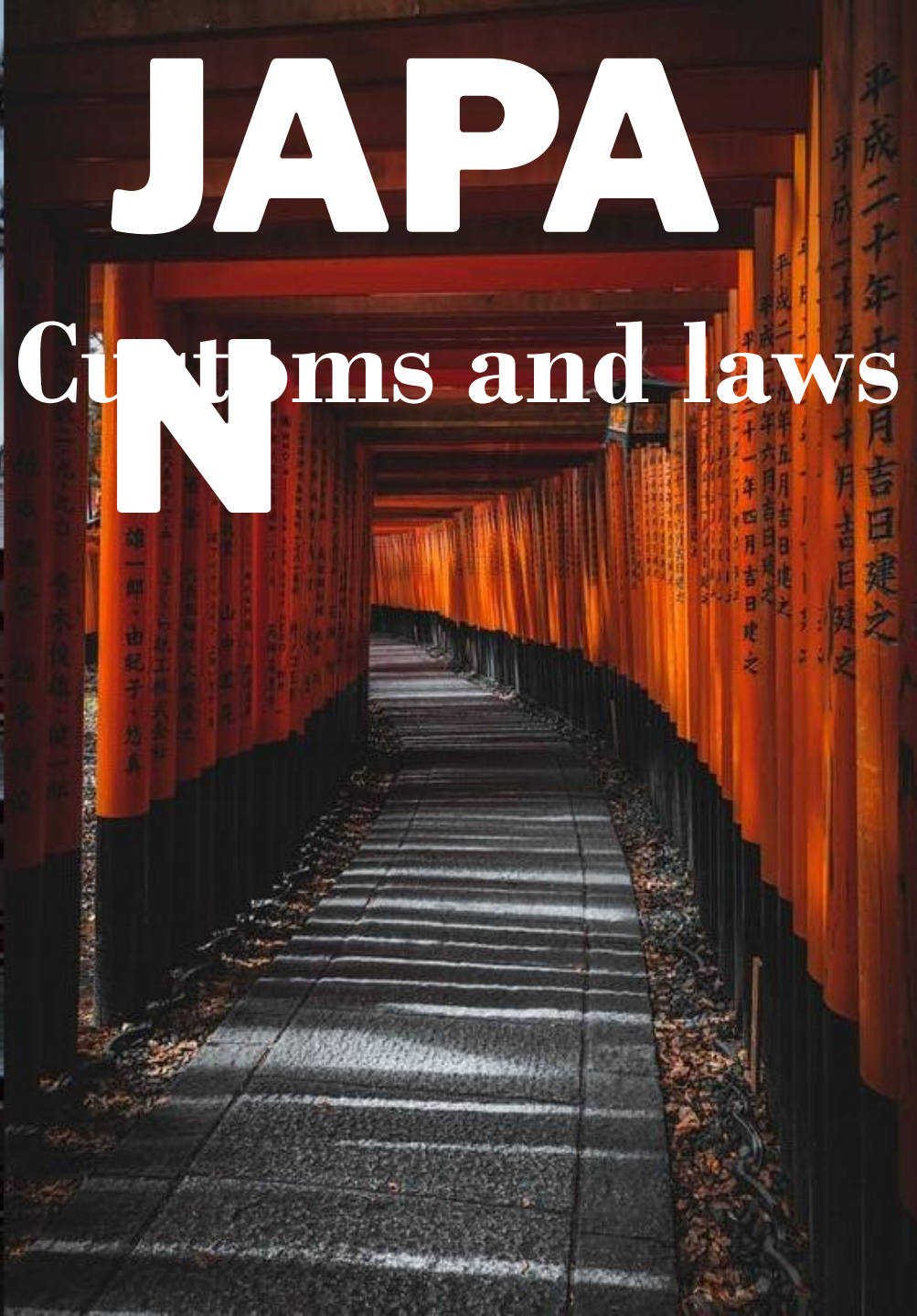


# JAPA

## Customs and laws







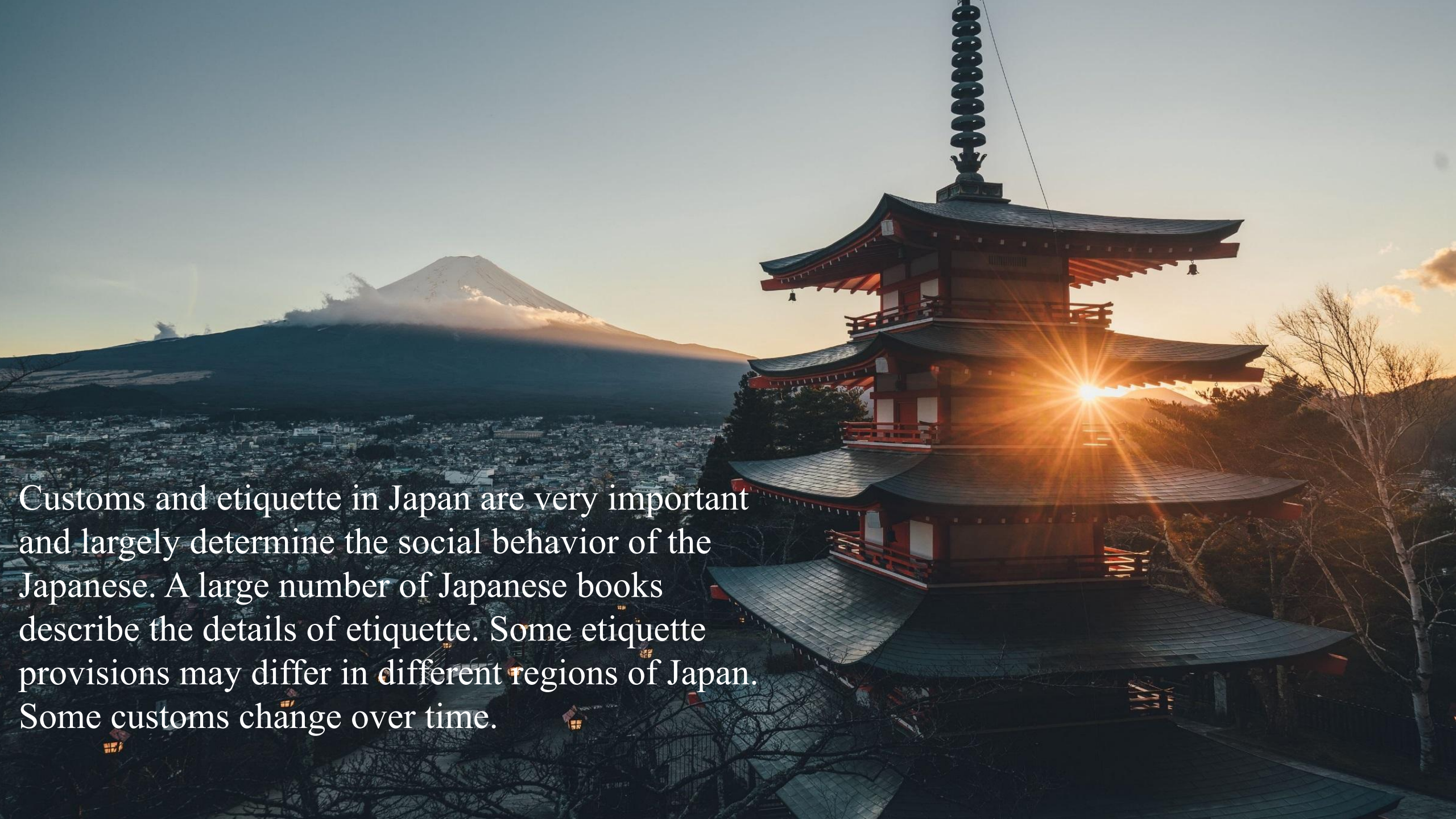
Japan is an island country in East Asia. It is situated in the northwest Pacific Ocean, and is bordered on the west by the Sea of Japan, while extending from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north toward the East China Sea and Taiwan in the south.



Japan is a unitary state and constitutional monarchy in which the power of the Emperor is limited to a ceremonial role. Executive power is instead wielded by the Prime Minister of Japan and his Cabinet, whose sovereignty is vested in the Japanese people. Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan, having succeeded his father Akihito upon his accession to the Chrysanthemum Throne in 2019.







Customs and etiquette in Japan are very important and largely determine the social behavior of the Japanese. A large number of Japanese books describe the details of etiquette. Some etiquette provisions may differ in different regions of Japan. Some customs change over time.





Meals in Japan traditionally begin with the phrase: itadakimas (“I humbly receive”). The application phrase corresponds to the phrase “bon appetit”. But in literal terms, expresses gratitude to all who played a part in cooking, growing or hunting and higher powers that provided the food served.

After finishing a meal, the Japanese also use the polite gotiso phrase: -sama-desita, expressing gratitude and respect for all those present, the cook and higher powers for a wonderful meal.





**Not completely finishing a meal is not considered impolite in Japan, but rather it is taken as a signal to the host that you want to be offered another meal. It is impolite to choose individual parts of the dish and leave the rest. You should chew with your mouth closed.**



Kissing in public was considered a breach of the peace until 1945. Violators who allowed themselves to do this in a public place were punished with a fine or detention. The Japanese still treat the kiss as an exotic component of a purely erotic relationship. The social role of the kiss in Japan is extremely narrow. A kiss, in the Japanese understanding, expresses neither sympathy, nor respect, nor grief, nor sympathy - none of the many things that it can mean in the West.



Smiling in Japan is not only a natural expression of emotions. It is also a form of etiquette that defines the desire to resist the spirit in confronting difficulties and failures.

From childhood, the Japanese are taught - most often by personal occupation - to smile in the performance of social duties. Smiling has become a semi-conscious gesture in Japan, observed even when the smiling person believes that he is not being observed. For example, a Japanese man is trying to catch a subway train, but the doors close right in front of him. The reaction to failure is a smile. This smile does not mean joy, but it means that a person treats trouble without grumbling and with cheerfulness.





In Japan, two types of wedding ceremonies are held: in the Japanese traditional (Shinto) style or in the Western style. Regardless of the type of ceremony, the couple must present an official marriage certificate obtained from the local authorities. Historically, marriages are divided into two types depending on the method of finding a partner: the traditional way - arranged marriage - miai kekkon, better known as o-miai, when a partner is found independently. Historically, in a peasant environment, marriage was often concluded after the bride's pregnancy.







In Japan, shoes are changed or taken off more often than in any other country. It is supposed to take off street shoes, changing into prepared slippers stored in a box with hearths. Street sensitivity is perceived at the very entrance, where the floor level is lower than in the source of the patient. It is believed that you really entered the room not when you closed the door behind you, but after you took off your street shoes and put on your home shoes.

You must take off your shoes when entering the temples. When men's shoes are not found, you have to walk in socks. A box with identified areas in such places is used to store street shoes. When wearing street shoes, you must not step on the wooden grating in front of the shoe boxes.





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END