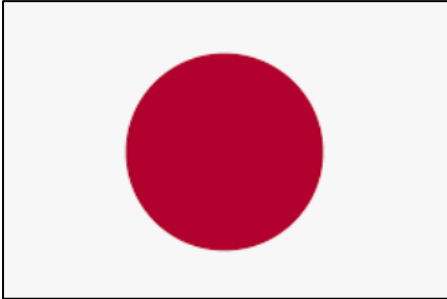


## Enjoy a Virtual Trip to Japan!



### 1. Japan is the largest island nation in East Asia!

There are about 127 million people living on Japan's 6,852 islands. The four main islands of Japan are Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu. The biggest Japanese island is Honshu with a land area of 88,020 sq mi (228,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

### 2. The Yamato Dynasty is the oldest hereditary monarchy in the world!

Emperor Jimmu became Japan's first ruler over 2,600 years ago, and the current emperor is his direct descendent. You can only enter Tokyo Imperial Palace's inner grounds on January 2nd and the emperor's birthday.

### 3. Japan has over 100 castles!

It's estimated that at one point in time, there were 5,000 castles across the country! Today, there are only about one hundred, and most of them are reconstructions, but twelve of them are original structures.

### 4. Noh is one of the longest-running theatrical traditions in the world!

Noh is a type of dance-drama from the 14th century. Traditionally, performances took place at temples and shrines. These days, you can go to indoor theatres in cities like Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.

### 5. Bowing is so important in Japan, even the deer do it!

Every morning, about 1200 wild deer gather in front of Todaiji Temple, Nara. You can buy special biscuits outside of the temple to feed them. Before you hand over the treat, give a little bow. The deer will bow back at you!



Nara Deer Park



### 6. There's a slipper for every occasion!

One Japanese cultural fact you might already know is Japanese people do not wear shoes inside. You might see these in homes, businesses, restaurants, and hotels!

### 7. Everyone cleans up after themselves!

A seemingly weird thing in Japan is the lack of public trash cans. After a terrorist attack in 1995, the government outlawed bins on the street, but the Japanese always clean up after themselves. Even if that means carrying garbage home!

### 8. The crime rate is so low that there are more police than petty criminals!

Most Japanese people follow very strict morals. If they find a wallet in the street, they are more likely to leave it alone or turn it in than steal the cash!

### 9. You *literally* can't miss Japan's famous vending machines!

There are slightly over 5 million vending machines in Japan. Most sell hot and cold non-alcoholic drinks, teas, and juices, but it's possible to find some that sell snacks, souvenirs, beer, and fortunes.

### 10. It's rude to walk and eat!

One interesting fact about Japan is how much thought goes into preparing meals. Partly because of this, most Japanese people do not eat while they walk. That is unless they attend a festival.

Here are some short videos to provide further insight into Japan's history, geography and general knowledge.

[How did Japan Become a Developed Country | The Entire History of Japan](#)

[Japan's Geography explained in under 3 Minutes](#)

[Japan Travel Guide: Best Things To Do in Japan 2025](#)

[Japan for kids – an amazing and quick guide to Japan](#)

[This Is How Japan Schools Teach Cleanliness](#)



Woodblock print *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* by Katsushika Hokusai, Edo period



Kanji characters for shodō (書道)