

Japan's passport power and travel habits

Vocabulary Match

- powerful ● citizens ● concerns ● overseas ● suggest ● experts ●
- worries ● strong ● abroad ● advise ● specialists ● people

Article

Japan has the world's second most powerful passport. It allows travel to 190 countries without a visa. However, only 17.5% of Japanese citizens have one. This number is much lower than in countries like South Korea, the U.S., or Taiwan.

The main reasons are a weak yen, expensive flights, and safety concerns abroad. Many young people feel that travelling overseas is too costly and risky. Instead, they prefer to travel within Japan.

Experts suggest the government could help by giving free passports to young first-time travellers. Meanwhile, Japan continues to welcome more foreign tourists every year.

Quiz

1. How many countries can Japanese citizens travel to without a visa?
2. What percentage of Japanese citizens have a passport?
3. Why do many young Japanese people avoid travelling overseas?
4. What do experts suggest to encourage more young people to travel abroad?

Conversation

- A: Did you get your passport yet?
B: No, it's too expensive for me right now.
A: Oh? How much does it cost?
B: About 16,000 yen I think.
A: Ouch. But I heard they might give free passports to young people.
B: Really? That would be awesome!

Discussion

1. Have you ever traveled to another country?
2. What is your dream travel destination and why?
3. Do you think traveling is expensive? Why or why not?
4. What is your favorite place to visit in your own country?