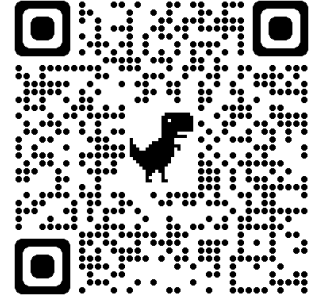


# Cheap yen clips Japanese wings



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20240422211409340/>

Japan's currency is a bit of a bargain right now and the overseas tourists are laughing it up. In March alone, they numbered more than 3 million, but for people who live and work in this country, trips abroad are either more expensive or simply off limits.

Many Japanese people would love a bite of the big apple. The trouble is stubborn inflation has been pushing prices in the United States higher and higher. Many Japanese people would also love to bite into this well-known hamburger, but in New York it's more than double the price back home. OK, so you bought the burger, but you spilled some ketchup on your clothes. A new shirt at this Japanese store in New York costs about \$40, again that's twice as much as Japan. The yen has been falling against the US dollar for about 3 years now. Hitting a 34 year low last week. Japanese people are lamenting the trend on social media. One person plans to pack instant noodles and miso soup on a business trip to the states. Another plans to forego a trip to foreign lands and simply vacation on home soil instead. The effects of the weak yen are far reaching. Students at this private high school in Tokyo have the chance to go abroad on an international exchange program to Hawaii no less. But that's become a lot more expensive.

This is the estimate for second year students in October.

The fee was about \$1,800 in 2019, now it's nearing \$3,000. School officials say they may have to switch Hawaii for somewhere cheaper next year.

It would be a shame if valuable opportunities are lost. Our students really look forward to their trips. We need to think carefully about what we can do.

The cheap yen is certainly a pain for many Japanese travel hungry youngsters, and some may find solace in

virtual reality. Stick on some goggles and suddenly you're on Cebu Island in the Philippines.

Let's go closer to the beach.

Company officials say it's aimed at providing a simulated study trip abroad.

Please follow me over here. Over here we have a lot of the different fruits that you can find here in the Philippines.

Is this Kiwi?

This is mango.

And the officials say demand is growing.

There are schools and parents who have to give up on overseas trips due to the weak yen. We want to offer positive experiences by coming up with new ideas.

Source: (NHK World News)

**Now discuss the questions with a partner.**

1. Does the weak yen discourage you from going overseas? Why or why not?
2. When was the last time you went overseas? Where did you go? What did you do?
3. Can you think of any strategies to save money when traveling abroad?
4. Would you be interested in taking a simulated trip abroad?
5. If you were to travel abroad in the near future, where would you go? Does the weak yen have any effect on you choosing that location?