

Trends in Japan

Food & Travel

Sample Japan's hottest culinary and travel delights

Web Japan <http://web-japan.org/>

Trends in Japan <http://web-japan.org/trends/>

A Brilliant Blend of Old and New

Japan's Unique City, Nagoya



The golden *shachihoko* are the symbol of Nagoya Castle. (C)Nagoya Convention & Visitors Bureau

Nagoya, the largest city in the Chubu region of central Honshu, got its start as a castle town in 1610. It has continued to grow and develop ever since, holding on to its rich samurai past while growing into one of the world's leading centers of the automobile industry.



Nagoya's colorful *uiro* come in a variety of flavors, including *azuki* beans and *matcha* green tea. (C)Nagoya Convention & Visitors Bureau



Tokugawaen garden, a distillation of natural Japanese scenery. (C)Nagoya Convention & Visitors Bureau



Miso katsu, a pork cutlet topped with a sweet *miso*-flavored sauce. (C)Nagoya Convention & Visitors Bureau



The *ten-musu*—a rice ball containing a tempura shrimp. (C)Omusubi Gonbei

An Ancient City Within Easy Reach of Tokyo

Kamakura: A City Where History Lives On



The dance pavilion at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. (C)Kamakura City Tourist Association

Just an hour from Tokyo by train, Kamakura is an ancient city with a wealth of historic monuments and temples. With its abundant nature and rich sense of history, Kamakura offers endless discoveries to charm Japanese and foreign visitors alike.



Horseback archery at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine.
(C)Kamakura City Tourist Association



Autumn leaves at Kamakuragu shrine.
(C)Kamakura City Tourist Association



Hato sabure cookies.
(C)Toshimaya co., Ltd.



The Kamakura Daibutsu at Kotokuin. (C)Kamakura City Tourist Association

Nara, Spiritual Home of the Japanese

Ancient Capital Dotted with Temples and Shrines

Rich in history, and home to Japan's first permanent capital, Nara Prefecture is known as the spiritual home of the Japanese. In 2010, special events are being held to mark 1,300 years since the capital moved to Nara.



An image of Nara. (C)Nara City Tourist Association



Nara Park. (C)Nara City Tourist Association



People gather in the main event area during celebrations to mark 1300 years since Nara became the capital. (C)Association for Commemorative Events of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital



Kaki-no-ha zushi. (C)kakinohazushi hirasou



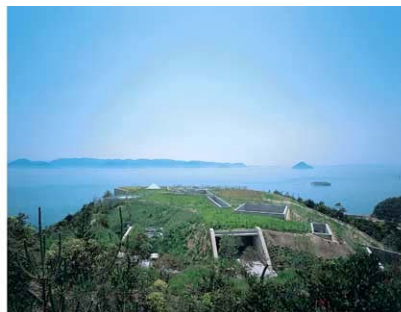
Mikasa-yaki. (C)Kogetsu

The Islands of the Seto Inland Sea

Nature and Modern Art in Japan's First National Park



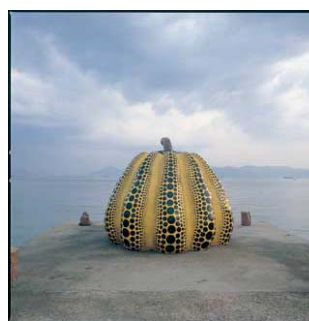
Visitors making *somen*, a Shodoshima specialty, at the Hirai Seimenjo noodle factory.



The Inland Sea and the Chichu Art Museum. (C)Chichu Art Museum
(C)Photographer : FUJITSUKA Mitsumasa



Sushi made with fresh fish from the Seto Inland Sea, photographed at Sosaku Ryori No no Ka.



Outdoor art at Benesse House, with the Seto Inland Sea in the background.
(C)Yayoi Kusama "Pumpkin"
(C) Photo:Shigeo Anzai.



Olive Trees and the Seto Inland Sea.

Bounded by Honshu, Kyushu, and Shikoku, the Seto Inland Sea was designated Japan's first national park in 1934. More than 700 islands offer stunning natural scenery and delicious seafood, as well as everything from traditional ways of life to cutting-edge modern art and architecture.