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45 things visitors to Japan find surprising

Japan is very different to America and Europe. Things that the average Japanese person thinks are normal can be strange, interesting or surprising to visitors. Rocket News compiled this list of 45 things visitors to Japan find surprising.

1. The trains actually come on time
2. The fruit is really delicious (There's a lot of cross breeding)
3. The bread at 7-11 is really good
4. Taxi doors open automatically
5. The high likelihood of lost items being returned to you
6. Everyone eats KFC for Christmas dinner
7. There are vending machines absolutely everywhere
8. You can buy alcohol and tobacco from those ubiquitous vending machines
9. The washlet bidets
10. You can drink water from the tap
11. The tea isn't sweetened
12. You can smoke in restaurants
13. There are free samples at the supermarket
14. There are tolls on the highways
15. You can find absolute masterpieces of pastry at cake shops
16. The confusing, complex layout of Tokyo
17. The buttons to summon a waiter at family-style restaurants
18. Touch-screen menus at bars and restaurants
19. There are holes in the 5 and 50 yen coins
20. People hand out free packets of tissues on the street
21. The quality and selection at 100 yen shops
22. Japanese people really like Yahoo!
23. GPS is automatically included in rental cars
24. You can leave a bag to save your seat and no one will steal it
25. A small-size drink is actually quite small
26. There are power lines all over the place
27. People politely line up to wait for the train

28. Heated toilet seats
29. The high price of movie tickets
30. There are pachinko parlors everywhere
31. The skill used in wrapping gifts and other purchases
32. The multi-story parking garages
33. The ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system on the highways
34. There are hot springs just for your feet
35. There are women-only cars on the trains
36. Cigarettes are really cheap
37. It's so safe you can go walking around in the middle of the night with no problem
38. Japanese squat-style toilets
39. The incredible variety of KitKat flavors
40. There are still elevator girls who operate the elevator for you
41. The packets of condiments that you can easily open with one hand
42. Capsule hotels
43. The lucky bags sold at New Years
44. The rooms at business hotels are tiny.
45. The foreign guys dating beautiful Japanese girls are often ugly

Questions

1. Do you think any of these things are strange? Which ones? Why?
2. Why do Japanese eat KFC at Christmas?
3. Why are there so many vending machines in Japan?
4. Do you think it's strange that smoking is allowed in restaurants? Why? Why not?
5. Why are there holes in the 5 and 50 yen coins?
6. Why are most Japanese power lines overhead, rather than underground?
7. Why are movie tickets so expensive in Japan?
8. Why are there women-only cars on the train? Why don't we see these in Europe or America?
9. Have you ever stayed in a capsule hotel? How was it?
10. Have you ever been abroad? Where? What surprising things did you notice?

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