

Country comparison

| |  Japan |  United Kingdom |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Population | 127,769,994 (2005 census) | 60,975,400 (2007 estimates) |
| Area | 377,873 km (145,883 sq mi) | 244,820 km (94,526 sq mi) |
| Population density | 338/km (875.8/sq mi) | 249/km (645/sq mi) |
| Capital | Tokyo | London |
| Largest city | Tokyo – 8,652,700 (12,790,000 Metro) | London – 7,556,900 (13,063,441 Metro) |
| Government | Parliamentary system and Constitutional monarchy | Parliamentary system and Constitutional monarchy |
| Official languages | Japanese | English (other languages recognised) |
| Head of state | Emperor Akihito | Queen Elizabeth II |
| Head of government | Prime Minister Naoto Kan | Prime Minister David Cameron |
| GDP (nominal) | \$4.886 trillion (\$38,341 Per Capita) | \$2.772 trillion (\$45,845 Per Capita) |

Chronology of Anglo-Japanese relations

- 1587. Two young Japanese men named Christopher and Cosmas sailed on a Spanish galleon to California, where their ship was seized by Thomas Cavendish. Cavendish brought the two Japanese men with him to England where they spent approximately three years before going again with him on his last expedition to the South Atlantic. They are the first known Japanese men to have set foot in England.

William Adams (1564–1620).



- 1600. William Adams, a seaman from Gillingham, Kent, was the first Englishman to arrive in Japan. Acting as an advisor to the Tokugawa Shogun, he was renamed Miura Anjin, granted a house and land, and spent the rest of his life in his adopted country.
- 1605. John Davis, the famous English explorer, was killed by Japanese pirates off the coast of Thailand, thus becoming the first Englishman to be killed by a Japanese.^[1]
- 1623. The Amboyna massacre occurred. After the incident England closed its commercial base at Hirado, now in Nagasaki Prefecture, without notifying Japan. After this, the relationship ended for more than two centuries.
- 1639. Tokugawa Iemitsu completed its Sakoku policy. Only the Netherlands was permitted to retain limited trade rights.

- 1673. An English ship "Returner" visited Nagasaki harbour, and asked for a renewal of trading relations. But the Edo Shogunate refused. The government blamed it on the withdrawal 50 years earlier, and found it unacceptable that Charles II of England married Catherine of Braganza, who was from Portugal, and favoured the Roman Catholic Church.
- 1832. Otokichi, Kyukichi and Iwakichi, castaways from Aichi Prefecture, crossed the Pacific and were shipwrecked on the west coast of North America. The three Japanese men became famous in the Pacific Northwest and probably inspired Ranald MacDonald to go to Japan. They joined a trading ship to the UK, and later Macau. One of them, Otokichi, took British citizenship and adopted the name John Matthew Ottoson. He later made two visits to Japan as an interpreter for the Royal Navy.
- 1854. 14 October. The first limited Anglo-Japanese Friendship Treaty between the United Kingdom and Japan was signed by Admiral Sir James Stirling and representatives of the Tokugawa shogunate (Bakufu).
- 1855. In an effort to find the Russian fleet in the Pacific Ocean during the Crimean war, a French-British naval force reached the port of Hakodate, open to British ships as a result of the Anglo-Japanese Friendship Treaty of 1854, and sailed further North, seizing the Russian-American Company's possessions on the island of Urup in the Kuril archipelago. The Treaty of Paris (1856) restitutes the island to Russia^[2].
- 1858. 26 August. The Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Amity and Commerce was signed by the Scot Lord Elgin for the United Kingdom and representatives of the Tokugawa shogunate for Japan, after the Harris Treaty was concluded.
- 1861. 5 July. The British legation in Edo was attacked and Laurence Oliphant was wounded.



The First Japanese Embassy to Europe, in 1862

- 1862. The Shogun sends the First Japanese Embassy to Europe, led by Takenouchi Yasunori.
- 1862. 14 September. The Namamugi Incident occurred within a week of the arrival of Ernest Satow in Japan.
- 1863. Bombardment of Kagoshima by the Royal Navy. (Anglo-Satsuma War). The Choshu Five go secretly to England.
- 1864. Bombardment of Shimonoseki by the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands and the USA.
- 1867. The Icarus affair, an incident involving the murder of two British sailors in Nagasaki, leading to increased diplomatic tensions between Britain and the Tokugawa shogunate.



- 1872. The Iwakura mission visited the United Kingdom as part of a diplomatic and investigative tour of the United States and Europe.
- 1873. The Imperial College of Engineering opened with Henry Dyer as principal.
- 1885–87. Japanese exhibition at Knightsbridge, London.^[3]
- 1891. The Japan Society of London is founded by Arthur Diosy.
- 1894. The Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation was signed in London on 16 July. The treaty abolished extraterritoriality in Japan for British subjects with effect from 17 July 1899
- 1896. The Greek-born Northern Irish writer Lafcadio Hearn (*KOIZUMI Yakumo*) naturalised from the UK to Japan.
- 1902. The Anglo-Japanese alliance was signed in London on 30 January.
- 1905. The alliance was renewed and expanded.
- 1908. The Japan-British Society was founded in order to foster cultural and social understanding.
- 1911. The alliance was renewed.
- 1913. The IJN Kongo, the last of the British-built warships for Japan's navy enters service.
- 1914. Japan joined World War I as the United Kingdom's ally under the terms of the alliance and captured German-occupied Tsingtao (Qingdao) in China Mainland.
- 1921. Crown Prince Hirohito visited the UK and other European countries, via Singapore. It was the first time that a Japanese crown prince had travelled overseas.
- 1921. Arrival in September of the Sempill Mission in Japan, a British technical mission for the development of Japanese Aero-naval forces.
- 1923. The Anglo-Japanese alliance was officially discontinued on 17 August after U.S. pressure and other factors brought it to a close.
- 1939. The Tientsin Incident almost causes an Anglo-Japanese war when the Japanese blockade the British concession in Tientsin, China.
- 1941–1945. Japan enters World War II as an enemy of the British Empire and captures British colonies Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong and Singapore. Many British POWs die in Japanese captivity.
- 1948. The 1948 Summer Olympics was held in London. Japan did not participate.

- 1951. Treaty of San Francisco – the peace treaty in which Anglo-Japanese relations were normalised. One condition of the treaty was Japan's acceptance of the judgments of the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal (Article 11).
- 1963. The University of Oxford set Japanese as a subject in its Oriental Institute (the Sub-Faculty of East Asian Studies).
- 1966. On 5 March, BOAC Flight 911 disintegrated and crashed near Mount Fuji. All 113 passengers and 11 crew members were killed.
- 1966. The Beatles played at Nippon Budokan in Tokyo to overwhelming adulation.
- 1971. HIM Emperor Hirohito pays a state visit to the United Kingdom after an interval of 50 years.^[4]
- 1975. HM Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom pays a state visit to Japan.^[5]
- 1978. Beginning of the BET scheme (British Exchange Teaching Programme) first advocated by Nicholas MacLean.^[6]
- 1983. Naruhito (now Japan Crown Prince) studied at Merton College, Oxford until 1985, and researched transport on the River Thames.
- 1986. Nissan Motors began to work its car plant in Sunderland, as Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.
- 1986. Charles, Prince of Wales visited Japan with his wife, Diana.
- 1987. JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) programme starts when the BET scheme and the Fulbright scholarship are merged.
- 1988. The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation established.
- 1991. The first Sumo tournament to be held outside Japan is hosted at the Royal Albert Hall in London.^[7]
- 1998. HIM Emperor Akihito pays a state visit to the United Kingdom.^{[4][8]}
- 2001. The year-long "Japan 2001" cultural-exchange project saw a major series of Japanese cultural, educational and sporting events held around the UK.
- 2008. UK-Japan 2008 celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Amity and Commerce.^[9]

This year marks a significant anniversary in UK-Japan relations. Found out more about Mt Fuji's role. (Website :British Embassy Tokyo)

<http://ukinjapan.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=22468776>



In 1860, [Sir Rutherford Alcock](#), Britain's first Minister to Japan, became the first foreigner to climb Mount Fuji.

To mark the 150th anniversary of this achievement David Warren, Britain's Ambassador to Japan, took part in the annual ceremony marking the opening of climbing season at Mt Fuji. In speeches focussing on historical ties, as well as the need to protect the natural beauty of places such as the sacred mountain, David said:

"This year we celebrate not only Sir Rutherford's ascent but also the long-standing relationship between our two nations. For many foreigners Mt Fuji is the symbol of Japan. To ensure that the mountain's natural beauty continues to exist for future generations, we should all, as individuals, learn to live in harmony with, and protect, our natural surroundings."

Sir Rutherford Alcock did much to extend understanding of Japan in Britain through his books *The Capital of the Tycoon* (1863) and *Art and Industries in Japan* (1878). His affection for Japan is reflected in his writings, which include the observation:

"I [saw] peace, plenty, apparent content, and a country more perfectly cultivated and kept, with more ornamental timber everywhere, than can be matched even in England".

About David Warren Ambassador

I was born in 1952 in London and joined the Foreign Office in 1975 after reading English at Oxford University. I have spent most of my career since then dealing with Asia. After two years learning Japanese, I worked in the Economic Department of the British Embassy in Tokyo, at the time of the "second oil shock" in the late 1970s/early 1980s, returning in 1993 as the Head of the commercial team in the Embassy, helping British companies export to and invest in Japan.

I have also worked for long stretches in London, in the Foreign Office on International Trade Policy (1983-86), and in the Cabinet Office on International Science and Technology (1991-93). I have spent the last 10 years in London, firstly in charge of the Foreign Office department dealing with China (after the hand-over of Hong Kong), then helping to set up UK Trade and Investment, the government's commercial promotion body, and finally 3 ½ years on the Foreign Office Board as the Human Resources Director.

I met my wife Pamela, who is a teacher, on my one posting that had nothing to do with Asia – in Nairobi, Kenya, where she was working in the 1980s and I worked in the British High Commission from 1987 to 1990. I came to Tokyo as Ambassador at the end of July 2008.