

## ACCESS TO THE HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE IN JAPAN

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Today the concern about accessible tourism in Japan changed for the better. Making it accessible is one of the most important issues in each tourist spot. Historical and natural heritage are impossible to improve, they thought. However some of them made great efforts and now it changed wheelchair accessible. We must keep them originally. Otherwise the interest and value of them are lost, if the facility became accessible. How can we keep the landscape? We want to share Japanese nice ideas and examples.

The researches were done by manual wheelchair users. We checked out also official accessible tourism information and other newest tourist reports. We divided into 3 categories and picked famous tourist spots: Temple / Shrine ( Kiyomizudera, Sensoji, Todaiji, Horyuji, Nachi fall, Ise Jingu ), Castle ( Osaka castle, Matsumoto castle, Himeji castle, Kumamoto castle ), Nature ( Shiretoko, Yakushima, Naeba ). Half of 13 cases are selected UNESCO world treasures.

Making the access road to historical heritage for wheelchair or mobility impairment seems not so difficult. In many cases, they have a special road for VIP or road for fire truck. The roads are hidden on backyard and closed to public. Today they open for wheelchair guests. The accessibility of entering and watching the historical heritage is different in each place. Very famous heritage tend to change it accessible even if they break some historical building. They decided the accessibility ( publicness ) is more important.. Many people come means that many person with disability come.

Wooden board walk is one of nice ideas for the access to natural heritage. It is universal design. Kind for everybody ( wheelchair, baby baggy, elderly, children, and environment ) and safety. But we cannot change all the nature. If do so, the nature changes not nature. The accessible facility and service are just for beginner. It is impossible to change all accessible in natural heritage. Many routes mean good accessibility. Guests may choose the way in their level. Beginner route should be accessible at least.

Information is the most important, especially for person with mobility impairment. Map and photo are easy to judge whether possible to visit or not. Nobody goes if they do not know the information. Only few people know the accessible information. Special route or services for wheelchair or person with disability tend to hide because everybody wants to use it. However it should be open to public. We have the law of accessibility. But it is only for facility. No regulation about information. We hope that all the heritage open their accessibility on their official web site.

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