

## Japan opens to foreign tourists after two years

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Image: BreakingNewsEnglish.com

Japan will reopen to overseas tourists and end its two-year pandemic closure. The government has decided to allow tourists from 98 countries from June the 10th. However, the opening will be tightly

controlled. Initially, only package tour groups will be allowed in. A daily cap of 20,000 arrivals has been set. Authorities will monitor their movements to track any spread of Covid-19. All visitors have to test negative for Covid before they travel to Japan. Some may have to undergo an additional test and quarantine for three days. Japan has among the strictest border controls of any country. Its self-imposed isolation has played a part in its relatively low number of coronavirus cases.

Japan's change of stance is welcome news for its tourism industry, which has suffered heavily over the past two years. The number of overseas visitors has fallen by over 99 per cent since pre-pandemic days. Japan saw a record 32 million foreign visitors in 2019. It was on track to achieve its goal of 40 million in 2020. However, Covid caused the number of inbound tourists to plummet to just 250,000 in 2021. The president of the Japanese airline ANA said: "I hope the border controls are loosened at the same pace as in other G7 countries to revitalize the local economy." Japan's loosening of its entry restrictions is timely. Last week, the World Economic Forum ranked Japan highest on its list of global travel destinations.

Sources: [kyodonews.net](https://www.kyodonews.net) / [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [nhk.or.jp](https://www.nhk.or.jp)

### Writing

My country should be the world's top tourist destination. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Japan / overseas / tourists / pandemic / package tour / arrivals / quarantine / border / stance / welcome news / industry / goal / president / airline / economy / destination

### True / False

- 1) Japan closed its borders to overseas tourists around two years ago. T / F
- 2) Japan will allow in tourists from 98 countries. T / F
- 3) All visitors to Japan will have to quarantine for three days. T / F
- 4) Japan has the strictest border controls of any nation in the world. T / F
- 5) The number of foreign tourists visiting Japan fell by more than 99%. T / F
- 6) Over 40 million tourists visited Japan in 2020. T / F
- 7) Japan saw just a quarter-of-a-million visitors in 2021. T / F
- 8) The World Economic Forum ranked Japan as the top tourist destination. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>end</b>           | a. objective       |
| 2. <b>tightly</b>       | b. limit           |
| 3. <b>cap</b>           | c. comparatively   |
| 4. <b>spread</b>        | d. been damaged    |
| 5. <b>relatively</b>    | e. limitations     |
| 6. <b>stance</b>        | f. strictly        |
| 7. <b>suffered</b>      | g. plunge          |
| 8. <b>goal</b>          | h. draw to a close |
| 9. <b>plummet</b>       | i. position        |
| 10. <b>restrictions</b> | j. expansion       |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Japan?
- b) What is Japan like as a travel destination?
- c) What places in Japan would you really like to visit?
- d) How did your country do during Covid?
- e) Why did Japan have relatively fewer coronavirus cases?
- f) Was Japan right to close to tourists for two years?
- g) Is it better to travel as part of a package tour or as a solo traveller?
- h) How do you feel about international travel now?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. end its two-year pandemic                   | a. is timely           |
| 2. package                                     | b. low number          |
| 3. Authorities will monitor their movements to | c. is welcome news     |
| 4. quarantine                                  | d. the local economy   |
| 5. played a part in its relatively             | e. track any spread    |
| 6. Japan's change of stance                    | f. to achieve its goal |
| 7. on track                                    | g. closure             |
| 8. revitalize                                  | h. destinations        |
| 9. Japan's loosening of its entry restrictions | i. for three days      |
| 10. its list of global travel                  | j. tour groups         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What's your country like for tourism?
- What are the benefits of having no overseas visitors?
- What are the benefits of international tourism?
- Is it better to travel domestically rather than internationally?
- What do you think of foreign tourists who come to your country?
- What do you think is the best destination?
- What questions would you like to ask a hotelier in Japan?

## Spelling

- its two-year pandemic orlescu
- the opening will be ityghlt controlled
- atiliynl, only package tour groups
- quaantienr for three days
- Its self-imposed ioastiln
- its vetylaeril low number
- Japan's change of ntasce
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- mpultem to just 250,000
- ieezlirtav the local economy
- loosening of its entry nstriitrecso
- its list of global travel dieoitssann

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. f	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. g	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Japan

You think Japan is the best travel destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): Kenya, Canada or Brazil.

### Role B – Kenya

You think Kenya is the best travel destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): Japan, Canada or Brazil.

### Role C – Canada

You think Canada is the best travel destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): Kenya, Japan or Brazil.

### Role D – Brazil

You think Brazil is the best travel destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): Kenya, Canada or Japan.

## Speaking – Destinations

Rank these with your partner. Put the best travel destinations at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| • Japan       | • Germany |
| • India       | • Canada  |
| • New Zealand | • Belize  |
| • Kenya       | • Brazil  |

### Answers – True False

1 T	2 T	3 F	4 F	5 T	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.