

I am a very big traveller, Asia, America, Europe, I have seen so much! I worked in many countries: France, Switzerland, USA, Mongolia,... but for me Japan is one of my favorite country, the place where I would like to live for a while, Japan is a fascinating country.

Why ? Well this is not so simple to explain, but this is not so often that you have a country that can mix so well modernity and tradition.

A country where you can see people with the latest technology and at the same time women in kimonos, sumos in their maewashi training for the next tournament.

You have the giant Tokyo sky tree and the small very old shrine cohabiting without any problem. Talking about sumo, I fell in love with the sport. I had the chance to attend several morning training and went many times (really many times!) to several tournaments. That is something you can only see in Japan. A day at a tournament is such an exciting moment! Look at the concentration of the sumos, the colors of the clothes (from the judges, helper, sumos,...) the sounds (the songs and the noise of the wooden sticks), the ceremony and then finally the fights that last for a few seconds. Listen and look at japanese people how they love it! They eat, drink, yell, support their favorite, you will see them like you have never seen them! And the best you can approach your favorite sumo without any problem, what a trust!

A country where human being and respect have really a meaning, where people are taking care of each others.

When I'm lost (which happens very often) and I ask for help there is always someone helping me even coming with me to show me the way! When I loose something this is never stolen!

I also have made so many good friends here. When you got to know japanese people you can really see how big their heart is! Family oriented, laughing, enthusiastic about everything but especially the food. Food which is also one central element of the Japanese culture. Each city in Japan has it's speciality that you have to try! When you offer present most of the time you offer food! You can eat so many different things and always your food is looking like a piece of art in your plate. You eat with all your sin. I had the chance to try many specialities, like the nabe (kind of pot-au-feu). The sumo one, chanko, the hakata one, motsu, the beef one, the vegetable one and I can on on forever!!! And of course fishes, fished and prepared in front on you in this old and traditional restaurant where you are served by ladies in kimono and seating on a tatami, trying to put your leg in the most comfortable position that you can manage!

A country of water. Where you can dig in the hot thermal spring (onsen) to have a pure moment of relaxation, just enjoying the hot water, the electricity bath (yes a bit scary but worth it!)! And some small talks with local people, when you manage to understand what they want to tell you...

Yes communication. Even without speaking japanese you can manage but without the language you are more an observer than an active member of the country.

Learning Japanese is the only way for me to apprehend the complexity of the japanese culture. The structure of the language teach you as well the mentality of Japanese people. For example the way of asking things or refusing invitation is so subtile in Japanese and so polite, very different from the way you will say it in french!

This is opening you to new perspectives of thinking, giving you the opportunity to really enter in the japanese tradition and culture.

Tradition which is very present and important in Japan. Not only the sumo, but also all the matsuri (sort of carnival) that you can enjoy all around Japan and also some really traditional art like Kabuki and N , which I had the chance to enjoy in Tokyo in Fukuoka. With my japanese skills being more developed I also want to be able to attend a rakugo show one day (japanese comic story) and also be able to do some nice calligraphy, for the moment my kanjis just don't look like anything and when I look at some masterpieces I am kind of envious and I see the long way that I still have to go!

There is much more to say, but this is not so easy to explain with only words, Japan is a country that you have to experience fully with all your sins. This is an unique experience that I really recommend to people that want to open their minds and live something different. Don't be scared just try!