



THE
JAPAN
SOCIETY



Events 2025

The Japan Society held 108 events in 2025, attended by over 40,000 people. Of these events, 85 were held in-person with 23 online.

Annual & Special Events

- 17 Mar Lecture by Julia Longbottom CMG, British Ambassador to Japan *at Nomura International*
- 23 Jul The Japan Society Annual General Meeting 2025 *at the Embassy of Japan*
- 21 Sep Japan Matsuri 2025 *at Trafalgar Square*
- 15-19 Oct The Grand Sumo Tournament *at the Royal Albert Hall*
- 14 Nov The Japan Society Annual Dinner 2025 with The Rt Hon Michael Portillo *at the House of Commons*
- 26 Nov The Sir Hugh Cortazzi Lecture with Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, *at Chatham House*
- 11 Dec The Japan Society Christmas Party 2025 *at the Embassy of Japan*

Arts & Culture Events

- 11 Jan New Year's Calligraphy Workshop: Celebrating the Year of the Snake, with calligrapher Yoko Takenami
- 18 Feb Home for All: Sanctuaries for Post-disaster Community Rebuilding, with Mark Dytham MBE and Yuko Yoshikawa, in partnership with Home for All - みんなの家ネットワーク (*online lecture*)
- 12 Mar Jomon Repotted: The Potential Impact of Jomon World Heritage, with Professor Simon Kaner (*online lecture*)
- 11-12 Apr Woodblock Printing Workshops, with artist Hiroko Imada
- 26 Apr Shakyo Calligraphy Workshop for Beginners, with calligrapher Yoko Takenami
- 30 Apr Rakugo Performance: The Art of Japanese Comic Storytelling, co-organised with Japan House London in association with English Rakugo Association
- 14 May Drawing on Japan: A Conversation with Rebecca Salter, artist and President of the Royal Academy of Arts, in collaboration with SOAS Japan Research Centre and The Japanese Women's Association in Great Britain
- 8 Jun Paper Clouds – Japan Pavilion – Private Tour with architect and educator Toshiki Hirano, curator Clare Farrow and violinist and composer Midori Komachi, *at London Design Biennale, Somerset House*
- 11 Jul Hiroshige: Artist of the Open Road – Private View, with curator Dr Alfred Haft, *at British Museum*
- 15 Jul Yoshitomo Nara Exhibition – Guided Tour, with curator Katie Guggenheim, *at Hayward Gallery*
- 19 Jul Summer Calligraphy Workshop: Make Your Own Sensu - Folded Fan, with calligrapher Yoko Takenami
- 2 Sep Earth Sense: Artists' Talk with Hamish Fulton and Masako Yasuki, moderated by curator and writer Jonathan Watkins, in partnership with The Prince Akatoki and White Conduit Projects
- 11-12 Oct Discover the World of Shogi – Japanese Chess Workshop, with shogi teacher Yasushi Ishikawa, in partnership with Blick Rothenberg, Japan Shogi Association and London Shogi Club
- 20 Nov MIC! PROJECTOR! ACTION! - Live Benshi Performance, with benshi performers Koyata Aso and Guy Perryman MBE, in partnership with Regent Street Cinema
- 29 Nov Crafting for the Festive Season: Japanese Woodblock Printing Workshops, with artist Hiroko Imada
- 4 Dec Beyond the Dance: Symbolism and Aesthetics in Nihon Buyo, with Nihon buyo performer and master instructor Chihiro Yoshimura and performer and instructor Kayoko Kimura, in partnership with Kayoko no kai

Business Events

[Webinar Series](#) (chaired by our Honorary Vice Chair Bill Emmott, in association with Asia Society Japan)

- 9 Jan Japan Macro Salon with Jesper and Bill - with Ken Jimbo
- 2 Apr Japan Macro Salon with Jesper and Bill - with Taro Kono
- 8 Jul Japan Macro Salon with Jesper and Bill - with Kaori Iida
- 8 Oct Japan Macro Salon with Jesper and Bill - with Leo Lewis

Business Events

In Partnership with Other Organisations

- 4 Apr Women in Work: What Can Companies Do to Level the Playing Field?, with Yoko Dochi, Jane Sethi and David Mitchinson, moderated by Kana Inagaki, at *SMBC*
- 1 May JCCI Joint Lunch with Investment Minister Baroness Gustafsson, in association with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK, at *Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group*
- 21 Jun The Japan Society Golf Tournament 2025 at *Pine Ridge Golf Club* in association with BDO LLP
- 5 Oct Collar Cup Golf Match 2025 at *Winter Hill Golf Club* in association with Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), Supported by BDO LLP
- 5 Nov Industrial Strategy 8: Life Sciences Roundtable, with Lord Vallance KCB FRS FMedSci FRCP HonFREng and Steve Bates OBE, FMedSci, at *The Society of Chemical Industry*
- 11 Nov Women in Work Series: Lessons from Female Leaders, with Yasuko Fukuda, Kanako Kanno, Yoshiko Nakazawa and Julie Rogers, at *Deloitte LLP*

Today in Japan

The Japan Society Lecture Series (held in person on the third Monday of each month at the Swedenborg Society)

- 20 Jan Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words? Ehon Collection at the National Museums Scotland, with Louise Boyd
- 17 Feb Defining Japanese Fashion: From Meisen Kimono to Issey Miyake, with Hiroshi Narumi
- 12 Mar Where the Wild Things Are: Why You Should Leave Tokyo and Cycle the Length of Japan, with Oscar Boyd
- 22 Apr Fashion and the Floating World in Japanese Ukiyo-e Prints, with Anna Jackson and Masami Yamada
- 19 May Exhibiting Japan: Exploring how Japan is Curated and Presented in the UK, with Yoshi Miki
- 16 Jun The Golden Age of Tea Ceremony: Rikyu, Oribe, Enshu, with Asao Kozu
- 21 Jul Creating Possibilities for Encounter: The Kansai Art Scene, with Iza Kavedžija
- 4 Aug Atomic People: Memories of the Hibakusha on Screen, with Megumi Inman
- 15 Sep The Rise of Far-Right Movements in 21st-Century Japan, with Yutaka Yoshida
- 20 Oct HIV and AIDS in Japan: Labels, Bodies and Legacies, with Mark Pendleton
- 17 Nov Former Prime Ministers in Japanese Politics: Power, Influence and the Role of Informal Politics, with Hugo Dobson and Karin Narita
- 15 Dec Eco-Political Film Histories: Land Cinema in Japan and beyond, with Becca Voelcker

Japanese Conversation Group (held on the first Tuesday of every month at The Red Lion)

The Japanese Conversation Group provides a friendly and informal atmosphere for Japanese speakers of all nationalities to come together and speak Japanese.

The Japan Society Book Club (held alternating online and in-person on the second Monday of each month)

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| 13 Jan | <i>Eclipse</i> by Keiichiro Hirano | 14 Jul | <i>Voices of the Fallen Heroes</i> by Yukio Mishima |
| 10 Feb | <i>And Then</i> by Soseki Natsume | 11 Aug | <i>Finger Bone</i> by Hiroki Takahashi |
| 10 Mar | <i>Scattered All Over the Earth</i> by Yoko Tawada | 8 Sep | <i>Wildcat Dome</i> by Yuko Tsushima |
| 14 Apr | <i>Butter</i> by Asako Yuzuki | 13 Oct | <i>Portraits of a Mother</i> by Shusaku Endo |
| 12 May | <i>Quicksand</i> by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki | 10 Nov | <i>Mina's Matchbox</i> by Yoko Ogawa |
| 9 Jun | <i>The Story of a Single Woman</i> by Chiyo Uno | 8 Dec | <i>Mild Vertigo</i> by Mieko Kanai |

Today in Japan

The Japan Society Film Club (*held online on the first Wednesday of each month*)

8 Jan	<i>Under the Open Sky</i> directed by Miwa Nishikawa	2 Jul	<i>Irezumi</i> directed by Yasuzo Masumura
16 Feb	Special Film Club: Tea & Screening with Director Akihiro Toda in partnership with Japan Foundation	6 Aug	<i>Hiroshima</i> directed by Hideo Sekigawa
5 Mar	<i>Sansho the Bailiff</i> directed by Kenji Mizoguchi	3 Sep	<i>Sonatine</i> directed by Takeshi Kitano
2 Apr	<i>Sailor Suit and Machine Gun</i> directed by Shinji Somai	1 Oct	<i>The New God</i> directed by Yutaka Tsuchiya
9 May	<i>Taboo</i> directed by Nagisa Oshima	5 Nov	<i>Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters</i> directed by Paul Schrader
4 Jun	<i>Paprika</i> directed by Satoshi Kon	3 Dec	<i>Fish Story</i> directed by Yoshihiro Nakamura

Education

All Year

School Visits: In 2025, The Japan Society facilitated volunteer visits to primary and secondary schools across the UK through its Japan in Your Classroom scheme to introduce aspects of Japanese life and culture and share Japan-related knowledge and skills. Notably, 38% of participating schools were new to the scheme. Through these visits, 1,500 pupils learnt about Japan.

The education team also arranged visits to school in regions with less access through a separate subsidy scheme funded by the Embassy of Japan in the UK, reaching approximately 1140 pupils between January to March.

Loan Resources: Our free physical loan scheme, which provides cultural items and artefacts to schools, reached 33 schools and organisations across the UK in 2025. These resources supported teaching and learning about Japan both in classrooms and local communities, reaching approximately 2,200 pupils.

Downloadable Resources for Teachers: Our free Japan-related online resources and activities, designed to support teaching and learning in the UK, were downloaded over 1,640 times on TES (Times Education Supplement), in addition to downloads from The Japan Society website, reaching an estimated 49,000 pupils.

New Resource Development: In 2025, the Education Team released six new downloadable resources, working in collaboration with cultural experts and professionals to produce high-quality lesson materials for primary and secondary school pupils; The History of Samurai and Sumo resources are proving particularly popular amongst teachers and educators.

Outreach Highlights

January – April

Offered the *Access to Experts Remote Subsidy* scheme to support visits to schools in regions we haven't been able to reach with our volunteers previously or that do not have free access to opportunities to learn about Japan. The scheme funded activities in 13 schools across 5 regions, Northern Ireland, South Wales, Scotland, and Southwest and Northeast England.

Hosted *Japan Fun Day* in collaboration with Cardiff Central Library for children and young people during February half-term. Activities such as origami, Japanese name writing, ema board design, Japanese calligraphy and Koto music were offered with help of volunteers and experts in the region.

Contributed to *Express Yourself 2025*, a North-East Festival of Languages and Culture between January to March, by providing online and downloadable Japan-related content and delivering in-person language and cultural workshops to primary and secondary schools at the Civic Centre in Newcastle

Delivered a number of free Japanese cultural workshops in collaboration with libraries in Gateshead, Westminster and Haringey, offering calligraphy and origami activities to children and young people, aiming to widen access to learning about Japan.

May – August

Supported Japan House London with their *My London Pictograph Competition* by offering support with their lesson material and promotion to schools in the Greater London area.

Produced a Teacher's Pack for and commissioned by Royal Albert Hall, a guide for teachers with essential information about Japan and sumo, and how to teach Japan topics in the classroom in advance of the Schools' Sumo Presentation at the Royal Albert Hall in October 2025.

Delivered free calligraphy workshops for children in collaboration with St John's Wood Library (Westminster Council) as part of their summer holiday programme.

Launched the Japan Youth Collective programme for 2025-2026, funded by Japan House London Trust and Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, kicking off with a 3-day 2-night residential orientation with a range of cultural, language, and team-building workshops and activities, and a visit to the Embassy of Japan at the end of August.

Launched the UK Grand Sumo Poster Design Competition for children and young people ages 5 – 18 and released new online Sumo resources for schools and teachers, aiming to increase understanding and appreciation of sumo prior to the Grand Sumo Tournament.

September – December

Launched the *Travel Bursary Grant for Schools' Sumo Presentation*, with funding from Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, offering travel support to six schools enabling them to attend the Royal Albert Hall's sumo event for schools; over 180 pupils from the East Midlands, East of England, and South Wales were able to attend thanks to the scheme.

Hosted a free calligraphy workshop for children and young people in collaboration with Hornsey Library for the ESEA Heritage Month.

Launched the 19th JAL World Children's Haiku Contest on the theme of "Sound".

Announced the winners of the UK Grand Sumo Poster Design Competition, which received nearly 200 entries from children and young people across the UK.

Facilitated cultural activities and workshops for the 2025-2026 Japan Youth Collective programme, in partnership with a range of cultural experts and institutions, including the Japan House London and British Museum. Highlights include seeing the Schools' Sumo Presentation at Royal Albert Hall and visiting the Study Room at the British Museum to see artefacts up close in person.

Hosted free calligraphy and nengajo (New Year's card) workshops as part of a series of youth workshops for teenagers and young people ages 12-19.

