



Cherry Blossom Tour























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10.30am departure for Osaka from Gold Coast flying Jetstar (bus to Gold Coast Airport)





7.30pm Arrive Osaka Kansai International Airport Limousine Taxi to our Kyoto Ryoken (traditional inn) Check in to Kyoto NishiYama Ryoken Casual dinner or snack before bed.(your choice)

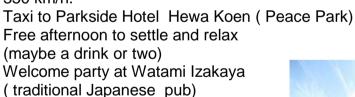
Kyoto touring including Golden Temple and World heritage listed sites, Shopping in Gion district (Geisha Area)

Walking distance from Ryokan.

- Optional Geisha Dress and photos
- Traditional Tea ceremony in Gion area
- Traditional Japanese Dinner experience



Check out at 10.00am
Taxi to Kyoto Shinkansen Station
Kyoto to Hiroshima by Shinkansen (Bullet train)
Arrive Hiroshima Station after the 90 minute trip at 350 km/h.











8.30am. meet in Hotel Foyer
9.00am Depart by Bus for Miyajima Island
Ferry to Miyajima
All Day viewing and activities (great souvenirs)
Cherry Blossom Hanami (Japanese picnic and viewing)
2.00pm Depart for Kintai Bridge and Iwakuni

Cherry Blossom Viewing and Picnic (Ice cream and Japanese weaners)
Iwakuni castle viewing
5.00pm Dinner at Pirates Lair Kuzoku mountain

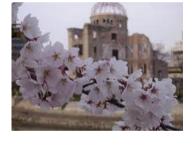


Hiroshima and surrounds.
Hiroshima Peace Park Visit and Cherry Blossom viewing
11.00am Ramen Lunch
Free time / Return to Hotel
6.00pm tonight we are off to see the Hiroshima Carp at
Mazda Stadium.



12.00am Depart for Kure City)
Sempuku Sake Tour
You Me Town shopping
Yamato Museum
Optional Onsen

Dinner Japanese Beer Restaurant) and Masters Karaoke Bar (big big night-early morning)











Morning free to explore Hondori Mall, revisit the Peace Park or shop at the Famous 100 yen shops.

2.00pm depart Hiroshima for the Kagura Cultural Experience. There will be an opportunity to sento(ofuro),(Japanese bath) purchase omiyage (souvenir) and eat a traditional dinner.

After the Kagura dancing get dressed in a Japanese Kimono

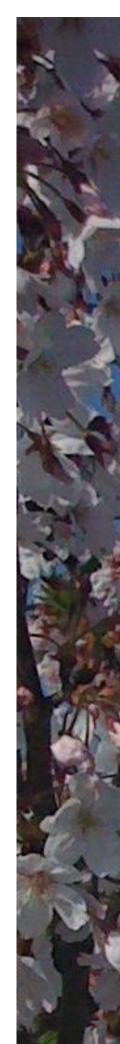
Late return to Hotel.

Parkside Hotel at 9.00am
Free time until 12.00pm
Taxi to station
Shinkansen to Kansai airport
Depart Japan 9.00pm (approx)
Arrive Gold Coast 6.30am

Inclusions:-

- Taxi and Bus transfers
- 9 nights accommodation
- Parkside Hotel Hiroshima
- 2 nights Kyoto NishiYama Ryoken.
- 9 meal specials.
- Kagura traditional performance
- All group ground transport and
- entrances.
- Optional extras- Geisha dress up / karaoke evenings/ Onsen/ Ramen/ Countryside day trip

Total cost: \$4613 TOTAL COST

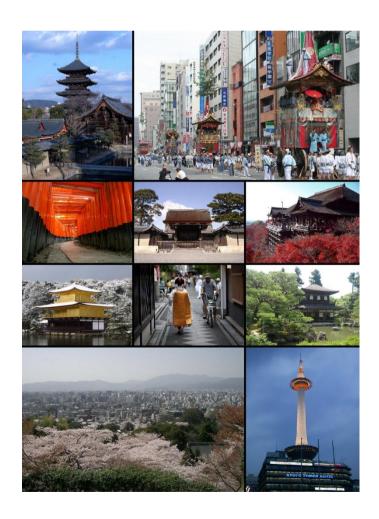


Some interesting information!

Kyoto

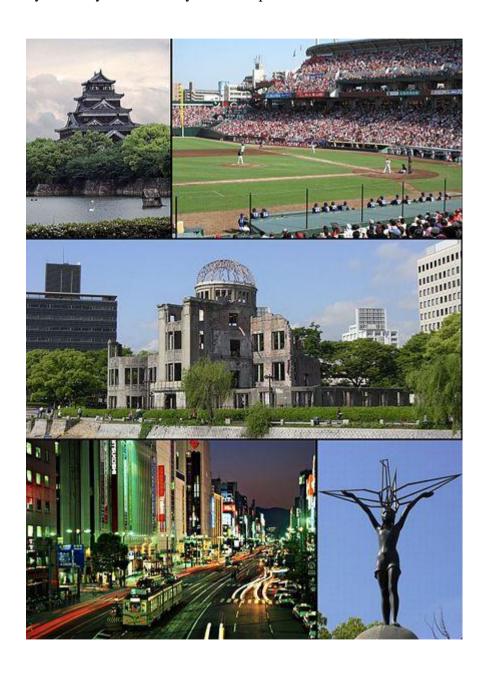
Kyoto (京都市 *Kyōto-shi*², "Capital City") (Japanese pronunciation: [k¹oːto] (♣ listen)) is a city in the central part of the island of Honshū, Japan. It has a population close to 1.5 million. Formerly the imperial capital of Japan, it is now the capital of Kyoto Prefecture, as well as a major part of the Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto metropolitan area.

Kinkaku-ji (金閣寺 Temple of the Golden Pavilion?), also known as Rokuon-ji (鹿苑寺 Deer Garden Temple?), is a Zen Buddhist temple in Kyoto, Japan. [2] The garden complex is an excellent example of Muromachi period garden design. [4] It is designated as a National Special Historic Site and a National Special Landscape, and it is one of 17 locations comprising the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto World Heritage Site. [5] It is also one of the most popular buildings in Japan, attracting a large number of visitors annually. [6] It has also been made widely familiar as being featured in a photograph in the desktop picture art of Apple's OS X computer operating system, labeled simply as "Golden Palace".



Hiroshima (広島市 *Hiroshima-shi*?) (● listen (help-info)) is the capital of Hiroshima Prefecture, and the largest city in the Chūgoku region of western Honshu, the largest island of Japan. It is best known as the first city in history to be destroyed by a nuclear weapon when the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) dropped an atomic bomb on it at 8:15 A.M. on August 6, 1945, near the end of World War II. [1] Its name 広島 means "Wide Island".

Hiroshima gained city status on April 1, 1889. On April 1, 1980, Hiroshima became a designated city. The city's current mayor since April 2011 is Kazumi



Hiroshima Castle

Hiroshima Castle (広島城 *Hiroshima-jō?*), sometimes called Carp Castle (鯉城 *Rijō?*) is a castle in Hiroshima, Japan which was the home of the *daimyō* (feudal lord) of the Hiroshima han (fief). Originally constructed in the 1590s, the castle was destroyed in the atomic bombing in 1945. It was rebuilt in 1958, a replica of the original which now serves as a museum of Hiroshima's history prior to World War II.

Miyajima Island

Itsukushima (厳島?) is an island in the western part of the Inland Sea of Japan, located in the northwest of Hiroshima Bay. It is popularly known as Miyajima (宮島?), the Shrine Island. The island is one of Hayashi Razan's (林羅山?) Three Views of Japan (日本三景 *Nihon Sankei*?). Itsukushima is famous for the Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park (広島平和記念公園 Hiroshima heiwa kinen kōen²) is a memorial park in the center of Hiroshima, Japan. It is dedicated to the legacy of Hiroshima as the first city in the world to suffer a nuclear attack, and to the memories of the bomb's direct and indirect victims (of whom there may have been as many as 140,000). [1]

The location of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was once the city's busiest downtown commercial and residential district. The park was built on open field that was created by the explosion. Today there are a number of memorials and monuments, museums, and lecture halls, which draw over a million visitors annually. The annual 6 August Peace Memorial Ceremony, which is sponsored by the city of Hiroshima, is also held in the park. ^[2] The purpose of the Peace Memorial Park is to not only memorialize the victims, but also to establish the memory of nuclear horrors and advocate world peace. ^[3]

Sake (● /'sɑːkiː/ or /'sɑːkeɪ/; from Japanese 酒 [sake] (● listen)), also known as *Nihonshu* (Japanese: 日本酒), is a rice-based alcoholic beverage of Japanese origin. It is sometimes spelled *saké* to show the pronunciation more clearly.

Sake is also referred to in English as a form of rice wine. However, unlike true wine, in which alcohol is produced by fermenting the sugar naturally present in fruit, sake is made through a brewing process more like that of beer, thus it is more like a rice beer than a rice wine. To make beer or sake, the sugar needed to produce alcohol must first be converted from starch. However, the brewing process for sake differs from beer brewing as well, notably in that for beer, the conversion of starch to sugar and sugar to alcohol occurs in two discrete steps, but with sake they occur simultaneously. Additionally, alcohol content also differs between sake, wine, and beer. Wine generally contains 9–16% alcohol^[1] and most beer is 3–9%, whereas undiluted sake is 18–20% alcohol, although this is often lowered to around 15% by diluting the sake with water prior to bottling.

The **Hiroshima Toyo Carp** (広島東洋カープ *Hiroshima Tōyō Kāpu*²) are a professional baseball team in Japan's Central League. The team is primarily owned by the Matsuda family, led by Hajime Matsuda (松田元 *Matsuda Hajime*²), who is a descendant of Mazda founder Jujiro Matsuda. Mazda is the largest single shareholder (34.2%), which is less than the portion owned by the Matsuda family (about 60%). Because of that, Mazda is not considered as the owner firm. However, the company connection is highlighted in the club name—until 1984, Mazda's official name was Toyo Kogyo Co., Ltd. (東洋工業株式会社 *Tōyō Kōgyō Kabushiki Gaisha*²).

The **Kintai Bridge** (錦帯橋 *Kintai-kyō*?) is a historical wooden arch bridge, in the city of Iwakuni, in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. The bridge was built in 1673, spanning the beautiful Nishiki River in a series of five wooden arches, and the bridge is located on the foot of Mt. Yokoyama, at the top of which lies Iwakuni Castle. Declared a National Treasure in 1922, Kikkou Park, which includes the bridge and castle, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Japan, especially for the Cherry Blossom festival in the spring and the autumn color change of the Japanese Maples.

Yamato (大和?), named after the ancient Japanese Yamato Province, was the lead ship of the *Yamato* class of battleships that served with the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II. She and her sister ship, *Musashi*, were the heaviest and most powerfully armed battleships ever constructed, displacing 72,800 tonnes at full load and armed with nine 46 cm (18.1 inch) main guns. Neither, however, survived the war.

Laid down in 1937 and formally commissioned a week after the Pearl Harbor attack in late 1941, *Yamato* was designed to counter the numerically superior battleship fleet of the United States, Japan's main rival in the Pacific. Throughout 1942 she served as the flagship of the Japanese Combined Fleet, and in June 1942 Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto directed the fleet from her bridge during the disastrous Battle of Midway. *Musashi* took over as the Combined Fleet flagship in early 1943, and *Yamato* spent the rest of the year, and much of 1944, moving between the major Japanese naval bases of Truk and Kure in response to American threats. Although she was present at the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944, *Yamato* played no part in the battle. The only time she fired her main guns at enemy surface targets was in October 1944, when she was sent to engage American forces invading the Philippines during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. On the verge of success the Japanese force turned back, believing they were engaging an entire US carrier fleet rather than the light escort carrier group that was all that stood between *Yamato* and the vulnerable troop transports.

During 1944 the balance of naval power in the Pacific decisively turned against Japan and, by early 1945, the Japanese fleet was much depleted and critically short of fuel stocks in the home islands, limiting its usefulness. In April 1945, in a desperate attempt to slow the Allied advance, *Yamato* was dispatched on a one way voyage to Okinawa, where it was intended that she should protect the island from invasion and fight until destroyed. The task force was spotted south of Kyushu by US submarines and aircraft, and on 7 April she was sunk by American carrier based bombers and torpedo bombers with the loss of most of her crew.

Okonomiyaki (お好み焼き o-konomi-yaki²) is a Japanese savoury pancake containing a variety of ingredients. The name is derived from the word okonomi, meaning "what you like" or "what you want", and yaki meaning "grilled" or "cooked" (cf. yakitori and yakisoba). Okonomiyaki is mainly associated with Kansai or Hiroshima areas of Japan, but is widely available throughout the country. Toppings and batters tend to vary according to region. Tokyo okonomiyaki is usually smaller than a Hiroshima or Kansai okonomiyaki.

The Story of the Otafuku Lady

The distinctive face of Otafuku has been a popular folk mask in Japan for centuries. Her face is unique and amusing and is often paired with the male folk mask of Hyottoko in comic dances during local harvest festivals. In ancient mythology, Otafuku's dance brought the sun out of hiding and brightened the skies from darkness.

Otafuku is not known for her physical beauty, but her features remind us of the health of life: her constantly smiling eyes remind us of joy and pleasure; her short nose suggests humility; her small, reserved mouth signifies the utterance of voice of simplicity; her round cheeks symbolize health; and her high forehead reflects her intelligence.

It is with great privilege that we carry the name of Otafuku and it is our desire to help add to the health of life and, like the Otafuku of ancient times, brighten the days of our customers.

Kagura (神楽, かぐら, "god-entertainment") is a Japanese word referring to a specific type of Shinto theatrical dance—with roots arguably predating those of Noh. Once strictly a ceremonial art derived from kami'gakari (神懸, かみがかり, "oracular divination") and chinkon (鎮魂, ちんこん, "spirit pacification"), Kagura has evolved in many directions over the span of a millennium. Today it is very much a living tradition, with rituals tied to the rhythms of the agricultural calendar, as well as vibrant Kabuki-esque theatre, thriving primarily in parts of Shimane prefecture, and urban centers such as Hiroshima. [1]

The *Shinkansen* (新幹線[?], *new trunk line*), also known as the "Bullet Train", is a network of high-speed railway lines in Japan operated by four Japan Railways Group companies. Starting with the Tōkaidō Shinkansen in 1964, ^[1] the network has expanded to currently consist of 2,387.7 km (1,483.6 mi) of lines with maximum speeds of 240–300 km/h (149–186 mph), 283.5 km (176.2 mi) of Mini-shinkansen lines with a maximum speed of 130 km/h (81 mph), and 10.3 km (6.4 mi) of spur lines with Shinkansen services. ^[2] The network presently links most major cities on the islands of Honshu and Kyushu, with construction of a link to the northern island of Hokkaido underway and plans to increase speeds on the Tōhoku Shinkansen up to 320 km/h (199 mph). ^[3] Test runs have reached 443 km/h (275 mph) for

conventional rail in 1996, and up to a world record 581 km/h (361 mph) for maglev trainsets in 2003.

Shinkansen literally means new trunk line, referring to the tracks, but the name is widely used inside and outside Japan to refer to the trains as well as the system as a whole. The name Superexpress (超特急 chō-tokkyū²), initially used for Hikari trains, was retired in 1972 but is still used in English-language announcements and signage.

The Tōkaidō Shinkansen is the world's busiest high-speed rail line. Carrying 151 million passengers a year (March 2008), ^[4] it has transported more passengers (over 4 billion, network over 6 billion) ^[5] than any other high speed line in the world. ^[6] Between Tokyo and Osaka, the two largest metropolises in Japan, up to thirteen trains per hour with sixteen cars each (1,323 seats capacity) run in each direction with a minimum headway of three minutes between trains. Though largely a long-distance transport system, the Shinkansen also serves commuters who travel to work in metropolitan areas from outlying cities.

Irori Sanzoku



Sanzoku 山賊 translates to something like "Mountain

Pirates" or "Barbarians". We ate food that mountain pirates ate. The restaurant is actually in Yamaguchi prefecture and not in Hiroshima although many people drive out here just to have dinner. It's about 50km from Hiroshima. We arrived at around 3:30pm so it wasn't crowded. Most of the food is barbequed over coals in a fire pit or Irori.



When you arrive at the restaurant you're greeted by giant cartoon characters reminiscent of Japanese folk tales. It very kitsch in a Japanese way. At night, the whole place is lit up by big spot lights so you can see the place from space. A girl was playing the taiko outside, not sure why exactly.



(1) The two main dishes are the Sanzokuyaki, BBQ chicken leg on a stick, and the Sanzoku Omusubi, the bowling ball shaped riceball. The omusubi contains ume, shake, konbu and a couple other stuff I don't know the names of. The seaweed which wraps the whole thing is surprisingly tough like leather almost. It's big (2) There are a few buildings which have different interiors but serve the same food. The main building is the smallest and smokiest. You can sit around an irori to eat (3) or at a small table (4)

This is the place where they cooked most of the chicken and fish.



You could also sit outside in a kotatsu. There were more tables out in the complex which they probably don't use in the winter because it's too cold. All of the trees are Sakura trees so you can imagine how



English Phrases	Japanese Phrases			
English Greetings	Japanese Greetings:			
Hi!	Yaa. *1 やあ。			
Good morning!	Ohayou gozaimasu. おはようございます。			
Good evening!	Konbanw こんばんは。			
Welcome! (to greet someone)	Youkoso irasshai mashita. ようこそいらっしゃいました。			
How are you?	Ogenki desuka? お元気ですか?			
I'm fine, thanks!	Watashi wa genki desu. Arigato! わたしは元気です。ありがとう。			
And you?	Anatawa? あなたは?			
Good/ So-So.	Genki desu. / maa-maa desu. 元気です。/ まあまあです。			
Thank you (very much)!	Arigatou! *2 ありがとう!			
You're welcome! (for "thank you")	Dou itashi mashite. どういたしまして。			
I missed you so much!	Samishi katta desu. *3 さみしかったです。			
What's new?	Saikin dou desuka? 最近どうですか?			
Nothing much	Kawari nai desu. 変わりないです。			
Good night!	Oyasumi nasai. おやすみなさい。			
See you later!	Mata atode aimashou! またあとで会いましょう!			
Good bye!	Sayonara! さようなら!			
Asking for Help and Directions				
I'm lost	Mayotte shimai mashita. 迷ってしまいました。			

English Phrases	Japanese Phrases			
Can I help you?	Otetsudai shimashouka? お手伝いしましょうか?			
Can you help me?	Tetsudatte kuremasuka? *4 手伝ってくれますか?			
Where is the (bathroom/ pharmacy)?	(Toire/yakkyoku) wa doko desuka? (トイレ/薬局) はどこですか?			
Go straight! then turn left/ right!	Massugu itte kudasai. Soshite, hidari / migi ni magatte kudasai まっすぐ行ってください。そして、左/右にまがってください。			
I'm looking for john.	John wo sagashite imasu. John を探しています。			
One moment please!	Chotto matte kudasai. ちょっと待ってください。			
Hold on please! (phone)	Chotto matte kudasai. ちょっと待ってください。			
How much is this?	Kore wa ikura desuka? これはいくらですか?			
Excuse me! (to ask for something)	Sumimasen! すみません!			
Excuse me! (to pass by)	Sumimasen! すみません!			
Come with me!	Watashi to issho ni kite kudasai. 私といっしょに来			
How to Introduce Yourself				
Do you speak (English/ Japanese)?	Anata wa eigo/nihongo wo hanashimasu ka? あなたは(英語/日本語)を話しますか?			
Just a little.	Sukoshi dake. 少しだけ。			
What's your name?	Namae wa nandesu ka? 名前は何ですか?			
My name is	Watashi no namae wa 私の名前は・・・			
Mr/ Mrs/ Miss	*5 "san" is adequate for all.・・・さん			
Nice to meet you!	Hajimemashite! or Oai dekite ureshii desu. *6 はじめまして!/お会いできてうれしいです!			
You're very kind!	Anata wa totemo shinsetsu desu. あなたはとてもしんせつです。			
Where are you from?	Doko no shusshin desu ka? どこの出身ですか?			

English Phrases	Japanese Phrases				
I'm from (the U.S/ Japan)	Amerika/Nihon kara desu. アメリカ/日本からです。				
I'm (American)	Watashi wa Amerika jin desu. 私はアメリカ人です。				
Where do you live?	Doko ni sun de imasu ka? どこに住んでいますか?				
I live in (the U.S/ Japan)	Watashi wa amerika / nihon ni sundeimasu. 私はアメリカ/日本に住んでいます。				
Did you like it here?	Kokowa suki ni narimashita ka? ここは好きになりましたか?				
Japan is a wonderful country	Nihon ha subarashii kuni desu. 日本は素晴らしい国です。				
What do you do for a living?	Osigoto wa nandesu ka? お仕事は何ですか?				
I work as a (translator/ businessman)	Osigoto wa nandesu ka? ほんやく/会社員として働いています。				
I like Japanese	Watashi wa nihongo ga suki desu. 私は日本語が好きです。				
I've been learning Japanese for 1 month	Watashi wa nihongo wo ichikagetu narrate imasu. 私は日本語を一ヶ月習っています。				
Oh! That's good!	Sorewa iidesu ne. それはいいですね。				
How old are you?	Toshi wa ikutsu desu ka? 年はいくつですか?				
I'm (twenty, thirty) years old.	Watshi wa (20, 30) sai desu. 私は(20, 30)才です。				
I have to go	Ikanakutewa narimasen. 行かなくてはなりません。				
I will be right back!	Sugu modori masu. すぐ戻ります。				
Wish Someone Something					
Good luck!	Ganbatte ne! *7 がんばってね!				
Happy birthday!	Tanjyoubi omedetou gozaimasu! 誕生日おめでとうございます!				
Happy new year!	Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu. あけましておめでとうございます。				
Merry Christmas!	Merii Kurisumasu! *8 メリークリスマス!				

English Phrases	Japanese Phrases			
Congratulations!	Omedetou! おめでとう!			
Enjoy! (for meals)	(noun, etc) wo tanoshinde kudasai. () を楽しんでください。			
I'd like to visit Japan one day	ltuka nihon wo otozure tai. いつか日本を訪れたい。			
Say hi to John for me	John ni yoroshiku to tsutaete kudasai. John によろしくと伝えてください。			
Bless you (when sneezing)	Odaiji ni. お大事に。			
Good night and sweet dreams!	Oyasumi nasai. おやすみなさい。			
Solving a Misunderstanding				
I'm Sorry! (if you don't hear something)	Sumimasen. すみません。			
Sorry (for a mistake)	Gomenasai. ごめんなさい。			
No Problem!	Daijyoubu desu. 大丈夫です。			
Can You Say It Again?	Mouichido itte kuremasuka? もういちど言ってくれますか?			
Can You Speak Slowly?	Yukkuri shabette kuremasuka? ゆっくりしゃべってくれますか?			
Write It Down Please!	Kaite kudasai. 書いてください。			
I Don't Understand!	Wakarimasen. わかりません。			
I Don't Know!	Shirimasen. 知りません。			
I Have No Idea.	Wakarimasen. わかりません。			
What's That Called In Japanese?	Arewa nihongo de nanto iimasu ka? あれは日本語で何といいますか?			
What Does "gato" Mean In English?	"Omedeto" wa eigo de douiu imi desu ka? Omedeto は英語でどういう意味ですか?			
How Do You Say "Please" In Japanese?	"Please" wa nihongo de nanto iimasu ka? "Please" は日本語で何と言いますか?			
What Is This?	Korewa nandesu ka? これは何ですか?			

English Phrases	Japanese Phrases				
My Japanese is bad.	Watashi no nihongo wa heta desu. 私の日本語はへたです。				
I need to practice my Japanese	Nihonn go wo renshu suru hitsuyou ga arimasu. 日本語を練習する必要があります。				
Don't worry!	Goshinpai naku. ご心配なく。				
Japanese Expressions and Words					
Good/ Bad/ So-So.	Yoi / Warui / maa-maa よい/悪い/まあまあ				
Big/ Small	Ookii/Chiisai 大きい/小さい				
Today/ Now	Kyou / Ima 今日/今				
Tomorrow/ Yesterday	Ashita / Kinou 明日/昨日				
Yes/ No	Hai / iie はい/いいえ				
Here you go! (when giving something)	Hai, douzo! はい、どうぞ。				
Do you like it?	Suki desu ka? 好きですか?				
I really like it!	Honto ni suki desu. ほんとに好きです。				
I'm hungry/ thirsty.	Onaka ga suki masita. / Nodo ga kawaki mashita. おなかが空きました。/のどがかわきました。				
In The Morning/ Evening/ At Night.	Asa ni, yuugata ni, yoru ni 朝に/夕方に/夜に				
This/ That. Here/There	Kore / Are Koko / Asoko これ/あれ ここ/あそこ				
Me/ You. Him/ Her.	Watashi / anata Kare / Kanojyo 私/あなた 彼/彼女				
Really!	Honto! ほんと!				
Look!	Mite! 見て!				
Hurry up!	lsoide! 急いで!				
What? Where?	Nani? Doko? 何? どこ?				
What time is it?	Nanji desu ka? 何時ですか?				

English Phrases	Japanese Phrases		
It's 10 o'clock. 07:30pm.	Jyuji desu. Gogo hichi ji sanjyu pun desu. 十時です。午後7時30分です。		
Give me this!	Kore wo kudasai! これをください。		
I love you!	Daisuki desu./ Anata wo aishite imasu. *9 大好きです。/あなたを愛しています。		
I feel sick.	Choshi ga warui desu. 調子が悪いです。		
I need a doctor	Byouin ni ikitai. 病院に行きたい。		
One, Two, Three	Ichi, ni, san いち、に、さん		
Four, Five, Six	Yon, go, roku よん、ご、ろく		
Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten	Nana (shichi) hachi, kyuu, jyuu なな(ひち)、はち、きゅう、 じゅう		