



What is Japan Heritage?

Japan Heritage is the real Japan. The unique culture and traditions shaped by the nature, climate, and people of Japan over centuries can be found in every corner of this island nation. Japan Heritage ranges from iconic cultural properties known around the world to little-known gems far from the beaten track.

Japan's cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, has been handed down and preserved to ensure this history and the stories it tells are shared for generations to come. Explore these sites to unlock each region's distinct historical and cultural background, and experience the true value of Japan's cultural properties. Come and find the real Japan. Come and find the Japan you know – and the Japan you have yet to discover.



About

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Japan Heritage

Stories of Japanese Culture and Traditions

JAPAN HERITAGE OFFICIAL SITE

<https://www.japan.travel/japan-heritage/>

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Stories certified as "Japan Heritage"

No.	Region	Story
1	Tochigi, Ibaraki, Okayama, and Oita prefectures	Education in Early Modern Japan
2	Gunma Pref.	Kakaa Denka ~ The Peerless Wives ~ The Story of Silk in Gunma Prefecture ~
3	Toyama Pref.	Takaoka: Flourishing Folk Culture Under the Maeda Clan ~ People, skills, heart ~
4	Ishikawa Pref.	Dancing Lights of the Kiriko Festivals
5	Fukui Pref.	Wakasa Heritage - Connecting the Sea and Kyoto ~ Imperial food purveyors and the Mackerel Road ~
6	Gifu Pref.	A Ruthless Warlord's Spirit of Hospitality
7	Mie Pref.	Saio ~ The Prayers of a Princess
8	Shiga Pref.	Lake Biwa ~ Water, Life and Prayer ~
9	Kyoto Pref.	Japanese Tea: Eight Centuries of Tradition
10	Hyogo Pref.	Tamba-Sasayama: Dekansho Bushi ~ Memories in a folk song ~
11	Nara Pref.	The Founding of Japan ~ The women who made Asuka thrive ~
12	Tottori Pref.	Mt. Mitoku and Misasa Hot Springs Thrills and Spills: An Exciting Climb and Healing Hot Springs
13	Shimane Pref.	The Ancient Guidebook of Tsuwano
14	Hiroshima Pref.	Onomichi: A Historic Port City Perfect for Wandering
15	Tokushima, Kochi, Ehime, Kagawa Prefectures	Henro ~ A Spiritual Journey through Shikoku
17	Nagasaki Pref.	Iki, Tsushima, and the Goto Islands-Japan's Ancient Bridge to Asia
18	Kumamoto Pref.	A Mountain Village Culture Nurtured by Trust
19	Miyagi Pref.	Sendai ~ Home of the Sophisticated Samurai
20	Yamagata Pref.	Dewa Sanzan: A Journey to Rebirth ~ 300-year-old cedars and 2,446 stone steps ~
21	Fukushima Pref.	Aizu: A Buddhist Pilgrimage off the Beaten Track
22	Fukushima Pref.	The Canal to the Future ~ Koriyama/Inawashiro: In the footsteps of the pioneers ~
23	Chiba Pref.	Four Cities That Supported the Mega-City of Edo ~ An Edo Travelogue through Hokusai ~
24	Kanagawa Pref.	Mt. Oyama Pilgrimage: The Commoners' Journey of Faith and Leisure
25	Kanagawa Pref.	Kamakura - A Historical and Cultural Mosaic
26	Niigata Pref.	Pre-Historic Flame-Style Pottery of the Snow Country
27	Ishikawa Pref.	Komatsu ~ A Rich Cultural Heritage Built on Stone
28	Nagano, Gifu Prefectures	Preserving the Mountain Forests of the Kiso Region
29	Gifu Pref.	The Wood Artisans of Hida Takayama
30	Hyogo Pref.	Awaji ~ Japan's Legendary "First Island"
31	Nara Pref.	The Bountiful Forests of Yoshino
32	Wakayama Pref.	The Blessings of Life Alongside Whales
33	Tottori Pref.	Mt. Daisen: Japan's Largest Livestock Market ~ Livestock and devotion to Jizo Bodhisattva ~
34	Shimane Pref.	Izumo's Ancient Tataru Ironmaking Heritage
35	Kanagawa, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kyoto Prefectures	Four Dynamic Coastal Cities: Yokosuka, Kure, Sasebo, Maizuru ~ Centers of Japanese modernization ~
36	Ehime, Hiroshima Prefectures	The Murakami Kaizoku of the Geiyo Islands Policemen Pirates of the Setonaikai Sea
37	Saga, Nagasaki Prefectures	Hizen: Region The Cradle of Japanese Porcelain
38	Hokkaido	A Port Town Built on the Flourishing Herring Trade
39	Hokkaido, Aomori, Akita, Yamagata, Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kagawa Prefectures	Merchant Ships Carrying Goods, Culture, and Big Dreams
40	Yamagata Pref.	Tsuruoka ~ A City of Silk Created by Samurai
41	Saitama Pref.	Gyoda ~ The City of Japanese Tabi Socks
42	Shiga, Mie Prefectures	The Cities of Iga and Koka Exploring the Birthplace of the Real Ninja

Story 6
A Ruthless Warlord's Spirit of Hospitality



Photo by Atsushi Kobayashi

Story 12
Mt. Mitoku and Misasa Hot Springs Thrills and Spills: An Exciting Climb and Healing Hot Springs



Mt. Mitoku and Misasa Hot Springs Thrills and Spills: An Exciting Climb and Healing Hot Springs

Story 5
Wakasa Heritage ~ Connecting the Sea and Kyoto ~ Imperial food purveyors and the Mackerel Road ~



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Story 59
Inami - Born from the Chisels of Master Woodcarvers



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Story 20
Dewa Sanzan: A Journey to Rebirth ~ 300-year-old cedars and 2,446 stone steps ~



Dewa Sanzan: A Journey to Rebirth ~ 300-year-old cedars and 2,446 stone steps ~

Story 35
Four Dynamic Coastal Cities: Yokosuka, Kure, Sasebo, Maizuru ~ Centers of Japanese modernization ~



Four Dynamic Coastal Cities: Yokosuka, Kure, Sasebo, Maizuru ~ Centers of Japanese modernization ~

Story 42
The Cities of Iga and Koka Exploring the Birthplace of the Real Ninja



Categories for the Stories

- Local Category: narrative pertaining to one city or a village
- Collective Category: narrative pertaining to several cities or villages

No.	Region	Story
43	Kyoto Pref.	300 Years of Weaving - The Silk District of Tango
44	Osaka, Nara Prefectures	The Grand 1,400-Year History of Japan's Oldest Road ~ Takeuchi Kaido road, Yoko-Oji (Oji)
45	Hyogo Pref.	An Industrial Highway for Horse-Drawn Wagons
46	Wakayama Pref.	Wakanoura Bay ~ A Treasure House of Scenic Beauty ~
47	Wakayama Pref.	The First Drop - Kishu Yuasa: The birthplace of soy sauce
48	Shimane Pref.	Izumo: A Land of Myths, Gods, and Sunsets
49	Okayama Pref.	Kurashiki and the Story of Fiber ~ East meets west through cotton ~
50	Aichi, Fukui, Shiga, Hyogo and Okayama Prefectures	Six Ancient Kilns - Ceramics Born and Raised in Japan ~
51	Kochi Pref.	From Forest Railway to Yuzu Road ~ The Story of Japan's Largest Yuzu-Growing Region
52	Fukuoka, Yamaguchi Prefectures	The Kammon Straits ~ Memories of modernization ~
53	Kumamoto Pref.	Rice Farming in the Kikuchi River Basin: 2,000 Years of Dedication and Ingenuity
54	Oita Pref.	Yabakei Gorge ~ Traveling through a Natural Scroll Painting ~
55	Hokkaido Pref.	The Kamikawa Ainu and the Playground of the Gods ~ The Spirituality and Heritage of an Indigenous People
56	Yamagata Pref.	A Mountain Temple's Safflower Culture
57	Tochigi Pref.	A Quarry Turned Underground Labyrinth
58	Tochigi Pref.	From Aristocratic Farms to Dairy Kingdom
59	Toyama Pref.	Inami - Born from the Chisels of Master Woodcarvers
60	Yamanashi Pref.	The Wineries of Yamanashi
61	Nagano, Yamanashi Prefectures	Obsidian and the Prehistoric Dwellers of the Chubu Mountains (Nagano, Yamanashi Prefectures) Master Woodcarvers
62	Shizuoka, Kanagawa Prefectures	A Perilous Mountain Pass on the Kyoto-Tokyo Highway
63	Wakayama Pref.	"Peace of Mind for Eternity" - A Legacy of Tsunami Disaster Prevention
64	Okayama Pref.	The Story Behind the Tale of Momotaro
65	Hiroshima Pref.	The Beautiful Old Port Town of Tomonoura
66	Oita Pref.	The Kunisaki Peninsula - Where Ogres Bring Happiness
67	Miyazaki Pref.	The Prehistoric Burial Mounds of Miyazaki
68	Hokkaido	Powering Japan's Industrial Revolution
69	Miyagi, Iwate Prefectures	The Glittering History of Gold Production
70	Gunma Pref.	Marsh Culture ~ The Wetlands of Gunma Prefecture
71	Fukui Pref.	The Stone Working Skills of Fukui ~ Building Blocks of History
72	Aichi Pref.	The Intricate World of Indigo Shibori Tie-Dyeing
73	Mie Pref.	Meet the Ama Female Divers of Toba and Shima
74	Wakayama, Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, Shiga, Hyogo, Gifu Prefectures	A 1,300-Year-Old Buddhist Pilgrimage
75	Osaka Pref.	Tracing the History of a Medieval Rural Landscape
76	Osaka Pref.	An Important Town From the Middle Ages
77	Hyogo Pref.	The Finest Salt in the Land
78	Tottori, Hyogo Prefectures	The Blessings of a Harsh Wind
79	Shimane Pref.	Iwami Kagura ~ Theater for the Gods
80	Okayama, Kagawa Prefectures	Islands of Stone in the Setonaikai Sea
81	Tokushima Pref.	Awa - The Birthplace of "Japan Blue"
82	Kagoshima Pref.	The Martial Towns of the Satsuma Samurai
83	Okinawa Pref.	The Unbroken Legacy of the Ryukyu Kingdom
84	Hokkaido	Salmon Sanctuary ~ Nemuro Strait: perennial journey ~
85	Iwate Pref.	Joboji Lacquerware and the Appi River Basin
86	Ibaraki, Yamanashi Prefectures	140 Years of Japanese Wine ~ A Fermented Masterpiece of Japanese Culture ~
87	Tochigi, Ibaraki Prefectures	Kasamashiko ~ A story of pottery produced by twin cities
88	Tokyo Pref.	Mt. Takao: Mountain of Spirits ~ Mulberry City spun with people's prayers ~
89	Niigata Pref.	Tokamachi, the Ultimate Snow Country: Snowbelt Story
90	Fukui, Shiga Prefectures	Miracle Railroad ~ Connecting Japan to the world ~
91	Yamanashi Pref.	Mitake Shosenkyo Gorge and Koshu craftsmanship ~ Crystals, faith, and high tech ~
92	Nagano Pref.	Chikuma, City of the Moon ~ Magical moonscape in Mt. Obasute's rice fields ~
93	Nagano Pref.	Along the Ley Lines ~ Sanctuary of Sun and Earth ~ Ueda Shiodadaira: a town that lives with dragons
94	Shizuoka Pref.	A trip to Suruga with Japan's travel pioneers Yaji and Kita ~ A comical Tokaido travel guide in prose and ukiyoe ~
95	Kyoto, Shiga Prefectures	Lake Biwa ~ Water, Life and Prayer ~
96	Wakayama, Osaka, Nara Prefectures	Nyonin Koya and the History of Female Pilgrims at Koyasan
97	Hyogo Pref.	"Itami Morohaku" and "Nada no Ki-ippun" ~ Kansai sakes beloved in Edo ~
98	Nara, Osaka Prefectures	Eliminating landslides ~ Crossing Kamenose at the heart of the ancient Tatsuta Road ~
99	Wakayama, Osaka, Nara Prefectures	Katsuragi Shugen ~ The home of Shugendou mountain asceticism ~
100	Shimane Pref.	Masuda, a medieval masterpiece ~ A journey back to feudal Japan ~
101	Shimane Pref.	Volcanic Iwami ~ Prehistoric forests and the Iwami Ginza silver mines ~
102	Okayama Pref.	Birthplace of "Japan Red" ~ Bichu Fukiya Town, bengara and copper ~
103	Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Saga Prefectures	The Sugar Culture of Nagasaki Kaikyo ~ The Sugar Road ~
104	Kumamoto Pref.	The masons of Yatsushiro ~ The stone-making legacy of Masonry Town ~
105	Hokkaido	Otaru, the "Heart of Hokkaido" : A Merchant City Reborn

Story 13
The Ancient Guidebook of Tsuwano



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Story 36
The Murakami Kaizoku of the Geiyo Islands: Policemen Pirates of the Setonaikai Sea



From Forest Railway to Yuzu Road ~ The Story of Japan's Largest Yuzu-Growing Region

Story 66
The Kunisaki Peninsula - Where Ogres Bring Happiness



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