**Research Data**

**Location**

* Kyoto, Japan

**Facts - population, time change, climate, language, how to say (basic phrases words in the native language), travel restrictions, government, etc. (If doing one city be specific for that city)**

[**Basic Google Search**](http://google.com/)

* 127 million people -- Japan
* 1.475 million people -- Kyoto City
* Time Zone: UTC+09:00
* Language: Japanese

[**Japan Climate**](http://www.statravel.com/japan-climate.htm)

**Winter**

* *December to February*, is quite dry and sunny along the Pacific coast and the temperatures rarely drop below 0°C. The temperatures drop as you move north, with the Central and Northern regions experiencing snowfall. Southern Japan is relatively temperate and experiences a mild winter.

**Spring**

* *March to May*. Temperatures are warm but not too hot, plus there isn’t too much rain. The famous cherry blossoms are out during this time and there are plenty of festivals to enjoy.

**Summer**

* *June to August*. Starts in June and the country experiences a three to four-week rainy season during which the farmers plant their rice. It is hot and humid during this time and temperatures are often in the high 30’s.

**Fall**

* *September to November* and is characterised by light breezes and cooler temperatures of around 8-10oC. It’s during autumn that many exhibitions, music concerts and sports tournaments are held in Japan.

[**Japanese Phrases**](https://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/japanese.php)

| **English** | **日本語 (Japanese)** |
| --- | --- |
| Welcome | ようこそ (yōkoso) |
| Hello (General greeting) | 今日は (konnichiwa) |
|  | おっす (ossu) - *used between close male friends* |
|  | もしもし (moshi moshi) |
| How are you? | お元気ですか？ (o genki desu ka) |
| What's your name? | お名前はなんですか? (o-namae wa nan desu ka) |
| My name is ... | ... だ (... da) (inf) |
|  | ...です (... desu) (frm) |
| Pleased to meet you | 初めまして (hajimemashite) |
|  | 初めまして。どうぞ宜しく (hajimemashite. dōzo yoroshiku) *reply* |
|  | お会いできて嬉しいです (oaidekite ureshii desu) |
| Good morning (Morning greeting) | お早うございます / おはようございます (ohayō gozaimasu) |
|  | お早う / おはよう (ohayō) |
| Good afternoon (Afternoon greeting) | こんにちは [今日は] (konnichiwa) |
| Good evening (Evening greeting) | 今晩は / こんばんは (konbanwa) |
| Good night | おやすみなさい (oyasumi nasai) |
|  | おやすみ (oyasumi) |
| Goodbye (Parting phrases) | さようなら (sayōnara) |
|  | いって来ます (ittekimasu) - 'I'll be back' - *you are leaving* |
|  | いってらっしゃい (itterasshai) - 'come back soon' - *you are staying* |
|  | じゃあまたね (jā mata ne) - see you later |
| Bon appetit / Have a nice meal | どうぞめしあがれ (douzo meshiagare) = 'enjoy your meal' - said by the cook/chef |
|  | いただきます (itadakimasu) - said before a meal by those eating it |
|  | ご馳走さまでした (gochisōsama deshita) - said after a meal by those who have eaten it |
| I don't know | わからない (wakaranai) - inf |
|  | わかりません (wakarimasen) - frm |
| I understand | わかります (wakarimasu) |
|  | わかる (wakaru) inf |
| I don't understand | わかりません (wakarimasen) - frm |
|  | わからない (wakaranai) - inf |
| Please speak more slowly | ゆっくり話してください (yukkuri hanashite kudasai) |
|  | ゆっくり言ってください (yukkuri itte kudasai) |
| Please say that again | もう一度、言ってください (mō ichido, itte kudasai) |
|  | もうひとつ言ってください (Mō hitotsu itte kudasai) |
| Do you speak English? | 英語はできますか (Eigo wa dekimasu ka?) |
| Do you speak Japanese? | 日本語を話しますか (Nihongo o hanashimasu ka?) |
|  | 日本語は話せますか (Nihongo wa hanasemasu ka?) |
|  | 日本語はできますか (Nihongo wa dekimasu ka?) |
| Yes, a little (reply to 'Do you speak ...?') | はい、話します (Hai, hanashimasu) |
|  | はい、話せます (Hai, hanasemasu) |
|  | はい、出来ます (Hai, dekimasu) |
| How do you say ... in Japanese? | ... は日本語でなんと言いますか。(... wa nihongo de nanto īmasu ka?) |
| Excuse me | すみません! (sumimasen) |
| Sorry | ごめんなさい! (gomen nasai) |
| Please | ください (kudasai) |
| Thank you | どうも (dōmo) |
|  | ありがとう (arigatō) |
|  | ありがとうございます (arigatō gozaimasu) |
|  | どうもありがとう (dōmo arigatō) |
|  | どうもありがとうございます (dōmo arigatō gozaimasu) |
| Reply to thank you | どういたしまして (dō itashimashite) |
| Help! | 助けて! (tasukete!) |
| Does anyone speak English? | 英語の話せる人はいませんか (Eigo no hanaseru hito wa imasen ka) |
|  | 誰か、英語が話せますか (dare ka, eigo ga hanasemasu ka?) |
| Sorry, I didn't understand that | すみません。分かりませんでした (sumimasen. wakarimasen deshita) |
| How do you pronounce that? | これはどんな風に発音しますか (kore wa donna fū ni hatsuon shimasu ka) |
| Do you have an English menu? | 英語のメ二ューはありますか (eigo no menyu wa arimasu ka?) |
| My hovercraft is full of eels | 私のホバークラフトは鰻でいっぱいです (Watashi no hobākurafuto wa unagi de ippai desu.) |

**The best time of year to visit and why**

[**Inside Kyoto**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/)

* The best times to visit Kyoto are October/November (fall) and March/April/May (spring).
* You can visit Kyoto at any time of year because the weather is temperate.
* Summer (June/July/August) in Kyoto is hot and humid.
* Winter (December/January/Febuary) in Kyoto is cold.
* The rainy season goes from mid-June to late July, but it does NOT rain every day and you can travel.

**October / November Events**

* 22 October: Jidai Matsuri (Festival of the Ages): A parade of people dressed in period costumes marches from the Kyoto Gosho (Kyoto Imperial Palace) to Heian-jingu Shrine.
* 22 October: Kurama-no-Himatsuri (Kurama Fire Festival): In the village of Kurama, a short train ride north of Kyoto, young men dressed in loincloths carry huge flaming torches through the streets. The festival starts at dusk and climaxes around 10:00pm.
* Autumn Colors – Fall Foliage Season: The stunning autumn colors in Kyoto continue throughout the month. See our Kyoto Autumn Colors guide for the more info

**March / April / May**

* Mid-March: Plum blossom viewing: Top spots to view the plums include Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine and the Kyoto Gosho (Imperial Palace Park).
* Cherry Blossom season begins from mid-March onwards.
* Early April: Hanami (cherry blossom viewing): Top spots to see the cherries include Maruyama-koen Park, the north end of the Kyoto Gosho (Imperial Palace Park), the banks of the Kamo-gawa River, Kyoto Botanical Gardens (Kyoto Shokubutsu-en), and Gion’s Shimbashi district in the evening. See our comprehensive guide to cherry blossom season in Kyoto.
* First week of May: Golden Week holiday: Most Japanese workers are on holiday. Many sightseeing spots are crowded and hotels are expensive at this time.
* 3 May: Yabusame (horseback archery) at Shimogamo-jinja Shrine: From 1pm to 3:30pm, a horseback archery competition is held in the tree-lined arcade south of the shrine’s main hall. Don’t miss it!
* 15 May: Aoi Matsuri: One of Kyoto’s biggest festivals, this festival involves a procession from the Kyoto Gosho (Kyoto Imperial Palace) to Shimogamo-jinja Shrine via Kamigamo-jinja Shrine. The procession leaves the palace at 10:00am, arrives at Shimogamo-jinja at 2pm and at Kamigamo-jinja at 3:30pm.

**Local inns and hotels - minimum of four with information, pricing, and image(s)**

[**Inside Kyoto**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/)

**Best Luxury Hotel In Kyoto**  
Hyatt Regency Kyoto: The Hyatt brings it all together: beautiful rooms, attentive English-speaking staff, great onsite restaurants, good facilities and a fine location in the Southern Higashiyama sightseeing district.  
*Prices from $500 upwards*  
[](https://github.com/flareboy127/eCommerce-International-Website/blob/master/research/hyatt.jpg)

**Best Mid-Range Hotel In Kyoto**  
Dormy Inn Premium Kyoto Ekimae-Kyoto: Located just across the street from Kyoto Station, the Dormy Inn is a mid-range hotel that just tries harder. Topped off with a large “hot spring bath,” this is a great place to stay in Kyoto.  
*Prices from $200 upwards*  
[](https://github.com/flareboy127/eCommerce-International-Website/blob/master/research/dormy.jpg)

**Best Budget Hotel In Kyoto**  
Toyoko Inn Kyoto Gojo-Karasuma: Savvy budget travelers know that the Toyoko Inn chain provides the comforts of a hotel at guesthouse prices, and the Kyoto Gojo-Karasuma branch is no exception.  
*Prices from $55 upwards*  
[](https://github.com/flareboy127/eCommerce-International-Website/blob/master/research/gojo.jpg)

**Best Guesthouse In Kyoto**  
Tour Club: The Tour Club was one of the first foreigner-friendly guesthouses in Kyoto and it remains the best, due to careful management and attentive staff.  
*Prices from $22 upwards*  
[](https://github.com/flareboy127/eCommerce-International-Website/blob/master/research/tourclub.jpg)

**Best Ryokan In Kyoto**  
Tawaraya: Those who have stayed here know that it’s worth a trip to Japan just to sample the delights of this superb ryokan. It’s one of the finest accommodations in the world.  
*Prices from $430 upwards*  
[](https://github.com/flareboy127/eCommerce-International-Website/blob/master/research/tawaraya2.jpg)

**Best Vacation Rental In Kyoto**  
Gion House: The two units in the Gion House are stylish retreats right on the edge of all the action in Gion. They represent the best of Japanese and Western design.  
*Prices from $290 upwards*  
[](https://github.com/flareboy127/eCommerce-International-Website/blob/master/research/gion.jpg)

**The best way to get around the city/ country to sight see (transportation options for tourists)**

[**Inside Kyoto**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/)

1. Trains
2. Subways
3. Busses
4. Taxis
5. Cycling
6. Walking

**Things of Note**

* Kyoto is a compact city with a well-developed transport network. It’s very easy to get around.
* The subways and trains are the most convenient way to get around the city.
* Buses are less convenient, but cover almost the whole city.
* Taxis are plentiful and reasonably cheap. They’re sometimes cheaper than buses for groups of three or four on short trips.
* Bicycles are a great way to get around Kyoto. The city is mostly flat and the drivers are sane. If you enjoy cycling, I strongly recommend renting a bicycle to explore the city.
* Kyoto is a great city to explore on foot. Downtown area, Arashiyama and Higashiyama are all great for walking.
* There are several special tickets that will save you tons of money if you plan on riding the buses, subways and trains a lot.

**At least top four places of interest to visit– with detailed description and image(s)IMPORTANT NOTE: These are specific places of interest to visit not a city! Historical landmarks, museums, ruins, castles, etc. Information and images are for this specific place to visit. Think what a tourist would not want to miss seeing when they visit your major city or country.**

[**Tenryu-ji Temple – Arashiyama**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/tenryu-ji-temple-arashiyama)

* You can’t help but notice that this is one of the best examples of shakkei (borrowed scenery) in Japan: the steep mountains of Arashiyama form are perfectly incorporated into the design of the garden.

[**Arashiyama Bamboo Grove**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/arashiyama-bamboo-grove)

* The Arashiyama Bamboo Grove is one of Kyoto’s top sights and for good reason: standing amid these soaring stalks of bamboo is like being in another world.

[**Ninen-zaka and Sannen-zaka Preserved Districts**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/ninen-zaka-and-sannen-zaka-preserved-districts)

* Two of Kyoto’s most attractive streets are Sannen-zaka and Ninen-zaka, a pair of gently sloping lanes that lead down from Kiyomizu-dera Temple toward Nene-no-Michi Lane

[**Nishiki Market – Downtown Kyoto**](https://www.insidekyoto.com/nishiki-market-downtown-kyoto)

* Shimbashi is single most attractive street in all of Asia, particularly in the evening. When the cherry blossoms are in bloom here, it’s almost too beautiful for words.

**Historical mini lesson – Four paragraphs or bulleted list with solid information and images**

It is widely accepted that first human habitation in the Japanese archipelago can be traced back to prehistoric times. The Jōmon period, named after its "cord-marked" pottery, was followed by the Yayoi in the first millennium BC, when new technologies were introduced from continental Asia. During this period, in the first century AD, the first known written reference to Japan was recorded in the Chinese Book of Han. Between the fourth century and the ninth century, Japan's many kingdoms and tribes gradually came to be unified under a centralized government, nominally controlled by the Emperor. The imperial dynasty established at this time continues to reign over Japan to this day. In 794, a new imperial capital was established at Heian-kyō (modern Kyoto), marking the beginning of the Heian period, which lasted until 1185. The Heian period is considered a golden age of classical Japanese culture. Japanese religious life from this time and onwards was a mix of Buddhism, and native religious practices known as Shinto.

Over the following centuries the power of the Emperor and the imperial court gradually declined and passed to the military clans and their armies of samurai warriors. The Minamoto clan under Minamoto no Yoritomo emerged victorious from the Genpei War of 1180–85. After seizing power, Yoritomo set up his capital in Kamakura and took the title of shōgun. In 1274 and 1281, the Kamakura shogunate withstood two Mongol invasions, but in 1333 it was toppled by a rival claimant to the shogunate, ushering in the Muromachi period. During the Muromachi period regional warlords called daimyō grew in power at the expense of the shogun. Eventually, Japan descended into a period of civil war. Over the course of the late sixteenth century, Japan was reunified under the leadership of the daimyō Oda Nobunaga and his successor Toyotomi Hideyoshi. After Hideyoshi's death in 1598, Tokugawa Ieyasu came to power and was appointed shogun by the Emperor. The Tokugawa shogunate, which governed from Edo (modern Tokyo), presided over a prosperous and peaceful era known as the Edo period (1600–1868). The Tokugawa shogunate imposed a strict class system on Japanese society and cut off almost all contact with the outside world.

The American Perry Expedition in 1853–54 ended Japan's seclusion; this in turn contributed to the fall of the shogunate and the return of power to the Emperor in 1868. The new national leadership of the following Meiji period transformed their isolated, underdeveloped island country into an empire that closely followed Western models and became a world power. Although democracy developed and modern civilian culture prospered during the Taishō period (1912–26), Japan's powerful military had great autonomy and overruled Japan's civilian leaders in the 1920s and 1930s. The military invaded Manchuria in 1931, and from 1937 the conflict escalated into a prolonged war with China. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 led to war with the United States and its allies. Japan's forces soon became overextended, but the military held out in spite of Allied air attacks that inflicted severe damage on population centers. Japan's unconditional surrender was announced by Emperor Hirohito on 15 August 1945 following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Soviet invasion of Manchuria.

The Allies occupied Japan until 1952, during which a new constitution was enacted in 1947 that transformed Japan into a constitutional monarchy. After 1955, Japan enjoyed very high economic growth, and became a world economic powerhouse. Since the 1990s, economic stagnation has been a major issue. An earthquake and tsunami in 2011 caused massive economic dislocations and a serious nuclear power disaster.

**Cultural info and differences(min of 5) What would be rude? Unacceptable? Expected? Gender?**

[**Oyster.com**](https://www.oyster.com/articles/58351-24-things-you-should-know-before-traveling-to-japan/)

1- Keeping your shoes on in certain places is highly offensive.  
Leaving your shoes on when entering someone's house is a major sign of disrespect. Like many other parts of Asia, removing your shoes when entering a home is an absolute must. This is also the norm for several restaurants, so be sure to check around if you should slip your shoes off or not. Oh, and you're going to have to take off your shoes before entering most dressing rooms, too.  
2- You don't need to tip.  
Speaking of restaurant etiquette, you don't need to tip in Japan. In fact, if you do, there's a big chance your server will run after you to give you the money you accidentally left behind. Waiters get paid a living wage in Japan, so don't feel guilty. This rule is also true for hotel staff and other service staff you'll encounter during your trip.

[**Owlcation**](https://owlcation.com/social-sciences/Cultural-Differences-Between-the-US-and-Japan)

3- Americans tend to be more direct and blunt, whereas Japanese people are more subtle. Being too direct in Japan can be considered rude. This can be seen in body language, too. People in the U.S. are taught to look directly in someone's eyes when speaking or listening to show they are actively participating in the conversation. In Japan, extended eye contact can be uncomfortable between people who aren't close, and eyes are often adverted. Japanese people also tend to be more reserved than Americans, and share less personal or sensitive information, often even with close friends.  
4- Japanese people tend to be more formal. Though well known that many Asian countries bow instead of shaking hands, Japanese people bow in more situations than just greetings. Bowing can be done in apologizing and thanking as well. Though in business people might bow deeply to a 45 degree angle, most bows are a casual bob of the head and slight incline of the back. However, Japanese people are well aware that foreigners usually shake hands and might readily offer their hands in greeting instead.  
5- In Japan, social hierarchy is important. The junior/senior relationship is very important in Japan. A company employee who is younger and probably hasn't worked at the company as long as his older coworker will be a "junior" to the "senior." It is the same for students, especially in school clubs. In theory, the senior is a mentor for the junior, and it is the junior's duty to help out the senior and the other members of the group. These roles aren't non-existent in America, but roles are often based on personal accomplishments, and they aren't always respected as a rule, either.

**Information on the type and exchange of local currency. Do they deal with credit cards?**

* Japan uses the Yen ( 1 Japanese Yen equals 0.0088 US Dollar )

[**Japan Monthly Web Magazine**](http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/special_credit.html)

* “Is Japan a backward country in terms of credit card usage?” The answer is “NO”. Since most people in Japan used to pay cash, there were not many shops that accepted credit cards in the past. Today many places including shops and hotels take credit cards. With the weaker yen, easing of visa requirements, the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and the increase of overseas tourists visiting Japan, there will be even more places that will start accepting credit cards. Let’s take a look at the credit card situation in Japan using a day of sightseeing in Tokyo as an example.

**Information about the local cuisine with descriptions of dishes and images (min. 4 dishes) Note: Not restaurants**

[**Japan Zone**](https://www.japan-zone.com/culture/food.shtml)

**Rice**

* Sticky, short-grained rice is the staple food in Japan. Uncooked rice is called kome. The cultivation of rice in paddy fields traditionally required great cooperation between villagers and this is said to have been central to the evolution of Japanese culture. Their are several thousand varieties grown in Japan, with Koshihikari and Akita Komachi being among the most popular. Rice is also used to make mochi (rice cakes), senbei (rice crackers) and sake (rice wine). Rice can also be cooked with red beans (sekihan), seafood and vegetables (Takikomi gohan) or as a kind of watery porridge seasoned with salt (kayu) which is very popular as a cold remedy. Onigiri are rice balls with seafood or vegetables in the middle, usually wrapped in a piece of dried seaweed (nori). They are traditionally part of a packed lunch or picnic. Individually wrapped onigiri, usually a trianular shape, make a good snack and are available at convenience stores. [](https://camo.githubusercontent.com/6681bc694da58277f3936cdb3ac8a956b6684f4c/68747470733a2f2f7777772e6a6170616e2d7a6f6e652e636f6d2f63756c747572652f7069782f726963652e6a7067)

**Udon**

* Udon noodles are made from wheat flour. They are boiled and served in a broth, usually hot but occasionally cold in summer, and topped with ingredients such as a raw egg to make tsukimi udon, and deep-fried tofu aburaage to make kitsune udon.  
  [](https://camo.githubusercontent.com/dbbbd27fc94593242bd2f17c7b6f45675debb8e6/68747470733a2f2f7777772e6a7573746f6e65636f6f6b626f6f6b2e636f6d2f77702d636f6e74656e742f75706c6f6164732f323031352f31312f4e696b752d55646f6e2d363030783430302e6a7067)

**Soba**

* Soba is buckwheat noodles, which are thinner and a darker color than udon. Soba is usually served cold (zaru soba) with a dipping sauce, sliced green onions and wasabi. When served in a hot broth, it is known as kake soba. Served with the same toppings as udon, you get tsukimi soba, kitsune soba and tempura soba.

**Ramen**

* While udon and soba are also believed to have come from China, only ramen retains its image as Chinese food. Ramen is thin egg noodles which are almost always served in a hot broth flavored with shoyu or miso. This is topped with a variety of ingredients such as slices of roast pork (chashu), bean sprouts (moyashi), sweetcorn and butter. Ramen is popular throughout Japan and different regions are known for their variations on the theme. Examples are Corn-butter Ramen in Sapporo and Tonkotsu Ramen in Kyushu. Instant ramen (the most famous brand is Pot Noodles), to which you just add hot water, has become very popular in recent years. [](https://camo.githubusercontent.com/04dd898f743602729ffd37c6f7876603c5b01bfb/68747470733a2f2f7777772e6a6170616e2d7a6f6e652e636f6d2f63756c747572652f7069782f72616d656e2d74737574612e6a7067)

**Seafood and Meat**

* Japanese people consume a lot more fish than is typical in western countries and this is said to be a major factor in the country's relatively low rate of heart disease. Seafood is eaten in just about any form you can imagine, from raw sushi and sashimi to grilled sweetfish and clams. The spread of ¥100 kaitenzushi (conveyor belt sushi) restaurants has made sushi into a homegrown fast-food that offsets some of the influence of imports like McDonalds.Many people are surprised to learn that meat consumption was illegal in Japan until the ban was lifted during the Meiji Restoration in the 1870s. As the country opened up to western culture, eating habits also began to change. Now meat is increasingly part of the everyday Japanese diet, with yakitori (grilled chicken), yakiniku (Korean barbeque), gyudon (beef bowl) and of course the standard fare of foreign and local hamburger chain restaurants ubiquitous across the country. This has led to an increase in related health problems, though the Japanese still maintain their position as the world's longest-living people. [](https://camo.githubusercontent.com/1bb3031b24a53c11024f9c70fd848edf3d670162/68747470733a2f2f7777772e6a6170616e2d7a6f6e652e636f6d2f63756c747572652f7069782f73757368692e6a7067)

**A frequently asked questions page with important information travelers would want. Minimum of five questions. Will be a separate page.**

**A quality map of the destination – image. Be sure it is not blurry!**

<iframe src="https://www.google.com/maps/embed?pb=!1m23!1m12!1m3!1d52284.80623673557!2d135.73300988569912!3d35.01170157045008!2m3!1f0!2f0!3f0!3m2!1i1024!2i768!4f13.1!4m8!3e6!4m5!1s0x6001a8d6cd3cc3f1%3A0xc0961d366bbb1d3d!2sKyoto%2C+Kyoto+Prefecture%2C+Japan!3m2!1d35.0116363!2d135.7680294!4m0!5e0!3m2!1sen!2sus!4v1509977482305" width="600" height="450" frameborder="0" style="border:0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

**Gallery**