

JAPAN
Steve Ransome (son of Molly in Apartment 41)



Why do I like visiting Japan?

- It's not too hot
- Art
- Culture
- Scenery
- Architecture, Temples, Castles
- Food
- People
- Cute things
- It can be very "Unusual"

4 main islands about the same area as the uk

latitude like Spain

mostly mountainous

120million people

10% habitable near the east coast – the rest is too hilly

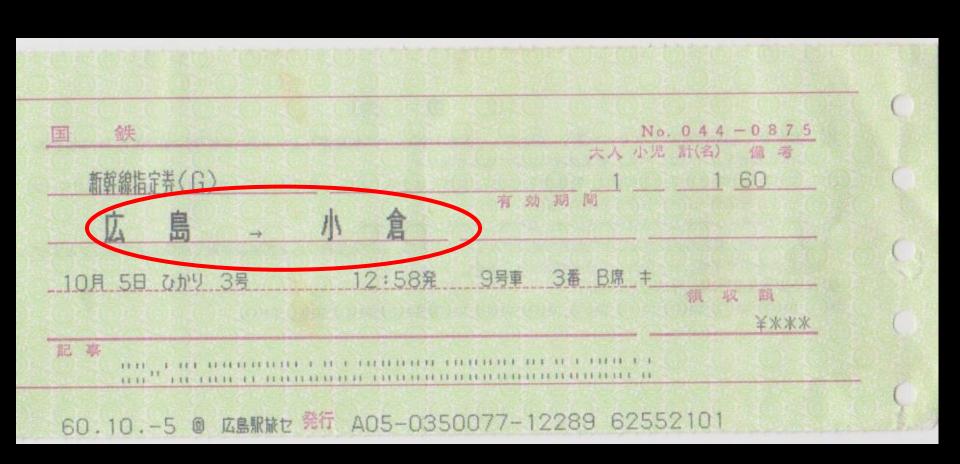
1600-1850 isolated from the rest of the world



Japanese language and writing

They have their own writing

Railway ticket with no Romaji (Roman letters A-Z)



They have their own writing

Tokyo Metro map with no Romaji (Roman letters A-Z)



Travel - Buying tickets on Japanese railways

You need to find the Japanese name for where you are going, not all places are named in English



 People in the street are very friendly and like to practise their English but it's worth learning to read some Japanese

Some Japanese phrases

Hello or good afternoon Ko ni chi wa



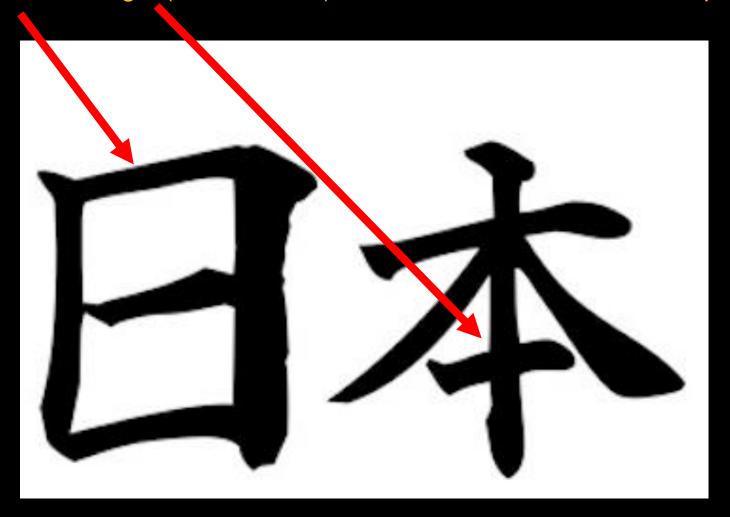
Thank you Do mo a ri ga to



Please – Do zo
 Difficult to use as you have to be polite

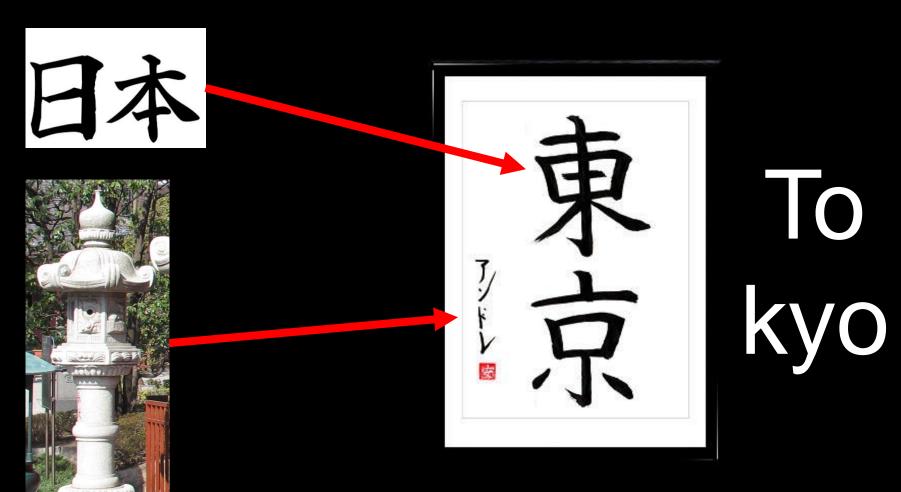
Japanese Kanji writing Ni Hon

Sun and Origin (root of a tree) - Land where the sun comes up



Japanese Kanji writing

Sun and Origin → East To
Lantern in the Capital → Kyo



Japanese Kanji writing

Some more complex Japanese words are made of simpler ones



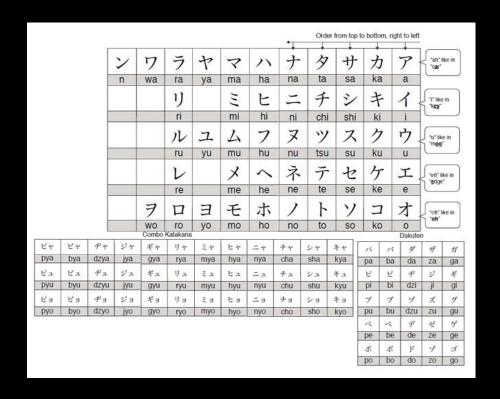
Japanese Kanji writing

Some more complex Japanese words are made of simpler ones



How Japanese spell "Foreign words" Katakana

With pairs of "consonant then a vowel" or a vowel or an n Some pairs don't exist like "fi" so instead of "Coffee" they say "Cohee". Letters R and L sound the same to them so they say Ron don.



"Gu Re Su Ra N Do"

"Ke Su Gu Re Bu"

"I ngi ri su"

Haiku poetry — 5,7,5 syllable lines about a fleeting moment involving nature.

古池や蛙飛び込む水の音

fu-ru-i-ke ya ka-wa-zu to-bi-ko-mu mi-zu-no-o-to

old pond . . . a frog leaps in water's sound

Falling to the ground,
I watch a leaf settle down
In a bed of brown.

Travel



Travel - There's not much space in Japan

Cars are very box like, petrol stations have pumps in the ceiling to make more space





Travel - There's not much space in Japan

car parks may have automated crane loaders



Travel - There's not much space in Japan

A typical street in down town Kyoto – one way, no pavements or gardens



A mix of ancient and modern – earthquake proof solar panel clad tower block in Tokyo and old bridge in Kyoto





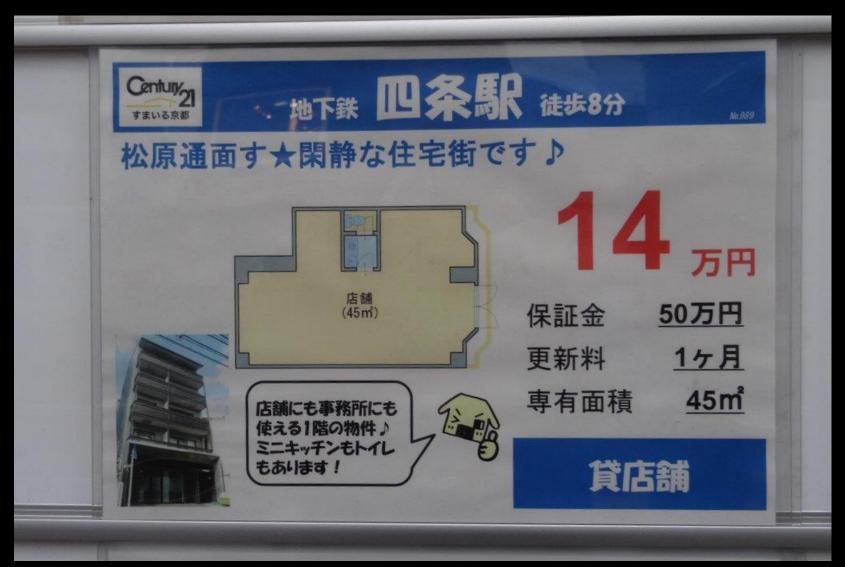
Japanese No Theatre

- Equivalent to Royal Opera House
- 8 hours of Japanese theatre with a meal break



An advertisement for a flat to rent

Apart from the built in bathroom/wc, it's just one room. Rents are high and flat are tiny in Japan – this is about 22ft * 22ft



Japanese style hotel

Left Daytime – Low table with tea and bean cakes
Change into your Yukata (dressing gown) and go for a walk
Right Night time – They've put out mattresses on the floor with pillows like ball bearings





Old wooden houses are maintained to the original condition



Districts left with the original houses as restaurants



Early houses had benches surrounding a cooking pot to keep warm



Temples

This Island was so holy ordinary people could only approach by boat and weren't allowed on the land



Temples - Fell trees in winter then use sledge to pull trees down snow covered hills to build

But they couldn't make strong rope – They used ladies' hair!



Nikko

A site in central Japan where the emperor of the newly unified country brought the best artists from across the islands to make the best art right is the twilight gate





Nikko (detail)

The sleeping cat is supposed to be so realistic that birds won't go near The three monkeys (hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil) is I'm told a pun in thet "no evil" sounds the same as "monkey" in Japanese





The Torii Gate divides the earthly world from the divine Some gates are over 100 ft tall



good luck charms on a rope between trees



Asakusa Temple, one of the biggest in Tokyo. They always have an impressive roof



Japanese Temples Barrels of sake rice wine at the Temple entrance





Choyuza pavilion
Dragons spouting water,
washing with a Hishaku ladle before
entering the temple





A simple choyuza Shinto priest





Japanese Temples Buddhist Goju No To

Lanterns signifying the capital

Five storey pagoda Sky, Wind, Fire, Water and Earth with nine rings on top and space for the Buddha's remains





Lucky charms called Ema with prayers or wishes to the gods



Recently restored temple in the Autumn with red leaves



Overlooking a sheer drop with the autumn trees



Raked white stones symbolise the sea. We walked around raised wooden paths all around the temple so we wouldn't stand on the stones





Fire dragon painted on a temple ceiling



Japanese food - street market

Tokyo – no English writing at all! Sometimes had to look at ingredients to see what it was



Japanese food - street market

Kyoto – some English writing and pictures



Japanese food – typical lunchbox

Bento or Ekiben if sold at a railway station, different local styles Rice, Tofu, Fried vegetables in batter, pickles, soy sauce



Japanese food – soba restaurant

Noodles, vegetables, pickles, seeds, sea food, meat and beer with chopsticks



Japanese food – restaurant

Raw or cooked meat, vegetables on skewers



Japanese food – well presented

This is a yoghurt



Japanese food models

There are wax or plastic models of food outside the restaurants, some are so realistic that birds try to eat them



Japanese Weddings



Japanese weddings

- (L) Helping the bride look her best(R) Wedding parades every 5 mins through temples on a Sunday following the Eboshi priest





Japanese weddings

Some of the guests wear western style clothes but I think the Kimono looks best



Japanese hospitality

Introduced themselves, took us home, then the next year took us to stay with her sister and mother





Japanese hospitality

We visited a school and gave an English Lesson
We bought two bottles of whisky to two separate people in Japan who didn't
know each other and lived far apart. Neither opened the bottle but found each
other by phone, one visited the other and they drank the whisky!





Japanese Culture

Shamisen

Tea Ceremony





Three – five - seven

A special celebration for girls of three and seven, and for boys of five Some lucky families have children of the right age to all celebrate the same year



Japanese Culture

Ladies in traditional kimono dresses singing and dancing



Japanese Culture - Sumo

Tickets are solar out years in advance so we just had to watch it on TV



Japanese Crafts Paper dolls – shouldn't have faces





Japanese Crafts Paper dolls – shouldn't have faces – notice the origami cranes!



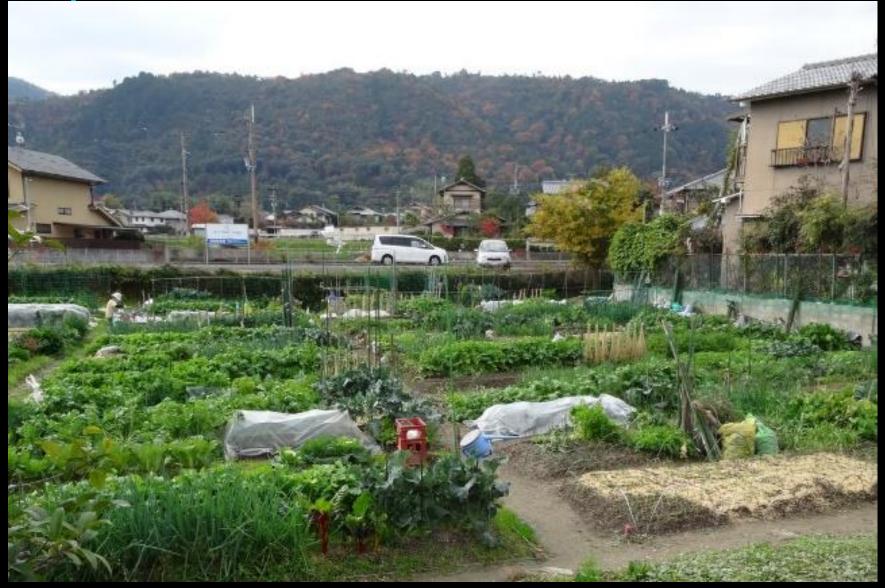


Japanese Gardens



Japanese Gardens

Japanese Allotments.



Bamboo walk

Through saga forest



Tea house overlooking lake



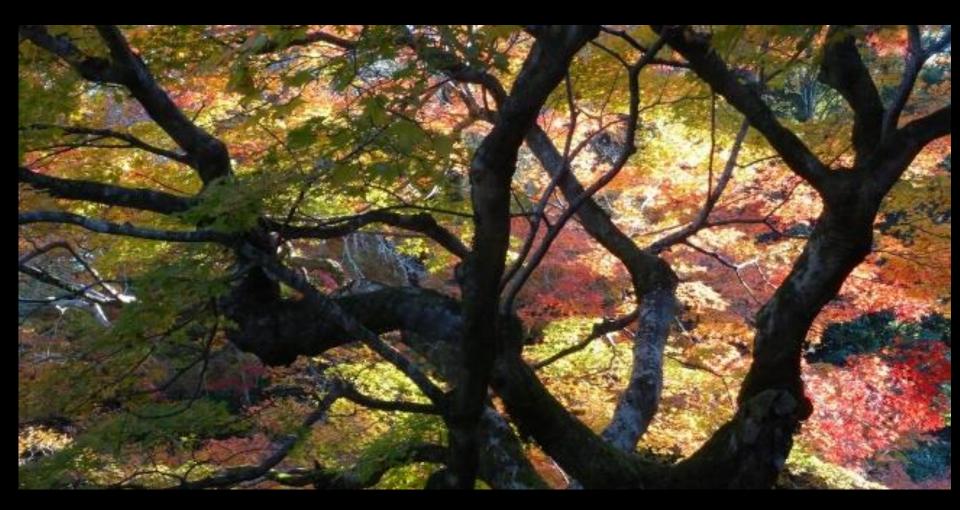
Japan Autumn foliage



Japan Autumn foliage



Japan Autumn foliage



Japanese travel art

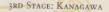
Illustrating nightly stops on a long road





2ND STAGE: KAWASAKI

On a day in early spring, travelers cross the Rokugo River at Kawasaki by ferryboat. Among the figures outside the tea stall on the nearer shore are a samurai and his porter, two women in spring kimono, and a man carrying a large coolie hat. Timbers from an upstream lumber camp float at the edge of the river.



In the village of Kanagawa, on Edo Bay, two men stop for refreshment at a roadside stand while another entertains his young son. Porters move along the road with their cargo, and an approaching traveler carries his belongings on a pole.



Japanese art

being photographed by ladies in kimonos



A Torii gate at a temple entrance

Many temples have the colour vermillion



About a 4 mile walk up to a mountain top and back the start has two choices



Gates are only a foot or so apart for the first mile



The gates carry on all the way up and are a little further apart



The path gets steeper as it gets higher with fewer gates



There was a small temple was at the top, but there was no view!



It was the same distance down again through thousands more gates



Tokyo Imperial palace tree trimming

Very fast, climbing 3 legged ladders, quick trim, down, sweep up and off





Cute dolls and toys are everywhere

http://www.chirimenzaikukan.com/ http://www.manekiya-online.com/



Cute Japan

A diorama at a silk museum made from cocoons





Cute Japan

A painted van



Cute Japan A child's backpack



Cute Japan

A 20+ year old Hello Kitty fan





Cute Japan

A dog dressed as a Samurai



Unusual Japan

A pub serving "Traditional British food" including Honey Cheese Snacks or Jacket Potato with Anchovy and Mayonnaise sauce



Unusual Japan

Pachinko – a game like bagatelle with no skill in the noisiest, brightest lit place I have ever been. If you win you can exhchange tokens for cigarettes and other things you can buy in a supermarket



Unusual Japan Ogre

Father Christmas



Unusual Japan

I have no idea!



Unusual Japan - Kit kat

Sounds like "kitsu katsu" or "good luck"

They have many flavours just for Japan including green tea and strawberry







Thank you for your attention!

Other talks:

Australia New Zealand The Arctic India Greenland Antarctica

Tokyo University results day

Hundreds of students standing around looking at notice boards



Japan

Kyoto centre from the railway station – an urban sprawl



Japanese museum

Showing traditional tatami mats – you sit cross legged on the cushions at low tables



Tokyo buildings

Beautiful flowers growing through screens in modern buildings

