Asakusa Kannon Temple Entrance



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)



Asakusa Kannon Temple



Honganji Temple



Cemetery at Honganji Temple



Tiny cemetery plot for sale for ¥12,600,000, which is US\$125,000. To put ashes, not body.



Yasukuni Shrine Controversial



Yasukuni Shrine -- Controversial



Ginza Tokyo's main shopping street



Toshogu Shrine 1615



Tokyo Police Car



Shopping street in Ueno district



Shopping street in Ueno district



Smoking prohibited on Tokyo streets

Korean

Chinese

Japanese

English - Smoking on the street is prohibited



Small part of Tokyo subway train map



Tokyo Metro (subway train)



Tokyo Metro



Tokyo Metro



These people have colds. Or are trying to avoid catching one.



Japan National Museum



Japan National Museum



Japan National Museum



Japan National Museum

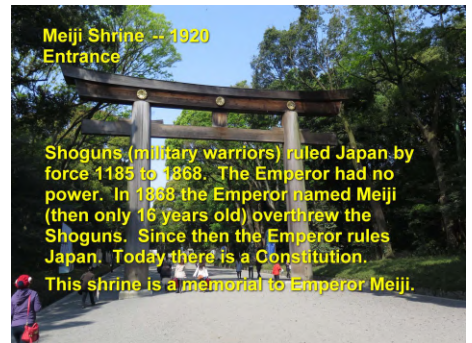


Japan National Museum



Rinnaji Temple







Wooden prayer plaques



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

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 Priests Groom Bride



Groom and Bride



Another Bride and Groom



Akihabara electronics district



Akihabara electronics district



Harajuku - Role playing



Harajuku - Role playing



Harajuku - Role playing



Harajuku - Role playing



KAMAKURA



"JR" Japan Rail train Tokyo to Kamakura



Students at Kamakura train station. Kamakura was "capital of Japan" 1183-1355.



Kamakura
Tokeji Temple -- 1185



Kamakura
Jobhiji Temple 1282



Kamakura -- Engakuji Temple
Story of wooden Buddha sculpture
inside. Carved 1282, but only the face was
saved. Survived fires and earthquakes.

BUTSUDEN Butsuden is the building where the Engakuji's principal image of Buddha
was enshrined. It was ruined during the Great Kantō Earthquake but was
rebuilt in 1884. The principal image of Buddha is called Hakuai Shaka Nyorai or
Hachimanbutsu (Vairocana Buddha) of Japan. It was injured when Butsuden was burned
in 1982, but Butsuden was burnt down in 1983, leaving only its face to be saved. The
damaged body parts were restored when Shinzei was rebuilt in 1993. This is where
Bonnie (Bachina) and Teishakuji (Dishi) were enshrined on both sides of the principal
image. The Hakuai Gangeki was a gift from Emperor Daigoji in 1376. Annual festivals
and Early Morning Zen Meditation are held here.



Kamakura -- Engakuji Temple
Wooden Buddha



Kamakura -- Engakuji Temple



Kamakura -- Engakuji Temple



Kamakura
Kenchoji temple 1253
Wood



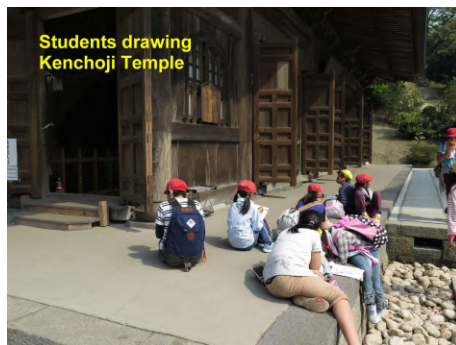
Kamakura
Kenchoji Temple



Kamakura Kenchoji temple



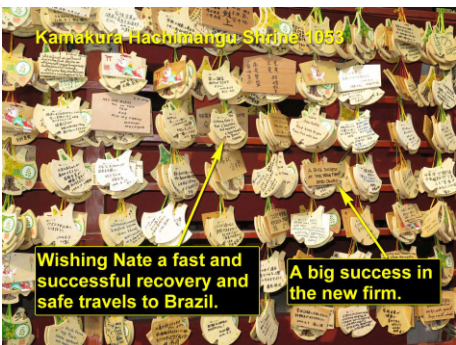
Kamakura
Kenchoji Temple



Students drawing
Kenchoji Temple



Kamakura
Hachimangu Shrines 1053



Kamakura Hachimangu Shrine 1053

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

A big success in
the new firm.



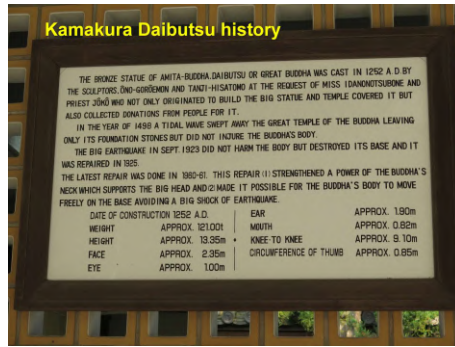
Hachimangu Shrine 1053
Small pagodas carried on special festivals



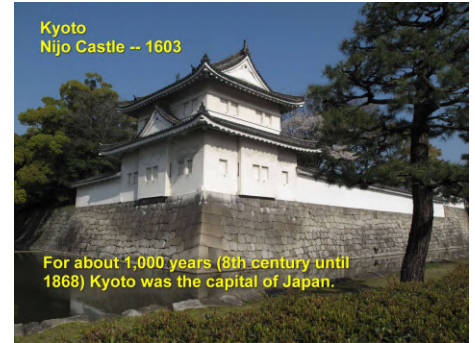
Daibutsu
Giant Buddha
Kamakura 1252
Bronze



Kamakura Daibutsu
Bronze 1251



Students on field trip to Kamakura



Kyoto
Nijo Castle -- 1603

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



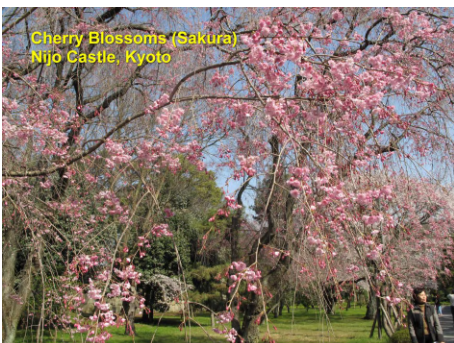
Nijo Castle
Kyoto - 1603



Nijo Castle Gardens
Kyoto



Nijo Castle
Sculpture



Cherry Blossoms (Sakura)
Nijo Castle, Kyoto



Cherry Blossoms,
Nijo Castle, Kyoto



Nijo Castle
Kyoto



Nijo Castle
Cherry trees lit up at night



Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
947 AD
Shinto



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



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



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



Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto, 947 AD
Shinto



Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto, 947 AD
Shinto



Cherry Blossoms (Sakura)
at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto



Lanterns at
Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto



Kinkakuji Temple
Also called Golden Pavillion Temple
Kyoto

Originally 15th century.
But in 1950 totally burned down by a
mentally ill novice monk. So this building
was built in 1955.



Everyone wants
a photo in front
of the Golden
Pavillion.



Kinkakuji - also called
Rukoninji (Dear Garden Temple)
Also Golden Pavillion
Kyoto
Zen Buddhist



Kyoto Supermarket



Kyoto Supermarket



Kyoto Supermarket



Kyoto Supermarket



Daikokuji Temple
1328, rebuilt 1474
Kyoto



Daitokuji Temple
1326, rebuilt 1474
Kyoto



Cemetery at Daitokuji Temple
Kyoto



Cherry blossoms at
Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto



Cherry blossoms at
Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto



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



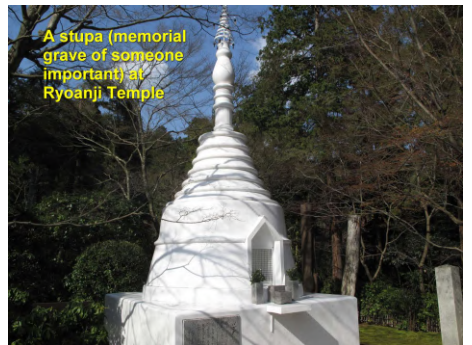
Ryoanji Temple
Kyoto, 1486
Zen Buddhist



Ryoanji Temple zen meditation garden



Cherry blossoms at
Ryoanji Temple
Kyoto



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



Cherry blossoms
at Ryoanji Temple
Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto



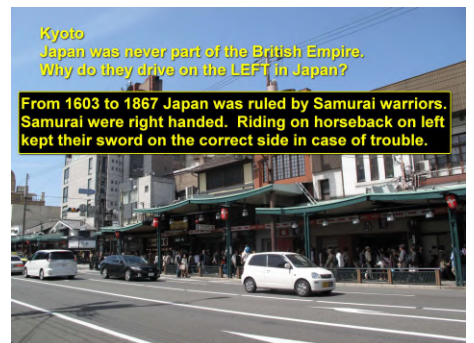
Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto

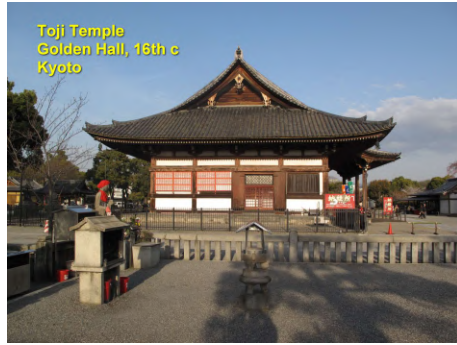


Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto

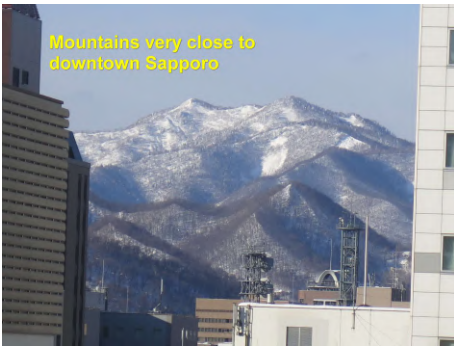


Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto









Mountains very close to downtown Sapporo



TV Tower Downtown Sapporo



TV Tower Downtown Sapporo at night



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



Nijo Fish Market Sapporo



Nijo Fish Market Sapporo



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



Nijo Fish Market Sapporo



'Bummo' oranges at Nijo Market



Nijo Fish Market Sapporo



Roe (fish eggs) Nijo Fish Market Sapporo



Tongu Shrine Sapporo Snow blower



Tongu Shrine Sapporo 1871 Dedicated to the Emperor of Japan

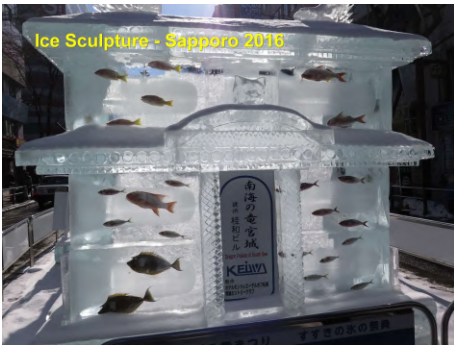
Chrysanthemum is the Emperor's symbol.



Downtown Sapporo



Street tram in Sapporo





Zip Line at Tsudome 2016



Snowboarding at Tsudome 2016



Tires at Tsudome 2016



Rubber Rafts at Tsudome 2016

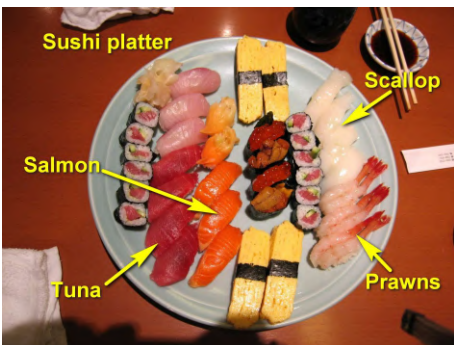


De-icing our airplane in Sapporo

Spray chemicals that keep snow from sticking to wings



JAPANESE FOOD SPECIALTIES



Sushi platter

Salmon

Tuna

Scallop

Prawns



Revolving carousel-sushi

Price depends on color of the plate

Tea

Ginger



Yakitori -- skewers of meat or veggies



Giant sized sushi roll



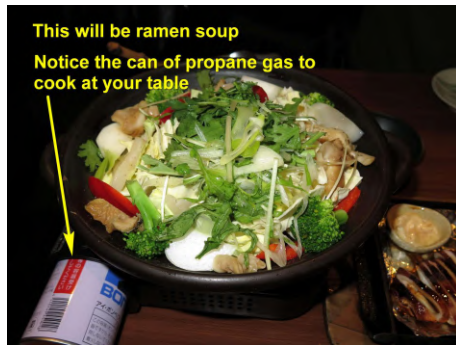
Broiled squid



Ramen

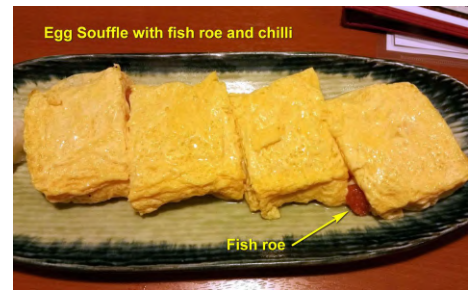


Okinomiyaki -- pancake made of flour, eggs, cabbage, pork, other things



This will be ramen soup

Notice the can of propane gas to cook at your table



Egg Souffle with fish roe and chilli

Fish roe



Salmon roll



Small ramen shop

If you cannot speak Japanese, just point to the picture



Lunch -- soup and rice



Hiroshima style Okinomiyaiki
Egg pancake with noodles inside



Most restaurants have menus in English or with pictures



Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Plastic menu display



This beef costs ¥1,575 for 100 grams.
How many US\$ for 1 pound?
100g = 3.5 ounces = 0.22 pounds.
0.22 pounds costs ¥1,575.
So 1 pound = 100 / 22 x 1,575 = ¥7,159.
106 ¥ = US\$ 1.
So ¥7,159 / 106 = US\$68 per pound!

"Top quality sirloin"



Japanese Pickled Vegetables



Fresh Wasabi



Japanese Dumplings

Siu Mai

Gyoza



Red bean buns



Sweet milk pudding for New Year



Restaurant supply store



Vending machine



Ice Cream Vending Machine



Vending machines everywhere



Pay for your meal at this restaurant in advance by machine. Then give ticket to your waiter/waitress



Buns sweet sauce (on grill)



Udon -- fat noodles



Cooking tuna with a blowtorch at your table!



Seared tuna
Seared means lightly broiled



Ramen (noodles)



Beef and tofu soup



McDonald's Breakfast
Cheeseburger with egg, coffee, potato ¥453 = US\$4.80



Price includes fries and Coke
Price just the sandwich



McDonald's Mega 3 beef patties

Tamago = Egg



Subway half Sandwich セット ¥500
500 Yen = US\$4.75.
Note drink OR fries.
Only until 10:30am.

Squid ink burgers,
Nutella burgers, and
chocolate covered fries
is the perfect place to
end our visit to Japan!

