

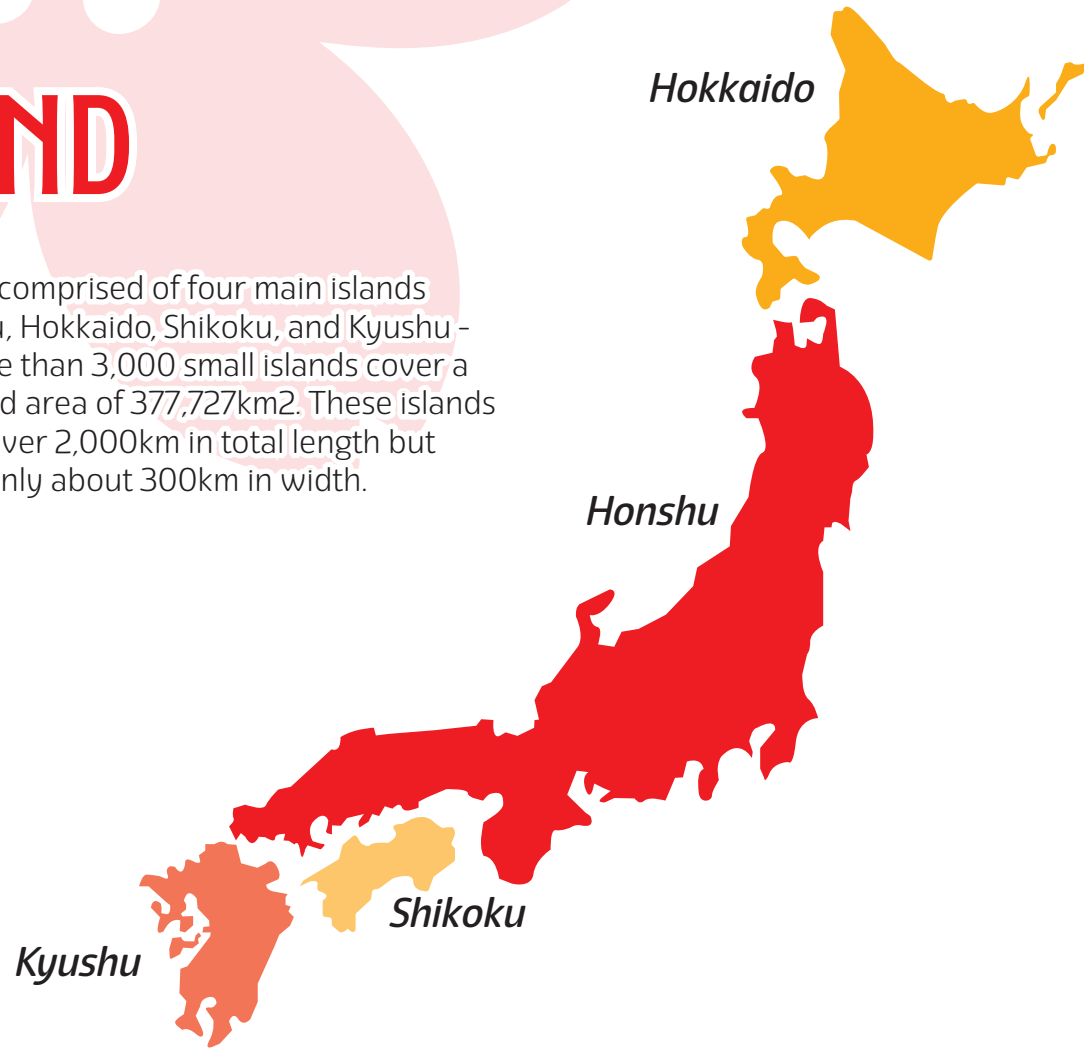


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LAND

Japan is comprised of four main islands - Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu - and more than 3,000 small islands cover a combined area of 377,727km². These islands extend over 2,000km in total length but spread only about 300km in width.



California



403,882 sq km

Japan



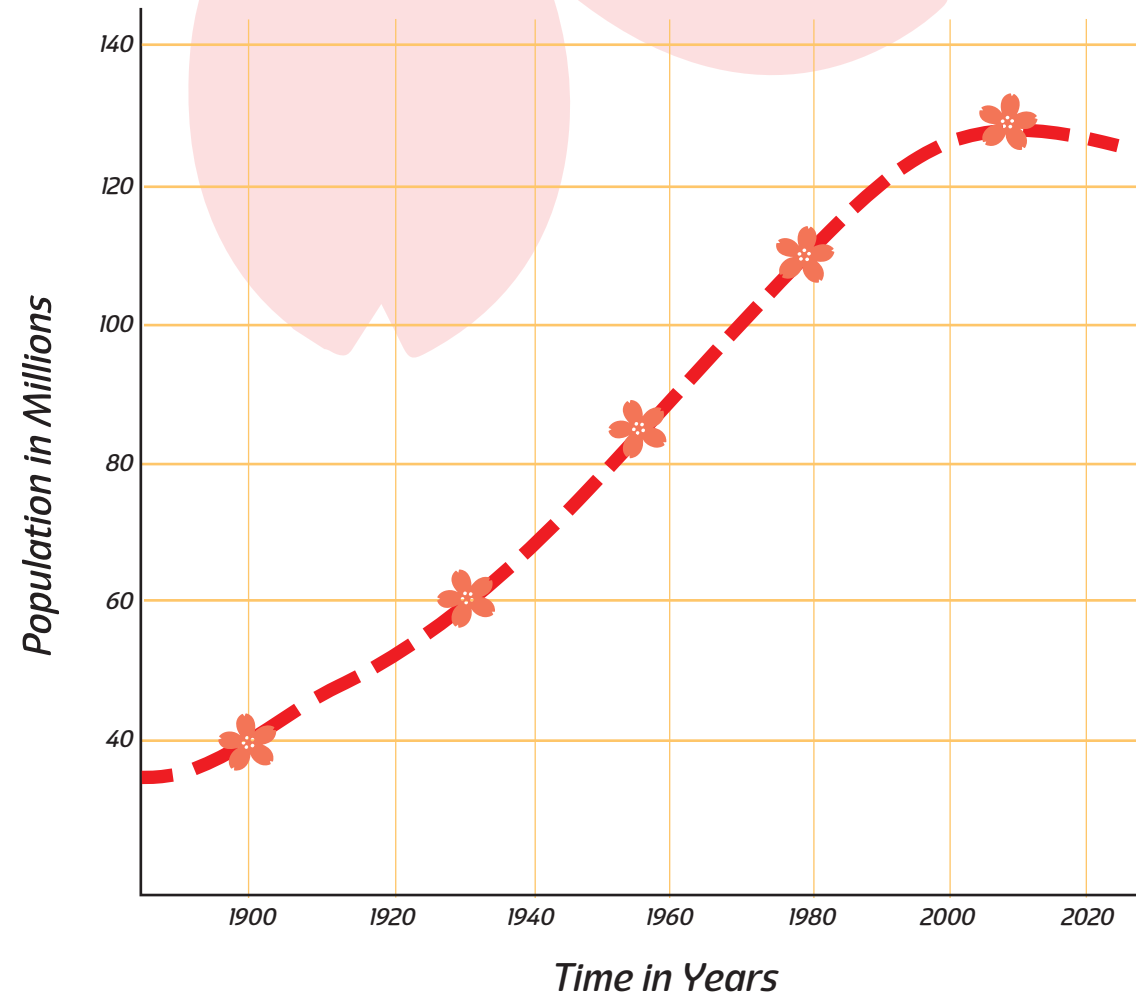
377,915 sq km

The United States is approximately 9,833,517 sq km, while Japan is approximately 377,915 sq km. California is the closest size to Japan. It is about 403,882 sq km. This means Japan is 3.84% the size of the United States and about 93.57% the size of California.

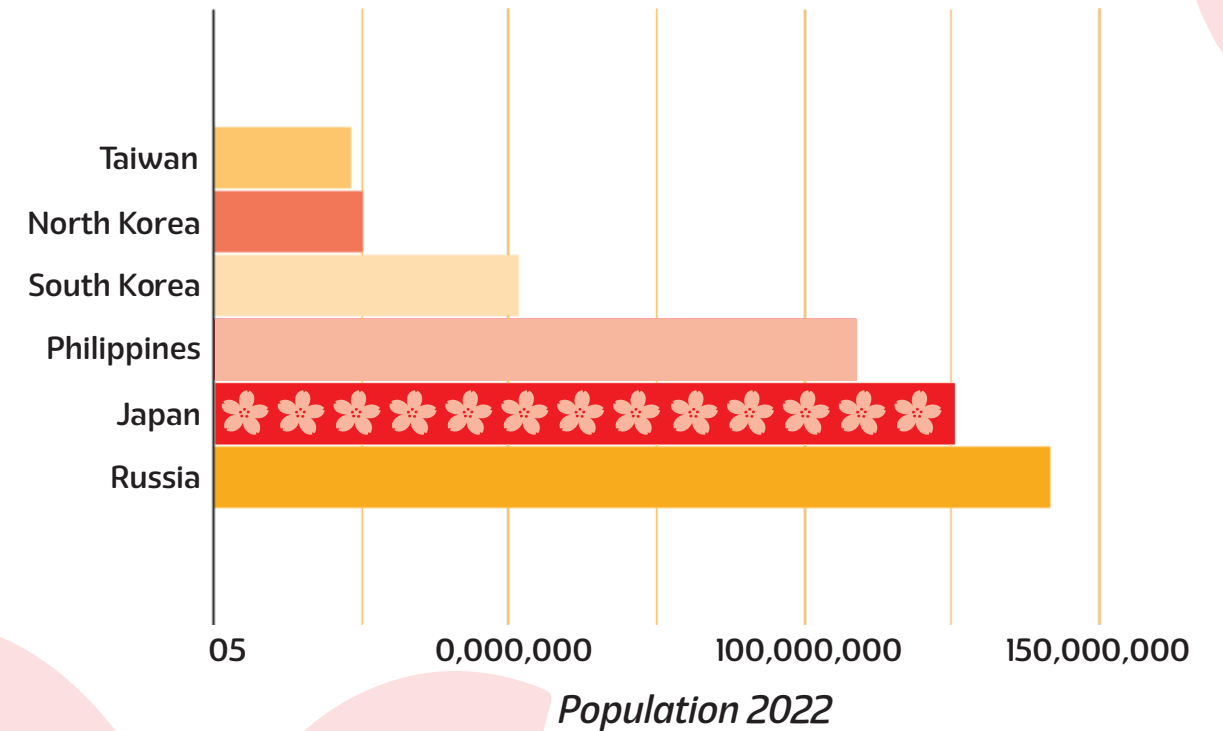


POPULATION

Japan's population is estimated at 123,294,513 as of mid-2023. This is equivalent to 1.53% of the world's population. Japan is the eleventh most populous country in the world and one of the most densely populated.



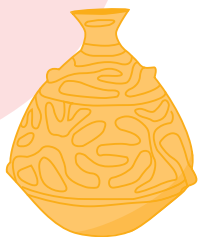
Japan's population has been in steady decline since its economic boom of the 1980s, with a fertility rate of 1.3 – far below the rate of 2.1 required to maintain a stable population, in the absence of immigration.



TIMELINE

Yayoi Period

Introduction of rice cultivation, metalworking, and weaving from the Asian continent. Emergence of a more complex society with settled agriculture.



Nara Period

The capital is moved to Nara and Buddhism becomes a prominent part of Japanese culture. The establishment of a centralized government based on Chinese models.



Kamakura Period

The rise of the samurai class and the establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate. The first military government in Japan.



14,000 BCE - 300 BCE

300 BCE - 300 CE

250 - 710

710 - 794

794 - 1185

1185 - 1333

Jomon Period

The earliest known human habitation in Japan. Characterized by a hunter-gatherer lifestyle and distinctive cord-marked pottery.



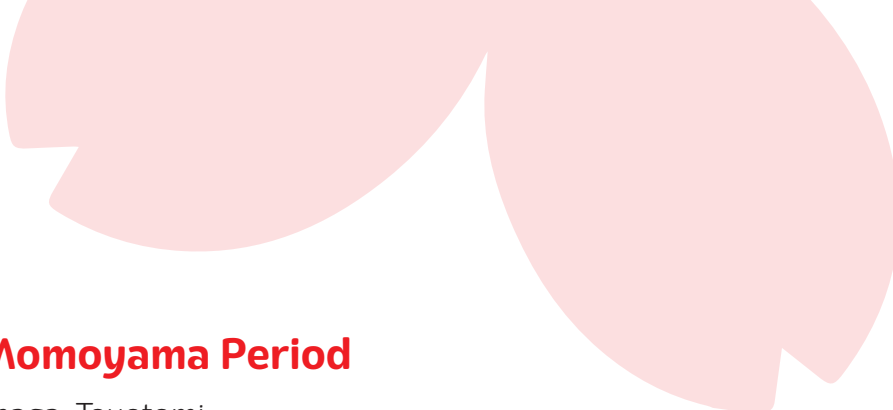
Yamato Period

Marked by the construction of large burial mounds and the establishment of early state-like entities. Introduction of Chinese culture and writing systems.



Heian Period

The capital is relocated to Heian-kyo (modern-day Kyoto). The emergence of a highly refined court culture, including the development of Japanese literature, poetry, and art.



Azuchi-Momoyama Period

Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Tokugawa Ieyasu unify Japan after centuries of conflict. The construction of impressive castles and the flourishing of arts and culture.



Meiji Restoration and Modernization

Emperor Meiji is restored to power, marking the end of the samurai era. Japan rapidly modernizes, adopting Western technology, political institutions, and culture.



Postwar Period

After the Allied occupation was officially ended with a peace treaty, Japan became once again an independent state when the treaty went into effect on April 28, 1952, the nation set about rebuilding itself from the devastation of war.

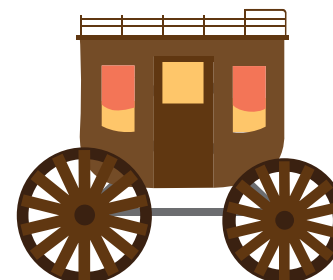
Muromachi Period

The Ashikaga Shogunate takes control, and Japan experiences a period of civil war and internal strife known as the Sengoku period. Zen Buddhism and tea culture flourish.



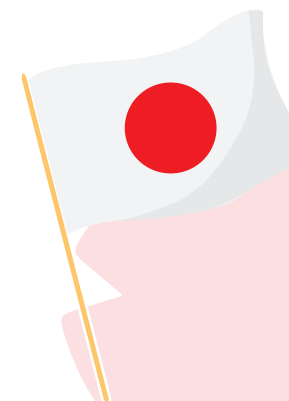
Edo Period

Tokugawa Shogunate establishes the Tokugawa Bakufu in Edo (modern-day Tokyo), leading to a long period of peace and isolation. The rigid social hierarchy of samurai, peasants, artisans, and merchants takes shape.

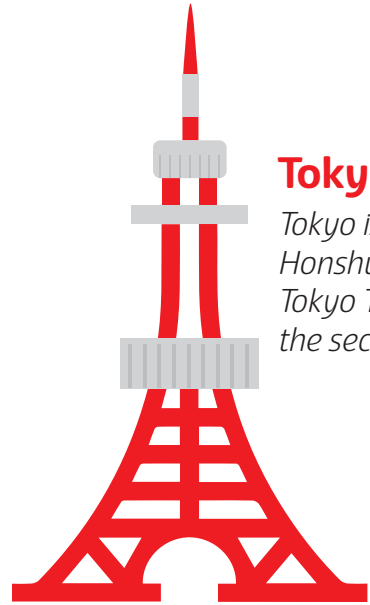


Taishō Period

Begun with the death of the Emperor Meiji and the ascendance of his son, the Emperor Taishō, the Taishō Period saw Japan continue its military involvement in East Asia when it seized German-occupied areas of China during World War I.

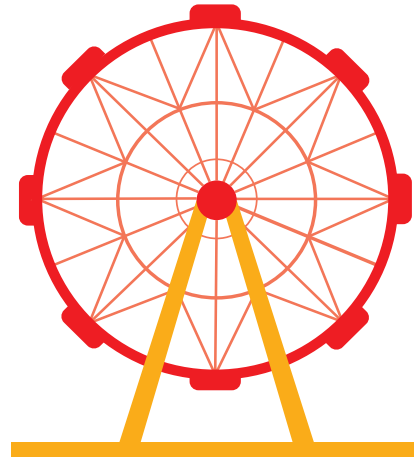


MAJOR CITIES



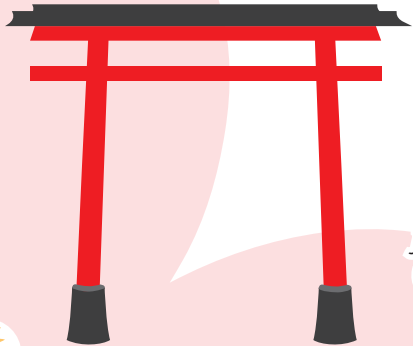
Tokyo

Tokyo is on the southeastern side of Honshu. A major site to see here is the Tokyo Tower which stands at 1,092 ft, it is the second-tallest structure in Japan.



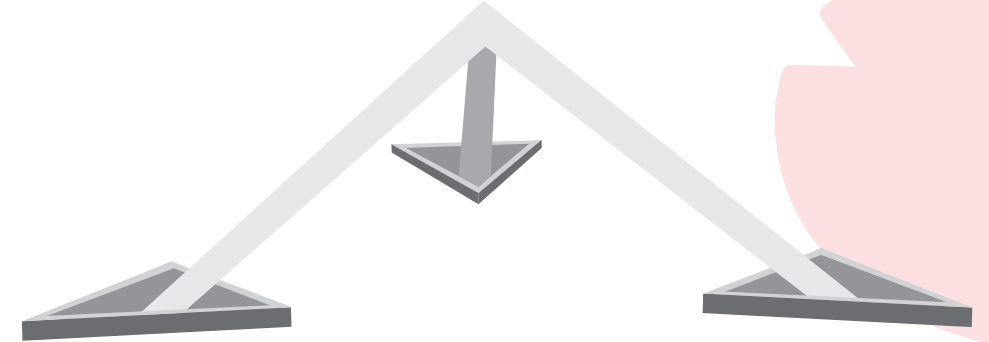
Yokohama

Yokohama is in Honshu. One of the major sites to see here is the 369.09 ft tall ferris wheel named the Cosmo Clock 21 which can hold up to 480 people.



Kyoto

Kyoto is in Honshu. A sacred place to visit is the Fushimi Inari Taisha shrine famous for its tunnels of orange torii gates that wind over the hills of Mt. Inari.



Sapporo

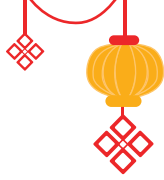
Sapporo is in the southwestern part of Hokkaido. Here you can stroll Moerenuma Park, a 400-acre public park with many sculptures and art installations



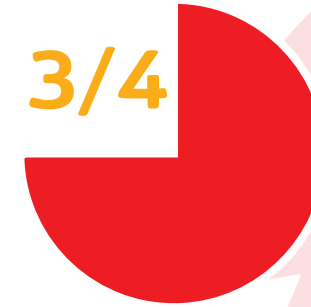
Nagoya

Nagoya is on the Pacific coast of the main island of Honshu. Here you can visit the historic site of The Nagoya Castle which was built in 1612.

GEOGRAPHY



three-fourths of
the national land is
mountainous



there are more than 1,200 species of bamboo
worldwide, of which around 250 grow in Japan.

The dramatic Japan Alps, studded with 3,000-meter peaks, bisect the central portion of Honshu, the main island. Japan has around 200 volcanoes, about 60 of which are active. Consequently, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are common.

CLIMATE

Subtropical

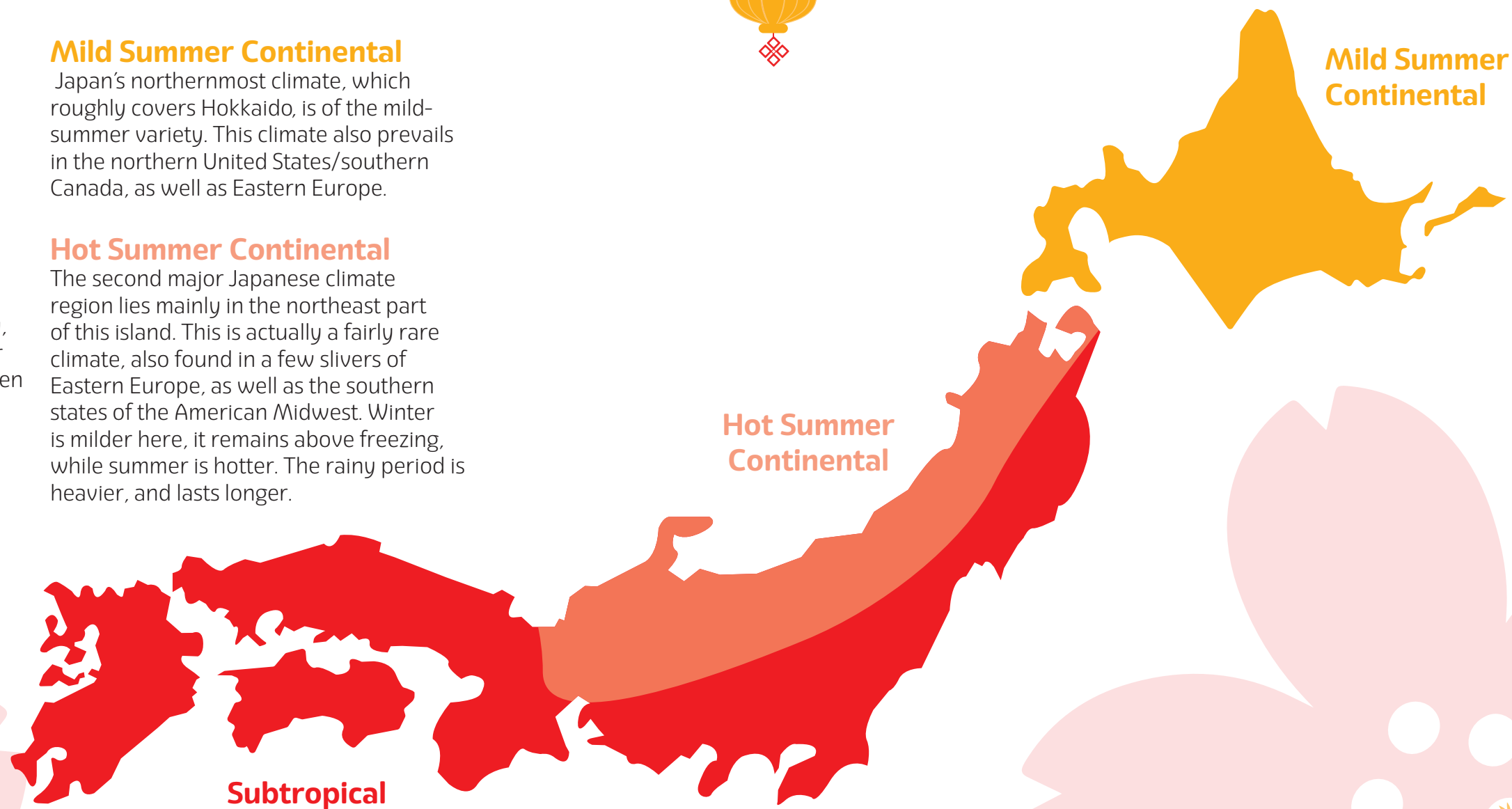
This climate encompasses most of the population of Japan, including the nation's four largest cities. Compared to the more northerly parts of the country, the subtropical region features a longer spring and autumn, and thus a more even balance between the four seasons.

Mild Summer Continental

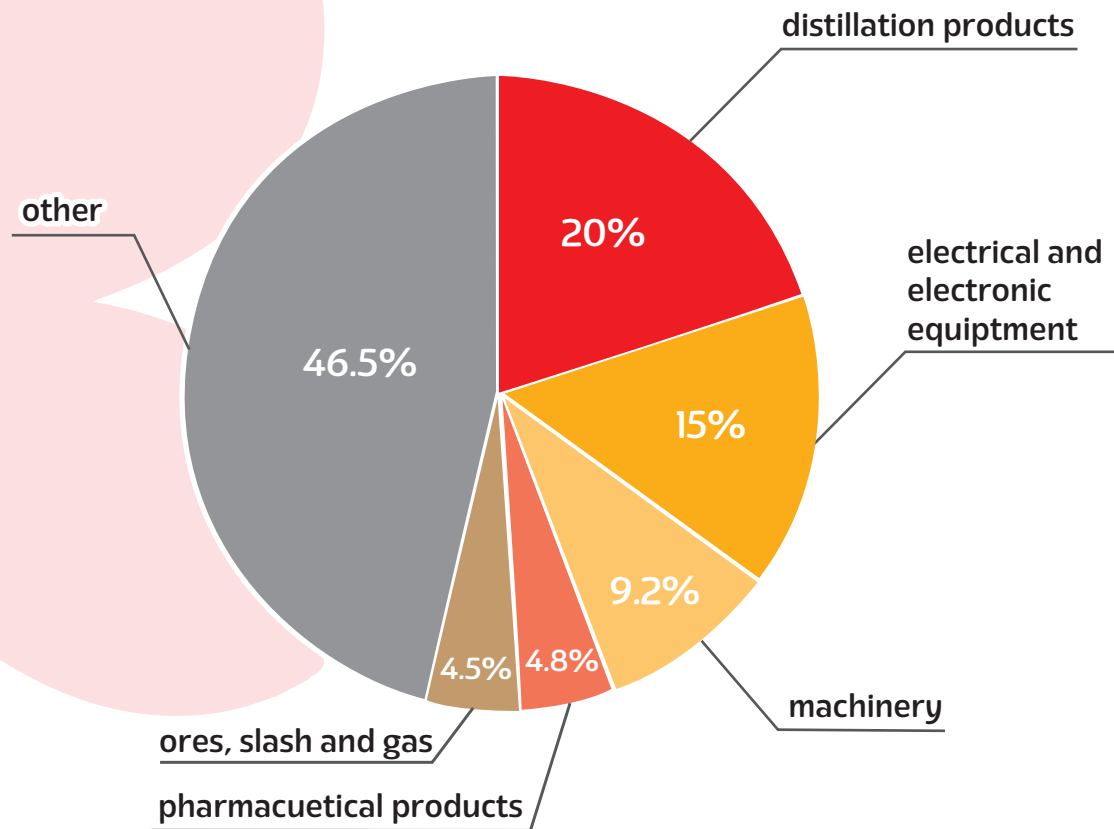
Japan's northernmost climate, which roughly covers Hokkaido, is of the mild-summer variety. This climate also prevails in the northern United States/southern Canada, as well as Eastern Europe.

Hot Summer Continental

The second major Japanese climate region lies mainly in the northeast part of this island. This is actually a fairly rare climate, also found in a few slivers of Eastern Europe, as well as the southern states of the American Midwest. Winter is milder here, it remains above freezing, while summer is hotter. The rainy period is heavier, and lasts longer.



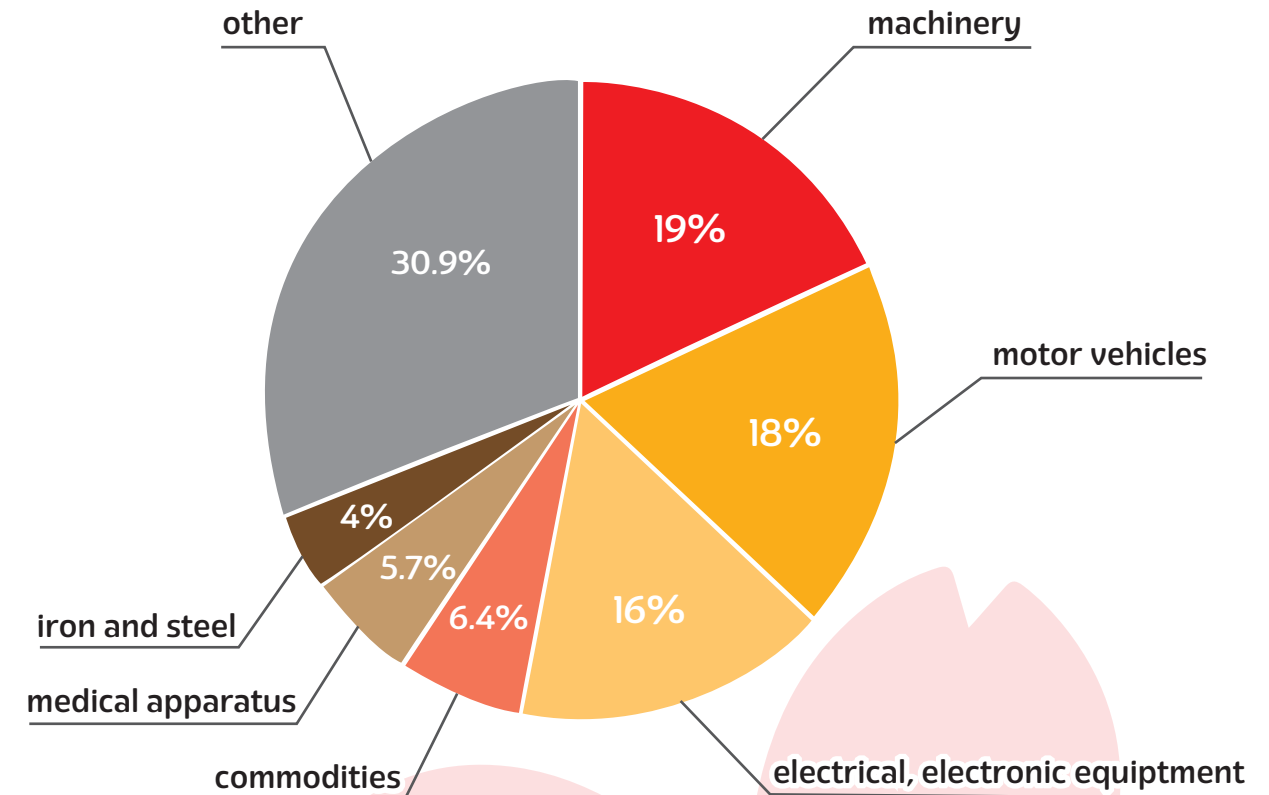
IMPORTS



The country's main imports include Mineral fuels, petroleum oils and distillation products (20%), electrical and electronic equipment (15%), Machinery (9.2%), pharmaceutical products (4.8%) and ores, slash and gas (4.5%). Japan is the world's 5th largest exporter and 4th largest importer of goods, and foreign trade accounts for 37% of the country's GDP.

EXPORTS

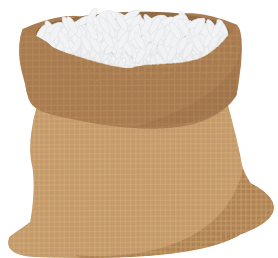
Japan mainly exports motor vehicles (18% of all exports) being the second exporter of cars worldwide, machinery (19%), electrical, electronic equipment (16%), commodities (6.4%), optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus (5.7%) and iron and steel (4%).





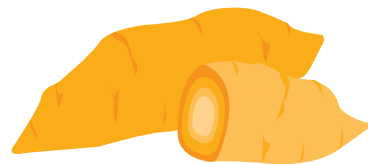
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Japan keeps its first rank in the world in terms of farming output, producing large quantities of rice, wheat, cotton, meat, poultry, eggs and fishery products. Major crops include: rice, tea, wagyu beef, mandarins, Japanese plum, sweet potatoes, nashi pears, wasabi, miso, nori.



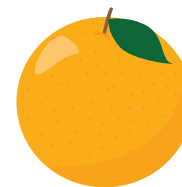
rice

7.45 million tons
per year



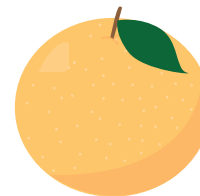
sweet potatoes

1.5 million tons
per year



mandarin oranges

921,000 tons
per year



nashi pears

171,000 tons
per year



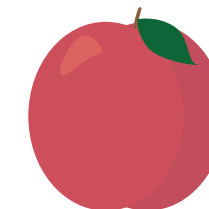
tea

80,000 tons
per year



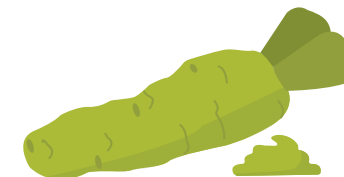
wagyu beef

300,000 tons
per year



japanese plum

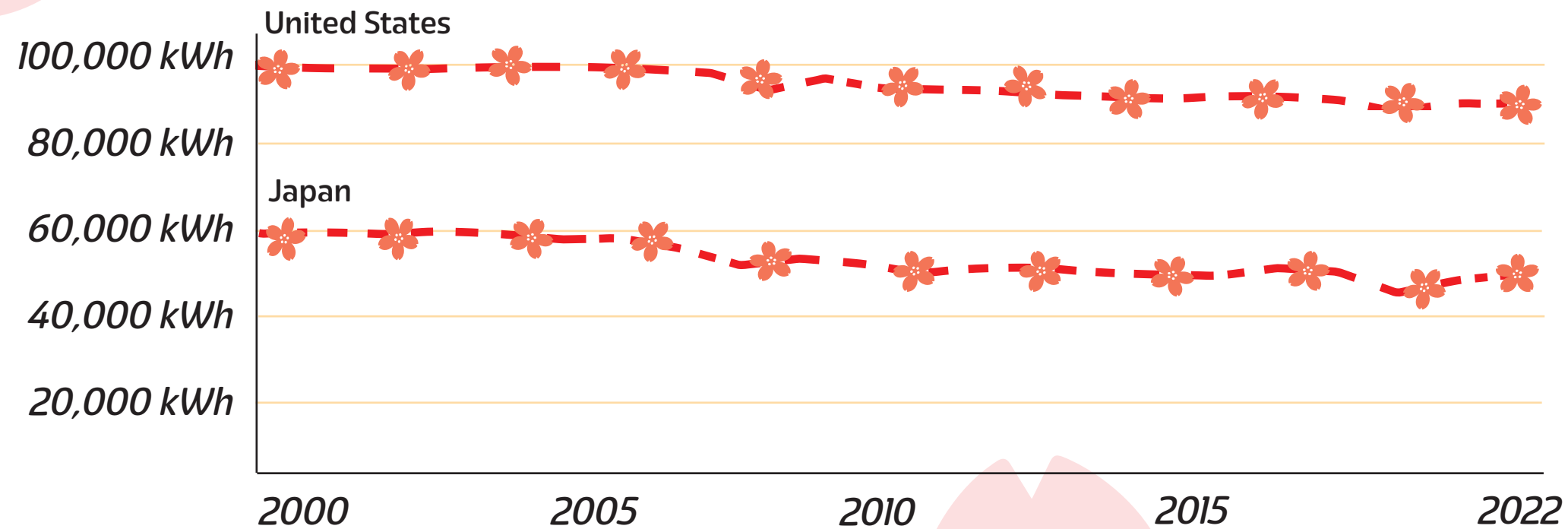
80,660 tons
per year



wasabi

1,300 tons
per year

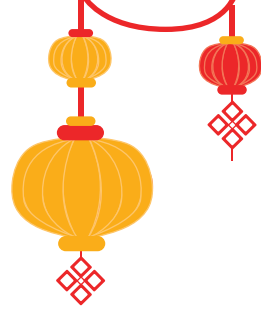
ENERGY CONSUMPTION



The total energy consumption per person in Japan in 2022 was 39,985 billion kWh, while The United States consumed about 78,754 kWh of electricity in 2022.

AIRPORTS

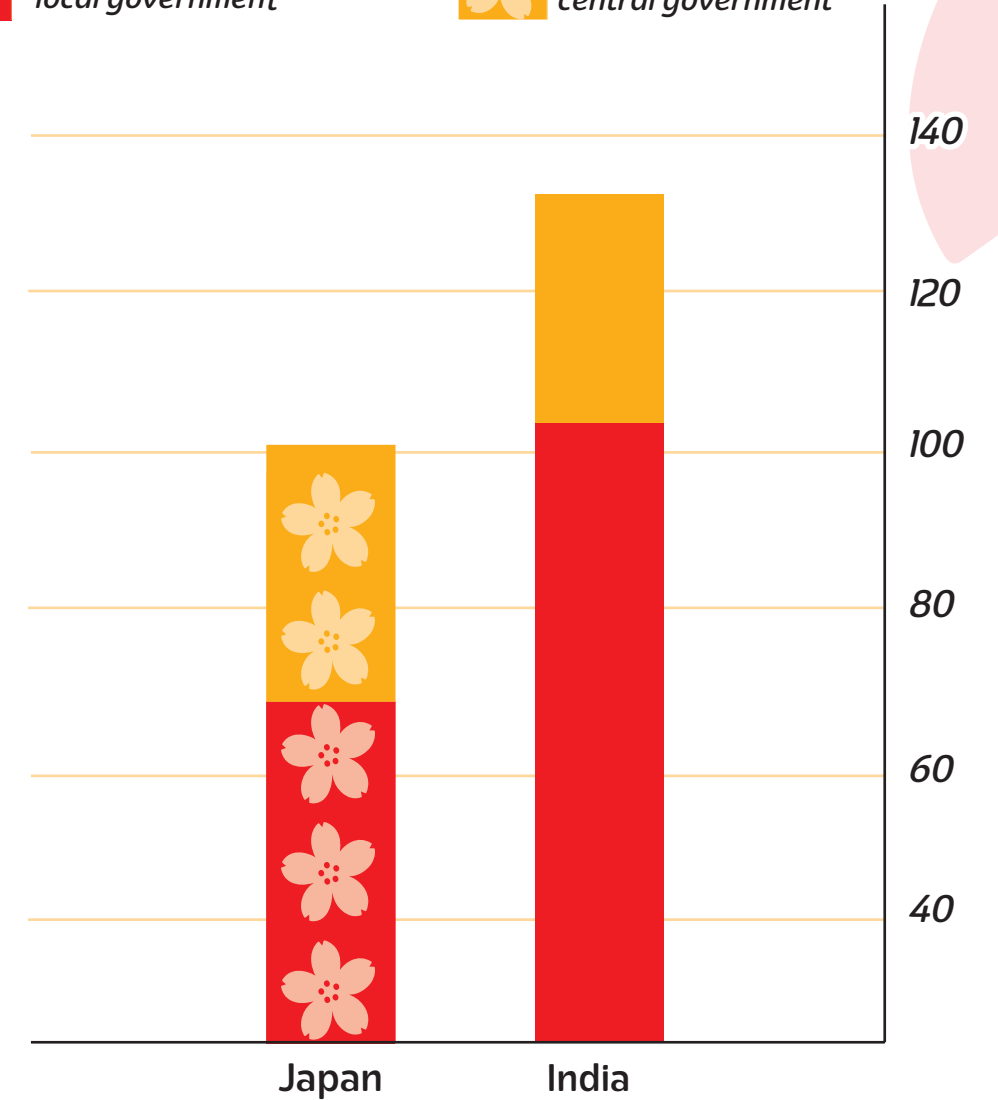
Japan has a total number of 98 airports. 28 airports are operated by the central government and 67 airports are operated by the local government. Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages a total of 137 Airports, which includes 103 airports operated by the local government, 34 airports operated by the central government.



*operated by the
local government*



*operated by the
central government*



RELIGION

48.6% Shinto
46.3% Buddhists
4% Other

Religious affiliation includes 88.9 million Shinto followers, 84.8 million Buddhists, 1.9 million Christians, and 7.4 million adherents of other religious groups. The category of “other” and nonregistered religious groups includes Islam, the Baha’i Faith, Hinduism, and Judaism

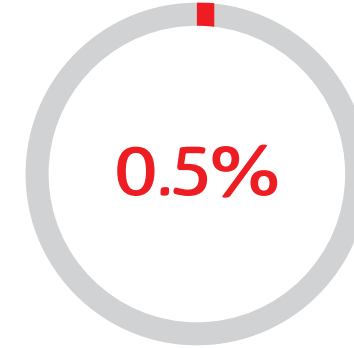
LANGUAGE

Most people in Japan have Japanese as their first language. There are still a few lesser-spoken languages across the islands, including: Amami, Kyukyu, Kikai and Miyako.

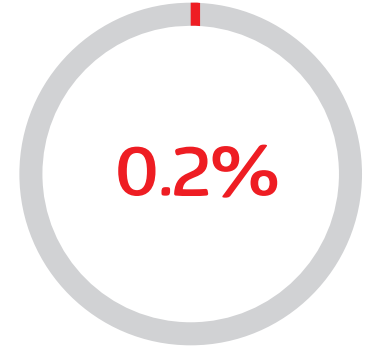
The Ainu language (spoken in Hokkaido) is critically endangered as a language, and only 15 people identified as speaking in in the late 1990s. Some people may speak English in the major cities but it’s not a given.



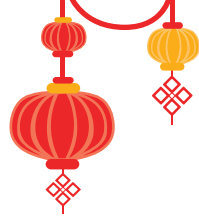
Japanese



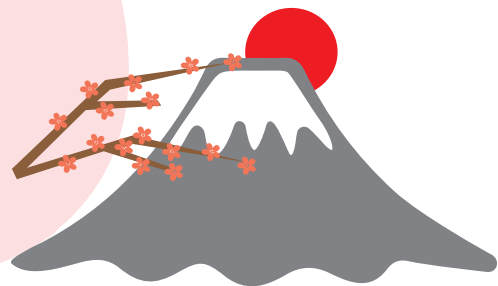
Korean



Chinese



TOURISM



Mt. Fuji

Japan's most recognizable landmark, majestic Mount Fuji is the country's highest mountain peak. Towering 3,776 meters over a flat landscape.



Snow Monkey Park

Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park. The name Jigokudani, or Hell Valley, comes from the cliffs and steam coming from the springs. The forests and mountains are homes to multiple families of monkeys.



Sapporo Brewery Museum

Japan's oldest beer brand Sapporo was first brewed in Sapporo, Hokkaido in 1876. The museum introduces the history of beer in Japan and the process of beer making.

Snow Monkey Park

Fushimi Inari Shrine

Toyko Skytree

Mt. Fuji



Fushimi Inari Shrine

The Fushimi Inari shrine is made famous for the thousands of scarlet-colored gates that arch over a web of trails. Inari is the Shinto god of rice, one of the most important gods in Shintoism.



Toyko Skytree

The Toyko Skytree is the tallest structure in Japan standing at 634 meters. It is a landmark of Tokyo and a television broadcasting tower that offers breathtaking, panoramic views looking over Tokyo.

Citations



