



CLOTHING/ ARTIFACTS

- The majority of locals wear loose fitting shirts and pants and clothes typical that are seen in the US
- *Kimonos* are normally worn for traditional purposes such as tea ceremonies and holidays like New Year when everyone goes to the Shinto shrines

BE AWARE

- Japan is an extremely high context culture
- When someone responds with “yes” they may mean no, but are being polite
- Avoid patting children on the head; in the Buddhist religion the head is the repository of the soul
- Red bibs/bonnets are placed on the Buddhist statues of the deity Jizo, who looks after the souls of children who have died



The world can be and is taken from different contexts

Location Resources History Politics

CONTEXTS

Beliefs Values Customs Behaviors Artifacts



CULTURE

*Verbal communication with locals will be more restricted due to the language barriers, therefore a heavy importance is placed on nonverbal communication.
This guide will get you acquainted with the cultural nonverbal and behavioral norms of Japan.

SAS

INTERCULTURAL GUIDE TO



JAPAN





Hello	Konnichi wa
Please	Sue me ma sen
Thank you	Arigatou
You're welcome	Dou itashi mashite
Yes	Hai
No	Iie
I'm sorry	Gomen
Goodbye	Sayounara
I don't understand...	Wakaranai
Where is the...?	Wa doko desuka
How much (money) is this?	Kore wa ikura desuka



GREETING BEHAVIORS AND REGULATOS

- Hand shaking is very common, especially in business, bowing is also still very common and is much more respectful
- When beckoning someone, it is appropriate to do so with palm down while waving fingers
- Tea ceremonies are an art & takes years to master the discipline that goes into this cultural practice

CULTURAL BELIEFS AND VALUES

- Shintoism and Buddhism are syncretic for most Japanese and are considered more of a practice than a faith
- Shinto originated in Japan and is based on the coexistence with *kami*, or the essence of the ancestors
- *Torii* are Shinto gates that serve as entrances to the spiritual world & a frame of nature's beauty
- Buddhism is the practice of karma through moral and ethical values; most popular in Japan is Zen which stresses meditation to achieve inner peace
- Buddhist temples can be found everywhere throughout the country for people to visit out of respect
- High value is placed on respect and privacy, it is uncommon for guests to see the inside of another person's home unless they are family
- Education is strongly emphasized, an average high school graduate in Japan could be compared to a Junior level student in a US university




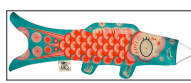


EYE BEHAVIOR, APPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF EMOTIONS & PHYSICAL CONTACT

- Avoid eye contact, it is inappropriate and disrespectful to look someone in the eye
- Smiles may often represent confusion, anger, or embarrassment of the individual
- Always pass items with 2 hands. It is considered rude to only pass with one.

NORMS OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

- Always remove shoes before entering someone's home
- If you see someone wearing a face-mask it is because they have a cold and don't want to spread it
- The stomach is considered the center of emotions, and people will "open their stomachs" for a good conversation
- It is common for women to stay at home once she has children and take care of the home and the family expenses, while men often go out at night after work to drink and bond with co-workers
- Obento boxes are the typical style of lunch, sectioned off with different appealing foods

Symbol	Represents
	This is the hand symbol for money
	The Shinto shrine is found everywhere throughout Japan
	The national emblem of Japan is the chrysanthemum
	The carp is considered strong and powerful, and used in festivals