



GEDEON PROGRAMMES & NHK
PRESENT

JAPAN FROM ABOVE

DIRECTED BY XAVIER LEFEBVRE WRITTEN BY LAURENT MARTEIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SHINJI IWATA,
MAASERHIT HONDA, DAVID PERRIER TECHNICAL COORDINATOR KAZUNORI KURIMOTO EDITING GILLES DEISS,
NICOLAS MONCADAS, FREDERIC BOULET, STEPHAN DUFRENET ORIGINAL MUSIC VINCENT JACO PRODUCTION
MANAGER LAURENCE FAVREAU, DOMINIQUE LAGADEC, MAYUKO AKASHI FOR NHK EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
SHIN YASUDA FOR GEDEON PROGRAMMES LINE PRODUCER STEPHANE MILLIERE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
NICOLAS DESCHAMPS A GEDEON PROGRAMMES AND NHK COPRODUCTION WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE JAPAN
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Episode 1 The Great Wild North Hokkaido

With its vast stretches of wilderness, powerful volcanic mountain ranges, countless crystal-clear lakes and deep forests, this is the birthplace of the Ainu the island's indigenous inhabitants. It was colonized barely 150 years ago. Intensive agriculture in the plains co-exists with a smaller scale sustainable approach to the natural resources.



Episode 2 From The Land Of Snow To Tokyo Thoku Region & Honshu Island

A little-known mountainous and mainly rural area subject to intense climatic variations throughout the year. Meltwater comes down from the relief in rice fields or salmon farms at Spring time. In the more temperate Kanto region lies the largest plain in Japan where Tokyo, has developed under Japan's sacred Mount Fuji.



Episode 3

The Cradle Of Traditions

Honshu & Chubu Region, Kansai

From Kyoto to Nagano, through Nara and the Noto peninsula, the treasures of the Honshu Island offer a journey between tradition and modernity. From the Japanese Alps in the very heart of the island, to the eastern plain of Kansai and the cities of Osaka and Kyoto, this is the megalopolis hub and cradle of Japanese civilization where ancient crafts and know-how, such as washi paper or fireworks are being kept alive.



Episode 4

The Land Of The Gods

Western Honshu and Chugoku, Sea Of Seto, Hiroshima

Shikoku is the smallest of Japan's four "big" islands. Together with Chugoku at the western end of Honshu island they surround the inland Sea of Seto and offer some of Japan's sunniest beaches. Aquaculture and Shodoshima Olive growing are thriving under this mild climate. Away from the shores of Shikoku, more inland, thousands of Buddhist pilgrims honor their master Kobo Daishi. Shimane Prefecture is home to one of the most revered Shinto shrines in Japan.



Episode 5

From Islands To Treasures

Kyushu & Nansei islands

This is the tropical Japan with its most active volcanoes. The bubbling magmatic subsoil provides the best hot springs and a fertile land for tea and rice growing. As a gateway to foreign influences this is where Christianity was introduced as can be seen in Nagasaki and in Goto Islands. Between the southern tip of Kyushu and Taiwan stretches the thousand-kilometer-long arch of the Nansei Islands. Okinawa retains the stigmata of World War II. Yonaguni the most western point of the Japanese archipelago is a paradise for divers.



From breath-taking landscapes to innovative urban ways of life, this five-part series takes viewers on a 4K aerial journey into the Japan of the 21st Century. This timely series, ahead of the 2020 Summer Tokyo Olympics, revisits the vibrant sophistication and contrasts of Japanese culture. An experience for the eyes and the soul capturing over four seasons and all around the archipelago the little known natural and human treasures of this island nation.

Also available *JAPAN: WHERE THE SUN RISES* (90')

Producers and Broadcasters:
**Gedeon Programmes/ NHK/
ZDF-Arte/ Voyage/ RTVE/ Japan
Foundation/NGCI**
Director: Xavier Lefebvre

**5x52'
3x52'**

