



# Yokota Travelog

Compiled by the Officers' Spouses' Club  
Yokota Air Base, Japan  
2002





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The Yokota Travelog was written and assembled by members of the Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club with the assistance of local residents and organizations.

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Maps...Courtesy of Yujo Community Center

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The Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club maintains computer files of the Travelog. Please make note of changes or new attractions you may encounter and send the details to:

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# Notes





# General Information



## Japanese Phone System

To call Yokota from off-base nearby, dial 552-2511 for the operator (or dial 552-2510 to bypass the operator message). If you call from outside the local area, add area code 042 to dial 042-552-2511.

## Public Telephones

There are different color-coded public telephones in Japan. The yellow telephones accept both ¥10 and ¥100 coins, allowing you to call long distance. Insert one or more ¥10 coins to connect, and then insert one or more ¥100 coins if you think it will be a long call.

The green and digital telephones accept both coins and prepaid telephone cards that can be bought at train station kiosks and some stores for between ¥500 and ¥5,000. Local, long distance and international calls can be made from the green phones.

For information in English, dial the NTT Information Service in Tokyo at 03-5295-1010 (0900-1700 Mon-Fri, 0900-1200 Sat; 3 minutes costs ¥10).

For assistance in Japanese, dial 104.

Overseas Calls (operator assisted): 0051

Telegrams: 03-3344-5151

## English Telephone Directory

A valuable resource is the TOWNPAGE English Telephone Directory published by NTT. Consisting of both white and yellow page listings for Japanese and foreign governments and businesses plus general information for foreigners, this helpful reference is available at the library, Family Support Center, and USO. An English online version is available at <http://english.itp.ne.jp/>. There is also a site called Tokyo Doko at <http://www.tokyodoko.com>.

## Off-Base Emergencies

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<b>Fire</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>110</b>

## USFJ: Base Numbers

(if in local area, do not dial area code)

Camp Fuji	(0550) 89-1062
Camp Courtney	(098) 972-6700
Iwakuni MCAS	(0827) 21-4171
Kadena AB	(098) 938-1111
Misawa AB	(0176) 53-5181
New Sanno	(03) 440-7871
Sasebo NB	(0956) 24-6111
Yokosuka NB	(0468) 26-1911
Camp Zama	(0462) 51-1520

## Helpful numbers for Tokyo:

The Japan Travel-Phone can be reached at 0120-44-4800 or 0088-22-4800 toll free for information from 0900-1700 hours any day. When calling from within Tokyo proper, dial 03-3201-3331.

For news on current shows and festivals, try the Teletourist taped service at 03-3201-2911.

Info on the Japan Railways system, call 03-3423-0111.

Tokyo Life Line: 9am-4pm & 7-11pm 03-5721-4347

Japan Helpline (24 hrs/day): 0120-46-1997

## Information Centers outside Tokyo:

Kyoto Tourist Center: 075-371-5649

Yokohama Intl. Tourist Assoc.: 045-641-4759

Nagoya Information Center: 052-581-5678

## Do You Want a Cell Phone?

There are two major competitors for cell phones in Japan, DoCoMo and J-Phone. Both are fairly equivalent and have the programs explained in English, so you can go in and see what they offer.

**1) J-Phone:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate. When you get to the "Y" at the first light, bear right. At the second light (Yanagi Dori) you'll see the store on the far left corner.

**2) DoCoMo:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate. It will be on the left just after the bowling alley and before the first light.

Brian Marriott



## Useful Information

### English Speaking Telephone Numbers to Call...

- For questions about JR Trains
  - ◆ **JR Infoline:** 03-34230111
  
- For questions about what is going on in/around Tokyo
  - ◆ **Telephone Tourist Service:** 03-3201-2911 (tape-recorded)
  - ◆ **Telephone Tourist Service:** 03-3201-3331 (operator)
  
- Any Travel Information & Language Problem while Traveling in Japan
  - ◆ **Japan Travel-Phone:** 03-3201-3331 (Tokyo)
  - ◆ **Japan Travel-Phone:** 075-371-5649 (Kyoto)
  - ◆ **Japan Travel-Phone:** 0120-444-800 (except Tokyo and Kyoto)
  
- For questions about telephone call in Japan (Off Base)
  - ◆ **NTT English Information:** 0120-364-463
  
- Any First Aid Information or Language Problem while Traveling in Japan
  - ◆ **Medical Treatment Service:** 03-5285-8181 (weekdays only: 9:00am - 8:00pm)
    - ◆ (You can ask which hospitals have foreign languages attending)
  
  - ◆ **First Aid Translation Service:** 03-5285-8185
    - ◆ (weekdays: 5:00pm - 8:00pm)
    - ◆ (weekends, Japanese holidays: 9:00am - 8:00pm)
    - ◆ (If you have a language problem in the hospital, they can assist you)
  
- “0120 Number” - Toll Free!
  - ◆ When using a public phone, insert a 10 Yen coin or a phone card first. The coin will be returned to you when you finish the call.

Information courtesy of Yujo Community Center



## American Embassy

To reach the American Embassy, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and change to the Chuo Line for Tokyo. Get off at Kanda Station and exit by the middle staircase. Look for the orange Ginza Subway Line, and take it toward Ginza and Shibuya. Get off at Toranomom, 3 stops after Ginza. Take Exit #3 out of Toranomom Station. Look for the Mitsui Building. To the left of the Mitsui Building is a wonderful temple and garden in the midst of all the skyscrapers. You will see Alitalia and Lufthansa offices on your left. When you see the NCR sign, turn left and cross the street. You will see the U.S. Embassy straight ahead with its flag outside a bronze building (opposite the Hotel Okura).

Carol Davis

Embassy Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 5:30PM.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

Embassy Operator (off-base) 03-3224-5000  
Embassy Operator (DSN) 224-5000  
Passports 224-5170  
Visas 224-5125

## The Japanese Postal Service

The red, double-crossed capital T is the symbol of the postal service. It is found anywhere there is any connection with the post office, and is used on maps to indicate the location of post offices. It is also displayed at places where stamps are sold.



## Non-Deliverable Mail Notice

If you receive a registered or parcel post item through the Japanese mail addressed to your PSC Box, a Non-Deliverable Notice postcard will mailed to you. Just take the notice to the Fussa Post Office or to the office written on the notice. See Below.

## Postal Dimensions

The sizes of Japanese cards and envelopes are different from American standards. For delivery at the standard rate (¥50 for postcards and ¥80 for letters under 25 gms in 1996), postcard dimensions must be between 9-1 0.7cm wide x 1/4-1 5.4 cm long. Envelopes should be between 9-1/2 cm wide x 1/4-23 cm long (the ends of American business envelopes can be folded over and taped). If you send something the wrong size, you may get your posted item back with a note showing the amount of insufficient postage.

## Sending Mail Off-Base

If you send mail through the Japanese postal system, the post office on base requests you use your Japanese address, not the APO address. If you have the correct postage (available at the base post office), you can mail postcards and letters through the orange Japanese mailbox outside the post office.

## Post Offices Near Yokota

There are three Japanese post offices close to Yokota; near Higashi-Fussa station and in Matsunaka-Danchi out the East Gate.

**DIRECTIONS to main Fussa Post Office:** To get to the Fussa Main Post Office, go straight out the Fussa gate, cross the tracks, veer to the left at the Y, cross the next set of tracks and on down to Okutama Kaido. The post office is on the far right corner (there's minimal parking in the post office lot inside the walls to the right of the building on Okutama Kaido).

**DIRECTIONS to Higashi Fussa:** To get to the post office near Higashi-Fussa, make a right out the Fussa gate onto Rt. 16 and then a left at the signal for Higashi Fussa station. Cross the tracks, and about a block down you'll see the post office on the left before the intersection with the gas station. Since there are only one or two parking spaces, it may be easier to park on the side street near the intersection before the post office.

**DIRECTIONS to Matsunaka-Danchi:** Turn right out the East Gate, left at the light, then hard right at the five-way intersection. Go several blocks down the tree-lined avenue with apartment buildings on either side. There's a tiny post office on the far right corner of the second large intersection.

If you are living off-base, you can pay your electric and telephone bills at any Japanese post office. These bills are usually delivered direct to your residence. (You can also pay these bills at any 7-11 store.)

Teresa K. Negley, Chieko Brumley 12/96

## Your Japanese Address

<p><b>NAME</b> <b>PSC 78 Box #</b> <b>Yokota Air Base</b> <b>Fussa-Shi, Tokyo 197-0001</b></p>
--

Use your box number to address mail using the Japanese Postal Service like the above example. For more information, call the Fussa Central Post Office at **552-3640**.

Their hours are:

Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm  
Saturday: 9am-3pm  
Sunday: Closed  
Closed on Holidays



## Tourist Information Center

The Tokyo TIC (phone number: 03-3201-3331) is the best source of travel information around with its free maps and brochures on nearly any place in Japan. It's located in the basement of the Tokyo International Forum opposite the JR Yurakucho train station (Kokusai Forum exit). The TIC is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm, and 9 to noon on Saturdays. It is closed Sundays and holidays.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there directly from Yokota, take the orange Ome/Chuo Line to its end in Tokyo, then go south one stop on the green Yamanote loop to Yurakucho.

To request information by mail, send in a self-addressed stamped envelope (if you're not sure how much in stamps is needed, call first or fax 03-3211-9009)

International Tourism Center of Japan  
Tokyo International Forum B1  
3-5-1 Marunouchi  
Chiyoda-ku Tokyo 100

## Japan Travel Updates via the Internet

There are hundreds of websites that will enhance your stay in Japan. Here are some you'll find helpful:

### Helpful Information

The Japan National Tourist Organization lists updates on its home page [www.jnto.go.jp](http://www.jnto.go.jp)

Also, check [www.city.net](http://www.city.net)

For information on U.S. bases in Japan and cultural information, etc. from a site maintained by Yokota residents, try [www.ainj.com](http://www.ainj.com)

<http://english.itp.ne.jp/> An online version of the Japanese Telephone directory in English.

<http://map.yahoo.co.jp> an online map of all of Japan. You can zoom to whatever detail you want. Note: this site is only in Japanese, but if you get used to the Kanji you may be able to look up places on it.

### Around Town

There are a number of sites that provide current news and information about what is happening around town, including festivals, concerts, special exhibits (art, photos, kimono), and more.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp> - an online version of the Japan Times newspaper

<http://www.metropolis.co.jp> -online paper with events, cultural news, restaurant reviews, classified ads and more.

<http://www.udo.co.jp/english/index.html> - calendar of concerts coming to Tokyo, listed by artist.

### About Yokota

There are a number of useful sites about Yokota Air Base including:

<http://www.374th-services.org> The 374th Services web page - info about things to do around base.

<http://yokotalibrary.ad.umuc.edu/> The library's web page, with an online catalog and the ability to reserve and renew books via the internet.

<http://www.afrts.osd.mil/> The Air Force Radio and Television Service. Includes TV and Eagle 810 schedules.

<http://www.aafes.com> AAFES Home Page.

## More Information

Tours are conducted by the Yujo Community Center, Sekai Travel, the USO, the Officers' Spouses' Club, the Enlisted Spouses' Club, Outdoor Recreation, the Family Support Center, various sports clubs, etc.

Some are overnight trips; most are day trips. Stop by the Yujo and pick up the latest brochures on its trips and those offered by Corporate Travel. Call the USO for its offerings. Check the latest newsletters of the spouses' clubs or call the respective Tours Chairpersons for information. Check a copy of Horizons for outings offered by Outdoor Recreation. Also, don't forget any private organizations in which you might be interested. If you need more help, contact the Yokota Family Support Center at 225-8725.



# Holidays & Festivals in Japan

## Japanese National Holidays

Jan 1 – New Year's Day  
Jan 15 – Coming of Age Day  
Feb 11 – National Founding Day  
Mar 21 (or 20) – Vernal Equinox  
Apr 29 – Green Day  
May 3 – Constitutional Memorial Day  
May 5 – Children's Day  
Jul 20 – Maritime Day  
Sep 15 – Respect for the Aged Day  
Sep 23 (or 24) – Autumnal Equinox  
Oct 10 – Health-Sports Day  
Nov 3 – Culture Day  
Nov 23 – Labor Thanksgiving Day  
Dec 23 – Emperor's Birthday

Like other countries, Japan has its seasonal vacations when children are out of school and companies close down. Travel during these periods must be planned and reservations made in advance. Prices increase and hotel rooms are difficult to obtain. However, please note that these periods are great for sightseeing around Tokyo since everyone else is out of town!

The first long holiday period is the winter vacation centering around New Year's. Many merchants and companies close from about December 28 and reopen around January 5. Governments and banks take a shorter vacation, from about the 31st to the 3rd. The other long vacation period in Japan, during the summer, usually the week around the 15<sup>th</sup> of August is O Bon (the equivalent of All Souls Day; some locations hold O Bon around the 15th of July instead). During both the summer and winter holidays, Japanese travel to their hometowns to be with family and friends like Americans do for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There are also other times when Japanese children are out of school. During these times their parents often travel with them. In April there is a two to three week period between school years, which often coincides with the American spring break. School summer vacation runs from about July 19 to around September 1.

Then, from the end of April to the beginning of May, there is a period known as "Golden Week", which incorporates three national holidays: April 29 (Green Day), May 3 (Constitution Memorial Day), and May 5 (Children's Day). Companies often give employees the days between the holidays off. Since the weather tends to be good (it's the unofficial start of summer), many Japanese visit resorts (or travel abroad).

A little common sense helps decrease frustration levels when planning trips. Remember in the summer, people like the beaches, and in the winter, skiing is popular. Therefore, during the summer and winter holidays, especially during the beginning and end of the mass exoduses, stay home! Listen to

the news to find out when the outgoing and return traffic rushes are expected, and avoid travel during those times.

Teresa K. Negley

## Festivals in Japan

(Dates may vary slightly from year to year. Please check with the Yujo Center for more current information.)

### January

- 1-3 New Year's ceremonies at shrines and temples
- 2 The public pays respects to the Imperial Family; palace grounds are open
- 3 Daruma Fair in Kawagoe
- 6 Dezome-Shiki Edo Fire Brigade near Harumi Pier

### February

- 2 Setsubun Bean-Throwing at Kawasaki-Daishi, and Kamakura Hachimangu Plum Blossom Festival, Odawara Castle Park

### March

- 3-4 Daruma Fair, Jindaiji
  - 3 Rice Planting, Chichibu
- Second Sunday in March, Fire walking Ceremony, Mt Takao
- 27 Lion Dance in Hakone

### April

- Cherry blossom festivals, almost everywhere
- 17 Yayoi Festival, Nikko

### May

- 3 Yokohama Port Festival
- 3-5 Odawara Castle Festival
- 11-12 Azalea Festival at Hakone
- 16-18 Asakusa Sanja Matsuri
- 17-18 Toshogu Spring Festival, Nikko

**June is Rainy Season!!**

### July

- 1 Opening of Fuji-san
- 7-12 Tanabata in Hiratsuka (near Atsugi)
- 13-15 Kawagoe Lantern Festival
- 14 Black Ship Festival (Kujirihama in Yokosuka)
- 20-22 Fan Festival in Kumagaya, Saitama
- 23-24 Chichibu River Festival

### August

- 1 Summer Festival, Omiya Ayu Sweetfish Festival, Atsugi
- 6-7 Tanabata in Fussa

### September

- 16-17 Yabusame and Feudal Procession in Kamakura
- 17 Yokohama Carnival

### October

- 1 Grape Festival in Katsunuma, Yamanashi
- 14-15 Kawagoe River Festival
- 17 Autumn Festival, Nikko



## November

3 Daimyo Procession, Hakone

First two weeks, Chrysanthemum Exhibits in areas such as Meiji Shrine in Harajuku, Shinjuku National Gyoen, and Kitain Temple in Kawagoe.

## December

3 Chichibu Night Festival

14 Gishi-sai for 47 Ronin, Sengakuji Temple

17-19 Hagoita Ichi, Asakusa Kannon

# January - New Year's Festivities

The New Year celebrations consist of a series of traditional family and religious observances, which last for days. It is a time of starting fresh, of purification. Preparations for New Year's Day, a major holiday in Japan, begin in late December. After thoroughly cleaning the house and garden, possible even replacing old tatami mats or shoji paper panels with new ones, New Year's decorations are put up. These decorations often include a shimenawa, kadomatsu, shimekazari and a special altar, known as toshidana.

You will often find *shimenawa*, a twisted straw rope with white paper strips representing cloth offerings, hung over doorways or at the entrances of shrines. It announces the presence of the gods and keeps evil spirits out. The *kadomatsu*, made of pine branches, straw, bamboo stalks, and sometimes plum branches, is placed at the front gate or doorway. It symbolizes prosperity, good health, vigor and longevity. Its size indicates how prosperous the year was for that household. *Shimekazari* represent the crops of the harvest, offered in appreciation for past good harvests and for bountiful ones in the coming year. The *toshidana*, a special altar, is placed in the *tokonoma* or alcove of the main room of the house. It consists of two kagami-mochi (large round rice cakes), set one on top of the other, and decorated with dried persimmons, a tangerine, dried seaweed, or other fruits or vegetables.

New Year's is a time to clear all debts and obligations, although this is a moral obligation and not a legal requirement. Gifts are sent to superiors, friends and relatives to express gratitude. Personally designed New Year's cards are addressed and taken to the post office before the end of December. These cards are then delivered during the first three days of January. Businessmen may send as many as 400 New Year's postcards. Cards are not sent to anyone who has had a death in the family during the previous year.

A much-anticipated moment for children is when *otoshidama* envelopes are handed to them by parents, relatives, and close family friends. These envelopes contain cash present of crisp bills.

There are many traditional dishes that are prepared for the New Year's holiday, and the first meal is a great event. Many dishes are served, including carp, the fish honored because of its stamina; black beans because the Japanese name is pronounced the same as the word meaning "robust"; white radishes and dried seaweed for happiness; and lotus root, considered a sacred plant. These special dishes along with other foods like salmon, fish cakes, herring roe, and mashed chest-

nuts are prepared ahead of time and placed within a triple-tiered container to be served to family and guests, cold. Warm o-zoni, a broth containing vegetables and rice cakes, may also be served.

Mochi, a thick, chewy rice cake, is made on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December by pounding cooked rice into a gooey paste, then forming it into balls. It is pounded in a large wooden mortar, outdoors, by two or three men using long-handled mallets. Mochi can be served in many different ways: with meat, in soups, or with a sweet, red bean paste in the middle. It seems to be unique to Japan, and foreigners may have difficulty acquiring a taste for it. Nowadays, mochi can be purchased in stores, or made at home by machine, so the traditional way is less often practiced.

New Year's Eve is traditionally spent at home watching end-of-the-year television shows and spending time with family. Families eat toshikoshi soba, "passing year:" noodle soup. At midnight, every temple bell in Japan is rung 108 times (possibly symbolizing man's 108 kinds of selfish worldly desires, or to count the 108 beads on an official Buddhist rosary). The last reverberation of the bells signifies that everyone can start the New Year with a clean slate. At midnight, dawn or some other time during the first three days of January, many families dress in beautiful kimonos and make the first visit to a shrine or temple. Prayers are offered for good health and good fortune in the coming year. Some good places to observe the New Year's activities are the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo, Yamaguchi Kannon, near Seibu-en and Takahata Fudo Temple in Hino.

On January 2, a special daruma ceremony is held at Haijima Daishi Temple (just off Rt. 16). Many people bring their old darumas and burn them at a fire at the shrine. New darumas and hamaya arrows (to ward off evil) can be purchased. When you buy a daruma, make a wish and color in one of the eyes. If the wish comes true, color in the other eye. At the end of the year, the old doll is usually burned and a new one purchased, whether or not both eyes are colored in.

Traditional games are often played during New Year's, including tako-age (kite flying), hanetsuki (Japanese badminton using a wooden paddle, a shuttlecock made of soapberry seeds and feathers, and no net), karuta (card games), and koma (tops). A game known as Fukuwari is played when a blindfolded player attempts to draw the eyes, nose, and mouth on a piece of paper which has the outline of a face drawn on it.

The greeting, "Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu" continues to be exchanged through the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the holidays officially conclude. Decorations are taken down, and nanakusa-gaya, "seventh-day porridge" containing 7 herbal greens, is served.

During the second or third week of January, giant teepees made of pine branches and New Year's decorations are burned on the banks of the Tama River after a ceremony. Since there is no set date, have a Japanese-speaking friend call the Fussa or Hamura City Hall. You can see the teepees about a week before the burning ceremony. To get there, turn right out the Fussa Gate onto Rt. 16 then turn left at Tanaka's Olde Crock Shoppe. Go 1.6 km and turn left onto Okutama Kaido, which runs along the Tama River. Go for 1.7 km (5 lights)



and turn left across the canal. Turn right at the Tama River, drive past the walking bridge on your left, and park at the dam at the bottom of the hill. The best place to stand is on the walking bridge, unless the wind is blowing in that direction.

Barbara Kirkwood, Christine Thomas, Karen Ozment, Melody Hostetler, Rita Mayer

## January - Adult Day (Seijin-no-Hi)

January 15, also known as Coming of Age Day or Adult Day, is the day when 20 year-old Japanese men and women celebrate their official coming of age by participating in a ceremony at their local ward office or city hall. (Seijin-Shiki) They also visit shrines to pray for good lives, careers and marriages.

You will notice many young women in traditional Japanese (or western) dress walking around the town. The long flowing sleeves of their kimonos (nearly calf-length vs. thigh-length for married women) signify that they are young and single as do the different and more elaborate knots of the obi. Colored collars, in contrast to the white most often seen, add a touch of gaiety. The kimonos are extremely expensive as are the matching accessories.

Getting ready takes a long time, often involving a visit to the hairdresser for assistance in doing up hair and putting on the kimono and obi. Many young people also visit the photographer this day for an official portrait (they are often teased that the photos will later be used by a matchmaker).

Barbara Kirkwood and Teresa K. Negley

## February - Bean Throwing Ceremony

The Japanese celebrate Setsubun, also known as Onioishiki, on Feb. 3. Americans better know it as the bean-throwing ceremony. This ceremony is practiced in Japanese homes to drive away evil demons. Each family places a small holly branch and the head of a dried sardine at the entrance of the house. In the evening, the windows of the house are opened to allow devils to escape, and each member of the family throws a few roasted soy-beans into each room and out the open windows of the house while chanting "Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi" or "out with the demons, in with good luck!" It is customary to eat one bean for each year of your life, plus one for the coming year. The ceremony is called mamemaki. The next day the beans are swept up and thrown away. If you wish to perform your own mamemaki, you can purchase the cooked soybeans from many locations at the time of the year, including Seiyu. Say, "daizu o kudasai", or "please give me setsubun beans".

Today this ceremony is also performed at some Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, where large crowds gather to watch Japanese celebrities throw the beans. If you are lucky enough to catch one of the beans, you gain good fortune for the year. One of the best nearby places to observe setsubun is Takahata Fudo in Hino City.

Barbara Kirkwood

## February/March - Walk in Clouds of Color at Yoshino Baigo

Even with the Kanto Plain's mild winters, spring is a welcome sight. Plum blossoms, unlike cherry blossoms, which only last several days, are in bloom for several weeks and are a must to see while in Japan. Their delicate pink, white, and lavender hues give a dainty loveliness to the surroundings from the end of February through March.

Once famous spot for seeing Japan's plum blossoms is right near Yokota Air Base, in Ome City. Trees in almost everyone's year are part of the beauty of the area. About 25,000 trees, spanning a collection of 100 different varieties, blossom in the town of Yoshino Baigo in Ome City, located on the Tama River. Yoshino Baigo has a small park names Umeno-Koen, or Plum Park, which is especially lovely during plum-viewing time.

"Baigo" means "plum garden." Also, Yoshino Baigo has a festival to celebrate this season with a number of booths selling the usual festival foods and souvenirs. This festival runs throughout the month of March. There's a special day of celebration on a mid-March Sunday, with performances of traditional dancing.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** The easiest way to get to Yoshino is to take the Ome Line JR train to Hinatawada; then walk north to the bridge that crosses the Tama River (on your left). You are in Yoshino as soon as you cross the bridge. This main street is where the festival is held. To get to Plum Park, continue on the street until you reach a T-intersection. Turn left and look across the street for a VERY small paved street on the right-hand side of the road.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Keep in mind that parking places are scarce on the main festival day and are also limited at other times. The easiest way to drive to Yoshino is to turn right out of the Fussa or Terminal Gates and go north on Route 16. Seven lights after the Terminal Gate, turn left on Ome Kaido and continue on Ome Kaido until you reach Hinatawada in about 20 to 30 minutes. Watch for the Hinatawada train station on your right. It is above the road level, and was recently painted yellow. Turn left across the first bridge over the Tama River after the train station. You are now in Yoshino.

Sondra Halweg

## March - Hamura Festival

When cherry trees bloom, all of Japan celebrates. Time itself seems to honor the brief, but beautiful life of the fragile sakura. Under canopies of soft pink, blankets are spread, families and friends gather to eat, drink, sing, and often just contemplate the beauty and peace. There are many places well known for cherry blossom viewing - Kyoto, Kamakura, Ueno. But some of the prettiest and most accessible are just outside the Yokota gates. Fussa and Hamura annually greet the cherry blossoms with festivals.

Located along the Tama River are walkways that wind through woodland, past playgrounds, residences, and small



shrines. Offering views of mountains and rivers, the walks are lined on both sides with mature cherry trees. Normally quiet and fairly deserted, during the Cherry Blossom Festivals, these become the "place to be."

For several days, small booths sell traditional Japanese food, toys, and flowers under the protection of the blooming trees. There is occasionally a tea ceremony demonstration, or you might discover a Noh theatre in the grassy areas along the path. The way becomes crowded with many who wish to share in the spirit, but the view is never blocked. The celebrations begin in the morning and continue until about 10pm.

The walkway originates near the dam on the Tama River and follows a canal along Okutama Kaido. The most popular area is near the dam where the merchant stalls draw crowds for food and drink. But the entire walkway is worthwhile for its beauty. The dates of the festival vary according to the blooming of the trees. Normally, it last for four days over the weekend nearest the height of the cherry blossoms.

Parking is not easily found. There are some side streets near New Caesar's that offer limited street parking. It is an easy 15-minute bike ride from the base. Driving should take about 20 minutes, depending on traffic.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Terminal Gate. Go to the first stop light and turn right. Follow this street across two sets of train tracks until you come to a "T" intersection. Turn right. You are now on Okutama Kaido and the canal is on your left. Continue to the second stoplight. There will be a bridge with yellow pavement here across the canal. Turn left over the bridge and follow the road around and down the hill past the athletic field. You may find parking along this street. You will be able to see the cherry trees and the path now. Take your blanket, picnic and camera and follow the people up the canal to the main area of the festival. Now all that's left is to relax and enjoy Japan at its most beautiful.

Donna Alexander

## March - Cherry Blossoms

### Sayama Ko

This ordinary dam becomes a promenade during sakura (cherry blossom) season. While many Japanese crowd the area on weekends, fewer people visit during the week. It's a nice place to take children for a picnic. On weekends, a number of food booths will be set up around the lake. They feature corn-on-the-cob, grilled squid and a variety of quick foods, as well as soft drinks.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate. At the first signal light, turn right. At the next light, turn left. Continue on this road to the T-intersection. At the "T", turn right onto Ome Kaido. After you pass the third light, you will see a 7-11 store on the right and the fourth light just ahead. Turn left onto a very small street just before the fourth light. Continue on this road. It will widen soon and you will enter a large park area. After about 6 or 7 km, you will pass the Tamako Jinja Shrine on your right. You will come to a fork in the road, a major intersection. Turn left. Going straight will take you around to Seibu-En and Seibu Stadium. Yamaguchi Kannon will be on your right. Just after this you will see a restaurant on your right and parking down a hill to your left.

Park and walk to the dam. Cross over to the other side and another large park.

### Mutumibashi-Dori

For special viewing at night (and day), go straight out the Supply Gate (across two sets of railroad tracks). After 1.3km, turn left onto Denen-dori (school on your right and four-way crosswalk overhead), and pass a Marufuji Store on the left. At the T, turn right and just before the bridge, enter the park on the left. Park your car and walk along the river to your right to find the cherry blossoms.

### Yanagi Yama Park

Fifteen minutes from Yokota, this park on the Tama River offers paths for strolling or biking, and swings and slides for children. Go straight out Fussa Gate and cross one set of railroad tracks. Bear left and cross a second set of tracks. At the first signal light, turn right. At the next light, turn left. Go three signal lights and turn left. The blue Fussa gym will be on your right at .6km. Yanagi Yama is behind the gym. Parking is limited.

### Chidori Ga Fuchi

A little further away, but easy to get to, is Chidori Ga Fuchi. The park has a science and art museum, and it is across the street from a huge torii gate and shrine dedicated to those who died during World War II. On a small lake, you can row a boat under the blossoms. Rental boats are available Tuesday-Sunday, 9:30am-4pm. Cost is Y200 for 30 minutes, or Y400 for one hour.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and change to the Chuo Line towards Tokyo. At Nakano, change to Tozai Subway (track 4). Get off at the sixth stop, Kudanshita. Go out Exit 2. The park will be in front of you at the top of the stairs. Turn right and walk a short distance. You will see a sign in English saying "Chidori Ga Fuchi" pointing left. This is the prettiest walk with the trees forming an arch over the walkway. On the right you will see a large black torii.

### Takao Rinyakyoku

This Forest Test Center offers the view of thousands of trees, which until recent years were enjoyed only by the Emperor. For a little exercise, hike to the picnic area at the top of a hill for a bird's eye view. Since there are no food stands, bring a lunch from home. A map of the area is Y50 or free of charge with the purchase of cherry blossom photographs (six for Y500). Takao Rinyakyoku is open 9:30am-3:30pm Monday-Saturday during April.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and change to the Chuo Line towards Takao. Ride the train five stops. After you exit the train, look for the north exit near Tracks 1 and 2. Go out the north exit and walk to the street straight out the station, Takao Kaido. Walk up a hill. Bear left. Takao Rinyakyoku is about 15 minutes from the train station.

Compiled by Pat Nolan, Lori St. Laurent, Sondra Halweg, Barbara Kirkwood, Christine Thomas



## March - Girls' Festival

Hinamatsuri, known as the Doll Festival, also known as Girls' Day, is celebrated on March 3. It is celebrated as a seasonal festival called momo-no-sekku or peach festival, for the abundant peach blossoms at this time. Families (especially those with young girls) will display a group of beautiful dolls, usually inherited, on tiers. The dolls vary in size and materials. Each doll represents a member of the ancient imperial court. On the top shelf are the Emperor and Empress (dairi-bina), below them are two eminent lords (udaijin and sadaijin), three ladies-in-waiting (sannin-kanjo), five musicians (gonin-bayashi), and lastly their three servants. At the bottom of the display on the lower shelves are miniature replicas of furniture, foods, and palanquins.

Although Hinamatsuri is a festival from medieval times, the custom of displaying dolls only dates to the 18th century. In the beginning, the dolls were handmade and thrown into the river along with other offerings on March 3. Nowadays, commercially made dolls are very expensive so they are taken down and stored carefully away for the next year. The dolls can be put up any time prior to the holiday, but about a week prior is the most popular.

Taking the dolls down is another story, as timing is of the essence. It is said that the dolls should be taken down as soon after the festival as possible, preferably on the night of March 3. The story goes: if you leave the dolls out too long, your daughters will have bad luck in getting married. Meaning the longer you delay in taking the dolls down, the longer it will take for your daughters to get married. One friend, whose mother used to leave her dolls up for over a month after the holiday, strongly believes in this superstition, as she is 30 years old and still single.

The dolls are often passed down from generation to generation, except maybe for those who like the dolls too much to part with them. In many cases nowadays, it is the grandparents who buy these very expensive dolls for the granddaughters when they are very young, usually between the ages of one and three.

Another tradition on Girls' Day is the preparation of sweet rice wine (shirozake) as well as other special dishes.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## March - Fertility Festival

Fertility festivals are held throughout Japan in March. The most popular is the Honen Matsuri, known as the Nagoya Fertility Festival. The purpose of the festival is, well, to promote fertility, complete with pomp, ceremony. And ah...unusual paraphernalia. On March 15, the festival peaks with a grand procession from one shrine to another along the banks of rice paddies to ensure a good harvest. Priests offer prayers for abundant crops while presenting sake to the crowd; farmers do their part by contributing donations to the Shinto gods.

Crop fertility, however, isn't the only fertility being honored. The priest also sprinkles rice on the spectators to ensure their fertility. (Incidentally, that's why rice is thrown at newlyweds!) Meanwhile, parade participants carry sym-

bols of a different nature. Any lingering doubts about the festival's purpose disappear after one look at the parade's centerpiece: a mail fertility symbol twelve feet long. Candy replicas of this, and its female counter part, can be purchased for those back home who "just won't believe it."

Two shrines, the Tagata (male) and the Gakuden (female), sponsor this celebration. Not surprisingly, the Tagata Shrine is the more important. Its large and varied collection of unusually shaped rocks, stones, and branches is on display on the grounds of the shrine. Held March 14-15, this festival is a splendid way to spend some time off.

Norma Jean Myrick

## March - Firewalking Festival

Only one of a few local firewalking festivals (Hiwatari Matsuri), the Mount Takao fire walking is truly an interesting festival you will not want to miss. Yamabushi Hiwatari is held at the Yakuoin Temple near the summit of Mount Takao. This festival is held on the second Sunday of March each year. Buddhist priests walking over red-hot-embers lead the ceremony. To reach the summit you can take a ten-minute cable car ride to the top. The cable car is Y810 round trip for adults or Y420 one-way. Children's fare is Y410 round trip, Y210 one-way. When you get off the cable car there are some shops and restaurants. Follow the path up the hill to the Yakuoin Temple, about a fifteen-minute walk. Of course, there are also souvenir shops and benches all along this trail. It is a great way to enjoy the countryside. On this trail you will not need any special "climbing gear", only energy and comfortable shoes. You can follow the path back and then take the cable car back to the bottom.

Festivities begin at 1pm with a drum beating chorus. Next, a procession of Buddhist priests in ornate robes slowly make their way to the altar, and go through a purification ceremony. The priests proceed to gather around a very large wooden frame, which is covered with wood and pine boughs. There will be about 45 minutes of prayers, chants and rituals. Then the priests begin to light the fire. As the fire grows larger they gather old prayer "sticks" to put into the fire, thus bringing good wishes to the wishers.

As the fire grows, the flames leap higher and higher, throwing ash into the air. Beware to those of you in the front of the crowd; it will become an "ash shower", especially if you find yourself downwind! Also be prepared for the smoke. If your eyes are sensitive, it might be wise for you to stay upwind. After about 20 minutes, the fire dies down and the priests begin to poke through the embers, creating two pathways. Although they clear the embers pretty much to the sides, the ground is still hot. The priests will begin their procession across the embers and after their ceremony is over and their shoes are back on, they will invite the spectators to try.

The lines of spectators is very long so if you want to participate in the fire walking itself you should try to gather at the gate during the ceremony, not after. There will be four salt piles: one at the beginning and end of each of the two procession lines. Before walking across the coals, step into the salt and then again when you finish. Be sure to carry a



washcloth or small towel to clean your feet when you are finished! Don't be afraid to try walking across the fire because it is too hot. On my visit, I watched a little girl of three or four try it with her mom, and she looked as though it was a breeze.

**DIRECTIONS:** By train, it takes about an hour. Leave from the Higashi Fussa station and take the train to Hachioji. At Hachioji change trains to the Chuo Line on track four to Takao. The trains are very frequent, about one every ten minutes; but be careful not to get on an express train to Kofu as it is a long ride to the next stop and it will cost you money (this is not a free mistake). Except for the express trains, all the others stop at Takao and the train will be marked for Takao (in English). At Takao you will have to change trains again to the Keio Line to each Takao-San. When you get off the train at Takao follow the signs (in English) to the Keio Line, going past the ticket booths. At Takao you will take the train to Takao San Guchi, the end of the line. The approximate cost is Y400, one way, for adults.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## May - Children's Day (Kodomo-no-Hi)

Kodomo-no-Hi, or Children's Day, is a national holiday which falls on May 5 each year, marking the semi-official end of Golden Week (a week of intermittent holidays and workdays during which many companies take vacations). Actually this day was originally celebrated as the Boys' Festival even though it is called Children's Day.

May 5 is also celebrated as a seasonal festival in Japan called tango-no-sekku or the Iris Festival. According to the old lunar calendar this is the beginning of summer. In celebrating this holiday many traditions are followed. First, to drive away the evil spirits and to celebrate the future of their sons, each family will hang one or more koi-no-bari (carp streamers made of cloth, similar to out windsocks) from flagpoles and balconies. These koi-no-bori can range in size from two feet to 60 feet, and can be simple or very ornamental. Indoors, gogatsuningyo (samurai dolls) are displayed, in a similar fashion to Girls' Day where Imperial Court dolls are displayed in the homes of girls. Boys take a bath with floating iris leaves called shobuiyu. They eat kashiwa-mochi (rice cakes in oak leaves) and chimaki (dumplings in bamboo leaves). These decorations and foods are prepared by parents with the hope that their children will grow up healthy and strong. They choose these items because in Japan samurai, carp, irises, oak trees and bamboo are known as symbols of strength. Most families still celebrate using all the traditions.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Yokota's Friendship Festival

The Yokota Friendship Festival features fly-bys, static display aircraft and cultural events. There are many booths selling foods, t-shirts, and other items. There are also carnival rides for children, special performances and musical entertainment. On average, about 200,000 people attend the annual 2-day summer event. A firework show wraps up the

festival on Sunday evening. Watch the base bulletin and Fuji Flyer for specific dates. Invite your Japanese friends for a great time of entertainment!

Christine Thomas

## August - Fussa's Tanabata Festival

Yokotans join their Fussa neighbors in the city's streets during August in celebration of the yearly rendezvous of the lovers, Vega and Altair – also known as the Tanabata Festival. This festival involves Chinese folklore brought to Emperor Koken's Imperial Court in 775 AD. The love story is about a talented weaver, Vega, who met Altair, a herdsman, through Vega's father. The young couple fell in love and Vega subsequently neglected her weaving. Vega's father was angered so he demanded the lovers separate, allowing them to meet only once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh month of the lunar calendar.

Originally, girls wrote their wishes on paper strips hung on bamboo branches. Later, colorful streamers were used. There are three shrines carried, which are different from other festivals: one by adult Japanese males, one by adult Japanese females, and one by Americans. The festival includes dashi (a wagon with drums and music), dancers (about 130 groups), festival foods and fun.

This is truly a Japanese-American festival and a Yokota-Fussa friendship event. You can be a "shrine carrier" and part of it all; just contact the Wing Public Affairs Office.

Thora Davidson-White

## August - Ome Fireworks

On the first Saturday night in August, Ome City has a magnificent display of fireworks. It lasts over an hour! To get to the viewing area, follow the crowds walking up the hill behind the Ome train station. Take a mat to sit on as hundreds of people sit on the ground of the athletic field. Go early so you'll have room to spread out your mat or blanket. Bring a picnic and enjoy the night!

Christine Thomas

## August - The Festival of Lanterns

August is the month of Bon, when the spirits of the dead revisit their families and are entertained for a few days and then return to the other shore (like across the River Styx). Bon Matsuri, or Festival of Lanterns, is a time of solemn meditation and reflection; a time to show respect for and to acknowledge gratitude to ancestors. It is also a joyous time when those who have passed away return to visit with the living.

Bon Matsuri is not a national holiday and is therefore not celebrated at the same time throughout Japan. Traditionally, it was celebrated in July; it is still celebrated from July 13-15 in Tokyo. In most other parts of Japan, the three-day



event is celebrated in August during the summer break so that people may return to their hometowns.

In preparation for O-bon, homes and graveyards are cleaned. Decorations, offerings and food are purchased at bon-ichi (Bon market) or kusa-ichi (grass market). Buddhist graveyards are elaborately decorated. Branches from Japanese umbrella pine, koyamaki, and sakaki trees (unique to Japan, and considered sacred) can be found along with mochi, fruit and incense. Many rites and customs are associated with Bon Matsuri, and visitors to both city parks and rural areas will find very different celebrations, depending on where they go. On the first night, families flock to cemeteries with white lanterns to light the way for returning ancestors.

In the main room of the house, the butsudan, family altar, is displayed along with the ihai, record of ancestry. The house is carefully decorated, and appropriate foods are prepared. All is done to make the returning spirits feel welcome. Often a priest is invited to chant sutras for the spirits.

During this season, presents are exchanged between friends, and merchants give semi-annual gifts to valued customers. Workers are often given a day off and a gift. Public celebrations take place in every community. Vendors offer all types of souvenirs: flowers, fruits, and crickets in small wooden cages, red fish, bonsai trees and ferns. Fortunetellers promise a look into the future, and zodiac charms are available to insure good luck. There is a carnival spirit in the air.

At the end of the three-day visit, preparations are made for the spirit's return trip to Meido, the other world. Dango, farewell rice balls, are offered to the spirits for their journey. People flock to rivers to flat small boats with lighted lanterns aboard. Each boat contains a candle with writing that means "service for the myriads of souls in the other world". Often these candles are personalized with the names of the departing spirits. It is believed these small boats eventually reach the sea.

A gay and important part of the Bon season is the Bon odori, a dance intended for rejoicing. Bon-odori is a rhythmic dance in which participants dance, sing, clap hands and stamp feet in unison to folk songs; accompanied by beating drums which go faster and faster. In country districts, Bon-odori is considered one of the happiest events of the year.

The religious folk dances performed in Kosi in Nagano Prefecture, and Tokushima in Tokushima Prefecture is among the most distinctive and very popular with visitors. These Bon-odori celebrations take place August 14-16. Another noteworthy celebration takes place on Shiraishi-jima, and island in the Inland Sea, on August 13-16. Since Bon-odori festivities take place in every city and village in Japan, they are a wonderful opportunity to see dancers in traditional costume and to join in the celebrations.

Tina Isaacson, Rita Mayer 97

## September - Chouyo

Chouyo, the Chrysanthemum Festival, on the ninth day of the ninth month, was adopted by the Japanese from a Chinese festival during the Tokugawa period. The chrysanthemum signifies fall and winter and the wheel-like form of its shape is a symbol of the radiating sun (it is also the emblem of

the present imperial family). Like Ground Hog Day, the weather on this day is said to forecast the weather of the coming winter. Good weather promises an easy winter, rainy weather means cold and snow while a northeasterly wind predicts an abundance of fruit.

## September - Juugoya

With the arrival of September, minds turn to thoughts of a clear moon. A pale moonlit night in autumn has a special appeal to the poetic temperament of the Japanese people. Juugoya, the 15th night or night of the full moon late in September is an occasion for moon-viewing parties. Although the practice of greeting the moon is no longer observed as widely as in the past, it still delights many people. Just before twilight, a small table is set out where the rays of the harvest moon will fall. Fifteen dango (rice dumplings) are placed on the table with fruit and vegetables as an offering to the Moon Goddess. A vase with the Seven Grasses of Autumn (susuki: including cattails & pampas grass) will also be set on the table. When the moon rises, family and friends will admire the beauty of the moon while enjoying refreshments.

## September - Keiro-no-Hi

September 15, Keiro-no-Hi or Respect for the Aged Day, is a national holiday for showing reverence to the elderly. (Be *especially* careful not to sit in the Silver Seat at the end of a railway car this day if an older person is present. These seats are reserved for handicapped and elderly persons at all times; they are usually marked by a different color and dark blue sign on the window above the seat.) Shuubun-no-Hi, or the Autumn Equinox, is another national holiday. Some Japanese make pilgrimages to the graves of their ancestors at this time. Housewives also make and distribute delicacies to friends and neighbors as tokens of kindness and regard for life.

Carol Ingmanson, Teresa K. Negley

## September - The Ginger Festival

The Ginger Festival is to be found at the Ninomiya Shrine on September 9. About 100 years ago, the people of the area began celebrating an annual festival at the Ninomiya Shrine believing the eating of ginger would bring good health and well-being for the coming year.

Ginger plants, as well as a wide variety of craft items, can be purchased from a several vendors. Some of the more interesting vendors are the food vendors. One may find popcorn, cotton candy and honey-roasted chestnuts for sale. Try the squid cooked on skewers; surprisingly tasty.

Throughout the day, there are many different types of traditional entertainment. The puppet show is a favorite of young and old alike. The stage is set up high to give everyone a good view. The puppets are about two-thirds the size of a human and are magnificently crafted. The puppeteers can be seen, but they are shrouded in black to blend in with the back-



ground. Drums and other traditional instruments accompany the performance.

Events at the festival continue all day. Between 4-8pm a smaller portable shrine is carried through the streets and up the 46 steps to the permanent shrine.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa go to Haijima Station, then change to the Itsukaichi Line. Take this train to Kumagawa, then to Higashiakiru Station. The Ninomiya Shrine is only a 4-minute walk from the station.

Debbie Reed

## November - Shichi-Go-San

Shichi-Go-San, the 7-5-3 festival, is an annual festival that was traditionally held on November 15, but is now celebrated throughout the month of November. It is a festival for 3 and 7 year old girls, and 5 year-old boys. Girls are dressed in their finest kimonos and boys are dressed in their finest haregi for a festival that honors them. Parents and grandparents, also dressed in their finest, take their children to Shinto shrines to give thanks for their good health and pray for happiness and future blessings.

On this big day, the younger girls are usually “made-up” at home by mom or grandma. Their ensemble is somewhat easier, and their makeup is simpler, since they only require lipstick. The older girls, however, may get to make a special trip to the beauty parlor where they get their hair styled, their faces made up and their kimonos perfect before their parents pick them up. The next stop is a professional photographer, who will capture the moment of the special day. Here the girls are given a stick of candy called chitose-ame (literally *1,000 years of age candy*). The girls display these long candy sticks in festive bags for their pictures. Photographs are taken, as this is one of the most important times in a young boy or girl’s life.

When the formalities of picture taking are over, the family heads to a shrine for a ceremony to pray for health and everlasting happiness. Upon arrival, we were overwhelmed by the number of beautiful young girls and handsome young boys! We made our way to the registration area where our friends’ daughters waited their turn to go into the Shrine. After more pictures (these informal) and some squirming by many young people, the girls were finally called.

There were approximately eight families in the room, both with boys and girls. I tried not to look like a ‘tourist’ as I looked over each of these young boys and girls to see their kimonos and haregi. We knelt before a Shinto priest and he began the ceremony, which I never understood but will truly remember for the rest of my life. He blessed the children as a whole and prayed for their health and happiness in a ceremony that lasted only fifteen minutes.

Within the first five minutes, my feet had gone to sleep and as I looked around thinking I might shift to a more comfortable position, I realized quickly this was a place where this should not be done. I wondered how I might walk when it was over! After the group blessing, the priest called each of the children by name to the front and gave them a blessing. Then, when all the children were done, we left the room.

Next, we took a walk around the grounds and looked at some of the old original buildings within the Shrine grounds. After some more photos, we headed for home, where everyone changed out of their kimonos into some ‘Sunday’ clothes could go out to celebrate with a traditional Japanese feast!

This festival is quite an experience, and even if you cannot participate yourself, going to local and more famous Shrines on Sundays in November (or a Japanese holiday in November) to see the boys and girls is a real treat! Some of the most popular areas in Tokyo are Meiji Jingu (Meiji Shrine) near Harajuku Station, Kanda Myojin near Ochanomizu Station, and Asakusa Jinja near Asakusa Station.

Wiki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## December - Emperor’s Birthday

In Japan, although Christmas is not a national holiday, some western traditions are being adopted. Confectioners have started a “tradition” that a Christmas cake is to be eaten by the family on Christmas Eve. Santa Claus brings one gift per child. Many offices close for a week to ten days for New Year’s from about the 28th of December until January 5. There are many end-of-the-year (and New Year) parties similar to our holiday season socials.

The only national holiday this month is the **Emperor’s Birthday** on December 23. On this day, the castle gates are opened and the Emperor gives a speech to the public. This is quite an experience, you should go! He repeats the speech several times throughout the day to accommodate the masses of people lined up to view him and his family.

## December - Chichibu Yo-Matsuri

An all-night festival is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, highlighted by a parade of six huge, lantern-lit floats. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> all the floats assemble at the Chichibu Shrine around 7pm, and proceed along the city’s main streets. There is a fireworks display from 8:20-10pm in Hitsujiyama Park. From 2-3pm, kabuki is performed on a temporary stage in front of the Musashino Bank.

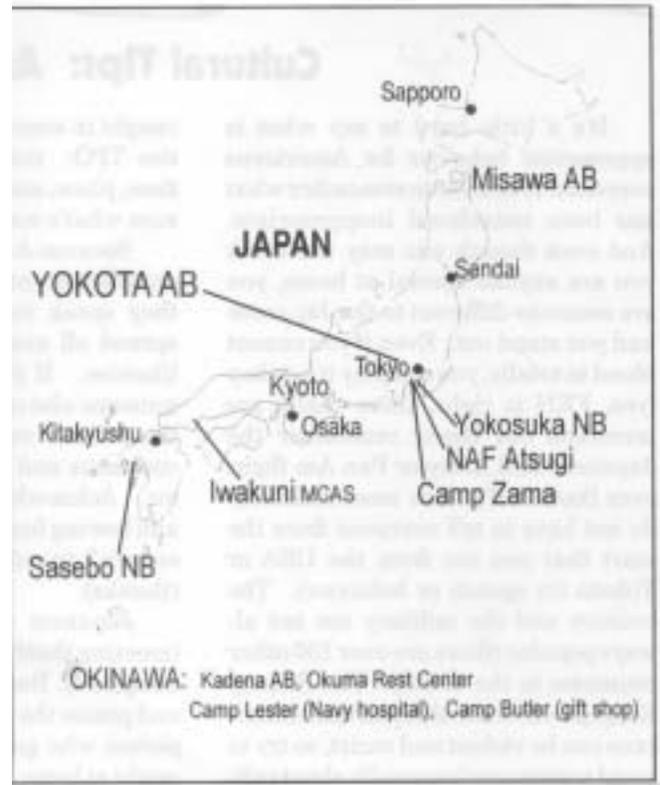
## December - Gishi-Sai

A festival is held at Sengakuji Temple in Tokyo on December 14 celebrating the famous vendetta carried out by the 47 Ronin “masterless samurai” of Ako in 1702. The parade, reenacting the event, starts from Nihombashi Memmo Co., near Higashi-Nihombashi Station on the Toei Asakusa Line at 6pm. They cross the Ryogoku Bridge and arrive at Matsuzakacho Park around 6:20. After a reception they ride the subway to Sengakuji Station and arrive at Sengakuji Temple, the burial place of these master less samurai, at around 7:30pm. A memorial service is then held.





# Area Maps



# Shrines and Temples - Etiquette

**Shrines** (Shinto) usually have torii gates (two pillars with two cross bars) at the entrances to their grounds, and jagged paper emblems or symbolic ropes in front of the altars.

**Temples** (Buddhist) are often marked on maps with a backward "swastika" symbol. Sometimes, both are present on the same grounds.

The following etiquette is appropriate for anybody visiting a shrine or temple:

You should be dressed appropriately. Pass under the torii gate and walk through the "sando" or approach to the shrine. Go to the hand-washing stone basin and cleanse your hands thoroughly. With a dipper, pour water into your cupped hand and then bring the water to your mouth, gargle and swallow. Do not bring the dipper directly to your mouth. Advance before the god enshrined. Throw some money (either paper currency or coins) into the offering box; five-yen coins are fine (the phrase go-en also means "for luck"). Then bow deeply two times. After that, clap your hands twice. Then make a deep bow once more.

# English Language Churches and Times of Worship

## 1. Kanto Plains Baptist Church

Tel. 51-1915

Sun: 11am and 6pm

Wed: 7pm

## 2. New Light Fellowship

Tel. 53-8040

## 3. Tokyo Baptist Church

Tel. 03-3461-8425

Sun: 11am and 6pm

## 4. Yokota Baptist Church

Tel. 53-2577

Sun: 11am and 6pm

Wed: 7pm

## 5. Apostolic United Pentecostal Church

Tel. 53-1159

Sun: 10:30am and 6pm

Thurs: 7pm

## 6. St. Alban's Anglican/Episcopal Church

Tel. 3431-8534

Sun: 8am Holy Eucharist

10am (Family Eucharist, 1st Sun of month)

10am Sung Eucharist

5:30pm (Choral Evensong, 1st Sun of month)

## 7. Yokota Christian Center

Tel. 51-4772

Sun: 10:30am and 6pm

Wed: 7pm

## 8. Yokota Church of Christ

Tel. 227-6028

Sun: 10am and 6pm

Wed: 6:30pm

## 9. Calvary Conservative Baptist Church

Tel. 57-0654

Sun: 11am and 6pm

Wed: 7pm

## 10. Saint Anselm's Benedictine Priory (Roman Catholic)

Tel. 03-3491-6966

Sun: 11:45am

Wed: Bible Class 7pm

## 11. St. Paul International Lutheran Church, Tokyo Lutheran Center

Tel. 03-3261-3740

Sun: 9:30am Worship Service

10:45am Sunday School

## 12. Independent Church of Deliverance

Tel. 52-9679

Please call for times of services.

## 13. Franciscan Chapel Center (Roman Catholic)

Tel. 03-3401-2141/2142

Sat: 6pm Mass in English

Sun: 8, 10am, Noon, 6pm

M-F: 8am

## 14. Tokyo Union Church

Tel. 03-3400-0047

Sun: 8:40 and 11am

9:50-10:45am Sun School

## 15. Tokyo International Church of Seventh-day Adventist

(Harajuku)

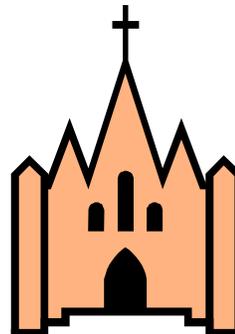
Tel. 03-3402-1517

## 16. Yokohama International Church of Seventh-day Adventists

2483 Kamikawai-cho

Ahahi-ku, Yokohama, Japan 241-0802

Tel. 045-921-2061





# T ransportation



## Japan by Rail



### Riding the Trains of Japan Railway (JR)

The Yujo Community Center is probably the first place to start your adventure on the rails. They have English versions of the train and subway maps that will be invaluable to you during your stay here at Yokota. The Family Support Center also offers a train-riding class to those who are a little less adventurous.

An awesome web site to find train schedules and routes can be found at: <http://www.hyperdia.com/cgi-english/> If you type in a starting location and destination, it will give you times, trains, and costs. You can also get time tables for individual stations.

Yokota residents usually catch the train at Fussa Station on the Ome Line of the Japan Railway (JR East). There is a closer station at Higashi Fussa on the Hachiko Line but it is not the quickest way to Tokyo.

Many Yokotans park their cars at the Fussa Gate and walk to Fussa Station. It is about a 15 minute walk. Parking near the station is limited and illegally parked cars can be ticketed or towed away so be careful.

**DIRECTIONS TO FUSSA STATION:** Go out the Fussa Gate, cross Rt. 16 and continue straight. Cross the tracks and continue walking to the right, through a Y intersection. Go through one traffic light and continue walking until you come to the second traffic light. The cross street at this intersection is called Yanagi Dori. If you turn right you will see Seiyu department store on the left. The train station is also on the left just before Seiyu. To reach the station, turn left at the first street intersecting Yanagi Dori, and follow it as it curves gently around to the right.

**GETTING YOUR TICKET:** When you reach the station, go up the stairs past the bakery and you will see the ticket taker and the ticket machines. Look at the charts to the left of the machines to figure out the fare to where you are going. The map will show the Ome Line leading into Tachikawa, the seventh stop from Fussa. The Ome Line becomes the Chuo Mainline after Tachikawa and continues to Shinjuku station. The last stop on the Chuo Line is Tokyo Station. Once you have found your fare, go to the ticket machine and put your money in the coin slot or the bill feed. The buttons will light up, indicating the tickets you can purchase with the amount of money that you have deposited. Push the button of the fare that you want. A ticket will come out of the machine along with any change. Take your ticket and go to the turnstile to enter the station. You will insert your ticket into the feed and it will come out the slot at the other end. You will want to keep your ticket in a safe place because you will need it again at your destination.

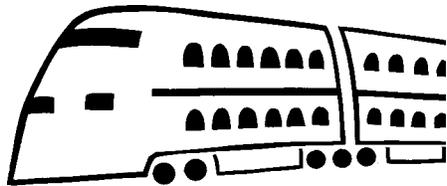
**RIDING THE TRAIN:** When you walk down the stairs to the train platform, you will find that one side of the platform has trains that go toward Ome or Okutama, into the mountains away from Tokyo, and the other side has trains that go toward Haijima, Tachikawa, or to Tokyo. There is a time schedule on the platform that will tell you when the next train arrives, but you can also ask for a pocket schedule at the ticket window. There are two types of trains that leave Tachikawa station toward Tokyo. One is Rapid (Kaisoku), which stops at almost every station and takes about 50 minutes to reach Shinjuku. The other is the Special Rapid (Tokubetsu Kaisoku), which stops only at Mitaka and Takano before Shinjuku. It



takes about 30 minutes to reach Shinjuku. On the schedule, the Special Rapid train times are circled. Some things to keep in mind: Smoking is not permitted on the trains, and it is impolite to eat or drink on the commuter trains. Don't play music without headphones, talk loudly, or disturb the people who are reading, sleeping or meditating!

## Getting Back to Fussa Station

Getting back from Tokyo or elsewhere is not so much of a challenge as you might expect. If you are anywhere near Tokyo Station, consider going there to catch the train. It is the beginning of the line and you can usually get a seat. It will take you approximately an hour and a half to get to Fussa and you will want to sit if possible. Go to tracks 1 and 2 to catch any train to Tachikawa, Toyoda, Takao or Ome. These trains go through Tachikawa on their way to their final destinations, and you will need to get out there, and catch another train to Fussa. When you arrive at Tachikawa, go to Tracks 2 or 3 and catch a train for Ome, Okutama, or Kabe since those trains stop at Fussa. Remember that the **last train from Tachikawa to Fussa leaves at 12:40am**. You will need to leave Tokyo in time to catch the last train or be prepared for a long walk, large taxi bill or long wait. The next train for Fussa leaves after 4am!



## Higashi-Fussa Station

The **Hachiko Line** is accessible from the Higashi-Fussa Station and train schedules are available from the Yujo Community Center. You will use this train to get to Hachioji, Yokohama or Yokosuka. It also connects with the Sagami Line to get to the Tama area.

**DIRECTIONS:** Walk out the Fussa Gate and go right. At the first light, turn left. At the first street, Waratsuke Kaido (before the tracks) turn right. The station is half a block ahead on the left. This station is small and the ticket machine is often turned off. If so, just get on the train and buy your ticket either from the conductor, or from the fare adjustment window. They will figure your fare for you. When you return home, the conductor usually collects tickets as you leave the platform.

## Some Helpful Kanji - Katakana - Hiragana

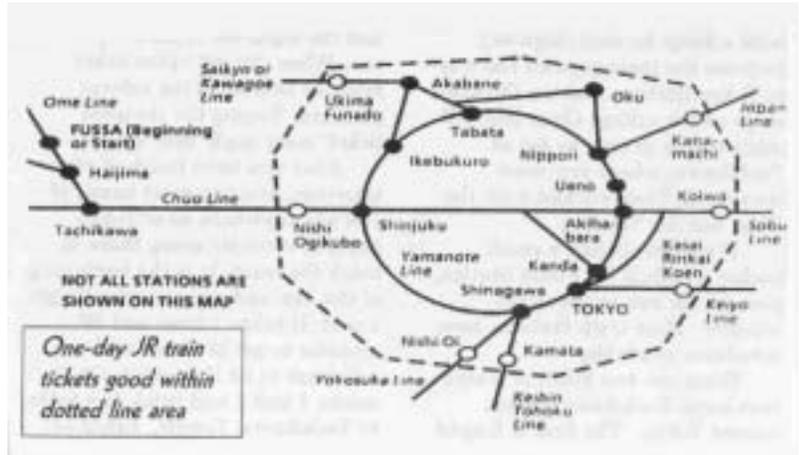
TOKYO	東京	とうきょう
SHINJUKU	新宿	しんじゅく
TACHIKAWA	立川	たちかわ
HACHIOJI	八王子	はちおうじ
FUSSA	福生	ふっさ
OME	青梅	おうめ
OKUTAMA	奥多摩	おくたま
SOME TYPES OF JR TRAINS:		
1) ORANGE = TOKKAI SPECIAL RAPID	特快	
2) ORANGE = KAISOKU RAPID	快速	
3) YELLOW = KAKUEKI LOCAL (ALL STATIONS)	各駅	
EAST (HIGASHI) INDICATING DIRECT TRAINS TO TOKYO STATION	東	
HACHIKO LINE	八高線	
HIGASHI FUSSA	東福生	
HAIJIMA	拝島	



## One-Day Tickets & Prepaid Cards

If you are going to be traveling all day in Tokyo, you might want to buy a pass for unlimited riding. You can get the pass at Fussa Station and it costs 1600 yen for adults and 800 yen for children. Ask for the Tokunai Free Pass. There are also One Day Free tickets for the subways that cost 700 yen for adults and 350 yen for children. You can get these passes at Shinjuku, other large subway stations, and the New Sanno Travel Desk. You can also check with the Yujo Community Center to get more information about these passes.

Similar to phone cards, the trains offer a JR IO Card (Pre-paid card) in 3,000 and 5,000 yen units that can be bought at the Fussa Station window. You can buy a card and use it until there is no value left. If you owe some on your last ride, you will be told so by the fare adjustment machine near the exit.



## Seibu-Shinjuku Line

More adventurous souls might try taking the Seibu Shinjuku Line from Seibu Tachikawa or Haijima stations. It costs about half the fare of the Chuo Line. Recently, the station names appear on signs printed in English along most of the route. Be warned however that the trains themselves are usually labeled only in kanji. The train stops at Takadanobaba on the Yamanote Line. When you get off the train, follow the signs for JR Yamanote Line. Go upstairs and walk over, and across, to the next platform. Turn in your ticket at the window at the top of the stairs and tell the clerk your destination on the Yamanote Line to get a transfer ticket. Or you may decide to ride the train to the end of the line at Seibu Shinjuku Station. This station is separated by a short slightly complicated walk from the west exit of the main JR Shinjuku Station. To get to the JR, use the underground tunnels and follow the signs in English. The Seibu Tachikawa station offers Kyuko rapid service in the morning before 9am, that only takes 45min to Seibu Shinjuku. The regular trip takes about one hour which is just a bit faster than the Ome and Chuo Lines. If you get off before Shinjuku at Takadanobaba, you can catch the Yamanote easily without transfers at Tachikawa. Takadanobaba also gives access to the Tozai subway.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to the Seibu Tachikawa Station, go out the East Gate and turn right. At the first light, turn

left. The next light you come to will be a five-way intersection. Take a hard right and continue down this street until you cross the train tracks. Turn right just past the tracks and follow the little lane into the train station parking lot. Warning: There is no parking at this station, so have someone drop you off. Motorcycle, scooter or bicycle parking is available and Seibu Tachikawa Station is a close ride from the East Gate. You can always walk, if you are active. It takes about twenty-five minutes from the gate. If you are biking, there is a free place to park and a shorter walking route by going out the East Gate and turning right. Stay on this route until the road narrows and becomes one lane as you cross the Seibu Shinjuku line tracks (about seven minutes). Just after the tracks, you will see the bicycle parking on the right. Just before the tracks you could park a scooter with no problem. Then, to get to the station, follow the paved path parallel to the tracks on the outside of the fence. If someone is dropping you off, get out just before the tracks and the driver can turn around easily.

Returning to Seibu Tachikawa can be tricky. Trains for different destinations depart from the same platform at Seibu Shinjuku or Takadanobaba station. Always get on one of the two front cars because the train sometimes splits at Kodaira or Hagiya stations. The front part always goes to Haijima, the back part may go elsewhere. As with all trains, if you make a mistake, you can always get off, turn around and come back, so no real damage is done.



Want information on making reservations for the bullet trains, go to: <http://www.world.eki-net.com>  
This web site will give you information to help you ride the famous bullet trains (Shinkansen) here in Japan.

Another great web site to find train schedules is: <http://www.hyperdia.com/cgi-english/>.



## Riding the Bullet Train

So you want to ride the famous Bullet Train and you don't have any idea how to go about it! It's really very easy—after you take out a large loan from the bank, especially if you intend to take the kids along. Seriously, be aware that traveling on the Shinkansen is about equal to the price of flying.

The easiest way to buy a ticket for the Shinkansen is to get a Japanese friend to help out. Since that is not always feasible, there are other ways to accomplish the feat. One is to go to Tokyo Station to the Shinkansen reservation office and buy your ticket with the help of one of the English-speaking agents. This takes precious time and costs you money.

Another method starts with a trip to your local book store. Buy the most recent issue of the *JTB's Mini-Timetable*. You don't read Japanese? The cover is printed partly in English, in blue and white. Pay about Y300 and take it home. Study it. This marvelous tome has enough printed in English for the average person to find and choose the train they need. Just follow the directions. In the front of the book are maps of Japan. Names of all stations on the Shinkansen are printed in English. The yellow pages start with the table of contents followed by English instructions on how to use the book. The timetables in the yellow pages do not relate to the Shinkansen, so ignore them. The first timetables in the white pages are for the Shinkansen.

For example, let's say you want to go to Nagoya on April 10. It helps to know what line your destination is on, but if you don't, just go down the list of station names until you find it. Not on the Tokaido-San-yo Line? Then check the Tohoku

or Jo-etsu Lines. The Tokaido Line runs from Tokyo, southwest to Hakata via Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima. The Tohoku Line runs northeast to Morioka via Fukushima and Sendai. The Joetsu runs out to Niigata in the mountains via Takasaki. So, let's say you want to be in Nagoya by noon. Locate Nagoya on the timetable and check what time the trains arrive there. If you want to get there really fast, you will take the Hikari. Three Hikari trains will get you into Nagoya around noon: Number 01345 leaves Tokyo Station at 9:44am and arrives in Nagoya at 11:40am; Number 01005 departs at 10am and arrives at 11:51am; and Number 01219 departs at 10:04am and arrives at 12:01pm.

Now that you have decided which train suits your needs, head down to Hajjima Station with the book. Show the agent (who does NOT speak English) which one it is. You will also need to decide whether you want to spend the extra money for a reserved seat. Mark everything so it will be easier to make your point. Have a second and third choice if the first is booked. Be sure to tell him nonsmoking or smoking car. Use whatever gestures are necessary.

Do a little studying beforehand; it will save you a lot of time. You don't have to be fluent in Japanese to make your reservations. The smart gaijin avoids traveling on Japanese holidays: Golden Week, April 29 - the first week in May; Obon, that magical week in August when everyone heads home, or abroad; and New Year's, when Japan closes down and everybody heads for the hills. One last caution: never wait until the last minute!

## Driving in Japan

### Taxis

Taxis in Japan are expensive and not worth the cost unless for a short distance or shared with other passengers. There are different sizes and types — the smaller, colored cars are usually cheaper. There is also an amount added for total travel time, and an extra twenty percent charged between 1pm and 5am. Tips are unnecessary. Remember when hailing a cab that sometimes Japanese taxi drivers panic when they pick up foreigners. If possible, have your destination written in Japanese to avoid confusion. Also, the rear doors on taxis open and close automatically, so please do not try to open or close them yourself.

You can call off-base taxis onto base:

Keio taxis: 53 -9966

Taiyo taxis: 51 -0215

### Traffic Accidents

If you are in a traffic accident:

1. Call the police (military and/or Japanese) (110 for off-base emergencies),
2. Get the names and addresses of participants,
3. Contact your insurance company, etc.

As a driver in Japan, you are considered a professional vehicle operator. If you cause an accident, especially if there is bodily injury to someone, you can be charged for criminal negligence and go to jail. Since an accident usually involves more than one party, blame can be apportioned by percentages (40% your fault, 60% theirs, etc.).

### Major Roads Near Yokota

Major roads include **Route 16**, which runs along Yokota, Yokosuka, and near Zama; **Itsukaichi Kaido** along the south fence of Yokota; Rt. 20 (Koshu Kaido) along the Tama River; and **Shin Ome Kaido** to the north. These roads extend from out past Yokota to Tokyo proper. To orient yourself locally, purchase a green **Guide Map of US BASES** by Jinbunsha from the Bookmark; but beware: not all streets are marked.



The major expressways nearby are the **Chuo**, which runs from Tokyo to Nagoya, and the **Kan Etsu**, which travels through the mountains to the other side of Honshu. The Ken-O Do is also useful when heading north to connect the Kan-Etsu to the Tohoku and other expressways.

These English-edition atlases by Shobunsha, available from the Bookmark, are useful:

1. **Road Atlas Japan**
2. **Tokyo Metropolitan Atlas**
3. **Metropolitan Expressway Guide**

Free maps, including the Japan Expressway map in English, are given out, if requested, at larger rest areas in the expressway system.

## Tokyo Expressways

After driving to the New Sanno twice, once getting totally lost, and once clutching our map so desperately it's no longer usable, I decided there had to be a way to figure out the expressways in Tokyo.

Simplified, the expressways are laid out like a wheel with spokes- C1, or the Shuto Expressway, being the wheel. Most of the other expressways could be considered the spokes and are numbered consecutively around the wheel. Therefore, when driving into Tokyo on the Chuo, Expressway #4, you will go into the wheel and follow it until your desired expressway takes you away.

The numbered expressways (or spokes) run clockwise around the wheel, starting at the southeast section of Tokyo. Exceptions include Expressway #1, which runs north and south on the east side of Tokyo. Expressways 1-South, 2, and 3 are south of the Chuo and 5, 1-North, 6, 7 and 9 are north of the Chuo. So, if you're driving to the New Sanno, you will take #4 (Chuo), which will run into C1 (Shuto), and follow the #2 signs which will take you to the New Sanno exit, which is Exit #201. If you're going to Narita, you will still follow the Chuo and Shuto, but will follow #7 signs directly to Narita.

One very easy place to get lost is in the Chiyoda Tunnel. This is where you will either take the right fork for Expressways 1-South, 2 and 3, or the left fork for Expressways 5, 1-North, 6, 7 or 9. If you take the wrong fork, you can just continue around on the Shuto and pick up the correct expressway again, although this might take some time.

For specifics, check with the Yujo Community Center or New Sanno for more up-to-date information.

Judy Harvey, Sherri Park

## Hachioji Bypass & Chuo Expressway

There are several ways to get the Hachioji Bypass and Chuo Expressway, here are two common ones:

Probably the easiest way to describe is to turn left out the Fussa Gate and carefully follow the signs for Route 16 until you see the signs for the Hachiji Bypass. -At 3.2 km from the Fussa Gate Rt 16 will take a left. At 4.7 km it will take a right. You will pass the big round bathhouse on your left and continue on the bridge over the river. If you are going to the

Hachioji bypass there will be a sign directing you to take a left at 7.4 km near the Coco's Restaurant. You would continue straight for a short way further to enter the Chuo Expressway.

Brian Marriott 6/02

## South & Supply Gates

As of late 2001, the South Gate is only open only for construction traffic until further notice. The Supply Gate is open 6am-6pm workdays. Both gates are closed on weekends and holidays. Please adjust directions accordingly by using the East Gate to compensate for the South Gate and the Fussa Gate for the Supply Gate.

**To convert South Gate directions into East Gate directions**, turn right out the East Gate. Turn right at the second traffic signal. This will wind you along the side of the fence near the hospital and past the dental clinic. Turn right at the next light (Nishisunanakasato Intersection) onto Nishisunagawa Road. You will pass the South Gate on your right, shortly before the next light. Follow directions as stated, as if you had "turned right out the South Gate."

Brian Marriott 11/01



# Getting Your Car Fixed

## Auto Repairs

1) **AAFES garage:** On Yokota's West Side, next door to the Four Seasons.

2) **Ushihama's:** When I asked around about where to get automotive repairs done off base, a number of people recommended Ushihama's. It's straight out the Supply Gate on Route 16 on the right. The owner speaks English.

3) **Auto Skills Center:** 30 minute oil changes, minor repair services, parts ordering, do-it-yourself auto repairs, and auto repair classes. Located across from the high school, adjacent to the furniture store. Building 4086, Tel. 225-7623.

## Auto Parts Stores

If you are more into do-it-yourself repairs, there are a few automotive part stores around:

1) **Autobacs:** Autobacs is a chain of automotive parts stores. The closest can be reached by turning left out the East Gate then turning right at the first light. Go through one light until the road ends at the second light. Turn right. Autobacs will be before the next light on your right.

Another Autobacs can be reached by turning right (north) on 16 out the Terminal Gate. Turn left at the first light past the tunnel. Autobacs will be several blocks down on the left.

A third Autobacs is on Route 16 north of base. You will see it on the right about 7 kilometers from the Terminal Gate, one block north of route 219.

2) **Driver Stand:** Another automotive parts store is on Yanagi Dori two lights past Do-It. The easiest way to get there is to drive straight out the Fussa Gate, at the first light (Y) bear to the right. Turn right at the second light past the Y. Go straight for about 4.5 km. It will be after Sabaecho 2 Intersection, but before Sabaecho 1 Intersection. A second Driver Stand is on Shin Ome Kaido just before the Yellow Hat (see below).

3) **Yellow Hat:** A third automotive parts store a little further away is Yellow Hat. One can be found on Shin Ome Kaido just beyond Outdoor World. Turn left out the East Gate. At the first light turn right. Go through one light until the road ends at the second light. Turn left. Drive straight through three lights until the road ends at the fourth light (Shin Ome Kaido, Mos Burger on the left). Turn right onto Shin Ome Kaido and drive for about 3.5km. Yellow Hat is on the right with a large English sign, just past Drivers Stand.

Brian Marriott

# Japan by Air



## Narita Airport

## 成田空港

**There are several ways to get from Yokota Air Base to Narita Airport:**

---You can drive (either your car or rent a van from Services)

---There is a bus from Yokota Air Base or the New Sanno Hotel

---There is a Japan Railway (JR) Train to Shinjuku, Ueno, or Tokyo stations and then on the JR Narita Express, Tokkyu Wing express, or Keisei Skyliner trains

---You can also take the JR to Shinjuku, then the subway to Ningocho and walk about 2 blocks to the Tokyo City Air Terminal (TCAT). Airport Express buses leave there about every 10 minutes for the hour ride to Narita. One advantage of TCAT is that ticketed passengers may check their luggage there. Although buses also leave from Shinjuku and Tachikawa, it's better to go to TCAT, since buses can get stuck in traffic

hours longer than anticipated (especially if the weather is bad). Reservations may be needed for the express trains and fares are about ¥3,000 per seat from Shinjuku (check with your agent).

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Before you venture off to Narita for the first time, consult your maps and check with the Yujo Community Center about new roads, construction, and road closures.

It's a long trip, between 2 - 5 hours one way.

Follow the directions to the Chuo Expressway, and enter the expressway towards Shinjuku.

Familiarize yourself with the Expressway number code. Follow #4 all the way into Tokyo. Ten kilometers before you come to the actual turnoff you will start picking up another expressway, #7.

Simply keep changing to the appropriate lane marked #7. A number 7 will be posted directly over the lane you must follow in plenty of time to maneuver through traffic.

The expressway marked #7 will take you straight to Narita International Airport, making this route comparatively uncomplicated.

An alternate route with less traffic goes from Route 4 to Route 9. Route 9 goes by Tokyo Disneyland and forks at one point. Take the B1 fork to the left and stay on this expressway (Route 9) until the Narita Airport exit.

Another sometimes scenic route is via #3 and #2 across Tokyo's Rainbow Bridge toward the Higashi Kanto Expressway.

Once at Narita, follow the signs for inbound passenger traffic. You must pay for parking wherever you park there, but try to get as close to the entrance as possible. Once you have



met the arriving party and gathered the luggage, you may bring your car around to the entrance for easier loading.

Retrace your steps to return to the base, or follow #7 to #4 and drive to the Hachioji exit, no. 5. You will see a sign telling you the exit is eight kilometers farther. Next, you will pass a rest stop on your left.

The next sign will tell you the Hachioji exits are in one kilometer. There are two exits, 5 and 5-2. (Exit 5-2 is the exit for Yokota.) Stay on your left and follow the offramp around to the tollgates and pay your fees. Immediately after the tollgates, you will come to a fork which will be marked *Hachioji* to the left, and *Akishima* to the right. Go right and follow the ramp on around, where it runs into Rt. 16. Follow Route 16 back to the base. The toll for the round trip will be over ¥5000.

## Meeting Arrivals at Narita

There is a SMALL USO in Terminal 1 near an observation deck. There is also a blue *Rendezvous Sign* with many people looking for others, holding up signs with names. If meeting outside customs, confirm whether the arrival is at Terminal 1 or Terminal 2.

(See maps at the end of this section!)

## Narita Shuttle Schedule

The Services Division has a shuttle bus that travels between Yokota and Narita International Airport every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. There are three buses departing Yokota daily from the Kanto Lodge at 9am, 11am and 1pm. They arrive at Narita at 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 4:30pm respectively. From Narita to Yokota, there are also three daily buses. They depart Narita at 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm, and arrive at Yokota at 7:30pm, 9:15pm, and 11:00pm, respectively. The last bus of the night from Narita to Yokota (the 8 o'clock) also stops at the New Sanno Hotel at around 9:15pm before continuing on to Yokota Air Base. A one-way trip will cost you \$25.00 per adult and \$13.00 per child, unless you buy them in advance at the Services Vehicle Operations office (225-7720). Infants under one year of age may ride free of charge when NOT occupying a seat. They are limited to one carry-on piece of luggage though. All other passengers are permitted two pieces of luggage plus one carry-on. This information is current as of February 2002. Please check with the Yujo Community Center for the most up-to-date schedule or with Services directly.

Michelle Arostegui, 2/02



## Airlines and Terminals at Narita International Airport

Info: (0476) 32-2800

### Passenger Terminal 1

AAL/American Airlines  
AFR/Air France  
AZA/Alitalia  
BAW/British Airways  
CDN/Canadian Airlines International  
CPA/Cathay Pacific Airways  
FIN/Finnair  
KAL/Korean Airlines  
DLH/Lufthansa German Airlines  
NWA/Northwest Airlines  
SAS/Scandinavian Airlines System  
SIA/Singapore Airlines  
SWR/Swissair  
UAL/United Airlines  
UTA/UTA French Airlines  
VIR/Virgin Atlantic Airways  
VRG/Varig-Brazilian Airlines

### Passenger Terminal 2

AAR/Asiana Airlines  
AFL/Aeroflot Airlines  
AIC/Air India  
ALK/Air Lanka  
ANA/All Nippon Airways  
ANZ/AirNew Zealand  
AOM/AOM French Air  
AUA/Austrian Airlines  
BBC/Biman Bangladesh Airlines  
CCA/Air China International  
CES/China Eastern Airlines  
COA/Continental Airlines  
DAL/Delta Air Lines  
FJI/Air Pacific  
GIA/Garuda Indonesia Airlines  
IAW/Iraqi Airways  
IBE/Iberia Airlines of Spain  
IRA/Iran Air  
JAA/Japan Asia Airways  
JAS/Japan Air System  
JAL/Japan Airlines  
KLM/KLM Royal Dutch Airlines  
MAS/Malaysia Airlines System  
MSR/Egyptair  
OAL/Olympic Airways  
PIA/Pakistan International Airlines  
PAL/Philippine Airlines  
OFA/Qantas Airways  
SAB/Sabena Belgian World Airlines  
THA/Thai Airways International  
THY/Turkish Airlines



# Haneda Airport

If you ever fly to other parts of Japan (or use China Airlines to the U.S.), chances are your flight may originate at Haneda Airport. This once was the only airport serving Tokyo. Having given the majority of air traffic to Narita, Haneda continues to handle domestic flights.

Haneda is on the southeast side of Tokyo, along the bay. It is heavily crowded on all sides by the city and the water. There is no parking available. Even if a space could be found, the inner-city prices might be prohibitive.

We recommend two ways of travel to Haneda Airport: by train or taxi (from the New Sanno). If you travel by train, take the Chuo Line to its end at Tokyo Station. Transfer to the green Yamanote line and go three stops to Hamamatsucho Station (toward Shinagawa) and change to the Monorail. The Monorail originates here and ends at Haneda Airport. A more expensive mode of travel is to hire a taxi to drive you to Haneda from the New Sanno.

You can also take the airport limousine buses from hotels in Tachikawa and Shinjuku (or Shinjuku Station), Tokyo City Air Terminal (TCAT) or Yokohama City Air Terminal (YCAT). However, the length of the bus rides depend on the local traffic. The trains are more reliable.

Donna Alexander, Teresa K. Negley

## SPACE A TRAVEL

You've been in Japan a while and you're thinking of venturing farther than the rail can take you. How about Space Available travel or Space-A? Space-A travel can be either inexpensive excitement and/or your worst nightmare. The three necessities are time (patience), a backup plan, and a sense of humor.

Space-A is a benefit provided by the Air Forces Air Mobility Command (AMC) allowing Active Duty (AD) members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, their dependents, and retired service members the chance to fly on AMC or DoD operated aircraft at no charge. Commercially contracted flights into the CONUS have a charge of \$23.50 per person customs entry fee subject to change without notice. It is a no-guarantee, no frills mode of transportation.

### SPACE A CATEGORIES

After duty requirements are satisfied, excess seats are offered to Space-A passengers selected by categories based on time of sign-up:

**Category I** – Civilian or Military Non-funded Emergency Leave

**Category II** – Sponsors with or without dependents on Environmental Morale Leave (EML), teachers traveling during school sessions

**Category III** – Active Duty and dependents on Ordinary Leave, Permissive TDY for House Hunting or DoD transition program

**Category IV** – Dependents on EML orders without sponsors, teachers during school breaks

**Category V** – Permissive TDY/TAD and student travel dependents, Command sponsored dependent travel (requires letter from Commander)

**Category VI** – Members of the Reserve Components, retired service members traveling with or without their dependents.

### REGISTRATION

You must register for Space-A travel at an AMC Passenger Service Center (PSC). It can be done by fax, e-mail (space.available@yokota.af.mil), or in person. If faxing your leave form/EML, keep the record of your date and time of transmission. If you travel with your sponsor, the sponsor must be on leave at the time of sign up and throughout the waiting and travel periods. You must have your leave form/EML, an ID card, current passport, immunization records (if necessary) and visa, if required.

After you have your orders, sign up as soon as your effective date will allow. For example, if your effective date is May 12, you may sign up at midnight that morning. Your orders are good for 90 days (dependents), or for the length of the sponsor's leave. The sponsor must indicate the effective date when obtaining the orders. You may also want to fax your orders to your destination (again keep the record of fax transmission). When you sign up at the terminal, they will stamp your orders. On this stamp will be your category, date and time you signed up. A Zulu time will be shown with a Julian date (example, 101/1355Z, the 101<sup>st</sup> day of the year). This date and time will remain in the system for 60 days after which you must sign up again if you haven't traveled by then.

### EML

EML paperwork may be obtained from your sponsor's administrative section. This paperwork allows dependents to travel twice a year, at Category II with your sponsor, or Category IV without your sponsor. Dependents cannot travel Space-A without EML or command sponsorship paperwork unless they are retired service members or DoD-employed. They also cannot travel Space-A in CONUS (continental USA) unless it is during the beginning or end of their international flight (example, Yokota to LA to St. Louis). EML orders are good for one destination (country) and will show authorized transit locations. For example, if you are traveling to the CONUS, your authorized transit locations include Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Okinawa ... anywhere you could possibly get a flight back to Japan. Service members may not take EML trips within 6 months of the beginning or end of their tour of duty. Travelers must bring the **original** copy of the EML paperwork with them to the terminal for Space A processing. Check with your spouse's administrative section for the policy governing environmental moral leave.

### Showtime

After choosing your destination and time you wish to travel, call the AMC passenger terminal for available



flights. PSC representatives can provide a tentative schedule (call for a 48 hour outlook). You need to know what time to be present for the Space-A roll call, usually 2-3 hours before departure. Once you have a list of flights, decide which showtime to meet and arrive at the terminal early. Extra time is needed to have you and your luggage cleared into the terminal area..

Once you're through the single point of entry, proceed to the PSC counter and have the agent mark you present for the space-A roll call. There will be a 30-minute pre-roll call announcement prior to the actual space-A call. A present indicator roster will be printed out and posted next to the PSC counter. This allows the passenger to see their standing among other space-A travelers. A second roster will be printed, 5 minutes prior to space-A. If you are not on the second roster, inform the passenger agent to mark as present and print out a new roster.

The present indicator roster will be used to select passengers in their prospective categories. If you were not marked present when your category is called (except Category I), you must wait until all others who were listed as present are given the opportunity to accept the open seats. Please stand behind the stanchions at the PSC counter and once selected, proceed to the outbound check-in scales. The check-in agent will inform you, if you are required to have your passport or visa stamped by local custom agents or the Government of Japan, customs office.

### **BAGGAGE**

Once selected for a flight, you will be directed to take your baggage to the Outbound Check-in Scales for processing and issuing of a boarding pass. You may check 2 pieces of baggage, not to exceed 70 pounds each, nor to exceed 62 linear inches in size, for a total of 140 pounds. Family members may pool their baggage allowances. All baggage must have an ID tag with a full name and complete address. Carry-on baggage must fit under the seat or in the overhead compartment, if available. An exception is travel aboard a C-21 where baggage is limited to 1 bag at 30 pounds and C-9 aircraft, which allows 2 checked bags, totaling 70 pounds. About an hour before departure, a pre-boarding announcement will be made directing you to the departure gate. You will have an anti-hacking inspection done and seated inside the sterile gate area until you are ready to board the aircraft. A final check of travel documentation will be conducted by customs. Have your ID card, orders, passports and boarding pass in hand for inspection.

### **SHORT NOTICE FLIGHTS**

Short notice flights (sometimes called unscheduled flights) are sometimes your best bet if you are in a low category. Many people leave the terminal and only return for missions that are listed on the daily schedule. With a short flight, you can endure any type of plane, even cargo planes where you have to wear earplugs. **Just remember it's an adventure and it's free.**

If there are no flights or few probable seats, you can try another base. Use the DSN phone in the terminal to call other bases. For example, if you are trying to get to Guam through Kadena (Okinawa), call Kadena and first ask what time the flight from Yokota to Kadena is scheduled to land, then ask if there are any flights scheduled to Guam after that landing. Also get the phone number for billeting there, in case you get stuck for a day. Ask how many people are signed up for Guam to get an idea of your chances. Most of the people you speak with will be frank and they will tell you if people are having trouble getting out to that destination. Sometimes "hopping" can be just as adventurous and beats sitting in the terminal for days. Fortunately, Yokota is a great place to catch flights.

### **SIGN-UP FOR YOUR RETURN**

Once you reach your destination and after clearing Customs and Immigration, remember to sign up for your return flight or confirm your sign-up date if you faxed your orders previously. . Your return by Space-A is not guaranteed, so have a backup plan and enough money if you happen to get stranded. The Air Force, Navy and Army have approved the wear of civilian attire by military members on AMC flights whether traveling in a duty status or Space-A. For safety, passengers must wear shoes (no sandals or open-toed shoes). Plan ahead and dress for comfort, warmth and conditions at your next destination. Respect host country customs and courtesies, do not dress inappropriately, or bring any unwanted attention to yourself. It is recommended that women wear slacks and flat shoes because of aircraft stairs and heights they must climb.

### **GENERAL INFO**

The PSC representatives do not determine the number of seats to release. On passenger book able missions all seats not booked or are derived from no-show passengers are determined by Passenger Service and are released to the PSC for duty stand-by and /or Space A's. A flight can be advertised with a certain number of seats available at show time but may be increased or decreased.

Seats may be either airline type seats or jump seats. It depends on the type of mission the aircraft is performing. You may be sharing the aircraft with cargo pallets or medevac patients. Passengers are allowed on flights transporting hazards cargo, providing it is not prohibited by established regulations. Blankets, pillows, safety equipment and detailed safety briefings are provided. There may or may not be a galley/latrine installed. However, all aircraft have some latrine facility. Child seats are recommended, but not required.

Many terminals have USO facilities and my also have a HELP program where folks on base will open their homes to stranded families. Check with the local USO. The local AMC Passenger Service Center number is: 225-7119 or 225-9540.

Bill Stoops, Mugs Wedemeyer, & Valerie Hughes 3/97  
Updated by Olney M. Meadows 3/02



# Notes





# Shopping In Japan



## Try It On For Size

When shopping, you will find clothing and accessories in sizes with which you might not be familiar. Sizes are based on the metric system as well as the numerical system. The following information could be useful:

## Size Conversion Chart

### DRESSES

AMER.	6	8	10	12	14	16
JAPAN.	5	7	9	11	13	15
WAIST	57	60	63	66	69	72

### MEN'S SHIRTS

AMER.	14	14.5	15	15.5	16	16.5
JAPAN.	36	37	38	39	40	41

### MEN'S JACKETS

AMER.	36ES	37S	38S	39R	38ES	39S	40S
JAPAN.	A4	A5	A6	A7	AB4	AB5	AB6

### WOMEN'S SHOES

AMER.	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5
JAPAN.	22	22.5	23	23.5	24	24.5	25

### MEN'S SHOES

AMER.	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10
JAPAN.	24.5	25	25.5	26	26.5	27	27.5

### STOCKINGS

AMER.	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5
JAPAN.	20.25	21.5	23	24.5	25.25	27

## Metric System Conversions

### Length:

- 1 inch = 2.54 cm
- 1 cm = 0.394 inches
- 1 mile = 1.61 km
- 1 km = 0.62 miles
- 1 yard = 0.914 m
- 1 foot = 30.480 cm

### Weight:

- 1 ounce = 28.3 grams
- 1 kg = 2.21 lbs
- 1 lb = 0.45 kg

### Volume:

- 1 Teaspoon = 5 ml
- 1 Tablespoon = 15 ml
- 1 cup = 237 ml
- 1 quart = 946 ml
- 1 gallon = 3.78 liters
- 1 liter = .264 gallons = 33.8 fluid ounces = 4.22 cups

### Temperature:

#### To convert Fahrenheit to Celsius:

$$\text{Fahrenheit Temperature} = (\text{Celsius Temperature}) \times (9/5) + 32$$

#### To convert Celsius to Fahrenheit:

$$\text{Celsius Temperature} = (\text{Fahrenheit Temperature} - 32) \times (5/9)$$

Interested in shopping online? Give this website a try:  
Shopping and living off-base for expatriate foreigners at

[www.jp.from-hanna.com](http://www.jp.from-hanna.com)



## Local Markets

Are you tired of shopping only on-base but find Japanese prices too high? There are several markets within minutes of Yokota's gates where you can find a wealth of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, and more, all at reasonable prices.

### Fussa Thursday Market

The Fussa Thursday Market (Maza Ichiba or Mother Market in Japanese) is in the parking lot of the Fussa Ham Company. Open only on Thursdays, the best hours are between 9am and 2pm. This outdoor market offers mainly fresh fruit and vegetables (pay for these outside); but chicken, meat, and frozen foods are available inside the building, to the rear. (If you're desperate for meat, Fussa Ham is open other days, you just need to get someone from the office to open the store for you.)

**DIRECTIONS:** This is an easy walk from Yokota. Go out the Fussa Gate. Go straight until you come to the fork in the road. Bear left here. The market is just before the third signal light at the Fussa Honcho East intersection (gas station on the left).

### Inageya Market

Inageya is a chain of local supermarkets. Inageya is also known as the "Fir Tree Store," because of the signature yellow & green tree on its sign. It has a parking lot on the roof, a bakery, and assorted food items. You can park on the roof free for the first hour with a validation stamp from the supermarket cashier.

**DIRECTIONS, Fussa Store:** Further down the same street as the Fussa Thursday Market.

**DIRECTIONS, East Gate Store:** Turn right out the East Gate. Turn left at the first light, left again at the 5 way signal and then go straight for a few blocks. It will be on your left hand side, in a large pinkish building called Foodland. Tel. 0425-60-1131

### Shimoda's Mitsugi Market

On Tuesdays and Fridays, you can shop for fresh produce at Shimoda's Mitsugi Market, ten minutes from the East Gate. It is open from 10am to 5pm. Tel. 042-560-0487

**DIRECTIONS:** Go left out the East Gate. Proceed to the fork in the road where you bear left. Stay straight and make a left when you reach the "T". Make a right turn at the third signal light, onto Yakushi Dori. The first large intersection (Shiritsu Jusho Minami), will be at Shin Ome Kaido with McDonald's on the corner. Go straight through the intersection until you come to a "T". Turn right on Ome Kaido and proceed 0.3km until you see the market on the left. Parking is in the back; turn left just past the market building (down the alley between the two buildings).

### Shimoda Distribution Center

You can get to another fruit and vegetable market in Mizuho at the Shimoda Distribution Center. Shimoda used to be open only on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, but now it's open every day from 10am - 5pm. Tel. 042-556-2413

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate. Continue straight and go through underpass. Turn left at the 4<sup>th</sup> light after the underpass onto Ome Kaido (2.8km from the Terminal Gate, McDonald's on left). Park in lot immediately to your left. There are two buildings. The first larger one near the street has vegetables and Japanese groceries. A smaller building in back sells fresh fruit.

### Happy Town Fresh Market



Open 10 am - 8pm this little market is right around the corner practically.

**DIRECTIONS:** This market is a half-block down on the right on the other side of the Fussa Station (walk through the station, turn right down the street perpendicular to the tracks). There is an 88 Yen sale on Tuesdays. Since parking on this other side of the station is scarce, I suggest parking in Seiji lots. Their telephone number is 042-553-6620.

### Marufuji

This modern supermarket near the Higashi Fussa Station is your closest choice for supplements if you live in the North or West sides. Marufuji has a large selection of fresh vegetables and parking. There is also a small McDonald's, dry cleaners, and a Cake Shop Fennel along the side of the supermarket facing the gym.

Marufuji is open 10am - 10pm, sometimes closed on the third Mondays; Tel. 042-530-1551

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Fussa Gate, then left at the second light (Higashi Fussa Nishi, by Tanaka's Lil Crock Shop). (If you exit the Terminal Gate, turn left, then turn right at the first light.) Cross the tracks and turn left at the first light (Higashi Fussa Station North), then into the parking lot.

M. Jeral, P Nolan, M. Lawrence, Mavis Hara, Charlene Elmore, Keiko Hansen, Delores Street  
11/96

### Value Food Power Centers

There are two of these grocery stores near Yokota. **DIRECTIONS, Ushihama Store:** The first store is next to Ushihama Station. Go straight out the supply gate, turning right before the second set of train tracks. If driving, note the



parking is around the block to the right and rear of the store. Tel. 0425-39-7511.

**DIRECTIONS, Ozaku Store:** The second Value further away is on Yanagi Dori past the Hamura City Hall, Do-It, and Bamiyan Restaurant. It's on the right-hand side. Its attraction lies partly in the Marushin vegetable stand across the street (lower prices for fruits and vegetables, closed Sunday).

Teresa Negley, Chieko Brumley 11/96



## Akigawa Farmers Center

The Akigawa Farmers Center is a cooperative where different people bring produce every morning. The entrance is in the middle, with the produce section on the left. You'll find several bins of whatever is in season along with locally produced pickles (mostly radish and scallions) and sweets. Behind the building is a nursery of plants and trees. There are also small barbecue huts behind the building, and rooms to the right, plus a sign advertising all you can eat barbecue pork and vegetables for ¥1800/person.

The produce section is open 9-5 everyday (042-559-1600).

**DIRECTIONS:** Left out the Fussa Gate and turn right at the next light. Cross two railroad tracks, pass a 7-11 store on the left, and cross two bridges. You'll be on the road to Itsukaichi. As you cross the river, there's a sign for Honda Akigawa on the right before the road curves to the left, then back to the right. Stay on the road, eventually passing Akigawa Farmers Center in a long building on the left amidst fields.

Teresa Negley 5/96 Directions verified 6/02

## Fresh House

Fresh House is a market for farmers in the town of Mizuho, at the north end of the runway. This market sells seasonal vegetables and fruits. There are also cut flowers, some plants and bonsai trees for sale. Go very early for the best selection.

It's open 9-5 seven days a week (January through March open until 4pm). For information call 0425-57-4564 – in Japanese only.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate onto Rt. 16, moving into the left lane toward central Mizuho. Turn left onto Ome Kaido at the Hakonegasaki intersection (about 2.7km, Esso station on the left, and red Toshiba sign on far left corner). Cross the train tracks and take the next right angled

away, Iwakura Kaido. Fresh House is within three brown onion shaped "mini barns". Vertical banners on the road mark the parking area, just before the green house.

Chieko Brumley, Julie Irwin, Teresa Negley, Keiko Hansen 10/96

## Akishima City Market (Santama Ichiba)

If you're looking for fresh fish or produce, flowers or candy, paper products or even a dirty dish store, you'll enjoy a visit to Akishima City Market. This is an indoor market, very crowded with people and carts. It is not a good idea to bring small children as the aisles are very narrow with items stacked everywhere. The floors are wet so wear old comfortable shoes and carry a basket for your purchases. Very little English is spoken, but pointing works.

Open six days a week (closed Sundays and Japanese holidays), this market caters mostly to wholesalers and restaurateurs (from 5 am) but individuals are welcome between 9am and 11am.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the East Gate. Turn left at the first signal light. Take the first hard right at the next signal (a 5-way). Stay on this road over the railroad tracks and past Bamiyan Chinese restaurant on the left and the golf driving range on the right. Turn left at the light where you see Pachinko Plaza 5 on the far left corner (2.5km). Continue past the next light, then turn right into the parking lot. The market is located in a long warehouse with several awnings outside.

Sally Mayberry, Robin Neumann, Jill Wick

## Niki Snack Shop

The snack shop carries a huge variety of chips, rice crackers, candies, "Pocky's" and other food items of both Japanese and western styles at discount prices. The store also has boxes of Earl Grey teabags and other goodies, some of which can be used as gifts to send to adventurous eaters stateside and friends previously stationed in Japan.

**DIRECTIONS:** DIRECTIONS: As of July 13, 2002, it is located just on the other side of the Fussa Station. If you go through the Fussa Station, as you come down the steps and exit the station, turn right. It will be on the first floor of the building straight in front of you across the alley.

The hours are 10 am - 7:30 pm, every day. Tel.: 042-551-7730

Teresa Negley 3/2002

## Vegetable Markets plus more

There is a conglomeration of markets nearby in Murayama, about 15 minutes or 5km away. These markets are closed on Thursdays.

**DIRECTIONS TO MARKETS:** Turn left out the East Gate. Stay in the right lane at the second light, proceeding through the "Y" intersection to the "T" intersection. Turn right and continue to another "T" intersection (Jomo gas station on the right). Turn right at the "T", then left at the first



traffic signal (bookstore on the left corner). Go to the next “T” (overhead sign says Tokeidai Higashi) and turn right. Take the first left onto Gakuen Dori. Follow the road to the Inageya Supermarket sign and park in the supermarket lot on the left.

Stores are across the street, through the alley, and around on the next larger street. A bit of advice: do not buy at the first vegetable market on the corner – browse through several stores to make your selections.

**DIRECTIONS HOME:** Turn right out of the parking lot, proceed to the “T”, turn right. Take the first left and go to the next “T”. Turn right at the intersection and take the first left (gas station on the left). Stay on this road and you will pass the D-Store on your left. Just after the first light (Yamaha dealer on your right) turn left onto Heiwa Dori. Continue straight and look ahead for the East Gate on your right.

Geri Yasuhara, Delores Street, Teresa Negley 11/96

## Fresh Foods Kinokuniya

If you are looking for that rare ingredient or that essential but missing commissary item, try the branch of the gourmet supermarket, Kinokuniya (the Neiman Marcus of luxury grocery stores) a few train stations away in Higashi Nakagami. Kinokuniya has wonderful fruits and vegetables, but the produce is pricey. They do carry fresh herbs, however, so this is an option when the commissary is out.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take the Ome Line towards Tachikawa. Higashi Nakagami is about 12 minutes away, two stops before Tachikawa. The Kinokuniya shopping center is directly opposite the train station. The store is behind the apartments facing the train station.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Warning: these Warning: These directions no longer work because they have closed the crossing across the second set of tracks. We will work on getting another set of directions posted. I left these up so that if you know the area you can figure out another way around the tracks.** Turn right out the South Gate and go straight through the light. Cross one set of train tracks; stay on this road as it curves to the right past a school on the left and a Lipton Tea sign on the right. Turn left just after the second set of tracks, pass the Pachinko Sun Plaza on the right. Immediately after the “bird store” sign (in red, white and blue), turn right. At the next light, turn left. (A couple of landmarks after the turn are Mos Burger on the left and Jeans on the right.) You’ll pass Toyota and Nissan dealers on the left, then a Denny’s on the left near the blue overpass. Later you’ll see a CoCo’s Restaurant on the right and another Toyota dealer on your left. Counting the light at this intersection, turn left after the third light, just before the Esso sign on your left. There will be a Fresh Foods Kinokuniya sign on the green fence around the parking lot. Turn into the parking lot on your left. The drive is 5 km, about 20-25 minutes.

Parking costs ¥300/hour unless you purchase over ¥1000 in Kinokuniya, a restaurant, or a shop in the Higashi Nakagami Shopping Center. When you pay for your merchandise or meal, have the cashier stamp the ticket. There are at least two



restaurants in the shopping center, a noodle shop and a western style place around the corner.

**DIRECTIONS HOME:** To return to Yokota, retrace your steps by turning right at the light outside the parking lot. Your landmark to turn right off this street will be to pass Denny’s on your right. Then turn right in front of the red, white and blue bird sign (Ito Yokado store), then left in front of the tracks, and right at the nest train crossing.

Gina Van Orsdol, Delores Street, Teresa Negley

### Some useful Japanese words at the fresh food market

clam	<i>hamaguri</i>
cod	<i>tara</i>
crab	<i>kani</i>
eel	<i>unagi</i>
octopus	<i>tako</i>
salmon	<i>sake</i>
trout	<i>masu</i>
shrimp	<i>ebi</i>
squid	<i>ika</i>
tuna	<i>maguro</i>
cucumber	<i>kyuuri</i>
cabbage	<i>kyabetsu</i>
bell pepper	<i>piiman</i>
carrot	<i>ninjin</i>
watermelon	<i>suika</i>
persimmon	<i>kaki</i>
apple	<i>ringo</i>



# Local Department and Specialty Stores Near Yokota

## Seiyu

Although Seiyu will be in a temporary building until October 2003 for renovations, it is the “department store” most Yokota residents are familiar with, and is located next to Fussa Station. Actually, many Japanese consider it a discount store.

Parking is available in three Seiyu lots, two next to the railroad tracks, and one across the street on Yanagi Dori. Parking is free if you buy over ¥1000 of merchandise that day, otherwise it costs ¥300 per hour.

6/02

## Daiei

Daiei is a wonderful Japanese department store...the closest thing we've found to a “Wal-mart.” On the first floor are the household goods (dishes, storage containers, linens), electronics, sports equipment, craft/fabric store, and a grocery store. There is also an area of several aisles that has items priced at 88 yen...a good place to cheaply try some Japanese snacks! The second floor has toys, office supplies, and clothes. There are also several stores around the perimeter of both floors that are not part of Daiei. It gives the store kind of a “bazaar” type atmosphere, but you need to be careful to pay for your purchases at these stores. One of the best things about Daiei is that it doesn't cost anything to park there! To get there from Yokota, turn right out the the East gate. Go to the first stop light and turn left. At the next stop light, there will be a Jonathan's restaurant on your left...go straight through this intersection. The sign for Daiei is white with a big orange ball (with a section cut off) on it and can be seen from this intersection just past the industrial area on the right side of the road. From this light, go approximately 0.1-0.2 km and Daiei will be on your right...it is set back from the road with the parking lot out front.

Deannie Caudle 2/2002

## Akiruno Rupia & Tokyu

The Akiruno Rupia is a small mall next to the Tokyu Department Store in Akigawa. It contains gift shops, boutiques, and restaurants, including Subway Sandwiches and Salads. On the second floor is a covered walkway to the 4-story Tokyu next door. Tokyu has a supermarket section with a bakery nearby on the ground floor. There are also cosmetics, accessories, handbags, and shoe sections surrounding an open area with benches. Men's' and Ladies' wear are on the second floor with children's clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances on the third floor.

Akiruno Rupia and Tokyu are open 10-8, closed Wednesdays (0425-5-0811/Rupia, 0425-50-0109/Tokyu).

**DIRECTIONS:** Left out the Fussa Gate and turn right at the next light. Cross two railroad tracks, pass a 7-11 store on the left, and cross two bridges. You'll be on the road to Itsukaichi. As you cross the river, there's a sign for Honda

Akigawa on the right before the road curves to the left, then back to the right. Stay on the road, eventually passing Akigawa Farmers Center in a long building on the left amidst fields. For easier parking at the mall, turn right 1 block past Rt. 411 (marked by the blue highway sign). There's a big blue sign on top of the Tokyu Department Store on the left-hand side. You'll see several parking lots (1200 spaces of free parking). About a 20 minute drive from Yokota

## Mori Town and Espa

Espa is a department store chain. One of the Espa stores is at the Mori Town Mall in Akishima. This mall has several inexpensive restaurants, a bakery, flower shop and a KFC in the back area. The Espa Store also has a nice supermarket and bakery in the basement. This supermarket is divided into two separate sections. As you get off the escalator, the “everyday” section will be to the left and “Espa or Ito Yokado” to the right. The “everyday” section primarily sells fresh fruits, vegetables, seafood, beef, pork and chicken. The prices are often lower than the opposite section. I suggest you walk through both sections before making your purchases.

*Note:* Espa's main store is affiliated with Ito Yokado (“Dove” or “Bird” store). Many of their packaged items carry the Ito Yokado label. So if you hear of a sale going on at Ito Yokado, there will definitely be one at Espa too.

Most stores open at 10am and close between 7pm and 9pm. Closed Thursdays.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Turn right out the East Gate and go straight. Cross the railroad tracks of the Seibu Tachikawa line. Keep on going until just before the road narrows greatly and make a sharp turn to the right at the next set of railroad tracks, then turn right into the parking lot of the Mori Town Mall. On the way, you'll pass a hangar-like building on the right with an indoor tennis club and the Showa-No-Mori indoor ice skating rink. Remember to have your parking ticket validated by any store in the mall. There is a fee for parking if you don't make any purchases.

**DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN:** If you are going by train, take the Ome Line from Fussa Station toward Tachikawa. Get off at the third stop, Akishima. Espa is located by the train station.

Becky Hodges, Anita Lyau, Jean Kuramoto 5/96

## “The Mall”

the base. There is a large food court on the first floor, as well as a rather large grocery store in the “Livin” part of the mall. There are specialty stores, with baby clothes, strollers, and massage chairs. There are various clothing stores, and a store that is kind of like Pier One Imports. This store also has “lucky bags” similar to Hoya Crystal. There is a fairly large selection in the “liquor store” and in the fresh coffee beans



store on the first floor, inside the grocery store. "The Mall" has a little bit of everything for everyone.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the terminal gate, and follow signs for Rt. 16. The Mall will be on the left at approximately 6.5km. There is a large green sign on top of the building that says "The Mall." Parking is free and is either on the street level, or up above the mall via ramps on either side of the mall.

Michelle Arostegui 3/2002

## P.D. Royal Tropical Fish Center

Color and variety abound at P.D. Royal Tropical Fish Center in nearby Musashi Murayama. Located 8km from Yokota, P. D.'s has marine, cold water and tropical fish as well as birds, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs and even singing crickets. P. D.'s sells all kinds of aquarium plant-life and carries an extensive supply of accessories/products to start and maintain your aquarium. One can also buy accessories and supplies for an outdoor pond, and for one's birds, or small, furry friends. Most tanks & cages have both Romaji and Kanji placards so you will be able to recognize the "contents".

The shop is a large, two-story building which houses a huge variety of fish in prices ranging from Y30 to Y100,000. Hours are 10am - 6pm. Tel. 63-1 943.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate, and drive approximately 1.5 km to the Shin-Ome Kaido/Rt. 16 intersection and turn right onto Shin-Ome Kaido. Continue on this highway for another 6.5km (6 lights). The fish store is located on your right near a large post office. You can park behind P.D.'s, (parking in front is for *small* cars) or park behind the post office.

Marcia St. John

## Cupid's

For a vast selection of plants and flowers, try Cupids, the florist on Route 16 between the Fussa and Supply gates. Some of the employees speak English.

06/02

## Off House/Hard Off

They are a cross between a TJ Maxx and a Thrift Shop. Some items are new and drastically marked down. I bought a \$300 suit with the tags still on for 2,000 Yen. It was quite a bargain. They have around 1,000 different purses (generic and designer), sporting goods, furniture, women's and children's clothing, musical instruments, dishes, towels, etc. If you haven't been there it is wonderful, but you had better buy it when you see it or it will be GONE!

**Directions:** Turn right out the east gate. At the 4th light turn right. (Itsukaichi Kaido Ave.) At the next light, bear left at the Y. It will be about 100 yards down on the right. It is an easy bike ride.

Davina Lock. Directions updated 9/02



## Komeri Garden Store

Another Garden store close to base that has a fair number of plants, pots, and yard tools is Komeri.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate. At the second light (Y turn) bear left. When the road ends, turn left. Turn right at the 3rd light (Shiritsu Susho Minami Intersection - just past the baby clothing store with the bunny on the sign.) It will be a short way up on the left, the sign is only in Katakana, but you can recognize it by the big red rooster on the sign.

Brian Marriott 11/01

## Do-It Stores

Do It is a chain of hardware and home stores. There are paints, stains, carpentry supplies, tools and ready-to-finish furniture kits. Also, there are plumbing, kitchen, bathroom, lighting, and garden sections.

There are three "Do It" stores in this area. The first, in Hamura, is the smallest of the three. It is usually best to check here first, if you don't find what you want then you can range farther afield.

**DIRECTIONS, Hamura Store:** Go straight out the Fussa gate. Cross the Hachiko train tracks and at the "Y" stay to the right. Then turn right at the second traffic light onto Yanagi Dori. Just after the Alpen Sports Store on the right you will see the Do It store on the left. You should reach the store in approximately 4.5km. For a shortcut, see directions to Sports Alpen below.

**DIRECTIONS, Iruma Store:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate. You will follow Route 16 to the store. The store will be on the left at approximately 8.5km. This store is much larger and is just past the Hoya Crystal factory.

**DIRECTIONS, store near China Pete's:** Follow the directions to China Pete's (see article) and Do It is approximately 1.8km past the turn to China Pete's on the right. This store is by far the largest of the three. It is a huge two-story building; unfortunately the parking lot is not very big.

Viki Lynn Paulson-Cody, Julie Irwin 10/96

## Shimachu Store

Just 5 minutes away from the Terminal Gate is the Shimachu Store. It is quite similar to Do-It except this store sells furniture on the second floor. You can find an adequate



cross-section of goods from home-garden-auto at decent prices. There are some pet supplies available as well.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate. At the first light past the tunnel, turn right; go to the light at the end of the road and turn left. About 100 yards up on your left is Shimachu.

Marcia St John  
Directions updated 11/01

## Hoya Crystal

Hoya Glass and Crystal House is within easy driving distance from Yokota, and the trip makes for an hour of shopping. The factory has showrooms where magnificent one-of-a-kind creations are on display in the "A" House. Other more affordable crystal pieces are also for sale in the "B" House. Items are rotated frequently, so return trips are advisable. Hoya has large sales twice a year, usually the last weekend in July and the first weekend in December (the July sale has more volume and variety). To clear the warehouse, the company offers products at drastically reduced prices. The entire area is turned into an outdoor show space. Sale hours are 9am-3pm. Arrive early for a chance at special items, but prices are reduced even more after 1pm on the second day. Be prepared for immense crowds who bear no resemblance to "polite Japanese".

Hoya is open 9:30AM – 5:00PM Tuesday – Friday, 9:30AM – 4:00PM Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Closed Mondays.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out of the Terminal Gate onto Route 16. When Rt. 16 splits at 7.1km, stay to the left. The factory is on the right just before the "Do It" Stores on the left. Turn into the compound and park along the left side of the road. Notice the information booth on the right, just inside the gate. Visitors must pick up a clip-on ID badge to visit the showrooms. The expensive first quality store is ahead on the right ("A" House). The more affordable items are in the "B" House off to the far right beyond the information booth. The factory is 8.2km from the Terminal Gate. Tel. 0429-34-6369

Joy Prather, Dorian Geller, Sue Neuhaus 1/97

## Baby Mam

If you are looking for baby items, don't go too far. Right in Fussa is a baby store called Baby Mam. They have clothing, strollers, car seats, toys and a variety of other baby and young child items. So if you are preparing for a new baby, or looking for a shower gift, drive straight out the Fussa Gate. Cross the train tracks by the Fussa station and follow the road around to the front side of the station. Go straight down the main road (the station will be directly behind you) towards the Tama River. Take a left at the light just before the bridge crossing the river. As soon as you turn you will be able to see the Baby Mam sign on the left side of the road. They have plenty of parking in front of the store.

Hailley Felter - Reprinted from the Yokosan. Directions verified 6/02



## "Bunny" Baby Store

Another baby clothes store very close to the base is almost just out the east gate. It has a larger selection than the BX at a reasonable price. To get there. Turn Left out the East Gate. At the second light (Y) stay left. When the road ends, turn left. You will see the large bunny on a sign in Japanese on the right, just before the third light.

Brian & Kristen Marriott 6/02

## Rain Chains

Have you been eyeing those decorative rain chainshanging off the corners of temples and other buildings and want one for your home? This is the place to find it. It is actually a hardware store.

**DIRECTIONS:** Exit out the Supply Gate. Go straight. Pass over the railroad tracks and the blue walkway overhead. After the blue walkway take your second right. It is Toshokan dori. (This street parallels one block over from the railroad tracks on your left. NOT the same tracks mentioned above.) Go past the second light (Fussasancho W.) Take the second street after this intersection and turn to your left. (You will notice street mirrors on either side of the street.) The hardware store is on your left. It looks more like an open air market than a store front. No one speaks English, but when an American walks up they usually say "Rain Chain?" You nod and they should return with one for you to choose from. The prices range from 15,000 - 20,000 Yen.

Dawn Leach/Feb '02



## Outdoor World, By Johshuya

This store in Higashi Yamato is an excellent place to find gifts for the sports person in your family. The store has bicycles and accessories, t-shirts, Gore-Tex jackets and hats, tons of backpacks, and a wide variety of camping gear including tents, lanterns, stoves, gas, coolers, chairs, pots, dishes, and even egg holders (to make boiling easier.) They carry Coleman products as well as Sierra Trails and Camplus. The prices are a bit more than stateside, but not high enough not to buy something. The top floor is filled with everything that you can imagine that has to do with fishing: poles, bait, tackle, and even a limited amount of fishing boats and canoes.

Open 10am – 8pm weekdays, and 10am – 7pm Sundays and holidays. Tel. 0425-64-3910

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out of the East Gate. At the first stop light, turn right. Drive straight to the second stop light (“T” intersection). Turn left, drive straight through three stoplights until the road dead-ends at the fourth light, Shin Ome Kaido. Mos Burger will be on the left. Turn right onto Shin Ome Kaido, and drive straight for 3.4 km (through 11 stop lights) Before the 12<sup>th</sup> light, Outdoor World is on the left. It is a light brown two-story building, and the sign is in English. There is plenty of parking. If you are driving and think you may have gone too far, Outdoor World is past a McDonalds and a Shell station.

Karen Ozment 10/96 . Directions Updated 11/01.

## Outdoor Equipment

There are several other places close to base to obtain outdoors and camping equipment. Here are some of the closest:

- **Kojitu Outdoors:** On Ome Kaido Road, just north (of base. To get there, set your odometer to zero and turn right out the terminal gate. Go under the underpass and turn right at the fourth light after the underpass onto Ome Kaido Road. (2.8 km. Mc Donalds on left.) Kojitu will be on the right in about 0.3 km. (3.1 km from base.)

- **Sports Alpen - Yanagi Dori Store:** On Yanagi Dori across from Do-It. There are a few ways to get there, the easiest way to find it, although not the quickest, is to go straight out the Fussa gate, at the first light (Y) go right, turn right at the second light onto Yanagi Dori Ave. Go straight on this for about 4.5 kilometers. You will past the McDonalds, Denny’s, and a big toy store with white and pink lopsided pyramid on roof. Do-It and the Sports store are hard to miss, but if you get to the Sabaecho Intersection, you have gone too far. A shorter way of getting there is to set your odometer to zero and turn right out the Terminal gate. Turn left at the first light after the underpass (1.8 km). You will take this down several blocks and turn right onto Yanagi Dori Avenue when your odometer reads 2.8 km. This intersection is poorly marked, fairly non-descript, and difficult to describe. (It is the first one past a 7-11 next door to a Moss Burger on your right with a Family Mart across the street on the left, there is a non-descript brown building on the left side of the intersection.) Sports Alpen will be on your

right, across from Do-It when your odometer reads about 1.4 km.

- **SPORTS ALPEN - Shin Ome Kaido:** Located a little further away is another Sports Alpen. Follow the directions to Outdoor World, by Johshuya above and keep going straight past it on Shin Ome kaido. It will be about 1.7 km past Outdoor World on the Left. (About 5.8 km from the point where you entered Shin-OmeKaido.)

Brian Marriott 11/02

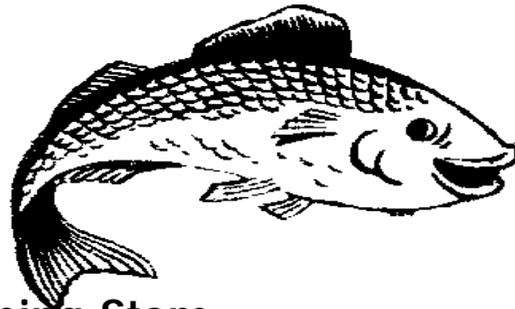


## Golf Stores

- **Niki Golf:** If you are looking for that special club or other golfing article and cannot find it at the pro-shop on base you can try Golf 5, a short drive out the East Gate. Turn left out the East Gate. At the second light (Y) stay left. When the road ends, turn left. Turn right at the third light. (Shiritsu Jusho Minami Intersection, just past the Bunny Baby Clothing store.) Turn left onto Shin-Ome Kaido (Musashimurayamako Kita intersection, McDonalds on left corner) Niki Golf will be on your right as short ways past Saizeriya and before Denny’s.

- **Golf 5:** Follow the directions for Niki golf above, Golf 5 will be on your left, past Niki golf, past the JSY Campbell fishing store, past the Denny’s (all on the right) and just before the 24 Hr Internet Café. (Well before Shin-Ome Kaido joins with Ome-Kaido).

Brian Marriott 11/01



## Fishing Store

- **JSY Campbell:** Turn left out the East Gate. At the second light (Y) stay left. When the road ends, turn left. Turn right at the third light. (Shiritsu Jusho Minami Intersection, just past the Bunny Baby Clothing store.) Turn left onto Shin-Ome Kaido (Musashimurayamako Kita intersection, McDonalds on left corner) JSY Campbell will be on your right after the Denny’s and before the Golf 5. (Well before it Shin-Ome Kaido joins with Ome-Kaido).

Brian Marriott 11/06





## Bicycle Shops

When you need to work on your bicycle and the pieces aren't available at the BX you may have to try off-base. There are a few bicycle shops within a short distance of base.

- **Makita Bicycle Shop:** The closest bicycle shop is the one on Route 16 between the Fussa and Terminal Gates.

- **Uchida Bicycle Shop:** Another larger bicycle shop is straight out the Fussa gate. When you get to the Y intersection at the first light, stay to the left, cross the next set of railroad tracks. The Uchida Bicycle Shop will be on your right on the corner just past the first lights after the tracks.

- **Sport Bicycle Shop:** A third bicycle shop can be reached by turning left out the Fussa gate and right at the first light. The Sport Bicycle Shop will be on your right between the next set of tracks and Shin Okutama Kaido.

- **Bridgestone Bicycle Shop:** If you live on the East side and want to try someplace quick, there is a very small bicycle shop out the East Gate. Turn left out the gate, at the second light the road Y's; stay to the left. Bridgestone Bicycle will be on your right a short ways up, before the next light.

*Note:* See Outdoor activity section later in book for some locations to bike.

Brian Marriott 11/06



## Kunitachi Music Company

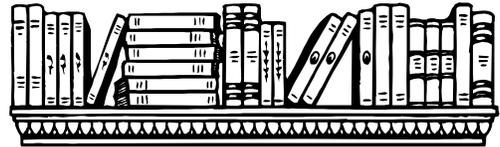
Just minutes away from Yokota is a branch store of Kunitachi Music Company. There you can buy a selection of sheet music and music books for piano, and a limited supply of music for wind and brass instruments. Because it is a branch of a larger company, you can order any music you want and it will be available in a day. The shop in Hamura has some supplies/accessories available for instruments, as well as a repair service. Music books here are cheaper than books from Stateside. Except for Japanese composers, all other music will be in romaji

(English alphabet) with Japanese subtitles and instructions for "local use".

If you desire a LARGER selection, visit their main store in Kunitachi. There is also an annex in Kunitachi for wind/woodwind instruments. Kunitachi Music has a showroom of all instruments and pianos/keyboards, sheet music, books, practice books, CD, video/audio cassettes, lesson rooms for music and dance and a performance hall. Call the Kunitachi store at 73-1111.

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive straight out the Fussa Gate, keeping to the right at the 'Y'. Go on to the next large intersection (0.8km) and turn right onto Yanagi Dori, the street where Seiyu is located. Continue on this street (through 15 lights) past a Kentucky Fried Chicken and a McDonald's on your right. At 3.3km from the Fussa Gate, the music store will be on your right in a beige building with three bay windows (19-kanji-88 on the sign; across from a four-story light gray tile building on the left). It is before you reach Denny's.

Marcia St. John, Yoriko Fisher, Wendy Matheny 9/97



## English Bookstores

There are several book stores that stock English books, unfortunately most are a long ways away.

1. **Books Orion in Tachikawa** is the closest bookstore that regularly stocks English books, including all of the atlases mentioned in the next section. To get there: Take the train to Tachikawa Station. As you exit the gates, turn right (towards Lumine) and go out the North exit. Stay on the elevated walkway and bear left towards the monorail. Walk under the monorail to the right (keeping Isetan Dept store on your right.) As you walk, you will see HMV Music to the left. Enter HMV Music from the elevated walk way under the monorail and go straight up the escalator into Books Orion.

Brian Marriott 6/02

2. **Kinokuniya:** The biggest selection of English books in Tokyo is on the 6th floor of Kinokuniya in Shinjuku. Their selection is abundant including magazines, guidebooks, and books on Japanese culture and related topics. They stock textbooks, workbooks and tapes, as well as dictionaries and games. If you don't see what you want, ask at the desks opposite the sales counter next to the window. If they can't find it for you, they will order it. **DIRECTIONS:** To get there go to Shinjuku Station. Exit via the 'New South Exit' follow the boardwalk to your right to Takashimaya Times Square. Walk around the right side of Takashimaya Times Square and Kinokuniya Books will be behind it at the end of the building.



**3. Charles Tuttle Bookstore and Sanseido Bookstore:** Other bookstores offering a large selection of English publications are the Charles Tuttle Bookstore and the Sanseido Bookstore. They are both located in the area of Jimbocho Street in Kanda. **DIRECTIONS:** To get to the Kanda area, take the Ome/Chuo Line to Ochanomizu, about two stops past Shinjuku. Use the west exit. Turn left and walk about four blocks to a five-corner intersection. You'll pass two McDonald's. Then take a sharp right. You should see the Sanseido Bookstore on the left. It is a fairly tall building with English publications on the fifth floor. They also stock textbooks and teaching aids, and will accept special orders. Less than a minute's walk on the same street is the Charles Tuttle Bookstore, on the right side of the street.

**4. Used Bookstores:** This same area has an abundance of used books stores. Walk from the Sanseido Bookstore toward Jimbocho Station (Hanzomon Line) or walk toward Kanda Station (on the JR line) to Jimbocho Street. The stores are too numerous to list all the directions. The shops look mostly the same with sliding glass doors and flyspeck windows. There are hundreds of thousands of books in every language, on every subject.

**5. Aoyama Bookstore:** If you happen to be in Roppongi, check out the Aoyama Bookstore near Almond's and the main Roppongi intersection under the highway.

**6. Maruzen's:** Located in Nihombashi near Ginza, they also have a selection of foreign books.

Judy Brooks, Viki Paulson-Cody 97

7. The **Oriental Bazaar**, in Harajuku, (See Harajuku section later) has a nice collection of books about Japan and Japanese.

8. The basement of **Parko I**, in Shibuya has a fair number of English books.

9. The **National Azabu Supermarket** a short walk from the **New Sano**. (Turn left out of the New Sanno, take the first small street to the left. It will be on the left several blocks up, just before the very nice park.)

Brian Marriott 6/02

## Essential Books for Exploring Japan

### Atlases

If you want to make the most of your time in Japan, it is essential to have some good maps to find your way around, (or find your way back after you've been around - and around.) I recommend having all three of these, as they all have different





## PackMart

Disappointed by the slim pickings in the craft department at the BX? There is a wonderful paper bag store near Espa in Akishima that has great gift wrapping and lots of ribbon and gift bags in many sizes and colors. I went and found every color, size and style of ribbon you can imagine and paper gift bags with handles. The bags are sold in bulk, usually solid colors in packs of 25 and 50, and decorated bags of 12 per pack. The store also sells many different kinds of food service containers, chopsticks in bulk, stationary, and school and art supplies. So if you are looking for a great place that can supply all of your gift wrapping needs, just gather a few friends (so you can trade colors) and follow these simple directions.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out of the East gate. Next you will turn left at the traffic light onto Itsukaichi-Kaido Ave. (If you were going to Espa you would continue going straight.) When you are turning left there will be a 7-Eleven on the left-hand side; you can see the sign just before making the left turn but can't see the building. Continue down this street. You will turn right at a traffic signal with a red-roofed ramen shop on the right hand side. After turning right on this street you will travel several miles and pass a Bamiyan restaurant, Denny's, Jonathan's, a large pachinko place, and a McDonald's. Next you will go straight through a tunnel, then up an incline to a busy intersection. At this light you will turn left and go under a pedestrian overpass. A Denny's is on the right before you make this turn. After traveling under the overpass you will pass two traffic lights and another blue pedestrian overpass. Continue on straight, passing through three lights and by a car dealership. Continue through three more lights. Right after the eighth light you will see a shop on the left side with a big red awning with the words, "PackMart" printed on it. This is the bag store. It is 7.5 km from the East Gate. You can park on the street but you must post a lookout to watch the car as it can be towed away. There is also a small alley on the other side of the shop for parking but it is almost always full. Tel.: 541-7788.

Shannon Edwards - edited from the Yokosan 1999  
Updated by Teresa Negley 8/01

## Natural Food Stores

The best options for "natural" foods for those of us stationed in Yokota is to order off the web; however sometimes you just can't get what you need, or you want to be able to actually see what it is that you are getting, or you may just want to round out your cultural experience here in Japan. The "health food" movement is relatively new and small here, being that *traditional* Japanese foods are essentially very healthy, so you may be able to actually introduce something in Japan that is new to your Japanese friends.

Your most valuable tool will be the **TWLP—Tokyo Whole Life Pages**. This is a paperback book put out yearly by the Book Club Kai—a Japanese/English new age bookstore, in English, chock full of "alternative" information. You can find anything from organic cafés to acupuncture clinics (that have English speakers) to the closest Yoga school to Aikido dojos. The cost is around 800 yen and can be ordered from the two mail order catalogues below.

The first is **Warabe Mura**. This is a mail order only company that specializes in organic and macrobiotic wholefoods. I have ordered from them for several years and they are an excellent and reliable resource for health foods in general and macrobiotic foods in particular. If you have dealt with macrobiotic foods in the States, you will be pleasantly surprised at the quality from this company—they use many "Mom and Pop" family companies/farmers that grow or prepare traditional Japanese foods. Their umeboshi (pickled salty plums) are all-natural (unlike the ones in grocery stores which are full of colorings, sugar and junk) and delicious and useful for upset stomachs. Warabe Mura is also a great resource for Japanese organic brown rice and sweet brown rice. For really great tasting Japanese brown rice: mix half brown rice and half sweet brown rice and cook it in your rice cooker twice (after the button pops up, push it down again) or you can cook it in a pressure cooker. Make sure you soak the rice in its cooking water for a few hours before you cook it, which will make it "softer". You will surprise your Japanese friends, as most of them have never eaten Japanese brown rice much less prepared it. If you want to know more about Macrobiotics, a good book is *The Macrobiotic Way* by Michio Kushi, or if you want to know more about traditional Japanese foods, a good book is *Culinary Treasures of Japan* by John and Jan Bellame, both available in this catalogue. You can e-mail or call them to get an English catalogue sent to you. If you call, ask to speak to "Martin-san", who speaks English. They also send out a newsletter and the last one had an excellent section on health food restaurants in Japan with many in the Tokyo area. They normally deliver using the Japanese "Takkyubin" (like the Black Cat delivery trucks you see around), but with heightened security at the gates it would probably be best to have them deliver to your PO box. Use your Fussa City address, not the APO address. The way you pay for your order is an invoice will come with your goods and you need to pay for it within 7 days at any Japanese post office. Just take your payment slip in and the



post office personnel can help you fill it out—filling it out in English is OK.

### **Warabe Mura**

CPO Box 3, Tomika,  
Kamo-gun, Gifu  
501-3300  
Fax:0120-54-1495  
Tel: 0574-54-1355  
Warabemura@aol.com

The other catalogue resource is **Tengu Natural Foods**. The exciting thing about them is that they have both a store and café about a 30 to 40 minute drive from the Terminal gate.

### **Tengu Natural Foods**

Tel: 0429-82-4811  
Fax: 0429-82-4831  
Tengu@gol.com  
www.tengufoods.com

You can call, fax, or email them to send you an English catalogue. You can also order from them off their web site, which is in English. Their store and café is in a big red building and called (different from their catalogue name) the Alishan Organic Center. They have a small store with all kinds of (mostly) Western style health foods, so you can see what you are getting. The only draw back is that the store is only open on the weekends but if you decide to go to the café during the week, call in your order the day before and they'll have it packed up for you to pick up at the café. The café also has a small section with some items for sale. The Alishan café is a real gem: their food is delicious, organic and vegetarian, priced very reasonably (500 to about 1000 yen for lunch) and in a beautiful setting. The café itself has large windows that overlook a deck and the Koma River. In warm weather, you can dine on the deck. It's a fun place for even just an organic cup of coffee and I guarantee none of your Japanese friends have eaten in a place like this. Directions and map follow this article.

**Alishan Organic Center** (same company as Tengu catalogue)

185-2 Komahongo, Hdaka-shi,  
Saitama-ken, 350-1251

Café open Thurs to Mon 11:30 to 18:00 Sat till 21:00  
Store open Sat and Sun only

A side benefit to going to the Alishan Café is that near it is the best tofu shop ever. Koma tofu shop makes all their tofu (including grinding up the beans etc.) on the premises. They specialize in "zaru-tofu" which means "colander-tofu" and if you don't like this tofu, forget it, you'll never like tofu. It's all fresh and must be refrigerated and eaten within three days. You just scoop it out on to a plate and top it with soy sauce and chopped onion or red pepper or tobasco sauce or lemon juice. Everytime I go to the Alishan, I take orders from many people who have absolutely no interest in health food, to get them tofu from this tiny shop. They are closed on Tuesdays and their hours are 12:00 to 17:00. Koma tofu is indicated on the directions to Alishan Café.

Lastly, there is **Natural House**, a "chain" store of health and diet foods. You will typically find that in Japan health food is sometimes synonymous with diet aids and funky cosmetics (as in containing all kinds of "miracle" ingredients) so beware. The largest Natural House is in Kita Aoyoma (3-6-18) in Tokyo—maybe a nice side trip if you are staying at the New Sanno. Get off on the Ometesando subway stop and head toward the Fuji Bank. It is next to it. The nice thing about this store is that it has a large selection of organic fresh fruit and vegetables. There is also a small Natural House shop on the top floor of the Grand Duo Department store in Tachikawa. They don't have any fresh things but they do have some interesting snacks and herb teas.

Even if you aren't interested in "health food" or "alternative health" you may want to check out some of these resources if only to see another "side" of Japan. I've met many wonderful and interesting people while trying to keep myself healthy here.

### **Directions to Alishan Organic Center and Tofu shop:**

Set Odometer to 0 @ Terminal gate and turn right on route 16

@ 3.2 km turn left at the stop light on (Iwakura Kaido), it is the second light after McDonalds and there is a Lawson convenience store on the right

@ 5.8 km turn left under the Ken-o expressway at the light, there is a Joyful restaurant on the left

@ 5.9 km turn immediate right at the next light

@ 10.3 km turn right at the T intersection (route 28)

@ 12.3 km turn right at the light (route 28) there is a cemetery with a big statue on the right

@ 14.9 km make a sharp left turn to cross a bridge (there is no light nor stop sign)

@ 15.0 km turn right after crossing the bridge

@ 15.3 km turn left at traffic light

@ 15.6 km turn right at T intersection (there is a temple right in front of you)

@ 16.1 km turn left at T intersection (this is route 299 though there is no sign) there is a school with a small play ground on your right

@ 19.0 km at the stop light that is named "Dai". It is written with one Kanji character but with the English word "Dai" underneath it. The sign is attached to the light itself. By the way, intersections are named more often than roads and it is a good way to navigate.

@ 19.1 km is the **Koma Tofu Shop** on the right. It has white cloth banners around it and two small parking spaces.

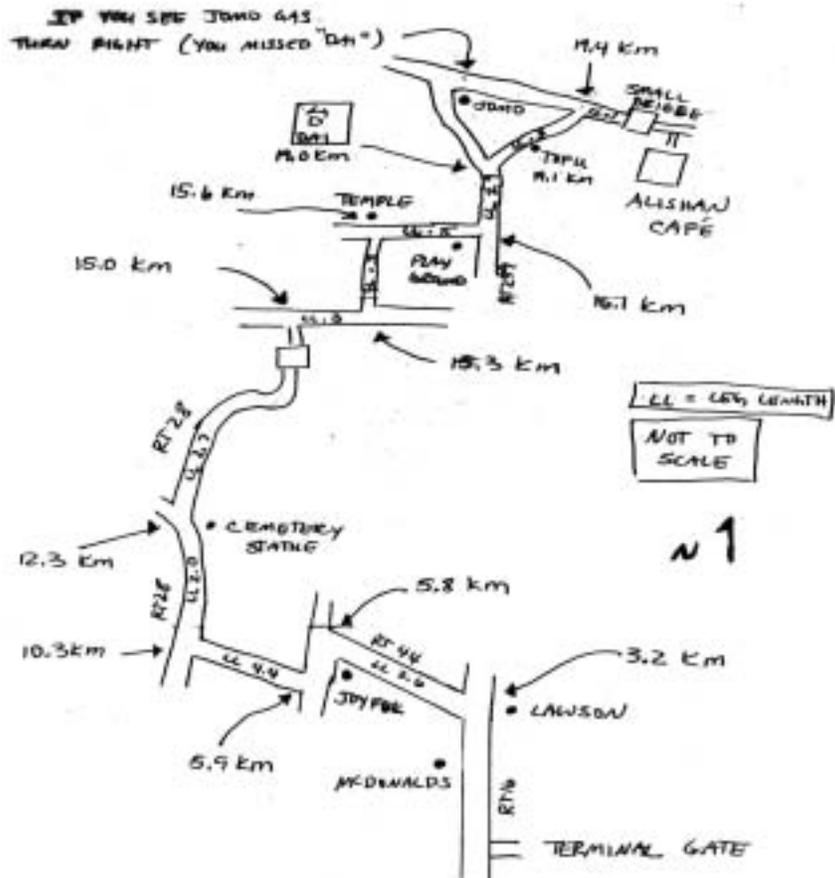
@ 19.4 km turn right at an angled T intersection

@ 19.5 km there is a big red barn looking building on your right—that's it.

Though these directions look complicated, it is actually a pleasant drive, mostly in the country, and once you get off route 16 the traffic dissipates. I've labeled each leg length on the map to assist you on the way back.

Alesa McNeill/Feb '02





# Shopping Within an Hour of Yokota

## Tokorozawa

Tokorozawa, an easy 45-minute drive north of Yokota, is a great place to spend a day shopping and eating. In addition to the three very nice, large department stores (Daiei, Marui, and Waltz), there are also many small shops. There is a Wendy's, a Shakey's Pizza, two McDonalds and many Japanese eateries. These are all within a short walking distance of each other. In Daiei you will also find a large variety of restaurants. On the top floor there are many restaurants and on the bottom floor you will find buffet restaurants.

If you begin your shopping experience at Daiei you can walk across the street to McDonald's and take a left. You will be on a narrow street with no cars, and lots of shops! Here you will find Shakey's and another McDonald's. There are CD shops, flower shops, vegetable markets, video stores, electronics, pachinko and more. Then you will come out and go past the station and continue on up the main street to Waltz and many other small shops and accessory stores. Cross the street again and head back to Daiei. The name of the street is "Purope". One of the best bakeries for fresh bread, called "Sun Merry" is there.

You can park at any of the three department stores as early as 9:00AM. Parking is free for two hours if you make a purchase of at least ¥2000. After the first two hours, you will be charged ¥100 per thirty minutes.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate. At the first light turn right. Stay on this road until it dead-ends at the Nissan Plant in front of you; turn left. Stay on this road until it ends at Shin Ome Kaido. (You will go through two traffic lights and pass the big Daikuma discount store on the left). At Shin Ome Kaido there will be a Mos Burger on the left and a used car dealer on the right; this is your landmark for the return trip! Turn right on this road. Continue on this road for about 9km. After you go over a long overpass, get into the left lane. Turn left on Fuchu Kaido, the intersection is very large. Stay on Fuchu Kaido for about 2.5km. Keep to the right at the fork in the road, which has a gas station in the center of it. Turn left onto Tokorozawa Kaido. In a few minutes you will see the large department stores and the train station. Continue straight to park in the parking garages.

Lori Belk, Judy Harvey, Viki Paulson-Cody. Directions verified 11/01.

## Tachikawa

Although Tachikawa is easiest to get to by train, an easy route is to drive by Showa Memorial Park's main gate then turn left toward Tachikawa Station. Pay parking is available under Takashimaya department store and at Lumine just past the train station's north exit. If you purchase a minimum amount (including meals at the restaurants within the building), parking is free for the first two hours. Takashimaya charges ¥500/hour unless you buy at least ¥5000 of merchandise.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the East Gate, then left onto Itsukaichi Kaido. Stay on Itsukaichi Kaido until the light with the Yakiniku "all-you-can-eat" restaurant on the far right corner (the turn for American Village) then turn right. Turn left at the second light (convenience store on the left.) Turn right at the next large intersection and pass Tachikawa Air Base and the main entrance to Showa Memorial Park. At the next large intersection, the sharp left will lead you to Takashimaya while the angled left will lead you to the north exit of Tachikawa Train station. The drive time is 20-40 minutes depending on traffic.

## Grand Duo Mall

Inside the Tachikawa train station, Grand Duo offers a variety of shops. Eddie Bauer is just one of the western brand stores available. The sixth floor consists of many different restaurants including Italian, Indian, a cybercafe, and several Japanese restaurants. The seventh floor is considered a local Chinatown with many Chinese restaurants. The eighth floor offers many beauty care shops, including two hair salons, an herbal shop, and a hair supply shop.

Shannon Edwards, from Yokosan 1/2000

## Takashimaya Department Store

Located on the second floor of this emporium is a small Disney store where things to purchase include stuffed animals, kitchen items, baby goods, key chains, etc. While here, ride the escalators to all the floors. There are specialty sections including items by Ralph Lauren, Mikimoto pearls, and famous French designers. Also found are hats, stationery, stereo equipment, clocks, wedding dresses, kimonos, optical goods, and home furnishings as well as a food court on the top two floors.

Open 10am-6:30pm, Takashimaya is next to Cinema City.

**DIRECTIONS:** From the Fussa Station, ride the train seven stops to Tachikawa. Exit north, then down the stairs on the left. Cross the street and walk directly away from the station. Go down the alley next to Klimt Coffee Shop (pink awnings). Continue on straight and when you see the Inoue Building, continue past it to the large road. Takashimaya will be across the street in front of you on the left. See map on opposite page.

Karen Ozment



## Topos

There are Topos Outlets in both Tachikawa and Hamura. This is a chain of discount stores where you bring your own bags to save more. In the basements, there are supermarkets and burger bars. Resembling a vertical K-Mart, the merchandise includes chinaware, rugs, clothing, toys, sporting and electrical equipment. There is also an arcade floor.

**DIRECTIONS:** An easy way to Topos is to take the train to Tachikawa station and take the north exit out the street below. Walk down the main street away from the station to the next big intersection. Turn right onto Midorikawa Dori by the large fountain. Topos is just past the McDonald's on the left hand side.

## Lumine Department Store

Lumine is a collection of boutiques and restaurants. It's a store for window shoppers arranged in standard Japanese department-store fashion, with a basement supermarket. The first floor has a large gift food area. On the upper levels are two floors of variously-priced restaurants. Besides food, there's an art supply area, a florist, many clothing sections, an art gallery, electronics, books, toys and specialty items for gifts.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Turn right as you exit Tachikawa's train ticket gates and you'll see Lumine from inside Tachikawa Station.

Rachel Keyser-McClendon

## Kichijoji

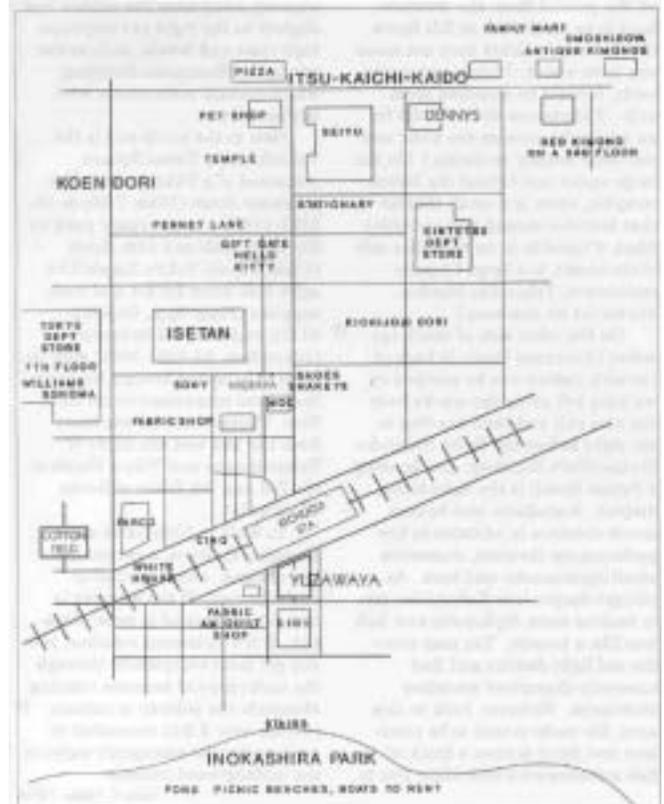
Getting to Kichijoji involves a 40 minute train ride on the Chuo Line. At Tachikawa, transfer to a Tokyo-bound train and get off at Kichijoji. Note that the special rapid trains don't stop in Kichijoji, so if you get on one, get off at Mitaka and take the next train. Kichijoji station has two major exits. The Central Exit is dominated by Sun Road, and the Park Exit by Inokashira Park.

Exiting through the Central Exit you will see the covered arcade called Sun Road. This two-block long arcade and the streets running perpendicular to it are crammed with numerous shops. Isetan, Tokyu, and Parco department stores are here. Also notable is the Miuraya, a supermarket specializing in imported food. Beyond the Citibank past Isetan is Moti Indian Restaurant (also opposite a game arcade). Continue down Sun Road until it dead ends into Itsu Kaichi Kaido. Cross the street and turn right. Walk past Denny's (this is Kichijoji Dori) and Fuji Furniture. In a few minutes you will come upon the first of two Omoshiro-ya. Omoshiro-ya sells used kimonos, obi, and fabric. This store has the cheaper selection of kimonos and indigo fabric. The second store is across the street. As you step out the door look up and slightly to the right. You will see a window with a red kimono in it. This store sells an incredible variety of Japanese clothing. It is more expensive than the first store, but still cheap. After exploring the covered arcade, make your way back to the station. Inside the station you will find a department store with a selection of ready to eat food on the first floor. Walk through

the station to the side opposite side the one that you entered. Look for the "0101" sign and the park exit.

If you are coming directly from the station, exit through the Park Exit and walk past the familiar glittering pachinko shops. In less than a minute you will come upon Inokashira-Dori, dominated by the department store Marui. The sign for Marui looks like 0101. (The word maru means circle.) There's also a Body Shop, Subway Sandwiches, and L.L. Bean. Continuing on, you will come upon the park. Inokashira Park is great for cherry blossom viewing and strolling. It is especially popular with young lovers who walk hand-in-hand along the picturesque lake. Across from the lake, you will find a small zoo, an aviary and an aquarium. Ample picnic tables and benches are located near the zoo and around the lake. Break out the lunch and enjoy the scenery!

Cheryl McNabb, Karen Ozment  
Updated 2002 by Cindy Smith



Map Courtesy of Cheryl McNabb



## Hachioji

Hachioji is just 230 yen (one way) and 24 minutes (or four stops) from Higashi-Fussa station. At Hachioji Station, get off the train and proceed up the steps towards the exit and turn right out of the train station. Here is the department store SOGO. Go downstairs or use the escalator, turn left and straight ahead is the department store OIOI (MARUI) with a big sign on it saying "VIRGIN CD" which is located in the basement of the department store. Once you enter the store towards your left you will see the "Body Shop" on the first floor.

Tokyu Square is located directly across from the JR Hachioji Train Station and you will see an advertisement on the front of the building of the Disney Store located on the 3rd floor. This is a very nice, "small mall" type in itself. As you enter Tokyu Square, immediately on your left is "Crabtree &

Evelyn - Body Shop" (personal products shop). Proceed up the escalator and on the second floor is "Nature Trail" (clothing), and on the third floor two stores away from the Disney Store is "Crazy Shirts" from Hawaii (mostly T-shirts, sweatshirts, handkerchiefs, golf kliban kat items; all a bit more expensive than their catalog which you can request and place on-line orders at [www.crazyshirts.com](http://www.crazyshirts.com)).

Directly past Tokyu Square or behind it, you will find Tower Records on the 5th floor, (they just had a grand re-opening in March 1999). CDs range from 1800 yen to 2300 yen with the latest single CDs available ranging 600-1000 yen.

Right across from Nagasakiya is "Subway Sandwiches," open 10-10. Several shops down is Mister Donuts open 7am-10pm. McDonald's is also in Hachioji.

Kathleen A. Vactor - reprinted from the Yokosan

## Shopping to the South-East of Base

via Hachioji Bypass as if towards Yokosuka

### La Fete Tama Mall - Minami Osawa

For a really nice outing to a mall about 40 minutes away, you have to get yourself out to La Fete Tama Mall in Minami-Osawa. You can go to the Outback Steakhouse, Wendy's, Starbuck's Coffee, or a number of outlet stores. There is also a really nice movie theater there as well. There is a rather large department store adjacent to the parking garage, which closes at 11pm. The directions are pretty simple and easy to follow:

Directions: Set your odometer to zero. Go out the Fussa Gate and turn left onto Rt. 16. Follow the signs for Hachioji and Rt. 16. You will see a sign for Hachioji/Rt. 16 at 3.2 km that tells you to turn left. (If you go straight you will be on Rt. 29 and headed toward Haijima.) Turn left for Rt. 16/Hachioji. At 4.7 km on your odometer, turn right for the Hachioji Bypass. You will pass the big round bathhouse on your left and continue on the bridge over the river. At 7.4 km, turn left at the Coco's Restaurant to continue on the Hachioji Bypass. Keep following the Hachioji Bypass signs.

At 15.7 km, at the toll booth, try to get in the left lane. (It is going to cost 250 yen at the toll booth). Right after the toll booth, turn onto the left exit ramp, and take another left off of the ramp. At the JOMO (17 km) take another left. At 19.6 km, you will be at the Daidabirabashi intersection and will see a blue Minami-Osawa train station sign. Take a right. You will pass the Tokyo Metropolitan University on your left. La Fete Tama mall will be past the University on your left. After the mall, you will see a parking garage on your left. Enter the parking garage and park where you can find a space. Parking cost us about 500 Yen for about the time it took us to park, find the Outback Steakhouse, wait an hour, eat, and get back to the car!

To get to the stores, you will go through the Isetan store that is connected to the parking garage. Once on the other side

of the store, you will see a walkway that will lead you to all of the other outdoor stores and the movie theater on your right. If you keep walking through the walkway over the street below, you will eventually reach the outdoor outlet stores on the other side of the street. The Outback Steakhouse is with the other food stores and the movie theater on the right. You will see a sign for it near the stairs that lead to the Starbuck's Coffee Store.

Michelle Arostegui 4/02

### 5-Story 100 Yen-Machida

The Five-Story 100 Yen Store in Machida is next to the train station. You can take the train using the directions at the Yujo, or you can elect to drive. Driving time on a weekday morning is about 1 to 1 1/2 hours, if there is not too much traffic and will cost you 250 yen in tolls each way. To Machida by train will take you about 1 hour and 20 minutes and will cost approximately 800 yen, each way. If you are going to take the train, it would be a good idea to get the train map at the Yujo Community Center before you venture out.

We followed the basic driving directions to Yokohama, using the Hachioji Bypass and staying on Highway 16. The exit for Machida from highway 16 is AFTER the turn for China Pete's, and after the Toys R Us on the left hand side. Stay on 16 until you see a Machida - 51 exit. Do not go straight and up on the bridge continuing towards Grandberry Mall and Yokohama. Take Machida-51 exit and turn left at the first street. Continue straight on 51 until you get to a fork in the road. Stay towards the left. Continue 1/2 block and straight ahead there is a parking garage. Enter here and park your car. The mall entrance is on the fourth floor, so if you park on another floor, take the elevator to the fourth floor. You will exit the elevator and cross a covered pedestrian bridge that goes over the railroad tracks. Go right once at the outdoor mall level and head towards a large silver arch. On your right there is a small food court (McDonald's, KFC, and some Japanese restaurants) with a water fountain.



To the left, you will see a sign indicating a store with five floors (1F, 2F, 3F, etc). There is not an external sign that says 100 Yen Plaza. This is it!!! Once inside there are 100 Yen Plaza signs. There are dishes on the first floor, garden supplies, baskets, silk flowers, party supplies, office supplies and lots more. There is also a Tokyu Hands craft store in the outdoor mall area. Happy Shopping!!!

Ann Quattrone.Reprinted from the Yokosan.

## China Pete's

China Pete's is a favorite stop for shopping all over the Kanto Plain. There are two showrooms located just one block apart and stocked with an abundance of dinnerware, serving pieces, and specialty sets. Seasonal products are stocked best about two months before the holiday itself. Many items are stocked regularly, but due to frequent inventory turn-overs it is recommended if you see an item you really want, buy it then, or it may not be there when you go back. They accept Yen, dollars, Visa, and MasterCard; but checks are not accepted. You must bring your ID card or passport to get tax-free price. (Note: they offer a favorable exchange rate.)

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate. Stay on Rt. 16, following the signs to the Hachioji Bypass. Watch the signs because the road turns a few times on the way to the Bypass. Take the Hachioji Bypass and pay the ¥250 toll. Follow the toll road until it merges with Rt. 16 again. When you see the 3M building, you'll be going left towards Yokohama. Continuing on Rt. 16, you'll pass several familiar places like McDonald's. Keep going until you come to a Nissan used car shop on the right and a walkover. On the other side of the walkover is the Nissan Prince dealership. Turn right at that intersection which has a stoplight. Drive two blocks, then there is a school on the right. You will see the China Pete's two-story building on the left, before the traffic signal. There are only six parking places here, so if they are full, turn left at the signal light and park on the street. The other showroom is one block down from the two-story building. There is no parking at this shop.

It takes about one hour and 15 minutes from Yokota; however, if you leave early in the morning you can get there in about 45 minutes. Open 9:30am-5:30pm, closed on Sundays and open on holidays. Tel. 0427-53-0564. Check out their website at: [www.chinapetes.com](http://www.chinapetes.com)

**DIRECTIONS TO CAMP ZAMA FROM CHINA PETE'S:** Turn left from the main store, going past the annex about 0.5 km until you see a Honda Primo dealer on the left. Turn right at the light, drive 2 km and turn left at the light (restaurant on right corner). Continue straight to the intersection with the Hot Spar convenience store. Turn right and drive straight into Gate 7 (Golf Course Gate) of Camp Zama.

Viki Lynn Paulson Cody, Teresa Negley 12/96  
Directions Revised 2/02 - Teresa Negley

## Shopping at Camp Zama

Camp Zama in Kanagawa Prefecture is the headquarters for the U.S. Army in Japan. It also houses a Japanese Ground Self Defense unit in addition to being the site of the former Imperial Army Academy (Rikugun Shikan Gakko). If you look

carefully, you can still see remainders of the Imperial Academy. Aside from wooden buildings with tiled roofs and concrete shelters set in the hills, there are stone monuments located throughout Camp Zama dedicated to Academy students. The largest is the Sobudai Monument near Gate 1 and the Chapel.

As for modern times and SOFA shoppers, the Zama Exchange and nearby Four Seasons/Shoppette are AAFES outlets. The Oriental Bazaar (across the street from the Package Store) carries souvenirs and gift items. Around the corner (opposite the pool) is a small furniture store selling silk screens, coffee tables, and tansus. It also has used tea boxes at times. A few doors down is another store selling Chinese furniture.

One well-known business is the ITT travel agency in the Rec Center on the hill opposite the library. With computer connections to its downtown office, agents provide more service in addition to lower prices.

There is a Commissary Annex across from the Post Office with slightly different merchandise from the main Commissary at Sagami-hara (the main residential area). To get to the commissary, go out Gate 7 past schools and a fire station, through several lights until you come to a "T." Turn right, then left at the gas station. Drive along the fence and then turn left into the gate. Turn right at the stop sign to get to the Commissary beyond the gas station. The Sagami-hara Commissary is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

For restaurants, diners eat at the Community Club or at the Golf Club around the corner and up the hill from Gate 4. Specialties are the mugs of lemonade and chili-on-rice. There is a Baskin Robbins, Anthony's Pizza and Burger King, all in the AAFES Exchange building.

For nearby off-base shopping, people drive to the discount stores near their local train stations or take the inexpensive Odakyu train line to the department stores at Machida (Tokyu Hands and Odakyu), Sagami-Ono (Isetan), and Hon-Atsugi for window shopping and specialty items.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take favorite route to Hachioji Bypass (see directions for La Fete Tama Mall if you don't know the way) Go through the intersection and follow Rt. 16 across the Tama River Bridge to the Hachioji Bypass sign, and turn left. Stay on Rt. 16 and the Hachioji Bypass toll plaza (Toll ¥250), until you reach the Rt. 16/Rt 129 intersection. Get into the left-hand lane to make the left-hand angled turn to remain on Rt. 16. Stay on Rt. 16 until you reach Chuochugakko Iriguchi intersection, where you'll see a Yoshinoya Restaurant and the Esso Gas Station on your right. Turn right. (The best landmark for this intersection is the police station microwave tower).

Turn right here and stay on this street for approximately 7-10km until you reach Sagami Dai 5-Chome intersection. Turn right and follow this street straight into Gate 7, by the golf course of Camp Zama. It takes about 1.5 hours by car.

C.L. Edwards / Teresa K. Negley



# Grandberry Mall

Grandberry Mall has the space and selection of an American style mall. Many of you may have seen it from the road (right-hand side) on your way to Yokosuka, but if you haven't I recommend taking a shopping trip there. You'll feel like you are on a downtown main street as you stroll down the wide, brick sidewalks to visit 61 different stores and restaurants. You can find such familiar shops, such as OshKosh B-Goshg, Chevignon and Hush Puppies. You'll see some you've never heard of, like Kent & Kiki and Jonny Garage.

Regardless of whether or not you've heard of all the stores, you should be able to find something for every member of the family. Need some athletic shoes? Check out the Asics outlet. Looking for some clothing for your teenagers? There's a Chevignon, a Look!s Outlet and a Wear House. How about some nouveau furniture? Then you must stop at Franc franc.

The Grandberry Mall is quite popular with dog lovers. You'll see plenty of Japanese families walking their dogs along the outside of the stores. There's even a couple of stores for pet lovers. The biggest one is called Dog Cat Joker, and it's located on the other side of the Starbucks.

The prices at the stores are pretty reasonable. A pair of Hush Puppies shoes cost about 3,000 yen on average, and you can find demin shorts and T-shirts at the Outlet-J store for less than 1,000 yen. On the second level at Kent & Kiki's you can find everything from toddlers' clothing and shoes to men's suits.

For something a little off-beat, walk around the corner from the McDonald's to the Lush store. The store's sign said "Fresh Handmade Cosmetics," which may be a bit misleading. There are no cosmetics, but there are massage bars, bath oils and shampoo bars. Lush also sells what it calls "fizzing bath ballistics." Drop one of these baseball-sized balls into your bath and watch it fizzle and dissolve, leaving you with a wonderful smelling and relaxing bath.

If your stomach has been growling for some serious American-style restaurant food, there is an Outback Steakhouse. The prices are about the same as in the States, and the menu is the same. A short walk across the bridge you can also find plenty to eat. There is a Precece food market, which is much like any Japanese grocery store. There is also a Skylark Island food mart. And for your sweet tooth, stop at the Queen Alice Cafe for some ice cream or other sweets.

**DIRECTIONS:** If you've driven to Yokosuka, you can easily find your way to Granberry Mall. From Yokota, head toward the Chuo Expressway. At the main intersection, just before the Chuo entrance, turn left toward the Hachioji Bypass. Just stay on Route 16 until you see the signs for the Tomei Expressway. Just before the expressway entrance, you'll see the mall on your right-hand side. You can take an exit off to the left, which will snake back under Route 16 and lead you to the mall. The trip can be a long one. It took us more than two hours to get to the mall on a Sunday, but it took only an hour to get back to the base. If you want to go by train, you'll need to get to Minami-Machida Station, which is located on the Den-En Toshi Line.

Pam Amrhein/Dec '01



## Shopping at Atsugi Naval Air Facility

Located 25 kilometers east of Yokota Air Base, it's an easy drive to Naval Air Facility Atsugi for a day of shopping or entertainment. The exchange complex has the Navy Exchange, video rentals and personalized services - engraving, watch repair, optical shop, flower shop, and gift wrapping. There is also a Baskin Robbin's ice cream shop, book store and Mini Mart for your convenience. The commissary is to the right of the Exchange complex parking lot. Atsugi's Exchange is not as large as Yokosuka's exchange, however, you can still find a wide variety of items. McDonald's is across the street from the Exchange complex. Across from it and diagonally across from the exchange is the theater (Bldg. 77). Also housed in this building is the uniform shop, audio video store, barber shop, beauty salon, and bowling alley. Ichiban Collectibles is also located in Bldg. 77. They sell an assortment of gift items, jewelry, rugs, and other household ornaments. Ichiban Collectibles is managed by the OSC. They are open every Thursday, 10am-5pm.

The 19th Hole Restaurant at the golf course offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is also a soba shop near the Navy Lodge, open only during the winter months to help take away the chill of the season.

Although Atsugi offers many things to do, touring the base isn't your only option. There are restaurants, small shops, and vegetable stands right outside the main gate as well as two beautiful parks, all located near the East and South gates.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go to Hachioji Bypass using your favorite directions. (see directions for La Fete Tama Mall if you don't know the way). Follow Rt. 16 across the Tama River Bridge to the Hachioji sign, and turn left. Stay on Rt. 16 and

the Hachioji Bypass toll plaza (Toll ¥250), until you reach the Rt. 16/Rt 129 intersection. Get into the left-hand lane to make the left-hand angled turn to remain on Rt. 16. Stay on Rt. 16 for approx. 12-14km until you see the Atsugi/Rt. 246 sign. Turn right onto Rt. 246 and you will be on an entrance ramp to Rt. 246. Stay on Rt. 246 through 3-4 traffic lights and a tunnel. When you come up out of the tunnel, go through the intersection and stay to the left. In about 2-3km, you will see an Autorama Pachinko Parlor on the right at the intersection with a sign that says "Ayase". Turn left at this intersection and follow this street to the end. At the end of this street, you will turn right and then take the very next left. You will now be on the street that takes you directly to the Main Gate of NAF Atsugi. Remain left at the Y shaped split (there is a Kyoseki Gas Station that sits right in the middle of the Y at this intersection). Cross over the Tomei Expressway and in about a kilometer you will be at the main gate.

**DIRECTIONS TO ATSUGI FROM ZAMA:** Go through Camp Zama's Main Gate. Turn left then right up the hill before the first building (insurance office). Cross the narrow bridge and turn right at the light (next to a school). Pass a civic complex on the left and continue through a Y (by gas station), past a COOP to another Y. Take the left fork, continuing straight, past the McDonald's to the intersection with the Daiei and Esso Gas Station. Turn left, then right at the light to cross over the Tomei highway, then left at the light on the other side of this small bridge (next to the pedestrian bridge). Drive alongside the base fence and then turn right into the main gate of Atsugi.

C. L. Edwards / Paulette Edwards



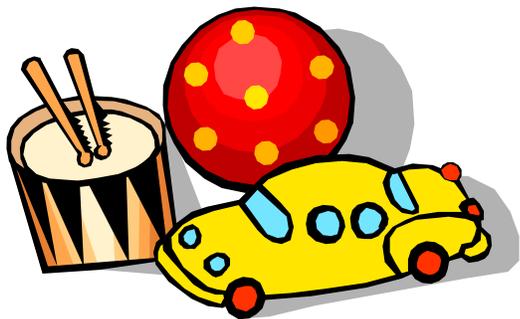
## Sagamihara Asamizo Park

For an added treat when you make the trip to Camp Zama or China Pete's, stop by Sagamihara Asamizo Park. This park provides entertainment for kids of all ages. The Park is split by the main entrance road. To the left is a free parking lot. From there, it is a short walk to beautiful flower gardens, a large grassy area for picnicking and a uniquely designed playground. To determine the design, you must take the elevator in the tower for a bird's-eye view of the area. To the right of the main road is the Kanagawa Greenhouse. There are also several beautiful fountains in a canyon of evergreens. To continue on, I recommend a stroller for younger children, as there is a lot of ground to cover. There are several trails through gardens and wooded areas with occasional sculptures, children's castles, and gazebos. Visiting the park can be a quick stop or an all-day affair.

There is also a small zoo including a petting area and pony rides. Tickets for the pony rides are ¥50 in the administration building, to the right of the riding course. The pony ride hours are: May-August 10:00 -11:30am, 1:30-2:30pm, 3.30-4:30pm; September-April, 10-1 1:30am and 1:30-3:30pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions to China Pete's. At the first traffic light between China Pete's and the school playground, turn left, passing both China Pete's stores, continuing on to two more stop lights. At a Honda dealers, turn RIGHT. Go five more stop lights, passing Aoba-3 Chome and Ichinohara Roads, and turn left at the restaurant. Go five more stop lights to the street sign, Sagamihara Asamizo Park, and turn right into the park.

Beth Holbrook 2/96



## Toys R Us

The selection seems endless. Play money and yo-yos, a wall of coloring books and crayons, etc., plus Japanese dolls. There is a variety of games and puzzles. There are computer games and remote controlled trains. Model supplies are well stocked. Toys for babies and toddlers from Fisher Price to Playschool. A real treat was an aisle devoted to Barbie.

The prices are reasonable, only slightly higher than the stateside prices. They are open 365 days a year, 10am-8pm. They also offer a delivery service should you decide to buy large items. You can get assistance in English as there is at least one American manager.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Take your favorite route to the Hachioji Bypass. (If you don't know how to get there, please see the directions for Camp Zama.) Turn left at the second light onto the divided Rt. 16 Hachioji Bypass road. After traveling for several kilometers, you will need to get into the right lane which leads directly onto the bypass. This is a toll road. The toll gate is just a short distance and is ¥250. Follow the toll road until it again merges with Rt. 16. When you see the "3M" building, you will be heading to the left towards Yokohama. Continuing on Rt. 16 towards Yokohama, you will notice several familiar restaurants on your right, such as Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's. Just after McDonald's, about five blocks, you will see a Mister Donut on the right. (If you turn right at the Nissan Prince intersection, you will find China Pete's on the left, about one block down.) Next you will see a Denny's Restaurant on the left. After the Denny's, you will see a Victoria Station restaurant and a very large Do-It store on the right. Toys "R" Us is just ahead another .9km on the left just past McDonald's. Turn left into the parking lot. By car, it takes about 1-1.5 hours.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Hachiko Line from Higashi Fussa Station. Get on the train going toward Hachioji, the end of the line. At Hachioji, change to the Yokohama Line for Hashimoto and Higashi Kanagawa (you can take a regular or express train). You will get off at Kobuchi Station (seven stops). It takes about 1 hour. Go out the east exit and go right. At the first traffic light, turn left. At the second light turn right and follow the road until you end up at Rt. 16. Turn left and walk until you end up at Toys R Us (about 2 blocks). From the station it is about 6 or 7 blocks and takes about 15 minutes.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Noritake Factory

The Noritake factory near Atsugi offers visitors a selection of shops. One carries quality seconds in addition to glassware and crystal. The patterns available vary greatly from time to time and include traditional Japanese dinnerware in addition to the more familiar Western tableware. Don't count on finding pieces to match your china, as patterns depend on what the factory is making for the Japanese domestic market. The main shop is a striking display of the best china, glassware, silverware and flatware. There are no seconds here and the prices reflect the quality. Many patterns displayed are not for export. Some prices are reasonable and some are exorbitant; it depends on the piece. They have catalogs and if they don't have it out, they may have it in the back. If they don't have it in stock, they will be happy to order it for you.

The factory is not open for tourists, but groups can visit with prior arrangements. The shops offer great sales several times each year. You can be notified of the sales in advance by postcard if you take the time to self address the cards when you visit the main showroom. Be sure to use your Fussa mailing address.

The shops are open 9:30am-4:30pm seven days a week. They close the third Monday of each month,

February 27-28, the first Sunday and Monday in June, during the week of Obon in August, August 30-31, and for the New Year's holidays. Parking is available at no charge. One



last bit of advice, don't forget to bring your passport because they offer tax free sales to foreigners. They usually only accept a passport for this purpose, not an ID card.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa gate and follow Rt. 16 to the Hachioji bypass. Shortly after the bypass, Rt. 16 and Rt. 129 separate. Turn right and follow Rt. 129 for about 15 kilometers. You will then come to Rt. 246. Watch the road signs and get into the right lane, go under Rt. 246 and immediately turn right onto Rt. 246. Stay on this very busy road only a short time. Get into the right lane and turn right at the first traffic signal (Nissan on right, Toys R Us on left). After turning (Rt. 412 for Aikawa and Tsukui), continue into a "T" intersection. Turn right again and stay on this road for two kilometers until you see the Noritake Factory complex entrance on your right.

To be sure they are open or to check when their next sale is, call them at 0462-41-1632/7102.

Viki Paulson Cody 5/97

Note: a trip to Noritake is easily combined with a detour through Camp Zama on the way home (about 15 minutes away). Back on Rt 246, cross Rt 129 and the river, then take the second exit on the left (Rt 51 to Sagamihara; also to Zama, Machida, then Sobudai). Turn left. At the "Y" above the tunnel, curve left to Central Zama, then turn right into the main gate.

## Yokosuka Naval Base

For an enjoyable day of shopping, I recommend a drive to Yokosuka Naval Base. Located south of Yokohama, Yokosuka has an assortment of shops, clubs, and restaurants, as well as submarines, aircraft carriers, and other vessels in the harbor. The Family Service Center (in the blue building behind the hospital) has lots of area maps detailing interesting local activities and attractions. A free bus to Yokota leaves from their Family Service Center, call 243-7777 for times and location pick-up.

You can enjoy one-stop shopping at the main exchange, florist, and commissary. Across the parking lot is a craft store, bookstore, and package store. This complex is centrally located with plenty of parking. The exchange has a wide assortment of carpets, household goods and kitchenware, and clothes.

The A33 Fleet Exchange is located across the base (left from the base front gate), but well worth checking out. On the first floor there's an electronics showroom, records and tapes, computer section, fine china, and sporting goods. Upstairs you'll find silk screens, woodblock prints, vases, and all types of souvenirs. They've thought of everything-there's a pack-and-wrap service, US Post Office window, and check-cashing window right in the Fleet Exchange! If you're seeking Japanese cuisine or merchandise, there's a large and lovely mall on Route 16 just outside the base.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate. At 7.5km, you'll see a sign for the Hachioji Bypass. Take the bypass, and pay Y120 at the toll gate. At 20km, you'll come to an intersection with signs for Routes 16 and 129. Get in the left lane and make an angled left to stay on Rt. 16. Continue on Rt. 16, which will run directly into the Hodogaya Bypass and the Yokosuka-Yokohama Toll Road. At 50km, you'll reach the tollgate of this tollroad. You'll have to decide which exit to get off, Exit 6 (Zushi) or Exit 7 (Yokosuka). Exit 7 usually has less traffic, but costs Y300 more.

When getting off the tollroad at Exit 6 (Zushi), pay Y800. After the tollgate, the road will divide. Go right following the sign to Yokosuka. You'll come to a "T" intersection where you'll turn right. At the next "T" intersection with the Rt. 16 sign, turn right onto Rt. 16. You'll go through a series of tunnels and into Yokosuka City. At 75km, Yokosuka's main gate will be on your right.

If you get off the toll road at Exit 7 (Yokosuka), pay Y900 at the tollgate. After the tollgate, turn left and stay in the left lane. Pay Y200 at the next tollgate. Then follow the main road and soon you'll see Tokyo Bay on your left. Drive approximately 1km and you'll come to Yokosuka's main gate.

**DIRECTIONS HOME:** Retrace your steps or follow the Hachioji signs until you reach the Hachioji Bypass, then follow the Kawagoe signs back to Yokota.

Sally Mayberry

**The trip to Yokosuka Naval Base from Yokota Air Base will be: approximately 75 kilometers, and will take 2-3 hours. The tolls will cost between 1,050 and 1,350 yen one-way.**

**The phone number at Yokosuka Naval Base is: 0468-21-1911.**



# Shopping More Than an Hour From Yokota

## Kawagoe RISM Outlet Mall & Eddie Bauer Outlet

This is a collection of shops in a modern setting. On the second level there's an Eddie Bauer outlet (tel. 049-2693384) and an outdoors/sports shop with goods by Patagonia, Columbia, and Coleman in addition to an Italian diner (Materio; 10% off coupons at Eddie Bauer's) and carpet shop at the opposite end. At the same end, there is a Hoya crystal outlet with some prices lower than the factory (the prices in red are for 'members', which costs nothing to join). There is also a shoe store with Cole Haan, Dr. Maartens, and other brands, a large drugstore, a shop selling kitchen goods alongside lingerie, and several clothing shops. If you've got kids, there's an arcade of snack shops and game machines on the first level. The mall is open 10:30am-7:30pm; closed on the third Wednesday of the month (0492-69-3939).

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate onto Rt. 16, heading for Kawagoe via the underpass. Rt. 16 will narrow from four lanes to two lanes and widen again. As you enter Kawagoe, the Rt. 16 signs will change to show

Kasukabe and Omiya (at about 20km, stay on Rt. 16 in the right lane). You'll pass a blue sign for The Old Spaghetti Factory on the right. Stay in the right lane as Rt. 16 takes a sharp right turn (at 23.4 km). As the road curves to the left, you'll see 3 large blue signs (Kawagoe Station, Higashi-Matsuyama, and Tokyo). Stay in the right lane and turn right onto Rt. 254 for Tokyo, and later Ikebukuro. The road will cross Rt. 56 with a Royal Host on the right. Stay on Rt. 254, going straight. At about 30km, there will be an Esso station on the right and a Toyota auto dealer on the left. Turn left at the light where Jonathan's Restaurant and Men's Plaza Aoki are on the far left corner. You'll pass a park on the right. Turn right at the second light (there's a fixe station on the left, and a Mos Burger opposite it on the far left - look for the "M" sign).

Follow the "P" (for parking) signs around the mall to the left into an underground garage. Push the green button on the machine to get a parking ticket. The first two hours are free, then it's Y100/half hour. For the return, back track via Rts 254 and 16 toward Hachioji. Stay in the left lane as you approach Rt. 16. The drive is 1-1.5 hours, 32km away.

Chieko Brumley, Wendy Matheny, Teresa Negley 10/96

### Shopping Terms

#### ENGLISH

Where is [store name]?  
desuka?

Do you sell [item]?

I'd like to see this.

Do you have any others?

Do you have a smaller one? arimasuka?

How much is it?

Do you accept credit cards?

tsukaemasuka?

#### JAPANESE

[Store name] wa doko

[Item] wa arimasuka?

Kore o misete kudasai.

Hoka ni arimasuka?

Ikura desuka?

Kurejitto kaado o



# Downtown Tokyo

(ie:Inside the Yamanote Line)

## Shinjuku

Shinjuku is one of the busiest train stations in Japan, on the western edge of the JR Yamanote train loop served by many JR and private lines. Nearly a million people commute to work or school through Shinjuku every day. The surrounding area is populated with high-rises, department stores, and entertainment districts, in addition to the headquarters of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. And there is plenty to do! Above the station itself are stores and mini-malls including My City, Lumine, and Mylord (pronounced 'Miroudo').

Outside the East Exit, there are blocks of department stores to the right. Some of the more famous are Isetan, down on the left side of the street, covering nearly one full city block above Shinjuku Sanjome subway stop (Tel. 03-33521111; 10:30am-7:30pm), plus Mitsukoshi and Marui (symbolized by 0101) across the street from Isetan.

Past the department stores, the movie theater buildings start. Most show newly released films, both foreign and domestic. Although the box offices are outside, on the ground floor, the theaters tend to be on the 5th or 6th floors. (By the way, a ticket does not mean you have a seat. Unless you arrive early, it could be standing room only. Tickets run about ¥1800 for an adult; the screens are wide, and the seats usually reclining.) On the large street just behind the Isetan complex, there is a small theater that features second-run and older films. Opposite it, on the other side of the street, is a large Chinese restaurant, Tokyo Dai Hanten, known for its dim sum. On the other side of this large street (Yasukuni Dori), in back of Isetan, is the Kabukicho district. Kabukicho also houses movie theaters in addition to live performance theaters, numerous small restaurants, and bars. As you get deeper into Kabukicho, try to become more diplomatic and look less like a tourist. You may enter the red light district and find unsavory characters accosting customers. However, back in this area, the sushi is said to be excellent and there is even a block of fish restaurants which allow you to pick out your own meals from its aquariums.

The West Exit of Shinjuku Station starts with the Keio and Odakyu private line terminals and department stores, then various bus terminals and insurance company buildings opposite the station. Toward the left are the discount camera store outlets of Yodobashi and Sakuraya where many Tokyo residents purchase camera and stereo accessories cheaply. Towering behind are the Shinjuku Washington Hotel and "Star Wars" type buildings of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Directly away from the station and slightly to the right are corporate high-rises and hotels, such as the triangular Sumitomo Building, which contain restaurants with skyline views.

Outside the South Exit is Takashimaya Times Square, composed of a Takashimaya Department Store (10am-7:30pm, 035361-1111), a restaurants' park on the 12th, 13th and 14th floors (11am-11pm), Tokyu Hands Creative Life Store for art and craft supplies (10am-8pm, 03-5361-3111), and Books Kinokuniya (10am-8pm, 03-5361-3301) with its large selection of foreign language books and magazines on the sixth floor. These stores interconnect from the 2nd and 5th floors of Takashimaya and Tokyu Hands to the 3rd and 7th floors of Books Kinokuniya.

To walk in Shinjuku's main shopping districts, a person has two choices: above ground or underground. If the weather is nice, above ground is more pleasant. If it's inclement weather, you can get most everywhere through the underground accesses running alongside the subway terminals.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take a train heading toward Tachikawa or Tokyo. If you don't need to transfer to the Chuo Line at Tachikawa, you should be in Shinjuku within an hour. It's the stop after Nakano, and before Yotsuya. Shinjuku Station is very large and has many exits. If you meet friends there, be sure and stipulate the exit and exact location. Popular rendezvous areas include: outside the east exit opposite the wall-sized Studio Alta TV screen, in front of the underground police station at the west exit, outside the ticket gates at the south exit, and in various coffee shops. Your meeting place will probably depend on what you plan to do.

Note: Driving is definitely not recommended, although it can be done. One should leave very early in the morning and drive on either Ome Kaido (which sort of runs into the west exit) or Koshu Kaido (which passes by the south exit of the station) toward the high-rise buildings clustered in Shinjuku. Parking is expensive.

Teresa K. Negley 12/96

## Exploring Harajuku

Harajuku isn't just a place where the streets are closed on weekends and people dress as though they just stepped out of the 50's, it's also an interesting area filled with lots of shops and stylish people. You can even see 'punk' styles being modeled on people walking by, including women with orange and purple hair and men with hair slicked back in a variety of styles. It's a good place to take visitors from the States.

Turn right out of Harajuku Station, then left at the first intersection to travel down the main street (Omotesando-dori). The wide, tree-lined street has a European flavor. Boutiques are all along Omotesando-dori. You can find everything from Gap to J. Crew to the pricier Chanel and Christian Dior.



Of course, your trip to Harajuku wouldn't be complete without a stop in the Oriental Bazaar! Crossing the street you will come to the Oriental Bazaar, a store loaded with antiques, porcelain, and hundreds of other items. It's a great place to buy gift items and take visitors from the States. The Oriental Bazaar is open 9:30am-6:30pm every day except Thursday.

Just before the Oriental Bazaar is Kiddyland, a four story building packed with American toys, Japanese toys, games, trinkets and decorations. This toy store is more like a toy adventure. You can find everything you ever imagined there. There are toys, dolls, puzzles and games in Japanese and English. You can find children's books and learning toys as well. They have large selections of Disney merchandise and Sesame Street items. You will find notebooks, calendars and stationery supplies. There are rubber stamps, wrapping paper and decorations of all types.

If you are hungry for American food, you have your choice of McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Shakey's, and Wendy's. There are also a few good Chinese restaurants, an Italian restaurant, and a French restaurant. A good place for people-watching is the Harvester, a sandwich and coffee shop with tables lining the street. It will remind you of a European café. Harvester is at the beginning of Omotesando-dori on the left side as you walk away from Harajuku Station.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Harajuku, take the Ome Line for Tachikawa, then the Chuo Line for Shinjuku Station. At Shinjuku, change to the green Yamanote Line towards Shibuya, and go two stops to Harajuku Station.

Lydia Garcia, Sharon Shunk, Viki Paulson-Cody

## Shibuya

Shibuya Station can be a little disorienting. I found it difficult to determine where I was coming out of the exits. I came up with the following to try to help. When you come out of the station, look around.

- If you see Tokyu Plaza straight across the street, you came out the west half of the South Entrance. Turn right (north) and follow the street under the Subway tracks to get to Hachiko Plaza. Hachiko Plaza honors the dog Hachiko who used to wait there every evening for his master, even after the master's death. The area around the statue is a popular rendezvous spot for dates.

- If, as you face the street, the elevated subway is to your left, and the elevated highway to your right, and you see the Kenwood sign across the street, and the dome of the planetarium to its left, you are on the east side of the station. Turn left (north), go under the subway, and you will be at the corner of Meiji Dori (Ave.) and Miyamasuzaka Street.

- If, as you look out with the station behind you, there is a Triangular ASAHI sign on the building in front of you, and you can see up the street in front of you and see a sign to Nomura and Pola, you are on the North East side of the station, at the corner of Meiji Dori Ave and Miyamasuzaka Street. If you went under the JR tracks to your right, you would be at Hachiko Plaza.

- If, as you look out you see three televisions, and an elevated JR track to the right, you are in Hachiko Plaza. If you went under the JR track to your right, you would be heading East up Miyamasuzaka Street towards its intersection Meiji Dori Ave.

Brian Marriott 11/01

### The Disney Store

On a brick-lined street in Shibuya is a shop where Mickey, Minnie, Jasmine, Simba, Dopey, Winnie-the-Pooh and all of our other favorite Disney characters await our arrival to take them home! The Disney Store carries the same products as it does in the United States: clothes, jewelry, figurines, stationery, stickers, books, videos, placemats, dishes, magnets, and toys for all ages. There is no shortage of paraphernalia from movies such as "The Lion King," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Aladdin." One interesting item that is found overseas is a small series of bilingual books. There are four such books entitled, "ABC," "Hurry Up," "Good Morning," and "Let's Go." Each book costs Y700, and it is a novel gift idea for your children or for children you know in the States. Prices are similar for most products, except for books and videos, which are more expensive in Japan than in the U.S.

The three-story store in Shibuya is open 10am-9pm every day. Tel. 03-3461-3932.

**DIRECTIONS:** Ride the train to Shibuya Station. From Hachiko Plaza, walk up the street you see the Seibu and OIONE signs on. (between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> TV counting from the right.) At the second light the road will "Y" with an OIOI store in the middle of the branch. Bear to the left, here. Cross to the left hand side of the road. The Disney Store and the Loft will be next door to each other on the left hand side of the road across from the McDonald's and the KFC (they are separated by a brick pedestrian only road.)

Karen Ozment 10/94. Directions updated 11/02.

### The Loft

Are you looking for an awesome Halloween costume? Party favors? Postcards? Furniture? Kitchen items? Whatever it is you need, The Loft most likely has it! Located across the street from The Disney Store in Shibuya, The Loft is a six-story department store that has a lot of everything.

The basement has shoes, athletic equipment, swimming devices, and water toys. The first floor consists of Japanese fans, wind chimes, rubber stamps, wrapping paper, stuffed animals, candles in every color, hundreds of postcards and greeting cards, party goods, and Halloween party costumes. These are not your run-of-the-mill costumes though; they're excellent and some are expensive. They have a sumo wrestler, ski bunny, witch, Robin Hood, nun, maid, etc. They also have a great selection of wigs, noses, glasses and bow ties (for clown costumes). Moving up to the second floor, you will find many kitchen items including dishes, furniture, and pillows. The third floor houses bathroom items, hangers, home supply items, wood and planters. On the fourth floor there are art, office and school supplies. The fifth floor has picture frames, puzzles, pictures, and books. Finally, on the top floor, there are clocks, watches, art deco items, umbrellas and a small restaurant.



If you need it, it can be found here! The Loft is open 10:30am to 6pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Ride the train to Shibuya Station. From Hachiko Plaza, walk up the street you see the Seibu and OIONE signs on. (between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> TV counting from the right.) At the second light the road will “Y” with an OIOI store in the middle of the branch. Bear to the left, here. Cross to the left hand side of the road. The Disney Store and the Loft will be next door to each other on the left hand side of the road across from the McDonalds and the KFC (they are separated by a brick pedestrian only road.)

Karen Ozment

## Salvation Army Store

This is a great place for secondhand bargains. It doesn't look like much, but it is a godsend for bargain hunters. The store has dishes and crystal, appliances of all sizes, and furniture, including tansus and vanities. You can find a nice selection of Japanese dolls in cases. There is a book section with some English publications and the clothing section with yukatas, kimonos, obis, and fabric pieces for craft projects. Prices range from ¥10 to ¥4,000 for most things. You won't find prices on everything, especially in the gift area, so you will have to ask a sales person. Try not to be over-anxious when you ask or the price goes up. Larger furniture and appliances are higher, as are more elaborate gifts,

The Salvation Army Store is only open on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome line from Fussa and get off at Shinjuku Station. Transfer to the Marunouchi Subway and take it to Nakano-Sakaue, then change to the train for Honancho. Get off at Nakano-Fujimicho. Go left out of the station about one block to the police box on the corner. Turn right and walk to the T intersection. Turn left. The store is on the right. It is a five minute walk. It takes about 1.5 hours from Fussa station.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody / Delores Street 97



## Kappabashi - The Kitchen District

If you enjoy dirty dish shops, you'll love Tokyo's kitchen district! Here are 15 blocks of stores, each specializing in just one aspect of restaurant management: china, cooking pots and utensils, furniture, noren doorway hangings, uniforms, baskets, paper lanterns, containers for rice and sushi, signs, and the ever-popular plastic food. Each specialized store has its own competition, so if you don't like one store's prices, move on down the road.

In the china shops, you'll notice some dishes carry three prices: the top is for retail; the second, whole-sale and the bottom, employee. Some merchants also give further discounts for quantity purchases. A note of caution: most of the china shops have narrow aisles and it is easy to knock over precariously balanced dishes with purses, fanny packs or backpacks!

While all the stores are crammed top to bottom with merchandise, the plastic food vendors are the only ones to artistically display their wares. The 'fake food' is arranged in bright, well-lit display cases. The food is so realistic that like Pavlov's dogs, appetites are suddenly stimulated. Ironically, with all the stores specializing in kitchen goods, there is not a restaurant to be found in the immediate area. So plan to visit the Kitchen District in the morning and head for the nearby Asakusa Kannon Temple area for lunch.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome/ Chuo Line to Kanda (one stop before Tokyo Station) and change to the Ginza subway line. Take the Ginza line 4-5 stations to Tawaramachi. Exit to the right and up the stairs to the street. Around the corner to the right is a large post office (marked by an orange T with double bars). Go past the post office about two blocks to the second traffic light. The kitchen district extends to the right from the intersection.

1992 Diane C. Lyell

## Akihabara Electronics

To gain a true appreciation of the state of technology in Japan, one only needs to visit Akihabara. The electrical wholesale and retail center of Tokyo, the area contains over 400 stores which house the largest concentration of electrical products you'll see anywhere in the world. Appliances, electrical hardware, computers and equipment, entertainment and communication equipment all wait for potential purchasers. Store-front demonstrations catch the eye of those "just looking." The largest department stores in the area, Yamagiwa Denki and Rajio Sentaa, should not be missed.

For detailed maps of this neighborhood, check with the Yujo Community Center or New Sanno Hotel.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Akihabara, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa then the Chuo Line to Ochanomizu. Transfer to the Sobu Line and take it one stop to Akihabara. Leave the station by the West Exit. If you exit on the wrong side, you will have to walk several blocks to the electronics district.

Norine Carter

## Asakusabashi Wholesale Area

The Asakusabashi area is a wholesale area for many things: toys, party favors, balloons, wash paper, kits for Japanese doll making, artificial flowers, and more. You may even see some sumo wrestlers on the streets, since several of their stables are nearby.

I warn you many of the treasures you may find may be hazardous to your pocketbook! To Western eyes, shrine sales and shop displays are a source of curiosity and wonder. The Japanese seemingly have something for every purpose. They would never use anything other than for its intended purpose, but we foreigners don't know this dish traditionally serves pickles, so we might use it for mustard or jelly or put soup in the Chawan mushi cup meant for custard. Your Japanese friends will be delighted, but astonished at how you use these items. Your creativity is fueled by ignorance, but the result is charming. The Japanese will be amazed to see the Sake cup being used for individual servings of butter and syrup for your pancake brunch...and they will admit they would never have thought of it.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, get on a Tokyo-bound train on the Chuo Line. Ride to Ochanomizu and change to the Sobu Line. This train starts in Mitaka and takes you to Asakusabashi. There is only one way out when you get off the train, so just follow the crowd. If you turn to the left when you exit the station you will find the shopping area. This is about four blocks or so, and it is wise to just walk down one side of the street and back up the other, to return to the station. There's no chance of getting lost. To return to Yokota, reverse your directions. The yellow train stops at Mitaka and you can transfer there to the Chuo Line for Tachikawa.

Pat Fritze, Sharon Shunk, Carol Davis

## Tsukiji Fish Market

At 4:30am, most of Tokyo is still sound asleep, but at the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (aka: the Tsukiji Fish Market), the day is already well underway. Fish have been shipped by truck, and a skilled army of licensed middlemen is almost finished sifting through the day's catch to decide what prices to bid when the auction floors open at 5am. Most of these men have been working since before midnight, depending upon the type of fish they want to buy; and the fishermen were at the market even earlier than that. The market is a fascinating place to visit. You will not find it jammed with tourists. It costs nothing to get in. Feel free to buy from the numerous vendors. The official name reflects the fact that more than just fish is offered for sale. All types of seafood are available.

On the day a Tokyo businessman in Shibuya sits down for lunch at his favorite sushi shop at 12:30, the succulent tuna he enjoys may have changed hands five or six times - with corresponding increases in price. Chances are he is scarcely aware of how his lunch got to his plate from the market in less than eight hours.



The best time to arrive is around 5am, when middlemen sell to the retailers of Tokyo - the "little guys" who actually own the local fish shops you see all over Japan. The middlemen also sell to commercial processors, as well as to representatives of large institutions such as schools, hospitals and companies. It's a fascinating sight to hear and see. Don't forget your camera. Since the earliest train doesn't leave Fussa until 4:47am, driving into the market or staying downtown at the New Sanno the previous night is recommended.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Leave Yokota from the Terminal Gate or the East Gate no later than 4:15am. Drive to the Chuo Expressway via your favorite route. On entering the expressway, go towards Shinjuku on Rt. 4. You will pay two separate tolls. Continue on Rt. 4, which changes to the Shuto Expressway. Follow signs to Expressway 1. Once on, be alert for #1 dividing soon, and take the fork to the left towards Ginza/Ueno (NOT Haneda). Then take Exit 16. After you exit, stop, then turn right. You are close to the fish market (three or four minutes). It will be on your right just before a large bridge. Drive across the bridge, make a U turn, and come back to the market (which will now be on your left). Parking in the market is for vendors or buyers only, so cautiously park on the street, and walk to the market.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Go from Fussa to Tachikawa, then switch to the Chuo Line. Ride this train to Yotsuya Station, one stop past Shinjuku Station. At Yotsuya, surrender your train ticket and buy a subway ticket on the Marunouchi Line. Ride this about four stops to the Ginza Station. Change to the Hibiya Line and go two stops to Tsukiji. Get off the train and come out of the subway entrance and go straight ahead. You should see a temple on your left, across the street. You should cross the street to the left side and proceed straight ahead in the same direction that you were going. After walking through several intersections, you will see a sign, "Fish Market." Turn left here. The fish market is straight ahead...just follow your nose!

Sondra Halweg

## Ginza

To set the record straight, many people going to the Ginza don't go there to buy, they sightsee and see the world transported to a six-block area. Art galleries/exhibits, photo galleries/photo exhibits line nearly every corner. Exhibits change weekly. Each department store on the Ginza has what seems like a million different things to see and do. Exhibits from throughout the world can be seen, from Danish furniture to an antique collection from England. English-language Japanese newspapers provide schedules of various activities. You're guaranteed to find something interesting no matter when you go. Compare Japan's finest department stores with Neiman Marcus and marvel at the variety (and price!) of the merchandise. When the kids get tired or your stomach starts growling, the Ginza comes into its own. There are many reasonably priced restaurants as well as food outlets familiar to every American. Bookstores have the latest in foreign magazines and newspapers. In addition, there are countless small shops that carry pearls, diamonds, lamps, and other items. Sunday is a special day because the Ginza really comes alive. Streets

are filled with thousands of people. Chuo Dori is a closed street on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

**DIRECTIONS:** It takes about 1-1.5 hours to get to the Ginza. Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa or Tokyo. Switch, if necessary, at Tachikawa for the Chuo (orange line) for Tokyo. Get off at Yotsuya, one stop after Shinjuku. Change to the Marunouchi Line and get off at Ginza. There are many exits from the station, and every exit brings you to an interesting street to explore. Just stroll around!

## Roppongi

This district is a "must" place to see. It's a night clubber's dream, and a favorite among the younger foreign crowd. Here you will find coffee shops, bars, discos, and restaurants for people with different cultural backgrounds and tastes. Trendy people come out to liven up the area on the weekends.

Roppongi is not only for the party goer. It also provides an atmosphere for the culturally artistic, and intellectual person with an interest in theater and museums. Shopping is expensive, but there are some shops that are reasonable in Roppongi. Many of the clothing store prices are based on the latest fashion trends. Most people go to Roppongi for the countless bars and restaurants that line its streets. Here you can find American favorites like Hard Rock Café, Tony Roma's Ribs, and Johnny Rockets.

**DIRECTIONS:** It takes about 1-1.5 hours to get to Roppongi. Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa or Tokyo. Switch, if necessary, at Tachikawa for the Chuo (orange line) for Tokyo. Get off at Yotsuya, one stop after Shinjuku. Change to the Marunouchi Line and get off at Roppongi. It's just a 30 minute walk from the New Sanno (less if you use the subway) and 10 minutes from Hardy Barracks.

P. W. Edwards

The dining section tells you how to find El Torito, Hard Rock Cafe, Johnny Rockets, Tony Roma's and Spagos.



## Uchida

For a unique shop/gallery with a wide array of art and artifacts from all over the world, visit Uchida, located in Azabu. Indonesian baskets, Japanese lacquerware, clay figures, textiles from all over, and more. Uchida provides a showcase for a collection of art and gallery space for artists to show their work. Uchida is open weekends and holidays, closed Tuesday and the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Open until 7pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Exit the Roppongi Subway Station using the Roppongi Crossing exit, turn down the side street to your right. Follow this past the Swedish Center and Homeworks. Turn right at the gas station and at the second corner turn right again. It's only about a block from the Blue and White Store.

Melody Hostetler

## Blue & White in Azabu Juban

Blue and White is a small boutique in the Azabu Juban area of Tokyo. Open since 1975, Blue and White is very popular with the many foreigners living in this area. There are other shops in the area such as antique shops and right next door to Blue and White is the Daiei Peacock Supermarket.

All the merchandise in this shop is Japanese blue and white. There is a very good selection of textiles, some made into clothing, cushions, napkins, place mats, etc. Other items include a small selection of pottery, paper and baskets. Because this is a small boutique, the stock changes frequently and they do not have large inventories. However, there is a charming catalog available and orders can be placed from some items. The shop even handles some mail orders. They speak English!

Inspired by centuries old traditional Japanese designs, everything in Blue and White is functional and useful. The clothing is cute, modern and stylish. The shop sells blue and white yukata fabric by the roll or by the meter. Some of the patterns are lighter, brighter and more modern in feeling than those you see in other stores. Covered tea boxes, picture frames, photo albums, wallets and purses are all bright and fresh-looking with a wonderful mix of patterns and nice workmanship.

The hours are 10am to 6pm daily, except Sunday, when they are open 1pm to 5pm. They are closed holidays. Driving is not recommended because there are no places to park.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take the Ome/Chuo Line to Shinjuku Station. Change to the Yamanote Line, track 10 and ride to Ebisu. At Ebisu, transfer to the Hibiya Subway Line. You have to leave the train station to get on the subway, so follow the signs carefully. Take the subway two stops to Roppongi and take the Roppongi Crossing exit. As you exit the station, turn right and continue around the corner. Stay on the right side of the street and walk past the Azabu Castle apartments and the Sweden Center. If you reach Victoria's shop, you have gone too far! After the Sweden Center the road will fork. Stay to the right and take the small road that goes off to the right and downhill. Look for the Windsor Coffee Shop on the left side of the street and continue until you reach a supermarket on the corner. Turn right, go two blocks the turn left. About two blocks down on the right is the Blue and White store

on a corner next to the Peacock Supermarket. (You can also walk from the New Sanno Hotel; ask for directions.)

Marja Weaver

## Chitose Karasuyama

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting this area of Tokyo. It is easy to get to and surprisingly enough there were no other non-Japanese people to be seen. Everyone was wonderfully friendly and we enjoyed our visit there.

**DIRECTIONS:** To reach Chitose Karasuyama take the JR line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa take the Nambu line to Bubaigarawa. At Bubaigarawa, exit and go to the Keio line ticket station (just go straight, out the exit and look immediately to your left). There, purchase a 190 yen ticket and go through the turnstile to track 2. There you will hopefully catch an Express train which, in a mere three stops, will take you to Chitose Karasuyama. If you catch a local it is 13 stops to the town, and don't get on a special express or you'll pass it right by. Once at Chitose Karasuyama, go out the North exit. Down the street immediately in front of you, you will find several restaurants. They are mainly Japanese but there was a Mosburger. If you take a right out of the North exit and go down to the next main street and turn left you will encounter a number of small shops, and a 5-story shopping plaza. In this 5 story building is a nice 100 Yen shop. I got several traditional garden statues. My children got plastic garden tools and watering cans that looked like elephants. Since we had been given packs of flower seeds along with the free tissues when we got off the train, we're all set to do some gardening! Between the two streets I've mentioned is another street that has a Seiyu, several small shops, a KFC, and a Sanrio Hello, Kitty shop. The South exit looked interesting (the other side of the tracks) but time and little ones did not allow for exploring it. It was a lot of fun to get out of the local area and the people were great. We felt like movie stars!!!

Reprinted from the Yokosan - May 2001/Cathy Ross



# Shopping at Area Antique Markets

If you are a “bargain hunter,” or an avid antique shopper, you should visit one of the many “nomi no ichi” (flea market) in the Tokyo area. Dealers set up shop at different locales at various times of the month. One should not expect to necessarily pay the sticker price. Generally, flea markets operate on a “sunrise to sunset” schedule. Though the best pieces may go early, prices tend to be reduced in the afternoon. If you are looking for a particular piece of pottery or an old obi for a wall hanging, you will have a treat in store at any of the following flea markets.

## Fussa Shrine Sale

One of the most interesting and inexpensive shrine fairs in our area is the Fussa Shrine Sale at Kumagawa Shrine, a seven minute drive from Yokota. Mr. Akira Sunagawa is the coordinator of this shrine sale. Sunagawa-san owns Marii antique shop outside the Supply Gate on Route 16. He speaks fluent English and will be happy to help you with any questions. Usually, there are ten to fifteen local vendors at the Fussa Shrine Fair but I have talked with vendors from as far away as Nagoya. Vendors are usually open to bargaining and may reduce prices 20% or so.

Wooden tubs, baskets, hibachis, small chests, toys, dolls, blue and white china, obis, teapots, swords, ceramic pots, are all available at the Fussa Shrine Fair.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there, go out the Fussa gate and drive straight. Cross over two sets of railroad tracks and go through 4 signal lights. The fourth signal light will be at Shin Okutama Kaido. (The Fussa Post Office is on your right across the street.) Turn left at this signal light. Drive straight on Shin Okutama Kaido and you will eventually cross a set of train tracks. Continue straight until you see a Denny’s restaurant on your right. Turn right as soon as you pass Denny’s and head down the narrow road. The road will then ‘Y’. Take the right fork and continue straight in with the back of the Denny’s parking lot on your right. You will soon see the shrine’s torii gate. There is limited parking on the left in a gravel parking lot in front of the torii gate. If this parking lot is full, continue along the road to the back of the shrine, turn left and there is another parking lot behind the shrine.

Mavis Hara

## Kawagoe Antiques

Like many other flea markets, Kawagoe is filled with treasures. It is one of several on a circuit and it is held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of every month from dawn to dusk, rain or shine. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month, “Little Kawagoe” is held at the same location, about 1 to 1.5 hours drive from Yokota.

**DIRECTIONS:** Set the odometer at “0” as you turn right out the Terminal Gate, turning north via the underpass onto Route 16 where you will stay most of your trip. At 8.7km, you’ll see Hoya Crystal on your right. At 10.9km, the road splits with Rt. 16 to the left. The road also narrows to two

lanes temporarily. Follow the blue signs for Kawagoe and stay on Rt. 16 as it bears left again. You will pass the SATY store on your right at 15.2km. Route 16 turns right around a bend at 23.4km with more blue signs to direct you (just past the Old Spaghetti Factory). At 26.6km (round Hotel 10 ahead), bear left onto Rt. 254 toward Higashi Matsuyama. Stay in the left lane, go under the arched pedestrian bridge at 27km, then make a left turn immediately afterward (not before the bridge). At the second light, 27.6km, make a left then park in the lot on your right (¥500/three hours) before the Kitain Temple complex. The monthly sale is held at Narita-san Shrine, a couple blocks to the right down the street on the other side of the parking lot.

About a kilometer away from the shrine sale is “Old Kawagoe,” also known as “Little Edo.” Refer to the Sightseeing section for more detail.

**DIRECTIONS HOME:** Backtrack to Rts. 254 and 16, turning into the first right two lanes, and head towards Hachioji (not up the ramp). Then, move over to the far left lane before Rt. 16 curves left.

Barbara Kirkwood 9/01

## Akasaka

Akasaka is the oldest flea market in the Tokyo area, and is located at the Nogi Shrine. Over 30 dealers display their wares from prints to painted screens, pottery and anything else one would look for at a flea market. The market is held on the second Sunday of each month. To get there take the Ome Line from Fussa to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo (orange) train bound for Shinjuku. Transfer to the Yamanote Line for Shibuya, then take the Hanzomon Line (purple) or the Ginza Line to Omotesando. Transfer to the Chiyoda Line (green) and go one stop to Nogizaka station. Go out of the station and turn right. Cross over the Gaien-Higashidori. The shrine is located about a two minute walk from the Chiyoda Line’s Nogizaka subway station near Hardy Barracks.

## Arai Yakushi

One of the very best flea markets is held on the first Sunday of every month, at Arai Yakushi Temple in Nakano. Over 80 vendors offer items ranging from grandfather clocks, musical instruments, porcelain dishes, old kimonos, etc. Whatever you are looking for, you will probably find it at Arai Yakushi. To get there you have two choices. One way is to take the Ome Line from Ushihama or Fussa Station to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line (orange). Get off at Nakano Station and take the north exit next to a large indoor shopping mall. In front of the mall runs the Nakano Dori street. Follow the street for about a 15 minute walk to a five-way intersection. Take the first right after the intersection. The temple will be a short distance to your left.

The second way, is to take the Seibu Line from Seibu Tachikawa Station toward Taka-danobaba- but you will get off



at Arai Yakushi Station. Leave the station, turn left and walk three blocks. The shrine will be on your right.

## Roppongi

The Roppongi Roi Building (near the Hard Rock Cafe and Spago's) houses a flea market on the fourth Thursday and Friday of each month. There are over 30 dealers, and the prices are said to be good. To get there from Fussa Station, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo (orange) train to Shinjuku. Transfer to the Yamanote Line to Ebisu. There, change to the Hibiya Line and go two stops to Roppongi. Exit the ticket wicket and turn right. Go upstairs and turn left. On the corner across the street, you will see the Almond Cafe (large pink sign). Cross the street to the cafe, turn right at the corner and go one and one-half blocks. On the next big corner will be the Roi Building.

For more information call the Kottoichi Co. at 03-3980-8228.

## Togo Shrine Sale

Held on the first and fourth Sundays of each month, Togo has 70 to 90 vendors and good prices. Togo Shrine Sale is one of the larger flea markets held each month in the Tokyo area. Togo Shrine is located in Harajuku near Omotesando, the Japanese equivalent of Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive. We suggest you leave before 8AM for a better selection and easier parking. The drive is about an hour.

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive out the East Gate to the Chuo Expressway via "chicken tunnel" or any other route. Pay 600 yen at the Hachioji entrance and head for Tokyo, then pay 700 yen on the Shuto Expressway, Route 4. Eventually change to the left lane. Go up the ramp at Exit 402 for Gaien. Bear left (but don't turn left). Near the third light, move to the left center lane and turn right at the fourth light. Turn right at Aoyama 1-Chome intersection. AT the third light, you'll see a BMW Square on the right. Get in the right lane. Brooks Bros. and Wendy's will be on the right. Turn right at the next light toward Harajuku. There are stone lanterns on either side of the road (Omotesando intersection). Turn right at the second light onto Meiji Dori (more stone lanterns, Condomania on the left) at Jingu intersection. AT the second light, you'll see the entrance to jTogo Shrine on the left. Park on the street. More street parking is available ahead near the pedestrian overpass at the next intersection. The parking meters do not accept coins on Sundays so parking is free.

Teresa Negley & Van Orsdols

## Heiwajima

One of the most popular and well-known antique fairs is the Tokyo Antique Fair held in the Tokyo Ryutau Center in Heiwajima. It is also one of the largest fairs boasting over 250 dealers. It is a three-day event held four times each year. Dealers bring everything imaginable including furniture, lacquer ware, ceramics, and baskets. There are dolls of all kinds including kokeshi, hakata and cloth. There are kimonos, obis and fabric for tablecloths and other sewing projects. You will

find jewelry, tea ceremony sets, teapots, and spinning wheels. There are old postcards and pictures, coins, stamps, and collectibles. It is an indoor market, therefore the dealers charge more to recoup their cost of rental space. Bargaining with the dealers is expected and encouraged. One advantage of this large market is that the dealers will deliver large purchases or make arrangements to have them delivered for you, for a fee of course.

The fair is located in the exhibition hall of the Ryutsu Center on the second floor. You will find clean rest rooms and restaurants on the second floor as well. The restaurants are reasonably priced but remain crowded. The fair is open 10am-6pm Friday and Saturday and 10am-5pm on Sunday. Admission to the fair is free, but parking is costly. The fair is held in March, June, September and December, usually the second weekend. Of course it is best to check on the dates before venturing out. Information can be obtained by calling the English information line in Tokyo, 03-3980-8228. The Yujo Community Center usually has access to this information as well.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** To get to the Tokyo Ryutsu Center by car, you will need to use the Chuo Expressway (see directions in the article on Tokyo Expressways). Take the Chuo towards Tokyo (Shinjuku), toll is ¥500. You will stay on the Chuo and it will join the Shuto Expressway. As you pass through the second toll gate you will pay ¥600. From here follow the through traffic signs and the signs to Route 1. You will go through three tunnels. As you go through the third tunnel, the Chiyoda Tunnel, take the right branch at the first split. From there keep to the left until you exit the tunnel. After you pass the Kasu-migaseki exit (Exit 24), the road will split. Follow the signs to Haneda Airport, or Routes 1 and 2. You will be able to see Tokyo Tower ahead on the left.

When the road splits again, follow the signs to Haneda, Routes 1, 6 and 7. When the road splits next, follow the signs to Haneda, Route 1, to the right. You will now be heading towards Yokohama. Tokyo Bay and the Monorail will be on the left.

Continue to follow the through traffic signs on Route 1. After you pass the horse racing track on your left, at about 9 kilometers, you will exit to Heiwajima (Exit 105). You will be on the frontage road; go straight and keep to the left lane. You will need to take the first left after the traffic light.

Take the first left, which will bring you past a guard booth and you will be on a wide street. There will be a six-story, open-sided building on both sides of the street. You will need to keep to the left lane. Just ahead of you will be the Ryutsu Exhibition Hall (two-story, white building). When the street ends you must turn left. You will see the entrance to the parking garage on the right. Take a ticket from the machine as you enter and be sure to remember where you parked. From the parking garage you can enter the hall from the ground level and go up to the second floor or you can use the walkway from the garage on floor M34.

**CAR DIRECTIONS HOME:** As you exit the parking garage you will turn left and follow the road past the exhibition hall. When the road dead ends turn left. Take the next left and follow this road onto the expressway overpass and take the second exit. After going through the cloverleaf, you will be



back on the Shuto Expressway (Route 1) heading north towards Tokyo. The first toll will be ¥600 and you will follow the signs to Shinjuku (Rt. 4). You will follow the signs back through Tokyo to Hachioji. You will pay the ¥500 Chuo toll when you exit the Chuo in Hachioji. From Hachioji, retrace your steps back to Yokota.

**DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN:** To get to Ryutsu by train you will need to take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa you will change to the Chuo Line to Shinjuku Station. At Shinjuku change to the Yamanote Line and get off at Hamamatsucho Station. Here you will need to switch to the Tokyo Monorail Line heading to Haneda Airport. You will get off the Monorail at Ryuta-senta Station, the second stop from Hamamatsucho. The exhibition hall will be ahead of you to the left when you exit the station. Train fare is ¥740 one way and the monorail fare is ¥240 one way. An alternate route is to take the Seibu Haijima line from Haijima or Seibu Tachikawa Station. Get off the train at Takadanobaba Station and change to the Yamanote Line to Hama-matsucho Station.

For detailed information, try calling the Tokyo Old Folkcraft and Antique Information Committee at 03-3950-0871.

Cheryl Raggio, Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Boro Ichi

As the new year comes, the Japanese undertake an early “Spring Cleaning” to end the old year and begin anew. What does this mean to you? It is one of the best times for hitting the markets and junk shops.

One well-known open air market is Boro Ichi in Setagaya during December and January. It is named Boro Ichi or rag market, because over a hundred years ago some stalls carried rags and straw used to make sandals (waraji). You can pick up a pair of waraji to keep as a souvenir. This market, originally called Raku-ichi, began over four hundred years ago.

The selection is large, and includes not only antiques but also new year’s decorations, hagoita (colorful battledores), daruma dolls, and potted plants. Unfortunately, the crowds become overwhelming later in the day. If you go, leave early! Arriving while the vendors are still setting up between 8—8:30am is best. By noon, there are people from all over and it may be impossible to move around. There is a range of prices, with obis for ¥500-¥3,000 and very good ones for ¥5,000. The selection of ceramics and pottery is outstanding. Even though these pieces are new, the prices are right! There are also children’s toys, green tea, fruits and vegetables as well as yakisoba and yakitori. The dates are always the same, December 15 and 16 and January 15 and 16. If you really like antiques, go both months, the selection won’t be the same. Boro Ichi stalls will be set up on Daikan Yashikimae-dori, Kamimachi, Setagaya-ku.

**DIRECTIONS:** To go by train, take the Ome Line toward Tokyo. At Tachikawa, change to the Nambu Line on track eight for Bubaigawara. At Bubaigawara, change to the Keio Line for Fuchu/Shinjuku. You can take an express or regular train, but if you take an express, get off at Chofu and transfer to the local (across the platform when the express pulls

in) and get off at ShimoTakaido. Transfer to the Setagaya Line (a very small line, only two cars) and take it to Kamimachi Station. At the station, ask for directions to Daikan Yashikimae-dori (the street where Boro Ichi is located) or try walking to the end of the platform, turning right, crossing the tracks and going two blocks.

Another way is to take bus number 21, 24 or 34 from Shibuya Station for Kamimachi or Seijo Gakuen, getting off at Daikan Yashikimae-dori.

Vici Lyn Paulson-Cody, Meg Gilster, Sue Neuhaus 2/97

## Honryuji Temple

A market similar but smaller is the Boro Ichi at Honryuji Temple in Sekimachi, Nerima-ku, Tokyo. This market is held December 9th and 10th from morning until 10pm. Honryuji Temple is near Musashi-Seki Station on the Seibu Shinjuku Line. Take the Seibu Haijima Line from either Haijima or Seibu Tachikawa Stations heading towards Seibu Shinjuku Station. You will stay on this train for quite some time passing Hagi-yama, Kodaira and Tanashi. Get off at Musashi-Seki Station and ask for directions to Honryuji.

Vicki Lyn Paulson-Cody, Meg Gilster, Sue Neuhaus 2/97

## Tokyo Antique Halls

The Tokyo Ochanomizu Antique Hall and the Tokyo Folkcraft and Antique Hall in Ikebukuro have a lot of vendors selling various Japanese Antiques.

I think the Ochanomizu Hall is closed on the second and third Sunday of every month. The Ikebukuro Hall is closed every Thursday, open 11-6:30 other days, and is a five minute walk to the right on Meiji Dori from Ikebukuro station’s East exit (Tel. 03-39500871).

Although credit cards can be used, you can often work out a better deal if you pay in cash. If you buy something too large to haul home on the train, you can have it shipped. Although not all merchants speak English, there always seems to be someone to help out if a problem arises.

Don’t expect to go back later and buy that great item you saw. If you’re serious about a piece, put some money down on it. If you find a piece you like, ask if they have another. If you have something specific in mind and don’t see it, ask if they have one elsewhere.

Do a little research on whatever you’re interested in so you can ask questions. The more you can talk to the merchants, the more they will talk to you. Go back often so they recognize you. Do all of these things and you may get a better discount in the future. Isn’t that what it’s all about?

Jill Jones, Teresa Negley 6/97



# Various Antique Markets throughout the Tokyo area

## Tokyo Antiques

### Antique Market

30 dealers

Hanae Mori Bldg., 3-6, Kita Aoyama  
Minato-ku Tokyo

3 minute walk from Omotesando (Ginza Line)

### Arai Yakushi Antique Fair

80 dealers, Arai Yakushi Temple

First Sunday of each month

10 minute walk from Arai Yakushi Station (Seibu Line)

### Boro-ichi Antique Market

50 dealers

Dec. 15-16 and Jan. 15-16

5 min walk from Setagaya Station (Tokyu Setagaya Station)

### Edo Shitamachi Tenein Market

Yushima Tenjin Shrine

Fourth Saturday of each month

5 min walk from Yushima Station (Chiyoda Line)

### Hanazono Shrine Market

50 dealers, Hanazono Shrine

Second and Third Sundays

5 min walk from Shinjuku San-chome Station (Marunouchi Line)

### Heiwajima Antique Market

200 dealers

Heiwajima-Tokyo Ryutsu Center Bldg. at Ryutsu Center Station on Tokyo Monorail Line via JR-Hamamatsucho Station.

Three consecutive days, four times a year in a modern exhibition hall (w/restaurant facilities).

For exact dates, call 03-3950-0871.

### Ikebukuro Antique Market

30 dealers

Ikebukuro Sunshine Bldg.

3rd Saturdays and Sundays.

10 min walk from JR Ikebukuro Station

### Kokubunji Antique Market

10 dealers, Kokubunji Temple

Second Saturdays and Sundays

5 min walk from JR Kokubunji Station (Chuo Line)

### Nogizaka Antique Market

50 dealers, Nosi Shrine

Second Sunday of each month

Nogizaka Station (Chiyoda Line)

### Roppongi Antique Fair

30 dealers, Roppongi Roi Bldg.

Fourth Thursdays and Fridays

3 min walk from Roppongi Sta. (Hibiya Line)

### Shinjuku Antique Market

40 dealers, Dai-ichi Seimei Bldg.

Third Fridays and Saturdays

10 min walk from JR Shinjuku Station

### Shofuda-kai Antique Market

Tokyo Bijutsu Club

early July and early December

(Call 03-3950-0871 for exact dates)

15 min walk from Onarimon Sta. (Mita Line)

### Togo No Mori Antique Market

70-90 dealers, Togo Shrine

First and Fourth Sunday of each month

10 min walk from JR Harajuku Station

### Tokyo Antique Hall

2-9, Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku

5 min walk from JR Ochanomizu Station

Tokyo Suburbs

### Fussa Antique Market

30-35 dealers

Kumagawa Shrine, 2nd Sunday of each month

10 min drive from the Fussa Gate

### Kawasoe Antique Market

50 dealers, Narita-Iudo Temple

The 28th of each month

15 min walk from the Hon-kawagoe Station

### Saiunol Temple

The 14th of each month

10 min walk from Kawagoe Sta. (Seibu Line)

### Kawasaki Antique Market

30 dealers

Fujimi Baseball Ground, about November 23rd

10 min walk from JR Kawasaki Station

### Sasami Antique Market

10 dealers, Atsugi Shrine

First Sunday of each month

5 min walk from Hon-Atsugi Sta. (Odakyu Line)

### Shonan Antique Market

20 dealers, Yogyoji Temple

First Sunday of each month

20 min walk from JR Fujisawa Station

### Urawa Antique Market

30 dealers, SakuradSO Street

The last Saturday of each month

3 min walk from JR Urawa Station

## Antiques Further Afield

### Antique Auction

Second and fourth Saturdays

Silk Center, Yokohama

### Sendai Antiques Market

Fourth Sunday of every month

Toshogu Keidai Sengakuin Monzen

### Kyoto Antique Market

200 dealers, Toji Temple

First Sundays, the 21st of each month

5 min walk from Toji Station (Kintetsu Line)

### Tenjin Antique Market

100 dealers, Kitano Tenmangu Shrine,  
the 25th of each month

30 min by bus from JR Kyoto Station

## Antiques - Osaka area

### Daishi Antique Market

200 dealers, Osaka Skitennoji Temple

The 21st of each month

5 min walk from Shitennoji Station (Subway Tanimachi Line)



**Hatsu Tatsu Mairi Amigue Market**

25 dealers, Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine

Every Dragon Day

(approximately every two weeks)

5 min walk from Torii Station (Nankai Hankai Line)

**Koshindo Antique Market**

30 dealers, Koshindo Temple

Every Sunday

5 min walk from Shitennoji Sta. (Subway Tanimachi Line)

**Ohatsu Tenjin Antique Market**

12 dealers, Ohatsu Tenjin Shrine

First Friday of each month

5 min walk from Umeda Station (Hanshin Line)

**Sankaku Koen Antique Market**

Sankaku Park, Every Sunday

5 min walk from Dobutsuen Station (Subway Midosuji Line)

**Antiques - Hiroshima Area**

**Cancan Bazaar (Kurashiki City)**

30 dealers, Ivy Square

Consecutive national holidays in May and October

15 min walk from JR Kurashiki Station

**Koyasan Betsuin Antique Market**

Fukuyama Koyasan Betsuin Temple

First Sundays

3 min walk from JR Fukuyama Station

**Sumiyoshi Antique Market**

10 dealers, Sumiyoshi Square

Fourth Sunday of each month

15 min walk from JR Fukuyama Station



Photo Courtesy of Marvin Arostegui at Takahata Fuda Shrine Sale in November 2001







# Sightseeing In Japan

## Local Sightseeing

### Fussa

If you are interested in exploring but do not want to venture too far from the base, a cultural walking tour of Fussa City is a must. You can break the tour into two shorter walks (about 2 - 3 hours each) or make a day of it.

#### #1 Tamagawa River Course

If you start at the Supply Gate and walk straight across Highway 16 and continue to follow Itsukaichi-

Kaido -Avenue, the first interesting sight will appear on the second block on the left side of the street. On the right you will see a large red brick building with a park on the west side; this is the Civic Center (auditorium). There is an over-the-street walkway to take you from one side to the other.

On the left side of the road is a small wooded area with a stone path winding through it. If you follow the stone path you will see a bamboo fenced area in which is located the City Tea House. (The Tea House is available for rent but you must make reservations 6 months in advance.) If you walk around and up the hill past the tea house, turning right at the top, you will find yourself at the back of the Fussa Library. The entrance is around the building to the right (directly behind the Tea House). The library is open 10am-7pm Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am-5pm every other day, closed Sundays and Japanese holidays. Follow the stone path back or take a short cut by taking the path left past the Tea House. The next left will be a small bridge and waterfall, and an opening in the wall on the right to the library parking lot. Whether you exit through the parking lot or take the stone path, walk back to the main road.

Continue (left) west on the main road (Itsukaichi Kaido Avenue)- your first chance to stop for a snack is past the library at the Jonathan's Restaurant on the left (the same side you should be on). Stay straight and cross a bridge with artwork tiles of fireflies. Continue straight. Turn left onto Okutama Kaido, move to the right side of the road. You see a sign in Japanese for the bike path to the Firefly Park (Hotaru Park). If you feel adventurous, you can take the tiny dirt path zigzagging down the hill. The entrance to this path is directly across from Gray Shining Hills Apartment House. If you are less adventurous, continue past Okutama Kaido for one more long downhill block

- the next main street is Denen. Turn right, the park is on the corner. This park has a fish pond, fountain, and a greenhouse where firefly larva are grown. There are also bathrooms.

To continue your walk, pass the greenhouse exit onto the street, and turn left. Go under the railroad tracks, cross to the right side of the street. There will be a playground directly after the train overpass on the right. Walk through the playground to the small roadway that runs along the bottom of the tracks with a fence along the right side of the road. Walk along the fence line until you come to the river (dead end). Follow the road as it turns into a raised path (biking/walking) lined with cherry trees. You will be turning left. This is a beautiful walk in the spring, the city is on your left, and the Tama River on your right. About half way down the path on the left side is another playground and Meishin-shita Park.

The path will end at Mutsumi Bashi Bridge. If you go under the bridge you will be at a large picnic area called Minami Park. If you wish to barbecue or play tennis, you will need a permit (obtained in the log cabin park office by the entrance). To continue your walk, exit the park and turn right onto the main street, Mutsumi-bashi Dori; you will be on the right side. The first right will be a diagonal right. There will be a green sign, an old walking tour sign (8 - Park 9 Temple 10 - Haijima Station). Take a sharp right and follow the road as it winds its way past beautiful homes, and the Senjuin Temple. At the intersection with Kumagawa Dori, there will be a stone monument on the corner. Turn right. On the left, there is a black-timbered property; this is the Sake Brewery Tama-Jiman.

Walk straight through the intersection and turn left on Kumagawa Dori; you will reach a "Y" in the road - go left - you will walk down a small street (as wide as an alley). You will pass Denny's Restaurant on your left. Continue straight until you reach Kumagawa Shrine. Continue out the gate, along the same little street you started on. You will come to a "T"; go left onto Shimizuzaka Dori, then right back onto Kumagawa Dori. You will have reached a really unique animal temple. The day we were there, they had raccoons, a goat, cranes, a dog, and a large cage full of parakeets. There are signs that say "Don't Touch the Animals."

If you are tired at this point, you can go directly back to base past the temple following the road (it curves to the right). You will come to a "T". Turn left. After half a block, you will come to a "Y." Take the right fork (Shin Okutama-Kaido Avenue); cross the JR train tracks (Kumagawa Station at the first right). Straight for three more blocks will get you back to the main road (Itsukaichi-Kaido Avenue). Turn right and the road will lead to the Supply Gate.

### #2 Tamagawa-Josui Course

If you are interested in more sight-seeing, you can continue straight along Okutama-Kaido Avenue. You will go straight past the post office. (You can also start here by walking out the Fussa gate, through the station, down a couple blocks and then turning right onto Okutama-Kaido).

Two blocks past the post office, on the right side of the street, you will see an elementary school, then two restaurants (Sky Lark and Bamiyan - see Restaurants section); they are located next to a fire department. Across the street is a cemetery; next to the cemetery is the entrance to Shinmeisha Shrine. Walk through the Torii Gate and you will see smaller shrines spaced on the left side.

If you continue through to the opposite side Torii Gate and down a set of stairs, you will find a small park on the right side of the stairway. Go down the steps to the street, turn right and walk to the corner. Make a left at the corner and walk three small blocks to the end of the street. There will be a blue pedestrian overpass. If you look behind the house on the corner, you will see a very old temple (Kannondou Temple) down a small alleyway. Cross the pedestrian overpass and the small bridge. After the bridge, you can turn left and walk along the side of the river to Kanizaka Park (toilet and water fountain available).

The road follows the stream past a small residential area to a small treed area with paths that go up and down a small embankment. dotted with picnic tables and benches. If you go straight past the bridge, you will see a beautifully rebuilt temple (Choutokuji Temple) and across the street another sake brewery. Continue past the temple; the road will begin to curve to the left (you'll see the Tama River). There is a small park with benches and a small shrine just as the road curves. The next intersection will be Fujiami Street, turn left. If you continue straight, you will come to Fussa Station. About eight blocks from there, it's a straight shot to the Fussa Gate.

If you just can't make it back without seeing one more temple, turn left, walk two blocks to Naka Fussa Street, make a right turn, and go halfway down the block. You will see a small alley to the left, turn here. About 300 yards up this alley is one of the most ornate temples in the area (Seiganin Temple). This temple is the home of Buddhist monks. You can backtrack to Fujimi Street or you can continue past the temple to the next intersection, take a left, follow the curve of the road (left), back to Fujimi Street and then a right back to Fussa Station and Fussa Gate.

Michele Kreuziger 8/97

## Showa Park

Showa Park is a traditional, old-fashioned city park. There are a few small shrines, a five-tiered pagoda, and assorted playground equipment. There are open areas for playing ball or soccer, a jogging track and a small animal zoo. It is tree-shaded and is a pleasant place for a picnic lunch. Vending machines for drinks are available.

This park is free and open seven days a week from 8:40am until 4:50pm. It is easy to reach by car, and free parking is available.

Note: Showa Park is not the same as Showa Memorial Park (Showa Kinen Koen), at Nishi-Tachikawa station. Showa Park is a block south of the tracks and closer to Higashi-Nakagami station.

Diane Cressman, Melody Messer Patricia Caldwell

## Indoor Play Area

This is a free indoor play area for children. Great on a rainy day. There is a climbscape, a basketball court, ping pong, etc. and an area for toddlers to play. Exit the Supply Gate and turn right on Rt. 16. Continue under the underpass and turn left at the first light pass the underpass. Continue to the intersection named "Hamura Zoological Park" there is a JOMO gas station on the left. A few more lights and you will see an Autobacs Store on the left and then power lines. Turn left at the light where you see the power lines. Continue down this street and you will see on your left a baseball field. You will have to find a place to park; there is no designated parking. Once you park, walk towards the baseball field and continue past the small park (another great place to stop if you have a few minutes). As you look ahead you will see a three-story building. You will have to walk about a half a block past the park to the front of the building for the entrance. You will actually round the corner to reach the entrance. Look up and you will see a large climbing tube on the outside of the building. You have to take your shoes off so be sure to bring socks for you kids in the summertime. Everything is in Japanese and little to no English is spoken, but you can muddle through and the kids will love this place.

Dawn Leach

## Roller Slide Park

Go out the Supply Gate. Go straight. Continue past the railroad tracks. Turn right after the blue walkway overhead. Park is on the right.

Dawn Leach

## Bell Park

We call this the Bell Park because there is a bell that the kids can ring at the top of the jungle gym. This is a lovely little park close to the base. It makes for a nice outing. Go out the Supply Gate and turn left on Rt. 16. Stay in the left hand lane because most of the traffic will be in the right lane continuing on Rt. 16. When you get to the intersection where 16 curves to the right, GO STRAIGHT! Continue straight until the T intersection (railroad yard in front of you), turn right. It looks like you're going on the sidewalk, but go ahead. There is a small parking area. There is the playground area and also a path along the creek to another play area.

Dawn Leach





## Hamura Zoological Park

Only 15 minutes from Yokota, the Hamura Zoo is free for children 3 yrs. and under, ¥50/4yrs—jr. high, and ¥300/adult. While the park is small compared to U.S. zoos, it has many mammals and birds. Hamura Zoo also has an “Earthquake Prediction Lab” where the quake-sensing skills of animals such as pheasant and catfish have been studied. The principal goal of the zoo is “to nurture affection for nature by introducing children to animals.” Some animals you may see are: lynx, red fox, porcupine, raccoon, wolf, lemur, prairie dog, wallaby, giraffe, zebra, emu, jackal, coati, macaws, penguin, beaver, flamingo, and other fowl. Peacocks, swans, and ducks roam the grounds of this park. In the center of the zoo you will find a pond with flamingos, swans and ducks. There is also a large picnic and playground area where there are a number of interesting toys, including stone zoo animals and dinosaurs, and a full size original steam engine on which children can play. You can bring a lunch into the park or purchase something at the store next to the European garden.

In most cases, signs on the cages provide animal names in English in addition to Japanese. Additional information on the geographical area where the animals are from, whether the animal is a carnivore, a herbivore, or nocturnal can be read with just an elementary knowledge of Kanji.

The zoo is open 9am-4:30pm March-October and 9am-4pm November-February. It is closed Mondays (Tuesday if Monday’s a holiday) and during the New Year’s holiday. Pony rides are available ¥200/child aged 4-12; 10-11:30am and 1-3pm. For information, call the Service Center at 0425-79-4041 (or 0425-55-2581).

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Fussa Gate, and left at the first signal. Then right again at the signal after the tracks. After a while this street will become a divided street. Continue straight until you see the entrance to the zoo on the right. The entrance is a beige and brown Tudor-style building with two signs out front showing a giraffe and/or a pony. Make a U-turn in front of the entrance and go to the first street. Turn left at that street and drive a short distance until you come to a parking lot on your right. This is free zoo parking.

You can also reach Hamura Zoo by bicycle in about 30 minutes, making it a nice way for a family to bike ride together and enjoy a day at the zoo, too.

Viki Cody, Karen Ozment, Suzanne Maresh 7/97

## Hamura Museum

Hamura Museum is a small local museum about 10-15 minutes away, across the Tama River. On the grounds is a restored thatched-roof farmhouse full of household implements that the shrine sale enthusiasts enjoy, as well as an old Red

Gate of a type associated with shrines, etc. Admission is free but unfortunately there are no explanations in English. However, most are self-explanatory. Main features include pieced-together ancient ceramic pots, rice cultivation, and historic methods of silk production (inferred from the photos of silkworms, etc.). There’s also an old fire wagon and lots of benches outside on which to sit and eat a sack lunch.

Open 9-4:30, closed Mondays (and Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday); admission free (unless there is a special exhibit).

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Fussa gate, and left at the second light. Take this street to the river, crossing two railroad tracks. At the T, make a right (under a blue pedestrian bridge), then at the 4th stoplight, make a left over the bridge (Hamuraohashi East Intersection—there’ll be a five-story gray concrete apartment building on the right with stone walls on both sides). On the far side of the river, make the first right into a small road (parallel to the river); take the right fork downward. At the stop sign, turn left into a residential area and follow this road around to its end (at the river). Park in the left lot just past the large brown museum (the right lot belongs to a very pricey restaurant, ¥5000+ per person).

Julie Irwin 8/96, Directions confirmed 11/01



## Hamura-Shi Planetarium

A real educational treasure exists right out our front door in Hamura. The Hamura-Shi Planetarium is tucked away in a residential neighborhood, sharing space (excuse the pun) within a small city recreational building. There is no charge to sit and be enthralled with a visual guided tour of the skies over Hamura. Your personal guide will treat you to a 40 minute, computer generated (20 minute show for young children) audio-visual presentation, depicting the skies from sunset to sunrise. You will see summer and winter constellations, comets, shooting stars, nighttime cloud formations, a solar eclipse and a glimpse of our solar system amongst the vastness of space. Though the staff members narrate the program in Japanese only, one can still enjoy the universal language of the stars and space. A working knowledge of astronomy is NOT needed to enjoy the program. But beware! Once you see the show you may gravitate (sorry about that) toward the library to learn more about the wonders of space.

There is no charge for your visit. Just ask the attendant, inside the main entrance, to the right, to see the planetarium (remember, no English is spoken so point upstairs and ask slowly). You must slip off your shoes and use the slippers provided.

The planetarium is closed on Mondays. Individuals and families are welcome anytime Tuesday-Sunday at 3:30pm (11am or 3pm during Japanese spring, summer, and winter school breaks);



school groups and group tours/shows are held at other times. If you have a group larger than 20, you must stop by their office prior to your visit and fill out a special group request form and make an appointment.

**DIRECTIONS:** Driving to the planetarium is quick and easy. Go straight out the Fussa Gate and at the 'Y' at the first light, go right. Continue on to two more lights (a total of three lights). Turn right at the third light onto the street running in front of Seiyu (Yanagi Dori). Continue on this street through 13 lights or 3.8km until you come to the Hamura Post Office on your left. Turn left at the light just after the post office and continue through one light. Not far from the light, and on your right you will see the dome of the planetarium. Across the street, on your left, is the parking lot. There are about 10 parking slots and one large bus slot. Keep in mind that this is a neighborhood recreation center and there are LOTS of kids involved in all kinds of activities in and around the building, so don't think you have arrived at the wrong place!

Marcia St. John

## Haijima - Ninomiya Shrine

The Ninomiya Shrine, located about a four-minute walk from Higashi-Akuru Station on the Itsukaichi Line out of Haijima is only about a 12-minute ride from Fussa Station. The shrine was established over 800 years ago and was first used by farmers to pray for good weather and to give thanks for a good harvest. Today it is used primarily by resident merchants in the surrounding community. It is also known for its Ginger Festival on September 9 (refer to the section on festivals).

## Haijima - Ninomiya Shrine Museum

Thirteen thousand years ago people settled the area now known as Akigawa City and this area has been inhabited ever since! The fertile triangle created by the confluence of the Hirai and Aki rivers with the Tama river, a ten minute drive from Yokota, has yielded many archaeological finds from the Paleolithic Era to modern times. A sample of these artifacts are available for viewing at the Ninomiya Shrine Museum.

The museum, opened in 1990, is located on the grounds of the Ninomiya Shrine and is open Friday - Sunday from 10am to 4pm. To find the museum, follow the path around the right side of the shrine through an area of smaller monuments including a red torii gate. The museum is divided into three areas. The doors open into a central room where visitors are greeted and literature displayed. Maps on the wall, although annotated in Japanese only, will give you an idea of the areas where artifacts have been excavated. Proceed from this room to the display room on the right. The display room is set up to be viewed from the left where a model of a Jomon period (10,000 BC to 300 BC) hunter-gatherer dwelling is displayed. If you have visited American Indian museums, you may see a similarity to the dwellings and life-styles of prehistoric Eastern American Indians. The third large section of the museum is a working archaeological lab where pot shards and other finds are painstakingly pieced together under the guidance of Masanori Narusako Sensei. This area is not open to visitors.

ingly pieced together under the guidance of Masanori Narusako Sensei. This area is not open to visitors.

While at the museum, don't forget to pick up a copy of Exploring Akigawa City. This map is written in English and shows hiking trails, shrines, archaeological digs and other points of interest in the area.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate and then turn right at the first light. You are now on Tamabashi Dori, which changes to Itsukaichi-Kaido after you cross the Tama River Bridge (2km from the Fussa Gate). Just after you cross the river, the road doglegs to the left, then to the right. The second light after the doglegs will be labeled route 168 to "Ninomiyajinja." Go straight, but slow WAY down, because you will be turning into the first (VERY) small street past the light. (It looks almost like a driveway.) Go up the hill and park at the end of the street in the lot in front of the torii gates. The museum is on the left of the torii gates. The shrine is through the torii gates in front of you. Only about a 15 minute drive.

Marja A. Weaver

## Tachikawa - Showa Memorial Park

Residents of American Village usually know about Showa Memorial Park (Showa Kinen Koen), the fenced-in grounds adjacent to the housing area. It is a large, lovely park with bike and walking paths, a lake, water parks (in winter, an outdoor skating rink) and many areas for children (including forts, trampoline nets and discovery areas). There are always surprises like the clear domes covering small treasures near the cloud bridge or fantastic slides that adults cannot resist trying. The park is especially lovely in spring, as a multitude of colorful flowers and blooming trees are a feast for the eyes. A wonderful water fountain greets you as you enter the park, so don't forget to bring your camera. Also near the main entrance is a bicycle rental area, but feel free to ride into the park with your own bike. Bring your own picnic lunch or feel free to try out the small, but tasty restaurants and snack bars located near the lake and throughout the park.

Closed Mondays, admission ¥400/adult, ¥80/child.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station take the train towards Tokyo to Nishi-Tachikawa and enter the park via the north exit of the train station. (160 Yen/person)

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** It's also an easy 30 minutes by car (parking ¥820): Set your Odometer to zero and exit right out the East gate and turn left at the first light. (Inadaira Koen Minami intersection.) At the next light (5 way intersection, 0.7 km.) Make a right hand turn. (Not sharp right, but angled right towards Daiei.) At 1.9 km bear right at the intersection where this road merges with another. (Family Mart on right Corner, Toyota dealer on left corner.) Turn left at the 2nd light onto Itsukaichi-Kaido Rd. (2.0 km Tennobashi Intersection. Just after you go under the tracks.)

Stay on this road until the light with Edo-Ichi Yakiniku all-you-can-eat Restaurant on the far right corner (3.5 km, the turn for American Village), then turn right. Turn left at the second light (convenience store on the left). Turn right at the



next large intersection past Tachikawa Air Base (4.6 km 'Rt 153'). The entrance to the parking lot for Showa Memorial Park will be on the right-hand side, several blocks (1.8 km) down.

NOTE: If you miss the Edoichi restaurant and come to the liquor store with a barrel on the front, neon liquor bottles, and a sake kanji (酒)(3.8 km, no light), turn right there and then turn left when the road ends. Then turn right at the next large intersection past Tachikawa Air Base. Then follow directions as above. If you need more specific instructions, check with the Yujo Community Center.

Rachael Keyser-McClendon Directions updated 6/02

There is a new entrance to Showa Park that is a shorter drive and is closer to the kids play area of Showa (less walking for your little ones). Follow the above directions, but instead of turning left at the second light (at the convenience store), the new entrance is the next right.

Dawn Leach/'02

Showa park is an easy 30 minute bike ride from the East Gate. For directions, see the section on bicycling.

## Tama Hills Outdoor Recreation Area

A 492-acre getaway for people assigned to Yokota Air Base, one half of this beautifully hilly, densely forested terrain is the challenging and very popular Tama Hills Golf Course. The other half is the Tama Outdoor Recreation Area retreat. With several nature trails, this country retreat offers the opportunity for hiking in addition to solitude, nature study and exercise. Other activities available include tennis, basketball, mini-golf, archery, horseback-riding and swimming.

For those who wish to stay overnight, Tama Hills has a variety of accommodations at low nightly rates: lodge rooms, bunk rooms with shared facilities, cabins, the Red Horse Lodge of 4 bedrooms, shared kitchen and living room plus VIP cabins. There is also a conference room that can be reserved. Quiet, private campsites, equipped with barbecue grills and water facilities, are also available. Youth campsites, without water and cooking pits, are ideal for the dedicated outdoorsman. The primitive area with no facilities and campsites can be selected by individuals who enjoy getting away from everything.

Tama has picnic areas of various sizes and locations. Everything from cooking utensils to 20-foot by 30-foot canopies, small barbecue grills to extra large group barbecue grills, as well as sports equipment, is available at the on-site equipment checkout facility. A small convenience store has sundry items.

After a day of invigorating activities, enjoy a meal in the dining room at the lodge and music in the Hincrest Lounge. You can relax in the hot tub and return to your room for a good night's sleep. Call 224-3421/3422 for reservations.

**DIRECTIONS:** Set your odometer to zero and turn right out the East Gate. At the first signal light, turn left. At the next light (0.6 km), a five-corners intersection, make a hard right turn. At 5.2 km turn left at an intersection with a big Suzuki sign on a building to the right and a Toyoda dealer on

the far left. This a large four-lane street (Shin-Okutama Kaido, Rt. 29). At 9.0 km this road this road will join with route 20, continue straight.

At one point on Rt. 20, you will see three big arrows as you approach the Tachi-Five corners intersection. Follow the straight arrow. A Shell station is on the right. There is a large 2-story yellow restaurant on the right side. Continue straight past this. Continue straight until you see a sign with Tama Center 18. Get in the right hand lane and turn right onto route 18 (14.0 km) following the sign indication onto Kamakura Kaido. Watch carefully! Some landmarks (like this one) are hard to see. You will be on a six-lane divided street after the turn. Get in the center lane. Go through a tunnel (14.4 km), and keep going straight on this street. You'll see a big bowling pin off to the left. Soon, you cross the Tama River. Get in the left lane, and turn left at the first signal light after crossing the river (16.8 km). After turning, you'll cross another bridge. To reach Tama Recreation Center, continue on this road up a hill, through three lights, down the hill with a Japanese golf course on the left and then a wooded area. Soon after you pass a flashing yellow light, the entrance to Tama Lodge will be on the right. (20.2 km)

See Yujo Center for more details.

Directions updated 7/02



## Tama Hills Golf Course

To go to Tama Hills Golf Course, follow the directions for the Tama Hills Outdoor Recreation Center and then continue up the hill after crossing the second bridge. At the third signal light at the intersection with the gate leading to the Japanese golf course, turn right. After your right turn at the signal light, go up the hill about 200 meters to a blinking red light. Stay on the main road and veer left. You will be starting back down the hill. The Tama Hills Golf Course entrance will soon be on your left. Happy golfing!

**SHORTCUT TO TAMA HILLS:** When you are comfortable with driving the easy route, you may want to try the short cut from the East/South Gates. This route joins up with the previous one at the Esso Station at the Y-intersection. Depending on traffic conditions, you may save up to twenty minutes.

Turn right out of the South Gate. Go straight through the light, cross over railroad tracks next to a Shell station. At the light after the tracks, follow the main road as it bears to the right. Continue on this road until you reach another set of railroad tracks. At this three-way intersection, turn left, driving parallel to the railroad tracks. You will see the Bird Store sign to the right. At the next stop sign, turn right. On your right you will see the entrance to the Bird Store. Go through the first light and continue on this street to the second light.



Turn left. Go straight on this road until you have to turn at the fifth intersection, where you will recognize the “Y” from the easy directions, with the Esso station on the left. Go through. You have now joined up with the previous route.

Sharon Chang

## Tama Zoo

Tama Zoo is a lovely place to take your family. The animals are in natural surroundings and there are well marked trails and paths leading to the attractions. You may buy your lunch at the food stands or you can bring your own. One highlight is the insectarium with its beautiful butterflies; another is the “Lion Bus.” For ¥350/adult, ¥100/ child, you can take a short glass-sided bus ride through the lion field. The price may seem steep, but the experience of seeing several lions jump up on the windows allows great pictures.

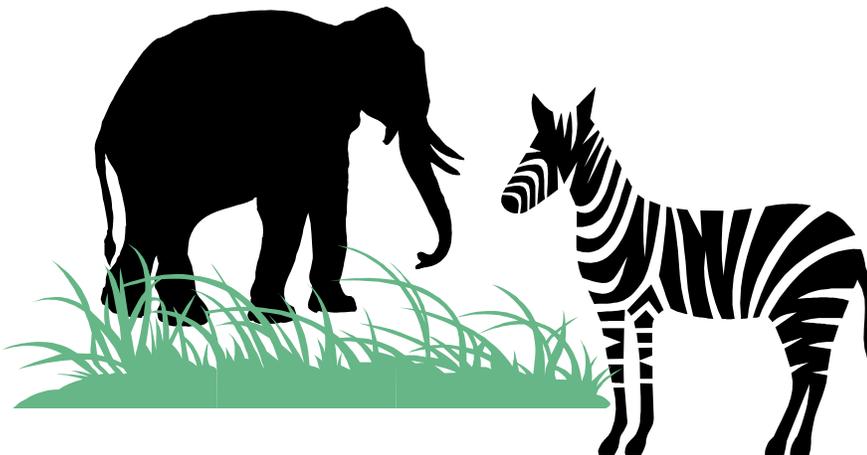
Admission is ¥600/adult, 15 and under free; **closed Wednesdays** (closed Thursday if Wednesday is a holiday) and Dec. 29-Jan. 3. For details, call 0425-91-1611.

Doreen Theriault 7/97

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** (Takes about 1 hour.) Set your odometer to zero and turn right out the east gate, then left at the first light. Take a sharp right at the next light (0.6 km, 5 way intersection, Johnathans on left.) Follow this road to Route 29, Shin-Okutama Kaido, and turn left (odometer = 5.2 km, Miyazawa Higashi Intersection, Toyota on far left, Suzuki on far right.) This intersection isn't marked the greatest, but once you are on 29, there are many signs to let you know you are on the right street. At 9.0 km you will go under the monorail tracks. Turn right onto route 20 at the second light past the monorail tracks (9.6 km). You will cross the Tama river. At 10.9 km turn left at the light immediately before/under the monorail tracks. Follow the road under the monorail until you get to Tama-Dobutsu-Koen intersection & station (14.9 km.) Park in any of the many private lots along the road, and walk back to the station. Expect to pay 500-800 yen on weekdays, 1000yen on weekends. The entrance is next to the station.

Brian Marriott 7/02

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** To get there by train, take the Chuo line to Tachikawa Station. Exit the station via either the North or the South Exit. Get on the Monorail. Take the monorail to the Tama dobutsukoen exit, the zoo is near the exit. (one way 480 yen. Takes about 50 minutes.)



## Tama Tech Amusement Park

Tama Tech Amusement Park is just down the road from Tama Zoo. Built by Honda motorcycle company, there are the standard “thrill” rides, go-carts, and also battery operated vehicle rides that children drive themselves. The park also has nice hills for picnicking and climbing. The park is open 9:30am-5pm year-round.

Admission is 13 and over/¥1,500, children 3-12/¥800, under 2 free. You can buy a ticket for 8 rides for your child age 13 and over for ¥3,200, and the price for children 3-12 years is only ¥2,700. The Super-Passport ticket, good for all rides and attractions is ¥3,500 for children 13 and older and 2,900 yen for children 3 through 12. Parking costs ¥1,000 per car. Near the parking area is a free playground for children, where special events such as clown acts frequently occur.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Tama Tech, follow the directions to Tama Zoo. Continue up the hill past the zoo for 1.2 km. Bright flags and a huge sign signal your arrival at Tama Tech. For further details, visit the Yujo Community Center.

Sharon Chang



## Sightseeing in the Tokyo area

### Meiji Shrine

The Meiji Shrine is an amazing 175 acres of peace and tranquility completely surrounded by urban Tokyo – one of the most densely populated and frenetic cities on Mother Earth. The Meiji Shrine was built to honor the Emperor Meiji (1858 – 1912), revered by the Japanese for transforming feudal Japan into a modern nation. To bring Japan into the modern world, Emperor Meiji had to defeat Shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu, representing seven centuries of samurai dominance of nominal Imperial rule. Emperor Meiji's defeat of the shoguns allowed him to end the policy of sakoku – closure of Japan to the outside world of “barbarians.”

The Emperor moved Japan's capital from ancient Kyoto, traditional seat of national government, to Tokyo. The Shrine was completed in 1920, after the Emperor's death, to honor the Emperor and his Empress Shoken and to commemorate the Emperor's progressive reign of Japan. The original Shrine was destroyed in a 1945 Allied air raid of Tokyo. The current Shrine was rebuilt in 1958.

The Meiji Shrine is the most popular shrine of dozens located throughout Tokyo. During 1992's New Year celebration, 4,827,000 people came to make their hatsumode – the first prayer of the New Year. Worshippers dress in their finest. Many women wear the traditional and beautiful kimono.

Long lines of worshippers pass under the enormous torii (entrance gates or arches) made of 1500 year old Taiwanese cypress. Like a dark silk ribbon undulating in a gently breeze, thousands of the reverent walk quietly down long shaded lanes to the Shrine itself. As they pass under the torii, many stop to shoot a picture of their family posing under a giant ema (wooden prayer plaque).

Inside the torii is the Shrine's main courtyard. The Shrine is built in the Nagare (flowing) architectural style, one of the four main styles of Shinto architecture. Finally, worshippers reach the Shrine's altar which sits behind sliding doors in the Shrine's outer wall. Before the altar, the first few rows

of worshippers launch a shower of silver and gold coins towards altar collection boxes, clap their hands to attract the attention of the gods, and make their prayers for good health and happiness in the coming year.

Worshippers may carry corporeal symbols of their good luck home with them by purchasing a variety of religious mementos from booths flanking the Shrine. On sale are New Year's good luck arrows, smaller emas, talismans of different sorts, and waka poems written by the Emperor and Empress. The Emperor wrote about 100,000 of these 31 syllable poems and the Empress about 30,000. So many of these poems are sold and tied onto bushes inside the Shrine for luck that the bushes appear to be snow-laden.

With their luck and prosperity assured for the coming year, people clutching arrows and other talismans wander happily about the grounds or visit the Treasure Museum on the Shrine's grounds. The Treasure Museum contains the clothes, personal belongings, Imperial documents, paintings and the Imperial horse-drawn carriage. Visitors may even visit the Iris garden planted on the banks of an old river bed. The garden is well known for its profusion of blooms of many subtle shades, spectacular in the late spring. After a full day of worship and homage to the Emperor, visitors head for home, content that they have made a good beginning to the New Year.

The Meiji Shrine garden offers a spectacular view of thousands and thousands of irises of many types.

You can see gorgeous huge irises in blue, pink, white and every shade of purple imaginable. The beds of flowers stretch as far as the eye can see in early to mid-June.

As with the cherry blossoms, exact bloom dates vary with the weather, so it would be wise to check with the Japan travel phone (0120-222-800) or you can call the English language daily events recording (03-3503-2911) before you plan your trip. In the garden, you will also find many other beautiful flowers and shrubs as well as a pond full of carp and turtles. Of course, the irises are the main attraction as there is nowhere in Japan that you can enjoy the glory of them more than at the



*Photo courtesy of Michelle Arostegui, at Meiji Shrine Torii Gate 2001*

*From Left to Right: Michelle Arostegui, Lesa Campbell and Tammy Livingood*



Meiji Shrine. The iris is a favorite flower of the Japanese. You see it depicted in silk screens, woodblock prints, lacquer ware and obis. During the late spring blooming season, you will see irises displayed in flower shops everywhere.

Entry to the Meiji Shrine itself is free and in the compound, there is a stand where you can buy charms and souvenirs or get your "Stampu book" stamped. Entry fee to the garden is Y300 for adults, and for the children there is a lower price. You may prefer to visit Meiji Shrine during the week as it is a popular spot for Japanese on the weekends and can be quite crowded at this time, especially during iris blooming season.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome line to Tachikawa from either Fussa or Akishima Station. At Tachikawa take the Chuo Line for Shinjuku Station (Track 4 & 5). At Shinjuku change to the green Yamanote Line on Track 10, and go two stops to Harajuku Station. When you come out of the station, you will be facing a street. Turn right and walk to the wide, gravel-covered street. Turn right and follow the street. When you can, turn right again and cross the (pedestrian only) bridge over the JR tracks to enter the park surrounding the Meiji Shrine. Once in the park there are maps in English and Japanese pointing you to the Shrine. In brief, follow the gravel road under the tori gate. A short ways up you will turn left and pass under another tori gate. Just outside the entrance there is a fountain with some wooden dippers. If you wish you can use the dippers to cleanse your hands before entering the shrine.

The entrance to the gardens is on the gravel-covered street mentioned above; the entrance sign is in both English and Japanese.

Wiki Lyn Paulson-Cody, Diane Lyell

## National Children's Castle / Kodomo No Shiro

A visit is recommended anytime, but a rainy day is perfect for the inside activities. An English brochure details the numerous and unique activities on the first five floors. A hotel and restaurant are on the upper levels. Highlights include the roof garden (closed on wet days) where riding vehicles, climbing nets, and other equipment are in great supply. There's even a jogging maze.

The entry is on the fifth floor. The fourth floor has an audio/visual library and music studios. There's a computer room, nearly hidden toward the back of the third floor. Reservations are required and children must be of school age to use a computer. If interested, go here first to reserve a time slot. Also on the third floor is an arts and crafts room offering a hands-on activity appropriate for each age-level. Activity themes change often. A huge wall invites young artists to paint. The third floor also has a play hall with educational toys and equipment for a variety of ages.

Children will want to come back, and the admission is so reasonable, parents will agree: Y400 for adults, Y300 for children over six. Weekdays are less crowded and the hours are 1 - 5:50pm, so driving to the New Sanno for lunch begins a

great outing. Weekend and holiday hours are 10 am to 5:30pm; closed Mondays. From mid-April to mid-September the closing hour is extended to 6:30pm. You can bring a sack lunch or there is a McDonald's within 5 minutes walking distance further up the street on the same side. You can leave and re-enter the museum on the same day as long as you get your ticket stamped.

**DIRECTIONS FROM THE NEW SANNO:** To get there from the New Sanno, take the Hibiya Subway from Hiroo Station to Ebisu Station. Change to the JR Yamanote Line and go one stop to Shibuya. From Shibuya Station, exit out towards the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, a huge department store. Proceed up the Miyamasuzaka Street (it slopes upward). This street will turn into Aoyama Dori. The castle will be on the Aoyama Dori on your left after a ten to fifteen minute walk (near the overhead street crossing.)

**DIRECTIONS FROM YOKOTA:** To take the train from Yokota to Children's Castle, take the JR to Shinjuku, then transfer to the Yamanote Line and go 3 stops to Shibuya Station. Then follow the walking directions above.

Sondra Halweg, Christine Thomas

## Tokyo-To Jido Kaikan

Tokyo Metropolitan Children's Hall has a variety of activities for children of any age. Many are designed for pre-schoolers. In the basement is a wood craft center and rides such as cars and airplanes. Pick up an English brochure on the 1st floor. The second floor has a family corner and athletic space for little ones. On the third floor are scientific displays ranging from a human body to a moon station; a meteorological room, which actually gathers weather information. There's a small food and drink stand or you can bring your own lunch. There is also a counter for getting materials for creative activities. The fourth floor has a fine arts corner, crafts corner, and a music room where children can bang drums, cymbals, triangles, pianos, organs, kotos, etc. The art room is well supplied for budding artists with crayons, charcoal, origami, pottery and fingerpainting. The fifth floor is a library with some pre-school books in English.

Admission is free! Children's Hall is open daily 9 am - 5pm. It is closed December 29 - January 3. Tel (03-3409-6361)

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and transfer to Shinjuku Station at the Yamanote Line toward Yoyogi. Get off at Shibuya, the third stop. Exit towards the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan. From the intersection of Miyamasuzaka Street and Meiji Dori (Ave.), follow Meiji Dori North towards the Nomura and Pola signs. (There is also a small blue and white sign on the far corner directing you towards the Children's Hall.) In two blocks there will be a sign on the right hand side of the road directing you to the right. The Children's hall is about 100 meters up the road on the left.

Barbara Kirkwood, Christine Thomas

## Tokyo Tower

For that "high in the sky" look at Tokyo, climb to the observatory levels of Tokyo Tower. The main observatory plat-



form is 150 meters high, and the special observatory gives you a panoramic view, including the harbor and bay, from a height of 250 meters. Either level offers a stupendous look at the greater Tokyo area, and on a clear day you will even see Mt. Fuji rising majestically into the sky. At 333 meters, Tokyo Tower is the city's tallest structure.

All eight television stations and all three FM radio stations in the Tokyo area broadcast their programs to homes in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures from antennas installed at the top of Tokyo Tower. Two AM radio waves are also sent from the tower, and the government uses the tower for radio communications. Instruments mounted in the tower monitor atmospheric conditions, and the police department has also mounted cameras to provide information needed for traffic control on surrounding expressways and other main arteries.

Construction of Tokyo Tower began in June 1957 and was completed in December 1958. Although it is higher than the Eiffel Tower, it is much lighter with 4,000 tons of steel as compared with 7,000 tons needed to build the older structure. Even so, Tokyo Tower is solid enough to withstand both the strongest earthquake and 90-meter-per-second winds.

Under the tower, Tokyo Tower Building houses exhibits and offers a variety of entertaining as well as educational features. An aquarium on the first floor is Japan's largest, with 8,000 fish representing 700 species from all over the world. Included are examples of Japan's renowned carp and goldfish. The 3,500 square-meter, two-story tourist area includes souvenir shops, restaurants, coffee shops and a game corner.

On the third floor, see the first wax museum built in the Orient. One hundred lifelike figures of famous persons are presented and dramatic scenes enhanced by special lighting and sound effects.

If you are interested in learning about "Japan today," don't miss the fourth floor. Numerous showrooms feature exhibits by the government as well as Japan's leading companies. Advances in technology are displayed in the form of up-to-date examples of cars, computers and kitchens. The showroom of Japan Automobile Federation offers exhibits useful to drivers interested in improving their driving skills.

The tower is open March 16-Nov. 15, 9am-8pm and Nov. 16-March 15, 9am-6pm. August hours are 9am-9pm. Fees to the main observatory are: Adults, ¥600, middle/primary school age, ¥350; kindergarten, ¥200. Fees to the special observatory cost an additional ¥400 for adults, ¥300 for middle/primary children and ¥250 for kindergarten children. Fees to see the wax museum are: Adults; ¥750; children, ¥400. Fees for the aquarium are: Adults, ¥600; children, ¥400.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line and travel to Yotsuya Station. Change to Marunouchi Subway Line bound for Kasumigaseki (3 stops). Change to the Hibiya Line for Kamiyacho Station (1 stop). Get off the subway and exit the station either way. Turn left and walk one block. Turn left again, and Tokyo tower is right there!

Barbara Smith

## The Imperial Palace

The Imperial Palace, home of the Imperial Family, stands on the former site of Edo Castle. Located in the heart of Tokyo, the Palace grounds are vast, replete with gardens, moat, and high stone walls. The gardens, Kokyo Gaien and Higashi Gyoen, provide the primary sights since the remaining grounds are usually closed to the public. A walk alongside the moat, particularly during the cherry blossom season, is an attraction as well. The Nijubashi double bridge is a copy of Kyoto's Fushimi Castle bridge. It spans the moat at the entrance to the Palace and provides the only good view into the grounds.

Built where Edo Castle stood during the Tokugawa Shogunate, the Imperial Palace was completed in the late 1890's. Destroyed by air-raids during World War II, the Palace was rebuilt in 1968. Ordinarily it is impossible to enter the grounds without an invitation. However, on the Emperor's birthday (December 23) and on January 2 each year, the gates are opened. Tens of thousands of visitors take advantage of this opportunity to see the royal family.

Tours are available for groups of ten or more people over 20 years old. The following information will be required: 1) Full name 2) Age 3) Occupation 4) Home address 5) Address in Japan. Call the Imperial Palace Tour Office at 03-3213-1111 a minimum of one month prior to the desired date. Before telephoning, have ready the name of your organization, the representative's name and the number of people in your tour group.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and change to the Chuo Line, taking it to its end at Tokyo Station. Head out the north or west exit toward the Palace and moat.

Phillury Platte

## Ueno Park, Zoo, and Museums

Ueno Park is one of the most popular attractions in the city of Tokyo and one of the livelier sites during the annual Cherry Blossom season in early April. Ueno has many things to offer and should be visited at least once during a stay in Japan.

It has one of the largest zoos in the world and attracts "kids" of all ages. The animals names are written in English. As a special attraction, the zoo houses pandas from China. The monorail connects the main zoo area with the Africa section on the west side. You can also cross a bridge over historic Shinobazu Lake where thousands of ducks and cormorants swim.

The Shinto shrine on an island in the lake makes a striking picture. Rowboats are available for rent. Also, next to the lake is the Ueno Zoo Aquarium with more than 500 species of fish exhibited on four levels.

In the park there are numerous museums that are nice during the winter months when it is too cold to be outside. Tokyo's **National Museum** is an imposing structure built in 1936 in modern oriental style. It displays many of the important national treasures and cultural properties of Japan, including ancient tapestries, screens, samurai armor, swords, scrolls, kimonos, ceramics, and more than 100,000 works of Japanese, Chinese, and Indian art.



Ueno has a very good **National Science Museum** with special sections on zoology, botany, geology, science & engineering, and astronomy. Children will be awed by dinosaur and whale skeletons, and by the collection of clocks and stuffed animals. Even Mexican mummies and shrunken heads can be found here. (Although very little is in English and adults may not be impressed, the museum can be a good learning tool for children.)

The **National Museum of Western Art** is also located in Ueno Park. It was built in 1959 and exhibits works of French artists. Many are from a collection assembled by Kojiro Matsukata during his visit to Europe early in this century. This exhibit features masterpieces by such famous artists as Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Van Gogh, as well as several sculptures by Rodin.

All of these attractions are open daily 9am-4pm, and closed Mondays and from December 29 - January 3 during the Japanese New Year. Entrance fees for each of the attractions range from ¥200 to ¥400 for adults; ¥100 for 13 and up; ¥50 for 3-12; those under 3 and over 65 are free.

You may also want to explore the **Okachimachi shopping district** across from the Ueno train station at the foot of the hill. Famous for hundreds of tiny discount shops, second-hand motorcycle dealers, and open air markets, it offers countless small inexpensive restaurants where you can make a good lunch of noodles, tempura, yakitori, or other specialties. A picnic is a nice alternative because there are numerous places in the Ueno Park area where you can sit, relax and watch all the people go by. So enjoy your visit!

**DIRECTIONS:** To reach Ueno, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and change to the Chuo Line toward Tokyo. Get off at Kanda, 3 stops after Shinjuku. Change to the Yamanote Line toward Ikebukuro, and get off at the third stop, Ueno.

Chris Underwood, Mugs Wedemeyer

## Tokyo Cruises

The fast-paced, rushed and crowded life of Tokyo can often saturate the senses of the foreign visitor. A sight-seeing option often overlooked by the tourist is a view of Tokyo from the water. There is something to be said for taking a romantic view of this magnificent city, and there are several tours to accommodate these wishes.

The first is a river cruise called the "Sumida River Line," offered by the Tokyo Cruise Ship Company. The boats leave the Azuma Bridge in Asakusa every 40 minutes from 9:50am to sunset and arrive at the Hinode Pier about 40 minutes later. Along the way you will pass under 12 bridges. There is an optional stop at the Hamarikyu Detached Palace Garden. One way fare is ¥660 for adults and ¥380 for children. Admission to the gardens is ¥300. This cruise may also be reversed, beginning at Hinode Pier. On Sundays and holidays the departures are even more frequent.

To see underwater life, take a boat from Hinode Pier to **Kasai Sealife Park** on the other side of the bay near Disneyland and take the train back or vice versa. Running once an hour, the cruisers stop at Tokyo Big Sight (Ariake) on the way. One-way tickets are ¥800. Admission to the Tokyo Sea Life Park is ¥800 per adult, ¥300 per child. If going by



train, get off at the Kasai Rinkai Koen Station on the Keiyo Line and head toward the large glass dome.

The Tokyo Cruise Ship Company offers another cruise from Hinode Pier, called the "Museum of Maritime Science Line." The boat leaves once every hour and takes you on a cruise across Tokyo Bay to the Museum of Maritime Science. This cruise is only 20 minutes long, but offers a glimpse of wind surfers near Odaiba Seaside Park and other more historical landmarks. The cost is ¥520 for adults and ¥280 for children. Admission to the museum is ¥500.

There's also a "Harbor Cruise Line", a 50-minute ride passing underneath the Rainbow Bridge, both starting and ending at Hinode Pier; tickets are ¥800. The "Canal Cruise Line" runs between Hinode Pier and the Shinagawa Aquarium via the Ohi Seaside Park. A one way ticket costs ¥800. The Shinagawa Aquarium, noted for its dolphin shows, is closed Tuesdays.

For those looking for an evening cruise, the Tokyo Cruise Ship Company also offers a "Restaurant Boat" on certain nights during the summer. As dates and menu vary, it is wise to call and make reservations according to your desires. The cruise leaves Hinode Pier at 6:30pm and lasts about 90 minutes; just long enough to see Tokyo Bay at night! The cost is about ¥7,200 for adults (¥4,700 for children under 12).

Try a different look at Tokyo by choosing one of these wonderful cruises. Sometimes the best view is the one when you take the time to step back and get the big picture. For details on the cruises, contact the Tokyo Cruise Ship Co. at 033841-9178/Asakusa Sales Office, or 03-3457-7830/Hinode Sales Office.

**DIRECTIONS:** To reach the Azuma Bridge, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and transfer to the orange Chuo Line for Tokyo. Take this train all the way to Tokyo Station. Change to the Marunouchi Subway Line and go one stop to Ginza. There, change to the Ginza Line and go 10 stops, getting off at Asakusa. The Azuma Bridge is a one-minute walk from the Asakusa subway station.

To start at Hinode Pier, board the green Yamanote Line heading for Shimbashi and Shinagawa from Tokyo station. Travel three stops to Hamamatsu-cho Station, then walk 7 minutes to the pier. Access is also possible via a one-minute walk from Hinode Station of the Yurikamome Line out of Shimbashi.

Diane Cressman, Ann Bowers 8/97



## Asakusa

The Asakusa area is a popular spot and it is most famous for the Asakusa Kannon. A large compound contains one of Tokyo's oldest temples, the Sensoji Temple, the Asakusa Jinja, an important Shinto shrine, a five story pagoda; the Kaminarimon or "Gate of the Thunder God;" and numerous other gates and buildings including those dedicated to the seven gods of luck. The surrounding area is filled with numerous shops and restaurants.

One can easily spend a whole day wandering about the Asakusa area and never see the same thing twice. Just remember, as with the rest of Japan, to bring lots of yen to buy all the great things you'll see there. For people who don't mind crowds, there's something special going on every month.

New Year's Day is a major event with everybody making their first visit of the year to the temple. On March 18 and October 18 is the Golden Lion Dance. The third Sunday in May is the Sanja Festival, with shrines (mikoshi) being hauled about. On the first Sunday in October, the Edo Mikoshi Festival, similar to the Sanja festival, is celebrated. On November 3, is the White Crane Dance and to round out the year, is the Battledore Fair December 17-19.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there, take the Ome line to Tachikawa and change to the Chuo Line. Take any orange train bound for Tokyo and get off at Kanda which is three stops after Shinjuku (Haijima to Kanda about ¥680). At Kanda, head for the north exit, turn in your ticket and follow signs for the Ginza Line subway (it's a bit of a walk). Get on the subway (¥140) and ride it to the end of the line at Asakusa. Look for signs directing you to the Kaminarimon and follow them (Exit #1). Head straight out and in a few seconds you will find yourself in front of the Kaminarimon gate. Directly across the street is the Tourist Center for the Asakusa area. It has great information in English, western toilets, and a reception area with chairs in which you can rest. (On the hour, an animated clock above the entrance outside puts on a show.) After you get your map, go straight down the street and through the gate onto the approach to the main temple compound. This street (Nakamise), is lined with souvenir shops selling everything from rice crackers to geisha wigs. Throughout Asakusa, you will find small temples dedicated to the seven good-luck gods.

Jill Jones, Christine Thomas

## Tokyo Nightlife Bus Tour

While at the New Sanno, a friend and I took a Tokyo nightlife tour run by Hato Tours, booked at the tour desk in the lobby. A bus picked us up at the hotel at about 5:20pm. We made one stop to pick up another participant, then on to the bus terminal. (We were a bit leery at this point, having to spend about 45 minutes in a bus terminal, but it was simply the meeting point for all the tours.) We boarded a bus at 6:10pm and started on our tour of Tokyo.

Our first destination was the Ginza, and what a sight it is at night! Daylight hours are no comparison, the neon lights are breathtaking and there was a great deal of activity even though it was a Sunday night. We traveled the entire twelve blocks of

the Ginza and learned a great deal about its history from our tour guide. We were lucky enough to be a small group of five ladies and got to know each other. Usually there are at least twenty people on the tour.

After the Ginza, we headed toward Asakusa and the Asakusa Kannon Temple. Again, I'd been there in the daylight, but it was beautiful at night. It was also the end of the New Year celebrations so there were still several vendors set up along the path to the temple. We were given 15 minutes to walk through the grounds. When we regrouped, we walked about two blocks to a tempura restaurant where we were served a tempura meal of assorted vegetables, shrimp, fish and some other kind of seafood. We also had salad, soup and a dessert of strawberries with a yummy yogurt sauce.



After our meal, we boarded the bus for a short trip to a Geisha House. The guide gave a quick history lesson of the area, telling us of the geisha girls. The Geisha show lasted about 25 minutes, and the costumes were beautiful; picture taking is allowed!

After the Geisha show, we proceeded to the New Otani Hotel and a short walking tour of the beautiful gardens there. On the 17th floor of the hotel, there is a rotating restaurant and bar. We each selected a drink from a pre-set menu (both alcoholic and non are available). We spent about 30 minutes enjoying the view and talking with our guide about Tokyo. Then we went back to the bus and drove back the New Sanno.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable tour. The cost for this tour is about Y9000. Reservations can be made at the New Sanno, or by calling the Hato Bus Company directly at (03)3435-6081.

Susan Clark 2/96

## Ebisu Garden Place

Originally a Sapporo Brewery, this shopping and restaurant area includes a Westin Hotel, and a movie theatre, the Beer Museum (complete with a virtual reality tour), and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. While a bright sunny day would be the best time to enjoy the surroundings, most everything is under cover so rainy days should not stop



you from visiting. The completely covered “people mover” skywalk takes you from the Ebisu train station to the complex. The central square is also partially under cover so you can enjoy the waterfall even in bad weather. Over 60% of the area is devoted to open spaces with nature and walkways dominating. The central square would be a great place to “park” the significant other if he complains about shopping! And if he really gets on your nerves, direct him to the Great Beer Hall, Inside, he can choose from an array of beer and foods. After that, maybe the Beer Museum would appeal to him.

At this point, you may want to get back with him to get another credit card for all the rest of the shopping you will want to do at the Ebisu Mitsukoshi! Four floors of exquisite shopping await! This kind of shopping is for those of us who get “scared” in Ginza. For me, shopping in smaller department stores broken up into boutiques, is much more pleasurable. The basement has plenty of beautifully prepared foods as well as exotic treasures from around the world. We had some freshly made gyoza and a fruit drink from one of the booths.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go to Fussa Station. Buy a ticket to Ebisu station for the hour-long train ride. Take Ome Line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa transfer to the Chuo Line (Track 4 or 5). Go to Shinjuku station. Transfer to Yamanote Line (Track 12). At Ebisu you will exit at East Gate, and follow the signs on the skyway to Ebisu Garden Place.

Note: The area is also accessible from the New Sanno. Parking is Y300 for 30 minutes.

Margaret Summers 1/95

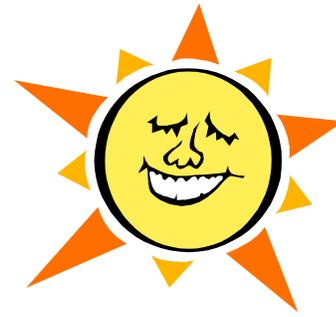


## Machida Petting Zoo

Have you ever fed a squirrel? I don't mean throwing a handful of seeds on the ground while wary animals stuff their cheeks. I mean actually hand-feeding squirrels. I know what you're thinking...Japan doesn't have any squirrels. Well, I'm here to tell you that Japan does indeed have squirrels and they are located at the Machida Petting Zoo. The Machida Petting Zoo is a little park that allows kids to get up close and personal with squirrels, rabbits, guinea pigs, and turtles. The animals are in open-air cages that allow easy access for the kids. The squirrels are in a large indoor facility. The only thing I will caution you on is the squirrels have sharp nails. You might want to wear pants when you go...they will climb on you in search of food. The park sells food for the animals for 100 yen. The cost for an adult is 400 yen and children are 200 yen.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Hachioji Bypass to the Aihara Interchange. Take a left onto Machida Kaido. In approximately 7 km you will see the Kisa Interchange - take a left and follow the road for 2 km. You will see a 7-11 on the left and an Esso Station on the right. The park is on your right in 1 km.

Reprinted from the Yokosan - August '01/Susan Czelusta



## Ikebukuro's Sunshine City

Sixty stories tall, Sunshine City, open every day from 10am to 8pm is filled with something for everyone.

When you enter the building on the B1 level, you traverse a long hall with a “people mover” escalator to the main entrance. There is an information desk with computers where you can get directions printed for places in the complex. Or, you can just wander through and follow the color-coded lines on the floors. The red lines lead to the World Import Mart, the aquarium and planetarium. The blue lines lead to the Ancient Orient Museum and Sunshine Theater. The orange lines lead you to Shopping Center Alpa.

You can make a circle tour of the B1 level as there are two main corridors the length of this level. When you are facing the information desk, if you take the entrance to the left, you will come to a beautiful fountain which has a show of dancing water accompanied by organ music at 1pm, 2:30 and 4pm. The first three levels are mostly department stores. In taking the escalators up, you will find some interesting shops and restaurants on the other floors.

There is an observatory on the 60th floor with a fantastic view on a nice day. It is open from 10am to 8pm. The elevator costs ¥600 for adults and ¥300 for children 4-12. An enjoyable part is the aquarium on the 10th Floor. There is also a planetarium on the 10th floor you can see in combination with the aquarium. The aquarium is open 10am to 6pm, ¥1,400 per adult (children 4-12 years ¥700). The planetarium is open 10am to 6pm with shows on the hour for ¥700 per adult (children ¥400). There is a seal show, and exhibits of seals, flamingos, penguins, etc. There are many fish not seen in the States as they are only found in this part of the world. Allow at least one hour for the aquarium.

The crafty-minded shopper will enjoy the seven-story Tokyu Hands at the B1 entrance to the Sunshine Building. There is something different on every floor from toys to sewing supplies and leather craft to home fix-up supplies.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome line to Tachikawa, and change to the Chuo Line. At Shinjuku, transfer to the green Yamanote Line in the direction of Shin-Okubo and get off at the fourth stop, Ikebukuro. Head for the east exit towards Seibu Department Store. You will see signs for Tokyu Hands also.

Coming out of the station, look for the tallest building (sometimes the top is hidden in the mist) and walk towards it. This will be Sunshine City. It will be in front of you as you come out of the station. You will have to go right a little bit to pick up the tree-lined street to the building.

Judy Harvey, Teri Hansen, Christine Thomas



## Local Nature Areas



### Sayama Dam

Bike to the Sayama Natural Park, which lies around Sayama Lake, northeast of Yokota. A little initial road/side-walk riding gets you to a new and well cared for bike path all the way to Sayama Dam. The nice thing is, it's uphill on the way there and downhill home. Out the East Gate, turn left. When the street comes to a dead end, go right, then left quickly at the light. At the next light, as the street crosses a canal (blue sign to "Central Musashimurayama") turn right and follow this road all the way to Ome Kaido (past Shin Ome Kaido) about 1km. When approaching Ome Kaido, there is a sign just before the road turns 45 degrees left. Follow the sign straight to Lake Tama. The road is narrow at first, but it gets wider. After the bike path starts, your first left ("Y" intersection with a wooden sign on a knoll in the middle) takes you up to the Dam. (Note: if you start a long downhill stretch, you've gone to far) As the road turns sharp right and starts downhill, angle up and left for the gravel bike path to the dam. If you are driving at this point, you can park your car and walk to the dam. For a strenuous trip back home, continue over the dam, staying along the lake on the dirt until the park quits. Get on the road, which starts uphill, and around corners, past 2 love hotels and the road turns to gravel. Throughout the trip stay to the left on all choices. At one point, a gravel footpath goes left and downhill – stay on the gravel road. It's a fairly serious hilly ride (about 6km). Be prepared. The gravel road ends up near the observation tower at Noyama-Kita.

Melody Hostetler

### Noyama Kita

A small but very pleasant (and close!) park with hiking paths that can be found less than 5km north of base. It has playground equipment built on a hillside, a fair amount of hiking, and a small pond. There is a ball park where you can

frequently watch students practicing baseball and occasionally watch a game.

Just before you turn off the main road to go to the parking lot (about 300 meters from the lot), is a small, free, city history museum with many historical artifacts that is fun to look around in. It is a tan single story building with a brown roof. Everything is in Japanese.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate. At the "T" go right (no light) and immediately take a left at the first light. Follow this road until it "T"s at Ome Kaido road, where you turn left. Go 0.9 km to Musashimurayama City Intersection (4<sup>th</sup> light) and turn left. (There is a sign pointing towards the lake prior to the intersection.) Go 0.7 km (through two lights) and turn left on a small road immediately before the road makes a sharp turn to right. (After the red warning stripes on the road begin, and just before the guard rail with arrows on it.) About 300 meters down on the right is a large paved parking lot.

Brian Marriott 12/01

### Takiyama Park

The Takiyama Metropolitan Park, about 30 min. from Yokota, is an inexpensive getaway. The park has picnic tables and an area large enough for softball. The size of the park is fantastic. It has monuments, a shrine, bridges and a pavilion. There is a soda machine if you get thirsty while trekking through the woods. It is a perfect place to reflect on nature. The park used to be the grounds of a castle.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Supply Gate. Cross two sets of tracks. At the third light after the second set of tracks turn left. (Ushihama Post Office Intersection, Steak House on right.) Continue straight on this road for about 1.5km, through 4 lights. You will pass a Saizeriya and Bamiyan on the left, and a Family Mart and Denny's on the right. At the 5<sup>th</sup> light turn right (onto Mutsumi-bashi Dori at the Uchide Koban Intersection.) Cross the Tama River on the 4-lane bridge. Continue to the 4th light (counting the light at the end of the bridge) and turn left on a 2-lane road with a bicycle shop on the corner. (Ogawa Intersection.) Stay on this road for 3 km as it crosses a small river and travels along the base of the hills for a while. Follow the road over a hill and through the woods into the next valley. At the first signal after going over the hill turn left (Tangimachi 3 Intersection. – This road is 411, although it is not marked as such at this intersection.) Take the very first left off of this road onto a VERY small road that looks like a driveway less than 100 meters (0.1 km) after you get onto it. It is just past the gas station that sits on the far right corner of the intersection. It will wind up a steep and narrow road into the park. If you come to another signal you have gone too far.

Melody Hostetler, Brian Marriott 12/01



## Koganei Park

Koganei Park is easy to find (it's on Itsukaichi Kaido) and close to Yokota (15.5km). This park features large grassy fields, deep woods, and cherry trees. There is a lot of room to roam and explore.

The Edo-Tokyo Tatemono-En (open air architectural museum) is a town of relocated buildings. Themes include Downtown, Musashino Road, and Tama Road. You can walk inside former homes with tatami mats and a bathhouse. Admission Y300/adult and Y150/child. Hours are 9:30am to 4:30pm; closed Mondays (Tuesdays if Monday is a holiday and Dec. 28 to Jan. 4) Tel. 042-388-3311. A 2km cycling course, with free bikes available for children under 16, is open daily (same hours). Some bikes have training wheels and children are welcome to bring their own.

There is also a children's playscape built like a huge pyramid with many ways to go up and down. It is so large, 100 children would easily have room to play.

**DIRECTIONS:** To go by car: turn right out of the South gate. Turn left at the first light. You are on Itsukaichi Kaido. After about 12.5km you will be traveling along a "greenbelt" on your left that appears to have a stream in it. Itsukaichi Kaido takes a jog to the other side of this "greenbelt" in a left then right turn (marked in English). In a while, you will cross Koganei Kaido and at about 15.5km, you will be able to tell that there is a large park with trees about ½ block to your left. The entrance is a well-marked and there is a landscaped street on your left. There is ample parking.

By Train: go to Musashi Konagei station on the Chuo Line toward Tokyo. Take bus #3 and get off at Koganei Koen-Mae (10 minutes by bus, five minutes by taxi).

By bike: a path leads from the Sayama Lake area directly past the north boundary of the park.

Sharon Chang

## Inokashira Park

Inokashira Park at Kichijoji is great for cherry blossom viewing and strolling. (It is especially popular for young folks who walk hand in hand along the lake.) There is also a small zoo, an aviary, and aquarium. There is no charge to enter the park and the scenery is great. Ample picnic tables and benches are located near the zoo if you bring lunch. It costs Y400/adults and Y150/children (under 12) to enter the zoo or aviary and aquarium areas. This fee includes all areas except for the kiddie rides. Directions by train: Take the Ome line to Tachikawa. Transfer to a Tokyo bound train (track 4 or 5) and get off at Kichijoji. Exit through the Park Exit and walk past the Pachinko Shops. In less than a minute, you will come upon Inokashira-Dori, dominated by the department store Marui (OIOI). Take the road to the right of the store into the park. Picnic areas are located near the zoo and around the lake.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Exit the South Gate and turn right. At the light turn left. You will be on Itsukaichi Kaido. You will follow this road for a long time until it be-

comes a one-way street and you cannot proceed. At this point, turn left; cross the canal and make an immediate right. You will still be on Itsukaichi Kaido. After six lights, you will pass the entrance to Koganei Park on the left. As you continue, you will pass a CASA restaurant, a McDonalds and a Royal Host. At the large intersection the road splits, keep to the left as you go through. Get into the right lane immediately after the intersection. Go to the second light and turn right. After you pass a golf driving range on the left (it has a big green net around it) go to the 14th light and turn right. Go through 2 lights and under a train bridge. At the next light, turn left. At the very next light you will come to a "T." The parking lot for the park is located here – to enter turn left and then right into the lot. The fee for parking is Y400 an hour. The zoo, rides, and picnic area are located down this same street to the left. The lake, shrine, aviary and aquarium are to the right. The park is always open to the public, but the zoo and aquarium are closed Mondays. They are open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30am to 4pm.

To shop, walk to the area near the East Exit of the Kichijoji train station (refer to Kichijoji shopping).

Donna Anson, Cheryl McNabb 97



## Jindai Botanical Garden

The Jindai Botanical Garden is worth a visit year round because it offers viewing of flowers in all seasons. The best time to plan a visit is between spring and summer. You can enjoy colorful plum blossoms in late February and early March. In late March and early April, the cherry trees along the parks path make a sakura tunnel of pink blossoms with millions of tiny leaves. Usually in the beginning of April there will be a cherry blossom festival.

Pink, red, and white roses dominate the garden from late April to May. You can find azaleas and forsythia along the paths as well as a host of other flowers. In addition to these outdoor beauties there is a large greenhouse in which many tropical flowers, including orchids and begonias, are grown. Jindai has 100,000 plants with 3500 species.

There are many places within the garden area where you could have a picnic lunch, but there are no food shops. You can find snack concession stands offering things such as ice cream and cold drinks.



The Jindai Botanical Garden was established in 1961 and encompasses an area of 356,683 square meters. It is open from 9:30am to 4:30pm, closed Mondays and for the New Year's Holiday (Dec. 28 to Jan. 4). The telephone number is 042-483-2300. Entrance fees are Y500/adult, Y200 junior high age, and children 12 and under are free.

Directions by train: Leave from Fussa for Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, change to the Nambu line (track 8) for Bubaigawara (this train only goes in 1 direction from Tachikawa). At Bubaigawara, change to the Keio line for Fuchu/Shinjuku (the signs are in English). You can take an express or regular train and get off in Chofu. At Chofu, exit to the North side. You will see the Parco store and bus stops. To exit north, go up the stairs and through the ticket booths – the ticket booths at the bottom of the stairs lead to the South exit. The train fare to Chofu was about Y420 from Fussa.

You will need to take a bus, which will be located in front of the Baskin Robbins on the 1st floor of the Parco building. The bus stop number is 14, the bus number is 34. This bus will be to Jindai-ji, ask before getting on. The bus runs every 20 minutes during the week and more frequently on the weekends. Bus fare is about Y200. The train takes about 1 hour and the bus ride about 20 minutes.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Take Rt. 16 south to the Chuo expressway. The toll on the Chuo is Y600. When you get to the Chuo, take the entrance to Shinjuku. Exit at Chofu — exit Number 3 (roughly 17km. you will see it just after passing the Fuchu racetrack on the left.) When you come off exit 3, you will see tollbooths on the right and the road will split. You will need to get into the left lane as you pass the tollbooths. Watch for traffic on the left. You will be taking the split to the left, Chofu/Shinjuku. You will take this ramp and merge with traffic, but stay in the left lane. At the second light, turn left at “Shinoishihara Koban” Intersections (towards Musahisaki) You will now be on a smaller street, which will go back under the expressway and over a canal. The park will be at the 3rd light (about 0.9 km) after the canal at Jindai Shokubutsukoen Intersection, however that intersection is exit only, so go to the next light and turn right. The parking lot will be on you left. Take a ticket and pay as you exit. (500 Yen for 2 hrs, then 100 Yen for every 30 minutes afterwards.) Driving time takes at least 1 hour, except on the weekends. If you want to go on the weekend, you should leave home before 10:30am. The trip should never take more than 2 hours (unless it is a holiday).

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody. Updated by the Marriots 8/02.

## Akigawa - Akigawa River

If you like to paddle in a rocky stream, float along in a rented boat or on an inner tube, or just people watch, consider the Akigawa River. It is about 25 minutes from Yokota. The most famous spot in Akigawa is Summerland, but upstream from there you will find access to the river and even some fishing spots.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa gate onto Rt. 16. Set odometer to zero. Go to the first signal light and turn right. This road is marked “Tamabashi Dori.” Go through Fussa, across 2 sets of tracks. The road will go downhill and cross the Tama River. Keep to the main road as it bends going up a hill. You will come out on level ground on the other side of the river and then the road will be “Itsukaichi Kaido.” Fresh farm produce is sold along this road in the summer. At 5.1km you will come to a light with the sign, “Akigawa Shiyakusho.” Keep going straight. The light at 5.5km is the turn for Summerland (the cross street is rt. 141, so you would take a left if going to Summerland). Keep straight for Akigawa. You are getting into the country now and can see the mountains. The road will widen at 7.8km and there will be a map of the district on the roadside at 8km. From now on, you can turn left down almost any side road and reach the river. The light at 8.8km marks the left turn that will take you to a “private” beach. On a near right corner, up high, there is a large pink, red and white sign with a flower on it and an arrow pointing to Ozawa, a nearby store. The name under the light there is Yamamda. Turn left here and follow the road downhill and across the Akigawa River. Just across the bridge on the left is a little shop/restaurant through which you have to pass to get to the “private” beach. You can park up the hill to the right for a fee. (Y500). The little shop “Sansuiso” sells drinks and snacks but no western food. The shop is open year round, except rainy days 8am to 5pm.

There is a small entrance fee. You can also rent a “teppan” (large griddle for outdoor cooking) and buy charcoal. There are old toilets and running water. You can also rent small row-boats. Mosquitoes are bad in this area in the summer season so be sure to bring insect repellent.

Claire Scriba



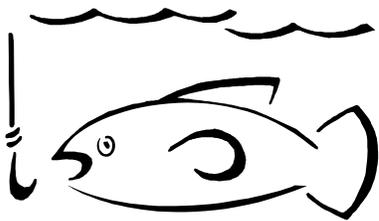
## Fishing in Akigawa

Even trout fisherman can find a way to ply their sport while they are in Japan. The nearest fishing hole is the Akigawa river; it is full of rainbow trout. The Japanese government owns all the streams and landowners along the way can open their portion up to fisherman. They raise trout and release them into the stream, usually between 9am and 1pm. Fish of different sizes can be caught and some are pretty big. You can fish all day for about Y3000 and there is a 10 fish limit. The fee does not include equipment but you can rent a bamboo pole for about Y300. You can buy bait for about Y400. MWR offers fishing equipment rental and they can provide you with the current laws regarding fishing and other useful information. Sunday is the busiest day because the Japanese are off work – a day during the week would be best. With the exception of the fly fishing area, the trout camps are open year round.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Akigawa Trout Fishing Camp, go out the supply gate and go straight. You will cross over 2 sets of railroad tracks. At 1.4km, turn right onto Denen-Dori. There will be a large, 4 corner pedestrian overpass at this intersection. Go 1.3km to the “T” intersection and turn left. Go 2.6km and at the top of the hill, turn right. When you come to a fork in the road, bear right. Go about half km to the light. There is a gas station on your left. Go straight through the intersection. Follow the road about 5km and you will come to another “T” intersection; turn left. After about 2km you will cross railroad tracks. Shortly after that, you will see a big sign, in English, for the “Akigawa Trout Fishing Camp.” Keep to the right. About 2km after the sign, you will come to a light; turn right. You will soon see the big Welcome sign to Akigawa.

Sondra Halweg and Rosandra Corea

Please see “Fishing” in the outdoors section for more information.



## Shiofune

Shiofune is off the beaten track, about a 30-minute drive from Yokota on a hill in a residential area. Blooming season begins in mid April with azaleas. Paths wind through the park and the views are breathtaking. Pass under the rope between two cedar trees hung with “lightning symbols.” Ring the bell to let Buddha know you have come to visit. Children can run off energy as they check out the caged peacocks. Follow the trail down to the pond to spot a duck or two, or even tadpoles or frogs. Hydrangeas and irises during May and June continue the color of flowers here. Not even the bleakest February day could detract from the beauty of this area.

The grounds are open every day from 8am to 5pm. They never close for holidays and are the scene of several celebrations. On May 3, there is fire walking, food vendors, and LOTS of people. The small temple is open for inside viewing of Buddha on this day, also the 2nd Sunday in August, as well as during the New Year’s festivities. Y100 is charged for a close up view of the Buddha.

Admission to the grounds is charged only during the blooming season. Adults pay Y200 and children Y70. Parking costs Y600. You can bring a lunch and have a picnic (bring a blanket to sit on). There is a small snack restaurant with a small gift shop inside. Restrooms are also located in this building. There is another shop located across from the temple. For a visual image of the complex with its different temples and shrines, check the map on the billboard off the road to the right of the thatched roof gate. Shiofune is about 10km from Yokota.

**DIRECTIONS:** Head north on Rt. 16, toward Kawagoe and Iruma (under the underpass). Go through Ome Kaido (4th light from underpass) and turn left onto Iwakura Kaido (3.2km, 6th light; big Honen building on far right). Continue on this smaller two-way road through stoplights, past a Mobil station and a large white industrial complex (Hitachi Engineering). Stay on Iwakura Kaido as it makes a sharp left at the entrance to the Ken-O toll road (5.9km/Ome IC). Make an immediate right at the next light. Go through Imaibabasaki intersection after which the road narrows and through Nanokaichiba intersection after which the road widens again. Yamane-Dori will merge into Iwakura Kaido; turn left onto Yamane-Dori (8km) after a block or two when the merge separates. Pass a Yamazaki Honda on the left (8.7km) before you see a grove of trees ahead. Turn right at the first light (9.5km). Follow this neighborhood road up a gentle hill past a parking lot on the left. At the “T” (9.9km; small playground ahead), there will be a parking area for the temple on the right.

Shiofune Kannon is up the hill to the right, diagonally left of the pedestrian exit on the other side of the parking lot. What looks like another parking lot just beyond the “T” and playground, is a private use lot for a trucking company. If the temple lot is full, return to the parking lot a block back (the one you passed on the way up) or you can carefully proceed up toward the right of the thatched roof gate to the temple complex. There is a white shrine, with a tile roof, toward the back of a further lot on the right hand side. You can park here. This newer shrine is dedicated to traffic safety.

To return via Ome City, make a right onto Yamane-Dori. The road will curve slightly; there will be a hospital on the right, a Daily Store on the left, then a fire station on the right. You’ll go through several lights including Daimon#1 and #2 (Shell stations). After the Nissan dealer on the right, make a left onto Ome Kaido (Mazda building on far right corner). Take this back to Rt. 16.

Barbara Smith, Barbara Kirkwood, Mavis Hara, Teresa K. Negley 8/97



## Shinjuku Gyoen

In the fall, this Japanese garden is filled with beautiful chrysanthemums of many different colors, shapes and sizes. In the spring, you can see different varieties of cherry trees that come into bloom, and in the winter, there are orchid displays in the greenhouse. The garden was built on the site of a private mansion belonging to Lord Naito, a feudal lord of the Edo era. It began as an imperial garden but was opened to the public after World War II. The park is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, but is closed on Mondays (or the following day if a national holiday falls on a Monday). The garden is open 7 days a week during the following special periods: March 25 through April 24 and November 1 through November 15. Entrance fees are 200 Yen for adults, 50 Yen for junior high school and elementary school students, and there are discounts available if you are bringing a group of 30 or more students.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there by train, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line toward Tokyo, getting off at Shinjuku. Transfer to the Sobu Line heading toward Funabashi, then get off at Sendagaya. As you leave Sendagaya Station, turn right. Go just past the end of the station. There is a small street on the right that crosses under the tracks. Follow this street to the entrance of the gardens. At Shinjuku Station, you may also change to the Marunouchi subway line, heading toward Ikebukuro. Go two stops to Shinjuku Gyoenmae. As you exit the subway, look for the exit to Shinjuku Gyoen. Go out the exit, and the park is just across the street. If you are driving, the parking lot entrance is located a short distance from the Okido Gate, just off Shinjuku Dori Avenue.

Michelle Arostegui/Feb '02



*Mary Kay Haughian, Lori Vandenburg, Cherie Murphy and Michelle Arostegui, and a group of Japanese students pose during the chrysanthemum festival.*



## Local Amusement Parks

### Seibuen

Amusement parks attract the fancy of children of any age, but too often they are so far away that they must be saved for vacations or special days. Not so for Yokotans! Located about 30 minutes from Yokota is an amusement park to delight any fancy. Seibuen is a spacious, beautifully landscaped park, filled with over 20 attractions. A giant ferris wheel dominates the skyline, while rocket rides, a carousel, pirate ship, teacups and much more are tucked into the hillsides of the park. They even have a heart stopping roller coaster that loops and twists over water. There are several water attractions, including a "wave" pool. These are open only in the summer months.

The park is open every day; 10am to 9pm and parking is readily available. For Y3800/adult and Y3000/child you can buy a one-day pass with full access to the park – no additional charge for rides. General admission is Y1500/adult and Y800/child 4-12 and Y400/child 1-3. This allows admission to the park, but you will have to purchase tickets for the attractions. The ticket machines are located near the entrance of each ride. Depending on the ride, tickets range from Y200 and up. If you arrive at 5pm on any day, there is no admission charge; you can just buy ride tickets as you go. Food stalls and drinks are readily available, but kind of pricey. You can bring your own lunch. Check with the Yujo center for directions.

Donna Alexander

### Toshimaen

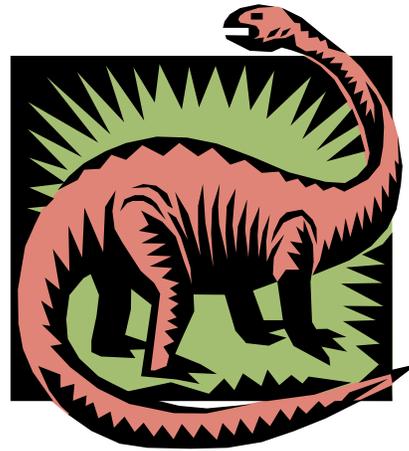
Toshimaen Amusement Park is a wonder for all ages. The oldest amusement park in Tokyo, it's 50 attractions are so varied there is truly something for everyone. Near the entrance to the park is a gilded, antique carousel, the Eldorado. Upon entering, the tranquil beauty of the Japanese gardens soon gives way to the many rides traditionally expected in an amusement park. There are many of the usual children's rides, as well as roller coasters with names like "The Corkscrew" and "The Cyclone," to satisfy serious thrill seekers. Safaris and several haunted houses invite adventurers. A ride, rightly called "The Flying Pirates" will swing some 15 stories into the air while you are seated in a replica of an old pirate ship. Seven swimming pools, an ice-skating rink, and a fishing pond are available for the sports minded.

The entrance fees are Y1500/adult and Y700/child. You can buy a ticket for Y3300/adult and Y2500/child, which combines admission and 7 ride tickets. An all day pass, covering admission and all rides, is the best buy at Y3800/adult and Y3300/child. The park is open daily, 9am to 5pm. From mid-November to mid-March, the park is closed on Wednesdays. In the summer months of July and August, the park stays open until 9pm.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, switch to the Chuo Line to Shinjuku. Catch the Yamanote line (green train) going towards Shin-Okubo and Ikebukuro. Get off at Ikebukuro and proceed to the Seibu

Ikebukuro Line. You will need to exit and then buy a new ticket. Board the train bound for Toshimaen, it will be the 5th stop on this train. The park entrance is 100 feet from the station. The train cost is about Y770 one-way, per person. The Yujo should have driving maps available.

Maria Witte, Diane Cressman



### Unesco Village/Dinosaur Adventure Park

Take your family for an outing at the Dinosaur Adventure Park at Unesco Village. This indoor park has an educational boat ride through the history of dinosaurs. You start by sailing into the age of primitive creatures and fish that existed 270 million years ago. Then you meet Apatosaurus (150 million years ago), Scelidosaurus (200 million years ago), and many more creatures. The full-scale dinosaurs look very real, at one point; Tyrannosaurus (70 million years ago) comes very close to your boat while opening his mouth widely.

After your visit through time, visit the fossil museum with its collection of specimens. Two models depict dinosaur restoration work, one in the old days by hand work and one with modern automated techniques. The souvenir shop next to the museum carries everything in dinosaur: from mugs and placemats to stationary. Unesco also has other rides, such as, a merry go round, UFO and a simulation theater showing in 3D effects.

The Dinosaur Adventure Park is open year-round 10am to 4pm weekdays and 10am to 5pm weekends. The entrance fee is Y1200/adults (6th grade and up) and Y600/child. The simulation theater costs Y1000 per person for 2 shows. All-you-can-ride tickets for the dinosaur park, the simulation theater, UFO, merry-go-round and Seibuen Amusement Park (near Unesco Village) are available at the entrance for the price of Y4500/adult, Y4000/junior high and Y3500/child.

Special tickets are also available: "Enjoy Ticket A" is Y2500/adult and Y1800/child; this covers the dinosaur park,



simulation theater, UFO ride and merry-go-round. "Enjoy Ticket B" is Y1800/adult and Y1200/child. This is the same as ticket "A" minus the simulation theater. "Enjoy Ticket C" is Y2200/adult and Y1500/child. This is the same as ticket "A" but with the simulation theater and minus the merry-go-round. The "weekday ticket" is Y2500/adult and Y1800/child; this covers all rides in Unesco Village. Parking is about Y1000 for cars and vans.

The surrounding area is beautiful located by Lake Sayama and Lake Tama. The Seibu Lions Baseball Stadium, Sayama Skiing Ground (opens from the end of October through April), Lions Tennis Court, Seibuen Swimming pool (summertime), and the Seibuen Golf Course are all located near Unesco Village.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Unesco Village, refer to a map of the Seibu Lions Stadium (you can get one at the Yujo Center). Unesco Village is across the street from the Seibu Lions Stadium. Have a great time!

Karen Ozment, Chieko Brumley 1/97

## Korakuen Amusement Park

This area in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward is famous as a sports and amusement center with a baseball stadium, the Tokyo Dome (or Big Egg), and Korakuen Amusement Park. Popular attractions are the variety of imported rides and live stage shows. Hours are 10-9 and admission is ¥1,400 for adults, ¥700 for kids. Admission, plus 10 attractions: adults, ¥3,200; kids, ¥2,500. The Tokyo Dome's Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is open 10-5 (adults ¥350, kids ¥150).

To the west of the stadium and park, in stark contrast to the busy entertainment area, is the original Korakuen now called Koishikawa Korakuen, a landscaped garden built in the 17th century. Construction of the garden was begun in 1629 by Tokugawa Yorifusa, and continued by his son, Mitsukuni, until it was completed 30 years later. The Chinese scholar, Chu Shun-shui, helped design the garden and introduced a strong Chinese influence. Among the many scenic spots are the miniature copy of the dyke of Saiko in China; the Shiraito no Taki, a waterfall which resembles a screen of white threads; a small hill modeled after Loshan in China; the Kuhachiya sake house, and the Tokujido Shrine, built in 1630.

There are a number of bridges in the park, from replicas of the Togetsu-kyo and Tsukenkyo bridges in Kyoto to the very simple Yatsubashi zigzag plank bridge and Sawatari stepping-stone bridge. A very special bridge is the Engetsukyo, so called because a full moon is formed by the arch of the bridge and its reflection in the water.

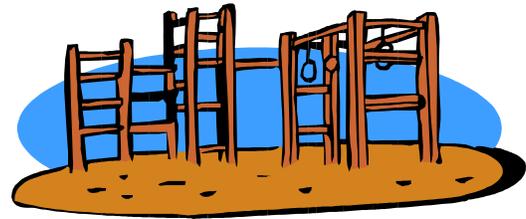
The garden is open 9am-5pm and has a ¥200 entrance fee. Maps show two walking routes. For detailed explanations, a bilingual booklet can be purchased for ¥300.

**DIRECTIONS:** Ride the Ome Line to Tachikawa, and change to the Chuo Line. Get off at Yotsuya and change to the Sobu Line toward Ichigaya. Get off at Idabashi Station, the second stop. Head left out the East Exit, then right over the multi-branching pedestrian bridge, following the signs in English. Once across the intersection and facing the station, walk

left about 2 blocks, make a left and walk down past the JapanChina Friendship Institute and a hotel. The entrance to Koishikawa Korakuen is within the near corner of cement walls on the right.

To stroll around the Tokyo Dome and Egg City Plaza afterward, exit right out of the park, then turn right at the big street and Marunouchi subway Korakuen station. The amusement park will be on the left and the stadium on the right.

Barbara Kirkwood, Teresa Negley



## Sesame Place

Your adventure begins with a trip up Asia's longest outdoor escalator, from the parking lot to the park. Sesame Place is best described as an outdoor jungle gym – best suited for 4 to 8 year olds. Children can "swim" in a room of plastic balls, jump on a room size trampoline, climb a latticework of ropes, practice hitting a row of punching bags or slide down a plastic coated mountain. There is also a maze of tunnels to which you should orient you child before he goes – or he could come out on a different level from where you are. You may bring food into the park and covered picnic areas and a restaurant are available.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate, then turn right at the 1<sup>st</sup> light. Continue straight on this road across the Tama River. It will turn into Itsukaichi Kaido. Turn left on Rt. 411, near Akigawa station. After you cross another river, you will see the entrance to Summerland, which is just next-door to Sesame Place. The hours are 10am to 5pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm on Sundays and holidays. Admission is about Y3000/child and Y2500/adult. Maps are available at the Yujo Center.

Gayle Richards

## Summerland

Just a short ride away is the land of perpetual summer – Summerland. It is a mix of a theme park, swimming pool, game room and restaurants. You can spend a gloomy, gray day inside and enjoy the wave pool, waterslide and numerous rides underneath the heated dome. In the summer months, the outdoor pool, waterslide and amusement rides are available. From November to March, the outdoor pool is converted into an ice skating rink. There are various price ranges: to enjoy all rides indoors and out the fee is Y4200/adults and Y3700/kids; outdoor rides only the fee is Y3400/adult and Y2900/kids;



the indoor rides only the fee is Y2200/adult and Y1700/kids, for park admission and pool use only the fee is Y1800/adult and Y900/kids – children under 3 are free – they consider those past 6th grade as adult fares. These fees are subject to change and often times there are special prices depending on the time of year. Parking is about Y700 a day for cars.

There are a variety of restaurants on the premises, but you can bring your own lunch. There are many umbrella tables available. You can also rent a locker for Y100 or Y200.

There is a nearby nature park, Akigawa Nature Park. The cost there is Y300/adult and Y200/kids.

There are also camping facilities available at Summerland for RVs – they do have a lodging facility for those without RVs if you wish to spend the night. You will have to check for pricing, it varies from the weekdays to the weekends. Rooms are available with a private bath.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions above to Sesame Place. Pass the bowling alley to your left and you will see Summerland ahead on the left.

Dee Wichman

## Tokyo Disneyland

On 111 acres, Tokyo Disneyland is larger than the state-side parks. Its parking lot, however, is the smallest, since the Japanese use public transportation more. Can anyone who doesn't speak Japanese enjoy Tokyo Disneyland? No problem. Naturally, most employees in the theme park will be Japanese, but most can speak some English. Foreign visitors receive a free map in English when they get their tickets, and all the signs in the park are in English.

What you will find is a Magic Kingdom that's pure Disney. Like its predecessors, Tokyo Disneyland is laid out in different entertainment zones, or "lands." Hours of operation vary, depending on the season and day of the week. Usual hours are 8am to 9 or 10 pm. The Information Center at Tokyo Disneyland can be helpful in scheduling your trip. Tel: (0473)54-0001 or (03)3366-5600. Please note credit cards may not be accepted, and the only cash machine around is just outside the gate. Discount membership cards may be obtained at the Yujo Community Center. Approximate prices, including admission and free shows, are as follows: ¥3,500 for adults, ¥2,800 for ages 12-17, and ¥2,200 for children 4-11.

The General Admission Passport is an all-inclusive ticket, good for all attractions for one day (regular days only). The cost is about ¥4,400/adult, ¥4,000/age 12-17, and ¥3,100/age 4-11. The Starlight Passport is good on Starlight evenings only, for arrival after 4pm. Its cost is about ¥3,300/adult, ¥3,000/age 12-17, and ¥2,200/age 4-11.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome/Chuo Line to its end at Tokyo Station. Then go to the Keiyo Line (downstairs) and take any train from Tracks 1 to 4 to Maihama. To make your return a little less anxious, buy your return ticket at Maihama as soon as you arrive because when Disneyland closes, a huge mass of humanity will buy tickets.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Driving takes about two hours and tolls each way are over Y1,100. Take Rt. 16 to the

Chuo Expressway and follow the expressway into Tokyo. At the long tunnel, Chiyoda, keep left following the sign, Ginza #4. After you exit the tunnel, keep basically right. Follow the signs for 7 and 9, then take 9, which connects to the Higashi Kanto Expressway. Follow the expressway until you reach a fork, at which point you should go left and continue straight to Exit #008, Kasai Ramp. Follow Route 357 straight through the signal light and across the bridge. You'll make a left after the bridge, but before the signal light. Go to the next light and turn left again. Follow the road around to the parking entrance. There are blue and white direction signs in Japanese. Parking is about ¥900.

To go home, you retrace your steps back over the bridge, left at the light, then right at the next light. Kasai Entrance is about 200 meters on the right. When entering traffic you must cross three lanes as you will want the right fork. At the Tatsumi interchange, stay to the left and follow #9 and #7 to #4 and exit at Hachioji (#2 exit).

Gail Lindsey, Corie Huggins, Karen Becker

Tokyo Disneyland also has an english website at:  
[http://www.tokyodisneyresort.co.jp/tdl/index\\_e.html](http://www.tokyodisneyresort.co.jp/tdl/index_e.html)

## Disney Sea

A new Disney theme park recently opened near the Tokyo Disneyland. It is typical of Disney parks in that it has fun for all ages ranging from excellently performed musical shows, to roller coasters, to rides for small children. Especially for children is a very large indoor play area based on the Little Mermaid that is good for all weather.

See the Yujo Community Center for directions on how to get there by train or car, or better yet, take one of their tours and get free transportation and a group discount for entry.

Brian Marriott 5/02



## Local Museums

— Tokyo has literally hundreds of museums. These are just a few of the ones people have enjoyed. For more museums, look on the internet, especially under the [Townpage Online Japan Telephone Directory](http://english.itp.ne.jp) at <http://english.itp.ne.jp>



### Tokyo Gas Museum

This museum is about 30 minutes from Yokota and is perfect for an outing on a cold or rainy day. The museum traces the use of gas as a source of power, heat and light from the 1870's to present day. The information is shown through videos, interactive displays and exhibits of actual items. Although nearly all in Japanese, there are enough English subtitles to describe what you are seeing. Plan for one hour to tour the museum, as it is two separate buildings. The second floor of one of the museums has a collection of wood block prints. You'll see such things as gas street lamps, early consumer uses of toasters, irons, rice cookers, water heaters, the gas range used at the Imperial Palace during the Meiji period and a gas driven church organ. There is a small outdoor area to enjoy a picnic.

It is open daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Closed Wednesdays. Admission is free.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate. At the first light, go right. Turn left when the road dead ends (second traffic signal.) Stay on this road until it dead ends into Shin Ome Kaido at Honmachi 1 Intersection. (You will go through two traffic lights and pass the big Daikuma discount store on the left). At Shin Ome Kaido there will be a Mos Burger on the left and a used car dealer. Turn right onto Shin Ome Kaido. About 6.5 km down Shin Ome Kaido you will go over an overpass, keep going. Cross Fuchu Kaido Road. About 8 km down Shin Ome Kaido Road, you will go over a second overpass. Start watching closely. At about 11 km you will come to the museum. The sign is fairly easy to read and in English. It is a group of red brick buildings surrounded by a red brick and cast-iron fence. Park in the gravel lot surrounded by the brick and cast iron wall.

(Note: You will cross Yanagi Kubo Intersection 0.9 km before the Museum. Onumacho 2 Intersection is 0.4 Km from the Museum. The TakiyamaMinumi Intersection is the first light PAST the museum - turn around & go back.)

Delores Street, Directions updated Brian Marriott 11/01

### Nihon Minka-En

If you ever have the urge to get out and walk in a beautiful natural setting, take advantage of the Nihon Minka-en, an open-air museum of traditional houses. In fact, if you've ever wondered whether the Japanese have always lived in such small houses so close together, this trip will be a real eye opener. Picture large rooms with high ceilings. Part of the floor is earth and part is wood or bamboo, about two feet higher than the earthen section. You can easily imagine an extended family sharing such quarters. See pitched roofs so steep that you don't even want to visualize people on such a roof sweeping off the snow to keep it from collapsing. Marvel at the stones placed on thatched roofs to weigh them down. Smell the smoke from fires long gone that once, perhaps, warmed a family during a cold winter or heated water for rice or soup. The cooking arrangements were often ingenious, but seeing them makes me stop and give thanks for today's modern conveniences. Some of the houses were built with twisted beams woven together to make not only an unusual house but also an extraordinarily beautiful one. These homes are not weakened by the use of crooked beams, but made even stronger by the interweaving.

Among the 21 structures are a kabuki stage, a warehouse on stilts, and a water mill. All the buildings are set in natural surroundings with tools and furnishings of the period. You can't step on the thresholds or wooden floors, but you can wander inside. If you close your eyes and use your imagination, you can almost become part of the past.

There is a small museum in the middle of the park, along with the bathrooms and vending machines. Add a pond, a botanical garden, a lovely fountain plaza, a small museum of Natural Science along with a Planetarium and you have the ingredients for a wonderful outing.

Minka-en is open from 9:30 am to 4 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. It is closed Mondays and Japanese holidays. When the Japanese holiday falls on a Monday, it is closed on Tuesday of that week as well. It is about a 15-minute walk from the southern exit of the Mukogaoka-yen train station on the Odakyu Line.

The entrance fee is Y300 for adults over 20 and Y100 for children from 6 - 19. An English language brochure is available. For those who like to stamp booklets, Minka-en has stamps that are distinctly beautiful, so you may want to take a plain notebook to stamp in.



**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa, then transfer to the Nambu line (Track 8). Take it to Noborito, exit and turn right Odakyu Line. Ride one stop Mukogaoka-yuen and go out the South exit. Leaving the station, follow the main street to Kawasaki Kaido. Daiei Department Store is on your left. Cross Kawasaki Kaido and continue on this street 900 meters. To return, use Track 3 or 4 at Mukogaoka-yuen to Noborito where you will go to Track 1 to return to Tachikawa.

**CAR DIRECTIONS:** Follow directions to Tama Lodge. Proceed to the first major intersection that is just past Jolly Pasta Restaurant and Sundays Sun Restaurant. From Tama Lodge, it will be about 9 – 10 km. You will see a sign above the street that says Nihon Minka-en and it will point towards the right. There is also a Daiei Department Store on the left. Turn right as the sign says. Go straight, which will lead you directly into the parking lot. Parking fees are Y300 for two hours, Y400 for three hours, and Y500 yen for over three hours.

Dee Wichman, Margaret Summers

## Yuushuukan at the Yasukuni Shrine

Japan opened a museum in 1985, and recently renovated it in 2002, at the Yasukuni Shrine to commemorate the wars that Japan has fought and to honor the soldiers who died for Imperial Japan. Many countries, especially Asian neighbors, strongly disagree with Japan's interpretation of history and, unfortunately, the museum does nothing to change the situation. However, for those interested in the history of Imperial Japan, a visit to the Yuushuukan is interesting; it is an opportunity to see the uniforms, hardware and artifacts left by a Japanese military power that influenced, and for a while, dominated most of Asia.

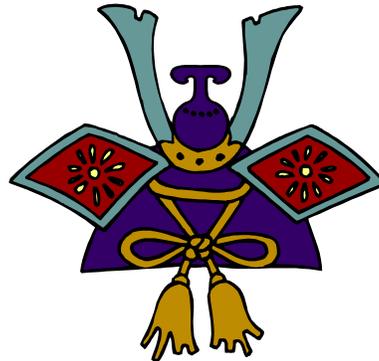
Each room of the museum is dedicated to a different campaign or war in Japanese military history. Did you know Japanese Civil War soldiers wore hats and uniforms similar to U.S. Civil War soldiers? There are displays on Japan's Civil War, the Seinan War in 1877, the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, the Hokusin "incident" in 1900, the Russo-Japanese War from 1904-1905, and Japan's role in World War I. However, the largest exhibit is on the "Great Asian/Pacific War" (better known to Americans as World War II) and Japan's war with China from 1937 to 1945.

There is a "Judy" bomber aircraft on display and the kaiten one-man torpedo/submarine captured in the mouth of Pearl Harbor and permanently on loan to the museum by the U.S. Army. A visit to the Yuushuukan will be a visit long remembered.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Toei Shinjuku Subway Line from Shinjuku Station and get off at Kudanshita Station. Exit the station at the west end and walk up the hill towards the largest torii in Japan. This torii is very old and made of bronze. Walk through the second (smaller) bronze torii and go right through a grove of cherry trees, just before the main shrine. Beyond the trees, you'll see a Japanese naval gun, an air defense gun, and an old steam locomotive. The building behind

the outdoor exhibit is the museum. The building behind the outdoor exhibit is the museum. The admission is Y300 for elementary & jr high students, Y500 for high school & college students and Y800 for adults. It is open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. See [www.yasukuni.or.jp/english](http://www.yasukuni.or.jp/english)

Roger Eggert. Updated Sept 2002.



## The Japanese Sword Museum

The Japanese Sword Museum offers a unique opportunity to see some of Japan's ancient samurai swords and national treasures. The museum has over 120 swords and sword fittings on display, some dating back to the 10th century. There are many examples of exquisitely created sword fittings that have been inlaid with precious metals and semiprecious stones. The fittings are intricate works of art that rival the blades themselves. There are also periodic displays of samurai armor and ancient weapons.

Opened in 1968, the Japanese Sword Museum is part of the Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (The Society for the Preservation of Japanese Art Swords). The society has an international membership of over 9000 members and they publish a quarterly journal in English entitled Token Bijutsu. For those not familiar with Japanese swords, a visit to the museum provides a basic background of the different types of swords and how they relate to Japan's history. You will come away with a deep appreciation of the cultural significance of the Japanese sword.

Following WWII, Japan's post-war military laws prohibited ownership of weapons and many Japanese swords were confiscated and destroyed. It was during this period that the Japanese sword faced its greatest crisis – the art of sword-making was forbidden – and many priceless ancient swords were in danger of being destroyed. Some of Japan's most important swords were hidden or taken out of the country so they could be preserved. When Japan's post-war laws were changed, many swords were removed from hiding and returned to Japan. American families donated some of the swords on display. All of the swords on display in the Japanese Sword Museum fall into one of three categories: important art objects, valuable cultural properties, or National Treasures.

The museum is open 9AM–4PM, closed Mondays and December 28-January 4. Admission is Y500 for Adults, Y300 for Members & Students, and children are free.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Odakyu Line from Shinjuku Station to the second stop, Sangubashi Station. From there, the



museum is a short 10-minute walk. Go left out of the station, up the hill and follow the sidewalk along the east side of the Shuto Expressway toward Shinjuku. After about 200 meters, you will see a street leading through a parking lot under the expressway. Turn left on this street under the underpass. Turn right just past the parking lot and follow the street as it winds left. The museum building is a short distance ahead on the left side of the street. The admission fee is Y200 for students and children and Y500 for adults.

Roger Eggert

## Transportation Museum

Originally a train museum, the Transportation Museum will delight train buffs! Visitors can see and feel everything from an early Emperor's train to the modern "bullet" train, the Shinkansen. Climb in the engineer's seat of an old steam locomotive. Sit in the wooden passenger cars the engines used to pull.

Other original vehicles and modes of transport are also collected and exhibited at the museum. By viewing the collection of important documents and seeing original models from the history of railroads, automobiles, ships and airplanes, one can observe the development of each vehicle and its importance to man. There are also special events commemorating the sea, the Day of Aviation, New Year's Day, Children's Day and summer holidays.

The museum is open daily except Mondays, from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Admission is until 4:30 pm. It is closed from December 29 to January 3. If a legal holiday that falls on a Sunday gets celebrated the following Monday, the museum is also open on those days.

**DIRECTIONS:** The museum is very close to Ochanomizu station. The station is the second stop after Shinjuku on the Chuo Line. Go out the right side and walk along the right side of the tracks in the direction the train is heading. After three blocks, you will see old trains on your left which make up the outdoor part of the museum. Admission fees are Y250 for adults and Y150 for children 4 - 12 years. Groups of more than 25 receive a 20% discount.

Carol Ingmanson, Luann Myers



## Bicycle Museum

If you're a serious cyclist, check out the Bicycle Culture Center in Toranomon near the American Embassy. The tall narrow building contains an information room on the 3rd floor, a museum in the 2nd floor Display Gallery and an event hall on the 1st floor. A local route map with towns in "English" can be bought in the Display Gallery in addition to books in Japanese about cycling in Japan.

Admission is free; the hours are 10 - 4 weekdays, closed weekends and holidays. Tel. 03-3584-4530.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome/Chuo Line to Yotsuya, transfer to the Marunouchi subway and take it to one stop to Akasaka-Mitsuke. At Akasaka-Mitsuke, walk across the platform to the Ginza Line and go one stop to Toranomom. Try to get in the last car so that when you reach Toranomom, you can exit through the ticket booth and go up the stairs opposite to the street. Once above ground, walk (right) toward the NCR building past the Alitalia and other Airline offices. Cross the street. Just past the NCR building, turn left on the narrow street with the gas station. Turn right on the second street. The building with the Bicycle Culture Center will be on your left. It's known as Jitensha Kaikan No. 3.

Teresa Negley

## Edo-Tokyo Metropolitan Museum

The Edo-Tokyo Metropolitan Museum is located behind the Kokugikan Sumo Stadium. Walk up the steps to a huge concrete plaza with a few ticket booths and then ride up the enclosed escalator.

The museum is different from most in Tokyo because it also includes the eras during and after World War II. The theme is the transition from feudal Edo to modern Tokyo, starting with a stroll across the old Nihombashi Bridge at one end of the Ginza. After viewing scrolls and castletown exhibits, you can peek into the lives of average Edo residents, recreated in life-size models. You can also see a Kabuki stage up close before moving into the Meiji period. Remember to look under your feet at a glassed-over exhibit.

For a ¥3,000 deposit, radio headsets can be rented which narrate more or less the same descriptions provided in English near each exhibit (be sure to get a brochure of the museum in English). Spacious, dark, and air conditioned, the museum is a good place to go on a hot or rainy day.

It's open from 10am-6pm, closed Mondays. Admission is ¥500 for adults and ¥250 for students. If you're hungry, there is a coffee shop with a skyline view of Tokyo on the top floor in the museum in addition to a Japanese style restaurant. Then on the ground floor where you exit the museum, there is another restaurant just next to the gift shop.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Ochanomizu, cross the platform and take the yellow Sobu Line 3 stops to Ryogoku. Depart the station via the central exit and turn right. The large rounded concrete building in front of you is Kokugikan, the sumo stadium, and to the right is the museum.

Teresa K Negley. Directions Confirmed 5/02



## Fukagawa Edo Museum

If you're looking for something interesting to do on a rainy day weekend or American holiday, try the Fukagawa Edo Museum in a Tokyo. The museum is a reproduction of a part of Tokyo in the mid 1800's. As you walk in, it's like entering a time warp. The lighting and the sounds are constantly changing to represent the different times of the day. You'll see the vegetable and rice stores, boat house tavern, canal boat, fire tower and tenement homes. The buildings are life sized and open, so you can go in, see and touch the things that made up the Japanese peasant's life.

Try working the rice pounder and imagine bouncing up and down on it for eight or ten hours a day. Don't let the chicken over your head peck you! Sit at the hibachi in the boat house and pour tea from the iron kettle. Examine the blue and white pottery. Don't miss the back alleys, tiny gardens and even the village commode. Be sure to wear shoes you can easily slip on and off because you should not wear your shoes in the houses.

When you've finished prowling through the buildings, spend a few minutes viewing the movies about old time crafts and occupations in the adjoining room. They're in Japanese but interesting to watch.

An English language guide book can be purchased for ¥500 that tells about each room and the people who might have lived there. For example: "I was less than ten years old when I left my province to come to Edo. I was introduced by a distant relative to my master and apprenticed myself at his main shop in Kuramae. I worked there diligently for more than twenty years, and then my master entrusted me with the management of this rice store because he liked my personality and hard work. I was a little over thirty years then.... Yes, I'm quite happy living here. I have a good, hard working wife and two reliable workers who come to help pound the rice. My only worry is that Sadakichi is still young. I'm old now. Our life expectancy is about fifty, you know. (Ten more years, 'I tell myself everyday,' until Sada becomes old enough to run this store. Then, I can relax.) I must brace myself if I am to survive ten more years."

The museum is open 10am to 5pm daily except for the New Year's holiday, and a few days a year designated from time to time for administrative purposes. Admission is ¥300 for adults and high school students, and ¥50 for elementary and junior high students. Tel. 03-3630-8625.

The Kiyosumi Garden is also worth a stop. Originally constructed in 1891, it is a typical landscaped garden of the Meiji period. There are bridges, ducks, a lake and places to picnic. Admission ¥100, I think. From the mural, walk away from Monzen Nakacho subway station. At the corner turn left. Walk about a block and the entrance will be on your left. And do you still have energy and time? Back in the vicinity of the subway station is the Fukagawa Fudo temple and a block away a large shrine. A local fair the 1st, 5th and 28th of every month features street vendors selling almost everything.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line toward Tokyo. At either Mitaka or Nakano stations change to the Tozai Subway. Get off at Monzen

Nakacho, 11 stops after Nakano. Take Exit 3. At the top of the stairs turn left. At the corner turn left again. At the corner (Eidai Dori and Kiyosumi Dori), turn left again. Ahead you'll see KFC and McDonald's signs. Walk down Kiyosumi Dori for five blocks under concrete expressways and past street corner playgrounds on the left. You'll cross a bridge with triangular shaped paintings and pass a sitting statue of the poet, Basho (both on the left). After you pass a groundskeeper's entrance to Kiyosumi Park and a police box (on the left again), there will be a series of stores. Keep walking. Just before another playground on the left, you will see a small mural of Kiyosumi Park next to public restrooms. Cross Kiyosumi-Dori (to the right) and walk down the street with 2 stone lanterns at the entrance. You'll see the modern four story museum (with its sign in vertical kanji) on the left past a temple about a block down. If you don't want to walk 15 minutes, you can catch any bus that stops in front of the Pachinko Parlor next to McDonald's. It costs ¥160. Get off in three stops at the Kiyosumi Koen stop. Listen carefully to the announcements because the bus won't stop if no one wants to get off or on. At the stop you'll see the mural mentioned above.

To return, you can either walk back to Monzen-Nakacho station on the Tozai Line, or continue down Kiyosumi Dori to Morishita Station on the Toei Shinjuku Line. The distance is about the same as to Monzen-Nakacho but on the right hand side of the street. (About a block after another bridge and the Nissan dealer on the left, there is a series of small Japanese stores selling pastries, Japanese sweets, etc.) Morishita Station is on the far left corner of the large intersection at Mayosumi-Dori and Shin-Ohashi Dori.

Barbara Kirkwood, Teresa K. Negley



## NHK Broadcast Museum

If you've ever wondered about the history of broadcasting in Japan, the NHK Broadcast Museum is the place to go. It has three floors of exhibits ranging from the first public radio transmitter used by NHK to the first TV camera they used, as well as old radios and many other historical items. One interesting display is the recording of Emperor Showa's address to the nation announcing the end of World War II. Another fun room has a number of interactive components where you can pretend to use a teleprompter with a blue screen in the background to put yourself in another scene, and an area to practice sound effects for radio broadcasts.



**DIRECTIONS:** From Shinjuku take the Yamanote line south to Ebisu. Transfer to the Hibiya subway and go towards Hiroo (New Sanno). Two stops past Hiroo get off at Kamiyacho Station. Go out Exit 3 and turn right. Do not cross the intersection. Take a right at the first light. Immediately before the tunnel take the stairs on the left hand side of the road up to the museum entrance.

Brian Marriott 11/01

## NHK Studio Park

This museum is a fun way to spend an hour or so during a day of shopping and dining in busy Shibuya. And it gives the men a break from department-store overload! The tour gives visitors a look at the latest developments in the media, including various program production technologies. The interactive displays are fun for both children and adults. Displays include a 3D Hi-Vision theater, a dubbing studio where you can read the voices for animations and dramas, and a try-it-yourself studio where you can give the weather forecast or be a program presenter.

Open 10:00am to 6:00pm (enter before 5:30pm). Closed third Monday of each month (Tuesday, if Monday is a national holiday). Also closed December 25-31. Open every day in August. Admission is Y250 for adults and Y150 for junior/senior high school students. Elementary school and younger are free.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the JR train to Shibuya Station and go out the Hachiko Plaza exit. From Hachiko Plaza, walk up the street and you see the Seibu and OIONE signs on. (between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> TV counting from the right.) At the second light the road will "Y" with an OIOI store in the middle of the branch. Bear to the left here. Follow this road straight to the end. The NHK Broadcasting Center is a complex of three buildings across the street straight ahead and to the left.

Kristen Marriott 12/01



## Takagi Bonsai Museum

The Bonsai Museum is part of the Meiko Shokai Corporation, and was founded by company President Reiji Takagi to share his great love for bonsai with the world. Opened in 1994, this museum is the first of its kind in the world dedicated to bonsai. Exhibits change about every 10 days to reflect the best seasonal variations. The museum maintains a collection of

over 300 bonsai; their signature piece is a 500-year old pine bonsai. The museum also houses a large collection of rare ukiyo-e (woodblock) prints, displays of antique pots from Japan and China, and a lovely open-air rooftop garden.

The Bonsai Museum is on 3 floors, and afterwards you can enjoy a complementary beverage in an in-house coffee shop. There you'll find bonsai books, videos, and a display showing products made by the Meiko Shokai Corporation.

The museum is open 10:00AM – 5:00PM, closed Mondays (Tuesday, if Monday is a national holiday). Admission is Y800 for adults and Y500 for students. Tel. 03-3262-1640.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome/Chuo Line from Fussa Station to Shinjuku. You may have to transfer at Tachikawa to catch a Tokyo-bound train. At Shinjuku, change to the JR Soubu Line and go towards Tokyo. Exit at the Ichigaya Station (between Yotsuya and Idabashi). Go out Exit A2 and turn right on Nihon TV Street (walking uphill, away from the moat). Take the first left (a narrow road with no stoplight), and the museum will be on your right. You'll see lion statues guarding the entrance. The museum is just a 1-minute walk from Ichigaya Station.

Kristen Marriott 11/01

See Bonsai Town under Arts & Crafts for more bonsai information.

## Ome Railroad Museum

A tour of Ome Railroad Museum (Nagayama), nestled in the hills above Ome, is a treat for the young at heart. Numerous old engines and passenger cars invite fans to climb on board. A 1969 Shinkansen (bullet train) begs a would-be engineer to take the throttle. The highlight is to see the indoor model trains. They run at 10 and 11am and 1, 2 and 3pm. The museum houses many exhibits. Outdoor toy train and car rides cost Y100 each. The museum is open 9am to 5pm, closed Mondays and Dec. 29th to Jan. 3rd.

The beautiful park near the museum welcomes anyone ready for a leisurely stroll. Several playgrounds where children can romp are an added attraction. With only a small snack bar available, I would recommend bringing a picnic lunch. There are several places to sit and take in the scenery of Ome.

**DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN:** Catch the Ome line from Fussa bound for Ome or Okutama, and get off in Ome. From the station, turn left up the first street. Follow that street until you come to the first street that crosses the tracks on the left. Turn left and go across the railroad tracks. Follow the winding street up the hill. It is kind of steep and the walk up takes about 15 minutes. The railroad museum is at the top of the hill. There are several signs along the way. They are in Japanese but they do have pictures of trains on them. The railroad museum is on the right; the park is on the left at the top of the hill. Make sure you wear comfortable shoes. It is a bit hard for smaller children, so you may want a stroller. The walkways in the park near the museum are fairly smooth and some are paved. You can get back to Ome through the park. Walk along a path that parallels the tracks, back to the road that crosses the tracks.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Set your odometer to 0 as you exit the Terminal Gate, turn right onto Rt. 16. Stay in the right lane and go under the overpass. At 2.7km turn left onto



trian crosswalk. You will go under the crosswalk, then make a 45-degree right turn (not the hard right) to continue on Ome Kaido. Follow the blue signs to central Ome. As you turn, a tire store will be on your left. The road becomes Kyu Ome Kaido. Just before you get to central Ome turn right on Nariki Kaido. This turn has a store called Yaoki Gift Fruits on the diagonal left. Go on Nariki Kaido to the first light (by the school) and turn left onto a very small street. Follow that street and bear left at one fork going up the hill. The Railroad Museum (Nagayama) will be on your left at the top of the hill and the parking lot is on the right. You will be coming up the hill the opposite way of the walking directions.

Nagayama is close to Yokota and is a pleasant drive on almost any afternoon that you are free. It only takes about 35 minutes from the Terminal Gate and is easy. The area has a lot of pretty plum trees and is quite beautiful in March. And in the fall, the leaves of the trees change color to make a beautiful sight!

Sondra Halweg, Christine Thomas

## Ome Art Museum

# 青梅市立美術館

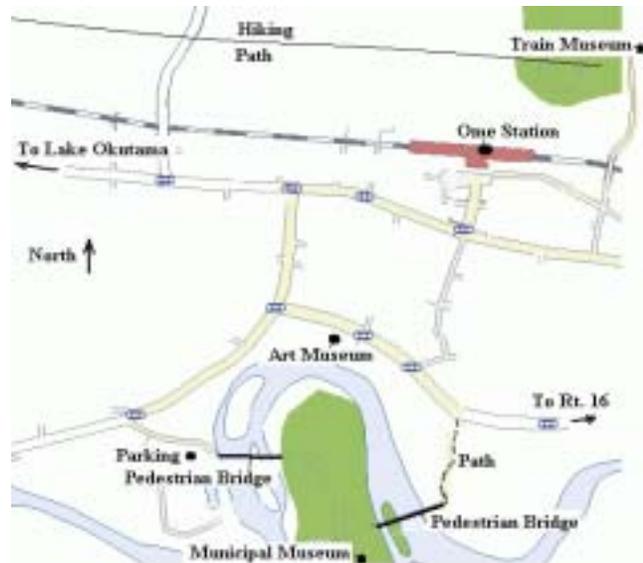
## Ome Municipal Museum

# 青梅市郷土博物館

A pleasant afternoon can be spent in Ome visiting the Ome Art Museum and the Ome Municipal Museum. When we visited, the Ome Art Museum had a small display of pieces in a variety of style from ink to watercolor, mostly from the 1930's through the present. On the first floor was a room with artwork done by school children in a near by park. It costs 200 Yen, and is closed Mondays. After going to the art museum, we walked across the Tama River, through a wooded park beside the river, and visited the Ome Municipal Museum. Everything is in Japanese, but you can look at a variety of artifacts from arrowheads to farming equipment. They have a 250 year old farm house that you can go inside and look at the way people lived. This museum is free.

**Train Directions:** Take the Ome line from the Fussa Station away from Tokyo and get off at Ome (14 minutes, 160 Yen/person) Walk straight out of the station to the first light ("Ome Sta" intersection) an turn right. Go to the second light (411, Ome Shinimkaika Int) and turn left. At the next light (Ome Civic Hall S. intersection), cross the street and turn left onto Ome Kaido Road. The art museum is a two story white brick building a short way down on the right. The name is in kanji (above) on the wall. After going to the art museum, go back to Ome Civic Hall S. intersection and turn left (away from the station.) The first small street past the next light takes a very sharp turn down a hill. Go down the hill to a parking lot. Cross the pedestrian river. Wander downstream and you will see the Ome Municipal museum short way past the next pedestrian bridge.

**Driving Directions:** At the Terminal Gate, set your odometer to zero and turn right and go under the overpass. Turn left onto Ome Kaido Ave, (Hakonegasakinishi Intersection, the 4th light after the underpass, appx 2.8 km from terminal gate. McDonalds is on far left corner.) You will wind along Ome Kaido all the way to the lake. At 8.3km, take the left fork at the Y. Follow the signs for Okutama. Just before 10.6 km you will pass the Ome Art Museum on the left. At 10.6km, the road ends (Ome Civic Hall S. intersection). Turn left. At the first tiny street past the next light take a very sharp (almost u-turn) left, down a hill, there is a free parking lot at the bottom of the hill along the river. From here you can walk to both museums.



## Iruma City Museum ALIT

About fifteen minutes away, there is a wonderfully modern museum in a landscaped setting. The museum is divided into several parts: in one gallery, art by local artists is displayed ranging from fifty-foot long water paint murals to oil paintings. Upstairs, a smaller Children's Science Room is arranged with hands-on models including the effects of visual illusion through mirrors and a gyroscopic experience using bicycle wheels. Next door, a life-size exhibit of local plant and animal life reflects the natural setting of Iruma as it evolves from dawn through twilight and night. The history of the area is shown through displays of local archaeological finds, feudal periods, the clothes of local, townsmen, silk production models, etc. A ramp leads to exhibits on tea, a most important product of Iruma. Life-size models of family rooms in China and Tibet show the differences in lifestyles and how tea is preserved and drunk in different cultures. Glass display cases enclose teapots and English teacups ranging from those with large saucers to smaller porcelain items. A full-size replica demonstrates the simple designs of a traditional teahouse with thatched roof (the low doorways and narrow rooms inhibited the drawing of swords in a feudal society of five hundred years of war). Films on tea and other subjects can be viewed in a museum theater. Teacups and local merchandise can be pur-



chased in the museum gift shop and a restaurant is also on the grounds.

Although English-language explanations are not present on all displays, an English brochure includes introductions on the permanent exhibits, building layout, and museum grounds.

**Hours:** 9-5 Closed Monday (Tuesday if Monday was a holiday. Closed 4th Tuesday of month and 12/27-1/5 for New Years.

**Cost:** 200 Yen/Adult. 100 Yen/high school/university student. 50 Yen/Jr high/elementary student.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate and head north on Rt. 16 via the underpass. Turn left (west) at the first light past route 219. (7.3 kilometers from the terminal gate and just prior to a large sign reading "AUTOBACS" on the left. If you get to Crystal Park (on right) you have gone too far.) Take a LEFT (south) at the first light (There is a 7-eleven on the corner.) The museum is about 0.4 kilometers on the left. It has a large parking lot just past an entry gate.

The address for Iruma City Museum Alit is 100 Nihongi, Iruma. Tel. No. 0429-34-7711.

Teresa Negley, Sumiko Evans 9/97  
Directions updated by Brian Marriott 2002

## Mount Mitake

Secluded in this small rural village is the small Gyokudo Kawai, a Japanese artist whose displayed work captures the essence of Japanese painting. Admission to this museum and garden is Y300. A few prints and sets of post cards are for sale. Serious artistes might find the books illustrating Gyokudo's technique appealing.

**DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN:** From Fussa station, catch the train bound for Okutama and exit at Mitake station. When exiting the station go to the left. After about a block you will come to a bridge crossing the Tama River. In the distance you will see a suspension bridge. Two paths lead to the museum. Facing the suspension bridge, the path to the right, across the main bridge, leads directly to the art museum. The path from the left approach begins a short way down the road.

In addition to the art museum, you can find a boulder to perch upon and watch the kayakers and fishermen. Cross the suspension bridge and you will see restrooms. A short ways ahead is a small trout fishing pond.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Follow Okutama Kaido (Rt. 411) out of Fussa, toward Mitake. Just before the bridge crossing into Mitake is a winding road that ends in a small parking area near the art museum. Parking is also available near the trout pond for Y500. The museum is open year round 10am to 4:30pm. It is closed for the Holidays from Dec. 25th to Jan. 4th.

The mountaintop shrine, Mitakedaira, is also a delightful getaway to fresh air and exercise. If you go by train you will need to take a local bus or taxi to the cable car (otherwise it is a 50 min. walk). You can get bus information and a map of the area outside the train station to the left.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR (for Mitakedaira):** Continue up Okutama Kaido, until you see the huge red Torii Gate on the left. Turn under the Torii and continue up the road. Parking is available in several places. The cost is around Y900

per day. The uppermost lot is where you can board the cable car to ascend up the mountain. The cost is Y560 one-way or Y1070 round trip, but is well worth it. A small chair lift for an additional Y50, will take you up to another level, but the walk is pleasant and winds through the mountaintop village.

We took the main trail to the mountaintop shrine area. The shrine itself is not as spectacular as some, but the view is fantastic and the clean air is a joy. There are several restaurants and souvenir shops along the way, or you can bring a sack lunch.

Kathleen French, Ann Bowers 10/96



## Ozawa Brewery

Ozawa Brewery makes Sawanoi Sake. Sawanoi Sake is one of the best selling sakes made in the Kanto Plain. Family owned and operated for over 300 years, the Ozawa Brewery is located at the base of Mount Mitake on Ome Kaido in Ome. The brewery is just steps away from Sawai Station on the Ome line. Tours are provided (only in Japanese) from 11am to 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday. There is some literature available in English.

Three restaurants are within walking distance and have gardens with outstanding views. Two of them serve meals and popular snacks at moderate prices. The third restaurant, Mamagoto-Ya serves an elegant Kyoto style dinner.

**DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN:** Take the Ome line to Okutama. Ome station is 5 stops from Fussa and Sawai station is 6 stops beyond Ome. Train takes about 45 minutes.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Turn right out of the Terminal Gate, heading north on Rt. 16. Go under the underpass, travel a few blocks and turn left onto Ome Kaido (McDonald's and Bikkuri Donkey restaurant on the left) and follow it all the way. Near Higashi-Ome station the road jogs - if you find that you end up on Okutama Kaido, continue in the same general direction (WNW) and the road will intersect with Kyu Ome Kaido. Turn left and continue, you are now back on Ome Kaido. The train station will be on your right, Tama River on the left and mountains straight ahead. The trip takes about 45 minutes one way.

Phillury Platte, 10/96



# Day Trips from Fussa

## Hakuunzan

For a day of hiking, picnicking, and looking at small temples, drive 50 minutes to Hakuunzan (White Cloud Mountain), located in the Naguri Valley northwest of Yokota. On a 3,100-ft peak overlooking the valley stands the Torii Kannon Temple with three tall statues dominating the landscape. At least 17 other interesting structures such as shrines, gates, towers, statues, and pagodas are located on the hillside. Many people park their cars and walk the trails that meander through the forest areas. Hiranuma Toko, a wealthy architect, designed the structures which were built between 1957 and 1977. A small temple was built at the foot of the mountain for his mother. To the left of the temple is a home for the Buddhist priest and to the right is a religious library building. There is a ¥300 parking fee. The parking lot is the start of a forty-minute four-mile hiking trail up the mountain. The trail provides a close look at structures, which cannot be reached by car. On the trail is a torii gate in front of a small Shinto shrine. A short distance away is another Buddhist temple with an impressive gate and two statues of mythical beings called "Niozo," who protect the temple from evil spirits. There is also a huge globe of the world which appears suspended in space, plus a Japanese-style arched bridge and covered picnic tables. To drive into the area and up the mountain costs ¥500 for Hakuunzan Offers Country Scenery cars and ¥200 for motorcycles. The road is not paved all the way, narrow in spots, and one-half kilometer from the entrance to the summit. An interesting gate named Gyoku-kamon will be passed on the way up. The gate was modeled after a gate in Thailand, is 34 ft tall, and was completed in 1969. There are many places to stop for a picnic. Next will be an unusual pentagon-shaped bell tower and a little further along is a three-tiered pagoda. Both are worth stopping at for a closer look. The main attraction is the temple with the three giant statues at the summit. To enter the temple, there is a fee of ¥200 for adults and ¥100 for children. At the top, you have a "birds-eye view" of the surrounding panorama. Stained glass windows provide lighting.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out of the Terminal Gate. Take the underpass, and turn left onto Ome Kaido (fourth light, 2.7km). At about 8.3km from the Terminal Gate (after a TV tower on the right), there is a Y-intersection before a tire store (Grand Slam Yamakawa). Go under the pedestrian overpass and turn right (Central Ome). Turn right again before the railroad tracks (Higashi Ome station) onto Nariki Kaido (9km).

Go through an intersection with Osogi-Kaido, bear left and stay on Nariki Kaido. Drive through the tunnel (12.7km), and at the Nariki 8 light (13.2km), turn right toward Naguri. The road winds up and down as it follows the Nariki River. After a Shell station, at the Nariki 5 light before a bridge, make a left with Nariki Kaido. Continue up through a long tunnel (Rt. 53, 20km).

At the Y-intersection (22km), go left. At the T (24km), turn right and go carefully over a narrow bridge, then turn left (24.8km), bear right on Rt. 53 for Chichibu (not Arima Dam).

Pass a gas station on your right, and at the large white sign hanging over the road (25.5km), turn left toward the Naguri Village Office and school (there's also a sign for a coffee shop on the corner). There is a series of red torii gates on the left, before the entrance road to Hakuunzan, on the left, between two big red stone lanterns (26km, sign with red arrow).

Sharon Chang, Teresa K. Negley, Doriann Geller, Delores Street 8/97

## Little Edo a.k.a. Kawagoe

A great historical outing, a trip to Kawagoe located an hour and half drive north of Yokota can be combined with a browse through the shrine sale held each month at Naritasan Temple. Shoppers have purchased rice buckets, pottery, wooden items, brocade obi, and other items such as baskets and lacquer ware. The shrine sale antiques reflect the old buildings of Little Edo (the nickname for Kawagoe's old town), remainders of an older area which was not bombed during World War II.

After shopping, one can visit Kitain Temple around the corner from the shrine sale. Kitain became the main temple of a three-temple complex that prospered due to the friendship of Tenkai, head monk of the complex in 1599, with the first Shogun. Tokugawa Ieyasu. Following a fire in 1638, Kitain Temple was rebuilt with the assistance of Shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu who had part of Edo Castle relocated to Kitain. One ornate room with a floral ceiling is thought to be the room where he was born.

Diagonal to Kitain with its entrance next to a small shop is the place of Gohyaku Rakan or Five Hundred Buddhas. The Buddhas were made between 1781 to 1825 and all are different. They are approximately two and a half to three feet tall. It is said if you find a warm Buddha in the dead of night and mark that Buddha in a non-destructive manner before returning in the daytime, that statue will look most like you (we don't recommend marking statues in any way).

After looking around Kitain, head toward the streets of old town where the Kurazukuri buildings are located. The Kurazukuri symbolize old Kawagoe. These combination store/residence buildings, built by merchants are fireproof, having been constructed from a wood frame packed with clay and plaster. (Fire, next to earthquakes, is a Japanese person's greatest fear.) The 30 or so remaining buildings (out of 200) were mostly built after the Great Fire of 1893. The Osawa family owns Kawagoe's oldest kurazukuri built in 1793, now an Important Cultural Property (and shop specializing in folk art). It is located in Saiwai-cho along with the city-run Kurazukuri Museum and other kurazukuri protected by the city.

Kawagoe, as a castle town, protected the northern flank of Edo Castle (now the Emperor's palace in central Tokyo). An area blessed with resources, a powerful daimyo (martial ruler) was in charge of the Kawagoe domain. The Matsudaira family ruled Kawagoe for 100 years during which its production of rice reached one million bushels. Trade with Edo (now Tokyo) was done by boat using the Shingashi River.



Much of Tokugawa-era Kawagoe remains for you to rediscover. There are restaurants, small shops and museums throughout Little Edo, just a few blocks away from the shrine sale.

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive north on Rt. 16. For detailed instructions, refer to the article on the Kawagoe Shrine Sale in Shopping.

\*\*Compiled from OSC Tours materials by Teresa Negley and Yokosan story by Catherine L. Sadler  
Based on Kawagoe City Bureau of Tourism brochures, Cluck's Japan Inside Out, and Moriyama's  
Weekend Adventures Outside Tokyo

## Chichibu

The Chichibu area is a delightful destination for a weekend trip or a long one day jaunt to the countryside. There are many parks and points of interest. If you leave early in the morning you can be back by evening. Or, you can spend the night at Nagatoro, a major tourist spot.

**DIRECTIONS:** (Refer to a map of the Kanto Plain.) Turn right out the Terminal Gate onto Rt. 16. After Iruma and before Kawagoe, take the Kan-Etsu Expressway going north from exit #4. Travel north to exit six. Take the first left fork after the exit, heading north/northeast. About 2km along this road you will come to Musashi-kyaryo Forest Park, a lovely place for hiking and picnics.

Entrance to the Forest Park is ¥300. All-day parking is ¥500. There are many hiking and bicycling trails. Bikes can be rented for ¥300 for three hours. The park is open 9:30am-5pm, March-November; and 9:30am-4pm, December-February. It is closed on Mondays. There is also a children's animal park within the Forest Park.

Next, you can either return to the expressway and head north again to exit seven or stay on the main road you were on and head north to Route 140. In either case, when you reach Route 140, turn left and head west. About 20km or one hour from the expressway you will come to Nagatoro Gorge. You will see a city hall on your left. Go to the main intersection, turn right. Set out to explore the Chichibu area and go under a stone torii gate. Go to the end of this road where you will find a tram that goes up to a shrine. Hiking trails abound in this area, where it is said wild monkeys have been seen.

Back on Route 140, the road follows the river. There are several areas where you can park all day for ¥500 while you enjoy a boat ride or hike some more. There are many tourist hotels around Nagatoro. If you continue west, southwest on Route 140, you will come to Chichibu City. Antique lovers will be in heaven, since there are antique shops all over the city. Because this area was not bombed during the war, many fine old pieces still exist. There is a museum devoted to medicine and old fold remedies. As you enter Chichibu City look for the city hall.

Nearby Mitsumine is a really mountainous area filled with shrines, temples, an old stone Buddha, a four-hundred year old minka (farm house), and more hiking trails. Driving there is only for the stouthearted. It is a steep and curvy road, but the scenery is breathtaking.

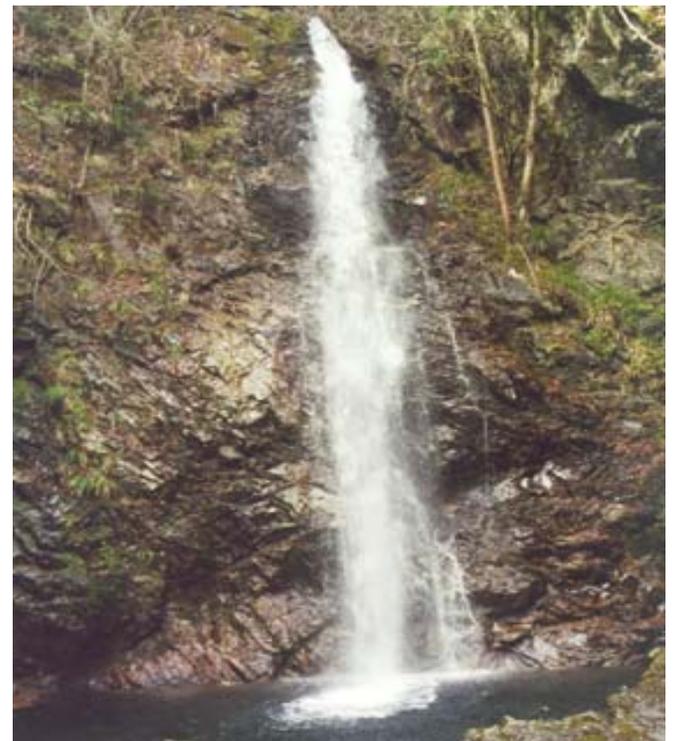
There's a toll road to Mitsumine and a side road to Nakatsugawa. Maps in kanji will be helpful should you need to stop and ask directions. However, it really is difficult to get

lost in this area. Route 140 generally follows the river. Any side road you take off Route 140 between Nagatoro and Chichibu will lead up the mountains, most likely to a shrine, temple, or something of interest. Take your adventurous spirit along and explore!

If you spend the night in Nagatoro and continue on to Chichibu the second day, you might enjoy returning via Route 299 through Hanno, well known for its many potters. Route 299, however, from Chichibu to Hanno is quite mountainous with many tunnels. Their views are exquisite and, of course, best enjoyed during daylight hours. These roads are also apt to be icy as late as March, so check the road conditions in advance.

If you want to visit Chichibu in the winter, check the local calendar for the exact date of their annual Hi-matsuri (Fire Festival). Usually the first week in December, they also hold a Yo-matsuri at the Chichibu Jinja Shrine. This is a night festival with elaborately decorated floats holding countless paper lanterns. During daylight hours kabuki and hiki-odori dancers perform on these same floats. This area is ready and able to provide a mini-vacation for all seasons.

Pat Nolan, Masumi Lawrence



Hinohara Falls, Photo compliments Brian & Kristen Marriott

## Hinohara Falls

One favorite Sunday drive is into the hills west of the base. In 45 minutes, we are parked and ready to hike up a gradual path to view the Hinohara Waterfalls. We've visited it in all seasons, and it's spectacular, plunging maybe 80ft over a wooded cliff into a shallow pool. The waterfall is worth visiting for several reasons. We have taken dozens of photos, the most striking is when it is mostly frozen over in the coldest part of winter. We have carried a lunch along to eat and watched visitors as they climb; men in hiking gear (unnecessary!), young ladies in high heels and miniskirts, mama-sans in their 80's,



and little kids. We have had fun offering to take photos of couples against the waterfall's backdrop and having our offer reciprocated.

We recommend you wear a comfortable pair of walking shoes. We found the path negotiable but muddy in the fall and slippery because of ice in the winter. As it is a shaded, rocky area, it tends to be cooler than the surrounding countryside, so dress warmly, too.

We recommend you time a Sunday drive for the late morning so the sun is high for photographs and the traffic hasn't jammed up yet coming back toward base (usually 3:00 to 5:30pm). In the summertime, go in late afternoon and take a picnic supper to eat as you take in the view. In the fall and winter, reward yourself with a warm drink at the coffee shop near the car park.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate (0km) and right at the 1<sup>st</sup> light. You are now on Tamabashi Dori, which changes to Itsukaichi-Kaido after you cross the Tama River bridge (2km). The road goes in a pretty straight line out to Itsukaichi, the first town in the hills (although it curves left after the bridge and merges right at 7km).

In the middle of Itsukaichi, you come to a "T" intersection in front of the train station (11.2km). Turn left and continue on through the town. You will see signs showing Hinohara ahead. At the "Y" (15km), stay to the left. When you come to another "T" intersection at Motoshuku (19.9km), turn right. In about a 1/2 km, just past a school crossing and opposite a bus turnaround (20.5km), turn left up a hill just before crossing the first bridge. After going over a narrow bridge, you may park in a small parking area near a rustic coffee shop or continue further up the road to a larger parking area. (Note: the Okutama Nature Map calls this the Hossawanotaki waterfall.)

From the lower car park, you will find the path to the waterfall after you walk back across the little bridge and go right. From the higher car park, follow the path that starts by the restrooms and meets the main path up to the waterfall. The easy hike will take maybe 15 minutes. Enjoy the exercise, the scenic beauty, and the friendliness of the other visitors.

Rod and Cheryl Mees 8/97

## Kanotoiwa Rock

Near Hinohara Falls is a beautiful rock cliff, with a narrow gorge through it cut by a clear mountain stream. You can climb on the rocks along the river and cross through the gorge on a narrow path beside the swift flowing stream holding onto a chain. Unless you see it, you will not know how beautiful it is. It also is a nice quiet place to sit by the river and contemplate, away from the crowds of the city. Getting there is a beautiful drive on narrow road through the woods.

**Directions:** Follow the directions to Hinohara Falls above. When you come to the "T" intersection at Motoshuku (19.9 km) turn right. Instead of turning left up the hill towards the waterfall, continue straight for another 3 km (24 km from base), until you come to a small sign pointing towards Kitaki-Gawa just before an arched blue bridge. Turn right, and follow the very narrow road along the stream. When you come to a parking lot on the right in 2.3 km, park your car and continue walking up the road towards the cliff for another 100 meters.

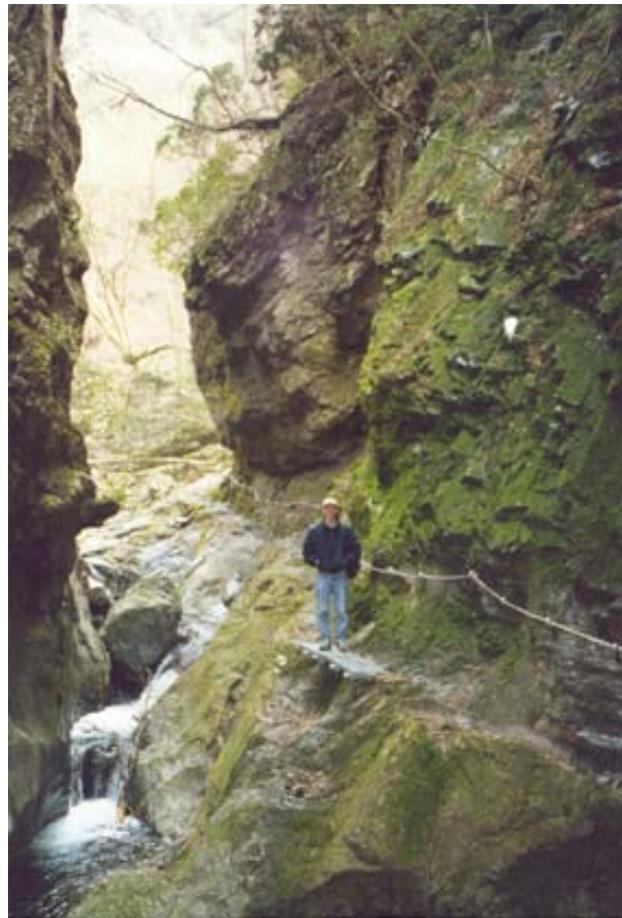
If you go over a bridge and through a dark, narrow, rocky tunnel, you can park your car on the other side of the gorge and approach it from the upstream side (not recommended).

Brian and Kristen Marriott 12/01

## Kitagawa Museum

On your way to Kanotoiwa Rock, you can stop and spend a few minutes at the small free nature/history museum that is about 0.4 km before the turn towards Kitaki-Gawa. (3.2 km past the "T" intersection at Motoshuku, 23.1 km from base.) The sign is in kanji. (It is helpful if you recognize the "museum" kanji.) There is a small parking lot cut into the cliff along the right side of the road. Go up two wide flights of stairs in the cliff to get to the entrance.

Brian and Kristen Marriott 12/01



Brian Marriott at Kanotoiwa, Photo Courtesy Brian & Kristen Marriott



## Tomin-no-Mori (Tokyo Community Forest a.k.a. Tokyo Citizens Woods)

In short, Tomin-no-Mori is a small area in the Chichibu-Tama National Park set aside for Tokyo citizens. There are five zones of forest introduced in nature seminars (edible plants, lumber, places where animals live, etc.), a bird-watching cabin, and hiking trails winding all over the place. A visitors center has a photo gallery showing the woods during the four seasons, plus a restaurant on the first floor and picnic tables on the second. A woodworking center is nearby.

The facilities are open 9:30am to 4pm (closed Mondays except during the summer) and there is free parking 8am-5:30pm. There may not be maps in English available at the site; refer below. (We obtained a wonderful map at another visitors' center; refer to Hiking in Sports.) To buy food in the Woody Restaurant, purchase meal tickets from the vending machine to the left of the door. (Soba noodles were ¥600 and spaghetti ¥850.)

**DIRECTIONS:** (Set your odometer to 0) Turn left out the Fussa gate and turn right at the 1<sup>st</sup> light toward Akigawa. This will merge at 7km into Itsukaichi Kaido. Turn left at the T in front of the Musashi Itsukaichi train station. The road will narrow at Konakano, the turnoff for the Black Tea House. At 15km, stay to the left of the Y. Note the road sign for Tomin-no-mori (26km to go), and the tall cedars lining the road. At 18.6 km there is a rest area with a large map of the area where you can pull over, use the restroom, look at the map, and look down at the mountain stream you are driving alongside. At 20km, turn left at the T to Kazuma, the road will wind. At the Y, turn right to Kazuma (28.5km, Kamikawanori Intersection). Drive past the village of Kazuma and a modern onsen hot springs center. (Sign for Mt. Mitohsan). Enter the old tollbooth for the Okutama road. There will be short green poles along the center of the road. At the light at 40.5km, turn left into the parking lot for Tomin-no-Mori just past the dark brown wooden gatehouse (and lookout tower).

The drive via Itsukaichi takes an hour and 15 minutes on a winding, mountain road. We have usually parked inside the entrance to Tomin-no-Mori. Since this parking lot is small, theoretically during peak seasons, a commuter bus will run from the various lots off the road before and after the entrance. To return to base, you can backtrack or continue around the lake. (See Lake Okutama via Itsukaichi Kaido.)

Teresa Negley, George Teitel 6/96



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## Lake Okutama via Itsukaichi Kaido

Spring usually arrives at Lake Okutama about mid-April. In the summertime, driving in the mountains provides welcome relief from the heat. For New England-style color, take the trip in autumn. Should you decide to brave the elements in the winter months, take chains to be prepared for icy roads. Also, take note that the toll road closes during the night and is only open from 8am-5pm. This is the scenic route to Okutama!

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** To drive to Okutama Lake, go straight out the Supply Gate onto Itsukaichi Kaido. After you cross Okutama Kaido and a small bridge, the road will curve right and narrow. At the "T", make a left and cross the bridge, continuing past a shrine on the right and a post office on the left to the town of Itsukaichi (approx. 25 minutes). At the next "T" intersection, there will be signs for Ome and Hinodemachi to the right and Uenohara to the left. Take the left for Uenohara and Hinohara. And left again to Hinohara, then left onto the Hinohara Kaido. Continue past a terraced cemetery and bear right toward Kazuma and Okutamako. As you approach Kazuma, there will be Japanese noodle restaurants (some with thatched roofs) along the road, plus a "Campbell" log house restaurant. Cross the bridge and enter a gate for the road through the mountains.

Several curves past the toll road gate, you may notice an entrance to Tomin-no-Mori (Tokyo Community Forest), established by the Tokyo Okutama government to introduce kids to nature. There are parking lots on both sides of the entrance that seem quite far away (you probably have to take a bus from the parking lot). As you continue on the toll road toward the lake, you will pass scenic lookout points, (some with picnic tables) and come to a light and a sign for Yama-no-Furusato-mura to the right. This compound contains a visitor center, campgrounds, and a small restaurant, plus hiking paths around a reservoir.



The road will gradually slope downward to take you to the north end of Okutama Lake. As you come off the toll road, cross the bridge and proceed to the first intersection, turning right toward Ome. You will cross a silver-white arched bridge, then a gold arch bridge, and go through several tunnels before you reach the Ogochi Dam. (To enter the dam/museum area, turn right around the traffic “triangle” just outside a tunnel and head up the slope to the right.) To head back toward civilization, continue toward Ome on Ome Kaido. As you go through Ome, you can also turn right onto Okutama Kaido to return to Yokota via Fussa. The entire trip will take about six hours.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** You can also reach Okutama (in 45 min.) by taking the Ome Line train from Fussa Station toward Ome/Okutama. You may have to transfer trains at Ome for an Okutama-bound train. Okutama is the very last station on the Ome Line.

Corrie Huggins, Teresa Negley and Susie Shaw

## Lake Okutama via Ome Kaido

If you're looking for a relaxing afternoon in the mountains, then Lake Okutama is for you. Surrounded by hills, the lake is a reservoir feeding the Tama River. For most of the drive, the river will be on your left. If you don't want to go all the way to the reservoir, find a place to park and work your way down to the river. Either way, bring a picnic lunch and some yen. There are souvenir stores where you can buy drinks and snacks.

**DIRECTIONS:** Depending on traffic, it takes about one and a half hours to drive to Lake Okutama. At the Terminal Gate, set your odometer to zero and turn right and go under the overpass. Turn left onto Ome Kaido Ave, (Hakonegasakinishi Intersection, the 4th light after the underpass, appx 2.8 km from terminal gate. McDonalds is on far left corner.) You will wind along Ome Kaido all the way to the lake. At 8.3km, take the left for at the Y. Follow the signs for Okutama. At 10.6km, the road ends (Ome Civic Hall S. intersection), turn right. Take a left at the next light 10.9km. (Ome Shinimkaika Int) This is still Ome Kaido. Pay close attention to the landmarks here for the return trip. At 19.5km, you will pass Mitake Station and the road becomes narrower. The river will be on your left. At 27km, you'll pass through the first of 11 tunnels. At 30.9km, after the fourth tunnel, Ome Kaido forks left. Stay with it. At 36.8km, there is an entrance to the dam area. Turn left here and follow this road up and around to the reservoir. There is free parking to the right. Enjoy your day!

Linda Coffman, Directions updated 7/02 by Brian Marriott

## Okutama Visitor Center

This center has the information you need to explore the area, especially if you are hiking or mountain climbing (English language maps available for purchase). A two-minute walk from Okutama Station on the JR Ome Line, the center is open 9am-4:30pm, closed on Mondays; 0428-83-2037. Some parking is available behind the center. See Hiking section in Sports and activities for more information.



## Nippara Caverns

For an outing with your family not too far from Yokota, head for Chichibu-Tama National Park and Nippara Caverns. It's a great place to take school-age children.

The caverns are well lit, but nothing like the commercialized ones in the U.S. There are steep stairs to various sections, but they are well protected with handrails and wire netting. Wear shoes with tread, as the pathways are always wet. The temperature is a constant 52 degrees, but short sleeves are fine to wear.

The Nippara Shonyu-Do is about 800m deep, with about 300m open to visitors. It consists of eight caves divided into two sections. The old caves, “Kyu-do,” were used as a training site for “yamabushi” or itinerant Buddhist monks at the Isseki-zan Shrine Temple for 1,200 years before the cavern was opened to sightseers. Visitors to the Kyu-do first purify themselves with water at the nearby waterfall and then offer coins to the guardian god enshrined in the cave. The new caves, “Shin-do,” were discovered in 1963 and have much finer stalactites and stalagmites than the “Kyu-Do.” Scientists estimate the caves were formed 5-7 million years ago. Entrance fees for the caves are ¥600 per adult; ¥400/middle school student and ¥250/elementary school student and younger.

It takes about an hour to drive there and another hour and a half to explore the caves. After you exit the cave, turn right past the parking lots and explore the area a bit. A gigantic wall of lime rocks, named “Bonteniwa” towers over the stream and along the road. There's a waterfall about a three-minute walk up the road. There are some trout fishing pools where anglers can try their luck and roast their catch for lunch. A refreshment stand is available where a few things can be purchased, but a picnic lunch is preferable.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right at the Terminal Gate and go north via the underpass. Turn left onto Ome Kaido at the fourth light, and stay on it for about 6km. In Ome follow blue Ome Kaido (Rt 411) signs carefully to Okutama. The road follows the south side of the Ome railway all the way to Okutama, the end of the line. Just past the sign for Okutama Station, you

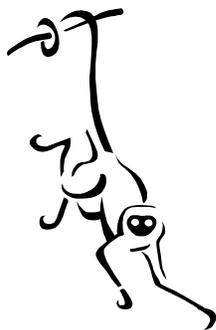


cross a bridge. At the end of the bridge, take a right in front of a Jomo gas. After you make this turn, you should begin to see signs saying Nippara Kaido. Follow this very narrow, winding road for about 10.5km. Along the way, you go through a long tunnel as well as Nippara village, which literally hangs on the mountainside. The road is paved to the end at the caverns, so when you see a parking lot, you have arrived. You will cross two or three bridges. After the last bridge the road forks left and right. Take the right fork to the caverns. (The left fork is a poorly maintained gravel road with no guardrails.) The road while paved and will maintained is extremely narrow with many switch-backs which are posted with convex mirrors to help you see around each bend.

On the return trip, turn left onto the Ome Kaido in Okutama and return to Ome. In Ome, follow signs for Tachikawa and Hachioji to be routed around the shopping area and back to the Ome Kaido toward Rt 16.

By train, take a train bound for Okutama on the Ome Line at Fussa Station. There is a bus from the station to Nippara.

Joyce McKim, Judy Erskine, Margaret Summers  
Directions updated by Jane Van Maldeghem 11/01



## Mount Takao

Mount Takao (Takao-san), about an hour and a half away, offers sightseeing and hiking. You can take a ten-minute cable car ride to the top and eat at one of two restaurants, both offering a breathtaking view (including Shinjuku, on a clear day of course)! The cable car is ¥810 round trip for adults or ¥420 one-way. The children's fare is ¥410 round trip, ¥210 one-way. You can also climb up one of several trails if you feel energetic. Make sure you have shoes that grip well, one trail follows a streambed and can be slippery. To the left of the cable car exit, at the top along the central path to the temples, there is a monkey zoo; a must if kids are along. Entrance is ¥400 for adults, ¥300 for children. On this main trail you will not need any special gear. Along the road to the cable car, you will pass a museum, open for 9am-4pm and closed the third Monday of the month, as well as December 28 to January 4. Takao-san itself is open year-round although the shops and restaurants may close in accordance with Japanese holidays. One notable festival is the firewalking (Yamabushi Hiwatari) held at the Yakuoin Temple near the summit on the second Sunday of March. (For details, refer to Festivals). Driving there is easy and there are a number of routes. I have found the following the fastest.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go south out the Terminal Gate toward Hachioji and set your odometer to 0. Turn right just after Keisho's Motorcycle Shop onto Tamabashi Dori at 1.5km. At 4.1, turn left at the stop light just after the top of the hill. There will be a blue sign just before the light directing you to Hachioji. Stay on this road as it turns and bends. You will pass Soka University and cross Route 411. The road will dead-end at the intersection with Route 20. Your odometer should read 10.8 and there should be a Royal Host restaurant on the right corner. Stay on Route 20 and follow the signs to Takao. At 12.8, make a right turn at the stoplight onto Koshu Kaido. Stay on Koshu Kaido and follow the signs to Takao. At one point the road will split. Take the left fork, again following the signs to Takao. At 17.4 you will pass the turn to Takao Station. Continue straight. At approximately 19.5km is the entrance to Takao-San Guchi. Up the hill past souvenir shops is where you will find the cable car and trails. Both before and after this entrance way are many public parking lots, all charging ¥1,000 for the day. We have found it easier to go past the entrance and long parking lines to a lot further up.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Getting to Takao-San by train is easy, recommended, and takes about one hour and fifteen minutes. Leave from Higashi Fussa and take the train to Hachioji. Change to the Chuo Line to Takao. Don't take the express train; the train should be marked "Takao" (in English). At Takao, change to the Keio Line for Takao-San by following the signs (in English) past the ticket booths. Take the train to Takao-San Guchi, the end of the line. The cost is about ¥440 one-way for adults.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Fuchu's Kyodo no Mori

### Municipal Museum and Park

Although you may not know it, nearby Fuchu was the capital of an ancient country known as Musashi Koku which included all of the Tokyo area and much of neighboring Saitama and Kanagawa Prefectures 800-1200 years ago during the Nara and Heian periods. This information and other details of local life were painstakingly investigated during local archaeological excavations. The results are displayed in an impressive modern museum based in a very large landscaped park next to the Tama River in Fuchu.

The museum building also contains a planetarium using astrovision and multi-sound effects in its 23m dome. After you've been dazzled by the stars, educated by the anthropological, cultural, and local flora/fauna displays, you can wander through the old buildings (Edo/Meiji Era) set across from the museum. There's an old-time pharmacy, school, and post office. Afterwards, you can have a cup of self-serve tea in the old Tanaka town residence.

Behind the old buildings lies the bulk of the park covered by over a thousand trees of 54 varieties. On a warm summer day, you can cool off by walking through the various streams. The park asks only that you respect nature by not throwing your trash around. There are a couple of picnic table armadas among



the plum orchards in addition to an area of tables next to a copy of Stonehenge near a pond and an obstacle course.

Admission to just the park is ¥50 (for adults, kids ¥30); ¥200 includes the museum (kids ¥100), and ¥500 the planetarium (¥250 for children). The park is open 9-5 (people cannot enter after 4pm) daily except for the first Monday of the month and December 28 through January 4. If the first Monday is a national holiday, the park will be closed on Tuesday instead. Telephone 0423-68-7921 for details.

Bring your picnic and enjoy a sunny afternoon. There's a small coffee shop to the right just inside the museum building and a snack bar near the farmhouses.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Although it doesn't seem like a difficult drive to Kyodo-no-mori (it's diagonal to the race-track across the river from Tama Hills), we took the trains and walked along a bicycle/pedestrian path known as the Shimogawara Gyokudo. Altogether, it took us just under an hour including train transfers and the approximately 20-minute walk from Fuchu Honmachi. To get there, we took the Nambu Line 5 stops from Tachikawa (Track 8) to Fuchu Honmachi Station (¥290 from Fussa or ¥310 from Higashi Fussa). We went up and down stairs and then to an exit to the right past a very large temporary racetrack exit on the left.

We departed the station and walked down the hill to the left, past a playground on the corner of Shibama Dori, to an Esso station on the left. Just past it is the Shimogawara Gyokudo with a "street" sign showing 1200 meters to Kyodo-no-mori (the signs show either a forest or an old style house). Turn left and follow this paved path behind people's backyards, past vegetable plots and playgrounds. At the sign showing 1000 meters, go straight and continue past the back of the Suntory Brewery and its thousands of beer bottles in plastic cartons on your left. Continue straight ("right" fork) past the statue of the girl holding her hat above her head at the "Y." The path goes under the Chuo Expressway and past rice paddies. When the path reaches a wide street with a large building enclosed within a white wall across from you, you've reached your destination. Cross the street and walk left past the bus stop around to the main entrance.

Return home from Track 4 at Fuchu Honmachi station via Tachikawa (end of the Nambu Line) and the Ome Line.

Teresa K. Negley

It is also an easy drive about 15 minutes from Tama Hills.

## Takahata Fudo Temple

If you don't have time to take the Shikoku pilgrimage, then head to Takahata Fudo Temple. One of the three famous Kanto Fudo temples, it is in nearby Hino, and there is a hiking course with 88 places in Shikoku.

Start in front of the pagoda. A path winds past the statues marked one, two, three and so on, up to an observation point on the hill, then down to the 88th and final statue at the small Daishido Temple building.

Takahata Fudo Temple was founded around the beginning of the eighth century and served the Imperial family. The temple had small rooms on either side of the altar, one for the common people and one for the upper class. The original temple was located on the top of the hill. When it was destroyed in a

storm in 1335, it was rebuilt in its present location. The Niomon Gate was built in 1342 and is now designated a treasure of Japan as is the Fudo Myo O statue in the building next to the office.

The five-story pagoda was completed in 1979. The new temple building was completed in 1987 and is a replica of the older structure. The 200-year-old ceiling with the painting of a dragon was transferred to the new building.

It is customary to stand under the dragon to make a wish and then clap your hands. If you hear the dragon roar (the vibration), the dragon will make your wish come true. The new building still features the chrysanthemum crest, which represents the royal family and indicates the royal family used this particular temple at some time in the past.

There are various monuments around the temple; on the hill just beside the pagoda is a "Nose Well," supposedly the spot where the nose of the Fudo deity landed when it was swept away in the 1335 gale.

Special talismans are available at various prices at the office. Some more popular items are sold to protect the owner from fires, illness and thieves, and to ensure easy childbirth, family harmony, successful business, and traffic safety.

There is a museum of antiquities in the basement of the pagoda. It is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm and costs ¥20. It is closed from December 1 through February 28. If the Ennichi Fair falls on a Monday, the museum is usually open.

A good day to visit is the 28th of the month when the regular Ennichi Fair is held. This temple is also a good place to observe New Year, Setsuban on February 3rd, and Buddha's Birthday on April 8th. A statue is decorated, and sweet tea, amacha, is poured on the statue. Participants pray for individual requests. Special parades for children are held on January 28th and April 28th to ensure safety and growth. Hydrangeas bloom in June, and Shichi-go-san is celebrated here on November 15th.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go right, out of the South Gate and set your odometer to "0". Go straight through two lights, and across a set of tracks. At the next light, stay with the main road, which bends to the right. Continue past a school on the left, and across railroad tracks (1.6 km) and make an immediate left onto a small street. At the stop sign, turn right. At the second light, (2.5 km) turn left. At the "Y" (fifth light), bear right. At the next light, the street ends in a "T"; a red brick building is in front of you. Turn right (3.3 km). At the next "T" (4.4 km) (a tiny street continues straight ahead and Suzuki Motorcycle is on the far right corner) turn left onto Shin Okutama Kaido, a large 4-lane street. (Rt 29) —(You can also get to here by going left on route 16 out the Fussa gate and left onto Route 29)

At 9 km, you will arrive at Tachikawa Five Corners. Turn right onto Rt 20 and cross the Tama River Bridge. At the first signal light after the river, bear right, away from the river. This road goes under the Chuo Expressway. At the next light (elevated monorail and small sign for Takahata), turn left (about 100 yds.) and go over a bridge. At 12.5 km, you will see a large Keio Department Store on your right and you'll cross



through a tunnel. Immediately after the tracks, turn right at the light. Takahata Fudo will be on your left, about 3 blocks after the light. Turn left into a small parking lot. Please note this is a popular temple and parking is scarce.

**BY TRAIN:** Take the train from Higashi Fussa Station to Hachioji. Leave the station and walk to the nearby Keio Hachioji Station. The station attendants can direct you. Get on the Keio Teito Line. Get off at the fourth stop, Takahata. As you exit the station, turn right and walk down the street about three minutes.

Barbara Kirkwood, Karen Sexton, Meg Gilster 2/97  
Directions updated 11/01 by Jane Van Maldeghem

## Odaiba Rainbow Town

For a fun day in a trendy, bright, clean neighborhood, take the train to Odaiba (aka: Rainbow Town) in southeast Tokyo. In the summer you can relax on a small man-made beach, rent a sailboat, and walk along a boardwalk reminiscent of Southern California beach towns. In colder weather you can enjoy the interesting architecture, restaurants, shops, and sci-fi activities. Several years ago the Waterfront Project was born, a grand scheme by the Tokyo Government that involved extending the landfill over Tokyo Bay to build a whole new neighborhood.

Just getting there is a treat in itself! The Yurikamome Line to Rainbow Town is unique in that there is no driver. No, that's not a typo...this is a fully automated train. It leaves the JR Shimbashi Station about every 5 minutes, crosses the Rainbow Bridge, and arrives in Rainbow Town about 20 minutes later.

The first station is **Odaiba-Kaihlin Koen** for the beach, as well as several shops and restaurants. Be sure to visit Fuji TV, the large sphere-shaped building. You can take an elevator up into the sphere for a beautiful view.

Two stops on is the Museum of Maritime Science. Get off at **Aomi Station** for the Palette Town amusement area. Stop at **Ariake Station** for the Tokyo Big Sight exhibition center and the Ariake Colosseum.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the JR to Shimbashi Station, then buy a new ticket for the Yurikamome Line. The Yurikamome Line costs from 180-370 yen, depending on how far you go. Watch for English/Japanese maps of Rainbow Town as you enter the station for the Yurikamome Line.

Kristen Marriott 11/01

## Exploring Yokohama

Yokohama, the maritime gateway to Japan, lies about 20km south of Tokyo. It has been little more than a century since the port was opened to foreign trade in 1859, with the arrival of Commodore Perry. Due in part to the constant inflow of Western culture, it is now one of the world's great industrial port cities and the largest port in eastern Japan. It is also the seat of the government of Kanagawa Prefecture. With a population of 3.1 million people, Yokohama is second in size only to Tokyo.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Yokohama by train, go to Hachioji from either the Ome line at Fussa or the Hachiko

Line at Higashi-Fussa. At Hachioji, change to the Yokohama line and sit back for the remaining hour-ride to Sakuragicho Station. (Shopping enthusiasts and those homesick for a real "mall" depart here.) Exit Sakuragicho Station and get on the moving walkway that leads to Yokohama's tallest building, the Landmark Tower. Take the fastest elevator in the world up 69 floors in 40 seconds flat for a breathtaking view of Tokyo Bay, Mt. Fuji and Yokohama. The cost is Y1,000 for adults, Y500 for students and Y200 for pre-schoolers.

### Dockyard Garden

Also worth exploring is the Dockyard Garden, featuring international cuisine at affordable prices. Landmark Hall offers unique exhibits in culture and art. For diehard mall fans, the Landmark Plaza is sure to cure your shopping blues. On the fifth floor is Yurindo, a bookstore with a large selection of foreign books.

### Motomachi Street

One hundred years ago, foreigners had to go to Motomachi Street to buy Japanese wares. It is now a bustling, upscale street lined with shops and restaurants. To get there, exit Ishikawa-cho Station's South exit, and head toward the waterfront and Yamashita Park. Motomachi Street begins within a block of the station.

### Chinatown

Chinatown is a definite must see for first-time visitors to Yokohama. It is an ideal place to eat with over 100 restaurants offering every imaginable Chinese cuisine. Or enjoy browsing through the exotic medicinals, spices and Chinese goods available. To get there, exit Ishikawa-cho Station's North exit and make a right at the first through street. Walk approximately five blocks until you run into Chinatown.

### Yamashita Park

This is the perfect place to take a break. It is the oldest harbor park in the country. It includes 17-acres of lawns, flowers and trees. The park offers an excellent view of the harbor. Permanently moored at the harbor is the Hikawa-Maru, a former passenger liner and hospital ship. For 30 years it operated as a transpacific ship making 238 trips across the Pacific. It now serves as a museum with aquariums, models, and a youth hostel. Open daily from 10am until dark, admission is Y700 for adults and Y350 for children. To get to the park, exit Ishikawa-cho Station's South exit and walk to the end of Motomachi Street until you get to Kaigan-Dori St. Turn left and walk to the Doll Museum where you can cross the street to enter the park.



### Cruises

You may want to take one of the forty or sixty-minute cruises. A shorter, 15-minute cruise is also available on the Seabass, which terminates at Yokohama Station. The cruises originate at the piers next to the Hikawara Maru passenger liner. Seabass passengers exit their tour of the harbor into the Sogo Department Store, one of the largest department stores in the world. The train station is in basement 2, (B2) of the Sogo, as is Seiko's Small World wall clock. Chiming on the hour with 20 international dolls, this clock is a crowd gatherer.

### Yokohama Museum of Art

Along with its regular display of notable works, Yokohama Museum of Art features monthly exhibitions of local as well as internationally acclaimed artists. To get there, get off at Sakuragicho Station and follow the directions to the Landmark Tower. The museum is just west of the Landmark Plaza.

### Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Building

This building chronicles the progression of Mitsubishi's seafaring technology and has several visitor-operated displays. Worth a visit is the do-it-yourself area on the second floor where you can try your hand at designing your own airplane or sailboat. It is located just west of the Landmark Plaza and situated next to the Yokohama Museum of Art.

### Silk Museum

At the Silk Museum you can learn about silk- where it comes from, how it is made into cloth, as well as the history of silk in Japan. The museum is on the second floor of the Silk Center building, which is located near Yamashita Park. The museum is open daily except Dec. 28-Jan. 4. Admission is Y300 for adults, Y200 for students, and Y100 for children.

### Yokohama Maritime Museum

If you enjoy sea navigation, Yokohama Maritime Museum is for you. After a 10-minute walk east of Sakuragicho Station, look for a small sign advertising the museum on your left.

### Yokohama Doll Museum

The Yokohama Doll Museum contains over 4000 dolls from Japan and around the world. The building is distinct with its shocking pink exterior and is enjoyable for children and adults alike. It is located directly across from the southeastern end of Yamashita Park.

### Yokohama Science Center

The Yokohama Science Center is a great place for children to experience "hands-on" scientific exhibits. There are four different "space" areas to explore: the Space Gym Floor, Space Laboratory, Space Theater, and the Space Factory. The Yokohama Science Center is open daily from 10am to 5pm, Sundays and national holidays, 9am to 5pm. It is closed Mondays, the day after a national holiday, and Dec. 2-Jan. 1. Ad-

mission fees are: adults- Y400, ages 6 to 15 -Y200. Space Theater admission is Y600 for adults and Y300 for ages 6-15. The science center is a three minute walk from Yokodai Station.

### Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise

Operating daily until November 30 from 8:30am to 10:30pm, Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise is the place to go for family fun. To get there, get off the train at Hakkeijima Station and cross the Kanazawa-hakkei Bridge that leads to Hakkeijima Island. The theme park takes up the entire island and includes a large aquarium and a carnival setting with over 15 attractions. Call (045)788-8888 for ticket prices or further information.

### Sankei-en Gardens

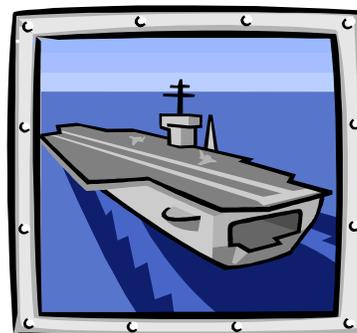
The gardens were originally built in 1906 by Tomitaro Hara, a noted millionaire of refined taste. Open to the public from the start, it was taken over by the Sankei-en Hosokai Foundation in 1953. Sankei-en consists of an inner and outer garden that is filled with ancient buildings that have been designated important cultural properties, such as a pagoda, tea arbor, guest house, and several other interesting structures that vary in age and style. The outer garden costs Y200 for adults and Y40 for children. In the outer garden is the Yanohara House, a 1650 farmhouse that you enter and wander around in for a minimal fee. The outer garden is open daily from 9am to 4pm except December 29-31. To get to Sankeien from Yokohama Station, go to the No. 2 bus area, and take a No. 8 bus. This bus circles back so you can take the same No. 8 bus back to Yokohama Station or get off at Chinatown.

As you can see, there is so much to see and do in Yokohama, you might want to pick up a complimentary sightseeing map of Yokohama at the information booth right outside of Sakuragicho Station.

Carol Woodcock, Norine Carter, Carol Ingmanson, Mary Meckley, Rita Mayer

## Kamakura and the "Infinite Light" Buddha

A display of ancient horseback archery known as yabusame highlights the Fall Hachimangu Festival held at Kamakura Sept. 15 and 16. This annual festival was dedicated to Minamoto-no





Yoritomo, the famous warlord who established the first shogunate in the 12th century, and relives the days of 12th century samurai. Dressed in the colorful traditional costume of feudal Japan, archers will shoot arrows at three small wooden targets about 50 centimeters square, while mounted on galloping horses.

Photos courtesy of Brian and Kristen Marriott. For more photos of Kamakura and other areas of Japan, check out the Marriott's web site at <http://www.marriottmd.com>.



The targets are about 75 meters apart along a 250-meter course in the shrine compound area. The first yabusame was held in 1187 to pray for the peace and prosperity of the nation. The god of war in the Shinto religion is Hachiman, and all warriors offered their prayers to him. Thus, the yabusame event was also an event to promote horsemanship and archery as spiritual training for the Kamakura warriors. The event now has become an annual autumn festival to ensure a good harvest and to dispel evil spirits.

The rise of the military class occurred during the Kamakura period (1192-1333), and it was during this same time that the first Japanese sects of Buddhism appeared. Most of the places of interest are connected with Zen Buddhism, the sect that found favor with the military class. The five great Zen temples (imitating the great five in Chinese Zen literature) are Kenchoji, Engakuji, Jochiji, Jufukuji, and Jomyoji. All are still active, and one can participate in Zen study and meditation at the Engakujo and Hokoku-ji Temples.

Once the proud capital of 12th and 13th century Japan, Kamakura is a favored tourist center and features 65 temples and 19 shrines. In addition to the temples and shrines, Kamakura offers a pleasant and peaceful environment nestled between the sea and woodlands. The numerous shops are intriguing to visit and one can find lacquered woodcarvings, Kamakura's best known product. Kamakura is well known for the great bronze Buddha (Daibutsu), which sits in peaceful repose in the Kotokuin Temple courtyard. The original enclosure was damaged in 1369 by a storm, as were the second and third wooden enclosures. The fourth was carried away by a tidal wave in 1495.

The open exposure permits one to view the magnificent work of art unhindered. The circular protrusion on the Buddha's forehead is made of silver and represents a jewel from which light is supposed to flow. The Great Buddha is a representation of Buddha Amitahba, the Lord of the Western Pure Land; Amitahba means "Infinite Light."

The proportions of the Daibutsu are so finely worked that, even though anatomically out of proportion, one feels an intimacy with the Buddha when standing on the ground and looking up to view its 44 feet in height. The head is inclined slightly forward and the Buddha is seated in the traditional meditation posture with hands laid in the lap with palms and thumbs touching, which represents the Buddhist sign for steadfast faith. The half-closed eyes depict the passionless calm and perfect repose, which is the essence of Buddhist doctrine.

Another striking feature of Kamakura is the Hase Kannon Temple, which features the eleven-headed gilt statue of Kannon, goddess of mercy. The tallest wooden image in Japan, the 30-foot high statue is said to have been carved in 721AD by monk Tokudo Shonin. The image of Kannon, which sits in the Hase Temple south of Nara, was carved from half of a camphor tree. A duplicate image carved from the other half of the tree was thrown into the sea. 15 years later, after floating 300 miles, the figure came to rest on a beach in Kamakura. The temple was built to enshrine it. On the path leading to the temple housing the Kannon figure in Kamakura is the Jizo-do (Jizo Hall), which is lined on both sides by thousands of bodhisattva. Jizo is a bodhisattva symbolically representing the blessings of the earth who stands at the border of this life and the next, guiding souls

of the dead on the road to salvation. Thousands of tiny Jizo line the hall, placed there by mothers who have lost infants through miscarriage or abortion, and who dedicate the small images as a means of praying for the guidance of the dead child.

Kamakura is a must see attraction that can be reached by car, tour bus, or train. A walking tour of Kamakura is the recommended way of visiting the sights. For directions, check the Yujo Recreation Center.

Kathleen French

## Annual Events In Kamakura

Jan. 1-3

New Year's visit to Hachimangu-Kamakuragu

**Feb 3 or 4**

Setsubun, bean scattering ceremony at Hachimangu Kamakuragu and Kenchoji Temple

**April 1-10**

Cherry Blossom Festival at Hachimangu

**April 1-14**

Kamakura Festival on Sunday, procession of people wearing historical costume from Yuigahama Beach to Hachimangu

**April 18**

Ofuna Kannon Festival

**Aug 7-9**

Paper Lantern Festival at Hachimangu

**Mid-Aug**

Fireworks at Yuigahama Beach

**Aug 20**

Festival at Kamakuragu

**Sep 15-16**

Hachimangu Archery Festival

**Sep 18**

Haramitto; procession of masked people at Gogoro Shrine

**Sep 22**

Takigi Noh outdoor Noh Performance by torchlight at Kamakuragu

**Nov 1-15**

Chrysanthemum Show at Hachimangu

**Dec 17-18**

Year-end Market at Hase Kannon

**Late Dec**

Last Snake Day Festival of Zeniarai-Benten



# Yamanashi Grapes

Yamanashi Prefecture invites visitors anytime, but the arrival of autumn beckons Yokotans to don their sweaters and venture into the scenic Japanese countryside. A fun-filled day waits only two hours from the gates of Yokota. Known throughout Japan for its grape production, Yamanashi Prefecture offers a ten mile drive along a stretch of Highway 20, from Katsunuma to Kofu, lined with what seems like endless vineyards. Travelers soon see the numerous stands set up to sell grapes. They can select a stand and stop for some hearty taste-testing. After deciding which grapes are most desirable, it is time to select ready-picked grapes or the ever popular pick your-own method.

Thanks to Japanese hospitality, grape-picking equipment is usually provided. In the summer months, peaches are offered for sale along the roadside, but people are not permitted to pick their own.

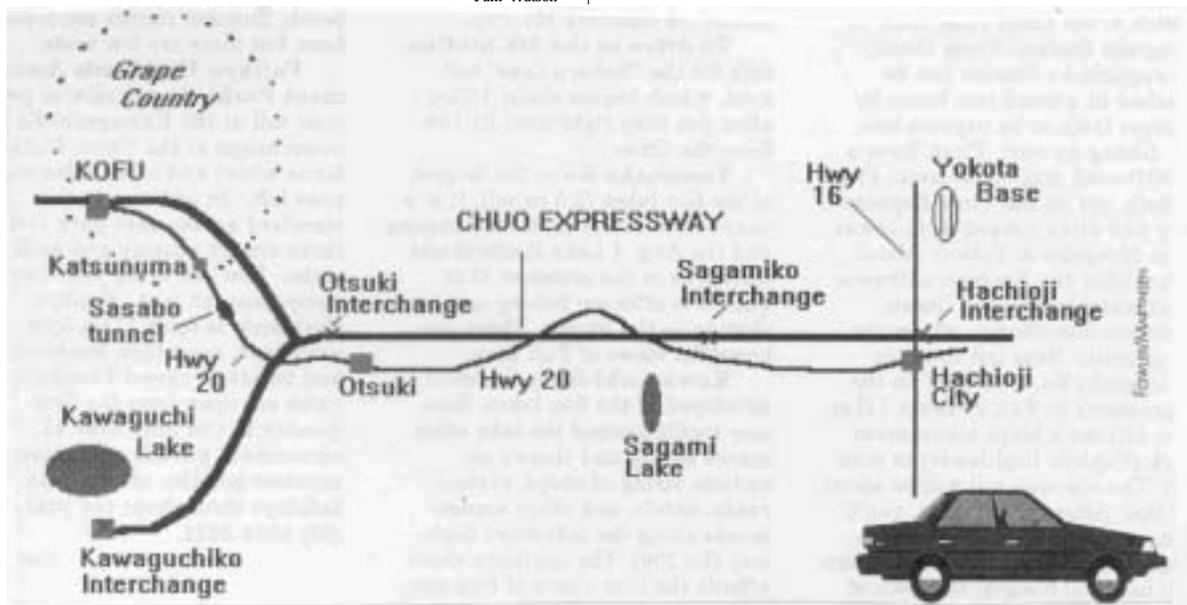
When travelers decide they have seen one too many grapes, it is time to continue along Highway 20, past Kofu, for approximately ten minutes. On a clear day, Mt. Daibosatsu will appear to announce the entrance to the southwest corner of Chichibu Tama National Park. Situated among the colorful mountains is the Shosenkyo Gorge, one of the most scenic river valleys in Japan. The signs directing visitors to the gorge are all in English. Horse-drawn carts wait to pull visitors along the beautiful gorge toward restaurants which offer a hearty variety of soba. It is also possible to spread a picnic lunch near the vineyards.

**DIRECTIONS:** One enticing feature when considering this trip is the ease in finding this beautiful area. Simply take Highway 16 south to Hachioji. At Hachioji get on the Chuo Expressway. Once on the expressway two signs will appear; one for Shinjuku and the other for Nagoya. Take the road to Nagoya. Stay on the Chuo until Otsuki.

Take the Otsuki exit and that will lead to Hwy 20. Turn right and stay on Hwy 20. The grapes will be straight ahead; no turns, no confusion, plenty of fun.



Pam Watson



# Weekend Trips or Longer from Fussa

## Nikko

A few hour trip from Yokota Air Base is one of Japan's most famous shrines - National Park Nikko. The park is home to the tomb of Tokogawa Ieyasu, the man who brought all of Japan's famous samurai warriors under one ruler.

But Nikko is much more than just another shrine. National Park Nikko is a collection of temples, pagodas, gates and shrines, full of beautiful gilded statues, altars and painted ceilings. When you enter the park, you should go to the ticket window at the entrance. Your first stop will be Sanbutsu-do, the largest temple in the Nikko mountains. Inside the temple you will see the statues of the Thousandhanded Kwannon, the Amida Buddha and the Horseheaded Kwannon. Enjoy the craftsmanship and sheer beauty of the statues, but don't expect to take a picture...photos inside the temples are not allowed. As you exit the temple, you can buy a book full of pictures. For 500 yen, it's a bargain. There are more than 10 temples at National Park Nikko, so plan to spend a lot of time if you want to see them all.

After seeing a few of the temples, head up the mountain where you will see a giant torii - or gate. As you go through the gate, you will see the gorgeous Five-Storeyed Pagoda. The pagoda was originally built in 1650, but was destroyed by fire in 1815. It was rebuilt four years later. Just past the pagoda, you will see the sacred stables. Inside is a beautiful white stallion, thought to be good luck to the Japanese. Above the stable doors, you'll see a series of wooden carvings. If you look closely, you'll see the famous "See no, Hear no, Speak no Evil" monkeys.

After climbing another couple of flights of stairs, you'll go through the Yomeimon Gate, a giant structure covered in gold awnings and guard dogs. The gate is also known as the "Sunset Gate" because it is said visitors do not grow tired of viewing the gate until dusk. Inside this gate, turn to the right and you'll see the entrance to Tokogawa's tomb. You can't go in without paying a small fee. But once inside, you will get to see the famous "Sleeping Cat," and climb the 100 steps to the famous tomb.

But don't spend all of your time at the National Park, because Nikko has so much more to offer. If you drive, which I recommend, take the car past the park, and head up to what is known as the "ZigZag Highway." Before heading up the series of twists and turns, we saw a couple of wild monkeys standing on the side of the road. Note of caution: tourists are warned not to stop their cars to feed the monkeys, because they have been known to be violent. The climb to the top of the mountain is sheer driving pleasure. The road is a series of 25 or so switchbacks, with some curves being more than 180 degrees. (Before you get to the top, watch for the ropeway where you can get a beautiful view of the lake and falls from above.) After navigating the roadway, you will find Lake Chuzenji, a crystal-clear lake located at the top of the mountain. There are a series of quaint shops and restaurants alongside the lake. There are also a few hotels.

Before heading down the mountain keep an eye out for the signs to Kegon Falls. The falls are on the Ojiri River, which flows from Chuzenji. More than 300 feet high, the falls are breathtaking...and loud. The trip down the mountain means more twists and turns. If you are going to stay the night, a lot of military people prefer to stay at the Turtle Inn Annex/Hotori-An (0288-53-3663), which comes complete with meals and an onsen. If you go during the off-peak season, you may have the hotel to yourself! We chose to stay just outside Nikko at the Woodsman's Village, a collection of log cabins located on the other side of the mountain from the National Park. The cabins are completely made of logs, but contain all the modern conveniences from a full kitchen and full bath. No beds though, they provide futons. The cabins vary in size, meaning it would be perfect for a couple, or an entire group. The cost is 5,000 yen per person a night; cheaper for children under 12. The people who run the cabins speak English, so making reservations is easy.

For Yokota residents, Nikko is a must-see attraction.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Tohoku Expressway to the Utsunomiya Interchange, then follow the signs to the Nikko Toll Road, which will lead you to Nikko. The tolls will cost about 5,000 yen each way. You can get to the Tohoku either by going into Tokyo, or by turning right out the terminal gate and following Route 16 for about 30 km. Be warned, Route 16 winds through several towns along the way, and the traffic can be heavy at times. It took us about two hours to get to the Tohoku by traveling Route 16, and another hour or so to get to Nikko. You can take a super-express train to Nikko as well. The line runs from Asakusa Station, and seats can be reserved in advance. If you are interested in staying at the Woodsman's Village check out the website at [www2.gol.com/users/jshapiro](http://www2.gol.com/users/jshapiro).

Reprinted from the Yokosan, October 2001/ Sam Amrhein

Please see the Yujo Center for directions & maps.

## Nikko Edo-Mura

Located south of Nikko near Kinugawa spa, this theme park is a re-creation of a village during the Edo era, just as it was long ago. Attractions include the Great Ninja Theatre, the Golden Tea Ceremony, the Black Ninja Mansion, the South City Courthouse, and the Haunted Temple. There are street performances and sword fighting on an outdoor stage scheduled throughout the day (if the weather is nice). Many performances are repeated at 20-30 minute intervals, so you won't have to worry about missing out on any one show.

The price of passes vary according to the number of special attractions included but run about ¥4,200 per adult and ¥2,500 per child. For more information, telephone 0288-77-1777.

P. W. Edward

## Tobu World Square

If you get a chance, visit Tobu World Square before leaving Nikko. It is an impressive collection of 1/12 size model buildings from around the world. (See <http://marriottmd.com/photos/> for some pictures.)

Brian Marriott 11/01





## Mount Fuji

Fuji-san, a nearly perfect volcanic cone rising to an altitude of 3,776m (12,388 ft.), is Japan's highest peak and one of the world's most beautiful. Its northern base area is adorned with five lakes making it ideal for year-round recreation. Clear views are virtually guaranteed during the winter.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line from Fussa to Tachikawa and switch to the Chuo Line. Ride to Shinjuku Station. From there, Kawaguchi-ko Station can be reached in around two hours by express train or by express bus.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** First, have a GOOD road map of the area. From Yokota, get on the Chuo Expressway and drive toward Kofu (away from Shinjuku & Tokyo). About 45km after the Hachioji entrance start watching for the Otsuki Junction-interchange where the Chuo splits. Bear left towards Kawaguchi-Ko. Continue on the expressway to Exit 2, about 11 km. You will see a large amusement park (Fujikyu Highlands) to your left. The one-way toll will be about Y2,000. After the tollgate, you'll come to a "T." Go left on Rt. 138 to reach Lake Yamanaka. A right turn will take you towards the town of Kawaguchi-Ko, the other four lakes and the road to Mt. Fuji.

The annual climbing season is from July 1 to Aug. 31. The most popular of the six climbing trails begins at Lake Kawaguchi. Each trail is divided into 10 stages ranging in length from 15 to 25km. You can also begin your ascent at the Fifth Station, which will take about 5-7 hours to reach the summit. To drive to the 5th Station, look for the "Subaru Line" toll road, which begins about 1/2km after you turn right onto Rt. 138 from the Chuo. (See section on climbing Mt. Fuji.)

The Five Lakes of Mt. Fuji

**Yamanaka-Ko** is the largest of the five lakes (2.5 sq mi). It is a year-round resort good for camping and the Aug. 1 Lake Festival and fireworks in the summer. It is known to offer ice fishing and ice-skating in the winter. There are beautiful views of Fuji here.

**Kawaguchi-Ko** is the most developed of the five lakes. Summer traffic around the lake often moves slowly and there's an endless string of shops, restaurants, hotels, and other amusements along the lakeshore highway (Rt. 139). The northern shore affords the best views of Fuji-san.

**Sai-Ko:** From Kawaguchi-Ko, Rt. 139 branches off from the lakeshore road, enters a tunnel, and emerges beside Sai-ko, noted for its quiet, secluded setting. There are no hotels here; only rustic cabins and campgrounds for the canoeing and trout fishing enthusiasts who visit. This is considered by some to be the most beautiful of the five lakes. To the south of Lake Sai-ko is Koyodai (Maple Hill), which offers magnificent views in every direction, highlighted by a close-up view of Mt. Fuji.

**Shoji-Ko:** With a surface area of under half a square mile, Shoji-Ko is by far the smallest of the five lakes. Only the summit of Fuji-san clears the shoreline mountains to be reflected in Shoji-Ko's surface. At the northwestern tip of the lake there are fresh water marshes where the autumn colors are spectacular. The rich have vacation homes hidden among the trees here—away from the crowds. A good place to go for solitude.

**Motosu-Ko:** The deepest of the lakes (413ft), Motosu-Ko never freezes over in winter. Its deep blue water is a perfect mirror for Mt. Fuji as it rises from behind the shoreline slopes. The northern shore is quite steep, but the flat southern shore is open and has been designated a public beach. Summer picnics are popular here, but there are few boats.

Fujikyu Highlands Amusement Park

As you slow to pay your toll at the Kawaguchi-Ko interchange of the Chuo, Fujikyu's Ferris wheel and other rides will be your left. In addition to the standard amusement park fare, there are ice-skating and hockey rinks. You can bring your own equipment, or rent. Fujikyu Highlands is open 11am-5pm, weekdays; noon-6pm weekends and holidays; closed Tuesdays. Ice rinks are open from the first Sunday in Oct until Mar 31. The amusement park is open during summer months, on Sundays, and holidays throughout the year. Tel: (03) 3374-2221.

Cheryl Raggio

**Mt. Fuji is open for climbing in July and August ONLY! If you would like to climb Mt. Fuji while you are here, a good place to find more information, maps and even sign up for a tour of the beautiful mountain, is the Yujo Community Center here on base. See also Hiking section later in this book.**



# Hakone

Hakone is a popular vacation getaway about one and a half hours outside of Tokyo. It is a beautiful little area nestled in the crater of a volcano. Just getting there is part of the fun. You take the Odakyu line from Shinjuku to Odawara, then transfer to a tiny railroad line called the Hakone Yumoto line that winds its way up the lower part of the volcano. As it gets higher, it has to reverse directions several times to switch-back up the steeper areas.

Along the way, make sure you stop for a while at the Chokoku-no-mori station to visit the Hakone Open Air Museum. It is a beautiful art museum with most of its display dedicated to large sculptures that dot beautiful lawns. They also have a building dedicated to works by Picasso. After getting back on the Hakone Yumoto line, you go all the way to the end and then take a cable car that pulls you straight up a steep section of the slope. From here there is a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside. At the end of the cable car, you get on a ropeway that takes you over the crest of the mountain into the gigantic crater. Looking out the ropeway, you pass a section where they are drilling into the side of the mountain to prevent the pressure from building up and causing an explosion.

Make sure you get off at the stop in the middle of the ropeway to see the “sulfurous vapor erupting area.” Here you can take a short nature walk and see the sulfur steaming from the ground, and natural hot springs from the volcano. You can eat eggs boiled in the hot water which the Japanese say will help you live longer. Along the nature trail there are signs in Japanese and English that tell you such things as “This area was once covered with tall trees, but now you can find only the species which have been able to survive such things as Volcanic eruption.”

The ropeway will then take you the rest of the way into the crater to Lake Ashi, which you cross on large replicas of pirate ships. Lake Ashi is a crater lake famous for its reflection of Mt. Fuji on clear, calm days. The boat takes you to Hanokemachi which is a historical area from the 1600’s, including the Hakone Checkpoint and a portion of an ancient highway that was lined with cedars to provide shade hundreds of years ago.

By the time we get here we are pretty tired, so we catch a bus to the Fujiya Hotel in Miyanoshita to spend the night. It is a beautiful hotel established in 1878, making it the oldest western-style hotel in Japan. It has been visited by many famous people including Albert Einstein, Dwight Eisenhower, Margaret Thatcher, Hellen Keller, and many emperors of Japan. It is nestled among trees, and has a beautiful garden in back which is home to the only California Redwood tree in Japan. Inside the decor is beautiful, including many wood carvings. You can also bathe in the natural hot spring onsens.

The next day, be sure to see some of the many other attractions in the area including the Hakone Ashinoyu Flower Center (a gigantic greenhouse with many types of flowers and other plants - indoors, so nice even in case of rain) and the Botanical Garden of the Wetlands. There are many museums, not all of which we have had the chance to visit yet. One with

an interesting name is the “Mental Image Museum.” There is also a Teddy Bear Museum, a Glass Art Museum, and others.

On our way home the next day, we stopped at the Odawara Castle. The old castle town of Odawara serves as the main gateway to the Hakone district. About a 10-minute walk from Odawara Station is the reconstructed five-story donjon (central structure of the castle). It houses a museum of historical materials, ancient suits of armor and swords, folk arts & crafts, and special exhibits. The view of Sagami Bay from the fourth floor is excellent. Open 9am-4:30pm, admission is Y200 for adults, Y100 for children. The park surrounding the castle includes a playground and small zoo.

Brian & Kristen Marriott 11/01

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Driving in these areas, especially on weekends or in the summer, can be very difficult. Traffic is extremely heavy and slow. To maximize your sightseeing time, it is well worth the effort to leave no later than 5am. To enter the Hakone district at Odawara, take Rt. 16 from Yokota south, until it joins Rt. 129. Just north of Atsugi, you will see elevated Rt. 246 and a sign for the Tomei Expressway. Turn right immediately after passing under elevated Rt. 246 - this leads to a ramp that puts you on 246. Go through Atsugi. Look for signs for Odawara/Atsugi toll road (this will be south of Atsugi). When you see the signs, it will be a right turn. You will drive parallel to the toll road for several kilometers before entering. Once you are on the toll road, you will pass through two tollbooths and pay Y350 at each. When the toll road ends, follow the signs to Rt. 1. At Miyanshita (about 7km), the road will divide. The hotel is at the fork on the left. The right fork of the road will lead to Gora. The left fork will lead to Lake Ashi, which you could visit before checking in at the hotel, since check-in is not until 2pm.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line and go to Tokyo Station. You can take either the Shinkansen (“Kodama Train”, takes 42 minutes, runs every 20 minutes) or a regular train (Tokaido Line, takes 90 minutes, runs every 15 minutes) to Odawara Station. You can also reach the Hakone area from Shinjuku or Machida stations on the Odakyu Railway. Express trains run regularly to Odawara (takes 90 minutes), while the super-fast “Romance Car” runs only every 30 minutes (seat reservations required).

Two different transportation companies, Hakone Tozan Railway and Izu Hakone Railway, offer discount tickets from which you can choose. These passes are convenient for multiple use of various modes of transportation after you reach the Hakone area and are valid for four days.

The Hakone Free Pass allows you to use the Hakone Tozan Railway, bus, cable car, ropeway, the Odakyu highway bus (between Togendai and the Tomei Gotemba Expressway interchange) and the Hakone excursion boat on Lake Ashi as many times as you wish. These passes are sold at all Odakyu Railway stations and at the Hakone Tozan Information Center at Odawara Station (“Romance Car” ticket not included). Approximate prices from Odawara are Y3,500 for adults and Y1,750 for children (Y4,600 per adult from Shinjuku). Depending on



the attraction, the pass includes 10% discounts for Gora Park, Hakone Museum, Chokoku-no-Mori (Hakone Open Air Museum), Hakone Checkpoint, Narikawa Art Forum, Hakone Arboretum, Owakudani Natural Science Museum, etc.

A similar pass known as the Hakone-Wide Free Pass allows use of the Izu Hakone bus, cable car, ropeway, excursion bus, and includes discounts at various attractions. The pass is sold at travel agencies and the Izu Hakone Information Center at Odawara Station (for a little less than the other pass.)

Cheryl Raggio, Margaret Summers

#### Lodging in Hakone

##### **Fujiya Hotel near the Miyanoshita Station.**

They have a special foreigner's rate of about \$120 per night. All of their employees study English in the United States and making reservations by phone is easy. You can contact them at FUJIYA HOTEL 359 Miyanoshita, Hakone, Kanagawa Pref.

Tel. 0460-2-2211, Telex. 3892-718, Fax 0460-2-2215.

<http://www.fujiyahotel.co.jp/>

E-mail/ [info@fujiyahotel.co.jp](mailto:info@fujiyahotel.co.jp)

##### **Camp Fuji.**

Other people stay at Camp Fuji, a little further away, but less expensive (\$25/day in 2001). They then drive into Hakone. The number for billeting is 265-5502. (Camp Fuji Operator is 265-5011)

Brian and Kristen Marriott

For more information, see:

- <http://www.odakyu-group.co.jp/english/index.htm> For information on Odakyu Railroad, information, including Hakone Free Pass.
- [http://www.kankou.hakone.kanagawa.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.kankou.hakone.kanagawa.jp/index_e.html) For Hakone's Home Page.
- <http://www.kanagawa-kankou.or.jp/index-e.html> For excellent information about many of the attractions in Hakone.
- <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/> For the Japan National Tourist Organization's "Practical Travel Guide" on Hakone. (Click on "Regional Tourist Guides" then "Practical Travel Guide")
- <http://www.marriottmd.com/photos/> for photos of some of the sites in Hakone.



## Matsumoto-Jo

A long day trip, or nice overnight trip, the city of Matsumoto is located in Nagano Prefecture in the Matsumoto Basin, surrounded by mountains in Central Honshu and is north and west of the Kanto Plain. It is a well-established university town, which also supports a large silkworm industry and as a result is a weaving and textile center as well. However, the town's major claim to fame is its castle (Matsumoto Jo), which was begun in 1504 A.D. Of the approximately thirty-five castles in Japan, only four survived the ravages of World War II without having to be rebuilt. Matsumoto-jo has the distinction of being one of the four castles that survives in its original state. This majestic building rises six stories in height, and typical of its style, is surrounded by a moat as its principal means of fortification. Most of the pictures we have seen have set in our mind the accepted depiction of what a Japanese castle should look like, and this usually follows the norm of such castles as Nagoya and Osaka, which are white. However, what the first time visitor notices immediately and what differentiates Matsumoto-jo from most other castles is its basic black color.

Construction of Matsumoto-jo was begun back in 1504, by the ruling family of the region at that time, the Ogasawaras. Originally, it was referred to as Fukoshi Castle, and it was built out on a plain, instead of a mountaintop, in concurrence with the military thinking of that period. It was part of an area fortification plan that included several other castles; Nagisa and A'rai Castles among them. Throughout the 1500's, power struggles ensued, political turmoil was rampant, ruling families were repeatedly swept from power and military strategies were in flux. By 1550, mountain type castles were not considered to be strategically important, and were destroyed. Matsumoto retained its importance as a "plains type" castle from which forces could be quickly dispatched to surrounding regions. In the late 1500's, further castle improvements were undertaken by surrounding it with a moat and laying the plans for the building of a castle town. Succeeding generations maintained and improved the castle and its town. However, late in the Meiji Era the castle fell subject to time and weather, was sold into private hands, and declined into further disrepair. In the early 1900's great efforts resulted in a major renovation that saved the castle from total collapse. Its designation as a National Treasure in 1936, and major restoration at government expense during the Showa period in the '50s, brought the castle up to its present state.

My family spent a wonderful and breathless afternoon trooping up six stories to the top, viewing displays on each floor of swords, armor, weaponry, and tools of the period. We peeked out of gun and archery portholes, viewed stone drop openings and latticed windows. It's a delight to explore all the nooks and crannies and let one's imagination run on about what it really must have been like to be a samurai during the castle's heyday.

The grounds were lush, beautiful and inviting. A volunteer English-speaking guide was on hand in the rear garden; I suspect to practice his English as much as to answer our questions. A covered display off to one side of the grounds had pictures of the other remaining castles in Japan, both original



and rebuilt. Our guide was very helpful in explaining to us the locations of each castle and the differences among them.

Outside the moat and the rear exit of the castle is the **Matsumoto City Museum**, which encompasses the Japan Folklore Museum. It was a wonderful place to spend an hour or so browsing through the exhibits. Most of the displays were in Japanese with some in English, but an English translation brochure was available at the entrance and it gave the gist of what each room held. The museum houses approximately 89,000 items of historical significance including dolls, tools, armor, clocks, stuffed animals of the region and modern works of art by local prominent Japanese artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Fees for the museum and castle were charged and although I cannot recall the exact amount, they were minimal.

Matsumoto itself was a wonderful, quaint town beautifully mixing old and new. We walked by an old house of feudal architecture sandwiched between two new multiple-story dwellings. The streets wind in and out in typical Japanese fashion, and all along the way interesting shops abound with Curios, antiques, indigo goods, souvenirs, and Japanese omiyage. Be sure to allow at least an hour or more for browsing through the town.

Although it is significant in historical terms, Matsumoto Jo is not a prominent landmark, relatively speaking, so one almost doesn't see it until you are pretty close. Once you leave the expressway there are blue signs which you can follow to the castle. Although we could have done okay without it, I recommend purchasing a bilingual road atlas. There were a couple of instances when one could track the kanji-equivalent of our desired destination on the map along the way, which, if nothing else, brought reassurance that we hadn't strayed far from the beaten path.

One hears how Central Honshu is really a very beautiful part of Japan; a trip out to Matsumoto reinforces that. The scenery alone is worth venturing out for, and when combined with the historical significance of the area, one comes to appreciate life beyond Tokyo and all that Japan has to offer.

We found we could successfully navigate using our Japanese Atlas. Just because you don't read Kanji doesn't mean you can't follow signs. We overcame the fear of being the "functional illiterate" gaijin and really began to feel independent. So pack a lunch, take off to Matsumoto and see what you can discover.

One of the first things we recommend after arriving in Matsumoto is following the blue signs to the Matsumoto Station, where you'll find an information booth to get maps. In addition to the castle and adjoining museum, there is also a beautiful **Ukiyo-e (woodblock) museum** which houses one of the largest collections of woodblock prints in the world. There is also a **100-year old elementary school** that is now a museum. There are also old temples and lots of onsens (hot spring baths). It's also a wonderful place to go on an overnight trip. Many Japanese travel to Matsumoto for weekend onsen retreats.

**DIRECTIONS:** Matsumoto is a 3 to 4 hour drive by car from Yokota on the Chuo Expressway. It's approximately a 200km drive. Rest stops abound along the expressway with ample western-style commodes, lots of goodies and, to my

surprise, free tea. Do be prepared for a hefty toll fee, though, as it's a Y4000 charge from the Hachioji interchange to Matsumoto, one way. Parking was available across the street from the castle for a nominal fee. Should you prefer the trains to driving, travel time and train fare expense are comparable. Go to the Yujo Community Center for detailed driving directions.

Evelyn Brown, Brian Marriott

*"The scenery alone is worth venturing out for, and when combined with the historical significance of the area, one comes to appreciate life beyond Tokyo and all that Japan has to offer. We found we could successfully navigate using our Japanese Atlas. Just because you don't read Kanji doesn't mean you can't follow signs. We overcame the fear of being the "functional illiterate" gaijin and really began to feel independent. So pack a lunch, take off to Matsumoto and see what you can discover."*

## Boso Peninsula

Ready for dancing flamingos, a sea world, beautiful scenery and more? With its easy access, the Boso Peninsula is a popular and ideal vacation land. From Yokota, it's an easy trip by car, going either on the expressways north of Tokyo or taking the ferry across Tokyo Bay. A 30-min drive from Yokosuka Naval Base, Kurihama Pier offers numerous ferries throughout the day to make the 30-minute ride across to Kanaya on Boso Peninsula. Vehicles may also make the ferry trip. Kamogawa City is just across Tokyo Bay in Chiba Prefecture. If you're adventurous, you'll find a wonderful spot for a vacation located on this scenic coast.

**Namekawa Island** is a zoo, but it's landscaped beautifully into a breathtaking setting. You'll not only see a wide variety of animals, but there's enough jungle-gym equipment to exhaust children. Several restaurants serve a variety of foods, and there are maps in English. A huge pool invites you to beat the heat, and there are shows and demonstrations to entertain you.

**Kamogawa Sea World** is within 3.5km of Namekawa Island. It has all the shows and sea life one would expect. A film and exhibition of Japan's white whales is especially fascinating. The opportunity to pet and feed the various creatures, including the white whales, is well worth the trip. In addition, there is an aquarium and, of course, rides.

Young people love **Pinnokio House** where hands-on equipment educates them about sea life. Blindfolded and using only the sounds playing from helmets on their heads, people can



travel through a maze and parallel the killer whale's swim through the ocean.

To do the area justice, you should stay for at least a few days. Youth hostels in the area are reasonably priced. Another alternative is to stay at Yokosuka's lodge and take the ferry back and forth.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Check with the Yujo Community Center for detailed directions. To drive to Kurihama Pier, set your odometer to zero as you leave the Yokosuka Navy Lodge. At the Main Gate of Yokosuka, 1.8km from the lodge, turn left onto Rt. 16. Follow Rt. 16 until you see Rt. 134, 5.4km. Get on Rt. 134 and KFC will be on your left. At 8km you should be in the far left lane. You will see a Statue of Liberty and a sign for Kurihama in English and see Denny's on the right. A set of railroad tracks will be on your left. Watch for English signs to Kurihama Harbor at approximately 10.5km. You will see a "T" intersection at 11.8km, and you will be facing the harbor. Turn right and go 0.9km. You will go through one light between the "T" and the next turn. Turn left into the landing/parking lot for the ferry.

Buying a round-trip ticket is more economical. Reservations for the ferry are recommended for the warmer months, April-August, and may be made through the rec center travel agency for a small fee. The driver's fare is included in the cost of a vehicle. And the vehicle's cost is dependent on size. Vehicle registration papers are needed to purchase a ticket. The ferry offers ample exploring space, plus an enclosed lounge with a small snack bar.

Leaving the ferry, drive to the right. You will see a sign for Sea World that reads 34km, and you will be on Rt. 127 with the coast to your right. At 4.5km, you will come to an off-centered intersection. Turn right; then immediately left. Look for a sign for Rt. 34. You will cross a set of railroad tracks and continue on a refreshing drive through the countryside. Drive straight through some signal lights that seem in the middle of nowhere. Eventually you will come to an intersection for Rt. 128. Turn left for Katsuura. At 2.6km from that turn, you will be at the main gate for Sea World on the right. Parking is available for a fee. Admission: ¥1,900 for adults and ¥900 for children, 4-12 years old.

Sondra Halweg, Thel Lemons

## Shimoda

Shimoda, located on the Izu Peninsula, is historically important because it is where Perry's "black ships" first landed to "Force" Japan open to the world after its self-enforced isolation for a few hundred years.

We started our journey at 5am. Traffic was slow; eventually we were out of the crowded cities and following a lovely scenic route along the coast. According to the atlas, it's about 250km to Shimoda from Yokota and we followed national roads for the 5 hours it took to get there.

Finally, we arrived via a long and winding road up to a beautifully landscaped hotel perched on the edge of a small mountain. We stayed at the Tokyu Hotel, a western-style hotel, near the beach with a nice view. The hotel staff was friendly and spoke English. We were taken to our room on the fifth floor and shown a spectacular view from our balcony: a

sparkling blue inlet with a yacht and solitary swimmer. We were able to see the fish enjoying their swim and we were even treated to an occasional flash of shining silver by a jumping fish. Our room with two twin beds plus a roll-away for our son was ¥26,900 per night. We took ¥70,000 with us and came back with a good portion not spent.

Shimoda is loaded with restaurants, so we had a difficult time choosing, but we settled on a quaint little Japanese restaurant three blocks from the hotel. Our stay in Shimoda at the Tokyu Hotel was so wonderful that we are planning a follow-up trip. Although there are many sights on the way an in Shimoda, we opted to relax on the beach instead.

Connie Lukens 9/96

## Nagoya

Nagoya is often called the "gateway to central Japan." By Shinkansen, Japan's "bullet train," Tokyo to Nagoya takes almost two hours; a round trip ticket costs about ¥20,000. By car, you can easily drive via the Chuo or the Tomei Expressways. It will take about five hours and expressway tolls come to approximately ¥7,000.

Once you arrive, there are many things to see and do in the city itself and in towns nearby. Two offices to check for brochures are the Nagoya International Center, (052) 581-5678, and Nagoya City Tourist Information Office, (052) 541-4301. There are many hotels. Finding accommodations should not be difficult, but it is best to have reservations. Several days are needed to thoroughly explore this area, but by being selective and planning carefully, a shorter trip could also be enjoyable.

Nagoya Castle, built in the 17th century by Ieyasu Tokugawa, is one of the best attractions of Nagoya City. Originally the castle was designed to withstand threatening attacks by the Toyotomi of Osaka, and the structure itself was an engineering marvel for that time period. Some of the castle walls have stood for centuries. Over two million stones were used to construct the castle. Each family or local lord who contributed a stone, engraved their crest or symbol as a pledge of faith. The castle was completed in 1612, and the Tokugawa family resided there for 250 years. In 1930, the castle premises became the property of Nagoya City. For a while Nagoya Castle was used for a military garrison and munitions were stored there. An air raid in May 1945 destroyed all but a few turrets and buildings. The castle has undergone extensive restoration. Some of the art and artifacts saved from the 1945 destruction are on display. The two golden dolphins (sachi) that once decorated the roof have been replaced with replicas. The sachi are plated in 84 percent gold and stand today as a symbol of Nagoya City. Plan to spend one half to one full day on the castle grounds. Telephone the Nagoya Castle Administration Office (052) 2311770 for more information.

Also located in Nagoya City is the Tokugawa Museum. Displays from this private collection of over 10,000 items belonging to the Tokugawa family are rotated to coincide with the seasons. Tokugawa was a powerful daimyo, and his full dress and equipment are kept in the museum. There are few complete sets existing in Japan today, and these items are considered to be of great national and historical value. In addition, there are pictures, swords, tea ceremony sets, textiles and



folkcraft. It should take about an hour to see the museum. Admission fees to the Tokugawa Museum are ¥800 for adults, ¥500 for students, and ¥400 for children, aged 7 to 14. Special exhibitions may require additional payment. The museum is closed every Monday unless it is a national holiday, and then it is closed that Tuesday. It is closed at the end of the year and for New Year. The hours are 10am-5pm with admittance until 4:30pm. English brochures are available. Tel. (052) 935-6262.

For shoppers, Nagoya has underground malls, and most major Japanese department stores can be found. Nagoya also has a few traditional crafts such as tie-dyeing and Japanese cloisonne (shippo). Kishimen are wide flat noodles famous in the Nagoya area. There are large parks and numerous temples to explore and enjoy if you have time.

To the south of Nagoya, in the district known as Chubu, is the Ise Shrine and Toba, the capital of pearl production in Japan. Mikimoto Pearls has a visitor center with explanations of the pearl culture process. A trip to the area requires one full day.

Cindy Drossner

## Inuyama

Inuyama is a small, quiet city about an hour's drive (20 miles) north of Nagoya. By train from Nagoya, the Meitetsu Line takes about 30 minutes to Inuyama Yuen. From there it is a fifteen minute walk or three-minute taxi ride to Inuyama Castle. You can easily spend a hour or more at the castle. This smaller castle, built in 1537 by Lord Oda Nobuyasu, sits on a hill overlooking a river. A view of the area can be had by climbing steep stairs to the top level and walking outside.

**Inuyama Castle** was designated as a National Treasure in 1935 and was under restoration from 1961-1965. The castle is owned by the Naruse family, the only privately owned castle in Japan. Admission is ¥300 for adults and ¥100 for junior high and under. The only days it is closed are Dec. 29, 30 and 31. The hours are 9am-5pm daily. Down the street about a ten minute walk from Inuyama Castle is **Jo-an**. This lovely garden contains several tea rooms, one of which is a National Treasure of Japan. A famous tea master and younger brother of Oda Nobunaga spent his retirement here. Look for the *suikinkutsu*, translated literally "water koto or harp hole." This is a specially constructed underground pot or barrel that "sings" like the strings on a koto or harp as water drips into it. As water drips from a bamboo spigot onto what appears to be only a pile of rocks, you hear different "notes." An hour is enough to see Jo-an, but more time could be spent in the tranquil beauty of these gardens. Admission is ¥500 and tea and snacks, if desired, will be an additional ¥300. Jo-an is open year-round, Tel. (0568) 61-4608.

The **Japan Monkey Center** is also in Inuyama. This is called a museum, but it is more like a primate zoo. It is reputed to be the largest and richest center of its kind in the world. There are over 100 species (some rare) and 1,000 animals. Fifteen species can only be seen in Japan, including Proboscis monkeys. Operating hours are: Feb. 16 - Nov. 30, 9:30am-5pm, Dec. 1- Feb. 15, 9:30am-4pm. Admission is:

adults, ¥1,000; high school students, ¥600; and elementary/junior high students, ¥400. Tel. (0568) 61-2327.

You and the family can "shoot the rapids" on the Kiso River, often referred to as the **Nippon Rhine**. The eight-mile trip is offered year round. For more information, call the Nippon Rhine Kanko Co., Ltd., (0574) 26-2231. Fees are: adults, ¥2,700; children, ¥1,350. Nippon Rhine is 10 minutes by bus from the Nippon Rhine Imawatari Station on the Nagoya railroad.

Traditional **cormorant fishing** can be seen in the Inuyama area from June 1- Sept. 30. For more information, call (0568) 61-0057.

Perhaps a day at **Meiji Mura Museum** would interest you. Inuyama is best known for this open-air museum where valuable buildings from the Meiji Era (1868-1912) have been relocated. Meiji Mura is an effort to preserve and display Japan's first western-style buildings. Japan opened her doors to the West during the Meiji Period. There are 57 buildings including residences, a theater, a lighthouse and more. Street-cars and steam locomotives provide transportation within the village. Meiji Mura Museum is about 20 minutes by bus from Inuyama Station and the number is (0568) 67-0314. From March 1-Oct. 31, the hours are 10am-5pm, and from Nov. 1-Feb. 28, 10am-4pm. Admission is about ¥1,200 for adults, ¥1,000 for high school students, and ¥600 for elementary/junior high students. Not less than half a day is suggested for Meiji Mura.

For more information on the area, contact the City of Inuyama Tourist Council (0568) 61-2825.

Cindy Drossner

## Seto

Seto is famous for pottery, dishes and ceramic novelties. It is an easy 45-60 minute drive from Nagoya to Seto. By subway and train from Nagoya Station to Seto, take the Higashiyama (subway) Line and transfer to Meitetsu (train) on the Seto Line at Sakae. Get off at Owari-Seto.

For more than 1000 years this area has been producing pottery. Many of the Christmas pieces, canisters, flowers and birds sold by China Pete's or Tommy China are produced in Seto. There are different display rooms in which to see examples of pottery done in the area. Displays are marked with names such as Setomono Plaza, the Service Center, and Seto Chamber of Commerce. It is also possible just to wander up and down the street and go into little side streets and alleys. It is dusty and definitely "dirty dish" shopping, but the prices are better than in Tokyo.

On the third Saturday and Sunday in September, the Ceramics Festival is held in Seto. About 200 open stalls, selling ceramics at discount prices, are set up along the Seto River.

Seto is a small city with a river dividing the main street in half. There are about 12 different bridges crossing the river. Each of the bridges is uniquely decorated with various kinds of pottery or porcelain. The water in the river is cloudy and full of sediment from all the different pottery makers. There are several small restaurants including a noodle shop on the main street that serves homemade noodles. Finding a place to eat is not a problem. Even though Seto is small, it takes a while to get oriented, and some people enjoy a full day poking in and out



of shops. Several hours would be enough if you are not that interested in “dirty dish” shopping.

From Seto, you can get on the Chuo at the Tabimi interchange. The green expressway signs are clear and easy to follow and it takes about four hours to get from Seto back to Yokota.

Cindy Drossner

## Takayama City

If you look on a map, the city is identified as Takayama; however, when I mentioned to many of my Japanese friends that I had been to Takayama they were unsure of the place until I said “Hida Takayama”. Whatever the difference, it was an enjoyable trip. According to the tourist books, this city is described as a little Kyoto. It is designed in a grid-like fashion similar to Kyoto, which makes navigating easy, and it is an old city; that’s where the similarity ends. This city does not deluge you with shrines and temples, (though there are some very nice ones to visit), but instead, gives you a friendly, relaxed feeling.

The city is small and many of the attractions are within walking distance. There are two daily early morning markets which abound with fresh vegetables, fruits and crafts that are brought in and vended by farmers. There are many sake factories and miso makers which are open for tours and tastes. There are many craft areas where locals produce their specialties made from wood, ceramics, pottery, and cloth. Although this city is known as an original old city with beautiful, authentic architecture, it is not without some modern conveniences. One thing, however, that you’ll not find is a modern American-style restaurant. In fact, we weren’t even able to find a 7-11, although there is an equivalent. The eating facilities available are abundant and serve delicious natural cuisine.

Takayama has a couple of Western-style hotels and some Japanese ryokans; however, we found these to be quite costly. A good alternative is a “pension.” There are many in the area and the price is under Y10,000/person per night. This price includes a good, filling European-style supper and breakfast. Pension rooms usually accommodate two or three people in beds. Some have private bathrooms, but most have house facilities separate for men and women. If you are not familiar with a pension, it is similar to an American bed and breakfast. Two words of warning: towels and noises. Pensions do not provide towels or any of the other small toiletries that hotels provide. You must take your own. If you want a good night’s sleep, check the area for noise such as trains, etc. Upon arriving at our pension, the host ushered us up to our room and immediately pointed out the beautiful mountain view. It wasn’t until later in the night we discovered that in the valley below our window with the beautiful view was a farm with a bunch of cows. Much to our sleepless dismay, we discovered the interesting fact that Japanese cows don’t sleep at night. At least these didn’t!

Another enjoyable fact about Takayama is the scenery. It’s in a mountain farm area and everything about it is clean

and fresh. During our visit in September the rice was being harvested, so there were many photo opportunities.

**DIRECTIONS:** There is a train that will take you right to the center of town, but driving there is very easy. There are two routes which you can take. The first one takes about 5 hours from Yokota to the center of Takayama.

From Yokota, go to the Hachioji entrance to the Chuo Expressway and take the entrance for Kofu. After going about 155km on the expressway, stay in the left lane and watch for the sign for the Nagano Expressway. Exit the Chuo onto the Nagano Expressway. Follow the signs for Okaya and Matsumoto. Get off at Exit 4, the Matsumoto exit. The toll is Y4000. At the “Y,” veer right. At the first light after exiting, turn right, and continue on this road until you see a sign for Route 158 to Takayama. Turn right at this sign. Follow Rt. 158 to Takayama all the way into the city. The signs are all in English. The last hour of driving is through the mountains, so if you’re nervous about driving on narrow bad mountain roads, I would suggest you take the other route. Also, this route is closed during some winter months due to snow.

The second route is about 2 hours longer and does not go through the mountains. Begin the same as for the above route, but do not exit the Chuo Expressway at the Nagano Expressway. Continue on the Chuo Expressway toward Nagoya until Exit 27, Nakatsugawa. Exit here. Get onto Rt. 257 toward Gero. After about 50km look for a sign for Rt. 41. Route 257 will merge with Rt. 41 at an intersection. Take Route 41 north (right) to Takayama. Takayama is off to the right from Route 41. The toll for this route is ¥5800.

Charlene Elmore

## Kanazawa

If you can’t get to Kyoto, try visiting Kanazawa, Matsumoto, and Takayama to get a representative idea of feudal Japanese culture. Kanazawa has been compared to Renaissance Italy and the Medicis in that it developed into a wealthy castle town held for a long time by one family, the Maedas. The resulting security allowed the local artisans and craftsmen to develop their own styles, eventually enticing master artists from Kyoto to work under Maeda patronage. Although there isn’t much left of the Maeda castle but a gate, the outer castle garden, called the Kenrokuen, has the reputation of being one of the three most beautiful in Japan. It occupies the center of the city, and one can easily spend an afternoon wandering its various paths, perhaps making a brief tour through the adjoining Seison Kaku Villa. Surrounding the gardens are several prefectural and private museums, some with beautiful Japanese collections displaying Kutani porcelains, Kaga/Wajima lacquerware, and gold leaf metalwork.

The unusual stained glass window in Oyama Shrine was an interesting and previously distinct landmark for sailors at sea. (Western stained glass in a Shinto shrine?) The short tour through the Saihitsu Silk Dyeing House was educational and provided a brief rest from pleasant cycling over the cobblestone streets of the samurai district.

But the highlight of the tour was the so called Ninja-Dera, or Myoruji Temple which was designed with trick staircases and numerous hiding spots for the local lords when they



came to worship. A popular spot, reservations must be made for a guided tour.

Nearly all the various pamphlets were in English and street signs abound. Even though the city is not that large, we chose to rent bicycles from the station for about ¥600 for five hours. Once we were away from the station and headed toward Kenrokuen, the English map worked out very well and we did not get lost. Kanazawa is about a six hour drive from Yokota via the Kan-etsu Expressway to the Sea of Japan, and then west along the coast on the Hokuriku. Because of the distance involved, a trip might be best over a long 3-day weekend.

Teresa K. Negley

## Kyoto

The capital from 794 to 1868, Kyoto is “quintessential Japan.” Thanks to its unattractiveness as a military target and persuasive scholars who recognized Kyoto and nearby Nara as invaluable cultural and historical treasures, the two cities were spared Allied attacks in WWII. Thus, today we can visit these ancient cities and immerse ourselves in art, architecture, religions and culture dating back to the 7th century. Civil wars later destroyed a number of sites, but many were rebuilt and today are three to four hundred years old. Such places preserve the workmanship of artisans during one of Japan’s longest eras of peace and cultural achievement.

Kyoto retains much of the ancient charm difficult to find in modern Tokyo. It is home to over 200 Shinto shrines, 1,500 Buddhist temples, outstanding museums, and other buildings of historical significance. Its geographic setting, in a valley surrounded by mountains, provides both relief from the summer heat and stunning scenery. Kyoto is also an artistic and intellectual center. Many crafts which have passed into obscurity elsewhere are prospering there. Since it is difficult to provide a concise, comprehensive guide for a city about which hundreds of books have been written, we focus on the major attractions. For those with special interests, other resources are recommended.

**DIRECTIONS:** Kyoto is easily accessible by Japan Rail Shinkansen (about three hours from Tokyo; round trip about ¥24,000), and it is a reasonably easy drive from Yokota. Take the Chuo Expressway west towards Kofu. Just before Nagoya, the Chuo and Tomei expressways join the Meishin Expressway at the Komaki Junction. Follow the signs onto the Meishin and on to Kyoto. The distance from Yokota is roughly 475km, and tolls are about ¥10,000 one way. Drive time is a minimum of six hours, and can be much longer depending upon traffic and weather. Be sure your hotel has parking available.

### Where to Stay

There are accommodations to meet every taste and budget, including minshuku, business hotels, ryokan, and a Holiday Inn. Select accommodations based on your mode of transportation and the places you wish to visit.

### Three Sisters Inn

Three Sisters Inn located in Higashiyama has two buildings, the main inn, and the annex. The Japanese-style rooms are large and comfortable. Some suites have private baths. Call 075-761-6336 for reservations 8am-11 pm or fax: 075-761-6338

### How to Get Around

Kyoto is a big city! It has one subway line of little use to tourists. The City Buses are good for reaching places within the city, while the Kyoto Buses will take you to outlying destinations. Consult a good map for bus routes and station locations. Parking is difficult to find and expensive. Driving in Kyoto is fairly easy with a good map, so you could use your car to reach outlying destinations. As with most places, the best way to see Kyoto is on foot. Take comfortable, sturdy walking shoes.

### Shopping/Restaurants

Kyoto can be a shopping paradise, depending on your taste and budget. As mentioned, traditional craft items difficult to find elsewhere are available here. These include paper lanterns & umbrellas, textile weaving, dyeing and painting; hair ornaments, pottery & ceramics, local specialty dolls, bamboo ware, joinery, lacquerware, shikishi & tamazaku paper, washi, fans, damascene, cutlery, woodblock prints, metalwork and stone carving. There are hundreds of shops and restaurants - something for everyone. The main areas are around the Kamogawa River along Shijo-Dori. Gion is on the eastern side; Pontocho and Shinkyogoku on the western side. Kyoto Station is home to a large underground shopping complex. Also of interest: the art and antique areas on Shinmonzen-dori (Gion), and the pottery shops on Kiyomizuzaka en route to Kiyomizu Temple. Most organized tours stop at the Kyoto Handicraft Center. For a more subdued experience and to see the work of many excellent artisans, visit the Kyoto Craft Center (open 11am—7pm; Tel. 561-9660).

### What to See

**Nijo-Jo** is a rare plains castle, built in 1603 for Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa. The grounds include two palaces, double moats, and splendid gardens. Those who have visited Nikko’s Toshogu Shrine will recognize some architectural and decorative elements. The Ninomaru Palace is the original structure and features fabulous Kano School paintings on the walls and doors as well as nightingale floors, all in splendid condition. The indoor scenes in the “Shogun” miniseries were filmed here. Open 8:45am-4pm Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays. Closed Dec. 26- Jan. 4, non-holiday Mondays, and post-holiday Tuesdays. Admission: ¥450. Pay parking available.

**Minamiza** is the oldest theater in Japan and the site of the first kabuki performances. Kabuki programs are given three or four times annually, each lasting about three weeks. Gion corner, a popular stop on night tours, offers a one-hour capsule of traditional dance, bunraku, music & tea ceremony. Consult the local Tourist Information Center for a current schedule of events.



**Kyoto's Imperial Palace** was home to Japan's Imperial family from 1331 until the capital was moved to Edo. The present buildings date from 1855. 30-minute guided tours in English are available. Advance permission (bring your passport) must be obtained from the Imperial Household Agency office on the palace grounds prior to the free tour.

**Nishi-Honganji Temple** is an enormous complex with the eastern portion several blocks away. It was the headquarters of the influential Jodo-shinshu Buddhist sect, the "common man's" sect in feudal times. Buildings on this site are three centuries old. The Karamon Gate and Daishoin Hall feature elaborate carving and decorations moved from Fushimi Jo Castle before Ieyasu Tokugawa had it razed. Admission is free.

**Heian Jingu Shrine** was built in 1895 for Kyoto's 1,000th anniversary! The vermilion buildings are picturesque, small-scale copies of the first Imperial Palace. One of Japan's finest gardens (30,000 square meters) hides behind the facade. It should NOT BE MISSED during the cherry, azalea, iris or autumn seasons. Garden open 8:30am-5pm (4:30 in winter). Admission: ¥300.

**The Silver Pavilion (Ginkakuji)** was built in 1482 as a retirement villa for Shogun Yoshimasa Ashikaga. This compact structure was to have been covered with silver foil as a counterpart to his grandfather's gold-covered villa. The dry landscape garden is of special interest, and the surrounding grounds and gardens are beautifully executed and maintained. Open 8:30am-5pm (9-4:30 in winter). Admission: ¥200.

**Nanzenji Temple** is Kyoto's most important Zen temple. The Hojo Hall features Kano School paintings and the attached dry landscape garden's stones are thought to represent

tigers crossing a stream. The precincts contain three other minor temples with beautiful gardens. Konchiin Temple's garden was designed by Enshu, one of Japan's greatest landscape artists. Open 9am-5pm. Zen garden admission: ¥300.

**Chion-in Temple** is headquarters of the Jodo Buddhist sect, and dates from 1234. Its Sanmon Gate is perhaps the most imposing temple gate in the country. The Daihojo Hall features Kano School paintings; the garden is by Enshu; and the temple's bronze bell, Japan's largest, requires 17 people to ring it. Open 9am-5pm. Admission: ¥300.

**Maruyama-Koen** is nestled at the foot of Kyoto's eastern mountains. This park is a delightful place to relax between temple visits and shopping. Its ponds and gardens are quite attractive, especially in spring. Vendors, restaurants and souvenir shops help keep the atmosphere festive. A great spot for people watching! Kiyomizudera is a magnificent temple reached via Kiyomizuzaka, a steep street lined with endless pottery stores, restaurants & other souvenir shops. Established in 798, the present buildings date from 1633. The Main Hall is supported by 139 giant pillars and affords excellent views of the city below. Don't miss the short walk to the ancient pagoda on the adjacent hillside, as you can view the entire complex from it. Open dawn-dusk. Admission: ¥100.

**Kyoto National Museum** is the Imperial Household Agency's repository for precious art objects and other treasures of the emperors. It was established 110 years ago and is divided into sections for history, fine arts, and handicrafts. Over 2,000 items are on display. Open 9am-4pm, Tuesday-Sunday. Admission: ¥250.

**Sanjusangendo Hall** is so nicknamed for the 33 spaces between its pillars. This long, narrow hall was last rebuilt in



Golden Pavilion, Kyoto, photo courtesy Brian & Kristen Marriott 11/00.



1266. Its major attraction is the wooden image of a thousand-handed Kannon, a National Treasure carved in 1254. Over 1,000 statues fill the rest of the gallery, Open 8am-4pm. Admission: ¥300.

**The Gold Pavilion (Kinkakuji)** faithfully recalls the original pavilion constructed in 1397 as a retirement villa for Shogun Yoshimitsu Ashikaga. It was destroyed by arson in 1950. An exact reproduction was completed in 1955. It was repaired and completely recovered with new gold foil in 1987. The pavilion is magnificently reflected by the large pond in the surrounding garden—a sight you won't soon forget! Open 9am-5pm. (5:30 in summer). Admission: ¥300.

**Ryoanji Temple** was founded in 1473 by the Rinza sect of Zen Buddhism, and is famous for its rock garden of 15 stones (Seki-Tei). Don't fall victim to the myopic rush of tourists to see that one garden, however. The temple complex has lovely precincts with other gardens which merit your attention. Open 8am-5pm.

**Uzumasa Movie Village** (Uzumasa Eigamura) is the filming site for many movies. It is complete with sets depicting both feudal and modern Japan. Allow one - three hours to tour the facilities. Open Jan. 2 to Dec. 20. Closed fourth Tues.-Thurs. of July. Hours: 9am-5pm, March 16 - Nov. 15; 9:30am-4pm, Nov. 16 - March 15. Admission: ¥1,100.

**Mt. Hiei and Enryakuji Temple** take the better part of a day to visit, and are off the beaten path. I highly recommend a visit to Enryakuji. Consult your maps for the driving route from either Kyoto or Otsu (there is an excellent toll road). To reach Mt. Hiei by public transportation, take the train from Demachiyana Station to Yaseyuen Station. From there, a cable car and ropeway will transport you high above Kyoto to the top of Mt. Hiei. There are small places to eat along the way, and you may encounter wild monkeys which inhabit the mountain slopes.

**Enryakuji**, the head temple of the Tendai Buddhist sect, was a powerful spiritual, political, and military force during the peak of its prosperity in the 16th century. At that time, some 3,000 buildings comprised the temple precincts. Most of the present 150 structures were built in the 17th century, and the major ones have been refurbished and are quite striking. As you wander the wooded paths between the east, west and north areas of the temple, enjoy the splendid views of both Kyoto to the west and Lake Biwa to the east.

**Yuzen Textile & Dye Museum** is ten blocks due south of Nijo Castle. The displays depict the Yuzen dyeing process (both stencil cutting and hand painting) for Japanese textiles. The first floor contains masterpieces of Yuzen dyeing. The upper two floors have demonstration areas where you can watch artisans at work. Open 9am to 5pm. Closed Dec. 29 - Jan. 4. Admission: ¥300.

**Nishijin Textile Museum** is six blocks north of Nijo Castle. The museum displays world-famous techniques of weaving, the second major method of decorating Japanese textiles. Like the Yuzen artists, weavers in the 15th century enjoyed Imperial patronage and were thus able to elevate their craft into an art form. While the Nishijin Museum is more touristy than the Yuzen Museum, people interested in Japanese textiles shouldn't miss it. There is a short fashion show of contempo-

rary kimono at regular intervals between 10am and 4pm. Fashion show admission: ¥150.

At the **Ponto-Cho Kaburenio Theatre**, see the Kamogawa Odori Geisha Dance of Kamo River, a biannual event in spring and autumn. This dance spectacle is performed by Maiko and senior Geisha.

**The Okutan** restaurant is a wonderful surprise of good food and atmosphere. On first floor, the tables overlook the beautiful garden. The second floor is a large open room with several tables on tatami and large windows overlooking the garden. Lunch consists of several tofu items and tempura. The main course is boiled tofu, cut into large chunks and served in a large pot of boiling water. You take the tofu and place it in a small bowl and pour dashi over it. The taste is similar to miso soup, and surprisingly excellent. (Tofu is the principle food of Buddhist priests and the best tofu is found near temples.)

**References:** Visit the Japan National Tourist Organization's Tourist Information Center (TIC) in Tokyo before you visit Kyoto. TIC offices are located at Narita Airport and across from the Yurakucho train station. They can provide assistance with maps, accommodations, current events, festi-



vals, etc. Hours are 9am-5pm weekdays, and 9am-noon on Saturday. Closed Sundays and national holidays.

If you can't get to the Tokyo T.I.C., make the Kyoto T.I.C. your first stop there. It is on the ground floor of the Kyoto Tower, opposite Kyoto Station. Open 9am-5pm weekdays, and 9am-noon, Saturdays. Tel: (075) 371-5649. They also have a free English tele-recording of current events in Kyoto at (075) 361-2911.

**Recommended Books:** *Japan Solo* (Kanno & O'Keefe) - very large section on Kyoto alone. Includes detailed map done with the English-speaking tourist in mind; itineraries for each day of your visit, directions (foot, bus & train) to attractions, hours, admission fees, restaurant & hotel recommendations & prices, etc.

*Old Kyoto: A Guide to Traditional Shops, Restaurants, and Inns* (Diane Durston). Organized geographically and indexed both alphabetically & by shop type, this book is invaluable if you have specific interests.

*Kyoto: Seven Paths to the Heart of the City* (Diane Durston). A sensitive portrait of Kyoto's michinami (old neighborhoods) and life there. Contains beautiful color photographs with cross-referenced maps, and a section on traditional crafts & cuisine, etc.

*Kyoto, a Contemplative Guide* (Gouverneur Mosher) A serious work for those with a strong interest in Kyoto's past (religious & political).

**Maps:** "Handy Map of Kanto" and "Handy Map of Kansai," Japan Guide Map Co.

Cheryl Raggio, Christine Holmes

## Hiroshima

One moment- 8:15am, August 6, 1945- changed history forever. The atomic bomb that caused the death of over 200,000 people continues to affect the world politically, militarily, and technologically. Your stay in Japan would not be complete without a visit to Hiroshima, where you can witness both the horror of nuclear warfare and the determination of a people to survive.

Today, Hiroshima is a thriving metropolis. Its people not only do not want to forget August 6, they want their city to be known as an international "City of Peace." There are several areas of interest in the city. First and foremost is **Heiwa Kinen Koen (Peace Memorial Park)** adjacent to **Genbaku Domu (Atomic Dome)**, said to be ground zero of the atomic explosion. The bomb exploded directly over the Industrial Promotion Hall, and the structure is now the only A-bomb ruined building still standing in the city. In the Park complex you'll find the Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Hall, the Memorial Cenotaph, and the Peace Flame. The Peace Memorial Museum displays the effects of the bomb on the city and its people. The museum charges ¥50 for adults and ¥30 for people 19 years and younger. It is open 9am to 6pm, May-November and 9am to 5pm, December -April. The Memorial Cenotaph, shaped like an inverted U, contains a stone chest with the names of known atomic bomb victims. The Flame of Peace will re-

main burning until all atomic bombs have been eliminated from the planet.

A second point of interest is the **Hiroshima, or "Carp" Castle**, originally built in 1589, and rebuilt in 1958. The castle now contains a museum, and the top provides an exceptional view of the city. Admission is ¥300 for adults and ¥150 for all students. It is open 9am-5:30pm, April - September, and 9am-4:30pm, October - March.

A few blocks east of the castle, on the banks of the Kyobashi River, is **Shukkeien Garden**. Built in 1620, this garden was modeled after a famous Chinese lake. The garden has beautiful bridges, carp and pine trees. Early spring brings cherry blossoms, and soon the azaleas bloom. It is open 9am to 6pm in summer, and closes at 5pm in winter. Entrance: ¥200.

**The World Peace Memorial Cathedral** is one of the largest Roman Catholic churches in Asia, built in 1954 at the suggestion of a German Jesuit, Hugo LaSalle, who had experienced the blast. Many countries donated money for the construction. The altar was a gift from Belgium, the organ came from Cologne, and the bronze doors were donated by Dusseldorf.

Other places to visit are the **Hiroshima Museum of Art, the Science and Culture Museum for Children, the Mitaki Temple** and the **Municipal Botanical Garden**. The city is very easy to get around in, and most attractions are accessible from Hiroshima Station by foot, taxi or electric cable cars. Keep in mind most places close for New Year from Dec 29 to Jan 3. When planning your trip, you can stay in Hiroshima or nearby Iwakuni. If you drive, it takes about 12 hours, and the tolls total about \$150, one way. It still might be cheaper than a tour, depending on how many people are in your party. Or you can try to EML to Twakuni Marine Corps Air Station.

Wiki Lyn Paulson-Cody Karen Ozment, Margaret Summers Rita Mayer



## Miyajima

Along with Matsushima Bay and Ama-no-hashidate, Miyajima, the Island of Shrines, ranks among the three most beautiful sights in Japan. Although only 19 miles in circumference, Miyajima is a place you'll want to visit, especially if you plan a trip to Hiroshima. Miyajima is also known as "Itsukushima" after its famous shrine, built on supports that extend out to the sea. A stone lantern-lined road connects the landing-stage to Itsukushima Shrine, which was first recorded in 811 and is dedicated to the daughters of the Shinto wind god, Susanou. Rebuilt and restored many times, this unique shrine creates the illusion of floating on water at high tide. The white walls with orange-colored frames create a spectacular view. Even more stunning is the largest wooden torii gate in Japan that stands 200m, directly in front of the shrine. Built in 1895, the Torii (Grand Gate) also appears to be floating in the water.

Other popular sights include: the **Hall of Industrial Traditions of Miyajima**, the **Aquarium** (which houses 15,000 rare fish), the **Mt. Misen ropeway** (1.6km-long cable car that runs over Momijidani Koen to the top of Mt. Misen), the **Historical and Folklore Materials Museum**, the **5-story Pagoda** (built in 1407), and **Senjokaku** (1000 mats). Tame deer wander freely all over the island and readily accept food that visitors hand-feed them (the food can be bought around the island for ¥100).

The rice scoop is a traditional souvenir of Miyajima. The method of making the spoon dates back to the Edo period. The spoon is unique because it is resistant to heat, and the rice doesn't carry the scent of the wood. Miyajima is easy to get to by train from Iwakuni or Hiroshima. From Miyajima-guchi, exit the station and walk (use the underground walkway at the intersection) to the pier (about 5 min) and take a 10-minute ferry boat ride.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody, Karen Ozment, Margaret Summers, Rita Mayer

## Iwakuni

Although small, Iwakuni is worth a visit any time of year, especially if you plan a trip to Hiroshima and Miyajima. Perhaps the most famous sight in Iwakuni is the **Kintai-Kyo (Bridge of the Silver Brocade Sash)**. This bridge is very graceful and unusual. It is made from wood and has five arches. The bridge is 193m long and very different because not only does the frame arch but so does the actual walkway. The first bridge built in 1673 stood until 1950 when a flood destroyed it. The current bridge is an exact replica built in 1953. Another factor in the bridge's construction is that it's built entirely without nails. It is a one-of-a-kind and truly worth the visit.

Another sight you won't want to miss is the **cormorant fishing**. **Ukdi** is a "spectator event" with an atmosphere you'll find culturally rich. The fishing is done using cormorants (large pelican-like) to catch dyu (freshwater trout) - Ukai fishing has been done for over 2000 years. Nowadays, the fishing is done more or less for tourists. The fish are sold to specialty restaurants in the local area. Cormorant fishing is done at night with the birds put on leashes (with rings around their necks), and controlled by the fishermen so they cannot swallow the fish. At the front of the boat, a bonfire is lit to

attract the fish to the surface of the water where the birds can easily catch them. A typical boat has 12 cormorant birds "working" at one time. The fishing takes place at the Kintai bridge and can be seen from the bridge or from the river banks. It is performed from June to August after dark. The fishing will not be performed on nights when there is a full moon or when the water is muddy after heavy rains. Ukai fishing is also famous in Arashiyama and Uji.

Another point of interest is the **Nishimura Museum** near the Kintai Bridge. The museum is best known for its samurai collections, including armor, weapons and other objects used in daily life by samurai warriors. It is by far one of the best collections in Japan.

While in Iwakuni, you can stay in billeting, the Iwakuni House. Call 253-3221. Or you can find a Japanese inn. Reservations are not always taken at Iwakuni, especially during peak travel and PCS times. You can, however, be placed on the space available waiting list. If you call early, you will be near the top of the list upon your arrival. Iwakuni is a beautiful place and it can be reached by car, train or by flying Space A. Driving is very easy and I recommend buying "Japan: a Bilingual Atlas" which will get you there as well as anywhere you want to go with absolutely no problem. Train directions can be obtained at the Yujo Rec Center.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

(See "Sanzoku Restaurant" listing in Dining Section.)

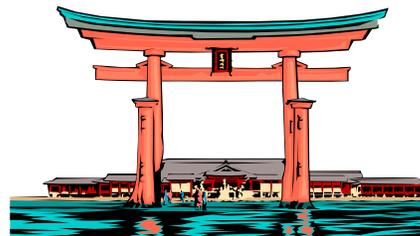
## Iwakuni - Sanzoku Restaurant

This is a delightful eating experience in the hills of Iwakuni. The atmosphere is charming and the food is tasty too!

**DIRECTIONS:** Go out the main gate to 4 Corners. Turn left onto Rt. 188 until you cross the bridge over the Monzen River. Turn right at the first traffic light over the bridge. Follow this road (the river will be on the right) until you see the double bridges. Turn left at Rt. 15 (Rt 2 Bypass) and follow this road for a distance. Drive through 3 tunnels. (This is a good little drive, about 30- 45 minutes.) At the next traffic light turn right. Go up the hill and the "Chicken Shack" is located on the left. At the "Chicken Shack" there are 3 buildings. Sanzoku Shop, right side, Kamado Shop, near the waterfall; Torian Restaurant, upstairs. Each shop is closed on various days.

Sanzoku Shop	10:00 am – 5:00 am
Kamado Shop	10:00 am – 11:00 pm
Torian Resaurant	10:00 am – 11:00 pm

Dawn Leach/ Feb '02



# Nagasaki

I don't know if I could recommend Nagasaki to newcomers. The charm and the history of Japan's first international city appeals to Westerners, often causing disappointment in other Japanese cities. For anyone here over a year or who has seen the sights in Tokyo, I highly recommend this city.

Nagasaki Harbor, on the northwest corner of Kyushu, was opened in 1570 for foreign trade and flourished from 1641-1858, the period of national isolation. The city's colorful history makes this a worthwhile journey. Long before it became famous as the setting of Puccini's immortal opera "Madame Butterfly," Nagasaki had a high population of Portuguese, Dutch, and Spanish settlers and soon after, Christian missionaries who began to preach the Gospel to Japan. It is said the Japanese ruling classes feared that the Jesuits wanted to influence the government and westernize the country. It was then, 1587, when Toyotomi Hideyoshi issued an edict and one year later on February 5, 26 Christians were crucified at Nishizaka hill. By 1639, all foreigners with the exception of a few Dutch traders who professed no religious preference, were expelled from Japan. Christianity did not stop here; today, more than 80,000 Christians live in this city, and churches are a common sight. The Meiji Period led to the reopening of Japan and although the importance of Nagasaki declined with the loss of its monopoly of European goods and ideas, it remains as a center of ship-building and as a principal port for both import and export.

Following Hiroshima, Nagasaki was hit by the second atomic bomb on August 9, 1945. The bomb was meant for a shipyard, but missed by several miles and landed where over one-third of the Christian population lived. Some 75,000 lives were lost and more injured, and that number does not include later radiation-caused deaths. This stunning number is less than that of Hiroshima, due to the city being surrounded by hills and much of the firestorm being blown out to sea by heavy winds. There are three principal reminders of this horrifying day: Peace Park, The International Hall of Culture (Atom Bomb Museum), and the large black pyramid. Peace Park is a memorial indicating the epicenter of the atomic explosion. Statues donated by other countries line the way to the Peace Statue built in 1955. The right hand of this bronze statue points to the threat of nuclear weapons, while the left hand and closed eyes symbolize peace and a prayer for victims of war. Also at the south end of the park is the International Hall of Culture, a museum consecrated to bomb material: statistics, maps, pictures, and the remains of buildings, clothing, and Catholic rosaries. Located across the street is the black stone pyramid that points straight up to where the bomb exploded 500 meters above at 11:02 a.m. Unlike Hiroshima, Nagasaki places some blame for the war on the leaders and government at that time.

Within walking distance of Peace Statue is **Urakami Cathedral**, known before the bomb as the finest church in Japan. Originally built by a small group of devoted Christians, it was rebuilt in 1959, and has the residuum of statues mauled by the blast. Near Urakami Station rests the **Half Torii of Hie Jinja Shrine** which survived the explosion and now stands as a monument. Next is the **Sakamoto International Cem-**

**etry**, the burial spot of Thomas Glover. Near Nagasaki Station is the **Site of the Martyrdom of the 26 Saints**. As stated, the memorial is for the 20 Japanese and 6 foreigners who were crucified for refusing to condemn their faith. There is an old bell and several fumi-e (step-on picture plaques) of Catholic holy subjects on which suspected Christians, it is said over 650, were to prove their "innocence" or face death by torture. The Chapel has two towers: one symbolizing man's prayers for peace and the other for God's grace. Around this area is a large silver statue of Kannon, the Japanese goddess of mercy, Ming style, and a National Treasure.

Walk 200 meters to see **Seifuku-Ji**, a Chinese temple, with a reclining god of fortune. Also nearby is the **Prefectural Art Museum** housed on the grounds of St. Mary's Church; Suwa Shrine; Kofuku-ji temple; the remains of Koei-ji temple; and in a section filled with old shops and restaurants there are several stone bridges, the oldest and most famous being a double-arched megane-bashi, "**Spectacle Bridge**," built by a Chinese Buddhist priest in 1634. The bridge remains as one of the three most famous in Japan. Near the bridge is **Hamanomachi Shopping Arcade**.

Quite a hike, but do-able from the arcade is **Sofuku-ji temple**, the oldest Chinese temple dedicated to the Obaku Zen Sect in Japan and one of Nagasaki's trademarks. The main gate is a stunning example of Ming temple gates and is, along with the main building, a National Treasure. Pass the numerous monuments, climb the stairs, and pass through the second gate that was brought over and set up from China in 1685. There is a fish-shaped gong and a sub-temple for the goddess of the sea, which only two temples in Nagasaki have. **Kofuku-ji temple** is one kilometer down the street and was strategically built on higher ground to encourage Buddhism against Christianity in 1620. This is the other location of the sea goddess.

**Chinatown** is on the way from the temples to Nagasaki's Confucian Shrine. It is smaller than Yokohama's and San Francisco's, but it has many restaurants worthy of eating at! The prices are reasonable, and most shops have plastic food in the windows to make ordering easy.

Walking up Hollander Slope one soon sees luminous colors and roofs with sharp curves and dragons. This is the **Confucian Shrine**, and also the location of **The Palace Museum and The National Museum of Chinese History**. First built in 1893 by Chinese residents with the support of the Ch'ing Dynasty government, it was severely damaged by the bomb and not reopened to the public again until September, 1967. This is the only Confucian shrine built outside China and on the grounds are 72 statues of wise men, a gate of rites, a statue of Confucius, and several dragons known as symbols of courage. Behind Da Cheng Hall is the museum with valuable exhibits offered by the National Museum of Chinese History and the Beijing Palace Museum.

Designated as a National Treasure in 1933, **Oura Catholic Church** is the oldest Gothic wooden church in Japan. On March 17, 1865, the hidden Christians of Nagasaki were discovered here; thus, the official name, Cathedral of the Devotion of 26 Saints," consecrated to the souls of the slain saints. Built by a French missionary, it is known as locally as the "French Church" and it is an important part of Japanese Chris-



tian history. Next to the church is Glover Garden, 30,000 square feet of trees, flowers, fountains, and Victorian colonial-style buildings, a reminder of the thriving European settlement in the late 19th century. The **Glover House** is the oldest Western-style building in Japan, built in 1863 by a British man. It has a breathtaking panoramic view of the harbor and city. It is said this is where "Madame Butterfly" was inspired. Also on the grounds are the **Steele Memorial Academy**, a mural fountain and statue of opera singer Miura Tamaki, the Mitsubishi No. 2 Dock House, Alt House, Ringer House, and the Nagasaki Museum of Traditional Performing Arts. The museum has floats and gear used during one of the three most praised festivals, Nagasaki Kunchi Festival, held every year from October 7 - 9. A short ferry boat ride takes you to Dejima, an island where for nearly 250 years, the Dutch were sequestered.

For shoppers, Nagasaki is famous for pearls, pottery, and glassware. If you like to taste food native to the area, Chinese cakes, castella sponge cake, and a sweetened dried fruit called zabon-zuke are most noted here. Special dishes include Shippoku, Chanpon, Saraudon, and anything Chinese.

Local fruit includes mandarin oranges, loquats, and zabon (shaddock).

Other areas of interest are Mt. Inasa, Unzen National Park (with smoldering volcanoes), Saruiwa (Monkey Park), Dozaki Church, Isahaya Megane-Bashi, Shimabara Castle (noted for its Christian exhibits), Shiraki-mine Plateau, and Huis Ten Bosch, also known as the "Dutch Village."

Nagasaki, with its fresh air, friendly people, and beautiful patches surrounded by factories, homes and shops is one of the most charming and interesting cities I've visited in Japan. To me, it is unsurpassed.

For more information, write the Nagasaki Prefectural Tourist Federation at Ili-1, Daikokumachi, Nagasaki City T850 or dial (0958)26-9407, fax 24-3087. For the City Tourist Information Office at 1-88, Onoue-machi, dial 22-1954. For the Nagasaki City Hall Tokyo Office at 1-3, Hibiya Park, Chiyodaku, Tokyo, dial (03) 591-7600. Note, the Nagasaki City Tourist Information Center is located across the street from Nagasaki Station. There is a Holiday Inn at 6-24 Doza-machi, Tel. 0958-28-1234.

**DIRECTIONS:** Nagasaki is an easy trip by Shinkansen (bullet train) to Hakata, and then via express train to Nagasaki Station. It takes over ten hours by train, but the trip is definitely worth it! Nagasaki is an easy drive from Sasebo Naval Base, although some Yokotans prefer to rent vehicles at Iwakuni MCAS and drive across the Shimonoseki straits. From Yokota and Atsugi, it is possible to fly space available to Sasebo (Nagasaki). Once there, it is easy to get around by street car, bus, taxi, or train.

Karen Ozment

## Okinawa

Okinawa is an island paradise reminiscent of Mazatlan and Cancun, Mexico or non-Oahu Hawaii. Its open spaces, clean air, warm friendly people, and laid-back ways are elements I'd like to experience more. This island is 67 miles long and 2 to 17 miles wide, with a population of 857,000. The

average yearly temperature is 72 degrees and its main industry is tourism. Visit during May-June or September-October if you are hoping to find sunshine, clear clean skies and great beaches to go swimming. If you go between late June and early September, you will find the heat and humidity unbearable.

There is a great deal to do on this small island and many places to entertain children. The local parks have wonderful playground equipment designed for children, but often found enchanting to adults. A few sights to see are: **Shuri Castle, Southeast Asia Botanical Gardens, Peace Park, Museum and Memorial Temple** (very impressive), **Izumi Pineapple Gardens, Naval Underground Hdqrs.** (Imperial Navy Hdqrs. and tunnels where over 4,000 men lived and committed suicide), **Naminoue Leisure Park** (water slides, wave pool), **Aha Village and Waterfalls, Expo '75 Memorial Park, Heddo Point** (swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving), and **Gyokusendo Cave and Snake Center.**

Living at Yokota AB, the first sights I wanted to see were the BX and Commissary! I was not disappointed. I then found my way to Camp Foster... What a PX, or BX as we call it. Yes, I purchased a few more items and even made it to the **Marine Officers' Wives' Gift Shop** as well as the **Kadena Gift Shop.** There's a variety of malls plus local shops and an open market on Heiwa Street (Makishi Market) with over 1,000 stalls. There are also ten bases on this island, so there are plenty of places to shop.

Gate 2 Street, near the Kadena USO, has more shopping opportunities. You'll see **China Pete's** as you walk out the gate. There are also many Indian Merchants who carry American brand name clothes. There are some wonderful children's clothes in a store named Sally's. They also have adult clothes upstairs. On your left, about three blocks from

the gate, there is an outside mall with lots of small shops. Opposite the mall, on your right, there is a small street that goes down a hill, before the big intersection. Two good restaurants are on that street. The **Four Season Steak House** (Kobe Beef) will be on your left. The **Hamarama** (Japanese) is diagonally across from it. Ask for the special.

Some of the Japanese resort beaches are accessible to Americans even if you are not staying overnight. One that I enjoyed was **Manza Beach.** We brought our own snorkeling equipment, but you can rent it from MWR. There are showers at the back of the hotel, by the main pool, and restaurants on the beach.

The WWII tour was an unforgettable experience. The Tea House of the August Moon exposed me to Okinawa dancing and music, which is very different from mainland Japan. The Okinawan food served at the Tea House is unique — another chance to experience other cultures.

Before you start sight-seeing, I suggest you stop at the Kadena USO or Schilling Recreation Center for information, maps and an Off Duty welcome guide. First, you will need to inquire about transportation. Okinawa's public bus system can take you nearly anywhere you want to go. Almost everything is in English, so you shouldn't have trouble knowing where to go and how to get there. Ask at these recreation centers for bus schedules. For automobile rentals at Kadena AB, Fuji Rent A



Car (633-0007) is the BX concession for auto rentals and is located adjacent to the gas station on Douglas Blvd. Their hours are 8:30am to 5:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Prices listed include their mandatory insurance and are subject to change.

## Okuma Rest Center

Okuma, known to the Japanese as Cape Alamaru Peninsula, is only two hours north of Kadena AB, depending on traffic and weather. The Joint Recreation and Conference Center is a tropical paradise nestled within 120 acres of wooded hills and spectacular beaches. Facilities include a restaurant and lounge, reception center, small resale store, boathouse with rental equipment, and laundromat. Okuma's lodging consists of 63 cabana rooms, each with a color TV, FEN reception, a VCR (small selection of rental tapes available at reception center), and a refrigerator. Many can be converted into two-bedroom units for larger families. Room rates depend on season and are based on type requested. There are two campsites available - one for families and the other for singles. Tents to accommodate three or seven people are available for rent. Call early (90 days in advance, maximum) to get your reservations at Okuma. A deposit must be mailed to hold your accommodations. (A beach and campground closer to Kadena is Torii Beach on Torii Station. White Beach is also a nice place.)

This diverse facility has activities for everyone. Water sports, boating, fishing, hiking, biking, tennis, table games, miniature golf, and a nine hole golf course are available for your enjoyment. You can even rent equipment needed for these activities including bicycles and a full range of camping gear. Reservations can be made up to 90 days in advance by contacting the Schilling Recreation Center, Kadena AB, at 634-4322. For more information, write Schilling Recreation Center at 18 MWRS/MWMR, APO AP 96368.

Okinawa. It's a tropical island that you shouldn't miss!

**DIRECTIONS:** You can reach Okuma by using the Okinawa Expressway or taking the scenic drive up Highway 58.

Fran Calene, Mugs Wedemeyer, Christine Thomas

## Misawa

Clean clear air, dazzling bright snowy days, and breathtaking mountain scenery are a few memories that come to mind of Misawa. Misawa is a growing city of 45,000 nestled in the center of Aomori Prefecture, the northernmost prefecture on Honshu. The tourist gateway to northern Japan, Misawa welcomes tourists traveling by jet or train.

Many stay at the nationally famous Komaki Onsen resort and see Sabishiro Beach and the luscious Oirase river valley of Lake Towada. The Komaki Onsen complex next to the train station is a fascinating mixture of old and new Japan. The complex consists of four modern hotels, but Komaki is more than hotels. It includes museums, recreated thatched-roof houses, rock gardens, an open air Noh stage, teahouses, temples, a bowling alley and swimming pool. Connecting all these attractions is a maze of tunnels lined with ancient artwork. The jewel of the complex is the nationally known hot spring. This giant

bath, complete with a waterfall and trees, is a reminder of Lake Towada and the Oirase river. Komaki takes days to completely enjoy. In early August, a brightly-colored dragon festival celebrates the legend of creation. A large park, complete with a man made lake hosts this festival. Three intricately carved and brightly painted boats carry huge smoke-breathing dragons to the outdoor pavilion. There the dragons engage in a dance of smoke, twists and turns recreating the territorial fight that occurred at the beginning of time near Misawa. This festival is an amazing spectacle of beauty, tradition, and art.

Another point of international interest is Sabishiro Beach. From this windswept location, two American aviators launched the first non-stop trans-Pacific flight. Clyde Panborn and Hugh Herndon put Misawa on the international map with their flight to Wenatchee, Washington. Today, the beach is bordered by a dense pine tree park with hiking trails, commemorating their historic flight. The beach with its treacherous undertow is an interesting family picnic area. Misawa offers easy access to the Oirase river valley and Lake Towada. The valley includes a 12 kilometer road with twisting, tight turns. Each bend in the road brings more spectacular scenery. Rushing waterfalls and overpowering rock formations line the valley. The highway up is paralleled by bicycle/hiking trails. The valley opens up into a volcanic crater lake called Towadako with water of a clear crystal blue. Camping sites and hotels are available. A rose garden complete with a restaurant and youth hostel borders one shore.

Host to the U.S. Air Force's 432nd Fighter Wing, Misawa and its air base have maintained a close friendship with numerous cultural exchanges. The base hosts "Japan Day" at its high school inviting Japanese artists, dancers, musicians, athletes, historians, chefs, and others to demonstrate their unique abilities to Americans. Misawa, in turn, sponsors "American Day" at their beautiful auditorium downtown. Americans proudly share their art, crafts, dance, music and food with the townspeople. Additionally, the base and the town residents come together for the many summer festivals. Tanabata, Bon Odori, Miss Vedool, and Lake Ogawara are a few of the wonderful street dancing celebrations. Misawa offers a variety of shopping opportunities. "Green Pole Street" as the Americans fondly call the main street, offers everything from pet shops and fabric shops to flower shops and antique stores. China Pete's and Tony's offer a wide selection of dishes at their shops just outside the base's POL gate. The people of Misawa are friendly and helpful. The area is honeycombed with parks and obstacle courses for children. Shimoda Park, nearby, is the wintering habitat of the white Russian swan. A delightful park with playgrounds and quietly moving streams is adjacent to the "swan lake."

The skiing near Misawa is terrific. The Hakkoda Mountains offer a variety of resorts and onsens designed for modern skiers. The base has a ski club with up-to-date information on facilities and costs. Misawa is not as fast-paced, hectic or crowded as central Japan. The fresh air and open spaces of the nearby rice fields are a pleasant change. Misawa with its friendly people and simple life-style offers a sample of true Japanese living.



**DIRECTIONS:** You can EML from Yokota or Atsugi, take the bus from Yokota's AMC Terminal, fly from Haneda (about Y38,420), take the bullet train (via Morioka for about Y32,000), or drive north on the Tohoku Expressway (about 12 hours, \$110 for tolls + \$30 for gas).

**Places to stay:** It may be difficult getting accommodations on base on a short notice, so check with billeting at 226-3526).

**Local transportation:** The base is within walking distance of the town. However to Komaki or anywhere else, you must travel by bus or rent a car (226-6722).

Mary Dierker

#### Exploring Around Misawa

*Note:* The articles on the areas surrounding Misawa were contributed by the Misawa Family Support Center.

#### Tanesashi Seaside

Along the coast, just south of Hachinohe City, there is a place where you can hike, picnic or just hang out at the beach.

Starting just past Kabushima, or "sea gull island," you can hike or drive the 5.2km along the rocky shore and sandy beach of Tanesashi Seaside. The Shirahama Beach is covered with white sand and is safe for swimming. The Tanesashi area has a small campground and is perfect for picnics. You can enjoy a beautiful hike through the pine trees, along the rocky shore. The trail starts at the Ashigezaki Observatory, a small stone tower which overlooks the sea, continues all the way to the Shirahama Beach, on through a tiny fishing village and ends up at Tanesashi seaside.

At the observatory, there is also a small restaurant, which offers snacks, drinks and ice cream cones. There are some food booths at Shirahama Beach as well, but are only open during the summer season.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Misawa AB, go out the POL Gate, continuing straight to the toll road. Take the toll road to Hachinohe. After exiting the toll road turn right at the light. You will be on Rt. 45. Stay on this road, keeping in the left lane, until you see the blue sign for Kabushima, distinguished by the white sea gull design. Turn left at the sign, following the directional signs for Kabushima and/or the Marine Science Hall. The road gets very narrow, right before you cross a set of railroad tracks in front of the Marine Science Hall. Turn right, continuing along the coast. Eventually, you'll see a parking lot on the left and the stone tower.

#### Monkey Camp

The fishing village of **Wakinosawa** is located about 42km past the town of Mutsu. This area is known for its snow monkeys. There is a rest area and monkey zoo, in case you aren't lucky enough to see them in the wild.

There are cabins available at the Wakinosawa rest area. They cost Y3000 per night and comfortably sleep six in an upstairs loft. The downstairs has a low table and lots of storage space. Each cabin also has a covered porch, which works well as an area to cook in bad weather. There are some tables for cooking or eating, but no chairs. There is a large sink area,

including an area with a pay stove that costs Y100/15min. There are pit toilets, but flush toilets are available when the refreshment center is open. Also, there are cabins with beds for six, a fridge and an indoor flush toilet for Y7800/night and cabins for 15 for Y15,000/night. For reservations, call 0175-44-3252. (Not much English is spoken there).

**Umizuri Park** is located at the town beach. It includes some small water slides, a refreshment area, a playground and warm showers.

About 7km from Wakinosawa is the fishing village of **Kusodoman**. There is a wide walkway along the ocean leading to a campground, about a mile down the coast. This is a great place to explore tide pools and look for monkeys and mountain goats. You'll also see a traditional fishing boat on display in a cedar boathouse. To get to the beach or tide pools, head back into town, turn left at the post office. At the end of the road, turn left and continue to the beach/ark and eventually the end of the road, where the hike along the coast begins.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Misawa AB, take Rt. 338 north (got out the POL Gate, turn left at the first light and head past the airport, until you run into Rt. 338) all the way to Mutsu, and on to Wakinosawa. In Wakinosawa, Rt. 338 winds through town. About 3km down the road is the rest stop and refreshment area, where you check in (look for the giant blue rest stop sign).

Misawa Family Support Center

## Aomori City

A perfect day trip from Misawa, the drive to Aomori City takes about an hour and a half through the Hakkoda Mountains. Once there, you can visit the giant statue of Buddha (Y800 for adults, Y400 for children) or visit local museums. You can stop by the Aomori Prefectural Center for Tourism and Industry or ASPAM, which features displays of local crafts and products. There you can eat in a rotating French restaurant or take the elevator to the top for a great view of the bay. There is a park nearby also where you can have a picnic.

Aomori city has many other things to see and do, from browsing through shops to tasting delicious tidbits in restaurants. There are nice city parks to walk through as well. One more popular reason for visiting in August is the famous Nebuta festival and parade, not to be missed. The spectacularly colorful floats, painstakingly made of rice paper, hand-painted, then lit from within put American parades to shame!

Not far from Aomori, but in the opposite direction on Rt. 4 is the Asamushi Aquarium and Marine Park. The aquarium features dolphin shows and a wide variety of sea life. The cost is Y1550 for adults and Y510 for elementary school children. Right across the street is an amusement park, complete with rides and snacks.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go out Misawa AB's main gate. At the second light, turn right. Go through 3 lights, and then turn right at the 4<sup>th</sup> light. Go all the way to Green Pole Street and turn right. Take the next left onto Rt. 8. Continue on for about 25 min. When you reach the town of Ottono, there will be a light. Turn left here, crossing the blue bridge. (There is a sign for Aomori at the intersection.) Stay on this road. Eventually, you will cross Rt. 4. Continue straight. When you reach the mountains, you will be on the Michinoku toll road. There will



be one rest area on your left, just before you leave the toll road. Pay the toll (Y800 for passenger cars), at the end. Continue straight until you reach Rt. 4. Turn left, if you want to go to downtown Aomori, or right if you want to go to the aquarium and amusement park.

Eddie Levensgood

## Hirosaki

Located about 3 hours from Misawa, Hirosaki is known throughout Japan for its castle, particularly during cherry blossom time. The castle was the fortress of several generations of the Tsugaru clan. There is a fee for the museum (Y300 for adults, Y100 for children; open 9am-5pm from April 1 to November 23), but the castle grounds and park are free. The park contains over 5000 cherry trees, truly a spectacular sight during the cherry blossom festival held during the end of April/beginning of May.

In addition to the castle and park, Hirosaki has other points of interest. There is a 5-storied pagoda, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to comfort the souls of warriors who died in the service of the Tsugaru clan.

The Choshoji Temple, the family temple of the Tsugaru clan, was built in 1629. There are statues of the 500 disciples of Buddha, a large temple bell, and other features. The temple has been designated an Important Cultural Property by the Japanese government. Admission is Y300 for adults and Y250 for children. Hours are 8am-5pm, April-October and 9am-5pm, Nov-March.

Another interesting place is the Neputa Village (Tsugaru Neputa Mura). Here are exhibits of floats used in the Neputa Festival (similar to Aomori's Nebuta Festival). There are also demonstrations of local folk crafts. Admission is Y500 for adults, Y300 for Jr. and Sr. high school students. Hours are 9am-4pm, mid November through March and 9am-5pm, the rest of the year.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions to Aomori. Stay on Rt. 4, all the way through Aomori, until it becomes Rt. 7, which takes you all the way to Hirosaki. When you reach Hirosaki, exit Rt. 7 and head west to the castle park.

Eddie Levensgood

## Sapporo



There are lots of things to do in Sapporo besides winter sports and seeing the Snow Festival. There is shopping, mostly in the Susukino area south of Odori Park, including an underground mall called Poletown (with a McDonald's) and a four block-shopping arcade on the street level. Special items of the region include woodcarvings of foxes and bears, weavings and dairy products.

There are wonderful restaurants in the area including Ramen Alley. Just a brief word about Hokkaido's ramen: it is thicker than Tokyo style. We thought it was the best we've had

in Japan. The mama-san cook spoke no English, but we were able to place and order (in tourist-Japanese) and had plenty to eat! Another local specialty is crab in all forms. One of our best meals was at the Sapporo Beer Brewery, a few minutes ride by taxi from the hotel (we took a bus there and taxi back). Upstairs featured an all you can eat Mongolian barbecue dinner for Y4000 (with all the beer you can drink). Downstairs was the same menu in set portions for less money.

You can rent cross country skis in Nakajima Park, visit the Clock and TV towers, Botanical Gardens, and University. Day trips include an Ainu village, observatory, and hot spring.

Most of all enjoy the clean white snow and fresh air – a treat after living in Tokyo!

Eddie Levensgood

## Otaru

Otaru is 25 miles west of Sapporo, the key city of Hokkaido. It takes an hour to reach Otaru from Sapporo either by car or train. Nothing reminds you more that Otaru was once one of the biggest shipping ports in Japan, as Yokohama and Kobe are now, than the atmosphere from the red brick warehouses and restored canals. There were a couple of large piers and many canals that were used for transportation long ago.

Ten years ago, some members of the Chamber of Commerce in Otaru started a glass factory named Kita-ichi Glass. It is here that you'll come across many knickknacks like a clear Cinderella shoe, wonderful vases for flower arranging and beautiful lamps. They have jewelry, glass flowers and of course many traditional pieces like glasses and bowls. I'll bet that once you get inside you'll forget how many hours you've been there. Admission is free, and no purchase is necessary. The phone number is 0134-33-1991, although it is improbable that you'll reach someone who speaks English.

Walking further along the street, there is a wonderful music box shop names "Otaru Music Box Hall". The shop is filled with fantastic music boxes in every style and material imaginable, at reasonable prices. They have wooden, ceramic, and glass music boxes. There are elegant pieces and others depicting famous cartoon characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Some are shaped as carousels, victrolas and everything in between. Perhaps the most interesting section that caught my eye was the create-your-own section! They had glass boxes with miniature glass and plastic figurines (animals, furniture, food, etc...), which you could purchase separately to create your won special music box, and at a reasonable cost. The shop also has an annex called the "Music Box Museum" and offers free shuttles there, from the hall, on weekends. You'll see many antique reed organs and an expensive pipe organ. Their phone number is 0134-22-1108.

Otaru also has some wonderful hot springs and some of the best seafood in Hokkaido; good luck and enjoy!

Viki Paulson-Cody

## Sapporo Snow Festival

In Japan, one of the biggest and most popular events during winter is the annual Sapporo Snow Festival. Every year,



over two million spectators from all over Japan, as well as from all over the world, gather to see the festival. In 1950, when some high school students made six statues from snow in Odori Park, they never dreamed it would become the gigantic event it is today. Nowadays, you will find sculptures in all sizes, ranging from small one-character designs to huge castles. The sculptures can be seen in three main locations: Odori Park, Susukino and Makomanai (a Japanese army base located about 45 minutes from downtown Sapporo). The sculptures at Makomanai are massive structures including enormous ice slides, which are quite an experience to try. Overall, the numbers of sculptures are in the hundreds. Even in Sapporo there is not enough snow in the immediate area for all the sculptures, so snow is trucked in from the outlying suburbs.

The snow sculptures are modeled after a wide variety of popular Japanese and international personalities, buildings or designs. For example, you may see a scaled-down replica of the White House, a Japanese sumo monkey, some Japanese fairy tale characters (Momotaro the Peach Boy and his followers) and Hansel and Gretel, complete with a witch and gingerbread house. The festival has many sculptures done by schools and other organizations, such as the Japanese military, but one highlight of the festival is the international snow sculpting competition, in which teams from all over the world participate. These sculptures, located in International Square, are judged and are given awards for first, second and third place. There are honorable mentions as well, and considering the number of entries each year, any award or honorable mention is a real honor. The event is taken very seriously and the teams work hard to create award-winning sculptures.

During the festival, another special event, the Snow Queen Contest takes place. Along with the honor of becoming Snow Queen, the winner automatically becomes Miss Sapporo and reigns for one year, making her eligible to competing the Miss Japan contest later. There are many events and the festivities are endless with extensive national television coverage for those not able to travel the distance to Sapporo. This is a popular festival in Japan; one which many may never get to see in person.

The Sapporo Snow festival is held annually over the first weekend in February. The larger sculptures are begun in advance of the festival dates while smaller sculptures may not be started until the festival begins. At whatever time you choose to go during the festival, you will not be disappointed! The Yujo Community Center usually has a special tour to the Festival. Keep in mind that airline and hotel reservations can be very difficult to obtain. Please make your reservations several months in advance otherwise you could be disappointed! Remember to dress warmly; Sapporo will snow most, if not all of the days of your visit. Pack some warm boots for walking on the snow packed streets and sidewalks. Gloves and a hat are also strongly recommended.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody



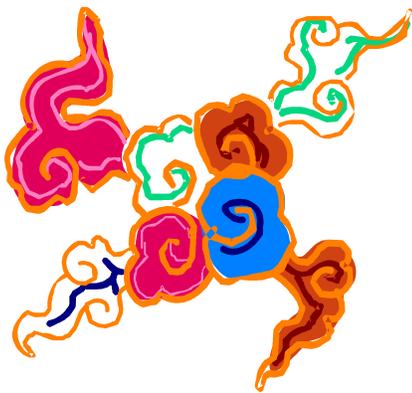






# Sightseeing In The Pacific

## Korea



### Songtan City

Just outside Osan AB, Korea, Songtan City is synonymous with “discount shopping”. Many new arrivals hear the tales of shopping heaven: shop after shop of inexpensive name brand items. You begin to see evidence of such trips as you stroll around Yokota: Liz Claiborne clothes and accessories; Nike sportswear and shoes; sports jackets, etc. Soon, you too begin to feel the tug on your shopping bone and words like “EML” creep into your conversation. As a novice (only two trips), I give you some insights on things to expect on your first “Shopping Experience”. I leave the details of EML and flights to the experts at the Terminal. Oh, yes. Remember that AMC travel is the world’s largest unscheduled airline: anything can happen. Just remember: semper gumby—always flexible, and you will actually enjoy the experience.

Now, arriving at Osan Terminal: You **MUST** fill out a customs declaration form. Wives, if you go with your husbands, let him fill it out while you get luggage and get in line for Immigration. Have your passports and military ID ready. There are only two agents and the line gets **VERY** long. If you travel alone, sorry. Once your passport is stamped, your luggage is checked by an agent. While this is being done, confirm the date and time your EML/travel orders were faxed. This is used as your number for a return flight. If you wait, 100-300 people will stamp in ahead of you. Believe me, when you go to

the “flight raffle” in a few days, it will mean the difference between getting on a return flight or not.

Well, now you’ve cleared customs and want a hotel room. No problem. Go out the double doors (ignore the hotel hawkers for now; you can check Billeting but it’s usually full) and visit the USO office inside the main terminal. There you will find helpful handouts such as a map and hotel listing. Whatever anyone may say about the hotels in Songtan may really be true. Looks are deceiving. Some hotels look nice outside but that may be a facade. Still, others look pretty bad, but may be adequate. Notice I said adequate. Remember, you will only **SLEEP** there, and it will only be a few days. You can stand anything for two or three days. Once you’ve been there, a Motel 6 looks like the Ritz. I like one close to the main gate, because you do a lot of walking to the base and back. Why? Well, if you value your gastrointestinal serenity, then eat on base. Dunkin’ Donuts and Burger King look inviting, but you cannot verify the hygiene. *Note:* You may not be able to enter the BX or Commissary for other supplies as locally issued ration cards are required (you might be able to get them with advance paperwork).

Once you decide on a hotel, one of the “hotel hawkers” will be more than happy to take you in the hotel van, free of charge. Remember too, some hotels will let you hitch a ride to the base so be sure to ask. At your hotel you may find a small refrigerator with a glass and pitcher of water. Remember this word: potable. You must only drink potable water, found in tanks in the lobby or in the hallways. The water is tanked in from the base. If you brush your teeth, don’t rinse your mouth or toothbrush with water from the spigot, you may regret it. If off base, drink only bottled or canned liquids; wipe the rim off first.

Don’t worry about buying Korean currency as you probably won’t need it. Get plenty of cash before you leave, as there is a daily check-cashing limit at Osan clubs (\$500/day at the O’Club). Oh, you don’t think you’ll spend that much? Ha! I can tell you’re not a shopper!

Songtan is famous for purses, luggage, stuffed animals and sportswear. If you want better clothes, head to Seoul and Itaewon. Go there first, before you “blow it all” in Songtan

City. Taxi or walk to the Base bus terminal and hop on a bus to Itaewon for the day.

Back to Songtan. Remember to keep your military ID, passport, and orders with you, and your cash. There is little security in your hotel. Wear a "fanny pack" and go light (cash, ID, tissue and lipstick). Beyond that, go for it. Don't let the shopkeepers bully you. Be firm with your no. Try to bargain: always ask the price and go a few dollars below. Some shoppers try, "I saw this in a shop yesterday for—I can't remember which shop it was. Sorry, I'll keep looking." This keeps them bargaining for sure. If the shopkeeper won't dicker on the price, you get the message. Just walk away, you can always find it for less somewhere else, or you can come back later.

MPS is the magic word during your shopping trip. Every few stores, you will see a fellow who will box, wrap and strap your goods for \$4. There is a Post Office Annex just to the left, inside the main gate. (Remember, MPS is not insured!) You can also take one box onto the plane with you as extra baggage. (If you are a true shopper you will have taken a suitcase with only a change of undies and sleepwear; lots of extra space for purchases. You can always wear what you buy as change of clothes!)

Remember, if you want custom-made items, order them the first day you are there, as some places need 24-36 hours to have you in for fittings and to complete your items. Meanwhile, you can shop. Get receipts or claim tickets for items left for personalizing or completion. If the item is not ready when you need to leave Osan, arrange to have it mailed. Finally, think about the weather before you leave and dress appropriately. Korea is closer to Siberia! Also, do not forget that Mother AMC's Travel Service doesn't always have heated planes. Be SURE your teenager repeats this back to you after you tell him/her. It will give you a great deal of satisfaction when you tell him/her you will not give them your sweater or coat.

Well, international traveler, are you ready to go? Try it once, and you will get hooked. It will amaze you how much shopping you can do in a few days when faced with the challenge; just take a lot of cash and go for it. Remember, "flexibility is one key to air power".



## Seoul

One popular shopping trip is going to Seoul's East Gate, perhaps the largest market in Asia. If you have never been, it can be confusing and overwhelming on your first trip. (And maybe even on your second or third trip too!)

The map is not drawn to scale, but hopefully it will help you locate certain areas. Some popular spots are diagrammed, although there are probably more to be discovered. Most buildings contain aisles of individual stalls with widely varying merchandise. Many products are seconds, so check your purchases carefully. When buying clothes, look for flaws and see if the seams are strong. Try on an item if possible and do not go by the sizes on the label. Almost no English is spoken and if you bargain, you may get the price down. Get the seller to write down the price on paper because you may think he's saying 5,000 won but it's really 50,000 won and vice versa.

If interested in sewing, start in the Fabric Building. The second floor contains a wide choice of fabrics plus stalls of buttons, lace, decorative cords and ribbon. When buying fabric, most stalls use the measurement of a "ma" which is 91.4cm or almost the exact length of a U.S. yard. The Pyong Wha Market has many stalls of scarves, ties, Korean clothing, hair accessories, and costume jewelry. The Export Buildings are so designated because they contain outlets for clothing made for export. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Sweater Building are favorites for many of us. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Family Building has leather. The Silk Road building has this name due to a stall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor called by this same name. In the area around this stall are others that specialize in silk dresses, blouses, etc. The second floor has lots of Korean children's clothing.

No one should miss the fun of the Toy and Stationery Alley. The Koreans are truly creative in their office supplies and toys. This alley is great for party favors, gift-wrap, greeting cards, erasers, crayons, etc. It is usually very crowded and gets worse as the day goes on. It may be a good idea to take a friend along, not only for morale, but in case you get lost?! Some buildings are so large, sometimes you feel like you're in a maze and you can get disoriented. It can be very crowded; don't be surprised if you get jostled and bumped around. Don't forget to bring lots of won...Happy Shopping.

**DIRECTIONS:** There are several ways to get there. You can take the Myung Jin bus up to Yongsan and take the subway. If the adventurous type, you can drive to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Compound, park and take a short walk to the shopping district. And also remember local Family Support Centers offer tours to East Gate; a great way to find out where everything is and what they sell.

**SUBWAY DIRECTIONS:** If you leave from Yongsan, the closest subway stop is Samgakchi on the blue line. Go out Gate 5, cross the street and turn right. Follow the street around a bend to the left. The Samgakchi traffic circle will be on your right. You'll see the Commercial Bank of Korea to the left and stairs on the right leading to Samgakchi. Your subway ticket (to Tongdaemun) costs 250 won (or more). You can buy this from a machine by pressing the button labeled "SINGLE" and inserting your money. Once past the turnstiles, go in the direction of Sanye. There are no transfers needed. Just get off



at the stop labeled “Tongdaemun” (East Gate), several stops down the blue line. Climb the steps to exit the subway, which will put you at the picturesque East Gate.

Deh Chilcote; reprinted from the Orient Express, Osan Officers' Wives' Club.

### Kyongbok Palace

Ask anyone about their recent trip to Korea and they will tell you about the great shopping, the wonderful items they bought, and the terrific “deals” available. Korea is indeed a fine place to shop, but it is also a delightful place to play “tourist”. If you spend any time sightseeing in Seoul, make it a priority to visit Kyongbok Palace. It’s beauty, peace, and harmony can take your breath away.

Kyongbok Palace was built in 1395 by the founder of the Yi Dynasty, King Taejo. The main palace was burned down during the Japanese invasion of 1592, but was rebuilt in 1867. Subsequent invasions resulted in the partial dismantling and burning of several buildings, but those, which remain, and the surrounding grounds are worth seeing. The buildings are built up off the ground and are remarkable for detailed ornamentation. Delicately carved scrolls decorate the ceilings, and statues of real and mythical animals decorate roofs, walls, walkways, and fence posts. All the buildings have been beautifully preserved. Some buildings sit in the middle of beautiful main-made lakes, which are iced over during the winter. The gardens are designed to show the natural differences between man and the various elements of the land. They are not symmetrical or meticulously landscaped, and so have their own wild, natural beauty.

Situated on the palace grounds is the Folk Museum, which displays traditional Korean handicrafts. We met two students who showed us around to “practice” their English. Their tour of the Folk Museum helped us better understand the crafts displayed, and they taught us a little about Korean heritage. The National Museum is also located on the palace grounds and displays works of Korean art and royal artifacts.

There really are beautiful places to see in Korea, and if you want to take a break from the strenuous demands of shopping, visit Kyongbok Palace.

Marybeth Norcross

### Korean Dishes to Try

- *Kim Chee*: These are pickled vegetables that have a distinct aroma and can be spicy. There are many types including cabbage, spinach, cucumber, radish, turnip, and bean sprouts.
- *Duk*: Rice cake with red sauce.
- *Duk Kuk*: Rice cake soup with beef broth and onion.
- *Duk Mandu Kuk*: Mandu soup with beef.
- *Bulgogi*: Grilled steak marinated in soy sauce, garlic, and sesame oil.
- *Kalbi*: Marinated beef short ribs.
- *Kal Bi Tung*: Beef short rib soup.
- *Mandu*: Wonton filled with pork, onion, carrot, spinach, and sprouts.
- *Mandu Kuk*: Beef soup with mandu, egg, and onion.
- *Chap Chae*: Stir-fried vegetables and beef mixed with noodles.
- *Bi Bim Bap*: Carrots, squash, mushrooms, and vegetables on rice.
- *Kim Bobp*: Seaweed roll with vegetables and rice.
- *Pop*: rice.

Karen Ozment 11/93

### Other Attractions near Osan and Seoul

There are three large amusement parks near Osan: 1) Yongin Farmland has rides and a children’s zoo. During winter, there are sledding hills. 2) Seoul Grand Park consists of a large landscaped zoo, and neighboring Seoul Land is similar to a small Asian-style Disneyland. 3) LotteWorld, an amusement park half indoors and half outdoors including a roller coaster under a dome roof. There are two raccoons named Lotte and Lori who greet children throughout the day.

There are also the Korean Folk Village, Freedom Park, Panmunjom (the Demilitarized Zone on the border with North Korea), the Secret Garden, Kangwha Island. Check with the local community center, family support center, and/or USO for detailed information.

Diane Trempe; adapted from the Orient Express, Osan Officers' Wives' Club.



# China

## Hong Kong

Hong Kong is many parts; the larger are Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories. You can travel easily throughout the area using taxis, buses, subways and ferries, but it's just as easy to walk.

Battenburg lace, cashmere clothing, birdcages and jewelry are items most shoppers seek. "Comfortable" shopping can be done at the many malls and shopping centers similar to those of the USA. Some of the biggest are found along Canton Road (Ocean Centre, Harbour City and Silvercord). You can shop "til you drop", dine and go to the disco without ever going outside! Mall prices are generally higher than "outside", but the quality is usually better.

Repulse Bay is a pleasant trip (crowded on weekends) and it has some spectacular sights. Statues at one end of the beach depict a Chinese legend. Touching the statues brings good luck or a happy marriage. If a female touches the Baby Buddha, she will become pregnant. Touch the standing Buddha and wealth you should get. You'll extend your life by three days each time you cross the bridge by the pavilion.

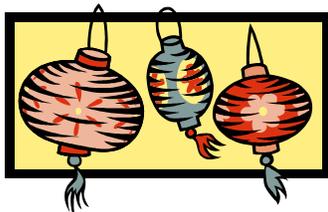
### Must See/Do:

- Take the train to the top and walk around Victoria Peak or have coffee and enjoy the view.
- Ride the Star Ferry
- Go to Aberdeen, see (and maybe eat at) a floating restaurant
- Have a Dim Sum Lunch
- Got to the night market, Temple Street, Kowloon
- Ride a double-decker bus
- Visit Stanley

Thora Davidson-White

### Eating Out in Hong Kong

The food in Hong Kong is wonderful and varied. The food is delicious and most every palate can be satisfied. A dinner cruise is a fun way to enjoy the Hong Kong night-lights. McDonald's has the cheapest breakfast in town. Chinese restaurants are really best when you have a crowd (so you can order more dishes) and there are lots of American and European style restaurants, too. The **Peninsula Hotel** is a must for high tea. It is served downstairs in a less formal setting or upstairs for a slightly higher price and a fabulous view.



## Visas & the Chinese Embassy

You can get a visa from a travel agency in Japan or if you want to save some money you can go to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo. I did this. It is easy and affordable.

Here is the original response I got from the Chinese Embassy and their web address:

For a tourist visa to China, you need to submit to the Embassy of China in Tokyo, the following items.

1. Your present passport;
2. One photo similar to that on your passport;
3. One visa application form, which you can obtain and fill in at the Embassy of China.

The application takes you 4 days, and the fees are allocated as follows,

for a 1-entry tourist visa, 4000 Japanese yen;

for a 2-entry tourist visa, 6000 Japanese yen;

for a multiple-entries tourist visa within 6 months, 8000 Japanese yen;

for a multiple-entries tourist visa within 1 year, 12000 Japanese yen.

The office hours are from 9:00 to 12:00, every weekday.

The Chinese Embassy address: 4-33, Moto-Azabu 3-Chome, Minato-ku, (106-0046) Tokyo.

For details, please visit their website at <http://lsb.china.jp>

You can also register on-line with the American Embassy in Beijing, China. Their web site is <http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/english/>.

### Directions to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo:

Go to the Hiro-o subway stop (this is the one located near the New Sanno). You could also take the bus to the New Sanno. Take exit #3 from the Hiro-o subway stop. Turn right out of the exit and walk up the street. At the second light take a right (this is a narrow one way street). At the top of the hill (1<sup>st</sup> light) turn left. The Chinese Embassy will be on your right. Follow the signs to the "Consular Section Chinese Embassy". (This is a side door not the main entrance to the Embassy.) Visa applications are on the first floor. You usually need the name of the hotel where you will be staying and a contact name and phone number in China. Double check before you go to the Embassy.

China is an exciting country full of history and definitely worth the time and money to visit! There are several options when considering a trip to China. Camp Zama has a China tour as well as Nite Flight (outside the Fussa Gate). I would encourage you to look at all the options and see what works best for you and your family. It's less crowded and less expensive in the winter, but it's also pretty cold in Beijing in January. We went in October, which is the peak touring time.

Dawn Leach

## Beijing Travel Agency

Several people at Yokota have used a travel agency in Beijing and have been extremely pleased with their trips.



The name of the travel agent is Andrew and he is based in Beijing. His web page is <http://www.bhats.com>. One of the e-mail addresses I have for him is: [hats@bhats.com](mailto:hats@bhats.com). Also, Shelley is the lady who was our actual tour guide in Beijing. She was excellent. She works at the Beijing office and also has an e-mail address so you may want to e-mail her as well. Her address is [luxiaoli7072@sina.com](mailto:luxiaoli7072@sina.com). If there are particular things you want to see, Shelley will go out of her way to accommodate you. Just be sure to agree on a general itinerary beforehand so she can plan things for you.

Dawn Leach



## Singapore

Singapore is hard to describe. It is a city with an illustrious background and an exotic present. There are tall modern buildings, aged temples and mosques. There are fast-food restaurants and old fashioned family favorites. There are tiny market stalls and huge air-conditioned malls. Singapore is a city with it all: great cuisine, great shopping, and great attractions.

The people are proud of their food and will ask a visitor what he has eaten before they ask what he's seen! The best places to eat are the infamous hawker centers consisting of stall after stall of various foods: Japanese noodles, Indian chicken and mutton, seafood, satay, tropical fruit, and so forth. The most famous meal is chili crabs. This dish is found only in Singapore and my husband says they're the best. If you eat at one, find a table after browsing. While one person stays, the other should order the desired dishes. The chef will cook the food and deliver it to the table where you will pay. Prices are cheap, ranging from S\$2.00 to S\$5.00. Hawker centers are clean and the water safe; recommendations are Lau Pa Sat (in Telok Ayer market) and Newton Circus. The Banana Leaf Apollo is a personal favorite for Indian food. If you crave western food, your choices include Brannigan's, Hard Rock Café, Denny's, Ponderosa, Pizza Hut, KFC, Long John Silver's, McDonald's and Burger King, just to name a few. And the good news about tipping is...you don't! A 10% service charge and 4% tax is already added to the food bills.

Before you begin your shopping spree, keep in mind licensed moneychangers will have the best rates. They are located in shopping centers and there are many on Orchard Road. Most stores are open 9am to 9 or 10pm, seven days a week. Souvenirs, stationery, clothes, electronics, jewelry, leather, shoes, and other goods can be found in any center. Marina Square is the size of seven football fields three levels high.

Batik can be found everywhere. Fashioned into ties, shirts, skirts and pants, it is either hand printed or machine made. Hand printed is naturally more expensive and one can tell the difference by looking at both sides of the cloth. If both sides are dyed and the pattern more intricate, it is probably hand-printed. Arab Street is well known for its batik, as is Tang's department store. RISIS, a gold-plated orchid, is found only in Singapore. A real orchid is gold-plated and made into charms, earrings, pins and cufflinks. RISIS can be found in most souvenir shops

as well as most department stores. Although more common in Malaysia, pewter is also found. Selangor Pewter is well known and the company has a showroom and museum on Duxton Road. It is also sold in Raffles City.

There is a plethora of attractions. Arab Street and its surrounding area has not only shopping, but is the home of the gold domed Sultan Mosque. Jurong Bird Park is the largest in the region and has over 5,000 birds of 45 species. A visitor can breakfast with parrots, experience a tropical thunderstorm and walk through the world's largest aviary. Jurong Crocodile Paradise boasts over 2500 crocodiles. Attractions include crocodile wrestling shows two times daily. Mandai Orchid Gardens is Singapore's largest commercial orchid garden and is next to the Singapore Zoological Gardens.

Raffles Hotel is a historical landmark that should not be missed. I recommend the Long Bar where the "Singapore Sling" was invented and Somerset Maugham wrote. There is also a museum, a multimedia show in Jubilee Playhouse, and Seah Street Deli. Walk down and take a look at the Merlion Fountain. This symbol of Singapore is half lion and half fish. The Statue guards the mouth of the Singapore River.

Mt. Faber offers spectacular views of the harbor and the city. This is also the location of the cable cars for the World Trade Center and Sentosa Island. Sentosa, a Malay word for "peace and tranquility", is one of Singapore's most popular attractions, island or otherwise. It boasts beautiful beaches, three museums, a theme park, nature trail complete with a man-made dragon and bones, a musical fountain, a Colarium with over 2000 exotic shells and coral, a butterfly park with over 3000 live butterflies, and Fort Siloso.

One attraction is the Underwater World, a 100-meter acrylic tunnel allowing one to see marine life including sharks, stingrays, eels, and puffer fish. There are over 5000 fishes of 350 species. Visitors can touch small sea animals including starfish and stingrays in the Touch Pool.

Sentosa also has two golf courses, Southeast Asia's largest roller skating rink, and canoes, pedal boats, sailboards and aqua bikes can be rented. I highly recommend spending at least one full day at Sentosa Island.

There are numerous other attractions in Singapore including: Asian Village, Big Splash, Guinness World of Records, gardens, Kranji War Memorial, Changi Prison Chapel and



museum, Parliament House, Singapore Science Museum, Alkaff Mansion, Bird Singing Concert, CN West Leisure Park, Chinatown, St. Anders Cathedral, as well as galleries and museums.

If you wish to venture further, Johor Bahru is less than one mile across the causeway. The Malaysian lifestyle is more relaxed, and there are various things to do, depending on how far you want to travel. Many tours are available not only for Johor Bahru (easy on your own), but also for Malacca, Kakup, and Kuala Lumpur.

Singapore has a multitude of hotels and a list of names and numbers can be obtained from the military terminal. Like Hong Kong, Singapore is not an EML location, but one can take a military hop with his or her sponsor. Commercial flights are plentiful. Getting around is easy. Many places are within walking distance. The MRT subway system, and buses are simple to use and cost effective. Taxis are convenient.

There is a reason why Singapore is a clean city: Fines. Littering of any kind is subject to a S\$1,000 fine for a first offense and S\$2,000 for repeat offenses. Chewing gum is illegal and the importation, selling, manufacturing or chewing of gum on public transportation is punishable. Smoking is not allowed in public places and smokers can be fined. Forgetting to flush the toilet will cost you S\$150. Even jaywalking has a regulation against it—crossing the road within 50 meters of an underpass or pedestrian bridge or crossing will find you with S\$50 less in your pocket. It sounds strict, but it doesn't affect many of us and seeing such a beautiful, litter-free city is worth the effort!

Other things to keep in mind: when visiting a mosque or Indian temple, wear discreet clothing and remove shoes before entering; if taking a bus, have exact change ready; the weather is always hot and humid; the dress is normally casual; Singapore uses 220-240 volts, 50 cycles, so bring an adapter and transformer in case your hotel does not supply them; there is no eating, drinking or smoking on any public transportation.

For more information, contact a Tourist Information Center. One is located in Scotts Shopping Center, open 9:30am-9:30pm daily. Another is located in Raffles City and open from 8:30am-6pm. MWR at the U.S. Naval Base in Singapore arranged our hotel in Singapore, flights to and from Kuantan, Malaysia, and our hotel in Malaysia. Call commercial at 65-750-2539, or military 325-2539.

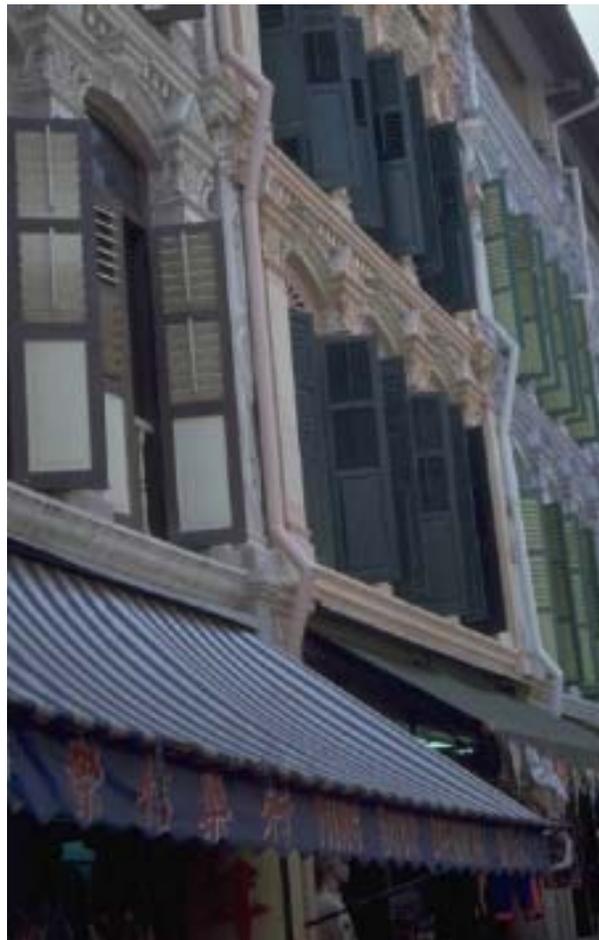
MWR booked the best hotel offering a military discount: Royal Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 25 Scotts Road, for \$130 per night for a twin (room with two double beds). This is an elegant hotel with live music on weekend evenings. It's just ½ block from Orchard Road and the MRT (the very clean and efficient subway). I hear the other Holiday Inn (Holiday Inn Park View, 11 Cavenagh Road) offers a room for \$150 including breakfast, which appears to be a great deal. Our hotel's breakfast buffet was almost \$20 per person. We only ate there once.

Because breakfast was expensive (so is beer and wine), we found an alternative, Delifrance. There are chains located everywhere, and they serve delicious French coffee, croissants, French breads, eggs, orange juice and sandwiches at very reasonable prices.

Our favorite place to eat dinner was along the Singapore River at the Boat Quay (MRT stop is Raffles Place). There are more than 20 restaurants along a walkway, with tables outside right on the river. Coming from Misawa, the choice was overwhelming and fun. The best Italian meal in all of Singapore can be had at Pasta Brava, 11 Craig Road, Tanjong Pagar. This restaurant is a couple of blocks from the Tanjong Pagar MRT station and in an area on the edge of Chinatown. Entrepreneurs are buying the old shop houses and renovating them to make the area very quaint. A friendly and attentive Italian family runs the restaurant, and the ambiance made the delicious food even better. For four of us, including a bottle of wine, appetizers and dessert, it cost \$95.

There are so many interesting things to do in Singapore, but our favorites included: breakfast with an orangutan at the zoo, the museum at the Raffles Hotel, and an afternoon at the Terror Club, U.S. Naval Base, Singapore. The base has a beautiful pool and clubhouse where food is cheaper, plus it's in a quiet, lush area that is a pleasant change from bustling Orchard Road. To get to the base, take the MRT north to the last stop, Yishun. From there we took a taxi (tell driver "Sembawang Terminal"); 7 minutes, \$3.50. Buses run from above the Terror Club to Northpoint Mall (where Yishun MRT is located) and cost only \$.50 per person. The Northpoint Mall is a very nice place for shopping.

Karen Ozment



# Malaysia

We were looking for a place to relax, and we found a true heaven on earth at a reasonable price. The Cherating Holiday Villa Beach Resort, 45 minutes by taxi from Kuantan (on the eastern side of peninsular Malaysia) is a lovely mix of European creature comforts and Malaysian hospitality. We stayed in a chalet 10 feet from the pool and 150 feet from the ocean for \$70 per night. There were tennis courts, 2 pools, lounge chairs along the beach, a bar, coffee shop and a Swiss/Italian Restaurant for fine dining. We stayed for five full days, doing nothing but reading, eating (a mix of Malaysian and European food) and sleeping. There are excursions up a river to see all sorts of jungle life (maybe you will get lucky and see a snake or iguana), snorkeling on a nearby island, parasailing, jet skiing, and endless miles of deserted beach. The first Club Med in Asia is just a few miles north. (The Cherating Club Med charts \$90+ per person per day, which includes all meals and some activities). This area is also famous for the turtles who lay their eggs on the beach between June and September.

Getting to Kuantan and Cherating takes a little time and effort, but it's well worth it. The quickest route is a 45 minute flight from Singapore to Kuantan for \$127 round trip for adults and \$137 for children under 12. The 45-minute taxi ride from Kuantan Airport to Cherating costs \$20. The drive from Singapore to Cherating takes about 8 hours, and the bus is quite cheap, but takes much longer. There is no train service.

If you prefer more excitement and activity, the western side of Malaysia may be more to your liking. On a previous trip (1975) we took the train from Singapore to Malacca, then on the Kuala Lumpur. From there we trained to Tapah, then took a taxi up the winding road to the Cameron Highlands and stayed at the quaint Ye Olde Smokehouse. Back on the train, we again headed north to Butterworth and stayed just a short taxi ride away, right on the beach on Penang Island. We then took the sleeper train on up to Bangkok.

If you only have a day to spare and would like to get just a quick feel of Malaysia while you are in Singapore, one-day excursions can be arranged at the better hotels. A friend of mine went to Malacca on an all-day trip, with about 5 hours there to look at antiques, mosques, and old Dutch colony and interesting back alleys. This trip cost about \$100 per person including lunch.

Anne Bowers 9/95



# Guam

Imagine it: White, sandy beaches, swaying palm trees, azure, clear water, sensational sunsets, signs in English, and American food. Sound good? You have all of this and more on a tropical island named Guam. Located at the crossroads of the western Pacific, Guam is the largest and southernmost island of the Mariana archipelago and it is the westernmost possession of the United States. An EML location, the island is 1,500 miles southeast of Tokyo on a three-hour flight (five hours on a C-130) to paradise.

Guam is for sports lovers with its consistent 84-89F day and 74-78F night temperatures. Its gorgeous beaches are the main attraction and are perfect for windsurfing, snorkeling and reef walking or for just kicking back and soaking up rays of sunshine. The most "famous" beaches are on Tumon Bay but a short drive will take you to your own beach.

If you snorkel, this is the place to do it! Masses of coral and a colossal variety of marine life provide an inconceivable underwater utopia. Visibility averages about 100 feet and Guam boasts more than 400 species of coral and 90 varieties of fish, making it the richest marine habitat of any U.S. territory. Sunken wrecks along with other artifacts from World War II can also be seen in some spots. There are many dive shops. Tours, rentals, repairs, equipment sales and all levels of instruction are readily available.

A great deal of dining out and nightlife centers around the hotels, but an array of food can be found all over the island. Some of the more familiar American establishments include Taco Bell, Subway Sandwiches, Pizza Hut, Shakey's Pizza, Wendy's, Tony Roma's, Sizzler's, KFC, El Pollo Loco, McDonald's, Burger King and Popeye's. There are also Thai, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Filipino and Chamorro restaurants. Special entertainment hits the island frequently and upcoming events are advertised in the Pacific Daily News and on base. Evening hot spots include Tahiti Rama, Tree Bar, Century Disco, Lights, Ten-4 and Tourist Night Club.

Shopping is almost as convenient as in the Mainland States. The Micronesia Mall in Dededo is the largest in the region and it has a department store, grocery store, drug store, food court and over 50 specialty stores including Benetton and Crabtree & Evelyn. The Hafa Adai Exchange (north of the ITC building on Marine Drive) is an interesting place. One can find everything from clothing and compact discs to luggage, souvenirs and pots and pans!

The islanders of the Pacific are known for their handiwork and Belau's storyboards can be bought at Colorful Creations in Agana, along with prints, pottery, and other decorating items. The Melanesian Trading Company on Airport Road has jewelry and clothing from all over Asia, and China Arts located on Marine Drive offers jewelry in ivory, jade, pearls, gold, silver and cloisonné for women and men. Whereas Guam prices are not cheap, there are bargains to be found so take time to look around.

**Where to stay:** Andersen AFB is located in the north area of the island. Its beach is considered the best on Guam and it has picnic and camping areas plus a volleyball net. Billeting is next to impossible to get on Andersen when on leave, but the island has many hotels to accommodate visitors. Prices range from \$80-\$200 per night.

**Getting around:** Taxi service is limited and rates are high (no base taxis). Off-base taxis must be called and the Main Gate Security Police briefed. AAFES car rental, located in the passenger terminal, is the best way to view the island and cars average \$25 a day. They are open 8am-5pm (362-2181). To drive in Guam you must have a home state driver's license or an International driver's license. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on all of Guam's roads is 35 mph.

There are a lot of places to visit and sightsee while in Guam. For more information contact the Guam Visitors Bureau at P.O. Box 3520, Agana, Guam 96910.



# Hawaii

Sources: Guam-Newcomer's Guide, Welcome to Guam, Karen Ozment

## Honolulu

Why not go to Hawaii? Well—why not? Consider these facts: You are closer to Hawaii than most of the U.S.; flights to paradise are available; and, military installations there provide fine services at great prices. While we will not give you all the details, we will give some basic data and, hopefully, point you in the right direction.

How to get there

- Commercial air, round trip from Narita. Don't laugh—this may not be as expensive as it sounds. You see, Hawaii is a major destination for Japanese tourists, especially newlyweds and golfers—somewhere between 12 and 20 747s leave Narita daily for Honolulu. Travel agencies book blocks of seats on these flights and, if the seats are not filled, you may find bargains. Check with on-base and off-base travel agents. Advantage: You can schedule when to depart and arrive: Disadvantage: Can be expensive.

- Space-A. Flights may be available; a medical evacuation C-141 flies from Yokota to Hickam regularly and seats might be open. Check with the terminal. As with any other Space-A travel, be prepared to pay your own way back. Upon arrival, check in with Hickam Terminal to sign up for Space-A return. Advantage: The price is right. Disadvantage: Cannot (really) schedule departure; cannot guarantee arrangements.

- Circuitous travel in conjunction with PCS. This method of seeing the world is a little-known benefit. Consider: Your Uncle Sam, having sent you to Yokota, is obligated to get you to your next assignment by the most direct manner—but, you do not have to go directly. If you want to detour, you may do so, provided you clear a few bureaucratic requirements and reimburse Uncle for the difference in cost. Let's say you receive PCS orders. Go immediately to TMO and tell them you want circuitous travel, with leave enroute, through Hawaii. They will arrange your departure from Japan, arrival in Hawaii, and departure from Hawaii to your next station. They will give you a cash collection voucher for the difference in cost to the government for flying you and the family through Hawaii. Disadvantages: You may run into a clerk who does not believe it can be done. Must use up leave. Must pack accordingly.

### Where to stay in Hawaii

There are hotels of every size, price and quality. For our purposes, though, there are many lodging facilities operated by the military. WARNING: Don't even think about zipping to Hawaii on a Space-A flight and waltzing into a suite at the Hale Koa with no notice. The same goes for any other accommodations. The press of TDY personnel, active and retired people on leave just like you and people stationed in Hawaii using the facilities is such that advance reservations of weeks or months are always needed no matter where you want to stay. CALL FIRST. Here are descriptions of military lodging facilities.

- *Hale Koa Hotel*, 2055 Kalia Road, Honolulu, HI 96815-1998. 808-955-0555 (1-800-367-6027 from CONUS only). <http://www.halekoa.com/> High-rise hotel on Waikiki beach. Excellent restaurants; tours, ticket services; exchange; beach equipment rentals.

- *Bellows Recreation Center*, Reservation Office, 220 Tinker Road, Waimanalo, HI 96795. 808-259-8841. At Bellows AB, 16 miles from downtown Honolulu on the windward side of Oahu. 102 cottages, with kitchens, available year-round; beautiful beach, tennis, driving range, etc.

- *Barbers Point Naval Air Station*. 808-682-2019. 30 minutes west of Honolulu. Excellent beach, furnished cottages with small kitchens. Golf course, riding stables, children's playgrounds.

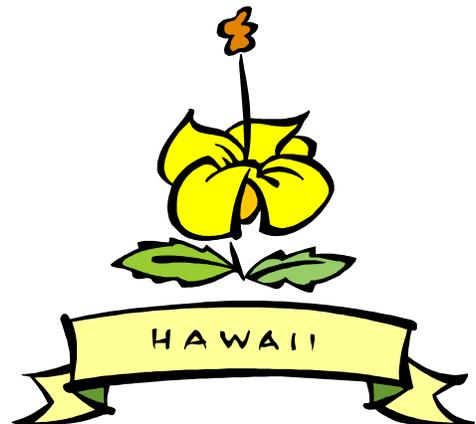
- *Waianae Army Recreation Center*. 808-696-2494. Far out on Oahu's west coast, it's an excellent beach facility. All cottages have oceanfront views and decks.

### What to do

Are you kidding? This article is not allotted enough space. Each facility has some combination of golf, tennis, water sports, tours, etc., available. Rec centers have discount tickets for shows, fishing trips, sightseeing tours and the like. Water sports abound, such as swimming, sailing, snorkeling, scuba, and surfing. If you do not know how or forgot your equipment, lessons and rentals are available for bicycling, camping, fishing, and hiking. Eat, drink, and be merry or relaxed at an uncountable variety of restaurants. Museums, movies, concerts. Then, of course, there is always the option of lying on the beach and doing nothing.

Foremost among military facilities on Oahu is Pearl Harbor, where the Navy runs guided tours of the Arizona Memorial. Pearl also features an excellent Navy Exchange. Hickam AFB clubs are grand places in beautiful settings and the HQ building at Hickam still has bullet marks from the December 1941 Japanese attack. Tripler Army Medical Center—the great pink building on the mountain—provides superb care for all U.S. military in Hawaii.

Visit the underwater park in the submerged crater of Hanauma Bay (by 7am if diving). Snorkel gear can be rented from Hickam's MWR. Take a tram ride or walk down the cliff to enjoy face-time with reef fish, turtles, and eels.



## Shopping

· *Ala Moana Center*, on Ala Moana Boulevard. Walk or take a bus from Waikiki. Plan half a day just to reconnoiter the place. Features Liberty House, in the style of the grand old vanished department stores; Sears and Penney's; upscale shops include Laura Ashley, and designer shops with unpronounceable names. Don't miss the Nature Company or the Honolulu Book Store. On the lower level is Makai Marketplace where the food is good, the service quick and the prices low.

· *Tower Records*. One block behind Ala Moana Center, going away from the beach. If it has been recorded it's at Tower.

· The shops around the hotels on Waikiki. While many of these cater to tourists and the prices show it, you can find that special gift somewhere on Waikiki.

· Ward Center on Ala Moana Boulevard. Much smaller than Ala Moana Center, easy to overlook. Several specialty shops; lots of restaurants on the first and second levels. A couple of blocks down the street is Ward Warehouse with lots of shops including a great kitchen specialty shop; restaurants on the first and second levels.

· Aloha Tower Marketplace in the downtown dock area off Ala Moana. Eat, drink, and shop in an open-air covered mall by the water.

· Pearlridge Center. Beyond Pearl Harbor, divided into three groups with two connected by a monorail. Typical state-side mall. Next to the section with Liberty House is a building full of restaurants, including Tony Roma's Ribs and ChiChi's Mexican.

· AAFES exchanges at Hickam and Schofield Barracks.

· Weekend flea market (a big one) in Aloha Stadium near Pearl Harbor. Every weekend.

· Jamison's by the Sea on the North shore boasts the best gift shop on the island where authentic crafts can be purchased reasonably. Lunch or dinner here is also recommended.

## How to find everything

Check the library and bookstore for travel guides. Have friends who are there send you guides. Or, send a check for \$3.50+ to the Hawaiian Military Exchange Guide, 1142 Auahi Street, Suite 2207, Honolulu HI 96814 for a nice guide.



## What to take

Depends on what you plan to do. Swim-suits, shorts and sandals are required. Golfers take your clubs or rent. Dressing up in Hawaii means "aloha wear"—Hawaiian shirts with the tail out and slacks for men, muu-muus for ladies. Don't have the shirt and muu-muu? No problem, buy them there in the exchanges, at Hilo Hattie's factory on Ala Moana Boulevard, or in any one of a thousand shops. Otherwise, the more casual the better. Take sun block and lip cream (insect repellent if you go hiking). Camera and film. Tote bag for shopping and going to the beach. Money (cash checks at exchanges and clubs, within daily limits).

## Bringing it back

Pack-and-wrap shops are available and you can mail packages from post offices—sorry, you cannot use the MPS free postage. You should have no problem bring fruit or flowers into Japan provided you buy them at the hotels or the airport, packed and inspected for shipping. Finally, we have two suitcases, one which fits inside the other. We fill the smaller one with clothes and put it in the larger one—which we then fill with treasures there.

Joe Schlatter, Suzanne Perini 8/97

## Kilauea on the Big Island

Having wanted to see a live volcano, I had learned DoD ran Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) in Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island of Hawaii and DoD employees could stay there inexpensively. Using an EML, my spouse and I flew to Hickam AFB. Opting to go straight to the Big Island, we took a taxi to the airport and waited for the inter-island terminal to open at 4am. After looking through various brochures but not really learning anything due to jet lag, we took the first flight. A military discount did not apply to Hawaii Airlines' early bird flight of \$50 one way. (If you reserve rooms, KMC can assist with round trip fares of \$80.)

We rented a car at the Hilo airport (military discount at Hertz), and visited the Suisan Fish Market, since most places did not open for breakfast until 6am. We walked around the neighboring park overlooking Hilo Bay before breakfast. Once business hours started, we called the camp and were told to come check it out.

It felt great to drive on an empty highway in sunny lush Hawaii. We paid our entrance fee to Volcanoes National Park and stopped briefly at the Visitor Center before parking in front of the KMC office. Because the classic stone cabins were occupied, we chose a one-bedroom apartment with kitchenette for \$57 per night.

During our three days at the park, we hiked several trails including the short Devastation Trail, the longer crater rim and Halema'uma'u trails around and through Kilauea crater. The scenery varied from the lush Thurston lava tube to arid desert amount recent lava flows and patches of molten rock, smelling of sulfur, in the crater.

We drove out to where beaches and Kalapana town used to be and are now covered by still warm lava. At the end of the road outside the park, we walked across deep cracks in the lava. At the end of the road inside the park, we used flash-



lights and binoculars to walk out and watch the lava flow into the ocean at night. We also took a hike out to see ancient petroglyphs threatened by the lava flows.

As advised, visitors should wear long pants and sturdy shoes to protect against sharp edged lava. (Pregnant women and those with asthma should avoid areas with fumes. And it does get cold at dusk following the daily afternoon rain shower.) Although a shoppette is available, for more variety, buy supplies in Hilo first.

We left KMC early one morning for Kona (also called Kailua-Kona), stopping along the way to visit Honaunau where Hawaiians were once granted sanctuary, and the Painted Church where a priest painted the inside of his church to look much grander using techniques from Michelangelo's era. We had a light early lunch at Wakefield Gardens, the recommendation of a local friend and conveniently located near the Painted Church. Our next stop was the two-story Hulihee Palace in Kona and a brief stroll through nearby shops.

Our hotel that night was the Waimea Country Lodge owned by descendants of the Parker Ranch family, a huge cattle spread started by an ex-new England whaler and his royal Hawaiian wife several generations ago. The Parker Ranch spreads across nearly a quarter of the Big Island and is the main employer of the area. Its history is interesting; the original Parker was hired by King Kamehameha to control an expanding cattle population (from just 3 cows given to the king). Since he really wasn't a rancher, the Hawaiians later brought over three Mexican cowboys who started the paniolo tradition. To learn more, visit the museum in the Parker Ranch

### **Shopping Center and the former Parker homes**

The following day, we drove to an overlook above Pololu Valley where a series of beautiful valleys extends to Waipio bordering the coast, accessible only by foot or horse. We then headed back out and down the coast, stopping at Lapakahi State Park, where a village has been semi-reconstructed into an educational historical display. In contrast to Honaunau and its buses of tourists, we were the only people at this park aside from a ranger. Going south again, we visited Kawaihae Harbor for lunch, finally finding the remains of the temple where Kamehameha sacrificed his final rival in unification of the islands.

Having been told Waipio Valley was a must, although strenuous hike, we selected Sunday, when tours into the valley were not operating. As warned, it was along difficult walk down the extremely steep, 4-wheel drive road. The surfers were up early and we watched them before briefly exploring the stream area. Not being true backpackers or campers, we did not venture into farther valleys.

After the climb back up the road, we headed to Hilo via scenic Akaka Falls. A small city, most of downtown Hilo was closed Sunday afternoon. As a result, it was difficult to acquire information about Molokai's Kalaupapa National Historical Park. Over a hundred years ago, Hawaii forced its victims of leprosy into isolation by abandoning them on a beautiful but remote peninsula on Molokai. Non-patients, even spouses, were not permitted free access and had to go through several layers of bureaucracy to visit the settlement. Even

now, because there are still Hansen's Disease patients in Kalaupapa, access is limited and visitors must receive advance permission.

Father Damien, a Belgian priest now under consideration for sainthood, went to live in Kalaupapa to assist Hawaii's lepers. He helped nurse the ill, and constructed a hospital, living areas, and water pipelines before dying of Hansen's Disease himself. It was later discovered that only a small percentage of people is even susceptible to Hansen's Disease, which is controllable through sulfone drugs. Having read about the colony in Michener's Hawaii years ago, I wanted to see the place myself.

In Honolulu, on Oahu, we made arrangements at the Hale Koa (no discounts) for the Molokai Mule Ride which included round trip airfare, airport transfers, lunch and the guided tour for \$230 per person (our most expensive but most memorable part of this trip; to save about \$75 per person you can also hike down the mule trail and pack your own lunch). The next morning, we woke early and were taken to the inter-island terminal (in the dark!) before taking a commuter plane to Molokai.

Later we were introduced to our mules. When the guides found out I had ridden horses, I was designated to lead our group down the hour and a half long, very steep trail of 26 switchbacks. Mainly, this meant keeping Blackjack from eating grass along the way and keeping him focused on the descent while our three escorts assisted the inexperienced riders. The weather was great and the scenery stunning. I tried not to look directly down the cliff and think of how risky this actually was whenever I felt and heard Blackjack slipping (of course, we signed disclaimers).

When we reached the bottom of the trail and entered Kalaupapa (besides small plane or boat, the mule trail is the only way in), a Damien Tours, former yellow school bus, met us. The local sheriff was our driver and guide, telling us of how it was to grow up on Kalaupapa. We had a sandwich lunch in a secluded site near the former leprosarium with a few horses and cats keeping us company. Next, we visited Father Damien's church and drove around the settlement. Then it was back on the mule for another hour to make it up the cliff to the stables before a rainstorm hit. Although we were sore for a couple of days afterward, we had a wonderful time. We are even thinking of returning to Kalaupapa, but maybe by foot.

Teresa Negley 10/96

Kilauea Military Camp  
Armed Forces Recreation Center  
Attention: Reservations  
Volcanoes National Park, HI 96718  
Tel. 808 967-8333, Fax 808 967-8343  
From Oahu, call 438-6707



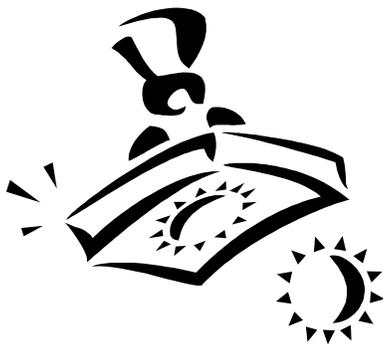
# Notes:





# Arts & Crafts

## Stamps



### Stamp Books

One fall, my husband and I were walking toward the Hakone Shrine when we noticed a man, an American, sketching in a book using a special brush and palette. After he finished, he explained to me that the book is called the shu-in-cho. Soon after, my husband asked some Japanese friends if they knew about the shu-in-cho. One did, and even gave him one as a gift.

The shu-in-cho is a special note stamp book. When closed, it's about 6" x 4". Ours has a hard cover with a colorful design depicting a view of the shrine from which it came. The pages unfold accordion style, so it is really one piece of paper about 8' long. Some others we've seen have plain covers with a place to put the shrine's name. The Americans at the Hakone shrine were able to include their own artwork with the stamps, since their shu-in-cho was about 12" tall.

The purpose of the book is to collect stamps (hanko) from shrines and other places you visit. Shrines, temples, museums and historical buildings are good places to look for stamps. We've even found stamps and stamp pads at some rest areas. The pages should be stamped and read from right to left. On our first outing, armed with our new shu-in-cho, we stopped at a "booth" at the shrine and asked the person behind the counter if there was a stamp. You can usually find the stamp and pads on a table. They might also be in a gift shop, where shrine items are sold, or sometimes just in a corner by themselves.

Our earliest stamps include a picture of Matsumoto Castle, a shogun, and stamps of each of the museums we visited in Ueno. On one trip to a shrine in Kyoto, we were able to get a monk to not only stamp our book, but also decorate the stamp and surrounding page with fancy design lettering using brush and ink (shodo). The books can usually be purchased for Y500 (and up) in the same place the stamps are bought or in a temple or shrine. If you purchase one at a shrine, ask the calligrapher to write the name of the shrine on the book's cover using brush and ink. This costs about Y300-Y400. The stamps are free. Your shu-in-cho can hold a treasure house of special memories. Think of the fun you'll have looking for a calligrapher to write in your book— it'll really add zest to your sightseeing days in Japan!

Judith McKay, Rita Mayer 7/97

## Pottery

### Mashiko Pottery

Various styles of earthenware or porcelains are found in nearly every prefecture of Japan. Each place has its characteristic styles and colors, depending upon local clays, diverse glazes, different traditions and geographical locations. Mashiko is one of many pottery towns in Japan. This village is located in Tochigi prefecture, 90 miles north of Yokota, 36 miles southeast of Nikko (about 4 hours away depending on traffic). Traditionally, Mashiko produced solid, rustic kitchenware for the Kanto and Tohoku areas until Shoji Hamada, world-renowned potter (later named a national intangible human treasure), arrived in this village and established his kiln in 1924. Hamada promoted traditional Mashiko-ware as folk art and eventually improved its creative and artistic aspects. The pottery is hand-made and worked with kick-wheels (rokuro). Its glazes are made from materials and ashes which are abundantly produced in this area. It is baked in climbing kilns (norigama in Japan).

Shop at 'Mashiko Toge Village (Togeimura), which consists of six or seven shops including Cage Eru, beautifully decorated with Mashiko-wares and folk crafts produced in this vicinity. Stop there for a coffee break, light lunch, or snack. 'Tsukamoto' is one of the most beautiful display houses in the town. The first floor is a shop and the rooms upstairs are where gallery shows are held. Another place to visit is the Cooperative Center (Kyohan Center). Also visit the Mashiko Reference Collection (Mashiko Sankokan) which houses Hamada's art and craft collection from all over the world.

For tours to this area, check with the Yujo Recreation Center or be adventurous and drive (the Japan Expressway map in English and the Tohoku Expressway map in Japanese which are available free at larger rest areas and can be cross-referenced with the Road Atlas of Japan for road details).

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right on Route 16 out of the Terminal Gate toward Kawagoe, Omiya, and the Tohoku Expressway. (In two places, Route 16 will split but bear left each time, staying on Route 16.) At approximately 36 km from the Yokota Terminal Gate, Route 16 intersects with Route 17. When Route 16 splits off from Route 17 (17 goes to Tokyo), continue on Route 16 (the Higashi Omiya Bypass) to the Tohoku Expressway at the Iwatsuki interchange. Go north on the expressway for 36 km to Exit 7 for Sano Fujioka. Turn right on Route 50 and go east for 32 km to Route 294. Turn left onto Route 294. Continue on it through the town of Moka. Look for signs to Mashiko using the Kanji shown above.

An alternate route (taken by MWR drivers) is to leave the Tohoku Expressway at Exit 9 for Kanuma and drive through Utsunomiya to Route 123 (via Route 4) for Mashiko. However, Utsunomiya can be complicated, especially if you are unfamiliar with the local geography and do not read Japanese.

Ritsuko Taylor, Sharon Kernstock

## Hanno Gama Kiln

Hanno City has a long history of pottery making, commonly referred to as "yakimono." Many years ago, utilitarian

pottery was created in Hanno and business thrived. For a variety of reasons, such as war and lack of interest in the old ways, along with growing interest in new techniques and materials (plastic), the pottery town stopped producing Hanno-Yaki.

The sources of clay, however, remained. Approximately 80 years ago, interest in Hanno-Yaki was renewed through the interest of university professors and students. Today there are many pottery shops throughout the city. Each potter has his own style in use of glazes and clay. Many potters use local clay, while others prefer the clay from Shigaraki. Some shops do very fine porcelain pieces.

I would recommend going without children. There is no admission fee. The pottery is open 10am-5pm and closed on Tuesday. It is also closed during the week of New Years. Parking is available.

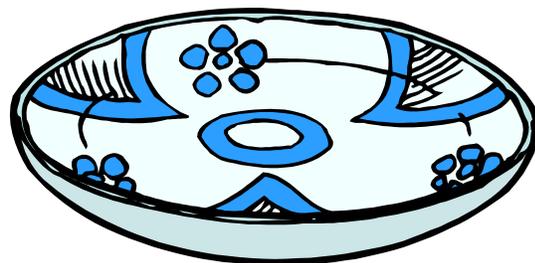
**DIRECTIONS:** From the Terminal Gate, turn right on Rt. 16. Stay in right lane and go through the underpass. Turn left at the 4<sup>th</sup> light after the underpass onto Ome Kaido (2.8km from Terminal Gate, McDonald's on left). After the second blue walkover, the road splits. The left side turns wide to the

left. The right side has a signal light. Bear right. Follow this road to the signal light before the railroad tracks. Turn right on Nariki Kaido. Nariki Kaido passes a school on the right and then comes to a signal light where the road forks. Turn right and continue to a "T" intersection, Osogi Kaido. Turn right. Follow Osogi Kaido for 5.7 km. Start looking for pink and black signs with the kanji for Hanno Gama Kiln printer horizontally. At the second pink and black sign, the road forks with the main road going to the left. You want to turn right. This road will narrow, but keep going. Look for white guardrails on the right. The road will slope down to the right. Turn right at the white guardrail.

Look for the rectangular sign, black on wood, on the right. This is the entrance to Hanno Gama Kiln. Torazawa is the featured artist at the kiln. Many of his pieces are on display and for sale. His works range from utilitarian to abstract. Prices range from ¥500-¥2,000,000. Most of the pottery is stoneware or earthenware, but Torazawa does some special pieces from porcelain with celadon glazes. He also has some pieces which follow the traditional Hanno-Yaki designs. Many other artists have pieces displayed in the showroom. Students are often working, so less expensive wares are available.

It's also a great place to sight see. The grounds are very picturesque with a stream running through the back. Sack lunches could be enjoyed, but it is not really a picnic area. Located out back is a nobori-gama kiln to interest those who relish having the opportunity to observe the specifics of pottery making. In the spring, a festival features many artisans from woodworking to textiles, as well as potters.

Sharon Kernstock



# Craft Stores

So you've been to the Skills Development Center and the Yokota Community Center, but you just can't find that special piece of material, or those little drawer pulls, or a tea box that is just the right size? Not to worry! The stores outside the gate have every art and craft supply you ever dreamed of...and many more you never even imagined! Here's a few of our favorite stores .. just to get you started!

## Tea Boxes

Want one of those tea boxes? A tea shop with plenty of parking on a QUIET, wide residential street is located just 5 minutes from base. Turn right out the Terminal Gate and go under the overpass, staying on Rt. 16. Go to the 3rd light (MizuhoNishiMatsubura Intersection. Marufuji Bldg. on your right) and turn left. Just 200 yards down on your left is the Tea Shop with beautiful tea boxes stacked for display. There is plenty of parking available for this large store and lots of goods inside.

Marcia St. John, Karen Sexton 1/97

## Midorikawa: Best Little Frame Shop

Although little English is spoken, it's easy to have that special piece of art, needlework or treasured memento expertly framed. Midorikawa is the name and it's a short trip from Yokota and easy to find. Go out the Supply Gate and continue straight until you cross the two sets of tracks. At the first traffic light after the railroad tracks turn left. Watch for the brick wall after you turn. The shop is on the left. Parking is available.

Hours: Monday-Saturday  
9-12:30 and 2-7pm  
Phone: 0425-57-6845

Thora Davidson-White

## Tokyu Hands Stores

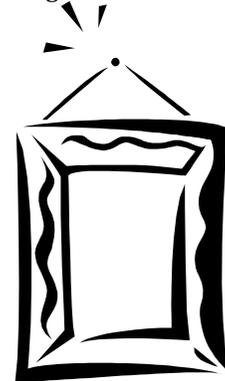
A chain of great craft stores, the Tokyu Hands closest to us are located in Machida, Shibuya, Shinjuku and Ikebukuro. The Machida store is said to be the least crowded of all the stores in the Tokyo sphere and nicely organized unlike the original Shibuya store. The Ikebukuro store is also large while the Shinjuku branch is smaller.

In Machida, the fabric department is quite good, especially if you are looking for "traditional designed" fabric like the fourteen-inch wide indigo cotton. The nice thing is you can buy it by the meter here rather than the whole roll. The kitchenware department is also great fun with both utensils and food products of all sorts. The fibers department is a dream for knitters, crochet fans and weavers. The washi selection is adequate; the basketry supplies are good. There are leather working supplies, jewelry supplies, stationery, etc.

Just give yourself plenty of time to go through and plenty of yen to buy all the great items you'll see. They do take credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express

**DIRECTIONS:** For people who don't care to spend half their day driving down Rt. 16 to Machida, take the train. Get on at Higashi Fussa station to Hachioji and change to the Yokohama line. Machida is the eighth stop and clearly marked in English as all JR stations are. Look for signs for Tokyu Hands and follow the long enclosed walkway there. Easy!

Jill Jones



## Yuzawaya

If you are looking for a craft store with a large variety of items, then Yuzawaya is the place is for you. This store carries items for just about any craft.

The following is a brief highlight of merchandise. On the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, there is a wide variety of fabrics and sewing notions. The 5<sup>th</sup> floor has the widest variety of drapery cording I've ever seen. You can also find carpets on this floor. For the artist, the 6<sup>th</sup> floor carries a huge selection of art supplies. You'll also find an extensive selection of rubber stamps here. The 7<sup>th</sup> floor will be bead heaven for anyone who uses beads in crafting. If you're interested in washi paper, they have a good selection as well as numerous kits. Knitting and crochet enthusiasts will enjoy the selections of yarns. This floor also carries a variety of other craft notions. The 8<sup>th</sup> floor has stained glass and leather work supplies.

Yuzawaya is open 10-7, closed the second Wednesday of every month. Tel 0422-79-4141.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line from Fussa. If you get on the local train, change to the Chuo Line in Tachikawa. Take the Chuo Line towards Tokyo and exit at Kichijoji (don't take a Special Rapid; they don't stop here.) At Kichijoji, follow the signs for the central exit. You'll see several entrances for Yuzawaya along the way with signs in red. If you choose to drive, take your atlas! Yuzawaya is located just south of the Kichijoji train station. Parking is free for one hour if you buy over Y2,000 and have your parking ticket validated at the third floor service counter. Additional time costs Y300 per thirty minutes.

Cynthia Fox 7/97



# Fabric Stores

## Cotton Field

Cotton Field, a fabric store in Kichijoji, is really made up of two stores, one across from the other. One store carries fabrics and the other store carries sewing notions. It's about a 10 minute walk from the Kichijoji station.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Central Exit from the Kichijoji train station and turn left. Follow along this road, passing PARCO. You will then turn right at the intersection after you come to the AM/PM store. You will see both stores a little ways up the road. Store hours are 10am to 7pm. They have sales on the first Monday of the month from 10am until 2pm. Tel: 0422-21-1406.

## Ishikawa - in Fussa

From the Seiyu department store, walk over the train tracks (through the Fussa station) and exit onto the traffic circle/bus turnaround in downtown Fussa. Continue down the main street (west) to the first traffic light. The second store on the left side after the light is Ishikawa. You will find the fabric department on the third floor.

## Chigusa - in Fussa

This store has a limited selection of fabric but it also has various notions needed for many fabric-related crafts. You will also find finished craft projects for sale. To get there, drive past Seiyu and continue north for 1.4 km. Look for large plastic greenhouses (florist) on your left. Chigusa is approximately 200 meters past them on the right hand side of the road. The dark green vertical sign is in English.

## Lilyan Discount Fabric - in Fussa

Drive past Seiyu, continue north 2 km (about half a kilometer north of Chigusa). The store is on the left side of the road directly across the street from McDonalds (gives Dad and the kids something to do while you shop).

Melody Hostetler, Cynthia Fox

## Okadaya – in Shinjuku

Are you looking for a place to make your sewing and needlework dreams come true? You can find just that in Shinjuku, in two stores named "Okadaya." There are 11 floors of sewing supplies, ribbon, trims and more.

In the original store, the first floor has cotton fabric and at Christmas there is a good selection of American holiday fabric. You will find the prices much higher than those at the BX, but keep in mind these items are imported to Japan from the States. The second floor is strictly buttons, belts and buckles, as well as supplies to make earrings and other jewelry. You will find beads, sequins and snaps on the third floor. Lace,

ribbon, appliqués and the like are located on the fourth floor. The fifth floor has notions including zippers and thread. There is also a section on this floor that has evening fabrics and silk. You can find nearly any type of dressy fabric here unless you need bridal fabric. For that you need to head up to the sixth floor where you will find everything you need for the bride: fabric for dresses and veils, as well as silk flowers.

You can find what need for pillow making here too. In another section on this floor you will also find craft kits and yarn for knitting and crocheting.

If you have not found what you need in this store, you can make your way over to the new store. Here you can find sewing notions on the first floor. The second floor has buttons and sequins. Cross stitch materials are found on the third floor and you will find yarn, knitting and crocheting items and patterns on the fourth floor.

**DIRECTIONS:** Get on at Fussa and change in Tachikawa to the Chuo Line going to Tokyo (usually track 4 & 5). Get off at Shinjuku. Take the East exit out of the train station. As you exit and go up the stairs there will be a forty-foot television screen (Studio ALTA) in front of you on the wall across the street. There is a small market on the corner and Okadaya is on the left side about five doors down. Across the street you will see the new store.

Cindy Drossner, Viki Paulson-Cody

## Indigo Dye Workshop - in Ome

Just across the Tama River from Ome is a factory/store where you can buy indigo-dyed products and watch the traditional methods of dyeing the fabric. The rich blue color is produced from indigo root with four other products including sake and lime. Shades of blue are produced when fabric is dipped into the dye and brought out to oxidize in the air. The more it is dipped, the darker the shade. Rice paste is applied to the fabric to create the various designs.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out of the Fussa gate onto Rt. 16, turn left at the second light. Continue through a red blinking light, then turn right at the "T" (1.6 km) onto Okutama Kaido. Drive 4.1 km, (11 lights), and turn left at the intersection with Mobil and Cosmo gas stations just before a hill. Cross the Tama River and turn right at the first light. You are now on Route 411 (Yoshino Kaido) which you follow for 3 km. Turn left at the seventh light (sign says Itsukaichi, left and Central Ome, right). The indigo workshop is a block past the light on the right with a bright blue sign.

Melody Hostetler



# Folk Crafts and Folk Art

## Bingoya

Bingoya is an attractive folk craft shop in a building designed to resemble a traditional storehouse. It contains six floors brimming with folk toys, baskets, pottery, hand-dyed fabrics, lacquer ware and country furniture. The items Bingoya carries are practical things made simply and strongly for everyday use; they are usually unsigned by the maker. They include woven bamboo baskets, baskets woven of the akebi vine, hand woven obis and "ai some" or natural indigo dyed fabrics in traditional Japanese designs.

**Shopping Hints:** A set of lacquered soup bowls are priced from ¥1500 to ¥13,000. Hand-dyed cloth begins at ¥1500. Many kinds of kokeshi dolls are from ¥500 to ¥6000. There are also drums, masks kites, straw raincoats, tea bowls, vases, boxes made from the bark of cherry trees and washi.

Bingoya is open Tuesday-Sunday from 10am to 7pm. It is closed on Japanese holidays. Admission is free. Call 03-3202-8778.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Chuo Line toward Tokyo until Mitaka station, switch to the Tozai Line and get off at Waseda station. Take the exit to the far left. You will see a sign that says "Waseda University." Go up the steps and make a left and up another short set of steps. When you come out, you should be facing McDonalds. Cross the street using the crosswalk toward your left. You should be crossing toward KFC. Once in front of KFC, walk toward the intersection on the left, then turn right. The street you will take is called Natsu-mezaka Dori. Head uphill. You will go past the fork with a gas station on the corner, continue straight on Natsu-mezaka Dori. The road will fork again. Go right for about a 5 minute walk. You will come to an intersection that looks like an "X". Follow the arrows on the diagram through the intersection and on the right, you will pass a 7-11 store and a tall parking structure with a driving range behind it. Bingoya is on the right.

Edie Dean, Mavis Hara



## Japan Traditional Craft Center

A visit to the Japan Traditional Craft Center in Tokyo is a must if you are into crafts. They always have a display of 100-150 craft items officially designated and "traditional craft products" including textiles, pottery, lacquer ware, bamboo and much more. Almost all items are on sale and the prices are not extremely high (it is not cheap however). In addition to the standard items on display, at least two special showings are happening at all times with special crafts from certain areas on display and sale. The special display always include the craftsmen themselves who sometimes demonstrate their work. An information desk is available (no problem with English), and the library and videotape corner both have English selections.

Melody Hostetler

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the JR to Shinjuku Station. Transfer to the Yamanote Line. Go 4 stops to the Ikebukuro Station. Come out of the "Metropolitan" exit located on the 2nd floor.

Address: Metropolitan Plaza Building 1-11-1 Nishi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-0021

Phone: 03-5954-6066. Fax: 03-5954-6036

URL: <http://www.kougei.or.jp/>

Hours: Daily 11:00am-7:00pm. Last day of each special exhibition (Tuesday) closes at 5:00pm.

Admission: Free

Parking: Metropolitan Plaza Building Parking, Tobu Department Store Parking.

Brochure 5/02

## Traditional Craft Exhibition

Recently, each year at the beginning of March, the Japan Traditional Craft Center organizes a Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition is held at the Tokyo Dome City Prism Hall. Craft representatives from all over the country demonstrate their skills and exhibited pieces are sold at 20%. Many of the culture groups take their western friends who purchase obi cords, iron pots, and gift items. For information, check the website [www.kougei.or.jp/](http://www.kougei.or.jp/) or call 03-5954-6033.

Theresa Negly 5/02



# Japanese Theater

## Bunraku

“Bunraku” is the modern name for the traditional puppet theater of Japan. It is one of the three major surviving forms of art – “Haiku” poetry and the “Kabuki” theater being the other two – developed during the Edo period (1600-1868), when their country was isolated from all other nations.

The Bunraku theater presents both serious and entertaining dramas. The puppets are approximately one-half to two-thirds human size. Each puppet portraying a major character is operated jointly by three men. A chanter transforms the text into a dramatic performance. Music accompaniment is by traditional Japanese instruments. Bunraku is usually presented in three parts. Normally one part is sufficient to experience this art.

Osaka is the home of the Bunraku theater, but performances are also held at the National Theater, 4-1 Hayabusa Cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. Telephone is 03-265-7411. Bunraku is not recommended for children under 12. Tickets for one part are ¥1500. The chanter uses traditional Japanese and is difficult for even native speakers to understand. Do not attempt to enjoy Bunraku without renting English headphones for ¥500. There is a ¥1500 security deposit, refunded upon return of the headphones.

**DIRECTIONS:** Parking is available, but riding the trains or subway is recommended. The nearest subway station is Hanzomon on the Hanzomon line. The nearest JR station is Yotsuya on the Chuo Line. A taxi is reasonable to the National Theater from Yotsuya station. There are buses waiting in front of the theater after each performance to go to Shinjuku or Yotsuya station.

Judy Brooks

## Kabuki-za Theater

Have you ever been to Kabuki? What is Kabuki, you may ask? Having become an expert after attending four performances and writing a term paper for my latest course at the University of Maryland, I'll tell you a little about this uniquely Japanese form of drama and maybe pique your interest in experiencing it firsthand.

Kabuki is live theater; a form of drama indigenous to Japan. Kabuki is exciting, exotic and, most of all, good entertainment. Kabuki gives a taste of Japan; an insight into Japanese history and society. It is easy to get to and easy to understand. Later, I will tell you where to go and what to do. But first, a little history.

Kabuki dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when a Buddhist priestess brought a troop of folk dancers to perform at religious festivals in Kyoto. Although her shows were based on earlier skits and dances, she called them “avant garde”, or “Kabuki” in Japanese. Almost immediately, Kabuki was popular. Rich patrons began to fight over sponsorship of dancers

and groups. To prevent the fierce competition, the government banned women from the stage in 1629. Young men began to play the female roles, and soon the uproar grew just as ferocious as before. By 1653 the government decreed that only mature males could perform.

Forced to rely on acting skills rather than pretty faces, actors began to develop the dramatic elements that make up Kabuki today. As audiences began to demand more interesting presentations, actors updated older forms of theater and looked to history for exciting stories. Many of today's plays date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and are based on events from a thousand years ago. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Kabuki faced serious competition from a new form of theater featuring puppet plays imported from China. These plays are now known by the name of a famous puppet theater, Bunraku. Kabuki rose to the challenge and adapted many Bunraku plays, costumes and theatrical devices, such as the revolving stage. Much of the lost audience was soon enticed to return.

At the same time, the center of the Kabuki world moved from sedate Kyoto to Edo (Tokyo), capital of the Tokugawa Shogunate's government. Perhaps the rough and tumble samurai who clamored around the shogun and the increasingly wealthy merchant class were a more receptive audience for the colorful and raucous Kabuki plays.

In quiet Kyoto, the Emperor's court continued to sponsor what they considered to be more refined styles of entertainment. Even today Kabuki fans still shout encouragement to the actors, eat bento box lunches during the performances and generally make themselves at home in the theater.

Until the late 1800's, Kabuki was tremendously popular to all levels of society except the nobility. Audiences in Edo increased in numbers, and new theaters thrived in the provinces. But rapid westernization during the Meiji Period, be-



ginning in 1864, brought Europeans forms of entertainment that made Kabuki appear old-fashioned to the general public. In the twentieth century, just as movies closed vaudeville theaters in the United States, interest in Kabuki declined in Japan. World War II destroyed the remaining theaters. Television has since preempted many other forms of entertainment.

Now only Kabuki-za Theater in Ginza features daily shows, except for the last week of each month. The new National Theater in Akasaka has frequent Kabuki presentations alternating with other types of entertainment.

Enough history for now. Let's talk about what you will see at a Kabuki show. Kabuki is a spectacle. Costumes are gorgeous, sets are overwhelming; and events are very showy. Even when the action gets a little slow, you can settle back and marvel at the intricate details of the scenery on stage.

The Kabuki stage has several standard elements. From the left front corner is a long runway extending through the audience to the rear of the auditorium. On this runway amazing events thrill the audience: the hero makes a dramatic entrance on horseback along the hanamichi; the evil witch disappears in a puff of smoke; or the young prince sails away in his ship. In the left corner of the stage, a grill hides the small orchestra providing background music. The instruments are flutes, drums, bells and gongs. As the actors move around, the musicians accompany the action with a fascinating combination of sound effects and music.

The stage features several trap doors, a large elevator platform and a huge revolving center section. Special effects that are possible with these unique features include sinking ships, earthquakes destroying castles, monster fish eating the hero or saving him (or her), ghost palaces magically appearing or the sudden entrance of a pivotal character.

To the right of the stage, two key performers sit on a platform or behind a high screen. The first person narrates the action, sings songs, speaks some of the parts, and puts on a performance more important than most of the actors. In the process, he cries, bows, sways, sputters, whispers and wipes his brow, much to the delight of the audience. The other person accompanies the narrator on the shamisen, a three string banjo-like instrument.

At the right front corner of the stage sits a wood block player. With two wooden clappers, he signals the beginning and end of each scene by rapidly building to a crescendo. He also emphasizes footsteps, beats along with the orchestra and accompanies dances.

In some plays, a large orchestra sits on a red draped platform in the center rear of the stage. In other plays, the orchestra will sit to the left rear of the stage. This orchestra contains several kotos, the long horizontal stringed instrument that everyone associates with Japan.

Kabuki music is an introduction to sounds, rhythms and styles totally different from western traditions familiar to us. They sound harsh and disorganized. For a long time the music will seem like an intrusion instead of an accompaniment to the action. However, music is an essential element of the performance.

The visual impact of Kabuki comes from the costumes. Women (played by men, remember) are dressed in beautiful

kimonos and wear fantastic wigs weighing up to 30 pounds. Male characters wear a variety of costumes ranging from formal court dress to samurai armor. All are magnificent. The most amazing costume is the formal court dress of heavy brocade with long pants covering the actor's feet and stretching a yard or two behind. Imagine walking in something like that! Although some of the costumes are historically accurate, fantasy often conquers realism. Costumes don't just cover the actor and show who he is. They are also integral to the action. When the actor is in an intensely dramatic situation, such as the frequent suicide, he indicates his mood change by removing part of the costume to reveal a contrasting pattern beneath. Like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, a hateful witch can turn into a lovely princess.

Are you concerned about complicated plots? Well, the story is usually the least significant part of the Kabuki. The performance, the drama, the music, the costumes and the settings are much more important than who is chasing whom, or why. However, to truly appreciate the performance, you must have an idea of what is happening. At both theaters, you can rent earphones to hear a running commentary of the play, the plot, the actors, the music and any other information. Even Japanese rent earphones because often the dialogue is archaic Japanese and impossible to understand without serious prior study. Rental is about 600 yen, but you have to pay a refundable 1000 yen security deposit.

Call the theaters to check on shows. Remember that titles illustrate another characteristic of Kabuki. The story of a medieval power play sometime in the annals of Japanese history is often represented in terms of clouds or blossoms. Some knowledge does make viewing the play more meaningful. Check out the Kabuki Handbook at Yokota Library; a good source of information.

Performances begin at 11am and 4:30pm. They run about five hours, with several long intermissions to give the audience time to eat and drink. Tickets are about 3,000 yen and higher. Cheaper tickets are for seats in the second balcony. Arriving late is common since the performances are so long. You can get one-act (an hour or so) tickets to the left of the main door, but they are for the third balcony where no earphones are available. For details, the phone number is (03) 3541-3131.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the subway to Higashi Ginza Station on the Hibiya Line. This station is a straight shot from Hiroo Station near the New Sanno Hotel and is only one stop beyond Ginza Station.

Bob Kuhlo



# Kimono

One of the oldest traditions still seen in modern Japan is the art of kimono dressing. Just as in Western dress, there are all types of kimonos from super casual (Yukata) to very formal (Tomosode) and even a special kimono that is only worn on your wedding day. The kimonos are usually handmade from silk and range from \$500 - \$20,000; the obis range from \$200 - \$10,000. Obis are the decorative centerpiece of the kimono and a glance tells an onlooker whether the woman is married or single by the way they are tied.

Most women in Japan cannot put on a kimono by themselves and hire professional dressers for special occasions. The average fee is 10,000 yen. The dressers train for approximately three years and not only learn how to properly layer each of the segments of the kimono but how to combine colors for various seasons. These are true professionals.

There are even competitions for the adventurous kimono dressers. These contests are based on speed and beauty. The categories are broken down to kimono type and each woman dresses herself. Japanese contestants have a five minute time limit and the foreigner category has a ten minute limit. There is one regional contest and one national contest every year. If you just want to view this contest, it is held at NHK Hall in April as well as televised on Japanese television. If you want to train for this contest, it is possible. In 1991, fourteen foreigners out of over two hundred contestants competed and even though English is not spoken, everyone was more than helpful and gracious. It is best if you are a sponsored, since lessons run about 10,000 yen a month and you must train for a minimum of six months before you can compete. The base periodically offers mini-classes in kimono dressing which are a good basic overview without the expense of professional training.

If you are interested in training professionally, there are kimono sections in most big department stores where you can inquire about lessons. They are not offered in English but if you can pantomime and have good nerves and a sense of humor, you can do it and it is fun!

Kimono dressing is an art and a beautiful tradition in Japan. It has its own etiquette and poetry. I admire the diligence and grace that is involved in preserving this form of dressing. Every time I slip on my tabi (footwear) or tie my obi, I feel somehow connected to a much older history and it will be that part of Japan that I will take with me wherever I go.

Monique Moten

## Decorating with Obi

People have found many unique ways to incorporate the obi into the decorating of their homes although the obi by definition is "a broad sash, worn with a kimono and fastened in the back."

Probably its most popular use is for table decorating. Because of the variance in design and wide range of color, they lend themselves to enhancing any décor, creating any mood, or conveying any theme or idea that you wish. With a set of basic white dishes and a wardrobe of obi you can create a table as elegant or casual as you like. You can also make beautiful (dry-cleanable) place mats from the wide, double sided obi (Maru or Fukuro).

Obi can hang alone if the pattern particularly pleases you or you have something long and narrow that you want to conceal. Fashion a bow from the upper portion of the obi – most likely you will have to cut this part of the obi to accomplish this – and let the rest hang down to be enjoyed.

Obi make wonderful bows to adorn almost anything. The woven Sake obi look great festooning a large grapevine wreath, or a pretty basket. A big bow fashioned from a brocade-type obi will look wonderful on top of a cabinet or bookcase "standing up" with the tails attractively arranged. They can be tied and used to accent a large mirror, screen or a grouping of Korean windows. Speaking of windows, they can be used to drape a long, narrow window; or swaged over curtains or drapes; or tacked, stapled or glued to the cornice board. To really coordinate your window treatment, make tie tacks for

your drapes from the scraps. To do this, of course, you would have to use your scissors. Sometimes you will find a beautiful obi that is stained or has "worn" places. They are perfect to use for these projects.

Tea boxes look beautiful when padded and covered with an obi. Fabulous pillow covers can be made using obi. If coordinating with your window treatment, you might cover the pillow with a complementary solid color and trim with obi scraps left over from covering cornice boards or making tie backs.

A wide, double-sided obi is a Maru obi. It is the most elegant and expensive of the obi. It is usually made of silk and is very formal in design. Another popular style is the Fukuro obi. It is less formal in fabric and design, and patterned only on one side. The Nagoya style is often seen at shrine sales. One third the length of this obi is the same width as the Maru and Fukuro obi, but the remainder is just half as wide. There are two styles of Han Haba obi. These are characterized by being half as wide as the Fukuro obi. The first style is a very formal silk obi, and the second was made by using the fabric scraps from the construction of the more formal obi. The result is the colorful oven casual Sake obi – a perfect accent to country décor and informal entertaining.



## Obi ties – East and West

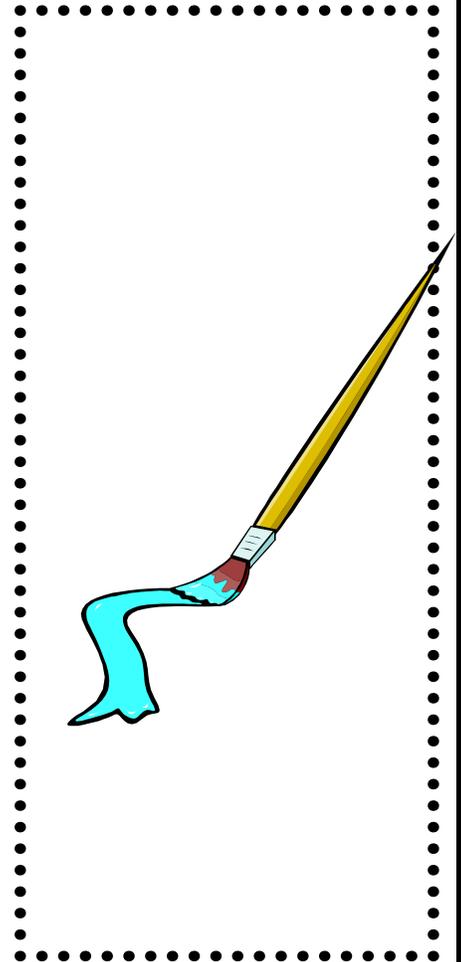
The Yokota Officers Spouses Club published the definitive guide to decorating with obi in 1997. The hard bound book features beautiful color illustrations and complete instructions. A superb gift, especially when accompanied by an obi, the books are sold at the Yokota Thrift Shop, AAFES bookstores and OSC Bazaars.

## Oriental Brush Writing - Shodo

Like so many who have come to Japan for only a short period of time, I decided to leap into every opportunity to absorb just as much of the Japanese culture as I could in a scant 3-year tour. Because I am an artist, my special interest has been in learning all that I could about the arts of Japan, especially those that use the brush. Because I have been a watercolorist for many years, I anticipated being somewhat proficient in using Japanese brushes. It was with some surprise and not a little chagrin that I discovered controlling a Japanese brush was going to be quite a challenge. Further, I found that just mastering the materials and the techniques was not going to be the sum of my educational experience. I was going to have to learn something about what author and artist William Reed uses to define Shodo. One of the best sources of information and guidance is William Reed's Book, *Shodo, the Art of Coordinating Mind, Body and Brush*.

Shodo is Oriental brush writing or the art of painting Chinese or Japanese words with a brush. It differs from calligraphy, which is simply the writing of Chinese or Japanese characters. The word "Shodo" literally means "Way of the Brush". The suffix "-do" is also used in other words indicating the "way of" something – "Kendo" (the Way of the Sword), "Judo" (the Way of Softness), "Sado" (the Way of Tea), "Kyudo" (The Way of the Bow), "Kado" (The Way of the Flower), and "Gado" (The Way of Painting). Each of these "ways" involves more than just mastering materials and techniques. They include at the core, a philosophy that forms the basis for the "way".

In Shodo, as in the other "ways", one strives to achieve what sounds to most Westerners like an impossible contradiction – a state of full concentration and relaxation at the same time. Proper breathing and posture are essential, as is an atmosphere of quiet and simplicity. The writing of Shodo is a creative experience very much like performing a dance or singing a song. In fact, Shodo can be enjoyed both when completed or as it is being done. Like music and dance, it depends on a sense of rhythm and emotional expression as well as on technical expertise. One might say that Shodo does for the eye and the imagination what music does for the ear and the soul.



### Tools and Materials

- **Fude** – the brush, is usually made of bamboo for the stem/body, and hair or animal fur for the bristles. Difficult to control because it is so soft and flexible; it is therefore very responsive to nuances of our own feelings and state of being. If one is rigid, the strokes will be rigid. If one is slack, the strokes will be weak and poorly controlled. The brush is an extension of yourself.
- **Fudemaki** – brush mat used for storing the fude. It is made of bamboo slats and is rolled around the brushes and tied.
- **Kami** – thin paper stretched across a "shitajiki", a black felt undercloth that cushions the paper and protects the work area by absorbing excess ink. Practice paper is called "hanshi".
- **Suiteki** – small water containers, which have two small holes. These allow the artist to add water a drop at a time to the ink. They are often very beautiful and are wonderful collector's items.
- **Bunchin** – paper weights that hold the paper in place. Some of these, like the "suiteki" are beautiful collectors' items.
- **Suzuri** – a stone with a flat surface for rubbing the ink stick and a well or sunken area for water.
- **Sumi** – ink that usually comes in solid form, sticks or blocks, and is made out of soot that is held together with a binding agent. It can also be bought in liquid form, which is convenient; however, rubbing the ink stick on the stone "suzuri" is a slow thoughtful process that helps prepare ones mind for the creative experiences.

Lynn Kemper, Reprinted from the Yokosan



# The Art of Bonsai

For a spectacular view of a large variety of plants and a great appreciation for bonsai, adventure out and visit Bonsai Village. Bonsai-icho (Village) is a small beautiful town within Omiya City in Saitama Prefecture. After Tokyo's earthquake in 1923, a group of nursery owners moved to Omiya and formed their own village. This village of bonsai nurseries exhibits one of the many arts perfected by skilled Japanese. Bonsai Village is a delightful place and is surprisingly quiet because it is separated from the hustle and bustle of the city of Omiya. The nurseries are open daily from 8am – 5pm except the first and third Thursdays. Examples of bonsai range from inexpensive popular ones to very expensive, distinctively unusual ones. One nursery had a bonsai over 300 years old. Most nurseries do not allow photographs and have signs that relay this message.

**DIRECTIONS:** Set your odometer at zero as you turn right out the Terminal Gate, going north on Rt. 16. Stay on Rt. 16 following signs to Kawagoe. At 7.1 km the road splits, and 16 bears left. Stay on 16. At 7.8 km you will see the Hoya Crystal Factory on your right. At 9.6 km the road splits again and Rt. 16 goes toward the left. Stay on 16. At 20.9 km you will pass under the Kan-Etsu Expressway, and at 25.6 km you will see a large, round hotel straight ahead. Stay on 16. At approximately 36 km, Rt. 16 intersects with Rt. 17. Continue on Rt. 16. At approximately 40 km, you will be in the city of

Omiya and will cross a large green bridge over railroad tracks. Above will be the 'Bullet Train' tracks and below will be regular train tracks. On your right as you come off the bridge will be a tall glassy-looking modern building. Turn left at the first light after the bridge (toward Ageo). Counting signal lights, at the second light (just before going under the train overpass) turn right. You will see a Torii (red gate) ahead. Go .6 km passing Omiya Park. The pond on your right is part of the park.

At the first stop sign, turn left because you have a "Do Not Enter" sign straight ahead of you. Cross the railroad tracks and turn right immediately onto a narrow street, which parallels the tracks. At the first stop sign, go straight. At your fourth street, turn left. Counting streets again, turn right on your third street. At the first intersection go straight. You are in Bonsai Village. Parking is on your left. This parking lot is for the House of Four Seasons, a place of rest for visitors to the Bonsai Gardens. Maps and restrooms are available.

Manga-Kaikan Omiya Municipal Cartoon Exhibition Hall is an additional sight to see within the Bonsai Village. Directions to it are on the map obtained from the House of Four Seasons. The Cartoon Exhibition Hall is open 9am – 4pm, Tuesdays – Sundays.

If you like Bonsai, the Takagi Bonsai Museum in Ichigaya is a must see. (See Museums.)

## Flower Arrangement - Ikebana

Ikebana is one of the best known and most widely exported traditional arts of Japan. Americans who come to Japan and study Japanese flower arrangement under the patient instruction of teachers from any of the several popular Ikebana schools can learn a variety of techniques that have evolved from the contributions of thousands of individual Ikebana devotees over hundreds of years.

### **Kuge (floral offering)**

Ikebana's roots lie in Kuge, floral offerings associated with the Chinese Buddhism that was introduced to Japan in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, AD. During this period, flowers were arranged not for the sake of decoration but for use in religious ceremonies. Sometimes flowers were simply piled high in a bowl, or only a few petals were scattered about.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> Century, the most common practice was to place flowers upright in a vase. The representative arrangement of this type – three stems rising firmly almost as one from the water with the tips of the three flowers forming a triangle – was derived from the Buddhist triad image with Buddha flanked by two smaller figures and exerted a very important influence later in the Muromachi Period (1336 – 1573) when the rules for Ikebana were formulated.

Another influence was the Tanabata Star Festival, which originated in the Kamakura Period. This festival was celebrated with flower offerings and a game called Hana-awase (matching flowers). Originally observed as a religious rite in which flowers were offered to heavenly star deities, this activ-

ity gradually grew into one in which people competed in expressing the beauty of flowers and branches.

### **Tatebana & Rikka (standing arrangement)**

Priests, the intellectual and artistic leaders of the Muromachi government, were responsible for creating Tatebana, the next form in the development of Ikebana. This standing arrangement was developed primarily for decoration of the "shoinzukuri" architecture and was carefully placed and coordinated with painted scrolls, containers, furniture, and accessories to create a pleasing over-all aesthetic result.

The Rikka form, a more complex standing arrangement, was developed between the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Because of its size and materials, this form was usually used in sumptuous settings and was very fashionable among the warriors, members of the imperial family, nobles and priests of the upper class.

### **Nageire or Heika (informal arrangement)**

The Rikka form of Ikebana gradually degenerated into a stilted formalism in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Century at the same time that another, very informal style, Nageire or Heika was evolving within the merchant class and the general public. This free-style form of arrangement followed no set rules; in fact, these informal arrangements could be placed anywhere.



### **Chabana (tea arrangement)**

The tea ceremony, with its emphasis on achieving and maintaining a tranquil mind and on making a good cup of tea, exerted a deep influence on Ikebana during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The flowers chosen for the tea ceremony were simple in order to properly represent one's 'kokoro' – one's heart or spirit – and reflect one's innermost feelings. A single branch or two were chosen and seemingly arranged casually; however, they were actually very carefully selected to express the essence or spirit of the flowers. Rikka filled the need for ritual and formality, while Chabana emphasized the individual and free form arrangements with the objective of the arranger to become one with nature.

### **Shoka or Seika**

The Shoka form, developed during the Edo Period (1603 – 1867), grew out of a combination of the Chabana, Nageire and Rikka forms, incorporating an asymmetrical form based on the triangle, the use of three principal stems appearing as one at the mouth of the container, and an adherence to the natural, individual characteristics of the flowers. This style became very popular with the rising merchant class and was even encouraged by the government in its effort to educate the public. In fact, along with renga (linked poems) and the tea ceremony, it became a mandatory accomplishment for all young women. By the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, however, the arts of the feudalistic Edo culture had begun to stagnate.

### **Moribana (piled flowers)**

The Meiji Restoration of 1868 brought to Japan not only the culture of America and Europe but Western flowers such as tulips, daisies, and dahlias as well. The incorporation of these vibrantly colored flowers into Japanese floral arrangements required a new form of Ikebana. That form came from Unshin Ohara around 1890 with his creation of the Moribana form of Ikebana, in which arrangers used a flat container that allowed the arrangement to spread out and made use of a wider space and depth than had been used in earlier, primarily vertical arrangements.

### **Ikebana Schools**

Of the almost 3,000 different schools of Ikebana currently active in Japan and other countries, the three best known are the Ikenobo, Ohara, and Sogetsu schools. The most conservative of the three, the Ikenobo school founded in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> Century, is still deeply steeped in Japanese tradition, symbolism, and philosophy. The Ohara School was founded in 1911 by Unshin Ohara, who developed the Moribana form to accommodate flowers imported from the Western world at the turn of the century. The Sogetsu School, which was founded in 1926 by Sofu Teshigahara, emphasizes freedom of expression and perceives Ikebana as an art form closely related to sculpture. Although it is probably the most innovative and experimental of the three schools, the Sogetsu School still conforms to some of the criteria of traditional Ikebana.

For the brief time that we are visitors in Japan, we have an opportunity not only to appreciate Ikebana but also to

learn how to make beautiful and interesting floral arrangements for ourselves and for others. Those of us who are dedicated to learning Ikebana well can even earn certificates at various levels of study that will qualify us to teach Ikebana ourselves. Here at Yokota, Ikebana classes are available through the Arts and Crafts Center and from instructors who offer classes through the Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club.

Lynne Kemper

### **Recommended Books about Ikebana**

If you are interested in studying Ikebana on your own or in adding books on the subject to your library, there are several good books on Ikebana available at the base library, through local Ikebana instructors, and at the Stars and Stripes Book Store. The following are just a few that I have found interesting – and beautiful to look at as well: Flower Arrangement: The Ikebana Way by Ohi, Ikenobo, Ohara and Teshigahara, edited by Dr. William C. Steere; Ikebana: Spirit & Technique by Komoda and Pointer; Ikebana: A New Illustrated Guide to Mastery by Wafu Teshigahara; and Ikebana for Everybody by Houn Ohara.



# Sado - Tea Ceremony

Sado, also known as cha-no-yu, is the “way of tea”. Although there are several recorded versions of the origin of the tea ceremony, all share a common source: tea was introduced to Japan in the early part of the eighth century (along with Buddhism). The men who traveled to China to study Buddhism brought tea back to Japan.

At first, tea was imported from China and used solely for medicinal purposes by court nobles. Two centuries later, this practice died out and tea drinking disappeared from Japan. Then, in the twelfth century during his studies in China, a Buddhist priest named Eisai recognized that tea was an indispensable part of Zen temple life. Consequently, he returned to Japan with seeds. Tea eventually flourished in present-day Fukuoka Prefecture and in Kyoto. As availability increased, families of rank drank it as a refreshment.

By the fourteenth century, tea drinking had filtered down through many social classes and samurai, Buddhist clergy and some commoners enjoyed drinking it. At the same time, Shunke, a Buddhist monk, created the rules of cha-no-yu for his congregation. By applying the four elements of Zen (harmony, reverence, purity, and serenity) and the principles of refined and chaste simplicity, he created a precise and simple ritual, reflecting the monastic life of priests.

The rituals of tea ceremony as practiced today were instituted by Sen-no Soeki or Rikyu, who is considered the greatest tea master of all time. Of Sen Rikyu’s great-grandchildren, three continued the tradition and established individual schools while residing in the same compound. Due to the mutual origin, the basic rituals of the schools are quite similar with differences seeming to be the location of the guest in relation to the host and the direction in which the teacup is presented, etc. In learning how to be an appreciative guest (or host), one also learns much of the Japanese etiquette in use today.

If you are invited to a tea ceremony, be aware that the cups and decorations are quite valuable, often hundreds of years

old. Wear a full skirt instead of tight slacks (men may need a coat and tie) because you may be sitting immobile for some time. Remove most of your jewelry before participating. If given a sweet, try to eat it all (or wrap it in the white paper napkin and put it away); the tea can be quite bitter. When bowing to the host or server, place your hands flat on the tatami in front of you and bow deeply to demonstrate respect.

Yokota Library Info Sheet, Teresa K. Negley

## Tea Ceremony Cha-no-yu Utensils

- **Kama and Furo:** The kama (kettle) containing the water is placed on the furo (brazier) to boil. In the winter, a ro (inset hearth) is exposed by removing part of the floorboards.

- **Mizusashi:** A ceramic container of water. The water in the mizusashi is used to wash the chawan (teacup) or poured into the kama.

- **Kensui:** A pot in which the water used to wash the chawan is poured.

- **Hishaku:** A ladle for water.

- **Chawan:** A teacup or bowl.

- **Usuki or Natsume:** A lacquerware container of matcha (powdered tea).

- **Chasen:** A bamboo whisk.

- **Making the tea:** Use the chashaku to transfer matcha to the chawan. Pour hot water from the kama into the chawan with the hishaku. Stir with the chasen. Turn the tea bowl so any design faces the guests.

- **Drinking the tea:** Bow and receive the chawan, placing it in front of you, nodding to the guest after you. Pick the chawan up with the right hand, and place it on the palm of the left hand. Rotate it clockwise three times. After drinking the tea, wipe the part of the chawan that the lips touched with a tissue in your right hand. Rotate the chawan counter-clockwise, so it may be returned to your host.

Marja Weaver









# Sports & Activities

## Sumo Wrestling

In spite of the popularity of baseball, sumo remains the traditional national sport of Japan. Descended from religious rituals performed at village Shinto shrines, sumo today is a highly competitive sport practiced by skilled and very big athletes; it is also a highly organized business.

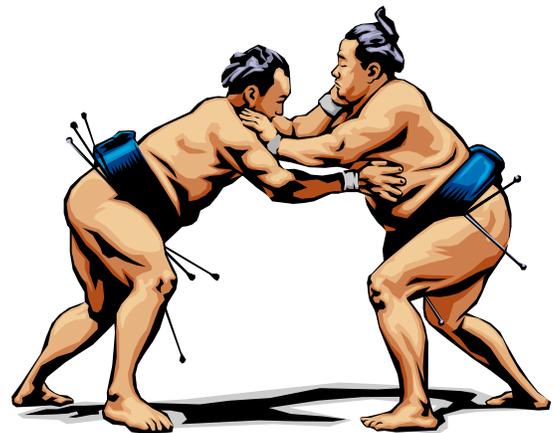
For an introduction to sumo, watch the bouts on television, but you may want to see at least one day's bouts in person. Grand sumo tournaments are held six times a year – in Tokyo in January, May and September; Osaka in March; Nagoya in July; and Fukuoka in November. Tournaments last fifteen days, Sunday through Sunday. Television coverage (NHK Channel 1) begins at 3pm in the afternoon and runs through the last bout at 6pm (on some days, broadcast may not begin until 3:30). From 3pm until 4pm you will see juryo division wrestlers (lower upper division). Then, at 4pm the upper division (makuuchi) wrestlers, wearing colorful, heavily embroidered “aprons” enter the ring in an elaborate ceremony. If there are grand champions (yokozuna) participating, they enter the ring in individual ceremonies. After a 20-minute delay for the wrestlers to change, the upper division matches begin.

Sumo is wrestling – accompanied by strict ritual and with an equally strict code of behavior – and the upper-ranked wrestlers are big men. They weigh from 300 – 550 pounds and average about 6 feet tall. Do not be fooled by their bulk and trademark large stomachs – these men are superb athletes, very strong, tough, and surprisingly agile and quick.

Bouts take place on the dohyo, a raised platform of stamped earth, approximately 20 feet square. Embedded in the earth of the dohyo are bundles of rice straw forming a circle approximately 15 feet in diameter. The wrestlers face off several times in the center of the dohyo. After a certain amount of ritual, the referee signals them to wrestle. They take a stance similar to a football lineman and charge at each other. Matches last from a few seconds to almost three minutes; the average match is over in less than 30 seconds. The loser is the first wrestler who touches the earth with anything except the soles of his feet or who touches the earth outside the circle of rice straw bundles.

While the wrestling match itself is worth watching, it is the accompanying ritual which makes sumo uniquely Japa-

nese and somewhat mysterious. The dohyo is considered sacred ground; a purification ceremony precedes each tourney. Only wrestlers and officials may step on it and no one else may even touch it. (This restriction is lifted at the end of each tourney for the awards ceremony when representatives of embassies and sponsoring companies and associations troop onto the dohyo to award trophies, banners, and other prizes to the winner. To date, however, women are still prohibited from having contact with dohyo.) The referee's garb is based on the dress of a Shinto priest. The wrestlers enter the ring and perform the same ceremonies as those used when entering temple grounds – purifying the mouth with a sip of water, clapping hands to alert the Gods to your presence, and bowing respectfully.



### The Wrestlers

There are no free agents in sumo. Each wrestler belongs to a *heya*, or stable, and wrestlers stay with one stable their entire career. (Most stables are located close to the arena in Tokyo. If you go to the area, particularly when there is not a tourney in progress, you can wander the streets around the stables and look inside to watch the daily practice ses-

sions.) Life in sumo is based on strict hierarchy. While this may seem stifling, it has its own freedom because a wrestler's position is based strictly on performance – winners move up, losers are demoted (except for grand champions who, if they begin to lose consistently, retire). Young men entering a stable start at the lowest rank (except for successful college wrestlers who may start at a middle rank).

The lower ranks do the cooking, cleaning and all other menial tasks, wear the simplest cotton kimonos, wait upon the upper rankers, and do not eat until everyone else is finished. Along with this near-servitude, they must endure a physically and mentally demanding training regimen. Many drop out, but those who stay and win are promoted, have lower-ranking wrestlers assigned to wait on them, and gain the privileges that come with rank. The upper division, *makuuchi*, has five ranks and the next lower division, *juryo*, has one rank. Promotion to *juryo* is a difficult step because the number of wrestlers in *juryo* and *makuuchi* divisions are controlled; if no *juryo* wrestler is demoted, there simply is not a position available. (Centuries ago, champion wrestlers were called *seki*, or barrier. Defeating all of one's opponents was known as *seki o toru* – taking the barrier. Today, upon promotion to *juryo*, wrestlers are called *sekitori*.) In *makuuchi*, the highest rank is *yokozuna*, or grand champion. The next lower rank is the *ozeki* (junior champion), then some *sekiwake*, *komusubi*, and *mae-gashira*. The sport's ruling body, the Sumo Association, maintains two wrestlers with the rank of *ozeki*, *sekiwake*, and *komusubi* (one each East and West) and 30 *maegashira* (15 East and 15 West, ranked *maegashira* 1 through 15). For each tournament, the wrestlers are divided into East and West groupings, half the wrestlers on each side. While the Eastern positions traditionally are more prestigious, this division today is more symbolic than anything else.

Upon entering sumo, a wrestler adopts a professional name – his *shikona*. The *shikona* may be based on the wrestler's home (Kitanoumi, "northern sea", is from the Sea of Meiregion of Hokkaido). A wrestler may borrow part of his *shikona* from an important coach or mentor. Another common practice is for the stablemaster to give each wrestler a *shikona* incorporating characters from that stable's name or names of previous wrestlers.

Wrestlers are self-supporting until they reach *juryo* at which time they are paid salaries by the Sumo Association. Because they spend all their time in the stable, unsalaried wrestlers depend mainly on family support. In 1992, *juryo* wrestlers were paid \$5,000 per month, *maegashira* \$6,000, *sekiwake* and *komusubi* \$8,000, while *yokozuna* made over \$13,000 monthly. This, of course, did not include gifts and endorsements.

### Before a Bout

As the *makuuchi* division wrestlers enter the ring at 4pm each day, they enter by side, East and West, and by rank – the first to enter is the number 15 *maegashira*, the last is that side's *ozeki*. The *yokozuna* enters the ring individually in a special ceremony, each day. After all wrestlers have entered the ring, they face inward, raise their arms, clap hands in unison, raise their aprons a couple of inches, then leave the ring the same way they entered. These motions simulate those used

upon entering a temple grounds: raising the arms shows you have no concealed weapons, clapping hands signifies spirits and bodies are purified, and hitching up the apron frightens away evil spirits as well as signifying a wrestler's intention to win the match.

When the time arrives for a bout to begin, the referee for that bout enters the ring as does a minor official who announces in a falsetto, stylized voice, the names of the two wrestlers. The referee makes the same announcement and the wrestlers step onto the *dohyo*. They face each other, stamp their feet, slap themselves on the thighs, raise their arms, and clap hands in a prescribed ritual after which they move to respective corners of the *dohyo*. Each wrestler squats and is given a dipper of water (*chikara mizu*: water of strength); he rinses his mouth, spits out the water and wipes his mouth with a small napkin (*chikara gami* – strength paper). Each wrestler then takes a handful of salt from a basket at the corner, turns toward the center of the ring, and tosses the salt onto the ring. The two wrestlers then enter the ring, face each other, bend down into the starting position, glare at each other, and repeat the process of going to the corner, stamping feet, and tossing salt. Meanwhile, two attendants are methodically sweeping inside the ring and the area immediately outside the rice ring. The purpose of this ritual is to purify the ring (salt and sweeping), frighten away evil spirits (stamping feet, clapping hands), and purify the wrestlers (water). Sweeping around the outside of the rice bundles also has a practical purpose – the official can look at the swept surface for a footprint indicating that a wrestler has stepped outside the ring.

After several face-offs, the referee signals that the bout is to begin. The wrestlers toss one more handful of salt and are offered a final sip of water. They then move to the center of the ring and face off in a squatting position. A wrestler must touch the ground with both hands before charging – the touch can be very fast. The wrestlers charge and grapple. Of the 48 sumo techniques to throw an opponent, many involve getting a grip on the opponent's *mawashi* (the diaper-like sash which is the only garment worn while wrestling) and throwing him, while other throws resemble judo tosses. One wrestler simply drives a shoulder into his opponent and forces him out by brute strength.

At first, it may seem as though anything goes. Wrestlers slap each other in the face, thrust their hands into the opponent's throat, and generally attack aggressively. There is, however, some order and purpose in all this. Kicking your opponent, grabbing or pulling the hair, and hitting with a closed fist are prohibited. (Occasionally you will see one wrestler slap another and stun him – the *slappee* drops to the *dohyo*, dazed for an instant. That slap would probably break the neck of a normal person.) Wrestlers work to perfect offensive and defensive techniques and throws. And, at the end of the match, when the winner is announced, the move or technique by which he won is announced.

When one wrestler touches the ground or is forced out of the ring, the bout is over. The referee indicates the winner, the wrestlers bow to each other, the loser departs, and the winner's name is announced by the referee. From time to time, sponsors offer gifts of money or merchandise to the win-



ner of popular matches. In that case, the referee presents the winner with a stack of envelopes containing cash and prizes.

### Seeing Sumo in Person

On the surface, the preliminary rituals seem to have a sameness to them. They are not. Watch carefully during the preliminary rituals and you will see the personalities of the wrestlers. Some shake a little salt around their feet, others toss a handful into the ring. Some wrestlers taste the salt from their fingers. Some wrestlers glare and instigate a staring match, to which the crowd responds with cheers.

From time to time, both wrestlers hit the ground and a decision is too close to call. At this point, you will see the five judges - each former wrestlers, dressed in formal black and gray kimonos, seated stoically around the edge of the ring - rise from their seats, enter the dohyo, and talk it over. Actually, the chief judge is wired for communication with a booth where other officials study a videotaped replay to determine the winner. The chief judge is told the decision, the judges return to their seats, and the wrestlers - who have been waiting patiently off the dohyo - re-enter the ring to hear the chief judge announce the decision. If the outcome is too close to call, they will wrestle again, complete with preliminary salt-tossing, stamping, clapping, and glaring.

After watching a few tourneys on television, you must see one day's match live. Only in person can you appreciate the size and speed of the wrestlers and the accompanying pageantry. Be warned that tickets to the sumo tournaments are difficult to obtain. During the fifteen days of the tourney, matches start daily at 9:30am with the most junior wrestlers, winding up at 6pm when the makuuchi division finishes. General admission tickets go on sale at 8am for that day's matches; you may buy one ticket only (that is, if four of you want to go to sumo, all four must stand in line and each person must buy his/her own ticket); prices are ¥1,500-¥2,000 (1992). Your ticket is for a numbered seat which is yours all day. Once inside the

entrance gate, do not leave the arena grounds; you can't come back in. Tickets are easier to obtain early in the tourney on weekdays. I recommend arriving at the arena around 8am, Monday through Friday of the first week of the tournament. The Tokyo tournaments are the second and third full weeks in January, May and September at the Kuramae Kokugikan Hall. The Kokugikan arena is immediately beside the Ryogoku Station on the JR Sobu Line.

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. You will get a general admission ticket which puts you in the upper rows. While there are no bad seats, some are better than others so you will want your camera with telephoto lens and your binoculars. Food and drink are permitted in the arena. You can buy food at the kiosks in the arena but if bentos are not your fare, take your lunch and snacks.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Chuo Line from Fussa, Ushihama, Haijima, or Akishima Stations and ride to Ochanomizu (second stop past Shinjuku, approximately one hour). At Ochanomizu, change to the Sobu Line (the yellow train on the other side of the platform) headed for Akihabara. Ryogoku is the third stop (after Akihabara and Asakusabashi). At Ryogoku Station, when you get off the train, look straight ahead and you will see the sumo arena. Turn left (the direction from which the train came) walk to the end of the platform, and take the steps down. Important: Buy your return ticket now - lines at the ticket machines are *very long* when the matches are over because everyone is trying to leave at the same time. (Reverse this process coming back. At Ryogoku, take the Sobu line toward Asakusabashi to Ochanomizu - 3 stops. From Ochanomizu, take an orange Chuo Line train to Takao (or Hachioji or Toyoda), getting off at Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, transfer to a train for Ome or Okutama, getting off at your original station.)

Exit the station and walk to the arena. At this point, do not stop to see the sights - get your admission ticket first. You will see tall colorful banners on bamboo poles - just beyond them on the right is the front entrance. The ticket booths are to the right and left of the entrance gates. Get in line and buy your ticket. At the ticket windows they will have English language schedules of the day's matches which list the wrestlers' shikona and their records to date in the tourney.

Before entering the gate, walk around the area. Among the fluttering banners (the characters on the banners are the names of wrestlers) you will see banzuke, a large piece of paper with a complicated mass of kanji written on it, posted on a wooden billboard. The banzuke, published two weeks before the tourney, announces the rankings for that tourney. You will also see a tall bamboo tower. Traditionally, drummers went through the streets announcing the start of the matches. Today, drummers play from this tower the first day and drumming is played through loudspeakers on the tower at the end of each day. Watch the crowds coming from the train station - you'll see lower-ranking wrestlers arriving by train. They wear the traditional cotton yukata and wooden clogs. If you walk back toward the train station, just past the tall banners you will see a driveway entrance which is used by the wrestlers. As the day goes on and the upper division wrestlers begin to enter, crowds gather at this entrance to get photographs and autographs. Ticket scalping is not permitted, but study the crowds on the sidewalk

"Only in person  
can you  
appreciate the  
size and speed of  
the wrestlers and  
the  
accompanying  
pageantry."

-Joe Schlatter



and you will spot a few men who would be right at home outside the Super Bowl, offering scarce tickets for many times the box office price.

Now that you have your admission ticket in hand, you may enter the arena whenever you wish. If you went early to get your ticket, you may want to do something else for a few hours, then return to the arena around 3pm to watch the upper division matches. Your ticket has a seat location on it. There are maps posted throughout the arena (in Japanese) or you should be able to find an attendant who will gladly lead you to your seat. Stands throughout the arena sell food and souvenirs. One popular souvenir is a name card; wrestlers slap their hand onto a big stamp pad of red ink, press their handprint onto a piece of heavy paper board, then write their name in brush calligraphy over the handprint. These are inexpensive and nice to frame.

### Resources

For a thorough study, I recommend *Sumo From Rite to Sport* by P. L. Cuyler, for sale in the local bookstore. It is well-organized and well-indexed. This book also has a map showing the locations of stables near the arena. You can watch practice sessions; the best times are weekdays, around 10am.

#### **"Sumo World"**

Published by English-speaking foreign sumo enthusiasts, this magazine comes out 10 days before each tourney; it usually shows up on Yokota 3 to 5 days before a tourney. Each issue features results of the last tourney, predictions for the next tourney, articles on wrestlers, techniques and sumo history. The program listing of the *banzuke* for the upcoming tourney is also printed complete with names, ranks, photos, height, weight, age, and records of *makuuchi* and *juryo* division wrestlers.

Joe Schlatter

## Sword Fighting

### Kendo

Zanshin is the total awareness of all that is around and within. To study the sword is to study zanshin, to be strong with the sword is to be strong with zanshin, to master the sword is to master zanshin, to master zanshin is to never draw the sword.

In the fall of 1600, Lord Tokugawa achieved victory at the battle of Sekigahara and eliminated the last serious opposition to unifying the nation under one rule. Sengoku Jidai, the Age of a Country at War, had ended and a new found peace settled over a land that had known almost 500 years of constant warfare. Peace had brought with it a philosophical change to the warrior class. *Kenjutsu*, the art of the sword, began to transform itself into kendo, the way of the sword. Where *kenjutsu* had once prepared the warrior in the use of the sword to overcome an opponent, kendo now taught the development of mind, body, and spirit to overcome the obstacles in life.

In the early 17th century several schools of swordsmanship were founded as the warrior class pursued their perfection of self. As these swordsmen developed their deadly skills, they often went on pilgrimages across the country to seek out masters in various styles to learn all they could. Later, they would perfect their own styles and established schools based on it. It was not uncommon in this age to have two swordsmen test their skills against each other with live blades. Most these confrontations ended in death for one or both opponents. In the years prior to the Tokugawa Shogunate, swordsmen often tested their skills on the battle field. Now that the wars were over the swordsmen had to find a new method of training against an opponent. Here lies the roots of modern kendo.

At first the students practicing sword techniques used wooden swords against each other instead of live blades. However, this still resulted in serious injuries and death. By 1760

the *shinai*, bamboo sword, had been developed which lessened the blows encountered in matches. The *kote*, thick leather gloves, were also developed around this time. Between 1765 and 1770 the *do*, body protector, started to be used and sometime soon after the *men*, head protector was developed. During the Meiji period, it was decided to make kendo a part of school curriculums because of the discipline and moral values that it taught. There were several meetings of the great sword masters of the day to help structure modern kendo. Today, kendo has changed little since the Meiji period and is a combination of several schools of swordsmanship.

Kendo is now an international sport practiced in over 34 countries around the world including Europe, South America, New Zealand, Australia, North America, and Korea. The popu-



larity of kendo has grown so much in the last decade that it was seriously considered as an exhibition sport in the Olympic Summer Games in Australia.

The Yokota Kendo Club was founded on 4 April 1992 and is the oldest established martial arts organization at Yokota. Here Americans get the rare opportunity to study this ancient art form from three top ranking kendo instructors. Classes are bilingual and advanced students get the opportunity to visit several schools in the local area. One such school is the Keiten-kan Dojo in Akishima, which dates back to the early Meiji period. The dojo, training hall, is over a hundred years old. Here students have the chance to train in a traditional style dojo and relive a bit of history.

James Alexander

## Naginata

During the 12th century, the naginata was the weapon of choice for the fierce warrior monks. It was comprised of a wooden shaft approximately 7 feet in length and mounted by a long slender curved blade approximately 3 feet in length. Designed to bring down a horse and its rider, the blade, when used in wide sweeping arcs, could cut like a sword while maintaining a distance. The shaft could be used for in-close combat to thrust at vital spots or sweep the legs out from under an opponent.

With the introduction of firearms to Japan, the naginata became obsolete on the battle field and became a weapon used mainly by the wives and daughters of warrior families. These women were expected to be prepared at a moments notice to defend both the household and the honor of their families. The naginata not only gave them the skills to do this, but also the noble qualities of etiquette, self-discipline, and strong morale values that earned them both admiration and respect from all the girls to cultivate the spirit and build strong character.

Today naginata is fast becoming a popular sport internationally. Tokyo hosted the First World Naginata Championship Tournament on 30 July 1995 with teams from Japan, USA, France, Brazil, Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden, and New Zealand.

The main target areas in naginata are the shins, but the head, wrists, and torso are also targets. The naginata is a very flexible weapon that allows attacks from any direction and quick defense. The actual fighting techniques are similar to boxing and will give one an excellent workout.

The Yokota Naginata Club was founded in January of 1993 by members of the Yokota Kendo Club. Its head instructor is Yoshida Kunie who has over 60 years of experience in naginata. Classes are held every Saturday on base, but students also have the opportunity to workout twice a week at the Tachikawa Budo Kan, a martial arts center dedicated to all the martial arts from Japan.

James Alexander

## Baseball

With more Japanese baseball players following Ichiro Suzuki and Hideo Nomo into the major leagues, American fans in Japan have an opportunity to scout talent that may soon be playing Stateside. But whether you're looking for the next international superstar or a unique cultural experience, a trip to the ballpark can be both a fun and inexpensive way to see another side of Japan.

The American pastime of baseball is a passion here. From an early age, boys learn to play the game with dreams of glory. In the spring there is a Spring Select Tournament (Haru no Senbatsu Taikai) for high school teams at Koshien Stadium in Osaka. This is an invitational tourney for the cream of the crop. Each high school team vies for the right to represent its district. 49 teams then go on to the summer National High School Championship Series (Zenkoku Koukou Yakyuu Senshukai Taikai) in August. The top teams' seniors are usually drafted to the professional ranks. Baseball is also played competitively on the college/university level, but most players seek jobs in corporations after graduation.

The national pastimes of both the U.S. and Japan have been compared to sushi and McDonald's fish filet sandwich. Same basic ingredients, different preparation and packaging. The rules are the same, three strikes you're out, tie goes to the runner, that sort of thing, but Japanese have added their own twists to the game introduced here in the 1870s by American



teacher Horace Wilson. Japanese play tie games, conduct marathon training sessions prior to each game, bunt runners into scoring position, and tip their hats when pitchers hit batters.

But it's the atmosphere at the ballpark that sets the Japanese apart. To most Americans, the bleacher bum conjures up images of a laid-back fan, slouched on a wooden bench in a



remote corner of the outfield stands, sunglasses on, beer in hand, soaking up rays while taking in the game. In Japan, the inhabitants of the cheap seats are anything but laid back. The night air comes alive with the pulsating sounds of bass drums, the slapping of plastic megaphones and the squeal of trumpets blowing off-key renditions of “Anchors Away,” “Popeye the Sailor man” and the “Mickey Mouse Club Anthem.” The Japanese call these royal rooters the *oendan*, a highly-organized cheering group, spurred on by whistle-blowing, flag waving, drum-beating cheerleaders.

An evening in the bleachers offers the perfect place to blow off steam. For the salaryman who has put in another 10-hour day for an overbearing supervisor, the ballpark is his place to unleash his aggressions toward an opposing outfielder or his own favorite batter at the plate. After several drinks, the reserved office worker becomes a screaming siren of sarcasm and scorn toward the visiting and home team alike. The cheering never stops, regardless of the score. Even when the game is over, the diehard fans are reluctant to leave. Many will remain standing on their seats, still chanting over the whine of gas-powered blowers herding trash from around the bleachers. The outfield grass on the losing side is littered with plastic megaphones, thrown there as a sign of disgust and disappointment in their team’s effort.

The higher priced seats may offer a better view, but they’re not as much fun. Usually reserved for corporate “pretty people,” the seats surrounding the infield and in back of home plate are the place to see and be seen. They sit on their hands, cheering only the most dramatic play. Even then, they behave with utmost decorum. The constant noise swirling around the stadium is both distracting and entertaining for foreign players. “Going to a Japanese baseball game is like going to a UCLA-Notre Dame football game,” said former Montreal Expo Warren Cromartie, who played here in the 1980s. “These people are dedicated. They cheer to the last out.”

If food’s your thing, the menu at stadium snack stands is a cross between Benihana and Burger King, with meat dumplings served next to corn dogs and pizza slices. From sushi to squid on a stick, Japan’s favorite ballpark fare is a far cry from peanuts and Cracker Jack. The cracking sound of peanut shells gives way to the slurping of ramen noodles. The crunching pretzels are replaced by the gnawing of fish jerky. But fear not, at some of the modern stadiums such as Tokyo’s Big Egg and the spanking new domes in Osaka and Nagoya, fans can stuff themselves with McDonald’s and Kentucky Fried Chicken. At the newer parks, the gleaming concession stands are clearly labeled “Japanese Food & Drink” and “American Food & Drink.” Most signs are in Japanese, but most counters feature picture menus. It’s better to use the point and shoot method when ordering since a hot dog is really *hotto doggu* and french fries are *furaido poteto*, and your server may not know what you’re talking about if you don’t speak the lingo. Don’t worry, Coca Cola is the same in any language.

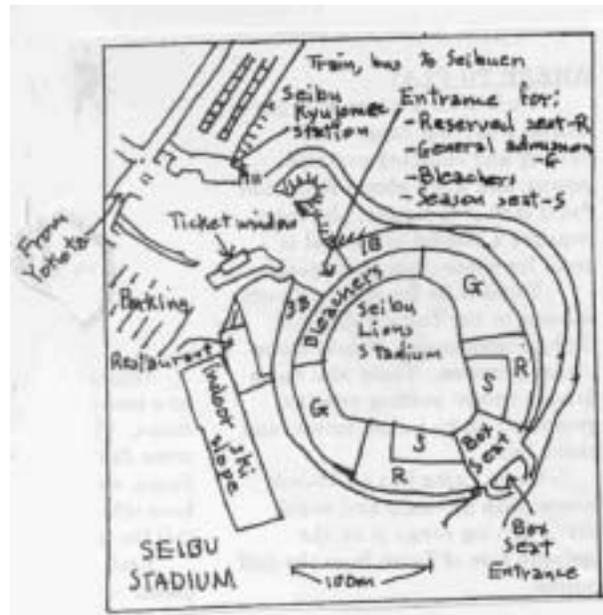
With beverages such as Pocari Sweat and Calpis for sale, you’d think most fans would go thirsty. That’s not the case here though. There’s plenty of alternatives to wet your whistle, from Coke to coffee to cold green tea. And, of course, there’s enough beer to float the USS Independence. Some ven-

dors patrol the aisles with a keg strapped to their backs. If whiskey and water is your pleasure, belly up to the portable bar.

Of the 12 Japanese professional teams, six are home-based in the Tokyo area. The Nippon Ham Fighters and very popular Yomiuri Giants occupy the Tokyo Dome. The Yakult Swallows play in rustic Jingu Stadium, the Yokohama Bay Stars play a baseball’s throw away from Chinatown, and the Chiba Lotte Marines play out near Disneyland.

Each team can have three foreign players on their big league roster at a time, and many do have major league experience. With the success of Ichiro and the other Japanese players currently playing in the States, the baseball over here is finally getting recognition from American fans. Just think, after your tour in Japan is up and you’re back in the States watching baseball on TV, you can impress friends by saying, “I saw (fill in the name) play when he was in Japan.”

Harry Thompson from the *Yokosan*



## Seibu Lions Stadium

The closest ballpark to Yokota Air Base is Seibu Stadium, about a 30-minute trip out the East Gate. (The Yujo Community Center has maps to the stadium, schedules, and discount coupons.) Tickets range from about ¥1600 for outfield bleachers to ¥3200 for infield reserved seats. (Tickets for kids are ¥500.) On selected weeknights and most weekends, fans can bring a blanket and spread out on a sloped grassy area just over the outfield fence. And unlike Stateside ballparks, the Japanese have no problem with you bringing coolers and picnic baskets. They do frown on bottles though.

The professional season runs from April through September. Games are only called because of heavy rain. Games can



end with tie scores due to the 11PM night curfew when games must end.

### Notes about catching a Seibu Lions game

- After you have purchased your game tickets, buy your return train tickets to avoid the rush after the game at the building to the left of the exit from the train station.
- As you walk into the stadium, a stadium employee may hand you a small piece of paper. If your number is drawn during the game, you will receive a prize. About three winning numbers at a time are flashed on the large screen over the scoreboard at different times between innings.
- If you have a Reserved Seat ticket, your seat location will be printed on a line on the lower right of your ticket: 1) the block of seats (A= lower, B= upper), 2) the aisle, 3) the row, and 4) the seat number itself.
- There is limited parking; we advise taking the train.

Eddie Leavengood, Joe Harb

## Baseball at the Tokyo Dome

Tokyo Dome or the “Big Egg” is the home of two teams, the popular Yomiuri Giants of the Central League and the Nippon Ham Fighters of the Pacific League. As its name implies, it is a covered stadium. Seat prices for Giants games range from ¥1,000 to ¥4,900, for Nippon Ham Fighters, from ¥1,100 to ¥4,200. Giants night games start at 6pm and day games at 1pm. Nippon Ham day games start at 1pm and night games at 6:15. For ticket availability, call 03-3811-2111.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go to Fussa Station and purchase a ticket to Suidobashi. Take the train from Track 2 and if necessary transfer at Tachikawa for a train to Tokyo (Tracks 4 and 5). Get off at Shinjuku, and take a Sobu Line train from Track 9 to Suidobashi, the 7th station after Shinjuku.

## Golf

Golfers on the Kanto Plain have many opportunities to enjoy the game at several U.S. courses. Instruction by qualified professionals is available for anyone from the beginner wanting to learn to play the ancient and honorable game to the low-handicapper seeking to perfect a fade. Pro shops offer a variety of equipment, while driving ranges and practice greens provide opportunities to sharpen skills.

### Where to Play

- On **Yokota** is a nine-hole par-3 course, a driving range with putting and chipping practice greens, and a pro shop. While the Par-3 may look simple, playing it requires a careful touch and is great for sharpening your game. Tel. 225-8815/8817
- **Tama Hills** Recreation Center is home to the Tama Hills Golf Club, a challenging 18-hole championship course. Tama also has a driving range, putting practice green, pro shop, locker rooms, and snack bar. Tel. 224-3426/3416/2223
- **Camp Zama** has an 18-hole course with pro shop and snack bar; a driving range is on the opposite side of Zama from the golf course. Tel. 263-4975, 228-3779
- **Atsugi Naval Station** has an 18-hole course, driving range, practice greens, pro shop, and snack bar. Tel. 264-6749/3709/3779/3788

### Golf General Guidelines

USGA and local rules apply to all courses. Local rules are printed on scorecards and posted in pro shops and starter shacks. The 18-hole courses have winter greens and summer greens. If in doubt, check with the starter as to which greens are in play. Also, determine the rule for shooting your ball onto the wrong green.

Generally, personnel stationed at a base have priority for tee times. That is, Yokota personnel come first at Tama, Zama people at Zama, etc. If you want to play at a base where you are not stationed, call the pro shop beforehand. Each course has provisions for guests—non-military U.S. personnel, third-country nationals, and Japanese nationals. The green fees for guests are considerably higher than fees for I.D. card holders. Japanese military personnel and Japanese base employees are treated differently from other Japanese, so check with the pro shop.

Each course has an annual green fee which you can pay so you don't have to pay each time you play (except for cart or club rentals). If you play regularly, the annual fee is well worth the cost.

Each course is closed one day a week for maintenance and tee times may be limited on other days because of special events or organizational tournaments. Call the pro shop.



Each pro shop offers the usual services of repairing clubs, replacing grips, matching clubs, etc.

### Golf lessons

Group and individual lessons are available at each golf course for a nominal fee. At the Yokota Par-3, group lessons are available weekly. Check with the pro shops for lesson details.

### Where to buy equipment

You can find golf equipment in the pro shops of each course and the sporting goods sections of each base exchange. Prices are good, equivalent to prices in Stateside golf discount shops. Each shop has the basic club sets, bags, bars, shoes, and specialty clubs and sets as well as some of the latest equipment. Beware: Inventories will vary. If you are looking for a cannon-style driver made from the latest space-age-materials, or if you need a size 15-AAAA shoe, you'd better have your brother-in-law in Topeka send it to you.

If you wish to give your wallet heart failure, you can shop in the Japanese golf shops. (see *Golf Stores section*) However, they are well-stocked with the latest equipment and every golf gadget known.

If you go to Korea, look for golf bags and golf gloves; name-brand bags and gloves are made in Korea. You can buy a near lifetime supply of gloves at the shops in Itaewon. Be careful!! Most of these gloves are seconds so inspect them before buying a couple of dozen. Even with minor flaws, they are a bargain.

Joe Schlatter



## Snow Skiing

Skiing in Japan can be lots of fun if a skier avoids the crowds. The downhill season ranges from December to May, with most people hitting the slopes January through early March. Depending on location, the quality of the snow is powder in late January and early February, changing to heavy wet snow in March. The slopes range from rural single-chairlift operations to interconnecting areas with highspeed-covered-quads and gondolas that have hosted the World Cup and Olympics.

In the Kanto Plain, there are basically two ski clubs composed of foreigners. The first, the **Kanto Ski & Snowboard Club**, is based at Yokota and starts its season with an informational meeting in October followed by a signup party in November. The club is open to anyone and usually runs 4 overnight trips per season. Its most popular trips are the one to Sapporo just before the Snow Festival and to Nagano's Shiga Heights and Zao over the 3 day weekends in January and February. (The Sapporo trip is scheduled to coincide with the Snow Festival on the last day of the trip. This allows for comparatively lower prices and smaller crowds on the slopes.) Announcements are run on AFN and in the Fuji Flyer during the early fall.

**Shin Yi Ski Club**, started by a group of DODDS teachers, but now mainly composed of foreign residents of Tokyo, operates about 9 trips by train per season. It holds a signup meeting near the end of the year in downtown Tokyo and a post-

season get-together during the summer. The trips usually consist of a Friday night departure from Ueno station. Because Shin Yi uses the train system, the trip is shorter than Kanto's, however, not as much luggage or food can be taken (many skiers opt to send their skis ahead by "Black Cat", the equivalent of UPS).

The Services Squadrons/MWR at most bases (Outdoor Recreation Center at Yokota) run many trips throughout the season. They also rent equipment at a reasonable price, and provide maps to the major ski areas. They have free lessons offered along with low cost equipment rental.

Skiers can also set up their own trips. The nearest slopes are about 3 hours by car or 1-1/2 hours by bullet train. On weekends, especially Sundays and holiday weekends, the roads and the slopes become very congested. Food and lodging prices vary widely, depending on the type of accommodations. Lift tickets run from about ¥1500 for 11 runs to ¥11,000 for 3-day tickets including gondola access.

Teresa Negley

There are a number of web sites including <http://www.skijapanguide.com> that can also help you.



## Ice Skating

### Showa-no-Mori

Showa-no-Mori is an indoor ice-skating and hockey rink near Mori Town Mall in Akishima. Admission is as follows: ¥1,200 per adult, ¥900 per student (junior through senior high school), ¥600 per child (to age 12). Skates can be rented for ¥500 a pair (sizes 15-30cm). There is a ¥300 fee for observers. Four hours of free parking is available, just take your parking ticket to the front desk for validation before you leave. The rink is generally open October-May, 10am—7pm every day of the week. The summer hours in June, July, & September are noon-7pm on weekdays and 10am—7 pm on weekends. During August, the rink is open noon-6pm.

A discount is available for groups of 15 or more and ice skates can also be rented from Outdoor Recreation (\$1.50/day). To take advantage of the discount, one person from the group must collect the yen and pay for the entire party. Lessons in English can be arranged.

Vending machines that dispense hot chocolate and coffee are available as well as a snack bar that sells hamburgers, fries, and soba. Of course, bringing your own snack and drinks will reduce the cost. This rink has a “warming room.” Even though this is an indoor rink, it can get very chilly inside.

**DIRECTIONS:** Showa-no-Mori is about a 10 minute drive from Yokota’s East Gate. Refer to the directions in Shopping to ESPA and Moritown Mall. Tel. 46-9350.

Fran Bonn, 1/97

## Bicycling

There are a few nice bicycle rides from Yokota.

- **Showa Memorial Park** is a nice easy ride. To get there, bicycle out the East Gate. Take a right, then immediately take the first left –almost straight out the gate. Take this small, quiet road alongside the parks until it dead-ends into the big road. Walk your bicycle across the street at the cross-walk, turn right, then cross the river just beyond the road as soon as you can. You will find a wide, quiet bicycle path that winds its way among trees along the river all the way to an entrance to Showa park exclusively for bicyclists. Plan on about 40 leisurely minutes from the gate.

- **Tama River:** Another nice bicycle ride is along the Tama River. There are a number of ways of getting there, pretty much they all involve going straight West out the Fussa or Supply gate, across both railroad tracks until you get to the river. There is a bicycle path that runs along the river. One of the easiest ways to explain is to turn left out the Fussa gate and then turn right at the first light, follow this straight until you come to the river. Access to the path can be obtained by going to the left just before the river. I have been told this path goes all the way to the ocean.

- **Tamko Lake:** There is a beautiful bike path around Tamako Lake to the north-east of base. There are many ways to get there out the Terminal or East Gates. Use a map or have someone show you their favorite way, because it’s a little complicated to explain.

- **For More Information:** Check out the Bicycling Museum (Sightseeing section) and Outdoor Recreation for more trails in the local area. There is also a bicycling club on base which you can get more information from.

## Camping

- **Tama Hills:** The easiest and most convenient place to camp around base is at Tama Hills. The camp sites are very spacious and separated from one another. You can rent pretty much everything you need from Outdoor Recreation. It costs \$1.00 per person per night for a site. Some weekends may be full so you should call Tama Hills outdoor recreation at 224-3413 for reservations.

- **Kawai Camp Site:** The Yujo Community Center can help you with directions to the Kawai Camp Site (Tel: 0428-85-2206). It is located about an hour from base in Mitake on Ome Kaido just past the Kawai JR Station. To use the facilities for the day it costs 400 Yen/person. To stay overnight in a tent costs 700 yen per person. They also have lodges that cost between 6,000 and 40,000 yen per night. You need reservations for the lodges. Note: you may not take your own fire wood or charcoal to Kawai camp site. You must purchase your fuel there for 600 to 1,300 yen.

For list of outdoors stores to purchase camping equipment see *Shopping* section.

There are a number of locations along the Tama River to fish and as you drive by you may see many people fishing. Do NOT think that you can just pull in along the river and throw your rod in the creek, you must pay first. Fishing in Japan is more



## Fishing

expensive than in the States. You can count on spending at least 3,000 Yen for a one day fishing license. The outdoor recreation center has a number of trips, both river fishing and ocean fishing. If you want to go on your own you can check with them or the Yujo Community Center. There is a place, the Okutama Fishing Center (phone: 0428-78-8393) about an hour from base (by train or car) very close to the Kawai camp site listed above. They are open from 07:00 to 16:00 and cost 3,000 Yen/day for live bait fishing (bait 600 Yen) or 3,500 Yen/day for lure and fly fishing. See Akigawa in Sightseeing section for another location.

See *Shopping* section for the location of a fishing supply store and some outdoors stores.

## Hiking

If you like to hike, there are many areas close by where you can go. Two recommendations are Mt. Takao and Mt. Mitake. Although you can usually find a noodle diner and soda machine along the tourist path, you can also find benches where you can eat a sack lunch. However, you may not find any garbage cans as part of an effort to promote hikers taking their trash home instead of littering the area.

### • Recommended Reading:

- Day Walks Around Tokyo (and More Day Walks Around Tokyo) by Jonathan Walters,
- Hiking in Japan : an adventurer's guide to the mountain trails by Paul Hunt, published by Kodansha Int'l,
- Hiking in Japan from Lonely Planet Publications
- the English edition of the Chichibu-Tama National Park Okutama Nature Map available through the Mitake Information Center (by the train station), the Mitake Visitor Center (up on the mountain), and the Okutama Visitor Center. All visitor centers are closed on Mondays. Some hikers find deciphering signs easier through comparison of the Japanese version with the English version (both maps cost ¥200 each). A wonderful investment, the English map covers the large Okutama area, and has mini-maps of paths in certain areas that are not always available at the site in separate English editions.

Check the library for copies of the books, or see the "Shopping" section for English bookstores

- **Mt. Takao:** Take the cable car up, visit the various temples beyond MonkeyLand, picnic at the summit, and walk down Routes 3 or 5. Pick up an English version map of Takao-san at the cable car ticket window. For more information, refer to Sightseeing.

- **Mt. Mitake:** It's easiest to drive up and park behind the cablecar station (Y900 all day, more overnight). You can take the cable car up or save yen and walk all the way up to the mountaintop shrine area (it's harder on the knees to walk down). The steep concrete path starts opposite the ticket booth to the cable car. In addition to the shrine at the top, there are scenic loops plus trails to other areas in the region. If you're hardcore, you can start at the Ome train station or Yoshino Baigo plum grove near Hinatawada train station, then hike your way up to Mt. Mitake via connecting trails. Easier 4km walks line either side of the Tamagawa River in the Mitake Gorge be-



tween JR Mitake and Sawai stations. *Note:* There are a few steep steps along the route to Kanzanji Shrine on the south bank near a bridge. To rest, stop at the riverside restaurant near Sawai and watch the kayakers or visit the small Gyokudo museum on the other side of the river.

Teresa Negley

## Mt. Fuji

It is impossible to live in the Kanto Plain and ignore the dominance of Fuji-san. This nearly symmetrical form is a symbol of Japanese culture. It has been an inspiration to artists and a natural wonder for the rest of us.

Regardless of the beauty, when one attempts to reach its 12,388 feet (3,776 meter) summit, caution is necessary. We were fortunate to make our first try with experienced climbers who gave us sound advice. We have made it to the peak twice, once during the day and once after dark. Both climbs were challenging and the night climb almost too much of a struggle.

Should you decide to go for the top, preparation can help ensure an enjoyable trip. First, look at yourself objectively. Are you up to a demanding climb involving several hours of steady exertion? If you are in moderately good condition, you should be able to make it but it is no stroll in the park! The official climbing season is from July 1 - August 31, so start exercising early if you are out of shape.

Trim your toenails the week before to prevent irritation. Also, make sure you get a good night's sleep before the climb. Weather can ruin your climb and make things extremely dangerous on the slope. Storms and plunging temperatures are fairly common, particularly at night. Keep track of the weather and have extra clothing and rain gear. Clothing is important.



Climb in long pants with a windbreaker instead of shorts and a sweatshirt. A hat and a small towel are handy. Also, you will notice most folks with a climbing stick. This is not only a practical tool, it makes a great souvenir of your adventure when adorned with the various brands from stations along the way. Climbing sticks are for sale at all the souvenir shops near and at Station 5.

The following sensible precautions were extracted from a Services planning guide:

- ◆ When it is a stormy day or there are signs of lightning, cease climbing and find shelter in a hut.
- ◆ Do not stray from the climbing path due to the great dangers of rock slides and of getting lost.
- ◆ If you are part of a group, follow your leader's directions and do not venture out on your own you might end up on a different side of the mountain.
- ◆ Do not be in a hurry! Climb the mountain slowly and be careful not to over-exert yourself.

There is a fine line between adequate equipment and over-preparation. This list from the base and it seemed to provide the necessities. Many items can be rented from Outdoor Recreation at low cost.

- Hiking boots
- Medium backpack
- Rain gear
- About 2 liters of water per person
- Sunglasses
- Sunblock (Yes, even if it's chilly the sun is very strong, you will burn!)
- Jacket
- Utility gloves (Cotton gloves are available at 100-yen stores.)
- Flashlight plus extra batteries/bulb
- Band-aids and Ace bandage
- High protein foods & painkillers
- Camera. You can't take an excursion like this without lasting memories!
- 10,000 Yen for expenses
- 6,000 Yen for tolls (includes Fuji admission)
- Walking stick: 1,000 Yen (stamps for the stick available at each station for 200-300 Yen each)
- Station huts: for overnight stay or weather emergency (about 5,000 Yen)

◆ It is better to take frequent short breaks rather than to stop only a few times for long periods.

◆ If a person is injured or sick, perform first aid, carry him/her to the nearest mountain hut, and contact a doctor.

◆ If you climb at night, climb with care. In rocky areas be especially careful of your footing.

Remember, it is easy to stumble and fall. Accidents involving rockslides are frequent. If you encounter rock slides, shout so other people will know. Stay to the inside of the path where footing is firmer and the wall offers protection. If you hear thunder on a clear day, it probably is a rock slide in progress - don't waste time looking up at the sky, immediately hit the ground closest to the wall.

Although there are several trails, the one originating at Lake Kawaguchi with your start at the Fifth Station is recommended. A short word on climbing at night. You may want to leave the 5th Station at 3pm to arrive at the top at 9pm and sleep in one of the lodges; we found that the ¥5,000 is worth it. You will then be in good shape to see the sunrise. Take at least two good flashlights, or one with extra batteries.

To make it a delightful memory, exercise caution and common sense. Have fun!

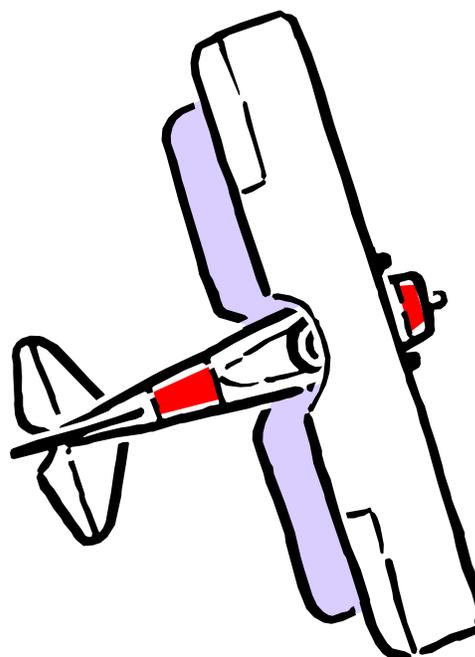
Jim and Susie Shaw

The Yujo Center has maps and climbing guides. They also have several tours over the summer.



## Flying

If you thought that the only way to see Mt. Fuji was to climb it or the only way to see the ocean was to take an all-day trip you have missed the boat...or rather the plane! Private flying here in Japan is a wonderful way to "get above it all" and we have an Aero Club right here at Yokota. You must be an I. D. card holder to utilize this club. An average time and cost estimate to get a private pilots license from start to finish is one year and \$3000 but this depends on each individual. Initially it costs \$180 for your books and the viewing of the video tapes. You set your own pace for studying and taking the tests. You need minimum of thirty hours of flying time before you can test for your private license. A certified instructor pilot goes up with you each time to teach and guide you (and yes, to reassure you). Training is in Cessna 152 airplanes, which are two seater light airplanes. The scariest, yet most exhilarating experience is when you realize that you really are flying the plane. The first time I took off, made a turn over towards the horizon and flew over to the ocean, I knew I was hooked. You, too, can escape from the hubbub of Tokyo and enjoy the city from a bird's eye view. Call the 374th Services Yokota Flight Training Center at 225-8988. They are open daily 0730-1730 in Bldg 4304. They can also arrange for one time sight-seeing flights and sometimes offer specials for holidays.



## Sailing and Diving

### Yokosuka Sailing

An assignment to landlocked Yokota need not be an end to sailing. Sailboats are available for rent at Yokosuka Naval Base. The Yokosuka Sailing Center is located at Fleet Activities, Yokosuka's Green Bay, next to McDonald's (and across from the Marine Barracks).

The hours of operation are Monday, Thursday, Friday 10am-7pm; Saturday, Sunday 8am-7pm. A license is required. Rentals range from \$3 per hour for a rowboat to \$40 per day for a Catalina. Monthly sailing classes are offered. For sign up or further information call 243-4155.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions to Yokosuka Naval Base. From Yokosuka's main gate, turn right and continue past the hospital. Turn right at the first main intersection and continue until you see McDonald's on your right. The Sailing Center is right next to McDonald's. Your best bet to beat the traffic is to leave Yokota by 6am. You should arrive in time for breakfast at McDonald's.

Jan DeForest, Jenny Perham 8/97

### Diving

There are several diving sites within a two to three-hour drive from Yokota, mainly on the Izu Peninsula southwest of Tokyo. The best visibility is from September to March and the water temperature (50-70 degrees F) requires a wetsuit or drysuit.

Due to the proximity of the Kuroshio Current there are colorful coral semi-tropical sea life.

Better known areas are Manazuru near Odawara, Atami down the coast, Izu Oceanic Park (Izu Kaiyo Koen) near Ito, and Osezaki near Numazu. Others are Hayama near Yokosuka, Futo on the other side of Tokyo Bay, and

Heda, Kumomi, and Dogashima on the western side of Izu. Equipment can be rented at these locations and tanks can be filled.

Scuba diving has become very popular and on summer Sundays, these areas are crowded with classes.

*Please note:* Due to the laws in Japan, nothing may be removed from the water. The local fishermen enforce this strongly and divers are arrested for taking lobster or shellfish. Local dive shops cultivate good relations with the fishermen, and occasionally hire their vessels for boat dives.

Diving in Japan can be expensive: expressway tolls, entry fees, parking charges, and tank refills all run between ¥500-1500 each. Organized tours cost over ¥12,000 per day (insurance, transportation, lunch, tanks and weights usually included). Divers economize by taking their vans and packing lunches, in addition to camping.

For further information, check with a dive shop here or at the site (some attendants speak English). Also, both NAUI and PADI have offices in Tokyo. At Yokota, the Finatics Club (225-7093) can be contacted about classes. The club has members who dive nearly every weekend of the season.

Jody Powell, Teresa Negley



# Dancing

For many of us on Yokota Air Base and in the surrounding communities, the word “Tanabata” has two meanings. Tanabata Matsuri, also known as the Star Festival, is the name of a colorful Japanese holiday with Chinese origins. Two lovers, a cow herder and a weaver, kept apart in their mortal lives, come together in the sky as the stars Altair and Vega. Tanabata Matsuri marks this annual reunion on the seventh day of the seventh month.

Tanabata also has a second meaning. It is the name of a group of Yokota women (and every once in while a man or two!) who learn to perform Japanese festival or folk dancing. The organization was started over 20 years ago by Masako Collins as a means of spreading good will and friendship by joining the Japanese in their traditional “odori” or festival dances. Just as the Tanabata festival celebrates the coming together of two lovers, the group symbolizes the coming together of two cultures.

The dancers wear a yukata (summer kimono) tied with an obi. Although the patterns of both the yukata and the obi have changed throughout the years, the color scheme has consistently been red, white, and blue. The group is taught the dances by the ever patient Hanayagi-Sensei, who volunteers her time to practice with them weekly. The dancers perform at local Japanese festivals as well as various functions on base. The Tanabata Dancers offer the unique opportunity of experiencing Japanese culture first hand, and the group is always received with enthusiasm! Over the years, they have made many friends both on and off base.

Membership is open to anyone over the age of twelve in the Yokota community (women AND men!). Dedication of members has kept enthusiasm high-no small feat since the membership is constantly changing. The dance season runs from mid-March to early November and new members are welcome at any time. The dances are not difficult to learn and the “old-timers” always help out the newcomers.

If you would like to learn more about Yokota’s Tanabata Dancers, contact the Wing Public Affairs Office for information. Hope to see you at a festival!

Leslie Kann, Janie Norton 97

Frequently the Taiyo center on base has dance classes of different varieties from swing to ballroom. Call 225-6955 for more information.



*Photo courtesy of Theresa Negley*



# Notes:





# Accommodations

Hotel reservations can be made several ways: travelers can contact the hotel directly, go through a travel agency (or the Yujo), or local hotel directory office. If the hotel is large or in a major tourist area, some members of the staff usually speak some English. In resort areas, hotels generally stay open during major holidays (ie. New Year's). However, reservations should be made several months ahead. Advance payment may be required, and later confirmation is recommended. During off-season weekdays, a day's notice may be enough, although a family-run operation may want you to confirm arrival and meal times.

There are several types of accommodations: deluxe hotels with classy restaurants, ryokans (traditional Japanese inns), and business hotels, pensions, and minshukus (farmers and fishermen who open their homes to travelers during holiday seasons). The more expensive hotels may charge per room and offer both western and Japanese-style rooms. Business hotels offer small western-style rooms and smaller bathrooms in locations near train stations. Washcloths, bath towels, toothbrushes, and soap are provided as are yukata robes and slippers. Ryokans or Japanese inns charge per person as do pensions and minshukus. These establishments may include breakfast and dinner in their fees.

At a ryokan, a traveler will usually be greeted by a kimono clad woman ushering him to a tatami room. She may then bring tea and ask for hotel registration, in addition to setting meal times and menus. The menus consist of local delicacies, sashimi or broiled fish plus soups, vegetables, and rice. Dinners are served in the rooms after the travelers have taken a bath. Washcloths, bath towels, toothbrushes, shampoo and soap are provided, as are yukata robes. (Hair dryers and saunas may also be available.) During colder seasons, a heavier kimono-style overcoat or jacket is also provided. In hot springs resorts, one might see tourists wearing these robes around town, and most certainly around the hotel lobby. About 9pm, maids will enter the rooms and arrange futons for guests.

Pensions, similar to lodges, are usually located in a tourist area and are composed of western-style rooms. Meals are served in a dining room and may consist of western-style cuisine. Bath and restroom facilities might be shared with other guests.

Travelers bring their own toiletries for pensions and minshukus (sometimes available from vending machines.)

Minshukus, in general the cheapest form of food and lodging, can be a very good deal for economic travelers wishing to learn more of the local culture. Meals in the common-area dining rooms may be either western or Japanese. (If you do not care for cold Japanese breakfasts, bring pastries and instant coffee.) The tatami rooms are small and simply furnished. Bath and restroom facilities may be shared with the family operating the minshuku. *Note:* leave the bathroom slippers in the bathroom! At bedtime, guests rearrange the furniture and lay out their own futons from linen closets in the rooms (the foam pad on the bottom with a heavier futon on top covered by a sheet, rice-husk pillow, and blanket; the lighter futon encased in a linen cover goes on top of it all). In the mornings, guests strip their "beds", putting out the linens for laundry and returning the futons to the closets.

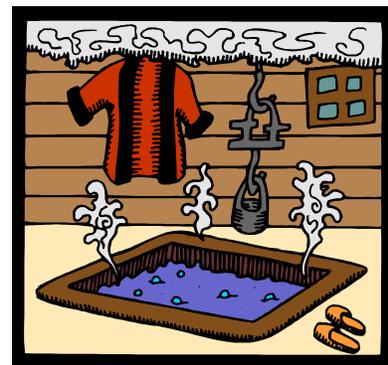
Teresa Negley

## Where to find more info:

Welcome Inn Reservation Center: email: [wirc@www.jnto.go.jp](mailto:wirc@www.jnto.go.jp)

Japan City Hotel Association <http://jcha.yadojozu.ne.jp>

Classic Japanese Inns and Country Getaways by Margaret Pierce from Kodansha International.



# Love Hotels

One would think love hotels were Japan's favorite pastime; there are over 30,000 available, ranging from elegant (Zen gardens and in room hot waterfalls) to garish (sound-activated beds on tracks and laser-light shows). These hotels evolved from tea houses called *deacha-ya*, where people gathered. Because many Japanese had several generations living in the same house, and neighbors lived so close, it was hard to find a place for romance. Thus, a different kind of industry, love hotels, was born.

One famous hotel, the Meguro Emperor, features a castle with motifs allowing you to be an astronaut, shogun, cowboy or cowgirl, etc. Another hotel, the Queen Elizabeth Sekitei in Yokohama, is a full-scale version of the real ship. To find a love hotel, look for tall colorful signs displaying "hotel" with a name. When you get to the building, find the information panel with prices and where to go if you've arrived by car or on foot. You then find the room board located beside the money window. The board is inside the hotel at most downtown locations and outside at expressway locations.

If the room picture is lit, the room is available. Push the button and receive a room key, card, or other marker. Go to the window and pay from ¥3,000 to ¥5,000+ for a two-hour stay between 7am and 10pm. Prime evening time may cost more. After 10pm, all-night rates range from ¥5,000-¥15,000. Better hotels have room service, but it's very expensive. A stocked refrigerator is provided, but you pay for what you consume. Better to take a picnic basket full of your favorite foods and spirits. Remember to keep your voice down in the halls, and mind your manners.

Ride down Ome Kaido or Route 16 and you will see many love hotels. The Blue Castle and its neighbor, the Glass House, in Hachioji are recommended. The Blue Castle has four sides and changes color. Neither place has the outlandish facade typical of love motels and appear most respectable.

**DIRECTIONS:** Just before the intersection of old Route 16 with the Royal Host on the corner (after the Chuo Expressway entrance, headed south), you will see a small entrance sign. This leads you down a narrow lane to the Glass House. To get to the Blue Castle, you must go up to the intersection and make a left onto Route 16 and immediately look for a similar small sign on your left. Don't be put off if you drive up to a parking lot with a closed door. It is the first of many gestures of privacy. An electric eye will open the door as you drive up.

You may have seen a sign for the Selva Court from the north end of the runway: to get there, turn right out the Terminal Gate, make a right turn off Route 16 near the end of the base fence. Take the single track road near a gas station; the entrance is about 20 yards further. The decor is tastefully done and the overnight rates range from ¥8,500 - ¥11,500. There are English instructions and photos show the interiors of the rooms. The Selva is clean with rooms larger than a business hotel. There's even a bonus for 30 visits. One more thing - don't forget the champagne!

Barbara Smith and Maria White



# DoD Lodging

## New Sanno Hotel

Operated by the U.S. Navy, the New Sanno Hotel is open to all U.S. service members plus DoD civilians, diplomatic personnel, and authorized dependents. Call 229-7121 for reservations. In addition to affordable lodging, the Sanno has four restaurants, and their Sunday Buffet is a gastronomical delight. Travel services are available at the Tours Desk in the lobby. A mini exchange, shoppette, and gift shops make your visit comfortable.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and, if necessary, transfer to the Chuo Line for Tokyo. At Shinjuku, change to the green Yamanote Line toward Shibuya. Go 4 stops to Ebisu, go out the west exit, and change to the Hibiya subway. Go one stop to Hiroo and go out Exit #1. Turn left and cross the street (to the Mitsubishi Bank). Walk alongside Garden Plaza Hiroo (shopping center) to Tengenji intersection - the next light - with a large pedestrian overpass. Turn left and walk a block. The dark brown New Sanno Hotel is on the left, next door to the French Embassy. Travel time from Yokota is about an hour and a half. (*Note:* A Services bus also provides daily rides between the Kanto Lodge

and the New Sanno. Check with the Yujo Community Center for a schedule.)

Check the front of the Stars and Stripes each week to find out what availability the New Sanno has for the upcoming month or two...

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Driving is not difficult, but travel time ranges from 1 - 3 hours depending on the traffic. Take Rt. 16 to the Chuo Expressway in Hachioji and head for Shinjuku. Look for Exit 402 about 8km after passing the Shuto toll gate (about 30km from Hachioji. It is easily recognized because it looks like a rocket-sled launcher.) Taking Exit 402, you ascend about three stories before turning right and crossing the expressway, then descending to a stop. Go straight to the



second signal light. Stay in the center lane as you turn left and stop at a major intersection. Turn right onto Gaien Higashi Dori. Follow the signs toward Tengenji. Cross a major intersection with Aoyama Dori/Route 246 and curve around to the right. Continue on the tree-lined street down a hill past a cemetery (taxi are often parked on both sides of the street). At the next signal light near the end of the cemetery, pass Hardy Barracks in the fenced-in compound on the left. Proceed straight through the intersection. At about 1 km past Hardy Barracks, pass Hiroo Subway Station and Garden Plaza Hiroo. At the next intersection (Tengenji), note the pedestrian overpass. Turn left and see the New Sanno on your left just before the entrance to the expressway. There is limited parking, so be sure to register your vehicle when you check in. Parking is allowed up to four hours for short visits.

The easiest way back is to turn slightly left and immediately up the ramp in front of the New Sanno onto Shuto Expressway #2. Follow the signs for the Chuo Expressway, #4. Get off at Hachioji Exit 2, heading towards Akishima and Kawagoe via Rt. 16.

## Hardy Barracks

The U.S. Army Garrison Honshu, Tokyo Administration Facility, a.k.a. Hardy Barracks is available to all services and ranks. Open 24 hours (but check in on the 4th floor before 9pm), Hardy Barracks offers twin rooms, shared bathrooms, AC, TV, radio, and refrigerator at low costs. There are 24 rooms and reservations may be made up to 14 days in advance. Personnel on TDY status have priority, and there is an additional charge for children.

Call 229-3270 (or commercial 03-3402-6024 ext. 229-3270) for information.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line (then Chuo) toward Tokyo. At Shinjuku, change to the green Yamanote Line, and take it two stops to Harajuku. Exit near the front of the train, and enter the subway system (Meiji-Jingumae). Take the Chiyoda Line toward Omotesando and get off two stops later at Nogizaka, leaving through Exit 5. Go left, then right across the street for about 4 city blocks down the hill past a park. When you reach a fenced in-building (Hardy Barracks), turn left at the intersection toward the gate.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** To drive there, see New Sanno directions. If you use a taxi, tell the driver "Aoyama-Bochi-Shita" or "Seijouki-Shimbunsha".

Donna Alexander 4/97

## Onsen - Japanese Hot Spring Baths

One of the many pleasures of Japan is the onsen or "hot springs". A result of the volcanoes which populate the mountainous landscape, almost 2,000 springs have been turned into onsens for the tourists who visit these areas.

The water in an onsen can be fairly hot depending on its source (77 degrees C at Ikaho Springs). It is relaxing and filled with minerals, making it a therapeutic treatment for chronic diseases including rheumatism and hypertension.

There are generally three ways to enjoy your visit. Most people stay in hotels offering onsen baths, in ryokans (Japanese inns) or minshukus (family-run lodging houses.) If your lodging has no onsen pipes, you can use the public baths. Most people stay in the area for a few days to enjoy the bathing facilities and to do some sight-seeing. It is a great way to relax. It is truly something you should try before leaving Japan.

There are many places in Japan to enjoy hot springs, including areas close to Tokyo. One is Beppu, located on the northern coast of Kyushu. In this area there are about 3,700 hot springs. When traveling to Beppu most visitors do a "hot-springs circuit" or onsen meguri, where they will try up to a dozen or so baths on one trip.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

### Taking a Japanese bath

1) Slide open a door covered by a fabric bath sign and put your towel and clothes in a basket.

2) After entering the bath area with your washcloth, soap, and shampoo, take a bucket and stool over to an available faucet (or shower attachment if lucky), and rinse yourself off.

3) Wash from head to toe, rinsing thoroughly from top to bottom.

4) Once clean, step into the common tub for a long, hot soak. (Note: if you have long hair, wrap it in a towel to prevent rinse residue from soiling the tub water.)

Teresa Negley

## Ikaho Springs

I enjoyed a wonderful weekend with a group of friends in Gunma's **Ikaho Springs**. We took a side trip to Haruna Lake where we enjoyed the scenery and a boat ride. Then we settled into a typical hot springs hotel. The remainder of our trip centered on the baths. We enjoyed beautifully prepared traditional meals and the service was outstanding. All meals were served in a private room for our party of 13. It was elegant as well as relaxing.

The onsen bath was exquisite; the atmosphere traditional. This hotel had separate sides for men and women (and quite a relief to me; it was my first time in a public bath among strangers. Although nervous at first, within a few minutes after slipping into the water, I felt as comfortable as though I had been doing it my whole life.)

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Akishima Spa

## Hoya Hot Baths

Hoya Hot Baths on the left side of Rt. 16 across from Hoya Crystals is another much recommended local spa.

Teresa Negley, 5/02



Finding a hot spring to visit is easily researched through travel books and agencies. Braver souls might want to try a local public bath such as the silver-tiled **Akishima Spa** on Rt. 16 near the Tama River bridge. Follow directions to the Chuo expressway/Hachioji bypass and you will see the two large circular buildings on the left hand side before crossing the Tama River on Route 16.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Asakusa Kannon Onsen

There are also two baths in downtown Tokyo that offer the feel and taste of traditional Japan. The only drawback you might find is that they are both unisex baths, but they are still enjoyable if you are adventurous. The first is the **Asakusa Kannon Onsen**, adjacent to Asakusa Kannon Temple. It is a 10 minute walk from Asakusa Station on the Ginza Subway Line. See the article on Asakusa for directions. Open 6:30am to 6pm, this onsen is closed the first and third Thursdays of the month. Call (03)3844-4141 for information.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Azabu Juban Onsen

The second bath in downtown Tokyo that offers the feel and taste of traditional Japan is the **Azabu Juban Onsen** which is a ten minute walk to the southeast from Roppongi Station on the Hibiya Subway Line. It is very popular and you can ask for directions if you get lost. It is open from 3pm to 11pm. It is closed on Tuesdays (Wednesday if Tuesday is a holiday). Telephone (03) 3404-2610. You will find this a bath establishment with foreigners, especially on weekends.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Iwakura Spa

Iwakura Spa is about 20 minutes from Yokota. There are hotels nearby. Directly across the street from the Mamadaya Hotel is a small park with a pond and a typical Japanese Garden. There is a parking lot here for Mamadaya guests. There, you will see a large billboard map of the area. In back, overlooking the river there are decks off the baths.

The cost of the hotels is about ¥5,000, which includes lunch and a bath or two in the spa, plus a few hours use of a room for changing. If you prefer to spend the night, prices are ¥10,000/person. This includes two meals, use of the spa, plus room tax.

Call for reservations, even just for lunch. The Nabeya is (0428) 74-4126 or 5405. The Mamadaya is (0428) 74-4221.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate and continue via the underpass. Turn left onto Iwakura Kaido (3.2km/6th light; big Honen building on far right of intersection). This road passes through tea and flower fields.

After about 6km, there should be a golf driving range on your right, just before you enter the spa area. Start looking for small hotels. At first glance, they look rather like large homes. Park your car, walk and look for the hotel lobbies. The first hotel is the Nabeya, on your left. About a block further, also on your left, is the Mamadaya Hotel.

Pat Nolan & Masumi Lawrence

## Tsuru Tsuru Bath House

Another hot bath house can be found in the town of Hinode. It's about a 35 minute drive. Turn left out the Fussa Gate (0 km) and immediately get into the right hand lane because you will be turning right at the next light onto Tambashi-Dori, which crosses the Tama River (2km) and turns into Itsukaichi Kaido. (Tambashi-dori is just after Mosburgers and a motorcycle shop on your right hand side.) Stay on Itsukaichi Kaido, past the Farmer's Market with its gardens and the Tokyu Department Store (6km) until you come to Musahi Itsukaichi Station, about 25 minutes (~ 11.6 km from Fussa Gate). You have to turn right or left at Musashi Itsukaichi Station, so make a right here. Proceed underneath train tracks and up towards the mountains. Keep going about 5 minutes and make a left at the second stop light (~ 13.4 km). At this stop light, you will see a sign that says, "Tsuru Tsuru Onzen Iriguchi." Approximately 1.8 km before the onzen is a small parking lot where you can park the car and take a red "trolley" looking car up to the onzen. This red trolley leaves the onzen every 15 & 45 minutes after the hour and will take you back to your car. If you choose, you can drive your own car up past a round wood building on the left (~ 20 km), turn left, then right into the parking lot which also belongs to the onzen. The round building is the Panorama restaurant with menus in Japanese. (450 Yen Yakitori, 500 Yen yakisoba, 220 Yen ice cream 500-700 Yen noodles (buckwheat and white "udon," cold, "sansai" mountain vegetables, curry flavorings.) A specialty taking some time is "kamameshi" of rice steamed with vegetables in a pot for 850-950 Yen. If you take the train to the onzen, there is a blue trolley that will pick you up at the train station and take you directly to the onzen and back. The cost to get into the onzen is 800 yen for 3 hours and 200 yen for every hour thereafter. If you think you'll frequent this place, they have a book of 12 tickets for 8,000 yen. You can bring your own towels or purchase a hand towel for 100 yen, 500 for a back towel. Sorry, no drinks in the onzen area. However, there are vending machines and a small restaurant for afterwards. Also, a drinking fountain inside the onzen area. There's a hot bath, cold bath, sauna, therapeutic bath, and the hot bath outside. There's a calendar posted outside and inside the onzen areas depicting red hearts for women and a blue upside-down heart for the men, on who gets to have the outside hot bath. They switch the sides of the onzen each week. This onzen is closed every Tuesday and you can call them at 042-597-1126 or find them on the web at [www.gws.ne.jp/home/hinode/](http://www.gws.ne.jp/home/hinode/) but, you may need to install the Japanese language option on your computer. This bath house is supposed to be regionally famous for making yoru skin smooth. Surusuru is the Japanese word meaning to make smooth.

Kathleen Vactor - Reprinted from the Yokosan-May 2000



# Mountain Resorts

## Hakuba

If you like to ski, mountain climb or simply relax, Hakuba is the place for you! Located in the southern Alps, it's an easy 4-hour drive. A resort and site of the 1998 Winter Olympics, the scenery is gorgeous. There are sports activities, shopping, cultural attractions, hot baths, restaurants, parks, and night life. It is busy during ski season and holidays, but if you go during the off seasons, keep in mind some facilities will be closed. Most area hotels are pensions, similar to bed and breakfasts, ranging from elegant to rustic in size, price, and convenience.

The **Pension Garni** is very cozy with a fireplace, pine furnishings and homemade quilts. The twin rooms are ¥8,500+ plus tax per person, including breakfast and supper. The meals are delicious and basically western cuisine. (Choices are not offered, so if you have dietary preferences, make it known when calling for reservations.) The friendly host and hostess will help with sight-seeing and shopping information; however, they speak little English.

To reserve rooms, call 0261-75-2485. If no one in your group speaks Japanese, have requests written in Japanese before you go.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Chuo Expressway from Hachioji toward Nagoya. Stay on the Chuo until it splits, then take Nagano Expressway to its end. Take Rt. 147 toward Nagano, then Rt. 148 to Hakuba and Itoigawa. Rt. 148 will go by Lakes Aokiko and Kizakiko before a tunnel and Kamishiro Station. On a left-hand corner past the station (before a post office on the left), there will be a place called Yusa Vira with a blue roof. Turn left, then right (before the Villa Raicho) to reach Pension Garni.

Charlene Elmore

Another pension in Hakuba is the Pension Hayaokidori where the Yokota Outdoor Recreation trips go.

Phone: 0261-75-2142 (domestic)

+81-261-75-2142 (overseas)

<http://www.hakubajapan.com>

email: [info@hakubajapan.com](mailto:info@hakubajapan.com)



# Notes:





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# Dining

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## Using Chopsticks

The hungry, impatient diner couldn't wait any longer for his meal so he grabbed two wooden twigs, thrust them into the cooking pot and captured a bite of a steaming delicacy. Thus, according to legend, chopsticks were first used nearly five thousand years ago in China. These "quick little fellows" the Chinese translation, were in common usage in China in 400 BC and spread to Vietnam and Korea. Historical accounts credit Japanese Prince Shotoku (574-622), a noted cosmopolitan figure, with their introduction to Japan. Used to using their fingers, the Japanese were reluctant to exchange utility for style. It took until the eighth century before use of chopsticks was widespread.

Having finally adopted *hashi*, (literally bridge), chopsticks have had a profound effect on Japanese cuisine. The Japanese are the only Asian culture to eat an entire meal only with chopsticks. All food must be cut into bite-size morsels to be manageable. Partly, because it is difficult to eat food covered with gravy using Japanese chopsticks, there is a lack of complex sauces in Japanese cuisine. Without these gravies to hide the sins of poor quality food (especially in the earlier periods of time) the Japanese elevated their cuisine to a fine art. Each bite of food had to have a pleasing flavor, aroma, and texture.

While the Japanese adopted chopsticks from the Chinese, Chinese and Japanese chopsticks for formal dining are different. Chinese chopsticks are about 10 inches long, thicker and have blunt or square ends. The Japanese style has pointed tips and two different lengths—8 inches for men and 7 inches for women. In addition to decorative chopsticks, there are several different types of more specialized Japanese chopsticks. *Toribashi*, bamboo serving chopsticks, tapered at both ends and flattened in the middle, are also used in Tea ceremonies. *Waribashi* are the pine disposable chopsticks you find in most restaurants. Cooking chopsticks are usually bamboo and over-size at 18 inches long. Baby's training chopsticks, are complete with an attached ring to fit over tiny fingers.

*Hashi* come in different materials: various woods, plastic, ivory, semi-precious stone like jade, and at one time, gold and silver. During the feudal period, many lords thought silver would tarnish in the presence of poisons. No doubt, some found out the hard way this is not always true! Of the woods, *yanagi*, or willow, is highly regarded for its pliability and durability.

Because of these attributes, it is used during the New Year's festival days, weddings and other important occasions. Another popular wood is *sugibashi* (Japanese cedar). For everyday use, most Japanese use lacquered *hashi* and each family member has his or her own pair.

Because chopsticks are so important to the culture, it is good to know proper chopstick etiquette. Most rules are simple, the kind we heard while learning our table manners: don't use them to point or gesture, don't shovel your food with them, don't use them to bang on the table to get your waiter's (or parents') attention, don't drip your food, and don't lick them. Sound familiar?

Should you be dining with Japanese hosts or guests, there are some taboos you should really avoid. *Tatebashi*, *Makurameshi*, *Futaribashi*, and *Chigaibashi* all relate to funeral ceremonies. *Tatebashi* is leaving your chopsticks sticking upright in your rice bowl. This is how rice is offered to the dead. If you go to one of the local cemeteries you can sometimes see this practice at a family plot where a relative has recently died. *Futaribashi* is when two people pick up the same piece of food — the same technique the Japanese use to pick up the bones of their dead with *Chigaibashi*, a mismatched set of chopsticks. If you can avoid these three taboos, you will probably be invited back!

Using chopsticks is a skill that takes a little practice but adds elegance to Japan's centuries-old cuisine. Should you feel a bit clumsy at first, don't feel bad. I never realized there was an art to eating with a knife, fork, and spoon, until I saw a Japanese gentleman trying to eat a slice of toast with his fork and having a hard time!

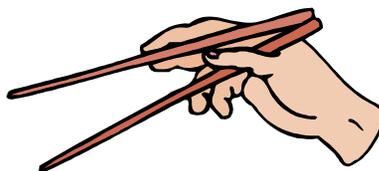
Diane Lyell, 1992



## How to Use Chopsticks

(Reprinted with permission of Kirara-tei.)

1. One of the chopsticks is cradled between the thumb and second finger.
2. The other chopstick is held by the tips of the thumb and first finger and is movable. After a little practice, you will be able to determine the best position for you.



## On Base Dining

### Kirara-Tei

If you're looking for Japanese food on base, try Kirara-Tei, a Japanese restaurant in Building 994 near the Supply Gate. It is *popular* among Yokota residents as well as on-base Japanese workers. Since seats may be difficult to find during peak lunch time hours (11:45-12:15), you may want to go early (it's open from 11am to 2pm, and then open again in the evenings for dinner). Kirara offers a wide variety of Japanese dishes including yakisoba, chahan (fried rice), curry rice, katsudon, oyakodon, gyoza, miso soup and every kind of noodle you could imagine. They have hot and cold noodles, udon, soba and ramen. The two daily lunch specials include a main dish, rice, miso soup and pickles. A large selection of drinks (sodas, teas, juices) as well as free self-service Japanese tea and water are available. Prices are reasonable, ranging from ¥400 to ¥1000, with specials averaging ¥600. (\$ accepted.) Mon-Fri 1030-1400 and 1600-1800 Sat 1100-1400

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody, 96.

## Off-Base Dining Out the Fussa & Terminal Gates

### Hathi Curry Kitchen

If you like Indian food, you've got to try this little curry restaurant directly outside the Fussa Gate. It doesn't look like much from the outside, but inside you will find a nice cozy atmosphere, and some very good food. The menus are in English and their prices are pretty reasonable. I went with my husband and we were able to order two appetizers, two entrees, a pot of hot chai tea, and two desserts for under 5000 yen. The food was excellent in my opinion, and even if you don't like Indian food, it would also be a good place to go just for dessert and a pot of hot chai (Delicious!). They also accept orders by phone at 0425-51-3303.

Michelle Arostegui

### Un Quinto

This is a little French/Italian restaurant just outside the Fussa gate in what seems to be an old US military house. Because the serving assistants are often Yokota High students, ordering in English is no problem. Un Quinto serves delicious French and Italian dishes, along with garlic bread (¥400). Meals range from ¥1300 to ¥1800 with desserts averaging ¥500. Also recommended is the Un Quinto salad (¥800). The menu changes frequently. The restaurant is small and becomes crowded fast (and service slower) after 7pm. So go early and enjoy!

The address is 2270 Fussa, Tel: 52-6052. It's open every evening from 5pm-9:45pm. Sat., Sun., & holidays, also open for lunch, noon-2:30pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** There is no parking, so walk out the Fussa Gate, cross Highway 16 and turn left. Walk along 16 for about 1 minute; the restaurant is on your right.

Anne Bowers, Julie Irwin 96

### Nicola's

A wonderful Italian restaurant outside the Fussa Gate specializing in pizza, Nicola's offers 50 combinations from cheese and tomato to anchovy and tomato! Prices range from ¥800-¥2400. Also available are minestrone soup (¥500) and salads (¥500-¥1,000). There are four dinner specials: steak (¥4,000-¥4,800), chicken (¥2,000), barbecued pork spare ribs (¥2,300) and sole (¥2000). Meat plates range from ¥1800-¥2000.

Even though the dinner menu may seem pricey, the dinner/lunch menu is reasonable for the amount of food served (American-sized portions). The equally delicious manicotti, cannelloni and lasagna range from ¥1,500-¥1,800. Ravioli, veal parmesan, antipasto, steak alia pizzaola, melangiani alia parmigiana, spaghetti and rigatoni are also available. Side salads are served with these entrees. Bread, garlic toast and rice round out any meal for an additional ¥300. And to top it off, Nicola's offers 16 scrumptious looking desserts!

Nicola's is open daily from 11am-midnight and can seat approximately 80 people. There are 16 parking spots in front. Most of the waiters and waitresses speak English. Tel. 0425-51-0707. Reservations for parties can be made by calling one week in advance and again on the day before the function. Nicola's is closed only on New Year's Day.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate. Nicola's is halfway between the Fussa and Supply Gates, right before



the second stoplight. It has a large red, white and green sign located in front. There are also other Nicola's restaurants in Tokyo.

Karen Ozment

## Tatanmeni Fukumi

One of my favorite restaurants is located across the street from the Fussa Gate and is called "Fukumi's" for short. Delicious food at inexpensive prices! The kitchen is clean and you can watch your meal being prepared. The menu is not extensive but includes several types of homemade ramen, usually served with a lot of vegetables: regular, negi-ramen (leek), shio-ramen (salt), miso-ramen (bean paste), and tantanmen (spicy noodle). Scrumptious gyoza is available, as is staminadon (rice with vegetables, onions, and seaweed), chahan (fried rice) and gohan (white rice).

Prices range from ¥100 for a half-order of white rice to ¥800 for a "set" of ramen and a half-order of chahan. Coke and orange soda cost ¥150 and beer is ¥550. Customers are welcome to use the self-serve water cooler next to the door. Tatanmeni Fukumi is open daily (including Japanese holidays) from 11am-6am.

**DIRECTIONS:** There are three restaurants. The first is near the Fussa Post Office, the second is on the townside of Fussa Train Station and the third is across the street from the base, on Hwy 16 between the Fussa & Supply Gates. To get to the closest one, turn right out the Supply Gate. Go about a 1/2 block and the restaurant is on the left-hand side. It is a two-story building with a porch and clearly visible hanging yellow lanterns. The building is located under the blue highway sign: Omiya 41km and Kawagoe 27km. Or, turn left out the Fussa Gate. Fukumi's is two blocks past Cupid's Florist on the right side.

Karen Ozment

## BonPapa's "Tomato Restaurant"

Another great restaurant is "BonPapa's" or the "tomato restaurant" as we affectionately call it. This is the ultimate date place. There are only 4 tables and usually has quiet 40's music in the background. The first time we went there, there was NO English menu. Then next time, the water/cook, wrote the manu on a piece of notebook paper. Each time was better and now the English menu is bound in leather just like the Japanese one. Dinner and a drink for a couple run around 3500 to 4200 Yen. Don't go if you are in a hurry. All meals are cooked once you order them. They do a lot of seafood and pasta. We've had most items on the menu and nother was less than excellent. Take a left out the supply gate. When you see the Big Red Tomato on your right, that is it! It is next to a 7-11 store.

Davina Lock - 8/02

## Hong Lon

A Chinese diner frequented by Yokotans at lunchtime is Hong Lon on Route 16. The décor is simple with plain tables, chairs, and posters of Bruce Lee. Open 7 days per week 1130AM-

12:30AM, this affiliate of Un Quinto and Hathi serves Chicken or Pork Fried Rice for ¥880, Chicken Cashew for ¥780 and has a "gaigin menu to go." They also have stick gyoza (potstickers) for ¥400 and hot ramen noodle dishes in addition to other selections described in English. To avoid parking illegally, walk across the street and right out the Fussa Gate for a couple blocks. Hong Lon's (Red Dragon) has a bright sign above its glass front located just before Kanda's Gallery (opposite the Officers Club). Tel. 042-530-3988, www.kiwa-group.co.jp

Teresa Negley 05/02

## Cheese and Olive

Cheese and Olive specializes in sandwiches such as the Hawaiian, potato bacon, mushroom eggplant, submarine and cabbage bacon. Don't let the combinations scare you: these sandwiches are fantastic! Ranging from ¥950-¥1500, the sandwiches, made on thick, fresh bakery bread with homemade mayonnaise are also served with sliced homemade pickles, onions and french fries.

The owner, Mr. Yoshi, loves Texas as is obvious in his decor and the country-western video tapes that are always playing. Cheese and Olive has four wooden tables that seat up to five people each and has five tree stump bar stools. Call 0425-52-2315 to reserve the restaurant for parties. Cheese and Olive is open 11am-9:30pm Wednesday-Monday, and closed Tuesday. English is spoken.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate and cross one set of railroad tracks. At the stoplight, a Y intersection, bear left and cross one more set of railroad tracks. At the second light after the train tracks, the Fussa Post Office will be in front of you, toward the right. Turn right. Go through two stoplights and the road will curve slightly to the left. Cheese and Olive is on the curve, on the left-hand side. There are four parking spots in front.

**ALTERNATE DIRECTIONS:** Another way is to go out the Fussa Gate and turn right. At the first stoplight, turn left and cross one set of railroad tracks. Turn right at the next stoplight. Go to the second stoplight and turn left. Continue through one light and go under the underpass to the stoplight. Turn left and go through one stoplight and Cheese and Olive will be down on the right.

Karen Ozment 4/94

## Cucina Italiana Trattoria

Located across the street from the Fussa Gate, this is a nice place to go for a sit-down lunch or dinner. The lunch specials come in sets. While the price may seem like a lot per meal, each set includes either antipasto, soup, or pasta; bread or garlic bread; cake, ice cream, or sherbet and espresso, tea, or iced tea. The spaghetti sets include tossed salad and garlic toast, and range from ¥850 to ¥1150. There are many other dishes, including meats, pasta, pizza, and soups. The dinner menu features freshly baked lasagna and a wide range of pasta, spaghetti, and meat dishes. The pasta sets include an appetizer, seasonal salad, bread, dessert, and coffee or tea with



prices between ¥2700 and ¥3,000. Wine and beer are also available.

The tables are set to seat three to four people each and are in separate areas. If you want to go with a larger group, I suggest calling ahead, to ask if putting tables together is allowed. Telephone number is 0425-53-9271. The menus are in English and Japanese. Trattoria is open 11:45am to 2:15pm for lunch and again from 5:30pm to 11pm for dinner. It is closed every Wednesday.

**DIRECTIONS:** Walk out the Fussa Gate, cross Highway 16 and you will be at a police box. Cross the street to your left and Trattoria is the restaurant located in the beige building next to the taxi area. It has a large sign, you can't miss it. If you are coming from off-base, there are parking spots in front of and behind the restaurant.

Karen Ozment, Teresa Negley 4/97

## Jiu Ca Manto

A little Chinese restaurant with good fried rice. We also love their chicken with cashews. Straight out Fussa gate on right before the 1<sup>st</sup> railroad tracks.

Brian & Kristen Marriott 5/02

## Zuccoto & Heaven

A little restaurant named Heaven with an attached cafe called Zuccoto (different menus.) Heaven serves excellent American-style food including pizza in a friendly atmosphere at very reasonable prices. Heaven comes the closest to "true" authentic American food of any American-style restaurant we've been to off-base. Straight out Fussa Gate on the right before the 1<sup>st</sup> set of railroad tracks. Zuccoto is open for lunch; Heaven opens at 5:00 for the dinner crowd.

Brian & Kristen Marriott 5/02

## Saint Marc Craftsmanship

One of our favorite restaurants in Japan, St. Marc is a beautiful restaurant with an attached bakery where you can stop by and pick up excellent fresh bread, sandwiches, and homemade salad dressings. The restaurant has quite a romantic atmosphere, frequently with a live pianist. For dinner, you pay a set ¥1800 price for which you get to choose a soup, a salad, a main course, a dessert, and either tea, coffee, or juice. All the food is excellent! The English menu shows you the free options and the "upgrade" options for which you pay the price listed below the item (from 50 to 300Yen) in addition to the set price. The price includes all-you-can-eat rolls fresh from the oven. You can eat in a glass sunroom surrounded by cherry trees in a small garden outside, which they illuminate at night, making an absolutely gorgeous view during cherry blossom season.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate. At the first light (Y intersection) bear left. St. Marc will be a couple of blocks ahead on the left, just before Tsutaya Book & CD. There is ample free parking, but it's an easy 10-minute walk.

Brian & Kristen Marriott 5/02

## Lunch House Tatoru/Chicken Shack

It seems that every small restaurant that sells chicken is called the "chicken shack", and this little restaurant is no different. This is a take out restaurant close to the base that serves white chicken meat and has several other delicious dishes. This is one of my kids' favorite places. Take a right out the Fussa Gate onto Rt. 16. Turn left at the first light. Go over the railroad tracks. Turn right at the first light. In a few blocks there will be a 7-11 on your left. A few buildings after the 7-11 is a small building with an orange awning. This is it! Just park on the side of the road. The hours are from 9:30-21:00 and the phone number is 042-553-4896

Dawn Leach

## Stuben Ohtama

The atmosphere is quaint, the service exceptional and English picture menus are available. The menu features authentic German food and drink, with an extensive supply of German wines and beer. Only a 5 minute walk from the Fussa Gate toward Fussa Station, across from Tai Sei Hospital.

For your catering needs, there is an authentic German Deli on the premises as well, featuring freshly made sausages and smoked ham in addition to many German specialties. If you long for the taste of truly authentic wurst and kraut, Ohtama Ham is the perfect choice.

Open 5:30pm - 10:30 pm weekdays and 11:30 am - 10:30 pm weekends.

## Popo Tea and Restaurant

Although in Katakana, the menu has pictures. The restaurant offers finger sandwiches and seven salads including tomato and corn, salami, and cheese, green pepper, seaweed and even a french fry salad!? Hamburgers range from ¥600-¥780 and spaghetti is ¥600-¥760 (including vegetable, sashimi based, miso, hamburger, cream, and pizza). Bread, rice and corn soup are an additional ¥150-¥300.

It's known for its variety of delicious teas; there are 24 types. Apple tea, iced tea, orange, lemon iced oolong, ice milk and cinnamon are just a few. Tea is ¥350-¥380. Coffee, soda, orange juice, lemonade and banana juice are available for ¥290-¥450. For dessert, there are seven kinds of cake, all for ¥390 per slice.

Popo's is open at noon and closes at 10pm, with the last order taken at 9:30pm. The phone number is 51-9945. The



restaurant will seat up to forty people. There are no parking spaces.

**DIRECTIONS:** Walk straight out the Fussa gate. Cross one set of railroad tracks and at the first stoplight, a Y intersection, bear right. Walk through the second stoplight and at the third stoplight, instead of turning right to go to the Fussa station, turn left. Popo's is on the right on the second floor. The stairs are on the far side of the building.

Karen Ozment

## Minar Indian

Near the Fussa Station is another Indian Restaurant which is open from 11AM to 11PM. They offer several lunch meals from 650 Yen to 1200 Yen, and several dinner meals from 1500 Yen to 3000Yen. To get there, go straight out the Fussa Gate. At the "Y", bear to the right. Go through two lights, cross the

railroad tracks and Minar is on the second floor of the building immediately to your right after crossing the tracks. There does not appear to be any parking. Their phone number is 042-539-2871.

Brian Marriott

## Jonathan's

Jonathan's is a chain of Japanese Restaurants that reminds me of the Japanese-food version of Denny's. They typically have at least picture menus and the food is pretty good. Most of them have all-you-can-drink soft drinks. There are Jonathan's everywhere, and the one closest to the Fussa gate is very close to Fussa Station. That one is open from 10AM to 02:00 AM - nice for a late night meal if you are getting back to base late.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate. At the Y, bear to the right. Go through two lights and cross the tracks. Turn right on the small road immediately past the train tracks and Jonathan's is on the second floor just past the Pachinko parlor, before you reach Fussa Station.

Brian Marriott

## Jessie James

Jesse James is a nostalgic, rustic-looking restaurant that serves American style food and plays recorded jazz. It has a varied menu including chili con carne, shrimp fajitas, chicken, pizza, and steaks. Entrees range from Y800-Y1500 with steaks Y1800-Y3400.

The first few pages of the menu are in Japanese, but English can be found near the back. Kimiyoshi Endo, owner, and Naomi, waitress, speak a considerable amount of English and can explain dishes to you if needed. Jesse James, which holds 45 people, will host parties with a one-week notice. Whiskey/ bourbon drinkers can purchase bottles from JJ and leave the bottles for their own use.

The food is tasty, the ambiance wonderful and the prices reasonable, but keep in mind a ¥600 per person sitting fee and 13% tax (four of us spent ¥10,850). There are also Jesse James restaurants in Tachikawa (0425-259360) and Mitake (0422-55-

4497) as well as Fussa (0425-51-4222) which is open from 5pm-12am. Parking in Fussa is limited, but it is a short walk from the Fussa gate.

**DIRECTIONS:** Proceed straight out the Fussa gate and cross one set of railroad tracks. At the stoplight, a Y intersection, bear left and cross one more set of railroad tracks. Proceed through one stoplight and Jesse James will be about half a block down on the right side. The sign is in English and has black letters on a white background. The front of the restaurant looks like a log cabin.

Karen Ozment 94, Directions verified 11/01

## Unasen

Unasen, a Fussa eel and tempura restaurant, serves a wonderful, crisp, tempura dish of shrimp, pepper, eggplant, Japanese mushroom, squid and fish. If you order a tempura set, you also get a good miso soup, rice and pickles. The decor is traditional with tatami mats, shoji window screens and walls of white pine. Although the menu is in Japanese, there is a window of plastic food for menu selection when your language skill has reached the limit. Unasen has three private rooms plus two "booths" in the front. They are open 11am-10pm, six days a week, closed Saturday. Price on the tempura set is ¥1,500. Telephone: 51-6465.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa gate, bear left at the "Y" intersection - Honcho Dori. Go across the railroad tracks and through the first light (intersection of Ginza Dori). The restaurant is on the left, across from "Jesse James".

Diane C. Lyell 1992

## Ramen Shops - Bar Row

Ramen noodles are a nice, delicious, and quick meal. They taste much better than the dried kind you get in supermarkets back in the States! There are many ramen shops around Japan. The two closest ones to base are easy walks. The first one is on "Bar Row"-- go straight out Fussa Gate, bear left at "Y" (1st light), take a right at next light. The restaurant is, immediately to the left as you turn onto it. It has English menus and a wide variety of flavors of soup the ramen is served in. If you continue down bar row and take a left at the next intersection you will see another smaller ramen shop a couple buildings down on the right.

Brian & Kristen Marriott



## Red Bird

On “Bar Row” is a little restaurant/bar with excellent Thai food, inexpensive drinks, and a relaxed atmosphere with “Alto-Punk” music. The menus are in English, and the owner speaks English. To get there, go straight out the Fussa Gate, bear to the right at the “Y”, take a right at the first light past the “Y” onto “Bar Row.” It is midway down on the left with a sign in English and a parrot on the front. Not a family restaurant.

Glen Kuhn

## Jean’s Pub and Restaurant

If you are a lover of spicy Thai food there is no better place than Jeans to get your fix. Highly recommended and only a short walk (or very quick drive) from Yokota’s Fussa gate. The staff is extremely friendly and speak enough English to help with any questions you may have about the menu. However, the menu is in English with great pictures so you’ll have no problem making your selection.

Because most dishes feed up to 4 and the pub/restaurant will hold up to 30 of your closest friends, Jeans is a great place to drag your friends or hold an office party. Jeans doesn’t get real busy until late at night so there is always plenty of room during dinnertime. Jeans also offers Karaoke if you have the urge. Highlights of the menu: fried shrimp in curry sauce; spicy beef salad and the flagship dish: Tom Yum soup with shrimp (enough for up to 6 lucky diners). The dishes run around 1,500 yen each but provide more than enough to share. There is also a robust drink menu (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) with most drinks only 500 yen so you won’t go broke putting out the fire in your mouth!

**DIRECTIONS:** Go out the Fussa Gate and veer right at the Y (toward the Fussa Train Station). At the first stoplight, a Hyper Mart is on the left-hand side; turn right. Go straight on this road (called Bar Road) and continue straight to the stop sign. Cross the intersection and Jeans is on the left-hand side, on the second floor, directly across from Beat Karaoke where parking is also available. It’s an easy 15-minute walk if you want to work off some of the calories before and after your meal. The phone number to Jeans is (042) 552-5859.

Cindy Smith

## Sushi Santa

Our favorite sushi restaurant is Santa Sushi, about a 5 minute walk out the Fussa gate. They also have a few parking spots in front of their building in case you’d rather drive. When you go in, choose a seat at the counter. They will bring you a small photo album with photos of the types of sushi available. The menu gives the name in English and Japanese, as well as the price for 2 pieces. When the chef asks what you would like, tell him the names of what you want...you can order as many times as you like. They make it while you watch. They keep track of your bill by adding colored chopsticks to a can in front of you. Green tea is complementary.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Fussa Gate. Turn left at the first light. It is a small building on the right shortly after the train tracks, past the first light. There is a sign out front that says “Sushi Santa.”

Brian & Kristen Marriott 11/01

## Dragon Gate

A.k.a. Ryuu Mon Hanten, this Chinese restaurant is popular with the Yokota crowd. The menu is in English, the service is quick, and it seats about 40 people. There is a wide variety of dishes offered on the menu. Some items are shrimp in chili sauce, diced chicken with cashews, sweet and sour chicken, egg drop soup, shu mai, spring rolls, shredded beef with green pepper, and several types of fried rice.

The prices are more expensive compared to other Chinese restaurants, starting at ¥750 for spring rolls and topping off at ¥8,000 for a medium-sized plate of assorted cold cuts. Most small dishes are ¥2,000 to ¥5,000 and medium-sized portions cost ¥3,000 to ¥8,000. “Family Course” specials are available, ranging from ¥10,000 for two (4 dishes + soup) to ¥20,000 for four. Soda, beer, wine, sake, and Chinese tea are available for ¥300 to ¥600 per serving. There are different types of tables, seating 3-5 persons on tatami mats through ten people at a “lazy susan” table.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Fussa Gate. At the first stoplight, turn left, cross one set of tracks, and drive through one light. At the second light you will be at an intersection that has a gas station on the left and two streets coming in from the right. Instead of taking the 90 degree turn to Shanghai Hanten, take the 45 degree turn. Dragon Gate is on the left side just after you turn. It’s across the street from the Kobe Beef Restaurant and has a white sign with Kanji and English written in red lettering. There is a small parking lot on the left corner on the far side of the street beyond the restaurant. There’s a large sign, written in English, marking the lot.

Karen Ozment



## Shanghai Hanten

There are many reasons to patronize Shanhai Hanten: it's close to Yokota, has reasonable prices, great food, and the owners speak English. There is an extensive menu, and it includes shrimp, prawns, abalone, bechedemer and fish; beef, pork and chicken; bean curd, shark's fin with chicken soup, rice and noodles. The 4 group specials tend to be the best "bargain." Two will easily feed ten people and we always choose the following: 1) Shredded pork with green peppers, spring rolls, diced chicken (hot/spiced), bean curd with minced beef in hot sauce, egg drop soup. 2) Diced chicken with nuts, shrimp in chili sauce, bean curd with shrimp, shredded pork with baby garlic, spring rolls, sweet corn soup. The specials range from ¥5500-¥25,000. Bowls of rice can also be ordered.

This restaurant is open Tuesday-Sunday. Lunch is 11am-2:30pm, dinner is 5pm-9:30pm. Tel: 0425-51-5843. The restaurant has six tables (both "Western," and Japanese style) and can hold up to 30 people. Most tables will seat 4-5 people, but one table will fit 10.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Fussa Gate. Turn left at the first stoplight, go over a set of train tracks and then straight through the first light. At the second light, there will be two streets that come in from the right, take the 90-degree right. It is the second building past the parking garage on the left. It has a red sign and the letters are in kanji. There are only 3 parking spots in front.

Karen Ozment



## Kubota's Tempura Restaurant:

Open 11:30-2 and 4:30-9:30, closed Mondays, Kubota's serves tempura lunch sets including soup, rice, and fruit for ¥1000. The English menu lists dinners for about ¥1200. Remove your shoes before entering the tatami dining room with low tables next to a small garden. Directions: turn right out Fussa gate, left at Tanaka's Crock Shop (HigashiFussa-Nishi/0.6km) and cross the tracks. Continue straight and downhill through 2-3 lights. At 0.8, turn into the dirt parking lot on the right. The restaurant is across the street. 042-551-0545/9097

Teresa Negley, Peg Vivori 02

## Paradise Cafe

If you're missing those old-fashioned 50's style diners from home, then Paradise Cafe is the place for you. It recently opened on August 4, 2002, just minutes from the Terminal Gate on Rt. 16. They serve a variety of pizzas, pastas, salads, and of course those diner staples of

hamburgers & sundaes. There is also an extensive cocktail menu. The restaurant is decorated with Americana memorabilia from the 50's, most of which is for sale.

Paradise Cafe is open everyday from 6:00PM - midnight. Beginning August 24, 2002, they will also be open for lunch on Saturdays & Sundays from 11:30 - 3:00. Prices range from about 600-1000 yen.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate, going north on Rt. 16. You'll see the neon "Diner" sign on the left. It's a 2-story building with the restaurant on the second floor, just past the bowling alley and 7-11. Turn left at the light to park behind the building. There are only a few parking spaces behind the restaurant, so if you live on the North Side of base, we recommend walking.

Kristen Marriott 08/02



## Route 16 Truck Stops

The servings of gyoza (garlic flavored fried Chinese dumplings a.k.a. potstickers) are large and provide a satisfying meal when combined with a bowl of hot ramen noodles (¥500), fried rice (¥700), or other dish. Rice is ordered separately and comes with pickles and a small bowl of broth. About 15 minutes and 6.1 km away, seats are around a large counter. An English menu is available and choices are also shown on the walls in Japanese. The hours are 11am-4am the next morning.

**DIRECTIONS, one location:** Turn right out of the Terminal Gate and go under the overpass on Rt. 16 toward Kawagoe and Iruma. Past the Hotel Fiore on the left, a Jomo Gas Station on the right and before the ninth light, you should see two food stands on the right. The one with a big red sign is set closer to the street, while the stand with a bright yellow sign is set further back, opposite a green bookstore on the left. Turn right into the parking lot. The stand with the red sign advertises ramen, while the other one with the yellow sign displays a pork soup specialty.

**DIRECTIONS, another location:** There is another truck stop closer to base which also serves up tasty food. Turn right out the Terminal Gate and go under the overpass on Rt. 16 north. At the 4<sup>th</sup> light after the underpass, it is on the far right corner of the intersection, across from McDonald's.

Teresa Negley, Brian Marriott

## Saizeriya

Saizeriya is a clean family style sort of Italian restaurant with picture menus. It offers pizzas (small ¥380+), pastas



(¥450+), risottos (¥480+), large salads (¥380+), and desserts (¥290+). This chain marks its locations with a green sign.

**DIRECTIONS, Espa Location:** One location is in a two-story gray concrete building on the far side of Espa from the parking lot in Moritown mall. To get there, turn right out the East Gate and keep going straight. Just before the road narrows and makes a sharp turn to the left, you will turn right into the pay parking lot. Take a ticket from the machine; if you eat or buy over ¥2,000, parking is free for two hours. When you exit the lot, show the man your receipts.

**DIRECTIONS, Shin-Ome Kaido Location:** The second Saizeriya is on Shin-Ome Kaido north of base. It can be approached from either the Terminal Gate or the East Gate. From the Terminal Gate, turn right (north) and go through the tunnel. Turn right at the 4<sup>th</sup> light after the tunnel (onto Ome-Kaido Road –truck stop on right, McDonalds on left.) Saizeriya will be on your left after the Denny's, before the McDonalds.

From the East Gate, turn left out the gate. Bear left at the second light ("Y" intersection.) When the road ends, turn left. Turn right at the third light (just past the baby clothes store with bunny on sign.) Take this road to Shin-Ome Kaido Avenue (Musashimuraya mako Kita intersection, there is a McDonalds on the left side of the road.) and turn right. Saizeriya will be a short way down on the right, before you get to Denny's.

**DIRECTIONS, Yanagi Dori Location:** Go straight out the Fussa gate. Bear right at the first light. Then turn right at the second light after the Y intersection onto Yanagi Dori. It will be on the right between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> light. (the 7<sup>th</sup> light is Fussaokusho Intersection and if you come to it, you've gone too far.)

Jena Flowers, Teresa Negley, Directions updated: Brian Marriott 5/02

## Bikkuri Donkey

Once you have noticed the red, green and yellow signs for the Bikkuri Donkey restaurant chain you see them everywhere. The meals here are mainly hamburger patty combinations. There are some curry rice, spaghetti choices, and large salads. This is a great place for kids; the restaurant itself has a comfortable family feel to it. They feature large wooden menus with pictures, so the language barrier is not a big problem. Very generous servings come on large wooden platters. Lunch is a reasonable - ¥580 including rice and soup; to add coffee it becomes ¥660. They are open late, from 11am to 2am.

**DIRECTIONS:** The restaurant nearest base is on the same road as Seiyu. Go straight out the Fussa Gate, cross the train tracks and stay to the right at the Y intersection. Turn right at the second traffic light after the Y and go past Seiyu. The restaurant will be on the corner on your near left just before the 7<sup>th</sup> light (Fussaokusho Intersection). It is just past Saizeriya (on the right), and the sign is in katakana only. There is parking underneath the building. A second one can be found right next to the McDonalds on the left hand side of route 16 at the corner 4 lights north of the underpass, across from the 1st Route 16 Truck Stop.

Directions updated Brian Marriott 5/02

## Cafe Spice

One of the most wonderful restaurants in Fussa is tucked away in a stucco-looking building not far from Yokota. An English menu is offered at this eclectically-decorated restaurant with its owner-built furniture reminiscent of the novel *The Hobbit*. The menu is not extensive but is delicious. Puris, a round pastry with beef inside, is mouthwatering when Tabasco is added. Piri Piri, a hot stew set that comes with salad, bread, and fruit is absolutely divine as is the beef curry, kima curry, and the African fried rice. Other selections include two types of spaghetti, mushroom and tofu salads, sausage, smoked liver, chili beans, and ethnic curry.

Prices range from ¥700 for a salad to ¥1800 for Piri Piri, but most dishes are ¥900-¥1200. There are eight choices of coffee (e.g. American, French, cafe au lait and cocoa), and nine types of tea (e.g. Earl Grey, apple, and cinnamon) for ¥450-¥550. Cafe Spice is open noon to 10pm and on Sundays 3pm-10pm. Unfortunately, it is not always open when it says, so it's best to have backup dining plans. Tel. 553-4711.

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive straight out the Fussa Gate. Cross one set of train tracks and at the "Y", go right. Go straight through one stoplight and at the second light, turn right onto Yanagi Dori. Drive through six lights. Cafe Spice will be on the right, before the seventh stoplight. It is across from Bikkuri Donkey, just beyond Saizeriya. If you get to Fussaokusho Intersection, you've gone too far. There is only one parking spot in front and a narrow parking spot in the back.

Karen Ozment

## Skylark

This cozy Skylark affiliate offers specialty dinners for ¥1,980, including a choice of soup or salad, bread or rice, an entree, a dessert and tea or coffee. The pasta dinner includes similar choices for ¥1,800. The menus have either photos of selections or English translations.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate and turn right onto Yanagi Dori (the Seiyu street). After the 8th light and before the 9th, Skylark will be on the right-hand side, opposite the Myrina Shell gas station. The sign is in Japanese only.

Jenny Perham, Gina VanOrsdol, Teresa Negley 97

## Totoya Michi ("Screaming Sushi")

"Screaming Sushi," affectionately named by Yokotans because of the screaming sushi chefs that you will find inside, is the place to go for a good revolving sushi-plate restaurant in Fussa. Their sushi is served in very generous portions and is priced between 110 Yen and 450 Yen per plate.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate and turn right at Yanagi Dori Ave. (the same street where Seiyu is located). You will pass eight traffic lights, and the restaurant



will be located on your right. The signs on the building are entirely in Japanese, but it is across the street from the tall building with the Canadian maple leaf on it. There is parking available on the left-hand side of the restaurant and they are open from 11am until 11pm.

Michelle Arostegui



## Sato

If you want a modern Japanese restaurant with traditional aspects, Sato is the place! It offers a variety of Japanese food to please everyone, from kids to sumo wrestlers. You can dine either in the booths (in the front of the restaurant) or in one of the many tatami mat rooms. For the latter, you exchange your shoes for slippers (placing your shoes in a provided locker, locked with a wooden key). The slippers are then worn everywhere except on the tatami mats themselves. Each room is equipped with one table which fits up to six comfortably, but the sliding doors can be opened to accommodate a larger party.

The extensive menu is written in katakana, but the pictures make ordering easy. Samples include: three types of udon (Japanese noodles range from ¥380-¥580), sushi (¥480-¥880), sashimi (¥680), tempura set (¥680), tonkatsu (pork cutlet, ¥680), fried chicken (¥580), and mushroom hamburger (¥580). Side sets of rice, chawan mushi, miso soup, pickles (¥380), gyoza (6 pieces, ¥250) or edamame (soy beans, ¥180) are available to go along with entrees. Kid's meals offer hamburgers, curry rice, or sushi (¥480). For those with a "yen" for what sumo wrestlers eat, the chanko nabe is a must. It is a high calorie, nutritious stew of pork, chicken, fish with carrots, bean curd, and onions simmered in a rich soy or sugar sauce (¥1680). Green tea is complimentary. Sake, whiskey, beer, and soda are ¥350-¥600, and separate desserts are ¥200-¥450.

Sato is open daily 11am to 12:30am. It's a wonderful place for a couple or a squadron group. The phone number is 0425-53-6060.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate and cross one set of train tracks. At the first light, the "Y" intersection, bear right. Continue straight and at the second light after the "Y", turn right onto Yanagi Dori Avenue. Continue straight and Sato will be on the near right corner of the intersection at the 9<sup>th</sup> light, one kilometer past Skylark. Sato is a large, black building on stilts, the sign is in hiragana only.

There is ample street-level parking under the restaurant. Sato is 2.2km from Yokota.

トニーズ・トンカツ

## Tony's Tonkatsu House

Tucked away in the heart of Fussa City is a quaint little tonkatsu restaurant run by the chef, Mr. Yoshio (Tony) Torikoshi. Tonkatsu (deep fried breaded pork cutlet) is their specialty. There is a variety to select from; all unique in flavor. Every dish is worth trying! All dishes are served with Japanese pickles, miso soup, rice and salad. Prices range from ¥800 - ¥1950. The menus are in English and Romaji (romanized Japanese).

Although reservations are not required for 6 or less, you should make one. The restaurant is small, with low tables on tatami mats and some bar stools. There is also a party room, accommodating 20. The hours are Tues-Sun 11-2pm, and 5-8pm. Phone: 0425-52-0419.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Supply Gate. Cross two sets of railroad tracks. After crossing the second set of tracks, continue straight through four traffic lights. Shortly after the fourth light, you will start to go downhill. There will be a traffic light at the bottom of the hill (overpass above). Take a left here and go straight until the third light. Take a left at this light (Marufuji Supermarket on left). Tony's Tonkatsu House is across the street from the parking lot.

Jean Kuramoto, Delores Street

レスイテソ・グリビ

## Guribi

Did you know there is a Russian restaurant nearby in Hamura? Aside from being unique, the food is tasty, prices are reasonable, and the menu has English. I recommend one of the set menus so you can try several specialties including Borscht (beet soup) and a spicy casserole served in a deep bowl with a bread "lid." The fruity Russian tea is also included with set meals. Dinner menus feature both meat and fish entrees.

The restaurant is open 11am-10pm, closed Mondays. Tel. 0425-55-0485.

**DIRECTIONS:** A quick walk from Hamura train station, you can also easily drive and parking is available. There are 4-5 parking spaces in front of the restaurant or on the street. From Yokota, drive to Hamura via Yanagi Dori (the street in front of Seiyu). Turn left at the 1<sup>st</sup> light after Hamura Station Intersection light (just after KFC and before McDonald's). The restaurant is on the second street to the right, but to drive to it legally you have to go clockwise around the traffic circle in front of the station back towards McDonald's and take a left onto the road (the Hamura Seiyu will be behind you as you turn left onto the road). It is just past the pachinko parlor on the right. The name of the restaurant is only written in Japanese, but you'll see red siding and a canopy over the entrance. Na zdoorov'e.

B.J. Barger





あじのめい  
味の民会

## Aji No Mingei

### Aji no Mingei

Aji no Mingei is a chain of restaurants with two of its restaurants located in Fussa. One is a tonkatsu restaurant and the other is a noodle restaurant. Both are located on Yanagi Dori. Aji no Mingei noodle shops are definitely American friendly - they are located on a major street, have a respectably-sized parking lot and a picture menu. The restaurants are about the size and openness of an American Denny's. The decor is Japanese-Kyoto style with white stucco walls accented with touches of red, exposed wooden beams, and lanterns and hanging lights of bamboo and rice paper. The wide booths have tatami seats and will seat six. With a delightful dichotomy, a kimono-clad waitress will use a hand-held computer to place your order with the kitchen. The menu offers various combinations of noodles (hot and cold), rice, soups, and tempura shrimp and vegetables. Prices range from ¥850 to ¥1,000. The food is quite enjoyable and popular with the Japanese.

**DIRECTIONS:** To reach Aji no Mingei (noodles), get on Yanagi Dori (the major road beside Seiyu) and stay on it. You will travel a fair distance and pass McDonald's and Denny's. The restaurant is on the left-hand side and diagonally across from the big toy store with a big white and pink point on the roof. It is at the City Hall Intersection. If you pass DoIt, turn around, and it will be on the right two lights past DoIt.

Brian Marriott, Diane C. Lyell

### Bamiyan

The Bamiyan Chinese Restaurant chain (featuring a peach logo) is popular because of the family atmosphere, delicious food, and affordable prices. Three are located close to Yokota and worth trying.

Monday through Saturday, a lunch set for ¥580 is featured (children's set is ¥480). Equally delicious are the Bamiyan noodles (¥380), gyoza (¥230), and the dinners (¥400-¥700). For an additional ¥150, you can add steamed rice, Chinese pickles and soup to your dinner. And ... unlimited self-drinks are only ¥150. The picture menu is in English.

Bamiyan is open daily from 11am to 2am. The last order is taken immediately before closing.

**DIRECTIONS, Fussa location:** The location closest to the North and South sides of base is on Shin-Okutama Kaido. Exit straight out the Fussa Gate and cross two sets of train tracks until you reach the intersection at ShinOkutama

Kaido (the Fussa Post Office will be on the far right corner). Turn right, and go two to three blocks. Bamiyan will be on the right just past the Skylark Grill.

**DIRECTIONS, Hamura location:** To get to the Hamura location, exit the Fussa gate. At the "Y", go to the right and at the 2nd light turn right. You are now on the street, (Yanagi Dori) Seiyu is on. Drive another 3.7km. The restaurant is on the right (diagonal to the Do-It store) and has a large parking lot. Phone number is 0425-70-7068.

**DIRECTIONS, East Gate location:** For the Bamiyan nearest the East Gate, turn right and take the first left down to the five corners where Jonathan's Restaurant is. Make a hard right and stay on the road for a kilometer or two, until you get there. It's on the left, across from Denny's.

Gina Howenstine, Judith McKay

### Est Est Est Restaurant

A friend took me to this great little Italian restaurant in Kabe. Only meal sets are served, including salad and tea or coffee, and you may choose the sauce for your spaghetti course during lunch: a) tomato-based, b) meat-based, or c) cream-based. As wonderful as the entrees are, the two breads served are to die for: a crusty brochen-like roll and a bread laced with walnuts.

The restaurant is small; reservations are encouraged for late diners. Call 0428-21-4151; 11am-4pm/order by 3pm and 5-9:30pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Head out the Fussa gate and turn right on Yanagi Dori, like you do to go to the Fussa Seiyu. Stay on this road for about 20 minutes, passing the Hamura Denny's, city hall, and Do-It, an Ome sign and another smaller Denny's. You'll reach the Kasumidai Dai Ichi Jutaku intersection at about 7.2km from Fussa Gate. The restaurant is one block left from this intersection, on a left corner.

One suggestion for parking during lunch is to continue another two blocks (without turning) to the first Kabe Seiyu lot (across the street from Rocky Pachinko); Est Est Est would then be two blocks back (past 'Italian Toscana') to the Kasumidai DaiIchi Jutaku intersection and right one block. There may also be street parking near the restaurant. You can also take the train to Kabe, 3 stops west of Fussa toward Ome. The restaurant would be about two blocks to the right and one block north.

### Aiya

For the TRUE Japanese food lover, this is the place for you! There are many traditional dishes to suit every palate. Although very modern, the atmosphere and decor are typically Japanese. Upon entering, you are required to remove your shoes and place them in lockers. The lockers come with a large wooden key with Japanese numbers and alphabets. The menus are in Japanese. There are a few pictures that go along with their specialty dishes. I suggest that you go with someone who can read and speak the language on your first visit. The prices are quite reasonable, with most dishes within the ¥2,000 range. There are two Aiya restaurants near Yokota.



**DIRECTIONS, Hamura Location:** The first one is in Hamura city on Yanagi Dori. To get there, go straight out the Fussa Gate. Go right at the Y intersection. Turn right at the second light and go straight for 12 lights. Look for the “Welcome” sign after passing McDonald’s on the right.

**DIRECTIONS, Akishima Location:** The second is in Akishima, located across the street from the Bird Store (Ito Yokado) parking lot. To get there, go out the South Gate and take a right. Go straight. Stay on this road until you cross two sets of railroad tracks. Turn left after crossing the second set of tracks. Go straight until you come to an intersection. The Bird Store will be on your right. Turn right at the intersection and turn right again at the first light. The restaurant will be on your left about half a block down.

Jean Kuramoto, 97

## Tonkatsu Mingei

Tonkatsu (breaded pork cutlet) is a popular Japanese dish and Tonkatsu Mingei specializes in it. You will discover through the photo menus that Tonkatsu Mingei not only has pork cutlets, but also chicken, shrimp and oysters prepared the same way. The prices are reasonable and the food, delicious. Many dishes are under ¥1,000. Tonkatsu Mingei is conveniently located in Hamura.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go straight out the Fussa Gate. Veer right at the Y intersection. Turn right at the second light and go straight through eight lights. Soon after the 8th light, the restaurant will be on your right, slightly set back from the street. Parking is available in the back. The sign is in Japanese only.

Jean Kuramoto, Azumi Kimura 3/97



## Grand Père Tohsuke

An elegant French restaurant in a traditionally built Japanese farmhouse of gray and white cross-hatched walls modified to cosmopolitan tastes, Grand Pere Tohsuke in Mizuho is meant for special occasions. Waiters in black tuxedos serve exquisite seasonal appetizers and entrees between delicious palate-cleansing sherbets in a main dining room overlooking mature trees.

Unfortunately, the limited menu is mostly in kanji but a most helpful maitre d’ assists in the selection of courses. There

is a choice of three sets, ranging from ¥3,800 (for 2 appetizers, a fish or meat entree, plus dessert and coffee or tea) to ¥8,000 for lunch, and ¥7,500 (for an appetizer, 2 sherbets, a fish entree, meat entree, plus dessert and coffee or tea) to ¥15,000 per person for dinner. The higher-priced sets are composed of the chef’s selections.

The restaurant is open for lunch from 11:30am to 2pm, and for dinner from 5-9pm. Closed on Tuesdays. Call 0425-57-5911 for reservations.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate. After the second light, stay to the left and take the exit towards “Central Mizuho”—(Don’t go under the overpass.) Follow this road past the end of the runway and go several blocks before ascending a hill past a graveyard. Turn left at the first light after starting down the hill. Go about two blocks and turn left into the parking lot of the large traditionally built Japanese farmhouse surrounded by a white wall. The lot is obstructed from view until you are upon it, but there is a sign that says “Koushinkan” at its entrance.

Teresa K. Negley



## Family Steakhouse Don & Shabu-Shabu Don Pei

Two modern restaurants visited by Yokota meat-eaters during lunch are **Family Steakhouse Don** and **Shabu-Shabu Don Pei**. Sets at both places are ¥1000-¥2000 according to the picture menus. Shabu-shabu consists of boiling meat in broth in a table-top pan and then dipping it in sauce. Since the Mad-Cow Disease outbreak, thinly sliced pork is offered instead of beef along with a plate of vegetables and large noodles to be cooked at the end. Sets come with rice, salad bar is extra. Directions: drive straight out the Supply Gate (Itsukaichi Kaido) and across two sets of train tracks. Continue a few more blocks. The more western-style Steakhouse Don is on the near right corner of the next large intersection (at ShinOkutama Kaido) opposite the small Ushihama Post Office (before the road goes downhill). For the shabu-shabu restaurant, turn left at this intersection, then left past the brown apartment building into the parking lot (take off and put your shoes into the black lockers, then remove the wooden key).

Teresa Negley 5/02

## Beer House of Fussa

This charming restaurant/brewery (sometimes referred to as the “Mayor’s House” has been in the Ishikawa family for 305 years. The family began making sake 135 years ago, using rice grown in the immediate area. A few years latter, their great great grandfatehr began making beer (112 years ago) but it was before it’s time and didn’t go over well. Once inside, the the courtyard, the building have an old German flavor. There are two massive 400-year old Zelkova trees standing sentry. In a small store behind the trees, there is a presentation on how



sake is made. Ask questions. They have people who can speak English well if you want to know more. After leaving the store, there is a Karu (old storage building) to the right, and an old metal sake pot. The soba restaurant to the left as you wonder through the courtyard has hosted many generals as evidenced by many photos. Further into the courtyard is a pavilion housing an antique cooker/pot for making beer. The walls and ceilings depict the making of beer 112 years ago. Just outside the pavilion is a tree more than 600 years old. Across from the pavilion is the beer brewery and lots of tables to eat outside when weather permits. There is lots to choose from: beef, pork, seafood, gyoza, egg rolls, and many European dishes. And of course, lots of beer.

The business gives tours of both the sake factory and the beer brewery. Please arrange ahead of time for English speaking tours. The owner's two sons, (Taro and Yoshiro Ishikawa) speak English. You can call them for more information at 042-553-0100, or Fax 0042-553-2008.

**Directions:** Take a left out the Fussa Gate. Cross over a bridge, which goes over the train tracks. At the bottom of the bridge turn right at the traffic light. Go straight through three lights. Now begin to watch for a cement block wall (not more than 20 feet long) on you left (there is a Temple directly across the street.) Take the next left turn just after the wall ends (a very narrow street), then take an immediate left (about the length of a car), follow along the street paralleling the brewery/sake complex (white buildings.) Take the first right hand turn. Go past one building on the left and park in the lot behind it. Additional parking is past the first parking lot. Continue on to the next street, make a left and look for a "P" parking sign on the left.

Hours are 11:30 AM to 10:00 pm with the last orders of the evening at 8:30. Phone number is 042-553-0171.

Shortened from Yokosan article by Doren Garten 8/99

## Hamazen ("Torches")

Hamazen Real Japanese Restaurant aka "Torches": a close but unique culinary adventure awaits guests seated at either the tables or broad counter surrounding the indoor fish pond. Open 11:30AM-10PM, lunch is served to 3PM Tel. 552-0235. Weekday lunch specials are about ¥1000 yen while dinners are higher with the tempura set about ¥1500 and monthly specials ¥3500+ . Sashimi is available in great variety (*even on fish bone while still breathing*). Abbreviated menu available in English (no pictures). Directions: Drive straight out the Supply Gate, cross both sets of train tracks and continue straight. Turn left on Okutama Kaido. Turn left after about 1km into the walled parking lot for Korakuen Hotel and Hamazen Restaurant. During the evening, torches burn at the entrance to the restaurant.

Teresa Negley 5/02

## 100 Yen Sushi

A relatively new sushi shop of the "conveyor belt" type recently opened up on Okutama Kaido Road south-west of base. It has become fairly popular among base personnel for it's low

cost & variety. If you go, you may have to wait a bit to get a seat. It is open daily 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

**Directions** To get there set your odometer to zero and go straight out the Fussa Gate and cross the train tracks. At the first light (0.4km) bear left at the Y. At the second light past the next set of tracks (Fussa City Office Intersection, 1.1 km) turn left onto Shin Okutama Kaido. At 2.6 km. Okutama Kaido Rd merges in from the right and the road you are on changes names. At 3.6 km. the 100 Yen Sushi Shop and it's fairly large parking lot will be on the right accross from a Sunkus and UniQlo. The sign is red and white and written in Japanese, but you should recognize the "100 ¥" Clearly on the sign.

Brian Marriott 8/02

## Yoshinoya "Beef Bowl"

If you're looking for something fast and cheap, try Yoshinoya. The Japanese answer to fast food, Yoshinoya basically serves one dish, "gyudon", translated as beef bowl. It is a hearty bowl of rice with thinly-sliced beef and onions. The regular size is only 280 Yen! It's served with complimentary tea. Sides such as miso soup, potato salad, and salad are also available. Now isn't that cheaper and healthier than McDonald's? There are two close to base, but we think the best way to experience Yoshinoya is when you're walking through Tokyo, hungry and looking for a quick bite to eat. Once you notice one of these orange and black signs, you'll start seeing them all over Japan. It's open 24 hrs/day for a fast, tasty meal at all times of day or night.

**Directions:** The first is out the Fussa Gate, south on Rt. 16 where it intersects with Rt. 29. (On way to Hachioji Bypass.) One way to get there is to set your odometer to zero and go straight out the Fussa Gate and cross the train tracks. At the first light (0.4km) bear left at the Y. At the second light past the next set of tracks (Fussa City Office Intersection, 1.1 km) turn left onto Shin Okutama Kaido. Continue straight until your odometer reads 4.2 km. Yoshinoya will be on your left, at the corner of Rt 16 and Rt 29.

The second is out the East Gate on Shin Ome Kaido Road north of base. Turn left out the East Gate. At the second light (Y) stay left. When the road ends, turn left. Turn right at the third light. (Shiritsu Jusho Minami Intersection, just past the Bunny Baby Clothing store.) Turn left onto Shin-Ome Kaido (Musashimurayamako Kita intersection, McDonalds on left corner.) Yoshinoya will be a short way down on your left.

Brian & Kristen Marriott 08/02



# Off-Base Dining Outside the East & South Gate

## The Wok

The Wok Restaurant is a quaint little Chinese restaurant right outside the East Gate. They serve a variety of Chinese dishes on the menu and the service is excellent. They have some really nice lunch specials which include salad, soup, and entree and tea. They are open 11:00 - 2:30 and then again at 5:30 - 10pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate. The restaurant will be on your left, and there is a large Heineken beer bottle sign on the front of the building. You can't miss it. The telephone number is: 042-531-8028.

Michelle Arostegui '02

## Bashamichi Meiji

Bashamichi Meiji Fashioned Style Cafe Restaurant: A long name for this comfortable family-style restaurant. Meiji Fashioned Style refers to the outfits worn by the serving staff resembling a type of clothing from the Meiji era (1867-1911; capitalism had begun and Japan was opening up to outside influence, trying to assimilate it with its own culture). The traditional kimono was still in everyday use but women students wore a type of split skirt called a hakama over the bottom half.

Your children are welcome here. Picture menus make meals easy to order. A lunch special is offered (about ¥650) for a meal that comes with soup and salad. The higher price listed is your meal with coffee. The desserts look fabulous. Dinner prices are a little higher: appetizers range from ¥350-650, cocktails about ¥380, a spaghetti set with salad and beverage ¥1,500. The Grilled Chicken dinner set is ¥1,430 plus tax.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out of the East Gate. Go straight through the first light. At the second light the road splits, go straight again by remaining in the right lane. At the next main road crossing your path, look across the street slightly to the left. The dark brown building is your destination. You can cross the street into the alley and small parking lot, or if it looks full, take a left and park in the bigger lot to the left of the restaurant. This restaurant is an easy drive and lots of parking is available. Those of you who shop at the D Store/Daikuma may recognize this place as a landmark.



## HaikaraTel Yakiniku

A yakiniku restaurant is a cook it-yourself "Korean-style" eatery in Japan (yaki means barbecue, niku is meat).

Haikara Tei has tabletop grills and picture menus. If you are not ordering a pre-mixed rice soup, noodle dish or lunch set, the waitress will bring you prepared ingredients which you cook on the grill to your own preference. Some meats have been marinated; for extra flavor, use the sauces on the table. Be careful, unless you like it spicy (karakuchi), use the mild sauce (amakuchi, two kanji; two vertical boxes plus a box on the right).

This family restaurant of reasonable rates is open daily from 11am to 12:30am (midnight), lunch is served from 11 to 3, and specials are ¥680 to ¥880. The kalbee set (beef) comes with rice, soup, and salad from ¥1,580 yen. Kimchee (spicy Korean pickles) is ¥300-¥500. The bill comes on a small clipboard placed at the outer edge of the table.

**DIRECTIONS:** Haikara Tei is about 5 minutes from the East Gate, across the parking lot from the Bashamichi Meiji Fashioned Restaurant in a white and green building. Follow directions to the Bashimichi Meiji Fashioned Restaurant.

Teresa Negle

## Woodstock

Woodstock has a Western flair and reminds me of a Ponderosa or Bonanza, minus the salad bar. A steak and hamburger restaurant, the meat is initially prepared in the front of the room where flames are bursting, then brought to the table and set on hot plates where it continues cooking to your specification.

English menus list three sets of choices. The first, and most expensive (¥2,900 - ¥6,900) includes hamburger, sirloin steak, filet mignon and salmon steak, served with an appetizer, soup, rice or bread, salad, desert, coffee or tea, wine or beer



(orange juice and nonalcoholic beer can be substituted). The “Special Menu” includes chorizo and scallops, pork cutlet, lamb chops and prawns (¥1,980 - ¥5,800) and most include a hamburger. The second set offers different size hamburgers up to one pound served with soup, rice, or bread and coffee or tea. (¥1300 - ¥2300) The third set “House Recommended” “Yonezawa Beef” offers sirloin steak (¥4,500 - ¥6,000) and filet mignon (¥4,500 - ¥5,500) served with salad. The children’s menu includes hamburger (¥980) and steak (¥1380). The latter includes rice, soup, juice and ice cream. All steaks and hamburgers are charcoal grilled with a choice of seven sauces: brown, radish, garlic, soybean, curry, ginger and cream.

Woodstock offers fried prawn (¥1,700) and salmon steak (¥1,900), as well as soups and salads (¥500 - ¥900). There is an extensive wine and beer list and they also serve whiskey, cola, milk, ginger ale, orange juice and lemon squash.

Lunch is served from 11:30am to 2pm with three choices: steak lunch (¥1,200) with rice or bread; pork (¥1,000) and the daily weekday special (¥680). Woodstock is open every day and can hold approximately 70 people. It closes at 11pm and last orders are taken at 10pm. Tel. 31-8484.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the East Gate, go through three stoplights, approximately 1.3km. At the fourth stoplight, turn right and go 0.1 km and Woodstock will be on the left-hand side. Parking is directly past the restaurant. There is a large “P” with an arrow that points to the entrance.

Karen Ozment

## YumeAn

A family-style restaurant around the block from Sun Valley and diagonal to the “Bird or Dove Store” in Akishima (about 15 minutes away), the YumeAn has a large parking lot and picture menus in addition to a “No Smoking Room” to the right of the entrance. Like the Aiya restaurants with which YumeAn is affiliated, you remove your shoes inside the door and put them in a wooden locker. You then push down on the small lever to the right of the lock to latch it and remove the large wooden block. Later, match up the characters on the key to the locker and insert the key to open the lock.

As in the slightly more expensive Aiya’s, the No Smoking Room consists of tables on a tatami floor, with the diners’ legs in a pit under the tables so they don’t have to sit Japanese or Indian style.

Daily lunch specials range from ¥580-¥980 and generally include soup and rice. There are also many rice and noodle selections available in addition to meat entrees, etc. Open 11am-2am, Tel. 0425-46-9561.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the South Gate, continuing through the next few lights and crossing the tracks. After the curve around the school, make a left just after the next set of tracks. Drive along the tracks and pass Sun Valley. Turn right at the stop sign, and drive around the bird store to the other side, making a right at the light. YumeAn is ahead on the left.

Kazuho Watanabe, Delores Street, Teresa Negley/97



## Edo Ichi “Vikings”

This belongs to a chain of all-you-can-eat restaurants where you cook your own food. When you enter, pay about ¥2500 (cheaper for children) per person and get a receipt. You will then be escorted to a table and your grill started. Put oil on the grill and head for the plates. There is a selection of sushi near the soda dispensers and rice, soup, and curry in large pots on both sides of the case where the plates are located. Go to the open refrigerated display cases and select as much of whatever food you want. There is a wide choice of meat, vegetables, gyoza, salads, fruit, and noodles. Take the plates to your table and grill your discoveries. For dessert, try cream puffs, chocolate pie, or ice cream. The ice cream is located in a separate case near the drink dispensers.

One word of warning: Because many people are cooking, the room gets VERY smoky. Do not wear good clothes! I also take my contact lenses out. If you are tall, be careful not to hit your knees on the bottom of the grill because it is very hot! Try to go before the rush which is usually 6-7pm. Not only is the restaurant less crowded but so is the highway.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate. Drive straight towards Kawagoe for 9.2km. (note: Hoya Crystal Factory is on the right at 8.9km). At the first light past Hoya, there is a large, white building on the left with a white and red sign in Japanese letters and a gold arrow pointing towards the building. This is Edo Ichi. A Cosmo gas station is on the right. Turn left at this light and the parking entrance is on the right.

Karen Ozment

There is another **Edo Ichi on Itsukaichi-Kaido** (on the way to Showa Memorial Park & American Villiage.

**DIRECTIONS:** Set your Odometer to zero and exit right out the East gate and turn left at the first light. (Inadaira Koen Minami intersection.) At the next light (5 way intersection, 0.7 km.) Make a right hand turn. (Not sharp right, but angled right towards Daiei.) At 1.9 km bear right at the intersection where this road merges with another. (Family Mart on right Corner, Toyota dealer on left corner.) Turn left at the 2nd light onto Itsukaichi-Kaido Rd. (2.0 km, Tennobashi Intersection. Just after you go under the tracks.) Stay on this road until the light with Edo-Ichi Yakiniku all-you-can-eat Restaurant on the far right corner (3.5 km)



## Off-Base Dining a Little Further Away

### Hachioji - Baghdad Cafe

Baghdad Cafe is located close to the Hachioji train station. Its décor is somewhat dark and “cozy”—not too large, with tables and chairs scattered in interesting niches around the room and some lights along the walkways under grate-type flooring—with a definite foreign mystique about the place. There were a few gaming tables (roulette, poker, blackjack) but none were used while we were there.

The luncheon menu (also the placemat) had nine entrees with pork, chicken, hamburger, or spaghetti. The ample portions had a slightly spicy flavor, but not overdone. All lunches were ¥780 and included hot vegetables, salad bar, and either cola, tea or coffee (a refill is ¥300). Beer, wine, and cocktails were ¥380 per glass. The salad bar had a dozen bowls containing fresh fruit, vegetables, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, sauces, and dressings.

The dinner menu has an entertaining long narrow black cover, filled with white pages and sketches in black. There is a long list of cocktails, “hors d’oeuvre froid”, salads, side dishes, pizza, seafood and pasta. The last two pages showed a picture of a roulette wheel with an explanation of the game along with some poker hands and black jack odds. I imagine dinner time is for adults but the lunch could be a family outing. Lunch is served from 11am-5pm and dinner starts at 5:30.

**DIRECTIONS:** Go to the Hachioji Station. Exit towards Central Hachioji and turn left, going around the square toward the pedestrian street walkway. Baghdad Cafe is 4 or 5 blocks down on the left.

Judith McKay



### Hinohara - Black Tea House

The Black Tea House, or *Kurochaya*, about a 40 minute (13km) drive from Yokota on Itsukaichi Kaido, is a wonderful restaurant of traditional construction next to a river among bamboo groves. It’s where you may want to take visitors from abroad if they cannot visit Kyoto or Nikko (there’s lots of tatami, wood, and sliding doors). Although the meals are expensive, they seem worth it and you get plenty of food (some of it just for the brave). Multi-course meals of barbecue-it-yourself beef or chicken plus in-season vegetables were offered for ¥4,500 to ¥7,500 at lunch time. Plum brandy is included in the meal along with fruit and a sweet.

Arrive early enough to roam the grounds and enjoy the gazebo, waterwheel, river and trees. Once inside, each party

has a private room with a deck-like balcony, overlooking the beautiful surroundings. The *Kurochaya* is open 11am to 8pm except Tuesdays and Japanese holidays. Reservations in English are accepted. Tel. 96-0129.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the Fussa Gate, then right at the first light. Go over the river and past Route 411 (Akikawa Kaido) toward Hinohara. About 2km after the Itsukaichi Station sign, past the police station on the right, turn left at the Ko-Nakano intersection (gas station on right). The restaurant is down the “block” on the left (the main parking lot is down through a steep and narrow ramp. You may also park back in the corner lot, on the right).

Karen Ozment, Teresa K. Negley

### Haijima - Bamboo House

Owners Sue and Tatsuaki Ichikawa have been serving homemade noodles at this location for twenty years. The building is spacious, with four seating areas holding approximately 50 customers. One section has tables and chairs (for 14 customers); the other three raised tatami sections have cushions and low tables. Although English isn’t spoken, Americans are warmly welcomed and the menu is in both Japanese and English.

Although udon and soba noodles (served hot or cold) are the specialty of the house, tempura and rice dishes are also available. Meal prices range from ¥650 to ¥1000 for either lunch or dinner. The Bamboo House is open 11am to 3pm, Tuesday through Friday, 11am to 8pm on Saturday and Sunday, and closed on Monday. Because there are only two parking spaces at the restaurant and the street is narrow and filled with parked bicycles, driving is not recommended.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Itsukaichi Line from Platform 1 at Haijima Station two stops to Higashiakiru. It’s a four-minute ride and costs ¥150. As you exit the Higashiakiru Station, turn left over the tracks (past lots of bicycles). It is the second building on your left.

Sally Mayberry



## Tamako Lake - The Blueberry Restaurant

Only a 20 minute drive from Yokota's East Gate is a quaint, French country-style restaurant called "The Blueberry," nestled in the trees surrounding Lake Tama. The menu, available in English, offers a large enough selection of Western-style cuisine to satisfy even the most particular connoisseur. Some suggestions include the chicken sauté, Tandoori chicken, lasagna, pork cutlet, and salmon with green sauce. Be sure to save room for dessert! Upon entering "The Blueberry," you'll notice the tempting dessert case displaying an array of beautiful cakes (and they really are as delicious as they look!).

One thing especially appealing about "The Blueberry" is that along with the Western ambiance, the food portions tend to be Western-sized as well. Prices range from ¥1,700 to ¥5,000 for entrees. Sets are available in the same price range and include soup and salad, an entree with bread or rice, sherbet and coffee. (Lunch averages ¥2,500, and dinner ¥3,000. The Japanese menu shows a new dish, the Salad Pizza for ¥800, that is popular among women diners.)

The Blueberry is open daily, except Monday, from 11am—2pm for lunch, 2pm—5pm for tea and 5pm—9pm for dinner. It is best to arrive early to beat the crowds to this popular spot for romantics.

**DIRECTIONS:** There are two ways to get to The Blueberry. The first is more scenic and shorter, but on a narrower road full of speed bumps. The second has more traffic, but uses the four-lane Shin Ome Kaido.

1) Turn left out the East Gate and then right at the next light. Go to the next light and turn left. Continue through six stoplights (past a pink Foodland on your left) until the road comes to a "T", where it meets Ome Kaido (there will be a red Cabin vending machine across the street). Turn right onto Ome Kaido. From this point, follow the signs to Lake Tama. At the first blue Lake Tama sign, turn left. (Asahi Bank on far left corner and Kadoya Liquor Mart on right.) After the second light, the road narrows for a short distance. You will pass through a wooded area where the road has many speed bumps. There will be a sign announcing your entry into Tokorozawa of Saitama Prefecture. Pass through a T-intersection and you will see The Blueberry on your left. Parking is available. To return via this route, turn left at the first sign toward Mizuho, and at the second, toward Akishima.

2) If you are not used to narrow winding roads, turn right out of the East Gate and left at the first light. Continue straight (past Jonathan's at the 5-way light) to the T, and turn left. Keep going, past Daikuma on the left, until the next T where Mos Burger will be on the left corner. Turn right onto Shin Ome Kaido (this is Honcho I intersection). Stay on this road, passing a Royal Host and Esso station on your left. When you see a big brown bottle on the left, turn at that intersection (Nakasunashindo Murayamabyoin Kita). There will be a sign for Shinjuku and a Shimamura store on the right. Turn left at the sign for Lake Tama (Shell station). You'll pass signs for Hotel Cannongold, and there will be a blue arched bridge on

the right. Turn right at the next light and cross the lake. Turn left at the light. The road will curve, and The Blueberry will be on the right.

Mary Meckley, Teresa Negley, Keiko Hansen 11/96

## Tama Hills - CoCo's

CoCo's is the place to go for great curried rice. It's easy to find and casual, like a coffee shop. The entire menu is an amazing variety of curried rice. The portions are generous and beer is also offered. There is a good children's menu when little ones are with you. The pictures on the menu make it easy to order. I would suggest going in early evening as opposed to later - it's a popular place and the seating area isn't very large. However, it is worth a short wait! You will chuckle to see all the pictures on the wall of people who have eaten the "hottest" dish offered. You order your dish to the exact degree of spiciness desired. There is a chart on the menu. Mild to Very, Very, Very Spicy. The prices are reasonable - about ¥650 for a child's platter to about ¥1,200 for an adult meal.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow directions to the Tama Lodge. (Take Route 16 toward Hachioji but instead of turning right to go over the Haijima bridge, go straight toward Tachikawa. You are now on Route 20 and will pass Tachikawa Five Corners with McDonald's and the Bronze Parrot on the right. Continue straight about 5 km and then turn right to cross over the Sekido-bashi bridge.) Turn left at the first light after the bridge, and CoCo's will be a very short distance ahead on the right. It has a small parking lot and it's on the ground floor of an apartment building.

From Tama Lodge: Turn left at the guard gate. CoCo's will be on the left side after the fourth light. The employees at Tama Lodge can assist with directions.

Leslie Kelley

There is also another location on Shin-Ome Kaido.

## Okutama - Drive-in Mitake

This casual restaurant sits on the hillside overlooking the Tama River. From your table, you can watch kayakers shooting the rapids, fishermen fishing for trout, people hiking on the trails or simply enjoy the wonderful scenery

as you dine. Drive-In Mitake features dishes of rice, noodles and trout. The udon noodles with mushrooms are particularly good. Prices range from ¥550 to ¥1,250 and they have an English menu. Parking is limited to four vehicles.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow Ome Kaido to Mitake. The restaurant is on the left hand-side of the road and up a small incline, a short distance past the Brewery. If you pass the bridge, across the river, in front of the train station, you have overshot it by 1/2 block.

Diane C. Lyell 92 directions confirmed 5/02



## Okutama - Campbell Steak Lodge

Near the mountains of Chichibu-Tama National Park on the Hinohara Kaido route (or driving up Itsukaichi Kaido), look for a log cabin restaurant called Campbell Steak Lodge. The cabin is built from huge, debarked, yellow pine logs imported from Canada! The highly-polished logs also form the interior wall. The decor is early American-style with polished pine tables and chairs matching the interior and exterior walls, gay windows filled with stuffed Japanese green and copper pheasants, a frontier style kerosene lantern and a bucket of Indian corn. A brown felt cowboy hat graces the mantel over the bar. A wood-burning stove completes the rustic setting. Prices are moderate and the menu, in Japanese, features curried rice, a hamburger steak and steaks. Hot cakes also appear to be a specialty.

Diane C. Lyell 1992

## Nakagami - Oncorhynchus

Oncorhynchus is a perfect example of what I imagine some restaurants in Europe look like. The three-story building has an all wood interior: floors, tables, chairs. There are small chapel-shaped windows placed sporadically about, dimly lit with a comfy, warm air.

A family-run business, they serve spaghetti, curry, five types of salad, soup, steak, beef stroganoff and some of the better pizza I have had in this area. A limited amount of English is spoken and the menu is written in katakana. It is an excellent place to take Japanese friends, and it provides a superb translating lesson for students.

The prices range from reasonable to slightly high. The hors d'oeuvres range from ¥400-¥3,000; salads are ¥600-¥850; spaghetti, ¥700-¥850; curry, ¥700-¥1100; pizza, ¥750-¥950 (small) and ¥1050-¥1400 (large).

Oncorhynchus is open from 10:30am-10pm, with last orders taken at 9:30pm. It is closed on Tuesdays, Japanese holidays and the first Monday of the month. The phone number is 0425-44-0844.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line four stops from Fussa to Nakagami Station. Exit on the left hand side, go down the stairs and walk straight (north), next to the Ome Line train tracks, for approximately three minutes. The restaurant will be on the right-hand side. It is three stories and brick on the outside. There is a black sign on the outside (it's neon green at night).

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the East Gate. At the first light, turn left and go straight a few blocks

until you reach the five corners stoplight. Take a hard right and go straight through three stoplights, over train tracks, through three more stoplights (at this point, you will have the Akishima Golf Course on the right and a Pachinko parlor with a wizard on it, on the left). Continue straight until you see a blue pedestrian overpass and a McDonald's on the left. This will be at approximately 3km. Stay in the far left lane-DO NOT use the underpass. Go straight and turn left at the "T" and the restaurant will be down .4km on the left. To park, turn left directly past the restaurant and go straight. Use the lot on the left.

Karen Ozment

## Tachikawa - Gyoza 1059

(Also known by Americans as *Gyoza Ten-Go-Ku*, *Gyoza Heaven*, and *Communist Gyoza*.)

Tucked away on a side street in Tachikawa is a small restaurant that makes the best gyoza around! Gyoza is a small dumpling (similar to a wonton) which is steamed and pan fried. The gyoza served here are HUGE (about twice the normal size), mouth-watering, scrumptious in such flavors as mushroom, vegetable, garlic, green onion, potato, cheese, corn, and shrimp.

Seating is limited. Each plate (five very large gyoza) averages ¥700. The restaurant has a policy requiring each person to order something to eat and drink (versus sharing an order). This policy and its enforcement has given rise to the tongue-in-cheek "Communist Gyoza" moniker. It's colorful, interesting and deliciously worth it!

The hours are 5:30pm-9:30pm, Thursday through Sunday. Because this place is so popular, you should arrive when it opens at 5:30pm. Otherwise, be prepared for a LONG wait!

**DIRECTIONS:** Exit Tachikawa Station from the Granduo side. Turn left, and follow the road that borders the Granduo and the railroad tracks. Stay to the left when the road branches. When you see the pedestrian path go under the railroad tracks to the left, carefully watch the alleys to the right. Turn right to go up the second small alley, and look at the apartment buildings on your left. There will be a very small sign for Gyoza 1059 at the entrance of the first one. Go up a few steps and enter the restaurant.

Teresa Negley, Karen Ozment, Kerri Wright 96



## Tachikawa - Savini Italian Restaurant

After a day of shopping in Tachikawa, go to Savini for lunch or, better yet, for their “Imagination Cake”. This dessert is a light-tasting sponge cake with a generous amount of whipping cream, with small slices of kiwi, cantaloupe, and strawberries. It’s a delicious treat at ¥600 per hefty slice.

Other desserts sounded equally scrumptious—baked pudding, chocolate mousse, homemade Italian ice cream, ricotta cheese cake, and fresh fruit (¥500-¥700). Lunch entrees include sirloin garlic steak, grilled lamb (¥1900-¥3500), goulash, veal or grilled chicken (¥1200). Sixteen choices of salad are available for ¥850 to ¥1250: spinach, seafood, tomato, green, octopus, bacon and shimeji, zucchini and eggplant, and crabmeat. Pizza in all combinations are offered: vegetarian, anchovy, shrimp, shorizo, pear, bacon, salmon, seafood, and seppie (squid ink). Pizzas with 19 or less items cost ¥1200 to ¥3900, depending on size. There is also a large selection of drinks.

Open since 1968, this 30-seat restaurant fills up fast at lunch time with business women as well as women with bags filled with shopping bargains. There are English menus and it’s open daily from 11am to 12am.

**DIRECTIONS:** Savini is located on the second floor of the Inoue Building. Take the train from Fussa to Tachikawa. Exit the station, walking past Lumine Dept Store, using the stairs on the left. Cross the street and go down the alley next to the Klimt Coffee Shop (pink awnings). Continue straight on this road and you’ll see the Savini sign.

Karen Ozment

## Ome - Ma Maison

A western-style restaurant with scrumptious food and wonderful ambience, Ma Maison specializes in French cuisine and boasts a list of drinks from around the world.

The extensive menu in English offers steak, hamburger, pizza and spaghetti as well as exotic fare like escargots, grilled mussels, and sautéed trout. Hors d’oeuvres range from smoked trout (¥1,000), and spare ribs (¥1,200), to fried shrimp (¥1,500). Consume, corn, and minestrone soups (¥550) and green, tuna, and crab meat salads (¥850-¥1,600) are available. An assorted cheese plate runs ¥1,500 and bread is ¥300.

Ten different fish platters include sautéed salmon in cream sauce or deep-fried prawn and scallops (¥1,400-¥1,900). Seafood risotto, gratin and stew are ¥2,300-¥2,400. Steak specials include skewered beef, veal, and sirloin steak (¥3,000-¥3,600). Other meat platters include chicken, pork cutlet, and lamb roast (¥900-¥1,800). Several gratins such as scallop, clam, shrimp and crab meat range from ¥950-¥2,400.

The list of available drinks is incredible with wines and beers from around the world. Nonalcoholic drinks are ¥350-¥400. Culpis (fermented milk) is available at ¥350-¥1,000.

To pay your bill, you will be given a large metal key on a metal tag with your table number on it. When you are ready

to pay, take the key to the cashier and she will get your bill. Ma Maison is open daily, from 11:30am to 12pm. The restaurant in Ome can accommodate large groups. Call 0423-241255 for reservations.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate onto Rt. 16 (odometer at zero). Follow the sign for Kawagoe. Go through two stoplights and go under the overpass. Once you’re through the underpass, go through three stoplights. At the fourth light, turn left on Ome Kaido. After you turn, Bikkuri Donkey restaurant is on your right. Continue through 11 stoplights (McDonald’s will be immediately after 7th light). After the 11th light, there is a large white building with one red strip and one blue stripe on the left that says Yasaka on it. Ma Maison entrance is immediately after this building (at 5.9km). It is located directly before Verno Honda which has a tall green sign. Ma Maison is a beige building with dark green and brown

trim with two barrels by its front gate. Plenty of parking is behind.

Karen Ozment

## Kichijoji - Moti Indian Restaurant

Moti offers reasonably priced, delicious curry lunch sets for ¥900 with choices from mutton, chicken, vegetable, or prawn. A special combination set costs ¥1000. All sets come with nan or rice and lassi. Other selections available include Tandoori Chicken (mouth-watering barbecued chicken seasoned with butter and spices for ¥1750), Punjabi Tikka (boneless chicken cooked to perfection on skewers-¥1650), Baigan Bharta (roasted eggplant cooked with green peas, tomatoes, onions ¥1250), Dal Makhani (lentils cooked in milk and butter-¥1200), and Prawn Chili (¥1400). Tea, coffee, juice, soda, beer, whiskey and wine are offered for ¥300-¥800. Desserts include Ras Jalai (cottage cheese with pistachios for ¥600), Mango Melba (¥500), and vanilla or strawberry ice cream (¥450).

Moti opens daily from 11:30am until last orders at 10pm. Take-out service is available.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Moti in Kichijoji, take the train to Tokyo and leave Kichijoji Station through the central exit. Walk across the street to Sun Road, a shopping arcade. Walk straight, then take first left and walk straight until you see Isetan (large department store). Walk towards the Citibank sign, on the right, directly past Isetan. Moti is located just beyond this sign, and across from the Fantasia game arcade. Other Moti restaurants are located in Akasaka and Roppongi (see article in Restaurants in Tokyo section).

Karen Ozment



## Kawagoe and Sagamihara - The Old Spaghetti Factory

The Old Spaghetti Factory is about an hour's drive from Yokota. The decor and atmosphere are similar to the US (dark velvets and an old rail car inside) as are the entrees. Spaghetti with a choice of sauces is served with bread, drinks, and ice cream (¥1,030 to ¥1,440). A child's (under age 12) spaghetti plate is ¥700. Birthday parties in the train can be reserved. A side salad, chorizo, meatballs and soup are available (¥100-¥350). Extra drinks, ¥200 each, include fresh ground coffee, tea, milk, orange juice, sodas, and a full bar.

English is spoken and the restaurant seats up to 300 people. It is open Mon-Fri, 11:30-2 for lunch and 5-11 for dinner, weekends 11:30am- 11pm. Tel. (0492) 46-9922.

**DIRECTIONS, Sagamihara Location:** There are six locations, and two are near the base. The closest is in Sagamihara (0427-41-5110) - 32km from South Gate. Take the shortcut to Rt. 16. Once you are on the highway, go south. Once you reach the turnoff for China Pete's, The Old Spaghetti Factory will be 7km further. Stay on 16 and look for a large, light pink building on the left. The sign faces the sub-road, so it is difficult to see from the highway.

**DIRECTIONS, Kawagoe Location:** Turn right out the Terminal Gate, and take Rt. 16 north for 23km. The building and blue sign are set back from the road on the right. It is about 3 blocks past a Royal Host restaurant, and 4 blocks past the Kawagoe entrance to the Kan-Etsu Expressway. *Note:* At 23.4km, Rt. 16 takes a sharp turn to the right; if you get here you've gone just a little too far.

Karen Ozment, Julie Irwin

## Kunitachi - Princess Raira Chinese Restaurant

This eating treasure is located in Kunitachi, only a short train ride from Yokota AB. The food at Princess Raira's is the freshest and highest quality without being overpriced. My favorite was the gyoza with a close second being the shrimp in a sweet-sour chili sauce. The chicken and peanut dish is well worth your yen.

Princess Raira is open daily and does not close down after lunch ... which means you can leisurely chat while eating the best Chinese food you will ever find.

**DIRECTIONS:** Exit the Tokyo-bound train at Kunitachi station. Be sure you are not on an express train as they go right by without stopping. Go to the right of the station which is the south exit. Continue walking towards the right on the street that angles toward the right. Stay on the right side of the street for a few blocks until you reach the restaurant.

## Sagamihara - Pancho Villa Mexican Restaurant

This little restaurant is located halfway between Camp Zama and the Sagamihara Family Housing Area. Many South-westerners say the food tastes like what you'd get in stateside Mexican restaurants. It has excellent margaritas. It's easily combined with a trip to China Peters and/or Zama. Its main drawback is the lack of easy parking, meaning the management warns you not to park in private spaces.

Open Monday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm and 5:30-9pm, closed Tuesdays. Tel. 0427-42-7999.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there on your way from Yokota to Zama, instead of turning right at the Hot Spar intersection toward the golf course gate of Camp Zama, turn left onto a narrow winding road. Following some large apartments on your left, there will be a small convenience store (you can sometimes park along the street to the left), followed by a strip of buildings in which Pancho Villa is located. The storefronts will be right up against the street. For more parking on the streets, turn left at the light past Pancho Villa's (where you turn right to go to the housing area), then left again just before the hospital. This street will sort of circle around to the convenience store before Pancho Villa's.

If you're coming from China Pete's, turn left and drive past China Pete's second store. At the intersection with the Honda dealer on the near left corner, turn right. Then at the intersection with the IHOP (International House of Pancakes) on the near right, turn left, go straight, and follow the directions in the above paragraph.

Teresa Negley, Gina VanOrsdol 12/96

## Higashi Murayama - Sawadee

Sawadee offers over 80 dishes of authentic Thai cuisine on an English language menu at moderate prices a few blocks off Shin Ome Kaido in Higashi-Murayama. The lunch sets consisted of a soup, salad, and coconut milk/tapioca dessert plus a main dish ranging from ¥650 for either a mild or spicy hot curry to ¥800 for a spicy meat and eggplant combination. Separate entrees run from ¥900 for a smaller serving of Tom Yum hot shrimp soup to ¥1,600 for fried fish in hot sour sauce.

Open 11:30am-3pm for lunch and 5-11pm for dinner, closed Mondays. Tel. 0423-95-7802. Parking is free for one hour for meals over ¥2,000. (Additional time is ¥150 for 30 minutes.)

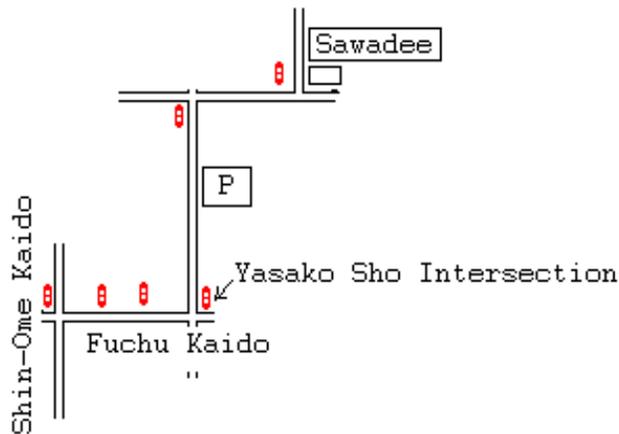
**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Turn left out the East Gate and turn right at the first light, then left at the end of the road. This road will intersect into Shin-Ome kaido at the second light (Noguchibashi Intersection, Moss Burger on left.) Set your odometer to zero and turn right onto Shin-Ome kaido (toward Shinjuku through Higashi-Yamato.) You will pass a McDonald's, Aoki Men's World, iworld, Coco's, and Royal Host, and go under a green railroad bridge, before turning right onto Fuchu Kaido when your odometer reads 8.0 km. (Nissan Red Stage on corner).



At the third light, you will see a pedestrian bridge at the Yasaka Sho intersection (school on right). Turn left here and park in a two-story structure with a big P a block down on the right. (There are small signs for Chanceland, Park Avenue, and Ozec (Takeda Parking)). Walking, turn right out of the structure. Turn right at the first light. Sawadee is on the second floor of the Tokuda Building on the far left corner at the next light opposite a pachinko parlor the sign is in Red Japanese characters on a yellow background. (See photo above.) Show your parking ticket for credit when paying your restaurant bill.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Sawadee is about two blocks straight out the south exit of Kumegawa station on the Seibu Shinjuku Line. (On road perpendicular to tracks.)

Chieko Brumley, Teresa Negley 11/96, Photo & directions updated Susan Lan 6/02



## Tokorozawa - Cafe Un Quinto

You may recognize the name of this restaurant because there is a restaurant with the same name just outside Fussa Gate. The name is the same and the menu is similar because the chef who created the Fussa menu now runs his own small restaurant. But the similarity may stop there. The prices and view are better and it is located 30 min. away in Tokorozawa, where the restaurant is on a second floor with large glass windows looking toward Seibu Amusement Park. On Saturday evenings, you can often see the fireworks while American classics play in the background. The restaurant is decorated with a quaint Italian motif.

During the week, there are daily luncheon specials and everything is made with fresh ingredients. The pasta dishes may be ordered in regular or small portions. My favorite is the fresh scallops and pasta with cream sauce. Most of the salads are large enough for two to share (the unquinto salad is topped with prosciutto and parmesan). They specialize in desserts made with mascarpone cheese (i.e. tiramisu). The pasta is around ¥1,000.

Cafe Un Quinto is located at 5294 Yamaguchi, Tokorozawa (near Seibu Park); 0429-28-8465; Lunch 11:30 - 2:00; Tea time 2:00 - 5:00, Dinner 5:00 - 11:30.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions to the D-Store (a.k.a. Daikuma), turn left at the D store and right at the corner of Shin Ome Kaido (and the Mos Burger). Continue east on Shin Ome Kaido about 5km. You will pass many car dealers. You will turn left at a 4way stop light where there are no buildings and there is a large brown sake bottle on the left. Stay on this approx. 5 more km, until you see red pavement on the road. While on this red area you will see a 7-11 store on the left and a liquor store on the right. At this light, turn left into what initially seems to be an alley. This road will take you uphill towards the lake. When you reach the crest of the hill, turn left to cross the bridge. Once over the lake, you will see Seibu baseball field on your right and a large inflated dinosaur (or dinosaur sign) on your left. Continue straight through a four-way light and up the hill a few more blocks, until you see a green pedestrian overpass just before a sushi shop with white lanterns and a black and white crosshatched wall on the right corner. Turn right here onto Sakura Dori, go under two more green pedestrian bridges and the restaurant will be on your right. There are a few parking spaces across the street. Once you learn the way, it is a short drive. However, it is best to try this the first time during daylight when the landmarks are more clear.

Kerri Wright 1 2/96



## Rock & Roll Diner

Located in Shimokitazawa, a fun section of Tokyo full of restaurants, clubs and shops is the Rock & Roll Diner. It's the kind of place you'd be thrilled to run across in Denver or Des Moines, let alone in a place where your chances of finding a good burger are less than your chances of getting a seat on the subway during rush hour.

But a good burger is exactly what you'll find at the Rock & Roll Diner. You'll also find a fun atmosphere, great music from the '50s, '60s and '70s, the best margaritas this side of San Diego, and an efficient staff that speaks English. This spacious, casual restaurant and bar is decorated with neon signs and posters of old America movies and stars such as James Dean, Marilyn Monroe and Elvis. On the ceiling above the main dining area is a huge neon American flag which remains unlit except when it flashes along with the Beatles hit "Today It's Your Birthday" to serenade those celebrating birthdays. There is also a DJ booth where you'll find slips of paper on which to submit song requests.

Upon being seated, you'll be served a small (but free) plate of chips and a great, fresh salsa. Other appetizers ranging in price from ¥680 to ¥1,480 include chicken quesadillas served with salsa and guacamole, nachos and super nachos, chicken wings and onion rings. As for main courses, the Rock & Roll Diner offers several salads (spinach, Caesar, taco and grilled chicken) ranging in price from ¥880 to ¥1,180. All are large enough to constitute a meal. Also offered are fajitas (chicken at ¥1,580, beef at ¥1,620 and a combination of both for ¥1,780), BBQ chicken and ribs, chimichangas, meat loaf, pizza and grilled pork chops.

Prices range from ¥1,380 for the chimichanga and BBQ chicken to ¥2,080 for the ribs. Portions are huge and depending upon the item, include fries, garden salads with excellent dressings (the best blue cheese I've had outside of the U.S.), rice, etc. But the very best thing about this restaurant is the burgers. They are thick, juicy and delicious and range in price from ¥1,380 for a cheeseburger to ¥1,480 for a half-pound Rock and Roll Burger to which, for ¥100 each, you can add cheese, bacon, guacamole or chili. The burgers are all served with fries and a salad. The restaurant also offers a vegetarian menu and a children's menu.

The children's menu includes chicken fingers, burgers, fajitas and ribs. All are priced at under ¥1000 and portions are large. Drinks and desserts, full-sized, can also be ordered off the children's menu (for children only!) for half the price of the regular menu. Desserts, which we've never been able to save room to sample, include thick shakes, root beer floats and mud pie.

The Rock & Roll Diner is part restaurant, part bar and therefore offers a huge variety of alcoholic beverages. The margaritas are great and are priced at ¥700 for a regular-sized one or ¥900 for a large-sized one. Beers are ¥600 for a bottle, ¥500 for a draft and ¥2,000 for a pitcher. For a good deal, plan your visit for a Saturday, Sunday or Japanese holiday when drinks are half priced from 4-6pm. Regardless of the day, the

restaurant is open only for dinner and serves food until very late.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa and transfer to the Chuo Line which you will stay on until Kichijoji. At Kichijoji get on the Inokashira Line which will take you to Shimokitazawa.

We've always visited the Rock & Roll Diner while staying in Tokyo. To access it from Tokyo, make your way to the Chiyoda subway line and ride it to Yoyogi-Uehara. At Yoyogi-Uehara get off the subway (which will now be above ground) and simply walk across the platform and get on the next train that comes along. Depending upon if this is an express train, you will have one or two stops to Shimokitazawa. At Shimokitazawa you will have to insert your subway ticket into a machine near the exit and pay an additional fare for your train ride.

Whether or not you have reached this point from Yokota or Tokyo, follow the exit signs to the South Exit. Once outside, there will be a McDonald's directly in front of you. Take a left turn at the McDonald's. Ahead of you and on your left you will see a sign for the Big Ben building. The Rock & Roll Diner is located in the basement of this building, just past a First Kitchen restaurant. (Also in the basement is a branch of the Capricciosa Italian restaurant - an excellent place for Italian food, but that's another column ...)

Joy Thompson. 6/97

## Aegean

Are you hungry for some Mediterranean food? There is an excellent Greek restaurant in Shibuya, a wonderful way to wrap up a day of sightseeing and shopping downtown. The Aegean is one of only three Greek restaurants in the Tokyo area. The homestyle-cooking menu abounds in olive oil, garlic, fresh salad, yogurt, and feta cheese recipes. And don't forget the wine! Greek retsina wine is a compliment to any dish. However the quality doesn't come cheaply; a dinner for two will cost you about ¥10,000. Try the set menu, which includes an appetizer, salad, main dish, dessert, and coffee. It's the best way to experience true Greek cooking, short of hopping on a plane to Athens.

The interior is small, but comfortable and cozy. Murals line the plaster walls, and the restaurant is full of the owner's original sculptures.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the JR Yamanote Line to Shibuya Station. Go out the East Exit, and look for the Kenwood sign and dome of the planetarium across the street in front of you. Turn right, and cross the intersection via the walking bridge onto Meiji Dori avenue. Aegean will be a short distance ahead on your left. It is on the basement level, so look for the sign on the sidewalk.

B1, Oriental Building, 3-18-3 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku. Tel. 03-3407-1783.

Kristen Marriott



## El Torito

The food can be described in two words: predictable and reasonable. You get free chips and salsa. How about a Tecate with lime (¥650) or maybe a Corona (¥700)? Do shots? There's a selection of Cuervo (¥500 - ¥1000). Taco plates (¥780 - ¥1180) have two or three tacos with beans and salsa. Enchiladas and burritos (¥880 - ¥1080) are popular, perhaps because of the generous portions. The Outrageously Chimichanga (¥1280) is a beef and rice mixture fried inside a huge flour tortilla, served with a special ranchero sauce, guacamole, and sour cream. Three of us shared this tasty treat and there was still some left over. Fajitas (¥1780 - ¥2480) come in chicken, beef, shrimp, and combination varieties. For beef lovers, a must-try are "San Antonio Fajitas" (¥2980) where generous strips of top quality beef are grilled at your table, to your taste, with tomato wedges, onion, and yellow pepper chunks, then combined in soft flour tortillas with the usual accompaniments. Combination plates (¥1480 ¥1880) feature a mix and match of dishes, plus soup and salad. There are also two child plates (tacos or quesadillas for ¥580). Don't forget dessert! Ice cream (¥380), Kahlua mousse, Mexican cheesecake (¥450), banana chimichanga (¥4810), and fried ice cream (¥480).

El Torito is open daily from 11am to 11:30pm. The bar opens at 5pm. Roppongi/03-5466-7917.

**DIRECTIONS:** The Roppongi location is convenient for those staying at the New Sanno. It is across the street from Exit A-5 at Omotesando Subway Station. From Hiroo, take the Hibiya Line four stops to Hibiya, switch to the Chiyoda Line [green] and go five stops to Omotesando. The restaurant is on the third floor of the La Mia Building, which also houses boutiques.

Debra Pasko 1993

There are also locations in: Nishi-Kasai/033804-0704, Eifuku-cho/03-53767611 and Shibuya

## Hard Rock Cafe

The Hard Rock Cafe in Tokyo is like any other Hard Rock: excellent music, atmosphere and food. Americans and others fill the place, listening to classic rock and viewing paraphernalia donated by some of America's best music artists. Food selections are also the same. Starters range from homemade soup (¥600) to pizza (¥1400), and include fabulous cheese nachos, buffalo wings and Love Me Tenders (chicken). Salad and sandwich choices include chef, chicken, and fruit/avocado salads, HRC Sandwich, BLT, and the awesome California Club (¥1,300-1,600).

Daily and Smokehouse Specials offer such things as catch of the day, N.Y. Strip Sirloin, hickory smoked BBQ chicken/pork ribs, and fajitas (¥1,700-3,900). Last, but not least, for the "American palate," there is the charbroiled burger, cheeseburger, bacon cheeseburger, and Mt. Fuji Double Burger (¥1,400-2,000).

Desserts are plentiful and are worth leaving room for: homemade apple pie, devil's food cake, homemade brownies, Key Lime Pie, N.Y. Cheesecake, banana splits, sundaes, and milk shakes.

Drinks are abundant and the selection is exceptional. Everything from vodka, gin, rum and tequila to wine, champagne,

and beer is offered. Tropical drinks include Mai Tai, Blue Hawaiian, Zombie, and frozen Pina Colodas,

Margaritas (regular or strawberry) and Daiquiris (regular, banana or strawberry). Non-alcoholic drinks range from Coca Cola, tea, pink lemonade, Perrier, Diet Coke to seven kinds of juices.

There are daily specials, the workers speak English, and there is no dress code. Hard Rock Cafe souvenirs (T-shirts, glasses, pins, etc.) can be purchased from a booth near the front of the restaurant.

Hard Rock Cafe is open daily from 11:30am. It closes at 2am (Mon-Thurs), 4am (Fri & Sat) and 11:30pm (Sun & holidays). HRC is located at 5-4-20 Roppongi MinatoKu, Tokyo 106. The telephone number is 03-3408-7018.

**DIRECTIONS:** Paid parking is available, but it is easy to go by train. From Fussa Station, take the JR Chuo train (orange) toward Tokyo. Change trains at Shinjuku Station and get on the Yamanote line (lime green) to Ebisu (four stops). Exit and to the right will be the subway station. Take the Hibiya line two stops to Roppongi and exit from Exit 3. Turn left out of the station and cross the street to your right. Turn left. Turn right after the Almond Restaurant (pink and white canopy-also on the right). You should see Tokyo Tower straight ahead. Follow this road until you see a McDonald's on your right. Turn right directly past it, and Hard Rock Cafe/Tony Roma's is ahead of you. If you get lost, ask. Hard Rock is well known.

Karen Ozment, Delores Street



## Tony Roma's

Tony Roma's, located in the bottom half of the Hard Rock Cafe building, is equally as scrumptious as the Hard Rock Cafe. It attracts a more businesslike crowd so most people are dressed in work attire (as in no shorts). Specializing in ribs, Tony Roma's charcoal broils them and adds a perfect barbecue sauce that makes them as tender as anything Memphis has to offer.

Anyone trying the restaurant for the first time should order onion rings for ¥780. They are absolutely mouthwatering and feed 3-5 people. Other appetizers include fried cheese, shrimp tail fingers, cold fresh asparagus, and country pork sausage with Dijon mustard, all for ¥980. Clam chowder tops the soup and salad list at ¥480 per cup. Salads include seafood, Mesa Verde, garden, Cobb, and Santa Fe, ranging from ¥650 - ¥1,450.

Tony Roma's original barbecued baby ribs come in regular (¥2,750) and large (¥3,980) sizes. Combination plates with barbecued chicken, grilled swordfish, steamed lobster, steamed lobster tail, grilled lamb, grilled steak or grilled scallop brochette are also available, ranging from ¥2,080 - ¥2,980. Sea-

food entrees include lobster, Spanish shrimp, swordfish, salmon, rainbow trout, and a combination platter. Meat selections include charbroiled N.Y. cut sirloin steak (¥2,880), barbecued chicken (¥1,780), grilled lamb chops (¥2,080), London broil (¥2,180), and Roma burger (starts at ¥1,380).

All entrees are served with coleslaw, french fries or baked potato. End your meal with delicious peanut butter pie, mud pie, cake of the day, or ice cream for ¥350-¥500. To drink, there is coffee, tea, Coca-Cola, Sprite, ginger ale, Perrier, assorted juices, wine and beer.

Tony Roma's is open daily from 5pm- 11pm with last orders at 10:30pm. There are several menu items available for take out including baby ribs, barbecued chicken, and the Roma burger. Tel. 03-3408-2748.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions to Hard Rock Café. Tony Roma's is on the first floor of the same building.

Karen Ozment

## Spago

"Darling, let's do lunch at Spago!" An image forms of that Sunset Boulevard mecca to the trendsetters and beautiful people. The Tokyo Spago, like its Los Angeles namesake, specializes in California cuisine—a mix and match of foods from many different cultures combined in new and fresh ways. Appetizers like crispy duck salad with black bean sauce in a lettuce cup, and lobster and scallop cake with guacamole and Mexican tortilla are offered. Pasta choices have included salmon and mussel tortellini with celery puree and spicy cabernet lobster coulis, and saffron and poppy seed bow-tie pasta with grilled scallops in a tomato caper fondue. Pizzas, always on the menu, offer toppings such as seafood in mustard basil pesto with pine nuts, and Thai lamb sausage with green onion, straw mushrooms, and cilantro.

Entree choices (seafood, fowl, lamb, and beef dishes) might include crispy grilled range quail with fried onion and citrus honey red wine sauce, and turbot with sun-dried tomatoes and herb vinaigrette. Some desserts are off-menu and are announced by the waiter. Those who care for an aperitif or wine with dinner, or an after-dinner drink may order from the waiter. The mixed drinks are small and strong.

The staff are courteous, speak English, and the menu is available in English. The lunch menu changes monthly, the dinner menu changes every three months. A la carte menu prices range from ¥1000 for the least expensive appetizer, to ¥5200 for the steak dishes. Among the best bargains are the set meals including appetizer, entree, dessert, and coffee or tea at lunch. At dinner, pasta is also included in the course.

The day we were there, the course lunch consisted of an appetizer of marinated sliced tomatoes and fresh buffalo mozzarella with mixed herb vinaigrette. The entree was a choice of either grilled fresh Norwegian salmon with potato puree and ginger cabernet butter, or roasted baby lamb loin on a bed of ratatouille with caper rosemary sauce. Dessert was a generous slice of raisin cake accompanied by a scoop of cherry yogurt sherbet. Coffee and tea capped off the course. A real bargain at ¥2200, especially when the appetizer alone costs ¥2100 on the al la carte menu. All dishes were beautifully presented and delicious.

Dinner course meals cost more than the lunch course, at ¥8000 to ¥12,000 per person. Though expensive by American standards, these prices are reasonable compared to other upscale Tokyo restaurants. A greater bargain is Sunday evenings when Spago offers a special course meal.

Reservations are highly recommended for dinner Wednesday through Saturday. At lunch and on Sunday evenings, reservations for less than 20 people are usually not required. Larger groups and group dinner seating can be arranged in advance with the staff.

The restaurant is located at 5-78, Roppongi, Minato-ku, in the Hard Rock Cafe building. Phone: 03-3423-4025. Paid parking is available around the corner (¥1600). It is an easy walk, or a ¥600 taxi ride, from the Roppongi subway station on the Hibiya Line. The only dress restriction is no shorts. Otherwise, lunch dress is "California casual." Lunch is served Mon-Fri, noon-2pm. The dinner clientele tend to be a bit more formal. Coat and tie are appropriate but not required. Dinner is served Mon-Fri, 6-10pm and 6-9:30pm on Sat, Sun and Japanese holidays.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take the JR Chuo train toward Tokyo. At Shinjuku, change to the Yamanote line—track 12. Go four stops to Ebisu. Exit the station and enter the subway station. Take the Hibiya Line two stops to Roppongi (¥140). From the subway exit, ask anyone "Hard Rock Café?" and you'll be pointed in the right direction. When you see the Hard Rock sign, walk back toward the restaurant. Spago is around the corner to the left.

Debra Pasko

## Twinings

Twinings is an elegant, yet inexpensive place for light meals. Located in the exclusive Ginza shopping district, it is



on the 4th and 5th floors in the building across from the Mitsukoshi department store.

The lunch specials are served from 11AM, and consist mainly of beef or lamb entrees. From 11 AM -2:30 PM, you can get either an English muffin or one piece of cake for 700yen, (1700yen with a pot of tea) or scrumptious scones for 600yen (1600yen with tea.)

After 2:30PM you can get Afternoon Tea - three tiers of finger sandwiches, scones, and cakes with tea served on fine English china and linen for 2300 for one person or 3900 for two people.

They are open daily 11 am to 11pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Chuo Line from Fussa to Shinjuku. Change to Marunouchi (subway) line and go to Ginza Station. Depart through Exit A-1. At the top of the steps, turn 180 degrees and look up - Twinings Tea Salon!

Kerri Wright

## La Jolla

One of Tokyo's best Mexican restaurants, La Jolla is in Hiroo near the New Sanno. The restaurant offers an English menu filled with every Mexican food lovers' dream dishes: fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, tostadas, tacos and more, ranging from ¥600 to ¥2,000. Appetizers include chips and salsa (¥500), cheese nachos (¥900), frijole con queso dip (¥600), quesadillas (¥800-1000), and a great guacamole (¥800). La Jolla offers margaritas (regular, pineapple, strawberry, banana, apricot), daiquiris, and pina coladas for ¥900. For dessert, there is fried ice cream (¥600), Kahlua mousse (¥400) or flan (¥400).

Open daily 11am to 2pm for lunch and 5-10pm for dinner, weekend hours are 11am to 10pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hiroo Station, walk about two blocks down the side street, opposite the Mitsubishi Bank, on the Meideiya side of the street. La Jolla is on the left, on the second floor, with a Mexican flag hanging in front and a sombrero on its sign.

Karen Ozment

## Ninnikuya "Garlic Restaurant"

The "Garlic Restaurant" is about a 20 minute walk from the New Sanno (5 minutes from the east exit of JR Ebisu station). The restaurant itself is located upstairs from the bar where you can have a drink. The bar can be smoke filled at times and the wait over an hour. But the food is worth it! (Provided you love this special herb.) The prices are reasonable compared to other restaurants in the area. Every entree is prepared with garlic and include such taste treats as eggplant, beef, chicken, fish, seafood, spaghetti, and bread. Prices range from ¥800 to ¥2200, averaging about ¥1200.

Reservations are not accepted. The hours are 5:00pm-11pm, and closed on Sundays and holidays.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there from JR Ebisu Station, walk straight down the road from the east exit for about 3 blocks, it will be on the left.

From the New Sanno, walk down Meiji Dori past the Tengenji intersection and a police box. Turn left (at a station-)

nery shop), cross the river, and turn right (gas station). Ninnikuya is down a block on the right next to a liquor store across from Petit Pretemps. Maps are available at the New Sanno.

Gayle Richards, Delores Street

## Paper Moon

Lusciously wicked and very European, the fare at the Paper Moon is exclusively desserts and beverages. As you peer through the front of the glass facade, you will see small cafe tables, white damask linens and terracotta tile floors. Entering the cafe, notice the large refrigerated case full of desserts of all descriptions. In the rear of the cafe is a cozy bar with overstuffed armchairs, the perfect spot for a relaxed dessert, aperitif, and good conversation.

The cream-cheese filled torte and banana cream cake were presented with a flair and both were well worth the ¥600 price per serving. However, Tokyo prices were reflected in the expensive ¥800 cola and ¥300 water.

**DIRECTIONS:** A quick six minute walk from the New Sanno, turn right out the hotel entrance. The Paper Moon will be on the right side of the street.

Connie E. Lukens 2/97

## Queen Alice Turandot

Looking for that special place for an elegant dinner? Try the Turandot around the corner from the New Sanno. Your palate will never be the same. Located next to the French Embassy, "Turandot" is an alternative to "Wellington's" and "Suzuki's" that you will not forget.

Upon arrival you are greeted and escorted to your table by a charming bilingual hostess. The tables are elegantly set and covered by an immaculately starched, white tablecloth. The walls are dotted with contemporary paintings and the lighting is just right for an evening of intimacy.

The menu is structured in sets that prevent decision anxiety while still offering beguiling choices. Our meal included six courses served by a staff catering to your every need. We chose the Carpaccio Beef and Miniature Seafood Terrine for appetizers. The beef was served paper-thin with Japanese horseradish and the seafood was superb. The next five courses flowed by via small but wonderful dishes of veal, lobster, vegetables, soups, breads, and sorbets. The total cost of our dining experience for two, minus the split of champagne, was a little over ¥20,000.

Connie E. Lukens 2/97



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