

Japan

日本国

*Nippon-koku or Nihon-koku*



Flag



Imperial Seal

Anthem:

- "Kimigayo"
- 君が代

"His Imperial Majesty's Reign"<sup>[2][3]</sup>




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

2017 census	126,672,000 <sup>[11]</sup> (10th)
Density	336/km² (870.2/sq mi) (36th)
<b>GDP</b> (PPP)	2018 estimate
Total	\$5.619 trillion <sup>[12]</sup> (4th)
Per capita	\$44,426 <sup>[12]</sup> (27th)
<b>GDP</b> (nominal)	2018 estimate
Total	\$5.167 trillion <sup>[12]</sup> (3rd)
Per capita	\$40,849 <sup>[12]</sup> (20th)
<b>Gini</b> (2011)	37.9 <sup>[13]</sup> medium · 76th
<b>HDI</b> (2015)	 0.903 <sup>[14]</sup> very high · 17th
<b>Currency</b>	Yen (¥) / En 円 (JPY)
<b>Time zone</b>	JST (UTC+9)
Summer (DST)	not observed (UTC+9)
<b>Date format</b>	yyyy-mm-dd yyyy年m月d日 Era yy年m月d日 (CE–1988)
<b>Drives on the</b>	left
<b>Calling code</b>	+81
<b>ISO 3166 code</b>	JP
<b>Internet TLD</b>	.jp
<b>Website</b> 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
<a href="#">[show]</a> <b>Transcriptions</b>	

**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**,<sup>[15]</sup> 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**