

# Japan

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Japanese

**Population:** 125,800,000

**Currency:** Japanese Yen (JPY)

**Area:** 377,975

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Mount Fuji', 'writeup': "An iconic stratovolcano and Japan's highest peak, revered for its symmetrical cone and cultural significance."}
- {'name': 'Tokyo Tower', 'writeup': "A communications and observation tower in Tokyo, symbolizing Japan's post-war rebirth and modernization."}
- {'name': 'Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)', 'writeup': "A Zen Buddhist temple in Kyoto famous for its stunning gold leaf exterior and serene garden setting."}
- {'name': 'Himeji Castle', 'writeup': "A well-preserved feudal castle known for its elegant white appearance and complex defensive design."}
- {'name': 'Itsukushima Shrine', 'writeup': "A Shinto shrine on Miyajima Island, renowned for its 'floating' torii gate visible at high tide."}

## Head of State / Government:

Emperor Naruhito

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Cherry Blossom Festival (Hanami)', 'writeup': "A springtime celebration where people gather to view and appreciate the blooming cherry blossoms."}
- {'name': 'Gion Matsuri', 'writeup': "One of Japan's most famous festivals held in Kyoto, featuring elaborate floats and traditional processions."}
- {'name': 'Obon Festival', 'writeup': "A Buddhist event honoring the spirits of ancestors with dances, ceremonies, and family reunions."}
- {'name': 'Tanabata', 'writeup': "A festival celebrating the meeting of two deities, marked by colorful decorations and wish writing."}

## Food & Cuisine:

Japanese cuisine emphasizes seasonal ingredients, presentation, and balance, featuring dishes like sushi, ramen, tempura, and sashimi, reflecting a deep cultural appreciation for freshness and aesthetics.

## Brief History:

Japan's history spans from ancient Jomon culture through feudal samurai eras, isolationist policies in the Edo period, rapid modernization during the Meiji Restoration, to becoming a global economic power post-World War II.

## Important People:

- Emperor Meiji - Modernized Japan during the Meiji Restoration

- Tokugawa Ieyasu - Founder of the Tokugawa shogunate
- Hayao Miyazaki - Influential animator and filmmaker
- Shinzo Abe - Former Prime Minister known for economic reforms
- Yayoi Kusama - Renowned contemporary artist

**Current Conflicts:**

Japan maintains territorial disputes with neighboring countries over islands such as the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands with China and the Kuril Islands with Russia, but is generally peaceful with no active military conflicts.

**Youtube Links:**

- Japan Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in Japan
- History of Japan in 10 Minutes
- Japanese Culture and Traditions Explained
- Exploring Japanese Food: Sushi, Ramen & More
- Modern Japan: Economy, Technology, and Society