

Study Tour ● Shimbun

修学旅行 新聞 Shūgakuryokō Shimbun - Newsletter Join Japan

www.joinjapan.nl

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Only 6 months until departure

We are one month further since the last newsletter, and a lot has been done since. Almost everyone has a contract research and more and more excursions pop up on the the excursion whiteboard in HT1213.

And while the committee is hard-working to make the study tour an awesome experience, some of you still didn't upload an introduction text and picture for the website. For those that not yet did that (shame on you), please login on www.joinjapan.nl with the login credentials you received via mail.

For the tour, we need a copy of your passport. Send a copy to travel@joinjapan.nl. If you do not have a passport yet, please arrange this in the coming weeks and send your 'passport' name and your date of birth. When you have your passport, please send a copy too.

And not unimportant:

WE WANT YOUR MONEY!

Those that did not pay the first installment yet, it needs to be done before 31 March and banks are closed in weekends.

And after all those things to do, time for some fun news: The second participant activity will take place on 23 April in the evening. Precise time and location will later be announced.

EVEN MORE THINGS TO DO? Yes, but this one is fun. The challenge of this month is to make a playlist for during activities and travelling. See more information on the backside.

Yes, lots of things to do. But I warn you: in case of disproportionate laxity, the committee might come up with a wall of shame.

Dates to remember + To do

To Do

Upload an introduction text and picture of yourself for the website: login on www.joinjapan.nl

To Do

Send a copy of your passport to travel@joinjapan.nl. No passport yet? Send your passport name and date of birth, get a passport and send a copy later.

31 Mar

Deadline first payment (€ 400)
IBAN: NL79 RABO 0396 7607 40
Studievereniging Concept, Studiereis
Deelnemersbijdrage termijn 1 [Lastname]

23 Apr

Second Participant Activity
Time and location will follow
Keep the evening free

9 May

Stadium Generale Japan.
Keep 9:00 - 12:30 free

Japanese 101

Civil Engineering
University
Road
Intersection
Bridge
River
Discharge channel
Building
Bidding

土木
大学
道路
交差点
橋
川
排出チャネル
建物
入札

Doboku
Daigaku
Dōro
Kōsaten
Hashi
Kawa
Haishutsu chaneru
Tatemono
Nyūsatsu

News from the land of the rising sun

Japan making efforts to improve nightlife options for tourists



Many foreign tourists to Japan often question why public transportation, especially in areas of Tokyo renowned for their nightlife, is so limited after the last scheduled trains. Amid the country's ongoing tourism boom, officials are brainstorming for ideas to address this dissatisfaction.

Tourists, especially those from Europe and the United States who emphasize nighttime entertainment when traveling, complain that Japan's nightlife can be dull — meaning there is huge potential for promoting more spending by foreign travelers.

Although the districts of Shibuya and Ginza are bustling with shops and entertainment, Tokyo train and bus services end relatively early — usually around midnight or a little later — when the night is still young.

This is in stark contrast to regional cities, where the downtown areas are rather compact with shops and hotels all within walking distance of each other, making them even better potential hubs for nightlife activity.

Test-runs to allow trains and buses to operate past midnight and into the early hours of the morning are proposed. Implementation won't be easy because train tracks and the overhead wires are checked between the last train and the first train in the morning.

Student's camera found on Taiwan beach after being lost for two years



During a beach cleaning trip in Yilan, Taiwan, students of the Yue Ming Elementary School found a camera enclosed in a waterproof case. Despite the accumulation of marine organism deposits on the case, the camera itself did not suffer water damage. The last photo on the camera on Ishigaki Island in Okinawa Prefecture. That island is about 250 km away from northern Taiwan.

Park Lee, teacher of the students, posted a message on Facebook on Tuesday asking his friends to help locate the owner. The post, which was accompanied by a Japanese translation, was shared over 10,000 times, also because of the help of Frank Hsieh, Taiwan's de facto ambassador to Japan.

12 hours later, the original owner was found. Serina Tsubakihara, a third-year student at Sophia University, lost the camera two years earlier during a trip to Ishigaki Island.

Japanese beer-makers bet on chūhai with higher alcohol content



Major domestic brewers are planning to make inroads into the market for canned chūhai cocktails this spring, in order to meet growing demand from budget-minded consumers for inexpensive products with high alcohol content.

The firms, including Kirin Brewery Co., Sapporo Breweries Ltd. and Suntory Spirits Ltd., hope to sell their new products for around ¥150 (€1.14) per 350-milliliter can.

Conventional chūhai products have alcohol levels of around 5 percent, but the share of products with 7-9 percent has grown to 2½ times previous levels in seven years to stand at over 50 percent in 2017.

On 10 April, Kirin The Strong that has an alcohol content of 9 percent will be released. On 3 April Rirakusu, meaning "relax," mainly targeting women who want to take a break after finishing work or completing household tasks, is entering the market. Suntory Spirits Ltd. will add a bitter lime flavor to its Strong Zero lineup, with an alcohol content of 9 percent.

News from the Study Tour Chamber

We like to keep you updated on our progress. This newsletter provides you with all the latest updates and progress we have made. We are still working hard on acquiring more interesting excursions for all work fields of the civil engineer.

Almost all participants are assigned a contract research to perform at municipalities, provinces or consultancies. Furthermore, we are planning another participant activity, so read on! We hope you are still as enthusiastic about the tour as we are and we hope to see you all during the next activity or before in the Study Tour Chamber for some coffee or tea in HT-1213!

The climate of Japan

By: Casper Bresters

The climate in Japan is different per region. Although the climate of Japan is predominantly a temperate sea climate, the climate differs greatly from north to south. This is partly caused by the distance between north and south, but more important are the big elevation differences in Japan. On every island volcanos and mountains can be found, which vary between hilly areas to large areas with high mountain tops of more than 3000 meters. Because of these big elevation differences, large differences exists in climate between regions which are relatively close to each other. Japan has, like in the Netherlands, four seasons per year, which are also similar compared to the time of year the seasons are. However, normally the transition between seasons are much quicker in Japan than in the Netherlands. It is possible to have night frost in March, while only a month later summery temperatures during the day are normal.

Climate in the north

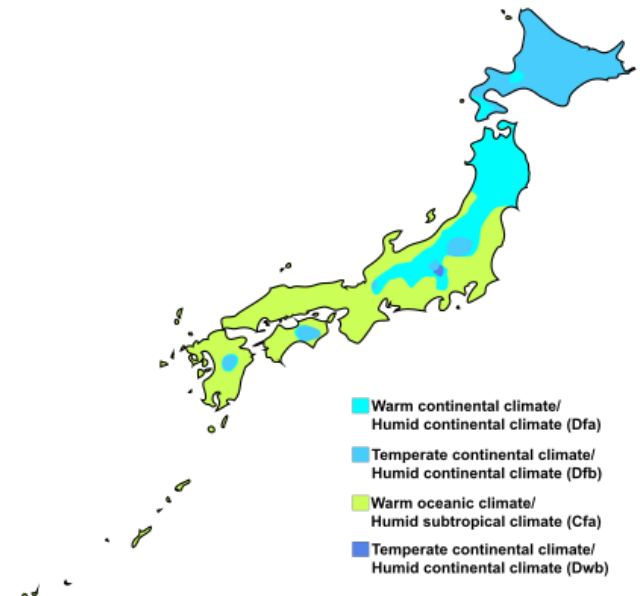
The more northern you are, the bigger the differences are between different seasons of year. Also spring and autumn last longer in the north of Japan. The northernmost zone (Hokkaido) has a humid continental climate with long cold winters and very warm to cool summers. The climate that reigns here is mainly caused by mountain zones, which are separated from the ocean. Therefore, these regions are not influenced by sea, which makes a continental climate possible.

Precipitation

Although many people in the Netherlands love to complain about the weather and the high amount of precipitation, the rainfall in the Netherlands is on average much lower than in Japan. The vast majority of Japan have very high amounts of rainfall during summer, where on local scale even 300 mm of rain per month can be expected. In the northern parts of Japan the precipitation is more equally spread over the year (during summer the rainfall is even slightly smaller compared to winter).



In the northern parts of Japan the average precipitation is 1000 mm on an annual basis, where some parts in the south (the island 'Honshu' for example) cope with 3100 mm of precipitation. Although precipitation in the north is not heavy, the islands usually develop deep snowbanks during winter.

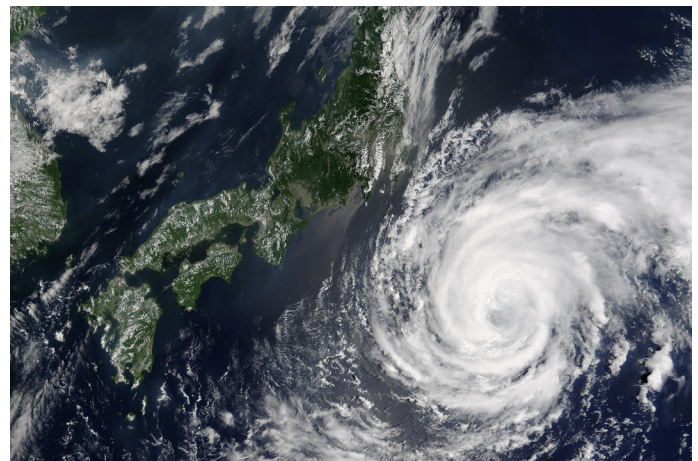


Climate in the south

In the south of Japan a warm sea climate reigns. The climate at the southernmost islands even has a subtropical character, where temperatures even in the winter lie around 20 degree Celsius. The winters are like spring with a fair amount of precipitation and the summer are warm to hot with high amounts of rainfall.

Typhoons

Although the location of Japan (between the Tropic of Cancer and 46 degrees north latitude) on the world map would be too high for other regions to be vulnerable for typhoons, Japan often copes with typhoons. This is mainly because typhoons originated above the Pacific deflect in northward direction. The typhoon season in Japan starts in July and ends in November. However, the highest activity of typhoons is during August, September and October.



Fortunately, we do not have to worry that much during our trip to Japan, since the Ryukyu Islands are the most vulnerable and mostly affected for/by typhoons. Unless you have planned to visit these islands after the study tour, the risk to be affected by a typhoon is not that high!

More about excursions

Again, Jeroen will elaborate on 3 of excursions we will probably visit in Japan

City planning Hiroshima



As the first city in the history of mankind to suffer an atomic bombing, Hiroshima must help bring to fruition the efforts of those who worked so hard to build a city focused on peace and move the world toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace. It must work together with groups and individuals around the world to play a leading role in improving the global environment and solving other problems common to the human family. Also, Hiroshima should develop so that its citizens will feel genuine affection for and pride in their local communities and neighbourhoods and will pass on Hiroshima's history, foster local culture, and live active, healthy lives. Citizens will want to live here their whole lives, people from Japan and abroad will want to come visit, and visitors will want to try living here as well.

We'll talk about the past, current and future of the city Hiroshima and talk about differences in the approach before and after the atomic bombing during the second world war.

Pacific consultants Tokyo



Pacific consultants is a big consultancy company within Japan with a broad focus on Civil Engineering, such as land conservation, facility engineering and project planning. Their main focus is transport infrastructure, as they collaborated in working on the G-Cans project (previous newsletter) and the Mino Tunnel Construction. Currently it's under discussion if we will have a field excursion with pacific consultants, since they don't execute the projects but just support during the design process. Though the probability of a field excursion is high, due to the amount of projects they handle.

JAXA Tokyo



The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) was born through the merger of three institutions, namely the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), the National Aerospace Laboratory of Japan (NAL) and the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA). It was designated as a core performance agency to support the Japanese government's overall aerospace development and utilization. JAXA, therefore, can conduct integrated operations from basic research and development, to utilization.

JAXA would like to explore the future for economic development, improvement of the quality of life, and safety and security for Japan, and furthermore, for sustainable development of mankind, expanding knowledge, as well as to explore new fields. JAXA is related to Civil Engineering in a ground development way. They provide a lot of data about coastal erosion and land subsidence with their high-tech satellites.

The Tokio Gate Bridge

It is a double cantilever bridge, which means that the truss sections from either side can be completed in balance, and then joined by the addition of the relatively short central span.

Pacific Consultants was an important player in the design of the Tokio Gate Bridge.

The design had to fulfill the requirement to be high enough to allow large ships to pass underneath, but low enough not to interfere with air traffic to the nearby Haneda Airport.

The approach section of the Tokyo Gate Bridge is a continuous steel floor panel design comprising hollow RC-type bridge piers and a rigid connection structure, while the foundations employ a steel pipe sheet pile well foundation. The design aimed to improve fatigue resistance to heavy traffic and reduce costs

The design is winner of the 2011 Tanaka Award from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers

City of the month: Nara

During the study tour, we will visit several Japanese cities. However, there are many cities we will not visit. In this series, some of the cities we will not visit are explored. In this second edition: Nara.

Nara is in Japanese terms one of the smaller cities, with its 360.000 residents. However, Nara has approximately the same size as Amsterdam. Nara is located in the southern part of the island Honshu, near Osaka. Nara is the capital of the prefecture Nara.

Empress Genmei founded the city with the name Heijō. Later the city got the name Nara. Between 710 and 784 Heijō was the capital city of Japan. However, this is called the Nara period. The city plan of Nara is based on the former capital of China Chang'an. It has a rectangular street pattern, with the imperial palace on the northern end.

Nara accommodates a lot of students, with its 6 universities and 16 colleges of higher education (HBO). For tourists it is also an interesting city with its 5 large Buddhist temples.

Deer are seen as heavenly animals, which protect the city and the country. Therefore, there walk a lot of deer through the town, especially in Nara Park. There are special snack vendors for deer



food, so tourists can feed the deer. There are deer which have learned to bow in order to receive more food.



Japanese dishes for students: Smoked salmon & avocado sushi

Did you ever cook sushi in your student house? I think your answer is no! Let's surprise your roommates with a nice handmade sushi, with ingredients that can be found in the Dutch supermarkets (Albert Heijn, Jumbo).

You can find a movie for this recipe here:



Ingredients

- 300g sushi rice
- 2 tbsp (NL: eetlepel) rice or white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp (NL: theelepel) caster sugar (NL: basterdsuiker)
- 1 large avocado
- ½ lemon (the juice)
- 4 sheets nori seaweed (At Albert Heijn: Saitaku Sushi Nori)
- 4 large slices smoked salmon
- 1 bunch chives (NL: 1 bos bieslook)
- Sweet soy sauce
- kecap manis, to serve

Preparation

1. Put the rice in a small pan with 600 ml water. Bring to the boil and cook for 10 mins until the water is absorbed and the rice is tender. Stir through the vinegar and sugar, cover and cool.
2. Skin, stone and slice the avocado. Put in a bowl and squeeze over the lemon juice, turning the avocado to ensure the pieces are covered.
3. Divide the rice between the nori sheets and spread it out evenly, leaving a 1cm border at the top and bottom. Lay the salmon over the rice, followed by the chives and finally position the avocado across the centre.
4. Fold the bottom edge of the seaweed over the filling, then roll it up firmly. Dampen the top border with a little water to help it seal the roll. Repeat to make 4 rolls. At this stage, the rolls can be wrapped individually in cling film and chilled until ready to serve.

And now with chopsticks

Not yet practiced enough with chopsticks and too lazy to open the February-edition?

Step 1: Hold your dominant hand loosely. People who clench their chopsticks usually just end up flinging their food all over the place. Place the first chopstick in the valley between your pointer finger and thumb. Balance it on your ring finger.

Step 2: Place the second chopstick in the valley between your pointer finger and thumb along with the first chopstick, but rest this one on your middle finger instead of your ring finger.

Step 3: Use your thumb, pointer and middle fingers to grasp the second chopstick a bit more tightly.

Step 4: The first chopstick (on the bottom) remains more or less stationary. The index and middle fingers do all the heavy lifting with the second chopstick. Let's have a demonstration (don't worry you don't need to eat your grapes with chopsticks, this is just an example). Using your index and middle fingers to move the top chopstick up and down, open up your chopsticks.

And close them over the food. Remember to keep your hand loose but still maintain good control over that chopstick. You'll really be tested when picking up heavier pieces of food.

Once you've got a good grip, go ahead and pick it up.

Japanese politics on state level

Japanese politics are quite similar to that of The Netherlands. Both countries are Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy with two Legislative houses. The Emperor of Japan has however (officially) a more ceremonial function and election methods differ.

The Government runs under the framework established by the Constitution of Japan, adopted in 1947. Following the end of World War II, the Constitution of Japan was adopted as an intention to replace the previous Imperial rule with a form of Western-style liberal democracy.

Emperor Akihito



The Emperor of Japan (天皇) is the head of the Imperial Family and the ceremonial head of state. He is defined by the Constitution to be “the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people”. He possesses only certain ceremonially important powers and has no real powers related to the Government as stated clearly in the Constitution. The Current Emperor of Japan is Akihito. He was officially enthroned on 12 November 1990.

Executive branch

The Executive branch of Japan is headed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet, which currently consists of 20 Ministers, and is designated by the legislative organ, the National Diet. The practice of its powers is responsible to the Diet, and as a whole, should the Cabinet lose confidence and support to be in office by the Diet, the Diet may dismiss the Cabinet en masse with a motion of no confidence. The current Prime minister of Japan is Shinzō Abe.

Legislative Branch

The Legislative branch organ of Japan is the National Diet (国会). It has a lower house, the House of Representatives, and an upper house, the House of Councillors. Empowered by the Constitution to be “the highest organ of State power” and the only “sole law-making organ of the State”.

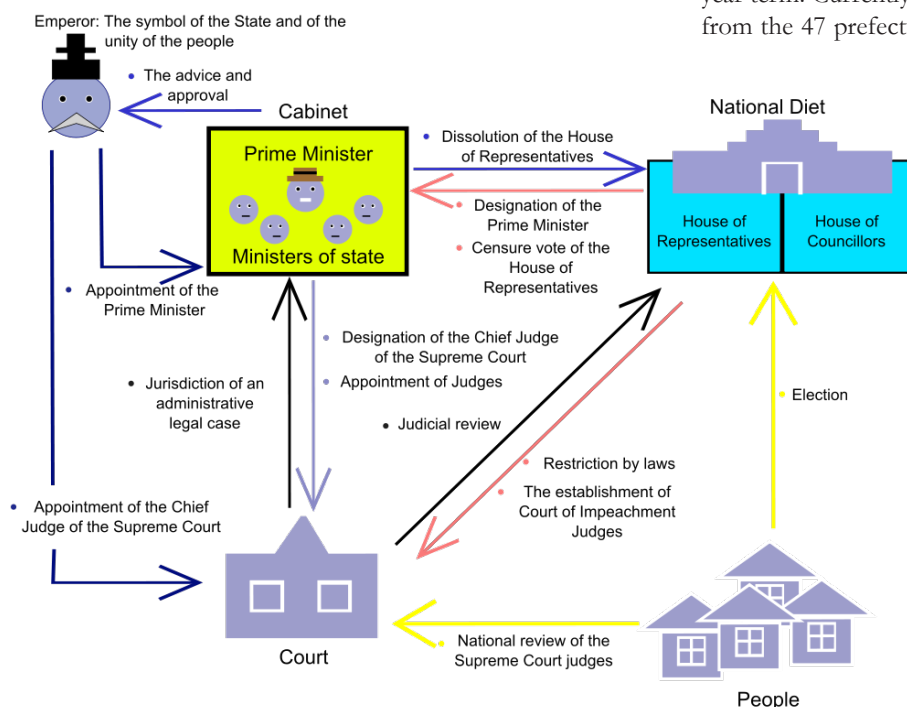


The House of Representatives of Japan (衆議院), with the members of the house being elected for a four-year term. Currently, it has 465 members. Of these, 176 members are elected from 11 multi-member constituencies by a party-list system of proportional representation, and 289 are elected from single-member constituencies. 233 seats are required for majority. The House of Representatives is the more powerful house out of the two, it is able to override vetoes on bills imposed by the House of Councillors with a two-thirds majority. It can, however, be dissolved by the Prime Minister at will.

The House of Councillors of Japan (参議院), with half the members of the house being elected once every three years, for a six-year term. Currently, it has 242 members. Of these, 73 are elected from the 47 prefectural districts, by single non-transferable votes, and 48 are elected from a nationwide list by proportional representation with open lists. The House of Councillors cannot be dissolved by the Prime Minister.

Juridical Branch

The Judicial branch of Japan consists of the Supreme Court, and four other lower courts; the High Courts, District Courts, Family Courts and Summary Courts. Divided into four basic tiers, the Court's independence from the executive and legislative branches are guaranteed by the Constitution. The Supreme Court of Japan (最高裁判所) is the court of last resort and has the power of Judicial review.



Japanese puzzle

You have a grid of squares, which must be marked either black or white. Next to each row of the grid, the length of a number of consecutive black squares is shown in that row. Above each column of the grid, the length of the number of consecutive black squares in that column is shown. Your goal is to find all the black squares.

Left click on a square to make it black. Right click on the mark with X. Click and drag to mark more than one square.

[illegible]

Challenge

The last challenge was to come up with a nice participant activity. Some nice ideas appeared in our mailbox. What idea was chosen for the second participant activity, which will be held on 23 April, will still remain secret. The person who came up with the idea will be awarded during the activity.

Of course, we also have a new challenge for you: There will be enough moments we will be together with some nice music on the background. We want to create a nice playlist. You can add a maximum of 15 songs to this playlist on the website: www.joinjapan.nl

