



Japan (日本)

HAAPI: Did You Know?

Geography & Climate



Japan is an island country in East Asia, comprising of 6,852 islands extending along the Pacific coast of Asia. The five main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa. Tokyo is Japan's capital and largest city. At 378,000 square miles, Japan is smaller than the state of California. Mt. Fuji is Japan's highest point at 12,389 feet.

Japan is prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and approximately 67% uninhabitable due to a mountainous terrain. Habitable zones are mostly in coastal areas, so this has caused Japan to be one of the most densely populated countries.

Japan experiences all four seasons and although mostly temperate, climate varies from north to south due to the range of latitudes Japan covers.

History



The history of Japan spans 100,000 years from its earliest inhabitants to the great nation it is today. Major periods in Japan's history brought pottery, rice, Shinto, Buddhism, shogun, samurai, ninjas, and isolation from the world, Asian expansion, defeat, and rebirth.

One of the most war-like of nations in the early 20th century, Japan today often serves as a voice of pacifism and restraint on the international stage.



People



Japanese people are one of the largest ethnic groups in the world and makes up 98% of the country's population. They are descendants of the early Jōmon and Yayoi people.

Japan is a group society that values harmony, etiquette, humility, innovation, structure, and tradition.

Culture



土足厳禁

- ❖ Shoes are removed when entering a Japanese home
- ❖ Bowing is the traditional greeting
- ❖ Slurping food is a compliment
- ❖ Baths are common and meant for relaxation, not cleaning
- ❖ Christmas is the most romantic day of the year and traditions include KFC chicken, strawberry shortcakes.

Food



Traditional Japanese cuisine is called *washoku* (和食). Some staples include:
Sushi
Ramen
Gyoza
Tempura
Teriyaki
Sukiyaki

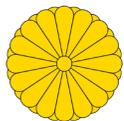


Fun Facts



- ❖ Japan has given the world anime, emojis, Nintendo, karaoke, Godzilla and sudoku!
- ❖ The first modern novel was written in Japan in the 11th century!
- ❖ The highest grossing Anime movie of all time "Your Name" made \$355 million worldwide.

Government



Japan is a unitary state and constitutional monarchy. The Prime Minister holds executive power while the Emperor holds power in a ceremonial role.



Japan's bicameral legislature is made up of a 465-seat House of Representatives and a 242-seat House of Councilors.

Japan in the US and TN



- ❖ There are approximately 1.5 million Japanese living in America as of 2019.
- ❖ The Nashville area is home to more than 8,000 Japanese nationals.
- ❖ Japan is TN's largest foreign investor with 180 Japanese-owned companies including Nissan.