



## A Handbook of Place Names in Japan

### Their History and Significance

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#### DESCRIPTION:

This is a comprehensive guide to place-names in Japan. It lists the names in English and Japanese, their literal translation in English, as well as the folk-etymologies of all Japan's cities and many towns. It is the first detailed description of place-names in Japan in any world language other than Japanese. Approximately 5000 place-names are arranged alphabetically covering historic and tourist-site towns, and important rivers and mountains. Entries are arranged alphabetically by prefecture following the 47 prefectures todofuken.

Place-names are icons of local and national identity and are also signs of cultural traditions and popular beliefs - part of everyday life and conversation, politics, food names, jokes, proverbs and song. Importantly, too, they reflect the history of Japan from the beginning of the modern period.

#### ISBN:

9781912961238 (hb)

#### PRICE:

\$115.00 (hb)

#### PUBLICATION DATE:

17 June 2021 (hb)

#### BINDING:

Hardback

#### SIZE:

5 x8

#### PAGES:

352

#### PUBLISHER:

Renaissance Books

#### IMPRINT:

Renaissance Books

#### READER INTERESTS:

Asian and Pacific Studies  
Language and Linguistics