

Les 24 heures du roman

Japan Edition 2026

24 Hours. One Train. One Novel. 16 Writers.

Fall 2026. A train through western Japan. On board: Sixteen authors: 8 French & 8 Japanese writers.

Twenty-four hours. One novel. One story. Sixteen voices. Sixteen chapters? Let's see!

Sixteen beautiful minds. A thousand stories

Before departure, everything shifts.

The writers discover the framework of the story they will write — together and separately, one chapter at a time.

A playful journey, with a twist and some constraints

24 hours onboard. Each writer playing their part. The text unfolds one point of view at a time — a mosaic novel. Imaginations cross paths, echoing the rhythm of two languages. The train moves forward, the writing along with it. A collective creation under constraint, enabled by the energy of the group. Translators carry the text from one language to another. Upon arrival, the novel is born.

A Franco-Japanese Collaboration: Writing Without Borders

Leading figures in contemporary literature—including several members of Oulipo, such as Hervé Le Tellier, winner of the 2020 Prix Goncourt—and some of the most acclaimed Japanese writers of their generation have come together to create a unique, bilingual work.

Beyond the journey

Although the novel is now born, the adventure does not end upon arrival. In Matsue and Tokyo, the writers share how this book came to be. Writing workshops will be organized, and literature will be celebrated through the Salon du Livre Express: readings, conversations, numerous encounters, the joy of writing and the pleasure of reading. Everyone is welcome.

How it all began

The first edition of *Les 24 heures du roman* took place in Canada in 2015, aboard the train *Océan*, from Halifax to Toronto — 24 francophone writers, both writing and publishing a novel within 24 hours: *Sur les traces de Champlain*, published by Éditions Prise de parole.

L'écriture en mouvement

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