



**What Kind of Country is Japan? ~Views from Around the World~**

For today's article, we asked people around the world 3 simple questions:

- 1) What personally interests you about Japan?
- 2) What is your country's image of Japan?
- 3) Where would you like to go/have been if you get a chance to visit/have visited Japan?

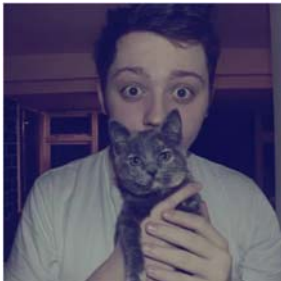
Here are some of their responses!



Name: Jan Magne Haglund  
Country of Origin: Norway  
Profession: Artist

- 1) To me, the most interesting thing is their cultural connection to tradition, and the length of time for which they've been able to preserve that connection.
- 2) In general, I think Norway sees

Japan in a positive light, as a technologically leading or advanced society. They also import a lot of Nordic salmon!  
3) I'd love to see the big sites like Kinkaku-ji, but I've also heard of the world's largest aquarium in Okinawa, and I wouldn't mind visiting that either! (Churaumi, surpassed in 2005 by the Georgia Aquarium)



Name: Ollie Cullen  
Country of Origin: England  
Profession: Game Designer

- 1) I love how they've preserved their temples and historical sites with such respect. The UK has plenty of old castles, but they're all run-down and not well maintained.
- 2) I think there's 2 main views.

One is of a brutal work ethic, extremely hard worked, and especially compared to the UK's mentality of 'try to work as little as possible'. The other is a strong family culture, especially when it comes to the elderly.

3) In March, I'll be heading to Tokyo for a week, then Kyoto for a week. I'm hoping to get a taste of both the old and new from each!



Name: Peter Persson  
Country of Origin: Sweden  
Profession: Software Developer

- 1) Always been interested in that 'nerd' culture, and not just video games or anime, but things like Japanese Mythology. There's just so much, and it's all interesting!
- 2) There is this image that Japan

and its people are always working, never relaxing. You especially hear more of that once you're in the workforce here as well.

3) I'd like to visit the large cities, but Tokyo seems almost

too large. The smaller areas would be nice as well, but without the language skills, feels difficult to do.



Name: Andrew Burrows  
Country of Origin: Scotland  
Profession: Sales Assistant

- 1) While the big cities are a draw, it's really the landscape that has me more captivated.
- 2) I can think of 3 main things that make up our image of Japan: Beauty, Architecture, and Healthy

Lifestyles.

3) Having not been before, I guess the places to go first really are the big 2, Tokyo and Kyoto.



Name: Serena Chiew  
Country of Origin: Australia  
Profession: Home Lending Specialist

- 1) If I had to be specific, it's the culture, as it's very different to my Chinese background. I enjoy the tradition that is in everything the Japanese do that I feel gets lost

now in some other cultures. And of course, the food and Anime!

2) I think Japan is seen as technologically advanced in simple things like transport, as well as tourism. You never hear anyone complain about their holiday in Japan, and Japanese people are known to be very kind and willing to help, even if they don't know you.

3) Well, my first trip is 100% focused on Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, as I feel those 3 cities will cover the well-known food, culture, as well as beautiful landscape Japan has. I'd definitely be wanting to see northern Japan on my second trip, as I hope to get away and see more parts of the nature, and enjoy the traditional Onsens I've heard about.

**Movies info**

C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)  
17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki  
Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540\*55

- *One Piece: Stampede (Japanese)*
  - *Soshite, Ikiru (Japanese)*
  - *Ad Astra (Japanese Sub)*
  - *Kohaku (Japanese)*
  - *The Secret Life of Pets 2 (Japanese Dub)*
  - *Toy Story 4 (Japanese Dub)*
  - *The Lion King (Japanese Dub)*
  - *Weathering With You (Japanese)*
- \*The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone.  
\*Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100.  
\*The cinema is closed every Tuesday.  
\*For session times visit:  
<http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html>  
(Japanese)

## A Visit to Mongolia - Hyuga Gakuin Middle School 3rd Year, (Saya Kitazono)

During the Summer Break this year, I went as a member of an exchange group from Miyakonojo to our Sister City in Mongolia for 1 week. Written here is a brief report on the things that left an impression, and the activities we took part in, during this exchange programme.



### International Exchange

*~Joining in activities alongside visiting Russians and Chinese!~*

The Chinese visitors at our hotel were very forthright in ensuring that they all were staying on the same floor, and were very quick to open up to us when we joined them. We talked about school and culture in our respective countries, or our favourite manga and songs, and all in English or through gestures. As it is something you really don't have the opportunity to do back in Japan, it was really refreshingly new and fun! Even now, we still chat back and forth through 'we chat' (Similar to Japan's LINE).



### Khan Terelj Campgrounds

Here we got to experience staying in a Mongolian Yurt. The grounds were abundant in nature, and the clear open skies made for a beautiful landscape. As the only power to the place was that which was necessary for basic functions, we had to embrace the harsh reality of life without electricity. Even though we were staying there during the summer period, the nights quickly cooled around you and became quite chilly. We also had the opportunity to visit the home of a nomadic family in the area, and tried Aaruul, a dried yoghurt snack, but it was really sour, and tasted like it had carbonated water in it as well.

### A 1-day Homestay

*~Staying for a day with a local Mongolian family!~*

We first were brought along to a painting classroom where we painted a picture. Whenever I look at this picture now, my memories of Mongolia are brought back to life. Following this, we went back to their house and joined them for lunch. I'd heard that seafood was a rarity in Mongolia, and so I was surprised when they served up fried fish. I tried some horse milk, joined the older sister as she played piano, watched a movie, went shopping, and walked around the area near their house. In general, it was a really fun time I spent with them. Once I get a bit better at English, I'd love to go back and meet up with my homestay family once again.



### Puzzle Museum

Here, there are a large number of puzzles, as well as beautiful chess sets in decorated bags, a traditional set of 'animal ankle bones' used in children's games, as well as a number of other collections on display. On top of that, there was a face that's familiar even to Japan. I found Hakuho Sho! Mr. Sho is known in Mongolia to be quite famous amongst Japan's Sumo circles, and I felt here another connection between our two countries.

### Conclusion

This was a visit to Mongolia where I could truly feel the calm and gentle nature of the people of Mongolia, as well as the deep connection between our nations. Even when our words didn't get across, with a smile and some gestures, we got the feeling that we could speak heart-to-heart. 'When I grow up, it would be nice to visit Mongolia with my family', I thought. You taught me a lot, Mongolia! Bayarlalaa! (Thank You)!