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Tourist attractions in Japan

В статье рассматриваются самые известные с точки зрения молодого европейца туристические объекты Японии. Описаны основные достопримечательности: храмы, музеи, тематические парки, прекрасные уголки природы. Несомненно, страна обладает богатым туристическим потенциалом для молодых путешественников из России.

Ключевые слова: туризм, туристические объекты, Япония, храмы, парки, красота природы

The paper analyses the most famous tourist attractions in Japan from the point of view of a young westerner. The main attractions such as temples, museums, thematic parks, beautiful pieces of nature are described. The country for sure has a rich tourism potential for young Russian travellers.

Keywords: tourism, tourist attractions, Japan, temples, parks, nature beauty

Japan is a truly unique country; it is of great interest to the inhabitants of the European and American regions. Japan is a country of the rising sun, with its long and ambiguous history, centuries-old traditions that have survived to our time.

Japan is the country which combines ancient history and modern achievements. It is one of the most developed countries of the world. Its history is inseparable with the history of China and other Asian countries. The Japanese imported rice sowing, methods of metal processing and construction, many philosophies, including Buddhism. Over time, Japan has been becoming more and more distinctive: the syllabic alphabet Kana was invented, chronicles and literary works were created. Nowadays Japan has highly developed education, science and technology, medicine and social insurance, nature preservation, but the country saves the most significant remains and

ancient cultural traditions. New features are appearing as well, Japanese anime and manga had a huge impact on the whole world. While working over the paper we asked students of Russian University of Transport what attracted them in Japan as a destination country. The results are summarized below.

In Japan there are many objects worthy of visiting by tourists, however, except for Mount Fuji (the highest point), foreigners know little about them. Now in Japan there are 13 objects included the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The three most beautiful views in Japan are floating torii – the gates of the Zonist temple on the island of Miyajima (near Hiroshima), the long sand spit Amanohashidate, which was called the “bridge to heaven” (off the coast of western Honshu, not far from Kyoto), the Matsushima Bay with many pine-covered islands, standing at sea, (in Honshu, near the port of Sendai). The three most beautiful gardens are Kairaku-en, Kenroku-en, Koraku-en.

The country has interesting museums: the Museum of earthquakes, volcanoes, the museum of dinosaurs, the museum of towels, the museum of burakumin (a social group of Japanese pariahs), of Minamata’s disease (from water pollution) and the museum of pears. In the south, on the island of Kyushu, there is a museum that make you be surprised – the kamikaze museum. During the Second World War soldiers-suicide bombers were prepared there, from there they were sent to death. The museums store various exhibits, including a photo archive of those young people who are ready to die in the name of the Motherland and letters from their mothers who urge them to honestly fulfill their duty. The tourists may also be interested in visiting such museums as the Ninja Museum in Iga Ueno, the Beer Museum in Sapporo, and even the Atomic Bomb Museum.

In Japan, there are a lot of aquariums, zoos, public and leisure parks, golf courses, ice rinks, places for sea sports, such as diving, have been built. It is interesting that in Japan there are 1,500 villages where tourists can practice farming and take part in any work, for example, planting rice seeds, get acquainted with sericulture processes, and also take care of the fields, where real tea is grown. 2360 resorts have 20,000 hot springs.

An important tourist attraction is 28,000 national parks. The degree of attendance at these parks is extremely high and is constantly growing. For every resident of Japan, on average, three trips to national parks occur. One of the most visited parks in Japan is the famous Fuji-Hakone-Izu.

Since the late 1980s, theme parks have been actively built in Japan, for example, the Tokyo Disneyland. The famous theme park is Universal Studios in Osaka, recreating scenes from Hollywood films. Finally, Disneysea is a Disneyland version on the water [**Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.**]. Among the theme parks there are the parks that reproduce the greatest architectural monuments of different times from around the world: the Hues Ten Bosch Park, named after the residence of the same name in the Netherlands and built in honor of the friendship of the Nether-

lands and Japan. There is also a Russian Village near Niigata with an Orthodox cathedral where concerts are held instead of services. There are two "German villages" in Hokkaido on Miyako Island in Okinawa Prefecture. Currently, Universal Studios Japan has eight sections: Hollywood, New York, San Francisco, Jurassic Period Park, Water, Friendship Village, Universal Wonderland and the Magical World of Harry Potter. Visitors can enjoy many attractions, from friendly carousels to exciting slides and simulators based on popular films such as Spider-Man, Back To The Future, Terminator 2 and Park Jurassic.

In Japan, there are approximately 230 thousand temples, including more than 80 thousand Zionist ones, slightly less Buddhist ones, and about 10 thousand Christian temples. Many of them are centers of attraction for both Japanese and foreign tourists. The temples included in the UNESCO list are:

- a complex of Buddhist temples and monuments of Khoruji-Nara;
- the historical temples in Kyoto;
- the Shinto shrine of Itsukushima from Miyajima;
- the Zionist and Buddhist temples of Nikko;
- the Sensozdi Buddhist Temple in Tokyo;
- the Kotoku-in Temple are popular;
- the main Zionist sanctuary of Ise, with the main temple rebuilt every 20 years.

The presence of a huge number of temples gives rise to this type of tourism as pilgrimage: today travel companies offer various tours, the purpose of which is to visit important religious centers in Japan.

In the Middle Ages, a huge number of castles were erected in Japan. Many of them were destroyed during the fires and civil wars, but later restored. The most beautiful castle is located in the city of Himeji (western Honshu), which has the status of a National Treasure. It is called the White Heron.

At the beginning of the 21st century, "culinary oases" gained popularity, there you can see and taste traditional Japanese dishes and sweets. These "oases" are designed to stimulate the development of regional economies by attracting a large number of visitors, not inly from the US and Europe, but also Thais or Latin Americans.

Domestic tourism in Japan is developing. The residents of the central and southern regions of Japan are attracted by the north of Honshu and Hokkaido – there they can see snow! The Japanese also love it when a lot of foreign tourist attractions are "at home," and they can enjoy the Japanese version of overseas.

The Japanese are very curious: they like to learn something new, spend time with good sense. Though until now, holidays in Japan are the shortest among developed countries.

Various educational courses were widely spread at which the domestic and foreign tourists are taught the skills of Ikebana, Bonatz, Origami, the production of ce-

amics and calligraphy, gardening and floriculture, cooking, etc. An important feature of Japanese tourists traveling both domestically and abroad is a short stay at the destination and very substantial expenses. The Japanese travel around the country for different purposes. According to some reports, about half of them pursue the goal of seeing the beauty of the country and plunging into a hot spring – onsen, others are attracted by local goods and cuisine.

As for the students surveyed in our investigation – the main reason for them to visit Japan could be learning the Japanese language. They are very interested in travelling around the country and in communicating with the local people.

A traditionally favorite form of relaxation is a trip, usually just one night, to the ryokan. Old ones are Japanese-style hotels, with an atmosphere of home comfort, the new ones are modern high-rise buildings with Japanese-style rooms that create the same atmosphere. The most popular ryokans include Kusatsu (Gumma), Beppu (Oita to Kyushu), Matsuyama (Ikoku) and others. People walk around the streets of such cities from morning till night in a yukata (light cotton kimono) and geta (traditional shoes on the “stand”), and having the furoshiki as a model of bags.

Such type of domestic tourism as “journey of the heart” doesn’t experience difficulties even during the time of recession. The routes for such a journey run in accordance with ancient paths to Buddhist and Shintoist temples and are designed for people craving for a unique experience. The shortest and cheapest are day trips from Tokyo. And the longest is a pilgrimage to 86 Shikoku Buddhist temples.

Admiring nature is one of the longstanding Japanese traditions. There are three main customs of this kind in the country: hanami, tsukimi and yukimi – respectively admiring flowers, the moon, and snow. Plum blossoms, festivals of irises, camellias are popular here. Azalea, but especially sakura – Japanese decorative cherry that does not have fruits. Japanese people admire sakura from ancient times.

Our paper shows that Japan is a really desirable destination for our students.

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