

Japan

Population: 127 Million (2014)

Geography: More than half of Japan is mountainous and covered by forest. The country experiences frequent earthquakes as it is situated on four tectonic plates.

Climate: Japan has four distinct seasons, similar to New Zealand, and during the winter months there are snowfalls in the mountainous areas.

World heritage sites: Fujisan, Himeji-jo, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, Yakushima

Capital City: Tokyo

Language(s): Aynu itak, Ryukyuan, Eastern Japanese, Western Japanese

Official language: Japanese

Political system: Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Travel advisory information: For up-to-date travel advice for Japan from the New Zealand government visit www.safetravel.govt.nz/japan

Curriculum resources:

- [Asia New Zealand Foundation](#)

Useful websites:

- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
- [New Zealand Embassy in Tokyo](#)
- [Embassy of Japan in Wellington](#)
- [Sasakawa Programmes in New Zealand](#)
- [Lonely Planet](#)

Media:

- [The Japan Times](#)
- [Japan Today](#)