

# Japan at a Glance: Cities



**SAPPORO**  
Prefectural seat of Hokkaido; home of the Snow Festival. (JNTO)



**NIIGATA**  
Historic hub of trade and cultural contact between northeastern Asia and the Sea of Japan coast; developed around the mouth of the Shinano, Japan's longest river. (Niigata City)



**TOKYO**  
The political center of Japan since 1603; the nation's capital and economic center and information hub. (JNTO)



**NAGOYA**  
Home of Nagoya Castle; prefectural seat of Aichi Prefecture, where the 2005 World Exposition will be held. (JNTO)



**YOKOHAMA**  
Japan's next-most-populous city after Tokyo's 23 wards; prefectural seat of Kanagawa; a hub of trade and home to one of the largest Chinatowns in the world. (JNTO)



**KYOTO**  
Ancient capital known for its many beautiful old temples and gardens; prefectural seat of Kyoto. (JNTO)



**OSAKA**  
A center of commerce since ancient times; prefectural seat of Osaka; also known for good food and comedy.



**FUKUOKA**  
Prefectural seat of Fukuoka; geographically close to mainland Asia; a hub of exchange between Japan and the rest of Asia. (Fukuoka City)



**HIROSHIMA**  
Prefectural seat of Hiroshima; home of the Atomic Bomb Dome; site of the annual Peace Memorial Ceremony and Peace Declaration. (JNTO)



**KOBE**  
Port city with an international atmosphere; prefectural seat of Hyogo; has recovered from the Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake of 1995. (Kobe Convention & Visitors Association)