

Temperatures in Korea, Japan Drop to Lowest Levels

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Stranded (Adjective) /strændɪd/ unable to leave a particular place
Example: The area became flooded and the people were stranded for several hours.
2. Disruption (Noun) /dɪs'rʌpʃən/ something that makes it difficult for an event, activity, etc. to continue
Example: The typhoon caused a disruption of the company's regular operations.
3. Issue (Verb) /'ɪʃu:/ to make or send out an official announcement, statement, etc.
Example: The company issued a warning to all employees who will continuously report late for work.
4. Mainland (Noun) /'meɪn,lænd/ the main area of land of a country
Example: Officials enforced strict precautionary measures and lockdowns in the mainland part of the country because of the alarming increase once again of infected patients.
5. Schedule (Verb) /'skedʒu:l/ to arrange for something to happen at a certain time
Example: We are scheduled to travel to Japan this year.
6. Severe (Adjective) /sɪ'veɪr/ very great or serious
Example: People who are experiencing severe symptoms were quarantined in the hospital.



Severe cold weather is causing chaos across Japan and Korea as temperatures drop to the lowest levels in around ten years. In South Korea at least eight roads and 10 sea routes remained closed on the afternoon of January 25. About 140 homes in the capital Seoul and nearby regions reported broken water pumps and pipes as temperatures dropped to around minus 15 to minus 20 degrees Celsius.

How many roads and sea routes were closed in South Korea on January 25?

Why were they closed?

How low was the temperature in South Korea around the last week of January 2023?

On January 24 around 40,000 travelers visiting South Korea's Jeju Island for the Lunar New Year were stranded when flights were canceled because of strong wind and snow. The following day, air traffic was back to normal with extra flights scheduled to take passengers back to mainland cities.

How many travelers visiting Jeju island were stranded?

The island saw more than 19 centimeters of snow since the morning of January 24, while southern mainland cities and towns such as Gwangju and Gangjin reported around 10 to 12 centimeters of snow. More than 70 centimeters of snow fell on the small eastern island of Ulleung. The winter storms appeared to be moving toward the greater Seoul area and nearby regions, where heavy snow was expected from the afternoon of January 25 to the latter part of the following day, according to the Safety Ministry, which warned about dangerous road conditions.

Which part of Korea experienced the worst snow and how high was it?

In Japan, heavy snow and record cold temperatures also brought widespread disruptions. At least one person has died and two more deaths were being investigated in connection with the cold weather, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

According to the article, how many people died did Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno report?

Thousands of people using train services in Kyoto and Shiga prefectures had to stay overnight in carriages or stations, while vehicles on major roads across the country were left stranded and hundreds of flights canceled. Cold weather warnings were also issued in North Korea. Temperatures in capital Pyongyang were forecasted to drop to minus 19 degrees Celsius on Wednesday morning.

According to the article, what did people in Kyoto and Shiga do when they were stranded?

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on the snowy weather affecting Korea and Japan?
2. Have any of your travel plans been disrupted by bad weather in recent weeks?
3. Have you ever been forced to stay home from work due to severe weather?
4. How would you react if you had to stay overnight in a train station?
5. How do you heat your home during the winter months?