



TURKEY & Japan Friendship



The country of **Turkey** used to be called the **Ottoman Empire**. In 1890, the **Sultan** sent a **goodwill ship** called the **Ertuğrul** to visit the **Emperor** of Japan so the countries could be better friends. While going home, the ship hit a **typhoon** near **Wakayama Prefecture**. More than 500 men died. The local people in **Kushimoto** town tried their best to save people that night. They shared their food and houses with the 69 men who **survived**. Japanese ships finally took the men back to Turkey.

In 1985, Japan had 215 people living in **Tehran**, the capital of Iran. However, the **Iran-Iraq War** was happening. Iraq told **foreigners** that they had 48 hours to leave Tehran. After that time, any plane would be **shot** down. Countries hurried to send planes to save their **citizens**. **Japan Airlines** was not able to send a plane. It asked the world for help but only Turkey answered. A pilot and crew from **Turkish Airlines** volunteered to fly the Japanese people safely to Istanbul. The Turkish **government** said, "**We have not forgotten the rescue of the sailors aboard Ertuğrul. Thus, once we heard there were Japanese citizens in need of help, we went to their rescue.**"

A movie called 海難 1890(**Kainan 1890**) in Japanese, **Ertuğrul 1890** in Turkish, and **125 Years Memory** in English was made by Japan and Turkey together. It tells both the 1890 and 1985 stories. The movie was made in 2015 for the 125-year anniversary of the **Ertuğrul's** visit to Japan.



I first learned about this in a junior high school English textbook when I worked in Morioka City. I had never heard of it before. As an American, I learned a lot about the U.S.A. and Japan, but it was interesting to learn about **international** connections without America. Now, I want to visit the **Turkish Memorial Museum** in Kushimoto to learn more. I think it is a moving story of **friendship!**

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Issue

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The Blue Mosque in Istanbul
from Mr. Kawamoto



The Turkish flag on the
sea from Mr. Kawamoto

XOXO,
Sheila

Interview with Mr. Kawamoto

Pyramids of Giza

Geography Teacher, Tour Guide & World Traveler



1. Sheila: “Where are you from?”

Mr. Kawamoto: “I was born in Shinjuku, Tokyo and now live there.”

2. “Why did you become a geography teacher?”

K: “In my high school days, I wanted to become a P.E. teacher, but I made a new club activity-- **Sightseeing** Club! I like traveling around and abroad so I became a **geography** teacher.”

3. “How and why did you become an official tour guide in Kyoto?”

K: “Almost all Japanese culture came from Kyoto, so it is a very important city in Japan. Every time I visit, a new **discovery!** Before Coronavirus, I went 4-5 times a year and there are still new things. I started visiting about 20 years ago so by now, I have been 100 times over.”

4. “How many languages do you speak?”

K: “I speak English, Turkish, German, and a little Spanish. I studied German in university and stayed in Germany for 3 months. And Japanese, of course!”

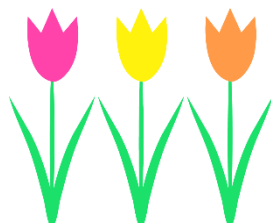


5. “What is your favorite place in Japan?”

K: “First, Kyoto. Second, the city of Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture. Third, Matsue, the capital of Shimane Prefecture. Fourth, Nagato City in Yamaguchi Prefecture. As an elementary schooler, I swam there every summer because it is my mother’s hometown. **Motonosumi Shrine** has beautiful red *torii* gates going to the blue sea. Fifth, Kusatsu Town in Gunma Prefecture. My wife is from there. The buses from Shinjuku, Tokyo are only four hours long. Kusatsu is one of the most famous hot springs (*onsen*) resorts in Japan.”

6. “What is your favorite city in the world?”

K: “First, **Istanbul**, Turkey. I have been 18 times! Second, **Vienna**, the **capital** of Austria. I have been 8-9 times. The sweets are delicious. I recommend a chocolate cake called ‘**sachertorte**’. If you want to try one in Tokyo, go to **Café Paulistia** in Ginza. Third, **Amsterdam**, the capital of the Netherlands. I have been over 24 times, including many **stopovers**. It is famous for **tulips** and most people ride bicycles around the city. I recommend the National Museum [**Rijksmuseum**] and the **Anne Frank House**.”



7. “How many countries have you been to?”

K: “Maybe 50+!”

8. “Do you usually travel alone?”

K: “In the past, yes, but now I usually travel with my **wife.**”

9. “Have you been on any school trips?”

K: “I have been on 5 Keika school trips. I have been to **Christchurch**, New Zealand two times, Brisbane and Wollongong, Australia two times, and **Victoria**, Canada one time. We went to the nearby city of Vancouver, Canada too. **Vancouver** is very close to the famous American city of **Seattle**, Washington. It is about a 30-minute ride. If Seattle is the ‘Rainy City,’ then Vancouver is a windy city!”



Mr. Kawamoto in front of an ice cream shop in Germany.

10. “What do you think is unique about Japan as a country?”

K: “First, I think the safety is unique. For example, you can sleep on trains and buses without worrying. People also often return lost things if they find them. Second, Japan is clean. There is little **rubbish** on the streets. However, in Spain, for example, there is lots of rubbish on the road or in shops.”



11. “What are the top 3 countries you recommend for Japanese tourists?”

K: “First, I recommend Turkey. Do you know about the great friendship between Japan and Turkey? I am a member of a Japan and Turkey friendship organization. Actually, there is a street named Kawamoto after me in Turkey. Second, I recommend Austria. Third, I recommend Hawaii in the U.S.A. It is easy and enjoyable to go. There are a lot of Japanese things too.”

12. “What is your favorite way to travel (train, plane, boat, car, etc.)?”

K: “I love train travel! I am a railway fan. In my university days, I wanted to ride famous European express trains. For example, the **TGV** bullet train in France, the **Eurostar** train from London that goes under the **English Channel**, and the **AVE** express train in Spain.”



Gion-kaku
Buddhist
Temple in
Kyoto

Cappadocia,
Turkey



A European train

13. “Where is the last place you visited before Coronavirus?”

K: “In December 2019, I ran in the **Honolulu Marathon**. It was just in time. I saw Pearl Harbor.”

14. “Where is the first place you want to visit after Coronavirus?”

K: “I just want to go to Kyoto. I want to get *wagashi*, traditional Japanese **confectionary**. I am stressed because I can't travel now. I want to eat sweets.”

Nijo Castle in Kyoto



Famous Gion Festival in Kyoto



15. “Thank you very much! Your English is amazing! Any English study tips for the students?”

K: “In my high school days, I had a low level and low scores. But I am using English now! First, the most important thing is to study grammar. Second, make friends with English speakers. Maybe try writing (love?!) letters in English. Third, listen to English every day. Even now, I listen to the NHK Radio Program 『英会話タイムトライアル』 with **Steve Soresi** every day. I also recommend watching the **Back to the Future** movies for fun. Sometimes the spoken English and the Japanese **subtitles** have different meanings which is interesting.”

Safety Tips for Girl Solo-Travelers!



with Erin

It's ok to be rude if you do not feel safe!

- o If someone asks where you are staying, you can just say 'a hotel', you do not need to explain.
- o If someone asks you if you are alone, you can lie and say you are waiting for someone.

Keep extra money for emergencies.

- o For example, if you don't feel safe walking home and need a taxi OR if your hotel doesn't seem safe so you need to change it.

Research your destination ahead of time.

- o Are there clothing **customs** you should follow, such as covering up certain body parts?
- o **Download** maps so you can see them without internet.
- o Look up words for **medical conditions** you may have, like serious **allergies**.

Make sure you know what to do in an emergency.

- o Check the emergency numbers for police, ambulance, and fires. For example, the emergency number in the U.S.A. is **911**. In Australia, it's **000**. Japan is **119** and **110**.
- o Carry a simple **first-aid kit** and learn simple **self-defence** moves.