



Midterm Report 2024

SJCC SCHOLARSHIP MIDTERM REPORT
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Part I - Personal Experience Introduction

Japan and its rich culture were always fascinating to me. I remember the wonderful emotions watching Sailor Moon, Inuyasha and seeing Documentaries about the wild Animal Kingdom in northern Japan as a kid. As soon as I turned 21, I was determined to travel to Japan and experience the culture and country myself. In 2013 I went on my first grand travel all by myself to Japan. There were the most memorable 18 days of my young life. When I left on the plane from Narita Airport, tears streaming down my cheeks - I knew that it was love at first sight. Since then, I tried to return every year to Japan. When people asked me, why I was so fascinated over this country I could never really put it in words. Except to explain it as “my soul is then at its most peaceful state”.

When I was missing Japan, I went to conventions in Switzerland like the JapaniManga or the cultural Festival in Wil, St. Gallen. I always looked for Japanese Restaurants in Switzerland, but also abroad to taste the most authentic dishes from my visits. In 2014 I took my first steps in the Japanese Language, staying at a host family and visiting a language school in Takadanobaba. I realised that this journey would be a rocky one but was convinced that I want to take this step further. I took classes during my studies at university in Switzerland and kept looking for chances to live in Japan. I worked for several international companies with branches in Japan, always hoping to enroll into a deployment program of the company.

In February 2023, a close friend sent me a link over LinkedIn about the SJCC and their scholarship program. After applying and two rounds of interviews I was told that I got the major opportunity to go to Japan. I was over the moon and started my preparations.

It was a difficult decision because I had just started to work at a company, which was enriching my career and just currently got out of a mayor mental health issue. But my passion for Japan was stronger and I saw it as a chance from fate. With the agreement of the SJCC I decided to delay my departure for early 2024. I want to thank at this point again the committee of the SJCC for their understanding and given opportunity.

This report will cover in the first part the first 6 months of my experiences in Tokyo. In the second part I will share an overview of the occuring problematics of overtourism and the consequences for the Japanese tourism.

Part I – Personal Experience Preparations

After receiving the positive results from the SJCC, I had to get my preparations for the year in Japan following points covered:

- Sign up to a suitable language school and the student visa procedure with GogoNihon
- Look for housing situation during my stay
- Research and reaching out to companies for an internship or job for the second half of the year
- Saving money and get the required administrative paperwork done

The timeline was as following:

- Attend language school to achieve a useful skill level of Japanese for possible job-opportunities (Q1-Q2)
- Apply and start an internship or job (Q2-Q4)
- Changing Visa status from student to work permission

To start my journey to Tokyo I had to find a suitable language school. In 2014 I was attending the beginners' course at the ISI Language School in Takadanobaba. Since I had good experiences with the school, I knew that I wanted to attend one of the ISI's Campus here in Tokyo. The Shibuya campus is one of the newer branches and offers a course with the focus on building careers in Japan. They offer jobhunting support and business-related topics in class. GogoNihon provided a simple application-process with the favourable institute and guided me through the visa process. I applied in June and was able to pick up my student visa by end of September. I highly recommend to use the support of GogoNihon to find a language school and applying for the visa. Also, I do recommend to start this process rather early than late, since it can take some time to get the required documents. If you are looking to participate in a parttime job I highly recommend to already register for this while applying for the student visa. It will save you from spending hours at the official wards to apply for it here in Japan. After getting the visa, I started to look for suitable apartments. I knew from the start that I did not favour to live with other students or at a host family. On Gaijinpot, a very helpful homepage with foreign friendly housing options, I reached out to different agencies but mostly received the respond, that as an applicant they'd prefer I could take viewing tours in person than over the web. I decided to take an Airbnb apartment for the first month and then look for a permanent housing while I was there. I wanted to spend some days to readjust to the time difference and explore a bit possible neighbourhoods by myself and booked my flight 10 days before the school would start.

After getting the two most crucial points done, I could take my time to prepare my leave from work and saying friends and family goodbye. On December 28th I said my partner and my two cat's goodbye and took the plane to Tokyo.

Arriving in Tokyo and settling in

I arrived in the afternoon of the 29th December at Haneda Airport. The retrieval of my resident card (Zairyu-card) was swift and entry Japan at the import control with an exemption for my medicine (Yunyu Kakunin-sho) went smooth too. I had previously reserved a mobile SIM with a Japanese number via the provider MOBAL. All I had to do was to pick it up at the airport. If you want a hassle-free process to get a Japanese number, I do recommend using the services of MOBAL. They offer even services for short-term stays.

To make the arrival feel more like a holiday in the beginning, I had booked a few nights at a hotel in Roppongi. Despite being severely sick the first few days and not really able to get around the city, I began the new year at a nice skyscraper bar with a gorgeous view of the Tokyo Tower.

The new year didn't start rosy. I was shaken awake on January 1st, 2024, by an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.4 in the centre of Tokyo. The prefecture Niigata was struck with a horrific quake of 7.6 magnitude, which left 260 people dead and hundreds without shelter. The efforts to provide the citizens of Noto with reconstructions of their houses are still taking place now in Summer 2024.

After that massive earthquake, I was blunt spoken, in shock and had to face the fact that more earthquakes could occur and that I had to learn quickly the basic emergency measurements.

On January 2nd, two planes collided at the Haneda Airport runway. The same runway I had arrived a few days prior.

It all seemed to tell me that this year could be a bigger challenge than previously anticipated. But I didn't let those disastrous events hinder me to look forward to an exciting year.

I moved to the Airbnb near Edogawabashi and made sure to register at the municipal ward in Shinjuku-Wakamatsucho within the first 14 days. While registering my address, I registered as well to the National Health Insurance (NHI) which is mandatory for residents. For future recipients of the scholarship, I highly recommend to inform yourself regarding the insurance policy at the school to make sure that you won't receive costly monthly contributions. Also take in consideration to either cancel your insurance in your origin country or at least apply for an exemption during your stay in Japan.

When the school started, I was put into the afternoon class, which would start at 1 pm and last to 4 pm. The speed of the class subjects was rather fast, but since it wasn't an all-beginners group, it was feasible with a fair amount of self-study at home.

The next administrative step was the opening of a bank account. The bank account is needed if you want to apply for a part-time or fulltime job and/or apartment. Since as a foreigner, which was less than 6 months in Japan, I couldn't apply to any bank so easily.

I did my research and decided to open an account at the Japan Post bank, which allowed foreigners to open an account with less of 6 months residency.

The JP bank account was a basic one, which allows to use a cash card, but no debit or credit card. Also were international money transfers not possible. The withdrawal of cash at the ATM's would always come with a fee (except for specific JP Bank ATM's). The registration of the account was time consuming since most of the directions were only available in Japanese and the post staff was not used to communicate in English. By further exchange with classmates, we figured out that the best options were the Suruga Bank (E-bank, which provides debit and credit cards) and Wise (E-Money Bank, also providing different cards and allows you to do international and national transfers).

During my first month at the Airbnb in Edogawabashi I kept looking for a permanent stay. I found an agency which was specialised in foreign friendly apartments. The agency LivingJapan is based in Shimbashi and has English speaking staff. I sent my request including my monthly rent budget, desired wards and possible travel time to Shibuya. Their respond was fast and professional, they offered the viewing tours a week later. I visited in total 5 apartments and fell in love with my current one instantly. To sign the rental contract, I was obliged to get an official Hanko (name seal) and a Juminhyo (registry of current residential address) from the new ward office. If you are a student, it is essential to bring a proof of savings or other way of income. Like in Switzerland there is a deposit fee (mostly 1 to 2 monthly rents), key money, agency fees and/or management fees. Also, there is a lease-renewal charge after the 12 months. In most cases they will return at least 1 month of the deposit back when moving out. But there are cases where the rental company will not return those fees. Therefore it was crucial to understand the rental contract. The agency was supporting me during the signing by helping me understand the contract in all its aspects. This is not unusual, since even Japanese people always use agencies to help them understand the complicated paragraphs of those renting contracts.

I moved into my new home nearly 2.5 weeks after sending my application. Regarding my case, I'd advice future Scholarship holders to first get a Japanese phone number (like with MOBAL), get the resident card (Zairyu) and register at the destined ward office (Juminhyo), open a bank account and register for the National Health Insurance (NHI).

A typical day of school would look like this:

Getting up at around 8am and prepare breakfast and enjoy a coffee on my balcony while viewing the skyline of the Toshima ward. Then either prepare for the topic of today's class or review kanji. Around 11am I would pack my lunch or head out to pick up something from the konbini. I'd take the local train (Tobu Line) to the JR Train station Ikebukuro and take the JR Line Yamanote to Shibuya. From the Shibuya station I'd take a short walk to the school. We would confirm our attendance with the teacher and get started at 1pm. The class is divided in two 90 minutes lessons covering reading, writing, kanji, grammar and listening. At 4pm class ends and either we would head to the studies area to learn together or head quickly to the station to avoid the rush hour.

I'd pass by at the local supermarket to buy fresh ingredients for dinner or go to a restaurant on my way home. Then at home I'd do the homework and review difficult topics. Since I had a full day, I'd unwind with streaming some series, of course in Japanese, or go for a walk in the neighbourhood. Around 9pm I'd enjoy the typical hot bath and then get to rest.

My first 6 months in Tokyo

Time flies so fast. After the first 3 months of intense administrative tasks and establishing a daily routine, the normality started to set in. The days started to feel all the same with a set routine to keep the learning effective. While the weather in springtime was merely feeling like spring (it rained the most of the time which resulted in the delay of the so most anticipated Sakura blooming), the seasonal change to summer brought back all those memories of my previous summer vacations in Japan. The temperature rising above 30 degrees in regular and making walking outside a competitive race from one airconditioned Konbini to the next.

Looking back at myself at the beginning of my journey I realize how I have grown personally. I am more aware of my surrounding and also taking in precautions to not negatively impact other people around me by causing disruption. Or taking more frequent trips away from the bustling city to the calm and slowed down nature side (even if it is just a walk at the Meiji-jingu Park or Kamakura Seaside).

At the moment I am in the process of applying for jobs and keeping up with my learning of Japanese. This turns out to be a more tiring process as thought. Especially regarding the language barrier. I took the JLPT N4 test at beginning of July 2024 and until then it was difficult to engage in a position without the language certificate. Meeting other scholar recipients and members of the SJCC and Swiss Embassy in Shibuya was nice and helpful to gather information from others on their journey. I hope I will get soon positive feedback from an interview and can start the process of changing my visa from student to working permit. How it went and what I am currently doing by then will be then covered by my final report of my Scholarship year in Japan.

Part II – Overtourism and the consequences

FINANCE · JAPAN

The weak yen and 'Instagram culture' made tourism Japan's second-largest export. Not everyone is happy about that

BY LIONEL LIM
July 11, 2024 at 11:59 AM GMT+9



JAPAN

Japan tourism agency picks model areas aiming to address overtourism

MAY 15, 2024

Japan visitors exceed 3 million for second straight month, tourism agency says

While the surge in arrivals is good news for the economy, it has caused some friction with locals.

JAPAN / SOCIETY

Japan likes tourists, just not this many



JAPAN / SOCIETY

MAY 21, 2024

Weary of overtourism, Japan town blocks one popular view of Mount Fuji

The large mesh barrier was put up at the popular photo-taking spot in Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi Prefecture, in response to misbehaving tourists.

Japan doesn't have too many tourists, statistics suggest. It just feels that way.



ENVIRONMENT / SUSTAINABILITY / OUR PLANET

As visitors surge, Japan seeks ways to make tourism eco-friendly



An empty street in Fukiya, Okayama Prefecture. Japan may be both experiencing overtourism in some places and witnessing the opposite in others. | JASON JENKINS

BY ELIZABETH BEATTIE
STAFF WRITER

🔗 SHARE Jul 11, 2024

Part II – Overtourism and the consequences

Facts and Numbers (Pre-Covid/After Covid)

In 2019 the average amount of Tourist visiting Japan reached a record high. Over 31.9 Million Visitors came and travelled around Japan (Source Japan National Tourism Organisation). Most of them took the made the famous cities like Osaka, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Fukuoka. The most named reason for the travel is Sightseeing, followed by Business. For fact, the majority of travelers are from the East Asian Region, counting China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia. Visitors from the Western Countries like United States, United Kingdom, Canada and France were strong represented in 2019.

By February 2020, the numbers of Travelers decreased due the outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions by over 60 percent which then continued to decrease to less than 1 million arrivals in March 2020 (Source Japan National Tourism Organisation). The travel restrictions were installed with the goal to minimize the numbers of infectants and outbreaks. For the following months Japan had one of the strictest travel protocols worldwide. To put in perspective, while in 2019 over 31 million Arrivals were registered, the total number of Arrivals for 2020 were under 5 million registered Arrivals, meaning a decrease of over 85 percent to the year before. The main tourists travelling were mainly Japanese Citizens and therefor domestic tourism. Even the largest group of foreign visitors and country neighbor, South Korea, had little to no possibilities to travel to Japan.

When I travelled for the first time to Japan in 2013 there were significantly less foreign visitors on historic sites. I was able to visit the golden Temple in Kyoto without too many people standing in front of it and taking great pictures. The Arashimaya Forrest was nearly empty and felt reverent as it should be. In Osaka, the long Shopping Arcade at Dotonbori was busy, but still passable. While the communication was still a main issue, it was mostly doable by requesting either the English menu or fumbling with the translate apps.

In October 2022 Japan lifted the Travel restrictions for visa applicants and re-installed the validity of previous issued visas. Trade relevant countries like South Korea, China, Singapore and Taiwan were able to travel to Japan for the purpose of business, temporary residents or aerial lay overs. Non-Business-related travels were allowed under the restrictions by booking a package by governmental registered guided tours. By April 2023, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs lifted all the travel restrictions on individual foreign visitors. The numbers of tourist arrivals were still very low during the year 2023, less than 26 million.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism defined their goals ongoing from 2019 to 2025 to boost sustainable tourism, increase in tourism consumptions and promote regional attraction.

Understanding the rise of tourism in Japan

Japan has been in the past time a desired destination, while most travellers are looking to visit countries with a low language barrier, Japan was mainly visited with hesitation regarding lack of communication. While there were many organised group travels with a bilingual guide, individual visitors were still low in number. With the access to translation apps like Google Translate and specified travel dictionaries, the individual tourism started to gain more and more popularity. Here is also to mention, with the opening of anime and Japanese culture to the mainstream, the interest increased and therefor more people started to look into travelling through Japan by themselves. In the beginnings of the 2010s the number of visitors began to rise. This was also pursued by the Japanese tourism Officials, which saw the potential of economic growth with the strengthening of the tourism sector. Great benefits like the Japan Rail Pass, which allows foreign visitors the use of public transport like the famous bullet trains, gained more importance. Same-time translators or even English guidance pamphlets took the most intimidating hurdle even for inexperienced travellers. The sheer number of tax-free opportunities and the possibility to provide souvenirs for every desire and the world known delicious food got Japan a must-visit status on many holiday destination lists.

With the increasing interest the importance of being also a likable destination for sport events, Tokyo got selected again as the host city for the summer Olympics 2020 at the IOC session in Argentina 2013 after their first hosting of the summer games in 1964 and the winter Olympics in 1972 (Sapporo) and 1998 (Nagano). The government began to increase the efforts to introduce more translations to public spaces, open more local shops to the tax-free program and getting the Japanese population access to language courses. Between 2012 and 2017 the number of international visitors to Japan increased by a factor of 3.4 times and tourism consumption increased 4.1 times¹. Due to the still occurring travel restrictions and health measurements, the Japanese Government was forced to postpone the Summer Olympics from 2020 to Summer 2021. To keep athletes and staff safe, the event took place without public spectators permitted. This was a first instance, to reschedule and hold the competitions without spectators for the Olympic Committee. The total of loss due to those measurements were never fully disclosed but is estimated to be 150 billion JPY. Especially the loss of the calculated ticket sales (around 900 million JPY)² and the resulting higher spending of event related tourism (estimated around 150 billion JPY)³ led to a shrinkage of the GPD (Gross Domestic Product) of 0.7 trillion Japanese Yen⁴. Since then, the Government has started to boost the tourism sector to make Japan as attractive as possible for international tourism. The biggest impact of foreign travellers would be the

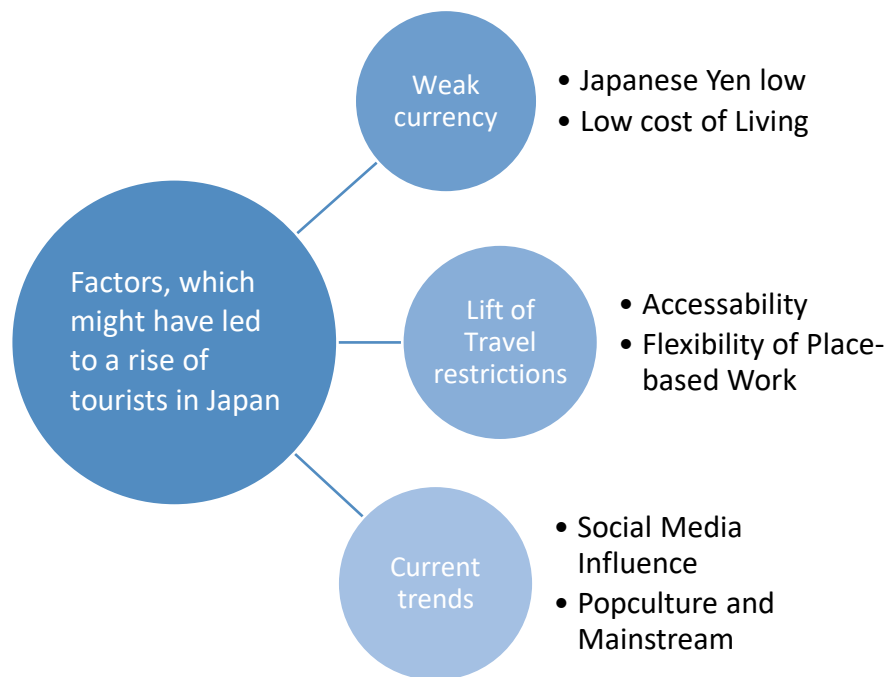
¹ White Paper on Tourism in Japan 2023, P. 3

² <https://www.tokyoupdates.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/post-603/>

³ <https://www.nri.com/en/knowledge/blog/1st/2021/fis/finsights/Market-0525>

⁴ <https://www.tokyoupdates.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/post-603/>

upscaling of the Japanese currency. The Japanese Yen has reached in January 2024 its lowest value after a decade with 141.120 JPY for 1 USD⁵.



Source: japannakama.co.uk, January 16, 2023, graphic: own

Problematics of increased visitor numbers

By looking at the most frequent travelled spots there are the big three destinations: Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto⁶. Followed Nagoya, famous for the Nagoya Castle, Hokkaido Region (Sapporo Snow Festival, the lavish nature and of course the famous Hokkaido Milk), Mount Fuji is considered a must-go destinations for the majestic view and the located different onsen towns at its foot (like Lake Kawaguchi), Hakuba Valley in the Nagano Prefecture, which is famous for its ski and hiking trails, Okinawa Islands (lagoon blue water and beautiful beaches), Yokohama with its bustling harbour quarter and Fukuoka with its mild climate and famous Hakata Gion Festival. These travel trends make those spots a desired destinations from travellers all over the world. Walking nowadays in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto can inkle that there are too many tourists. But on the recent travel to the regions of Hokkaido depict another picture. The further away the destination is from a frequent transit airport (like Tokyo Narita, Tokyo Haneda, Osaka Itami and Osaka Kansai) the lesser tourists are present. The assumption to get more tourists to lesser-known places by providing tour busses and taxi services to those areas has been introduced by the Japanese ministry of tourism in October 2023⁷. These would redirect the stream of travellers away from the crowded cities like Osaka and Tokyo and would support the local municipalities. Beside the problem of crowded attractions, there is the problem of littering. Japan is known to for its cleanness, but public garbage bins are rarely found (see here for the reason: [the](#)

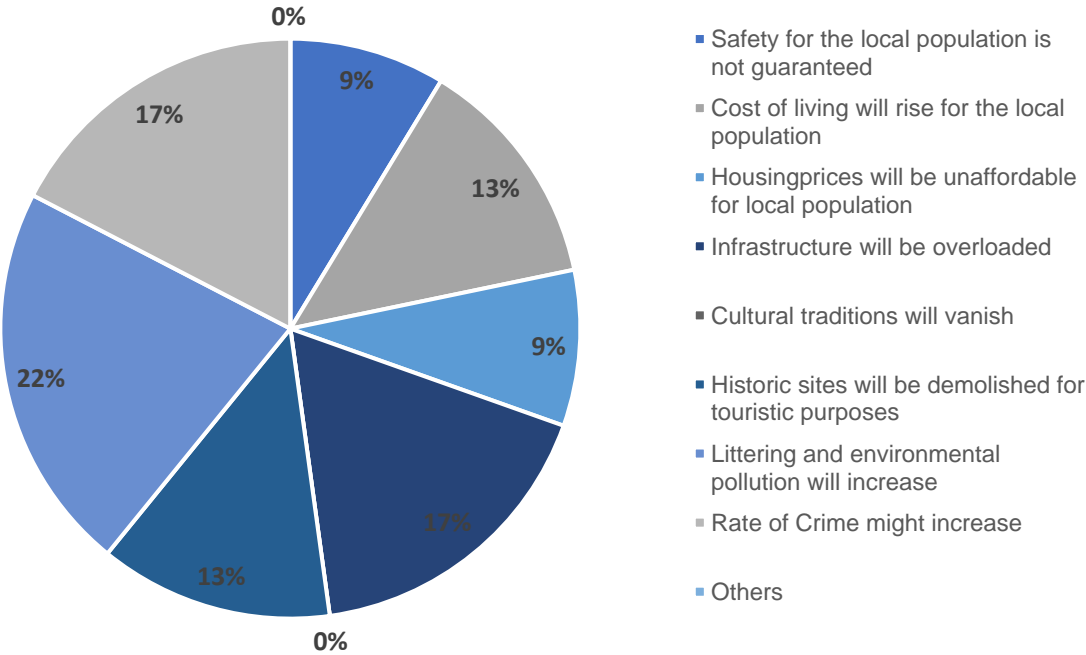
⁵ <https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/usd-to-jpy-rate/history>

⁶ <https://japanandmore.com/destinations/>

⁷ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/10/18/japan/society/overtourism-prevention-plan/>

[sarin gas attack 1995](#)). Japanese citizens are taught at a young age to take their trash home for correct disposal. As in other countries, public garbage bins are available in many places. People who don't know the etiquette of taking the trash of the day home or to the hotel are often then standing between the choice to carry the trash around all day or in worse case, to leave it somewhere. The ministry of tourism has decided to combat the growing littering with providing garbage bin with popular characters⁸. Even if providing the bins, most people demand more presence from either law enforcements or other patrolling securities to ensure a correct behaviour. It is not clear if the presence of these guards would solve the littering, especially since it implies that those would only fine foreigners, but not Japanese people. While littering is one of the problems, the factor of tourists walking into private grounds is increasing. Many locals are angered due to the overstepping of private land or paths. Especially farmers are worried, since often tourists walk into their fields to take pictures, unbothered to trample down crops and flowers⁹. Nara, the famous town of the polite deer's and ancient temple, has been in the news recently regarding an incident of a visitor mistreating the sacred deers¹⁰. While this might be a single act of an individual, the locals are still concerned that there could be more such misbehaviour in the future.

What are possible threats of overtourism?



Source: Own survey

⁸ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/10/18/japan/overtourism-littering-nudge-theory/>
⁹ <https://www.travelvoice.jp/english/japan-tourism-agency-suggests-concrete-ideas-to-prevent-over-tourism-in-the-cross-ministries-meeting>
¹⁰ <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15363530>

Consequences and Countermeasures now and in the future

With the increase of yearly visitors, the provided infrastructure in some cities came more and more to its limits. Kyoto, one of the popular visiting places had to announce in Spring 2024 a Ban of foreigners to the Gion district, after an increase of unruly tourists ignoring the stated etiquette rules to not interact inappropriately with the famous Maikos and Geishas. This was five years after the photography ban in 2019. After incidents of foreign Tourist following the artists, tugging on their precious robes, touching them inappropriately, still trying to take pictures without their consent and trespassing on private properties, it got impossible for the residents to endure longer the negative impact of the daily mass of visitors. By July 1st, the district of Gion is now off-limits for foreigners. The trespassing of visitors, who are not living or working in the area will now be fined with 10'000 JPY. The measurement has shown to be effective, since the signs are translated in different languages. Due to its historic gardens and temples, Kyoto's Public Transport came to its limits providing transfers for locals and visitors, which led the City Government to introduce specified Busses to the busiest sites.

In Fall of 2023 the government of the Yamanashi Prefecture introduced a daily visitor cap to access the popular Mount Fuji Hiking trails, which consists of 3000 pre-registered climbers and 1000 unregistered per day. This was implemented by June 19th in 2024, to prevent congestions on the trail and ensure safety for hikers. In the same prefecture, after major safety rules and complaints of locals, the photogenic spot at a Lawson Konbini with the Mount Fuji in the background was forced to install a visibility fence to stop visitors crowding up in front of it to take pictures. This was necessary due to visitors stopping in the middle of the street, blocking cars and busses, disposing of trash around the area and noise complaints from the residents. Unfortunately, this measurement has shown to be less effective, it was discovered that view-holes were teared into the fence to still capture the scene on camera.

The voices of concerned residents are getting louder for restrictions regarding the rise of incoming tourists due to the weak yen.

The ministry of tourism has announced to take measurements to limit the possibility of overtourism with three strategies from FY2022 to reach in FY2025 ¹¹ .

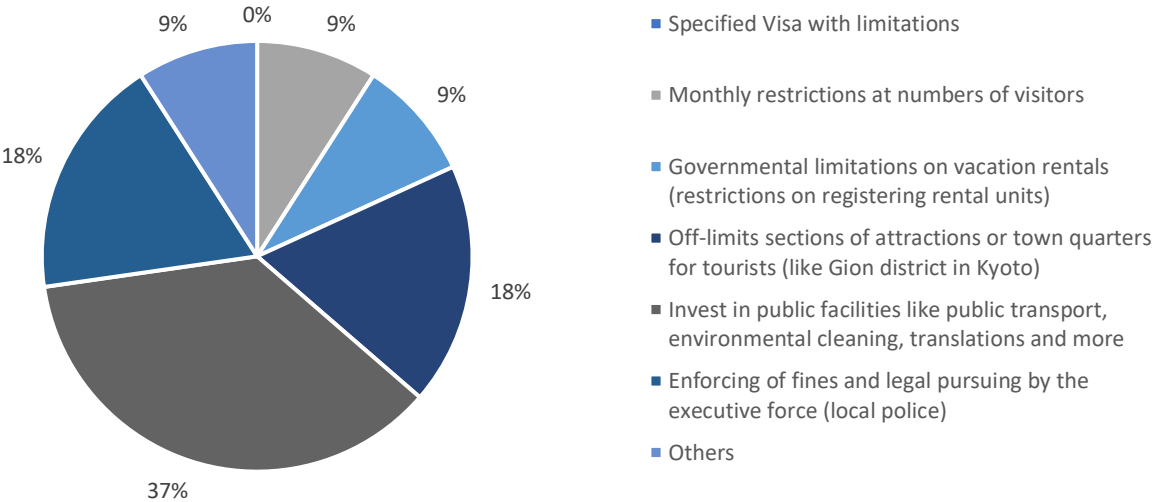


Source: Whitepaper on Tourism in Japan 2023

In summary of the strategy consists about distributing the stream of tourist to less centralized destinations (like the Shonai Region, Omihachiman or Shirakami), strengthen the local providers (restauration of old facilities and offering of heritage stays) and getting Japan to be relevant for conventions, congresses and expositions (see World Expo 2025 in Osaka).

In a survey among my classmates from my language school and friends who have already visited Japan in numerous occasions, their proposition regarding countermeasures for overtourism whereas following:

What kind of countermeasures could be implemented?



Source: Own survey

¹¹ White Paper on Tourism in Japan 2023, P. 22

To get a better understanding regarding possible countermeasures, a counter question was included to the survey. The question “Why could counter measurements for over tourism not be needed” brought following results:

- The local currency, Japanese Yen, needs to stabilize with help of foreign currency
- Visitors could help to contribute to higher birthrates and rejuvenation of the population
- The tourist sector is needed to provide more job opportunities

In conclusion, the idea of using the increase of visitors to stabilize the Japanese currency is one way of solving the problematic of reducing incoming travellers. But also to introduce a possibility to turn short time visitors into long term residents and creating job opportunities for locals and also foreigners.

Thinking about using foreign currency to stabilize the Japanese Yen might be the fastest solution to keep the increase of visitors in a controlled frame. If the currency can stabilize in its value or even better, increase in its value, therefor less travellers can afford the vacation and/or wealthy travellers with higher possibilities of spending would be in align with the strategy FY2025 of the ministry of tourism.

This strategy would need a long term planning and would not solve the problematics of overtourism, since most of the facilities are not equipped to provide to the increase of visitors.

The countermeasure strategy of providing more access to rural areas in Japan would help the larger cities to thin out the congestions in go-to spots (like Osaka or Kyoto, to direct more visitors to rural places like the Shibazakura Park, the Kawachinagano ward and more¹². With distributing the stream of tourists to different locations, the problematic of crowded streets, increased lodging prices and increasing of local job opportunities could be solved. Investing in sustainable tourism could provide in the long-term rehabilitation of facilities and services. The Japanese Government has chosen 11 model tourist destinations, like Ise-Shima in the prefecture Mie, to offer tourist to experience the nature and other attractions¹³.

What will the future bring?

Solving the problematics of Overtourism is a complex task, which needs multifaced approach. Especially in a culture rich place like Japan. While trying to remind visitors to be respectful of their behaviour but still letting them enjoy themselves to immerse

¹² <https://www.romancing-japan.com/posts/countermeasures-to-overtourism-in-japan/>

¹³ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/10/18/japan/society/overtourism-prevention-plan/>

into the exciting experience is a balancing act. It is crucial for the future to preserve the nature and sceneries of the country to keep it as long as possible enjoyable for everyone, not just the visitors.

Implementing boundaries for visitors and provide long lasting opportunities for locals would be the highest goal for the government. Especially since the ministry of tourism in Japan wants to keep increasing the numbers of tourists every year. There will always be tourists who are not satisfied from their trip to Japan, but that is completely normal and ok. But upsetting the local residents and ruining cultural sights just for the sake of making profit is never ok. Finding the balance will be a hard task for Japan, but it is sure that they will get closer to the goal every time. And hopefully more tourists will want to enjoy the “real” Japan experience and take their steps further than just the obvious overwalked path.

Overall, I have spent a very eventful time in Japan so far. In many ways, it has been a challenging journey with ups and downs, but in the end, I am very happy to have made the decision to come here. I have already learned a lot and hope to continue learning for the coming time.

