

Japan Is the Best Country in the World!

There are 196 countries in the world. It means we have 196 cultures. This is very interesting for me because my country, Japan, is an island and we have only 2.5% foreigners of the Japanese all population. This number is lower compared to other developed countries, so usually we do not have opportunities to experience other cultures (“Immigration by Country 2023”). I was prejudiced before I came to the US, but many things were different, so I would like to ask you all, what is your image of Japan? I watched an anime that kind of teases Japanese people. It was so funny for me. Actually, I did not like Japan because of the education system, government, and typical thinking. However, I realized in the US that Japan is the most beautiful country in the world. I have four reasons.

First of all, Japanese food, called Washoku, is an intangible cultural heritage, so it is popular with foreigners. I think everyone has tried it before. It is characterized by utilizing the original taste of food and valuing seasonal aspects. This includes meals that originated in Japan and are prepared and eaten on a daily basis, for example, sushi, miso soup and sukiyaki. Also, the Japanese have traditional ways to eat. This word does not have an English name, but if I translated, it is one soup and three dishes. It has carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, vitamins, and minerals so we can get a well-balanced intake of nutrients necessary for good health. Additionally, it has a good balance of color (“Japanese Cuisine”). It is considered good manners to eat soup, rice, and side dishes in that order because eating soup first keeps the tips of your chopsticks moist and prevents the rice from sticking to them, so this is a very logical order (“一汁三菜”). Washoku is one of the traditional, popular, and famous points of Japan.

In addition, Japan is in a temperate, humid climate or humid continental climate, so we can clearly feel the four seasons, spring, summer, fall and winter (“About Japan’s”). March to May is spring. The cold weather becomes less severe, and it is going to be warmer. Cherry blossoms will be blooming, so I recommend going there in spring. June to August is summer, and it often rains. This period is called Thuyu, but after that, full-fledged summer with strong sunlight is coming. Sometimes it is 95 degrees or more. Summer festivals and fireworks are popular in summer. Basically, summer festivals are held across Japan, where people carry a mikoshi (a portable shrine) on their shoulders, parading through a town. September to November is autumn, when the heat gets less severe and the temperature goes down so it is a comfortable season. The color of trees changes from green to deep red, yellow and brown — it is very beautiful. December to February is winter, when it is not uncommon for temperatures to drop below zero, but you can enjoy skiing on the upper side. In the new year, they eat traditional Japanese food, and they also have a long break. Moreover, you can always feel nature through the flowers of each season.

My third reason is that Japan was rated the ninth safest country in the world (in 2024), and it is the second safest country following Singapore in Asia (“Crime Rate”) (“Safest Countries”). The characteristics are that this country is ethnically homogeneous and prohibited to have weapons, so there is little conflict throughout the country. Also, drugs are prohibited, too, except in medical care situations (“薬物乱用のない社会を”). Additionally, you will never find one person working alone at any convenience store, so you do not have to worry about safety. Along with employee safety, stores become safer for customers. For these reasons, Japanese are always thorough with safety, so crime is low compared to other countries.

Lastly, they have a lot of entertainment. Universal Studios in Osaka has an animation area which is changed many times, so you can enjoy your favorite animations. Also, you can visit historic buildings from Osaka, for example, Osaka castle and Atomic Bomb Dome. This dome was damaged in World War Two, but it still exists, so the dome became World Culture Heritage. Moreover, in Tokyo, they have Disney Sea, which is only in Japan. Also, you can visit Tokyo Tower, Shibuya, and some famous temples. If you use a bullet train, you can visit Mt. Fuji in just two hours. As this shows, everyone from children to elderly people can enjoy Japan because it is easy to access from the amusement parks.

Why is Japan such a wonderful country? Of course, I agree with the opinions by foreigners that Japanese are respectful and kind. The people's personalities make a good impact on Japan, but I also think culture, events, and features make Japan more special and full of happiness.

You must visit and experience Japan because Japan is the best country in the world!

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