
Religions of Japan

Windstar Cruises
Ross Arnold, Spring 2018

Japan & North Pacific Crossing

- *Emperors & Shoguns: A Brief History of Japan*
- *Samurai & the Code of Bushido*
- ***Religions of Japan***
- *Islands of Tranquility-Japanese Gardens*
- *Japan vs. China*
- *The Pacific War*
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- *China's Treasure Ships*

Today's World Religions by Date of Founding

	<u>Pop. (000s)</u>	<u>% of World</u>	<u>Founded (c.)</u>	<u>Where</u>
Hinduism	1,100,000	12.65%	4000-2500BC	Indus Valley
Judaism	14,000	0.20%	2000 BC	Palestine
Buddhism	488,000	5.29%	560-490 BC	India
Chinese Trad. ¹	394,000	5.54%	500 BC	China
Shinto	4,000	0.06%	500 BC	Japan
Jainism	4,200	0.06%	500 BC	India
Christianity	2,200,000	29.52%	30 AD	Palestine
Islam	1,600,000	21.09%	622 AD	Arabia
Sikhism	28,000	0.32%	1499 AD	India
Bah'aism	7,300	0.10%	1863 AD	Persia
Other ²	690,000	9.70%		
Non-relig. ³	1,100,000	15.46%		

¹ Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism

² Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified

³ Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist

Families of Religions

1. **Abrahamic** monotheisms of Judaism, Christianity & Islam.
2. **Dharmic** religions that began in India, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism & Sikhism.
3. **Taoic** religions of the Far East, especially China and Japan, including Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto (*along with versions of Buddhism*).

And sometimes also ...

4. **Iranian** religions that predate Islam, including Zoroastrianism, Mandaeism and the Kurdish Yazdanism faiths (Yazidi, Alevi, etc.).

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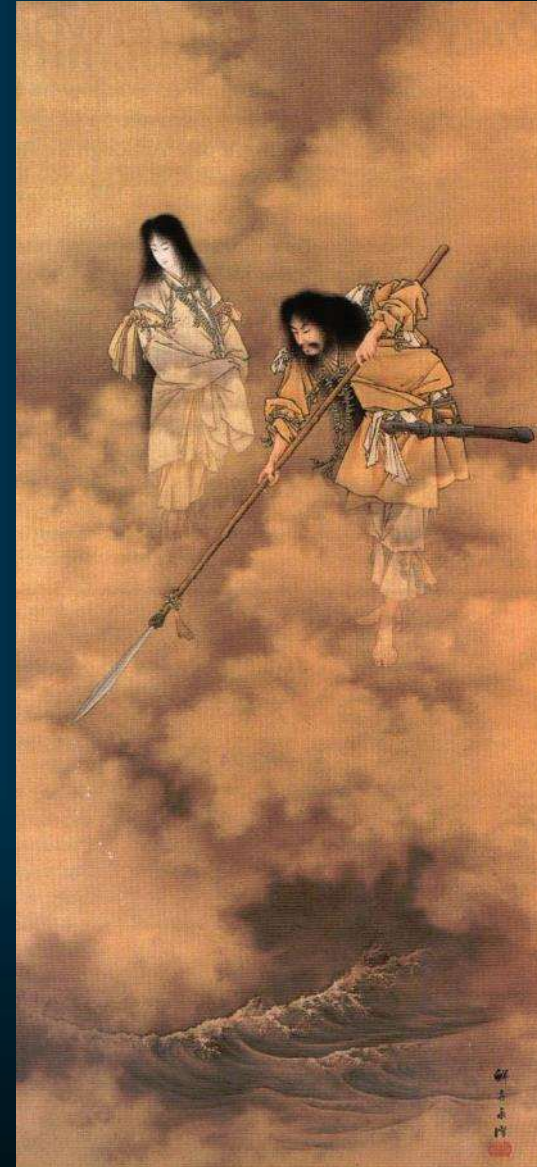
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Shinto (or *kami-no-michi*)

- **Shinto**, which literally means "the way of the gods," is an animistic folk religion from Japan, focused on ritual practices to establish a connection between present-day Japan and its ancient past. Shinto and Asian Buddhism are inextricably linked in Japan; many Japanese Shintoists also identify themselves as Buddhists.





Shinto Theology

- ***Kami*** – “god,” “spirit,” the spiritual essence that inhabits all things, animate or not.
- ***Kannagara*** – meaning “way of the *kami*,” refers to the natural order of things.
- ***Amenominakanushi*** – “Heavenly Ancestral God of the Originating Heart of the Universe”— the first *kami*.
- **Creation** –the Japanese islands came to be from two gods: Izanagi (“He-who-invites”) and Izanami (“She-who-is-invited”).



Types of Shinto

- **Shrine Shinto** – most common, involves worship and events at local public shrines.
- **Imperial Household Shinto** – rites exclusive to the royal family at imperial shrines.
- **Folk Shinto** – fragmented folk beliefs in deities and spirits.
- **Sect Shinto** – private, local religious communities/shrines (vs. public shrines).
- **Koshinto** – literally “Old Shinto,” seeks to restore Shinto to pre-Buddhist times.

The Vinegar Tasters,
representing Buddhists,
Taoists and Confucianists.



“Confucius presents a
young Buddha to Laozi”



Taoism

- **Founder:** Laozi (or Lao-Tzu)
- **Taoism** is better understood as a way of life than as a religion, emphasizing the unity of the universe, of the material world, of the spiritual world, and of the past, present and future. Taoist theology focuses on doctrines of relativism, spontaneity, and emptiness.





Confucianism (or “Ruism”)

- **Founder:** Confucius

Confucianism is a complex system of moral, social, political, and religious thought, and includes a complicated system governing duties and etiquette in relationships. Confucian ethics focus on familial duty, loyalty and humaneness.





Buddhism

c. 560-490 BC

- **Founder:** Siddhartha Gautama, “The Buddha” (“Enlightened One” of “Awakened One”)
- **Major Traditions:** Theravada, Mahayana (also Pure Land, Zen, Nichiren, Tibetan/Vajrayana, etc.)
- **Locations:** Thailand, China, Burma, Japan, East Asia, (global).



Buddhism – The Four Noble Truths

1. **The Truth of *Dukkha*** – all of life is suffering;
2. **The Truth of the Origin of *Dukkha*** – craving and clinging to pleasure and aversion to what is not pleasurable are the cause of all suffering and of *samsara*;
3. **The Truth of the Cessation of *Dukkha*** – putting an end to craving and clinging ends suffering, so rebirth, dissatisfaction, and redeath no longer arise;
4. **The Truth of the Path Of Liberation from *Dukkha*** – by following the Noble Eightfold Path.

Buddhism – The Noble Eightfold Path (or “Middle Way”)

- 1. Right View** – accepting the Four Noble Truths.
- 2. Right Intention** – right thoughts/aspirations.
- 3. Right Speech** – no falsehood, abuse, chatter.
- 4. Right Action** – moral, causing no harm.
- 5. Right Livelihood** – no working with weapons, degradation, meat, intoxicants, poisons.
- 6. Right Effort** – discipline thought, word & deed.
- 7. Right Mindfulness** – being alert to all that affects us.
- 8. Right Concentration** – right meditation.





Pure Land Buddhism



Nichiren Buddhism





Shingon Buddhism





Zen Buddhism

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