

4 reasons to visit Japan

What is so special about Japan?

Japan is a fascinating country with a rich culture and landscape. So what makes a tourist want to go there?

Food

The one thing that Japan is very famous for is its diverse and unique food. They have so many types of food that aren't found in any other part of the world like sushi, ramen, soba, tempura, gyoza. The most common type of food is seafood, which can also be eaten raw. The food consists of a lot of different soups that have various ingredients in them. Meat dishes aren't that common due to Buddhism.

Language and writing

The Japanese language is very unique and not at all similar to Chinese as many people think. It uses its own writing system that can be quite difficult in itself, but the thing that really makes Japanese hard is the way people have to speak to different groups. Many languages have two ways to speak - formal and informal. Japanese takes it one step further and has multiple options.



Temple and Mt. Fuji - Source: <https://wallpaperaccess.com/japan>

Cultural differences

In Japan, people aren't used to talking as much in public spaces. You shouldn't talk in crowded spaces and talking on the phone is considered rude. Japan is really harsh on rules, people form lines automatically and are usually not acting uncultured in public spaces. If you're sick, you should always wear a medical mask to keep the germs in. Japan is also really strict about punctuality. Things like late trains or people not being on work on time are nonexistent in Japan. But they don't have any problems with nudity. They have lots of hot springs in which they have rules on how to bath in them. They don't appreciate physical contact as much as western cultures. When you are eating, you should slurp, so you show that you are enjoying your food. If you ever want to visit Japan, you should look up some other cultural differences so that you are not considered rude.

Shintoism and buddhism

In Japan, there are two major religions: Shintoism and Buddhism. Shintoism revolves around the belief that anything in nature contains a *Kami* (神)- god. You can see this in Japanese culture from ikebana to bonsai. Shinto translates to the way of gods, so they believe in multiple deities. It's the most widespread religion in Japan, with about 80 % practicing it. They visit shrines, which have now become a popular tourist attraction. They also host lots of different festivals dedicated to their gods. But Buddhism is not a religion true to Japan. It spread from Korea and became popular in around the 6th century. It follows the teachings of Buddha, the way to achieving nirvana.