

Japan

日本国

Nippon-koku or Nihon-koku



Flag



Imperial Seal

Anthem:

- "Kimigayo"
- 君が代

"His Imperial Majesty's Reign"^{[2][3]}

MENU

0:00


Government Seal of Japan



- Go-Shichi no Kiri (五七桐)



Area controlled by Japan shown in green—claimed, but uncontrolled shown in light green	
Capital and largest city	Tokyo ^[4] 35°41′N 139°46′E
Official languages	None ^[5]
Recognised regional languages	11 languages ^[6] [show]
National language	Japanese ^[5]
Ethnic groups (2011 ^[7])	98.5% Japanese 0.5% Korean 0.4% Chinese 0.6% other
Religion	51.82% Shinto 34.9% Buddhism 4% Shinto sects 2.3% Christianity 7.0% No answer ^[8]
Demonym	Japanese
Government	Unitary parliamentaryconstitutional monarchy
Emperor	Akihito
Prime Minister	Shinzō Abe
Deputy Prime Minister	Tarō Asō
Legislature	National Diet
Upper house	House of Councillors
Lower house	House of Representatives
Formation	
National Foundation Day	February 11, 660 BCE ^[9]
Meiji Constitution	November 29, 1890
Current constitution	May 3, 1947
San Francisco Peace Treaty	April 28, 1952
Area	
Total	377,972 km ² (145,936 sq mi) ^[10] (61st)
Water (%)	0.8
Population	

2017 census	126,672,000 ^[11] (10th)
Density	336/km² (870.2/sq mi) (36th)
GDP (PPP)	2018 estimate
Total	\$5.619 trillion ^[12] (4th)
Per capita	\$44,426 ^[12] (27th)
GDP (nominal)	2018 estimate
Total	\$5.167 trillion ^[12] (3rd)
Per capita	\$40,849 ^[12] (20th)
Gini (2011)	37.9 ^[13] medium · 76th
HDI (2015)	 0.903 ^[14] very high · 17th
Currency	Yen (¥) / En 円 (JPY)
Time zone	JST (UTC+9)
Summer (DST)	not observed (UTC+9)
Date format	yyyy-mm-dd yyyy年m月d日 Era yy年m月d日 (CE–1988)
Drives on the	left
Calling code	+81
ISO 3166 code	JP
Internet TLD	.jp
Website www.japan.go.jp	
Japan	
Japanese name	
Kanji	日本国
Hiragana	にっぽんこく にほんこく

Katakana	ニッポンコク ニホンコク
Kyūjitai	日本國
[show] Transcriptions	

Japan (**Japanese**: 日本 *Nippon* [\[nippon\]](#) or *Nihon* [\[nihon\]](#); formally 日本国 🇯🇵 *Nippon-koku* or *Nihon-koku*, meaning "State of Japan") is a **sovereign island nation** in **East Asia**. Located in the **Pacific Ocean**, it lies off the eastern coast of the Asian mainland and stretches from the **Sea of Okhotsk** in the north to the **East China Sea** and **China** in the southwest.

The **kanji** that make up **Japan's name** mean "sun origin", and it is often called the "Land of the Rising Sun". Japan is a **stratovolcanic archipelago** consisting of about **6,852 islands**. The four largest are **Honshu**, **Hokkaido**, **Kyushu**, and **Shikoku**, which make up about ninety-seven percent of Japan's land area and often are referred to as home islands. The country is divided into **47 prefectures** in eight **regions**, with **Hokkaido** being the northernmost prefecture and **Okinawa** being the southernmost one. The population of 127 million is the **world's tenth largest**. **Japanese people** make up 98.5% of Japan's total population. About 9.1 million people live in **Tokyo**,^[15] the **capital of Japan**.

Archaeological research indicates that Japan was inhabited as early as the **Upper Paleolithic** period. The first written mention of Japan is in **Chinese history** texts from the 1st century AD. Influence from other regions, mainly **China**, followed by periods of isolation, particularly from Western Europe, has characterized **Japan's history**.

From the 12th century until 1868, Japan was ruled by successive feudal military *shōguns* who ruled in the name of the **Emperor**. Japan entered into a long **period of isolation** in the early 17th century, which was ended in 1853 when a United States fleet **pressured Japan** to open to the West. After nearly two decades of internal conflict and insurrection, the Imperial Court **regained** its political power in 1868 through the help of several clans from **Chōshū** and **Satsuma**—and the **Empire of Japan** was established. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, victories in the **First Sino-Japanese War**, the **Russo-Japanese War** and **World War I** allowed Japan to expand its empire during a period of increasing **militarism**. The **Second Sino-Japanese War** of 1937 expanded into part of **World War II** in 1941, which came to an **end in 1945** following the **atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki** and the **Japanese surrender**. Since adopting its revised **constitution** on May 3, 1947, during the **occupation** by the **SCAP**, Japan has maintained a **unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy** with an **Emperor** and an elected legislature called the **National Diet**.

Japan is a member of the **ASEAN Plus mechanism**, **U**