

Northern Japan: Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, Sapporo Presentation by Paul Pacter

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Japan's Four Main Islands



Comparing Japan and US

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	123,000,000	330,000,000 Florida: 22,000,000
States	47 Prefectures	50 States
Language	Japanese	English
President / Prime Min.	Shigeru Ishiba (Since 2024)	Joe Biden (Since 2021)

Japan Brief History (1 of 2)

600 BC: Japan united (loosely) as single country. Regional warfare.

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 Shigeru Ishiba Since Sept 2024



- 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 ¥

¥148 = US\$1

So this
10,000 yen
note is
worth about
US\$70.



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.

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	

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 = 38.1

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 2022: \$4.2 trillion (#3 after US \$25.5T and China \$18.0T).

Public Debt as % of GDP 2022: 261% Highest in the World (USA 122%).

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

Unemployment: 2.6%.



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 Shokugawa 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

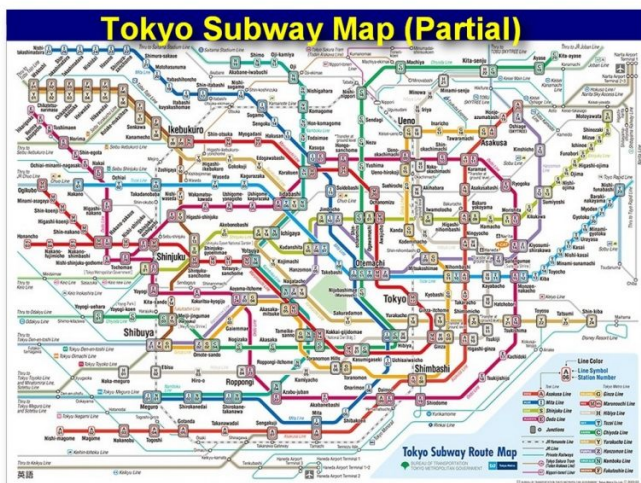


Shopping street in Ueno district



Smoking prohibited on Tokyo streets

Korean → 길거리에서의 흡연 금지
Chinese → 路上喫煙禁止
Japanese → 新宿区 路上喫煙禁止
English → Smoking on the street is prohibited



Tokyo Subway Map (Partial)



Tokyo Metro (subway train)



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



Tsukiji Market

Prawns (shrimp)

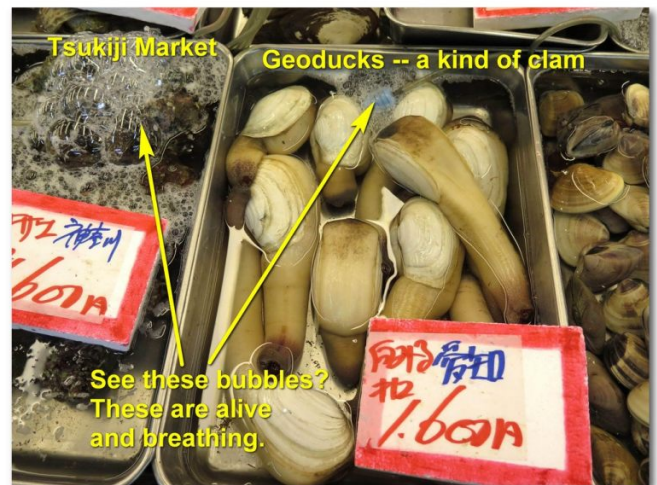


<http://www.tsukiji-market.or.jp/>

Lobsters



Tsukiji Market
Dried whale meat



Tsukiji Market

Geoducks -- a kind of clam

See these bubbles?
These are alive
and breathing.



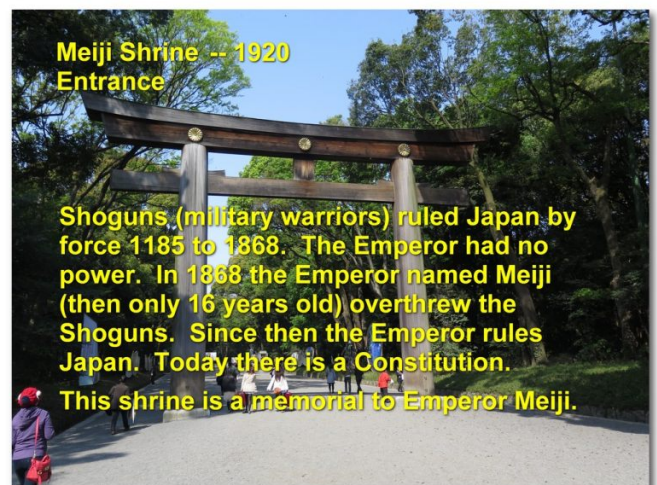
Tsukiji Market

Scallops



Tsukiji Market

Oysters



Meiji Shrine -- 1920 Entrance

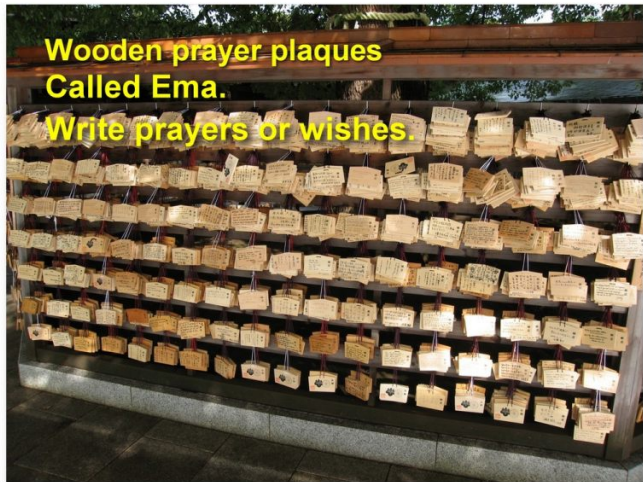
Shoguns (military warriors) ruled Japan by force 1185 to 1868. The Emperor had no power. In 1868 the Emperor named Meiji (then only 16 years old) overthrew the Shoguns. Since then the Emperor rules Japan. Today there is a Constitution. This shrine is a memorial to Emperor Meiji.



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

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.

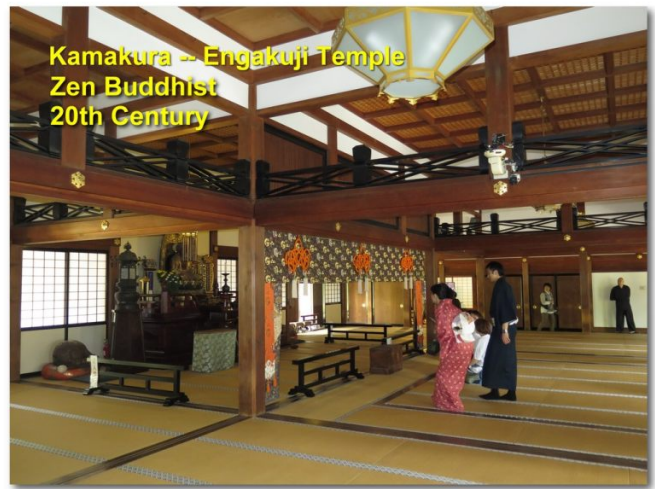
Kamakura was capital
of Japan 1183-1355.



Kamakura
Tokeji Temple -- 1185



Kamakura
Jochiji Temple 1282



Kamakura -- Engakuji Temple
Zen Buddhist
20th Century



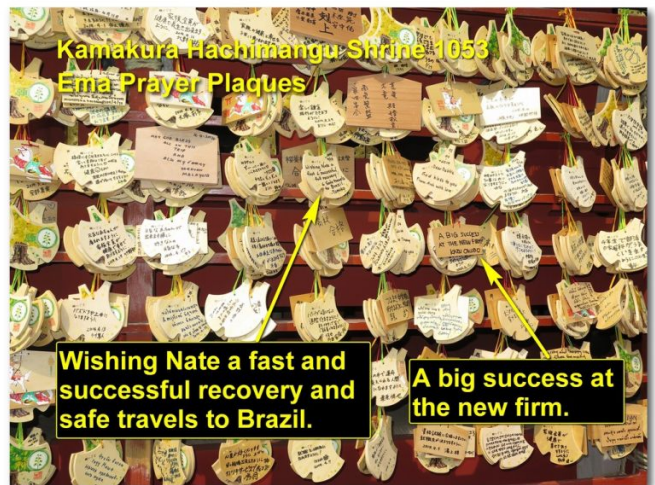
Kamakura
Kenchoji temple 1253
Wood



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.



Hachimangu Shrine 1053
Small pagodas carried on special festivals



Daibutsu
Giant Buddha
Kamakura 1252
Bronze

Kamakura
Daibutsu
Bronze



Students on field trip to Kamakura

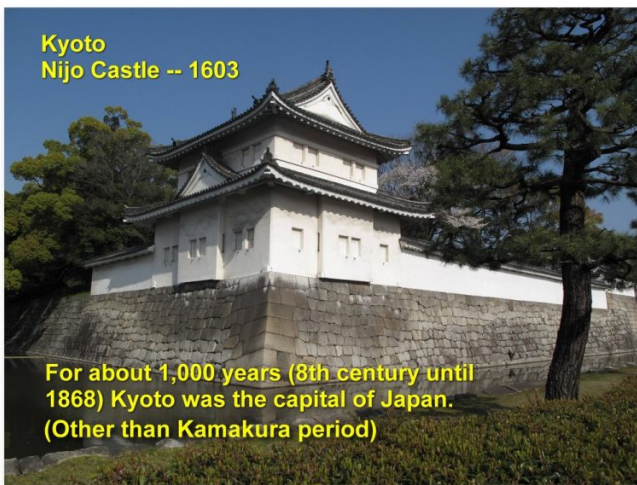


A kite is a kind of large bird of prey
Similar to a buzzard



KYOTO

Kyoto
Nijo Castle -- 1603



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

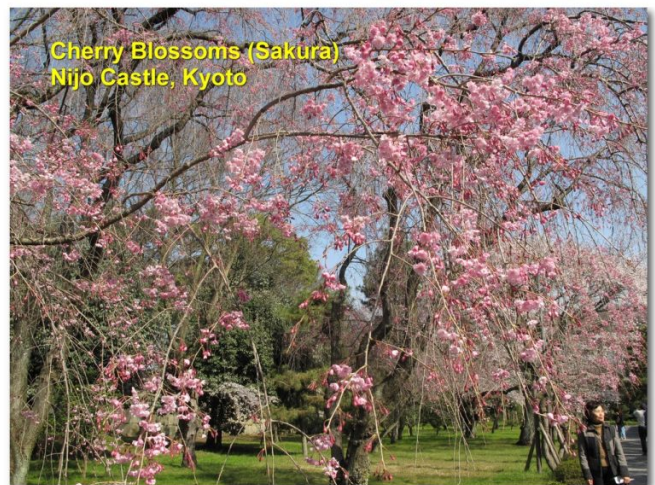
Nijo Castle
Kyoto - 1603



Nijo Castle Gardens
Kyoto

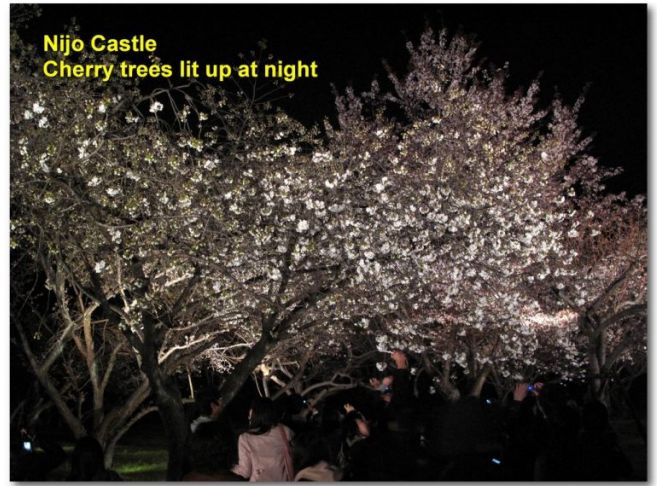


Cherry Blossoms (Sakura)
Nijo Castle, Kyoto

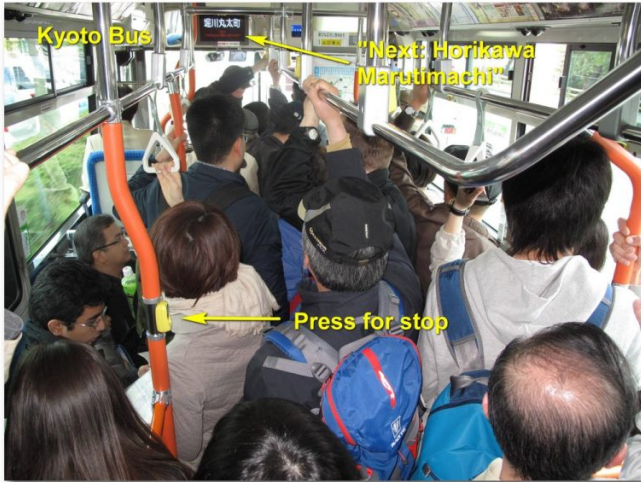




Cherry Blossoms
Nijo Castle, Kyoto



Nijo Castle
Cherry trees lit up at night



Kyoto Bus

"Next: Horikawa
Marutamachi"

Press for stop

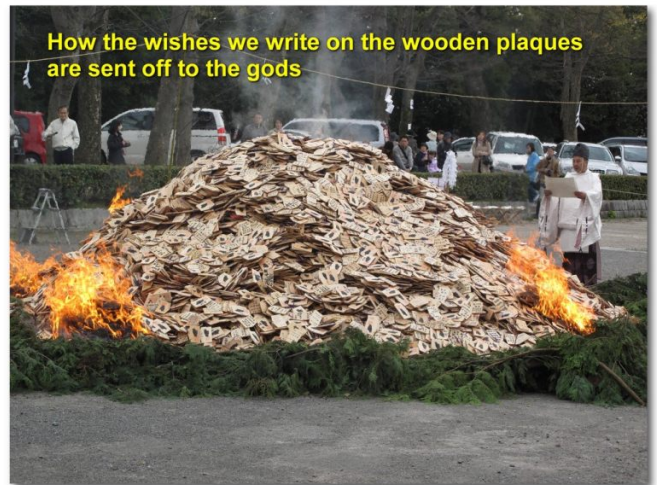


Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto, 947 AD
Shinto



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

Next slide



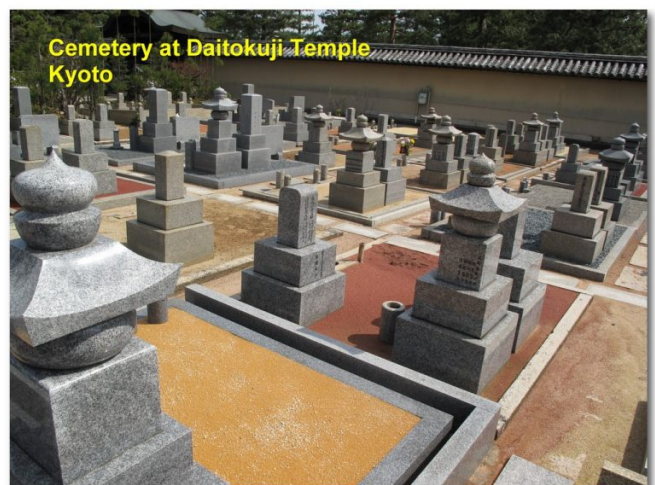
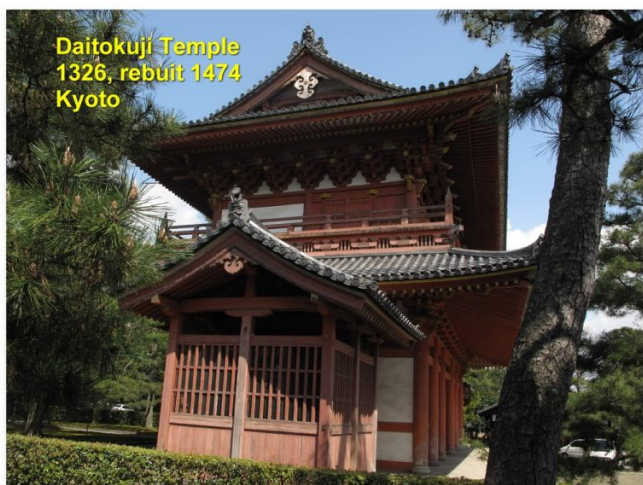
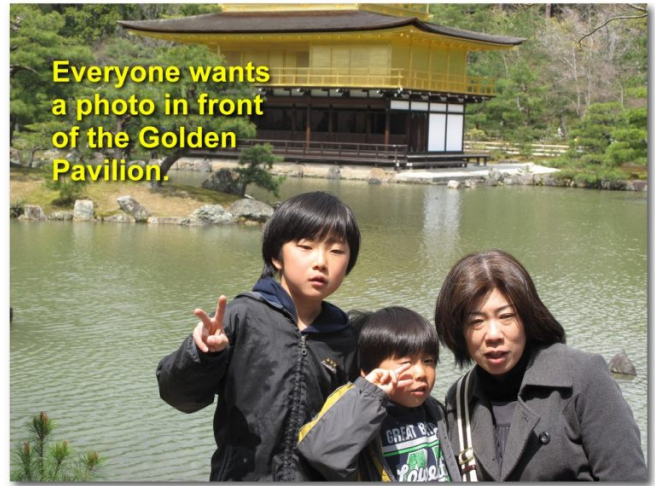
How the wishes we write on the wooden plaques
are sent off to the gods

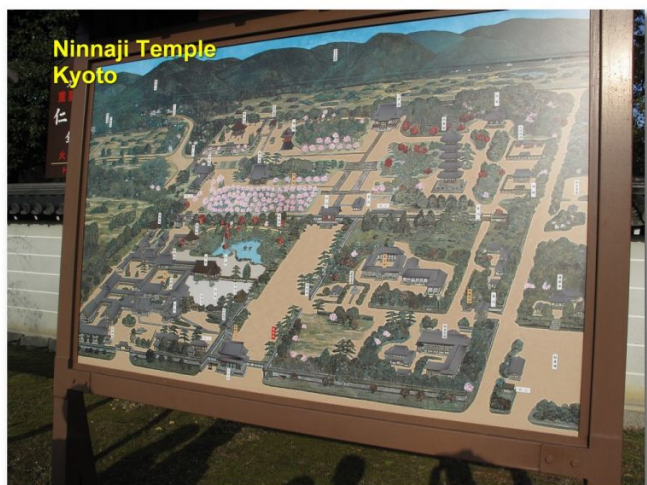
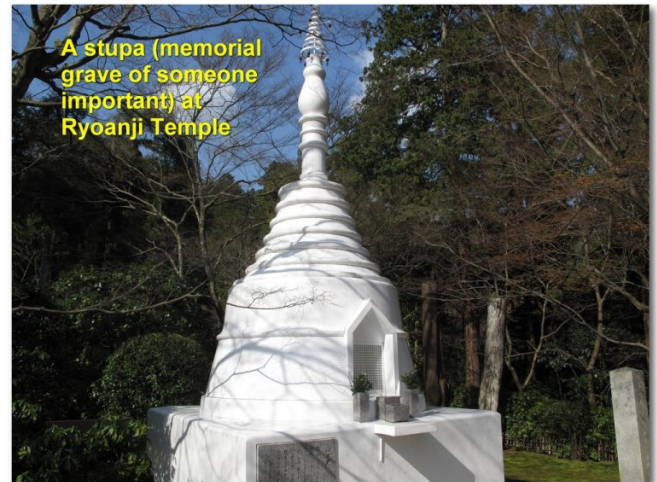
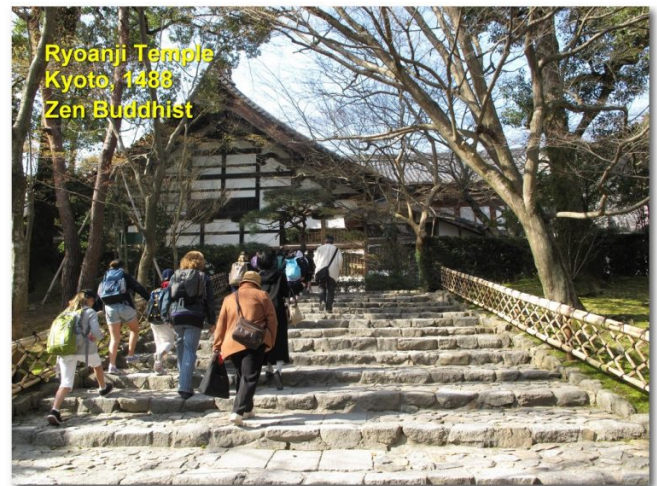


Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto, 947 AD
Shinto



Lanterns at
Kitano Tenmangu Shrine
Kyoto





Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple
Kyoto



Ninnaji Temple



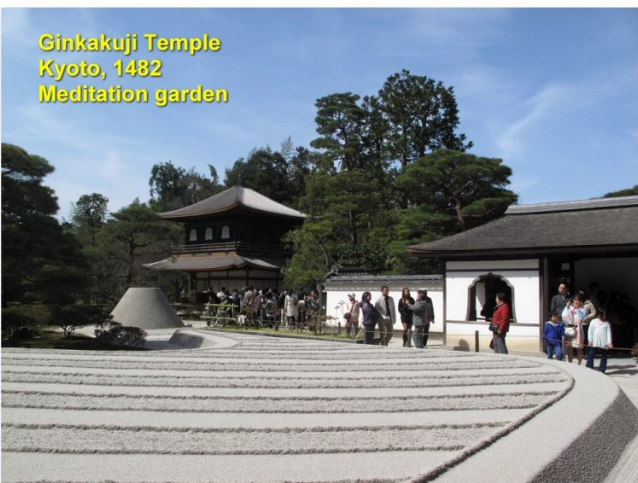
Ninnaji Temple
5-storied pagoda
1644



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

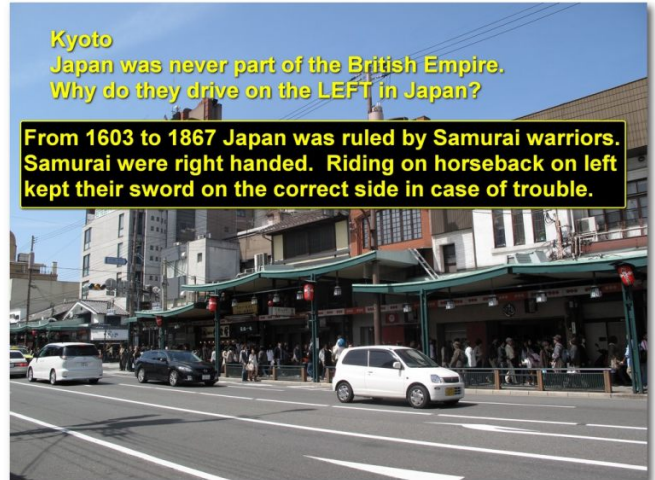


Chionin Temple
Kyoto, 1234



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.



Notice

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
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**

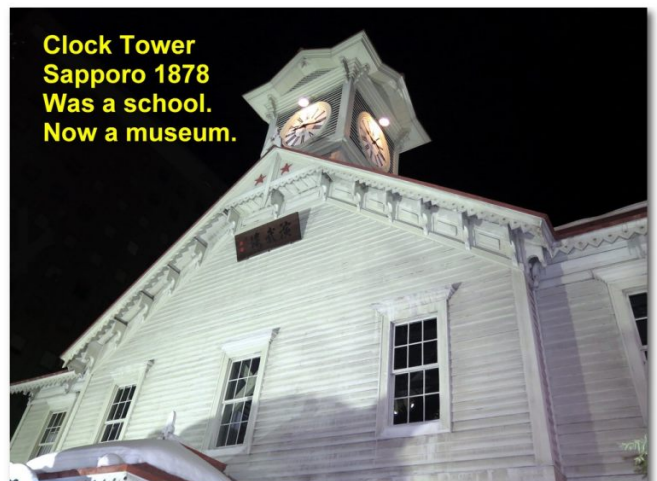


**Mountains Very Close to
Downtown Sapporo**



**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



Ice Sculpture - Sapporo 2016



Guanyin Temple
Sapporo



Guanyin
Goddess of Mercy
(Compassion)



Mail Box

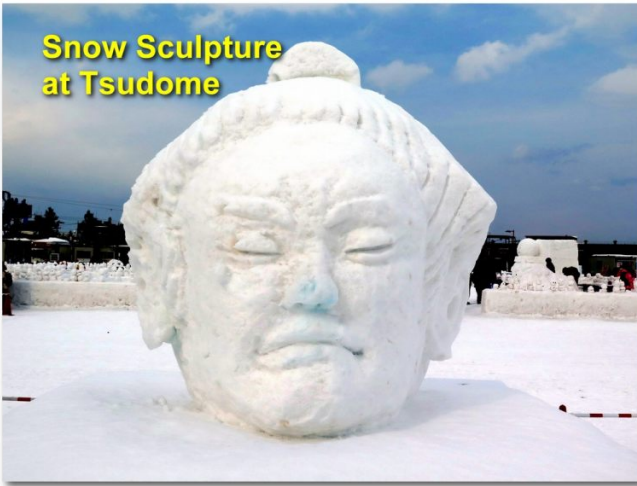
Last pickup times (24 hour clock):
Weekdays: 18:35
Saturdays: 16:55
Sundays and Holidays: 15:00



Tsudome is
another venue
for the Sapporo
Snow Festival

Bus or
taxi

**Snow Sculpture
at Tsudome**



**Snow Sculptures
at Tsudome**



Zip Line at Tsudome



Snowboarding at Tsudome



Tubing on the Snow at Tsudome



Towed on Rubber Rafts at Tsudome



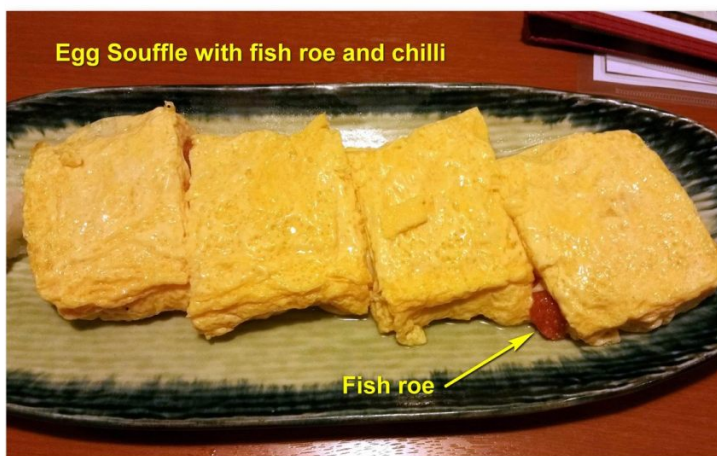
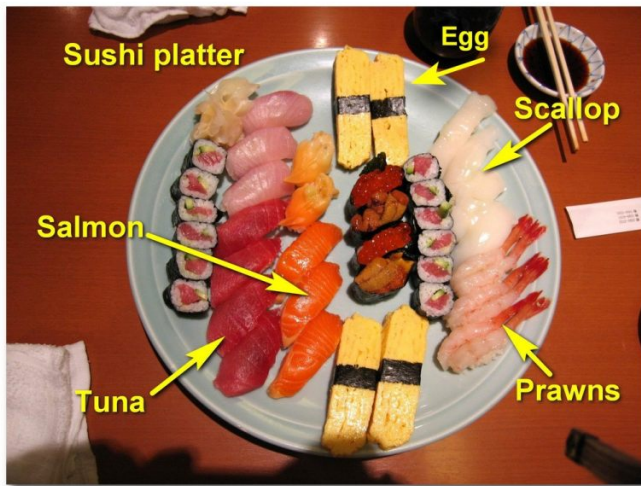
Deicing Our Plane at Sapporo



Spray chemicals
that stop snow
from sticking to
wings

A novelty for
Hong Kong
people!

**JAPANESE
FOOD
SPECIALTIES**





Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Plastic menu display in restaurant window



Red bean buns



Cooking tuna with a blowtorch at your table!

Paul Presentations - Rest of 2024

Baker Senior Center	
Monday, Oct 7, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm	Japan North: Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, and Sapporo
Monday, Nov 4, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm	Cuba – Some interesting places other than Havana.
Monday, Dec 2, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm	Costa Rica – Pura Vida
Collier County Public Library, Golden Gate, 2432 Lucerne Rd, Naples	
Thursday, Oct 3, 2024, 2:00-3:00pm	Costa Rica - Pura Vida
Naples Italian American Foundation - 7035 Airport-Pulling Road, Naples, FL 34109	
Wed, Oct 9, 2024, 4:00-5:30pm	Tuscany
Wed, Nov 6, 2024, 4:00-5:30pm	The Other Naples
Wed, Dec 11, 2024, 4:00-5:30pm	Rome Part 1



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