

A trip to Japan! - Already planned a visit to Japan?

Japan is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world. It is a unique blend of traditional ancient temples and buildings from the past to co-exist seamlessly with the modern achievements of high-rise buildings in architecture and technology. Here are some attractions you should think about!

For City Lovers

Each city has a unique character depending on their history or industry and all have their distinctive charms. However there is nowhere as exciting as Tokyo which offers a seemingly unlimited choice of shopping, entertainment and dining for visitors. Tokyo is the capital of Japan with a large population, always crowded with lots of new things going on. It might make you overwhelmed and dizzy but once you get used to it, you will be absolutely fascinated with the vibe.

Tokyo satisfies all shop lovers from the luxury shops in Ginza to forefront trends in Omote Sandoo to Harajuku for young stars.

For Nature Lovers

There is plenty of beautiful places where you can enjoy nature in Japan. For snow lovers, Niseko (Hokkaido) is the best place to go skiing or snowboarding where it has perfect powder snow with fantastic views.

For beach lovers, Okinawa offers pure white sand beaches and beautiful diving spots, where water temperatures never go below 20 degrees even in mid-winter.

If you are a Ghibli lover also like nature, you must go to Yakushima (Kagoshima), whose forest formed the setting of the much loved film 'Princess Mononoke'!



For History Lovers

Kyoto is one of the few places where you can feel Japanese ancient history in the modern city. There are approx 2000 Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines in Kyoto. You'll find true masterpieces of religious architecture, such as Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), Kiyomizu-dera as best known for its wooden stage with stunning views. Yasaka Jinja shrine runs Gion Matsuri which is one of the most famous festival in Japan.

If you are lucky, you might even bump into a Geisha or Maiko in the Gion district!



For Sushi Lovers

Go to Tsukiji Market, the world's largest fish market in Tokyo, and try sushi for breakfast! There are restaurants both in the inner and outer market area, which are typically open from 5am to around noon.

If you want to enjoy sushi without it costing, Kaiten zushi (Sushi train) is a welcoming treat for you where fresh sushi rotates through the restaurant on a conveyor belt. Most of the plates run from about 100 – 500 yen per plate based on the plate colour. As the sushi passes by you on the conveyor belt, you can just grab any plates or you can use touch screen for a specific order. That's actually quite fun!

For Gadget, Games & Anime Lovers (For Otaku)

Of course, Akihabara... Holy Land of Geek! Akihabara (Tokyo) has been known as the biggest "Electric Town" in the world also grown into the spiritual home of Japan's Otaku (geeks) culture. Akihabara is not only known because of its shops, but also has become the forefront of cultural trends like Cosplay (people dressed like their manga or anime heroes), Maid Cafe (coffee shops where ladies wearing maid clothing serve you coffee).

By Noriko

**NEW YEAR
COURSES
12 JAN
2015**

BOONEN KAI

END OF YEAR BBQ PARTY

Combining Aussie and Japanese style BBQ that will bring a delicious array of foods for all of us to enjoy and share!



DATE:
TIME:
PLACE:
COST:

RSVP:

All students are welcome to bring friends!

Student from iJapanese

Interview with Brandon Leong san

1. Tell us a little about yourself and what you do?

Hi everyone, my name's Brandon. I am currently a 4th year student at Latrobe University studying law and international relations.

2. What is your impression of Japan?

Earlier this year I was very fortunate to be able to visit Japan and explore the amazing country. While I had an idea of what to expect from watching anime, I was still astounded by the scenery and food; an endless number of picturesque sights coupled with incredible food made for a fantastic trip. I will definitely be visiting Japan again!

3. Why do you study Japanese?

I decided to start learning Japanese mainly due to my interest in anime. My ultimate goal is to be able to understand what the characters say without subtitles, so I have long journey ahead of me. However with Ayano sensei and Noriko sensei behind me I'm sure it will be an enjoyable one.

4. How do you find your study of Japanese?

I've previously studied French and Chinese, and in comparison to those two languages I've found learning Japanese much more enjoyable and easier. That's not to say Japanese is easy to learn; on the contrary it's probably just as difficult as Chinese because of the characters. However studying something you truly have a passion for certainly helps you remember things!

5. At iJapanese, what do you enjoy most?

The most enjoyable aspect about iJapanese is the enjoyable and fun atmosphere. Every week I look forward to coming to class and learning more whilst being able to have a laugh with my classmates and teachers.



ありがとうございました！

Introducing Our New Teacher

Hajimemashite!!

My name is Yumiko, and I'm a new teacher at iJapanese Language & Culture School.

I'm from Chiba in Japan. It's located next to Tokyo and known for Tokyo Disney Land. I don't remember how many times I've been there. But it's always fun and exciting!!

I came to Melbourne a couple of weeks ago...Yes, I have just moved here!!

Why Melbourne? I will tell you some of my reasons.

- I'm a coffee person. - Melbourne is the coffee capital of Australia.
- I like arts. - There are many interesting museums and galleries in this city.
- I love watching tennis matches. - I used to play tennis when I was a child. I cannot wait to watch Australian Open 2015.
- I wanted to be a teacher in Australia, especially at iJapanese. - This is the biggest reason!!

Yumiko Aiba

I had a hunch that it would be really exciting if I could be a teacher at iJapanese.

Now I've seen many students enjoying learning Japanese here and I know my hunch was right!!

I love traveling by myself. Because I can have a lot of opportunities to talk with local people and know their cultures. Also it's always fun for me to learn new language. (Yes, it's difficult... but you know it's really fun!!) I'm looking forward to talking with you and knowing more about Australia.

Let's explore Japanese & have fun together!!



Special Holiday Courses

We are finishing this year's course but it doesn't mean you cannot continue study during the holidays!

We have arranged our 'Holiday Conversation Classes' which will run over the Christmas and New Year break. In addition if you are interested in private lessons, please contact us to arrange a time and day.

**SPECIAL
HOLIDAY
PRICE**

Group Conversation class schedule is as follows:

Level

Beginner
1 and 2

8th Dec, Mon
5:50pm -7:20pm

11th Dec, Thu
5:50pm -7:20pm

16th Dec, Tue
5:50pm -7:20pm

18th Dec, Thu
5:50pm -7:20pm

Level

Beginner
3 and 4

10th Dec, Wed
5:50pm -7:20pm

11th Dec, Thu
5:50pm -7:20pm

15th Dec, Mon
5:50pm -7:20pm

17th Dec, Wed
5:50pm -7:20pm

Level

Pre-intermediate

8th Dec, Mon
5:50pm -7:20pm

10th Dec, Wed
5:50pm -7:20pm

15th Dec, Mon
5:50pm -7:20pm

16th Dec, Tue
5:50pm -7:20pm

SUMMER INTENSIVE BEGINNER COURSE

8th Dec - 5th Jan (5weeks)

Monday : 10:00am - 3:00pm (4h)

Japanese Coffee Culture

Melbourne has been chosen as having the BEST coffee in the world. People's love of coffee is what drives this lively coffee culture in the streets of Melbourne.

Japanese people also love their coffee, Yet their new coffee trend is less about the coffee and more about the art, "Latte Art".

Latte art has been around since the early 80's, so perhaps quite common when ordering your coffee latte from a coffee shop and you receive a typical rosetta or love heart shape.



In Japan there is a totally revolutionary way in latte art design that creates an experience receiving your latte and it's called '3D Latte Art'.

Let me introduce you to "Kohei Matsuno" a well-known 3D Latte Artist and barista.

He creates artistic 3D latte designs using the froth from your coffee. So impressive I think I would rather not drink it. His passion lies in his love of hospitality, wanting to surprise his customers of an experience not soon forgotten, he creates cute little creatures emerging from their cups of coffee captivating men and women of all ages.



By Phillip

Hatsuyume - First dream of the year



Do you remember what your first dream of this year was? (I think most of you say 'No'. Me neither!) I think you don't care about it, do you?

In the past in Japan, as the first dream of the year was believed to influence one's luck for the whole year, some people still care about what they dream. Today I would like to introduce

about first dream of the year.

The dream that one sees between the night of New Year's and the night of the 2nd January is called 'Hatsuyume'. As the common saying "Ichi-Fuji, ni-taka, san-nasubi" (1st Fuji, 2nd hawks, 3rd eggplants) suggests, it is believed to be good luck to dream of these three things.

This is because the three things resemble the following words: Fuji with "buji" meaning safety or peace, Taka with "takai" meaning high and Nasubi with "koto o nasu" which means things are achieved, accomplished.

In order to make sure they can have a good dream, people used to place under the pillows pictures of Shichifukujin - the seven gods of fortune, and a picture of tapir, inspiring animal that is thought to eat up bad dreams.

Please think about these three things before you sleep on the New Year's night and please let me know if you saw one of them (or all of them!!)

Shichifukujin-As elements of Hinduism, Buddhism, Shinto, and native beliefs merged to create a syncretistic fusion of religion in Japan, they are gods believed to bring good fortune.

*From the left top, clockwise

1. Daikokuten (the god of wealth)
2. Juroojin (the god of wisdom)
3. Bishamonten (the god of warriors)
4. Fukurokuju (the god of happiness, wealth and longevity)
5. Hotei (the god of abundance and good health)
6. Benzaiten (the goddess of knowledge, art and beauty)
7. Ebisu (the god of fishery and merchants)



By Ayano

Noriko's Thought

Trip to Japan, you should also try Ryokan that Japanese traditional style accommodation. A ryokan is for travelers who wish to experience Japanese culture and enjoy the comforts of Japanese hospitality and service, such as onsen (hot springs), traditional gardens, tatami rooms, and cuisine served on beautiful plates to your room.

Japan has four distinct seasons and temperate climate. Since Japan is wide range of latitude, the weather can be very different between north part and south part. So if you go at right season, you will be able to enjoy skiing in north area and then go down to south area to enjoy scuba diving in the one trip!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for learning with us. We hope you have enjoyed all of our lessons.

From all of us at iJapanese we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all during the new Term in 2015!

来年もよろしくおねがいします！

