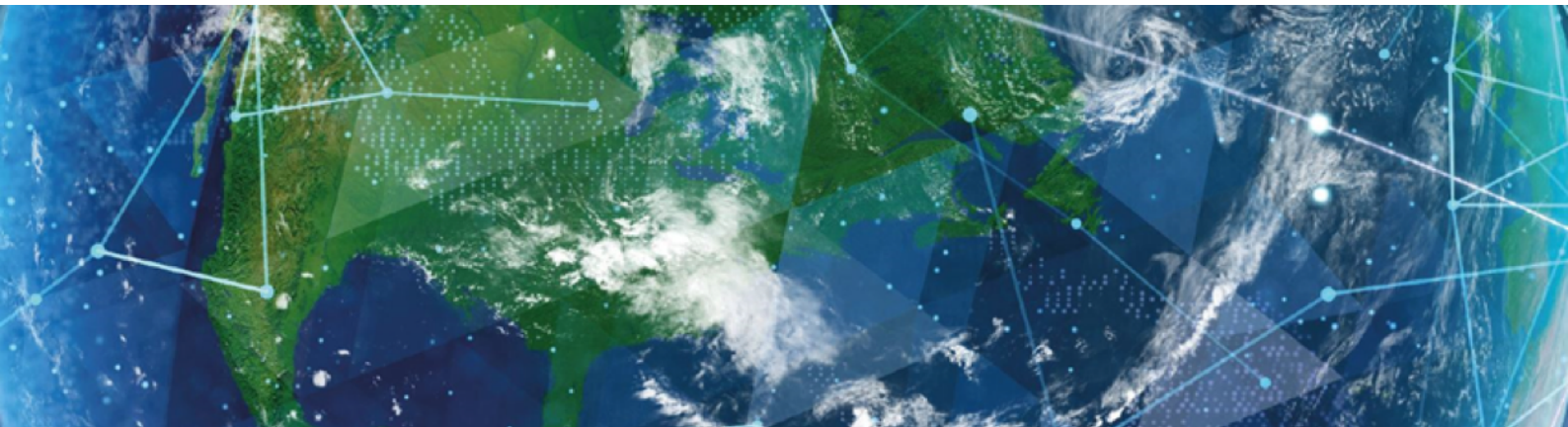


Country Travel Advice Report

Japan

Overall Risk Rating: **Negligible - Low | 1.75**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Negligible - Low 1.75	
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical	
Negligible - Low 1.50	Moderate 3.00	Negligible - Low 1.50	Negligible - Low 1.75	Low 2.25	

Country Overview

Negligible - Low | 1.75

Japan is a highly-developed island nation in East Asia, which is a major global exporter and an important player in the international community. Over the last half-century, the country has developed into an economic powerhouse and a technology pioneer and is now a major source of aid and global capital. Japan has also developed its global influence through the mutual transfer of cultural traditions with its trade partners, particularly in the west. The primary risks faced by visitors and in-country operators are posed by natural disasters, particularly powerful earthquakes and extreme weather events. Although Japan officially renounced its right to declare war in 1947, it maintains a powerful military force designed to deter any aggression by regional rivals, particularly the Democratic Republic of Korea which has threatened the country with periodic missile launch tests. Tensions with China over territorial disputes also occasionally undermine bilateral relations. Otherwise, Japan offers a uniquely stable operating environment that is subject to few security threats.

Security

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

The threats of conflict, crime, terrorism and unrest are low. There is currently no armed conflict in Japan, although territorial disputes with China remain a source of some insecurity and concern. There is also no credible threat of terrorism in the country at this juncture. Similarly, travelers are more likely to fall victim to petty and opportunistic crime than violent crime, but the likelihood of such occurrence is low. Small-scale protests in response to various socio-economic, political and environmental concerns occur in Tokyo and other major urban centers with regularity. However, they are generally peaceful and their impact is highly limited to minor traffic disruptions.

Political

Negligible - Low | 1.75

Overview

Japan has a politically stable government, and there are no considerable challenges to the current leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior ally, Komeito. The country is led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Corruption levels are also low, and the rule of law is generally observed. Japan is embroiled in a trade dispute with South Korea that is likely to continue in the near term.

Infrastructural

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

Air and land travel is considered safe, although weather disturbances and seismic activities can result in interruptions.

There are no major infrastructural concerns in Japan. Electricity, mobile and internet connections are stable and reliable. However, it should be noted that cyber crime poses a credible concern, despite existing measures that aim to protect online users.

Environmental

Moderate | 3.00

Overview

Japan is known for its comprehensive and effective disaster preparedness programs. However, the risk of human casualties and devastation resulting from natural hazards like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and storm systems is significant given the historical precedent for high-impact events which can overwhelm existing safety measures. The typhoon season lasts from May to October, with most storm activity occurring between July and September. During this time major flooding can lead to significant disruption and loss of life. Whilst modern construction techniques, early warning systems and evacuation programs have reduced the impact of earthquakes in Japan, seismic events still represent a significant threat to personnel and business operations in Japan.

Medical

Low | 2.25

Overview

There are no major health-related concerns in Japan. The country also has modern and high-quality healthcare services, notably in major cities, although most medical professionals are not fluent in English. In addition, access to medicines is not an issue, although brands may differ from those found in the traveler's home country and a small number of drugs which are common in western nations are prohibited in Japan.

Japan is currently affected by an outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. A travel ban is currently in place for most countries until further notice.

Fact Box

Government Type	Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
Population	126,440,000 (2018)
Currency	Japanese Yen
Languages	Japanese
Time Zone	UTC+9
Religions	Shintoism 79%, Buddhism 67% Other, including Christianity 9%. NB: Many participants practice a combination of Shinto and Buddhist traditions.
Traffic	Drives on the left
Plug Types	Type A, Type B
Ethnicities	Japanese 99%, Other, includes Koreans and Chinese 1%
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink
Additional Information	<p>Significant Dates:</p> <p>January 1 - New Year's Day January 2-3 - New Year's Holiday January 8 - Coming of Age Day February 11 - National Foundation Day March 21 - Spring Equinox Day April 29 - Showa Day April 30-May 3 - Coronation Day Holiday May 3 - Constitution Memorial Day May 4 - Greenery Day May 5 - Children's Day July 15 - Marine Day August 11-12 - Mountain Day September 16 - Respect for the Aged Day September 23 - Autumn Equinox Day October 14 - Health and Sports Day October 22 - Enthronement Ceremony Day November 3 - Culture Day November 4 - Culture Day Holiday November 23 - Labour Thanksgiving Day December 25 - Christmas December 31 - New Year's Eve Holiday</p>
International Country Code	+81

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers may require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Rabies

Pre-departure

Japan frequently experiences episodes of extreme weather and is situated in an active seismic zone. Travellers should familiarise themselves with local evacuation plans issued by local government or the relevant authorities, and monitor weather patterns prior-to and during travel.

The Japan Tourism Agency has developed an alert app to enable notifications generated by the national earthquake early warning system to be 'pushed' to international travellers and tourists. Details of the app can be accessed [here](#)

Travellers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from country in the event of a major natural disaster.

Travellers should provide friends and family with a copy of their itinerary, and make a copy of important travel and identification documents to carry on their person.

During the typhoon season, travellers should prepare a small emergency kit of bottled water, non-perishable food items, a battery-powered radio, medications that are taken regularly, and vital travel documents. This is particularly important in southern and western coastal areas.

On Arrival

There are no significant measures that need to be undertaken on arrival into country. However, due to the risk of seismic episodes, travellers should confirm the location of evacuation areas, evacuation routes, open spaces, and facilities such as community halls and convenience stores in their immediate area.

In Transit

Public transport is generally safe, and up-to-date information on service delays and other potential disruptions is available from the following sources: - [East Japan Railway Company](#) (operations information) or via twitter @JREast_official - [Tokyo Metro](#) (operations information) - [Toei Subway](#) (operations information) or via twitter @toeikotsu - [Haneda Airport](#) (flight information) - [Narita Airport](#) (flight information)

Japan's roads are very safe by international standards and self-driving may be conducted. Traffic updates and information on road closures can be accessed via the following links: - [Japan Road Traffic Information Center](#) - [Real-time Traffic Updates](#)

At Your Hotel

Due to the threat of earthquakes and related tsunami risk, travellers should take note of emergency instructions which are usually readily available in hotel rooms. Weather reports provided by the local media and government authorities should be monitored via their websites or social media. Warnings and transport information are published by the following organisations: - [Japan Meteorological Agency](#) via and the twitter handle @JMA_kishou - Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, Security Bureau, Disaster Division via the twitter handle @MPD_bousai - Japanese Red Cross Society via the twitter handle @JRCS_PR

The Japan Tourism Agency also provides a [multi-language disaster app](#) which provides safety tips and general travel advice.

International travellers can also use the American Forces Network (AFN) 360 app to access the AFN radio stations for guidance during a crisis. [Radio Japan](#) is broadcast in 18 languages.

The National Tourism Organization operates telephone hotlines around the clock in English, Chinese and Korean. The number is 050-3816-2787. Operators can provide information on safe places of refuge during natural disasters and advice on contacting missing persons.

In the Street

Japan is relatively progressive in terms of LGBT rights among Asian countries. The country and its culture does not have a history of hostility against homosexuality, and there many venues and events catering to the community, especially in major urban centres. Many openly gay and lesbian politicians have run for office and won elections. Officially, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal, although it is unevenly applied, and activists have reported unequal treatment in the areas of employment and housing, among others.

Japan has very low narcotics consumption rates, which are protected by a policy of zero tolerance towards drug crime and there are severe penalties for all drug offences. The Japanese police are particularly observant of foreign travellers who are deemed to pose the greatest risk by of importing illegal substances.

Travellers should keep passports and other travel documents on their person at all times.

Travellers should avoid overt displays of money, jewellery or valuables in busy public settings to avoid attracting the attention of petty criminals. Only small denominations of the local currency (yen) should be used, and the contents of wallets or purses should be reduced.

Travellers should ensure that they carry a mobile phone programmed with appropriate emergency numbers and with sufficient battery life at all times. They should also endeavor to learn or note down a number of key Japanese phrases which relate to medical needs and requesting emergency assistance as most operators and administrative staff do not speak fluent english. Travellers should also carry any emergency medical information (such as details of complex prescriptions or allergies) on their person at all times.

In an emergency the number for an ambulance is 119. Ambulance services are free at the point of use in Japan and are generally managed by the fire department, so travellers should make sure to be clear that they are requesting an ambulance rather than reporting a fire.

Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings and generally avoid walking through dimly lit streets after dark. They should carry a map if necessary, but try to keep it concealed.

In crowded situations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. They should also be aware of people loitering, and also that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

Although protests and public demonstrations are almost exclusively peaceful in Japan, travellers should nonetheless avoid any large gatherings as these provide ideal circumstances for pickpockets and petty criminals to operate in.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 7,643,924

Weekly percentage increase in cases:3.88%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Officials allow up to 50-percent capacity at sports and entertainment venues. Companies must adhere to social distancing protocols. Some organizations have reduced capacity at facilities, established temperature checks, or encouraged telecommuting for employees. Sporadic rail and flight disruptions remain possible nationwide amid generally reduced demand. Physical distancing requirements are in place on most long-distance transport services. However, officials have advised individuals to take antigen tests before large gatherings or travel across prefecture borders.

International Travel Restrictions Japanese authorities will lift an entry ban on travelers from 106 countries, including Canada, much of western Europe, and the US, from April 8. However, the government will continue to require visas for travel, and tourist travel remains banned. Despite the official reduction in border controls, the decision effectively does not alter Japan's border measures. A list of permitted locations is available here. The government will also raise the daily limit on international arrivals to 10,000 from April 11.

Japan allows citizens, permanent residents, foreign residents, diplomats, and people with humanitarian reasons to enter the country. International students and business travelers to enter Japan. Tourist travel remains banned. Permitted entrants must present negative results of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours before departure. The government does not permit people who cannot undergo testing to board flights or enter Japan. Exceptions may be possible in some circumstances; however, affected passengers must contact their local Japanese diplomatic mission before departure.

The government has adjusted quarantine requirements for permitted entrants based on vaccination status and departure location, with reduced quarantine times for travelers that have received a booster vaccine dose. Authorities maintain enhanced quarantine requirements for designated high-risk countries, including Pakistan, South Korea, and Vietnam, due to COVID-19 variants. Entrants that are not fully vaccinated from these locations must undergo institutional quarantine for three days; individuals that test negative for COVID-19 on day 3 can exit quarantine. Fully vaccinated passengers from high-risk countries and travelers that are not fully vaccinated from low-risk places can self-quarantine for seven days; travelers that undergo testing on day 3 and receive a negative result can exit quarantine. Fully vaccinated travelers from designated low-risk locations can forego self-quarantine with a negative on-arrival COVID-19 test result. A complete list of affected locations and quarantine requirements is available [here](#).

Arrivals must complete a pledge to abide by quarantine orders, maintain location data on their mobile phones, and refrain from using public transport for the first seven days in the country. Entrants must also download the OSSMA, Skype, and COVID-19 Contact Confirming Application (COCOA) mobile applications. People who refuse may have to quarantine at designated facilities. Officials could publicly name citizens and foreign residents who violate quarantine orders; foreign nationals could also lose their residence status.

Flights from South Korea and China are only authorized to land at Narita International Airport (NRT) and Kansai International Airport (KIX). Transit flights for foreign nationals are only allowed through NRT. International passenger ferry services remain suspended.

Additional Information: https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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