

JAPAN Quick Facts

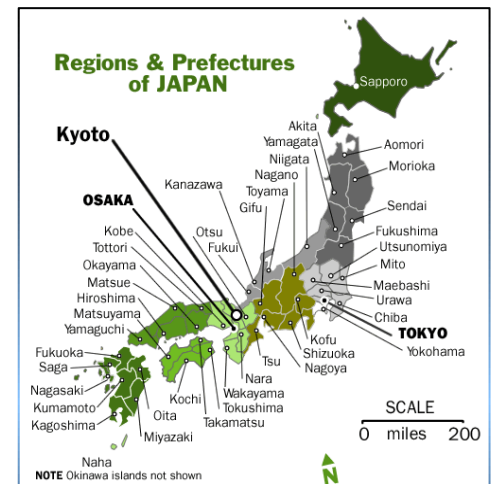
What is it that draws you to Japan?

Is it the traditional culture – the beautiful aesthetic architecture of temples and old homes, embroidered kimonos, rural festivals, taiko drums, gardens designed centuries ago, beautiful art forms like calligraphy and shuji painting, or the iconic geisha or sumo?

Or is it the modern face of this fascinating country; the tacky love hotels, the comic book obsession, karaoke rooms, the fashion districts, bustling neon streets and the pop music scene?

Whatever you're looking for, you'll likely find it in Japan. The Japanese often referred to as the world's most polite people, will amaze you with their humour, generosity and kindness.

If you are not already busy burying your head in Japan travel literature or surfing the web researching Japanese life, below are some helpful topics and links you might want to check out before taking off on your adventure!



Study TESOL in Kyoto, JAPAN.

Teach International is inviting you to join the TESOL Study Overseas Programme (SOP) which commences in January 2012, in the beautiful city of Kyoto.

Located roughly in the centre of Japan's main island of Honshu, Kyoto is a city of approximately 1,500,000 people and was the imperial capital of Japan for over 1,000 years. It is known for its huge number of religious and cultural destinations. In central Kyoto is the Imperial Palace, Nijo Castle. Other sites include Kiyomizudera, a Buddhist temple built over 800 years ago on a mountain face at the edge of Kyoto city, or Arashiyama river where you'll likely see real life geisha. Not to be missed is the Toji temple flea market held 21st of every month which is a must do.

Unlike many other Japanese cities, Kyoto remained relatively undamaged by allied bombing in the Second World War, and has a high proportion of historical Japanese structures, which contribute to its reputation as the best-preserved city in Japan. With 17 World Heritage listed sites, TESOL trainees have plenty to see, tourist destinations are scattered throughout the city and time will be available in the second and third weeks of the course to get out and about.

This course will be a fun learning experience, surrounded by like-minded adventurers, where you will complete your TESOL training in a non-English speaking country and teach real classes to real students. Teach International's highly skilled trainers will be there to assist you every step of the way. Already interest for this course is very high and seats are strictly limited.

What's Included?

- TESOL in-class course (Certificate III and IV levels)
- Additional lesson-planning days for Practice teaching
- Practice teaching observation and lessons in real language schools
- The opportunity to meet TESOL teachers currently working in Kyoto; and gain some new contacts.
- Orientation and graduation dinners
- Advice on a range of local accommodation to suit all budgets
- 20% off travel insurance (unique travelling teacher policy)

SOP Itinerary

Week one:

- Welcome Dinner
- Course Orientation
- 5 day in-class TESOL course

Week two:

- School introductions / free time
- Lesson planning workshops
- Practice Teaching

Week three:

- Practice Teaching
- Graduation Dinner



The Culture

The **culture of Japan** has evolved greatly over millennia, from the country's prehistoric [Jōmon period](#) to its contemporary hybrid culture, which combines influences from [Asia](#), [Europe](#) and [North America](#). The inhabitants of [Japan](#) experienced a [long period of relative isolation from the outside world](#) during the [Tokugawa shogunate](#) until the arrival of European "[Black Ships](#)" and the [Meiji period](#). (Wikipedia, July 2011).



In the 20th Century, Japan became a major player on the international stage, both militarily and economically. Until recently Japan has held the number two position in the national economy stakes, slipping recently to third behind China, a country many times its size.

There are many things to admire about Japanese culture, from its pursuit of perfection, its Confucius values that prize education, to the safety of its streets. It is not uncommon to hear stories of losing a wallet in a train station only to come back hours later after millions of people have filed through to find it exactly where you left it.

Japan is a very, very safe place to live.

Introduction to Japan <http://nihongo.org/english/culture/>

Introduction to Kyoto <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html>

ESL Industry

English teaching in Japan is an excellent option. The students are great, the money is great, the standard of living is excellent, however the cost of living can be quite high. Teachers in Japan are well-respected and many students have an overall dream to one day teach themselves!

There are opportunities to teach all levels and ages. Peak hour for classes is in the evenings from 5pm-9pm, usually after normal school hours. The pay for English teachers varies from school-to-school and depends somewhat on qualifications and experience. Most teachers begin on about \$50 an hour, and can earn up to \$75 upon proving themselves. You will be paid in Japanese Yen.

As a foreign language teacher in Japan you'll find no shortage of Japanese friends and Australian and other expats that live and work side by side in this cosmopolitan city. With plenty to see and do, your days will be filled with new experiences in a technologically advanced society in what can be described as a Japanese cultural hub.

The Weather

Basically, Japan has four distinct seasons. Spring months are March, April, and May. Summer months are June, July, and August. Autumn months are September, October, and November. Winter months are December, January, and February. Summer is hot and humid in general. During the winter, it snows a lot on the Sea of Japan side, and it is dry on the Pacific Ocean side.

Japan weather:

<http://www.vietnamstay.com/information/weather.htm>

Getting Around



JR Rail passes are gold if you plan to do any long distance travel or use the shinkansen (bullet train) **You must buy these before you come to Japan** and you can get these either online or when you book your airline ticket. You can get 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks passes and they can be activated at any train station when you arrive. The JR rail passes provide unlimited free travel anywhere in Japan on the shinkansen and JR lines. These will save you literally thousands if you plan on doing a bit of travel (or simply to ride the subway). A return trip to Tokyo from Kyoto for example will cost you 26,000 JPY, that's more than a 7-day JR Rail Pass. It also works with JR owned bus lines and ferries. What's more you also get discounted rates at some hotels.

Unlike many Asian countries taxis in Japan won't rip you off. The min fare is 660 yen and you'll be happy to know that the drivers will never try to stitch you. Note – none of them will speak English so if you're catching a cab, make sure you've got the hotels card or otherwise remember a major land mark near your destination.

Kyoto is Japan's most visitor-friendly city, with lots of English-language signs and an easy-to-navigate transportation system. Kyoto's subway and bus networks are efficient and quite easy to use. One of the best ways to explore Kyoto, however, is by foot.

Read more: <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/kyoto/0080020156.html#ixzz1R6VAPusM>

A couple of phrases to get you started!

Anyone one who has travelled to a foreign country knows how delighted locals are when you use the language. You can find Japanese phrase books in bookstores and you'll find language lessons easily once you are in town.

Hello (Kon nichiwa)

What's up? (*Genki*)

Goodbye (Saiyonara)

My name is _____. (*Watashi no namae wa ...*)

Thank you (Arigatou)

What's your name? (*Anato no name wa nandesuka?*)

Nice to meet you! Hajimemashite!

Do you speak (English/ Japanese)? (*Anata wa eigo/nihongo wo dekimasuka ka?*)

And remember, you'll find shopping a lot easier if you learn the Japan numbers 1 to 10!

Getting there

From Australia, there are some great airfares to Japan throughout the year. The Osaka Kansai airport is the closest airport to where the course will be held, roughly 60 km.

A range of airlines fly to Japan, so if you've got some frequent flyer points with a specific programme chances are they fly to Japan.

Jetstar www.jetstar.com

Cheap flights are advertised, but the final price is not. Beware, the taxes!

Qantas <http://www.qantas.com.au>

Japan Airlines <http://www.au.jal.com/en/>

Taxes are generally included in their advertised fares

Cathay Pacific Airways <http://www.cathaypacific.com/au>

Reasonable fares that lay-over in Hong Kong.



City Cost Guide

The cost of living in Japan is high and everyday items can be more expensive than at home. However our extraordinarily high Aussie dollar goes a lot further these days. Below are estimated cost of certain items you may wish to purchase while in Japan to give you a general idea:

(Approximate exchange rate: 1AUD = 85.4 JPY)

Three-star Accommodation:	Yen 6000	AUD 70.0	NZ 108.2	USD 74.5
Three course meal:	Yen 3000	AUD 35.0	NZ 45	USD 37
Bottled water 1.5lt:	Yen 180	AUD 1.8	NZ 2.73	USD 2.2
Beer:	Yen 800	AUD 9.4	NZ 12	USD 9.9
Souvenir t-shirt	Yen 2500	AUD 29.0	NZ 38	USD 31
Coffee	Yen 450	AUD 5.0	NZ 6.8	USD 18
Can of Coke	Yen 120	AUD 1.4	NZ 1.8	USD 1.4
Movie ticket	Yen 1650	AUD 19	NZ 24	USD 20

Relevant Websites

@llo' Expat Japan

<http://www.japan.alloexpat.com/>

Ex-pat website with tips on events, restaurants, jobs and housing.

Orient Expat Japan

<http://www.orientexpat.com/japan-expat/>

Info on everything from Japanese mobile phones to where to get a tattoo.

Smart Traveller

<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>

Australian government site with general travel advice

Currency Converter

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>



So, what are you waiting for?

All these experiences are available to you when you visit Japan as part of Teach International's Study Overseas Programme.

Teach International's TESOL courses are ideal for those adventurers looking to go overseas immediately and share a different travel experience with like-minded individuals. The opportunity to connect with Japanese and teach them something they will treasure forever - the ability to speak an international language, English - is something very special.

With places in the programme limited, register for the course now and get ready for a unique travel experience available to you in one of the most vibrant cities in Southeast Asia.

Register for the Study Overseas Programme in Japan today by calling:

(AU) 1300 558 890

(NZ) 0800 832 243.

Study and holiday in beautiful Kyoto with Teach International!

TEACH INTERNATIONAL TEAM

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