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Japan lights up the night sky!

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

Night skies in the Land of the Rising Sun – from Hokkaido to Tokyo to Okinawa – blaze with the brilliance of “hanabi,” or fireworks, nearly every weekend in August. In fact, a cursory glance shows more than 80 fireworks festivals nationwide starting in July through the end of the month.

Fireworks in Japan are often the crescendo of a city or town’s summer festival, but they are also often the focus of the festival itself. They range from viewing displays along a river, aboard a “yakatabune” (houseboat) or against the backdrop of the 2,080-foot Skytree in Tokyo, to taking them in as a follow-up to an Okinawa sunset at Emerald Beach where light refracted off the aquamarine water and white sands enhance the pyrotechnics.

Don’t miss the show as Japanese fireworks are renowned worldwide for their artistic qualities – perfect

shapes, exquisite colorings and enormous sizes, as well as the poetic sense of ephemerality they produce. In many cases, a single firework changes colors two to three times after it is launched.

Not only the fireworks itself, but the event sites often offer various funs. There are plenty of food and entertainment booths where you can find just about anything.

Wearing a “yukata,” a casual summer kimono, may add to your overall enjoyment. A yukata ensemble can usually be purchased for less than \$70. It’s a great photo op.

When you’re enjoying a hanabi festival, feel free to join the locals in shouting “Tamaya!” or “Kagiya!” These are the names of popular rival pyrotechnics from the Edo era and are still used instead of “Bravo.”

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

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Sumida River Fireworks.
Photo courtesy of Sumida-ku

KIMODAMESHI!

A bone-chilling Japanese summer

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STARS AND STRIPES

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SKY: Beautiful displays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Atsugi Ayu Festival Fireworks.**
Photos courtesy of Atsugi City**Miura Beach Fireworks.**
Photo by Miyuki Takiguchi

FIREWORKS LISTING

JINGU GAJEN FIREWORKS
(Tokyo)

10,000 shells of fireworks will be launched in accordance with active music

DATE: Aug. 8**TIME:** 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**LOCATION:** Jingu Gaien in Kasumigaoka Town, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo**PHONE:** 0570-055-002

WEBSITE

SHIKAMACHI FURUSATO SUMMER FESTIVAL FIREWORKS
(Near Sasebo)

1,200 shells of fireworks will light up Sasebo Gulf for 30 minutes

DATE: Aug. 13**TIME:** 9 – 9:30 p.m.**LOCATION:** Shikamachi Fishing Port in Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture**PHONE:** 0956-77-4111

WEBSITE

ASIA PORT FESTIVAL IN KANMON 2026

(Near Iwakuni)

18,000 shells of fireworks will light up the Kanmon Strait between Honshu and Kyushu islands

DATE: Aug. 13**TIME:** 8 – 8:50 p.m.**LOCATION:** Kaikyo Yume Tower and Aruka Port in Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture**PHONE:** 083-223-2001

WEBSITE

SHONAN HIRATSUKA FIREWORKS

(Near Zama and Atsugi)

3,000 shells of fireworks will light up Shonan Beach

DATE: Aug. 28**TIME:** 7 – 8 p.m.**LOCATION:** Shonan Itako (at the mouth of the Sagami River) in Hiratsuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture**PHONE:** 0463-35-8107

WEBSITE

MIYAGASE FURUSATO FESTIVAL FIREWORKS

(Near Zama and Atsugi)

Small-size fireworks, Bon odori, game and food booths near Camp Zama and NAF Atsugi

DATES: Aug. 12, 15 and 16**TIME:** 7:30 – 7:40 p.m.**LOCATION:** Miyagase Lake Park in Kanagawa Prefecture**PHONE:** 046-210-3226

WEBSITE

KANAZAWA FESTIVAL FIREWORKS

(Near Yokosuka)

3,500 shells of fireworks light up Hakkeijima, Sea Park and Nojima Island and about 250,000 visitors enjoy the event every year.

DATE: Aug. 22**TIME:** 7 – 8 p.m.**LOCATION:** Sea Park, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture**PHONE:** 050-3159-6791

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Tokyo Disneyland hiking ticket prices, nixing free Fast Pass

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PAUL PARK,
METROPOLIS MAGAZINE

Tokyo Disney Resort has raised its top ticket price six times since 2019, and the seventh hike will happen this October. Oriental Land, the company behind Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, confirmed that the maximum price for an adult one-day ticket is climbing from 10,900 yen to 12,400 yen, a 13.8% jump. It's the first change to the resort's price since 2023.

The Tokyo Disneyland ticket price increase won't affect every visitor equally. Oriental Land's variable pricing model only pushes tickets to their new 12,400 yen ceiling on the busiest dates — holidays, long weekends and seasonal events. Most calendar days will stay well under that number.



What's actually changing on October 10 and 11

Adult admission on October 10 rises to 11,900 yen, then 12,400 yen the following day. Children 4 to 11 see a smaller bump too, with their price rising from 5,600 yen to 5,900 yen.

Junior tickets, ages 12 to 17, hadn't been confirmed either way at the time of writing. There's still no park-hopper option between Disneyland and DisneySea, so families splitting a trip across both parks still have to buy two separate one-day tickets on two separate calendar days.

A decade of steady increases

Tokyo Disney Resort's adult ticket has climbed almost every year this decade. It sat at 7,500 yen in 2019, rose to 8,200 yen in 2020, then jumped twice in 2021 alone, first to 8,700 yen and later to 9,400 yen as the resort introduced date-based pricing. A 2023

revision pushed the ceiling past 10,000 yen for the first time, to 10,900 yen, where it held until this fall's increase.

Add it up, and the top adult ticket price has grown by more than 65% in seven years. Oriental Land also stopped selling annual passes in 2021, closing off what had been the easiest way for regulars to dodge rising day rates. Even so, Tokyo Disney Resort still undercuts its American counterparts by a wide margin, with one-day tickets at the original Disneyland in California and at Walt Disney World in Florida both running well above 12,400 yen once converted.

The free Fast Pass is also going away

Ticket prices aren't the only cost rising at Tokyo Disney Resort this year. Daily parking fees went up by 1,000 yen last month, and next month brings the end of the resort's last remaining free Fast Pass system. Once it's gone, skipping a standard line at either park

will require a paid reservation option instead.

Oriental Land attributes rising operating and labor costs to the increase, along with the added value of Tokyo DisneySea's Fantasy Springs area, which opened in 2024. That expansion sits entirely within DisneySea, though, which leaves Disneyland-only visitors covering a cost bump for an attraction they can't access.

Planning around The Tokyo Disneyland ticket price increase

For visitors trying to avoid the 12,400 yen ceiling, the fix is about timing. Tokyo Disney Resort's official ticket calendar shows daily prices up to three months ahead, so checking it before booking flights or hotels can mean the difference between a 7,900 yen day and 12,400 yen. Weekday visits outside of holidays and event peaks remain the cheapest and least crowded option.

Frequently asked questions

- **When does the Tokyo Disneyland ticket price increase take effect?**

The new 12,400 yen ceiling price first applies on October 11, with October 10 priced just below it at 11,900 yen. Both dates fall on a three-day autumn weekend during the Halloween event.
- **How much are child tickets going up?**

The maximum price for children ages 4 to 11 rises from 5,600 yen to 5,900 yen. Junior pricing, for ages 12 to 17, hadn't been confirmed at the time of writing.
- **Is the free Fast Pass really disappearing?**

Yes. Tokyo Disney Resort's last remaining free Fast Pass system is being discontinued in August 2026, leaving only paid reservation options for skipping standard lines.
- **Will every ticket cost more?**

No. Tokyo Disney Resort uses variable, date-based pricing, so only the highest-demand days move to the new 12,400 yen ceiling. Most weekdays and off-peak dates stay well below the ceiling price.



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GOLDFISH LANTERN FESTIVAL

RETURNS TO YANAI NEAR MCAS IWAKUNI ON AUG. 13

Photo courtesy of Yanai Tourist Association

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

On the southern coast of Yamaguchi Prefecture, Yanai thrived as a merchant town during Japan's Feudal Age. Its heritage is preserved in the city center "Shirakabe no Michi" streets lined with historical wooden homes and paper-covered windows.

A visit to this stunning town is great any time of year, but in the summer, floating lanterns shaped and painted like goldfish hanging from the building eaves draw crowds to Yanai's white-walled streets.

The scenic city is a short

50-minute drive from MCAS Iwakuni and will host its annual "Kingyo Chochin Matsuri" (goldfish lantern festival) on Aug. 13.

A step into Yanai is a step back in time and the paper goldfish lanterns add to the old Japan atmosphere. Goldfish are the symbol of Yanai and paper lanterns are the local craft. One of the favorite summer activities is to make bamboo and paper lanterns for the children participating in the festival.

During the summer festival, locals in traditional matsuri attire carry and parade nearly 30 illuminated giant goldfish lantern floats painted by hand. The parade route

heads down Shirakabe no Michi which is also decorated with 2,500 smaller goldfish lanterns.

This year, several Hirosaki Neputa lantern floats from Aomori



Photo courtesy of Yanai Tourist Association



Prefecture, the home of Misawa Air Base, will also join the parade. Spectators can see these impressive lanterns from 4:30 to 5 p.m. and from 8:30 to 9 p.m.

The Yanai goldfish will parade from 5:25 to 8:30 p.m.

While the parade winds through the streets, you can enjoy traditional dancing and music at the main festival site near JR Yanai Station.

Sample Japanese festival foods like yakisoba, yakitori, okonomiyaki, kakigori shaved ice, cold beer and soft drinks. People can also enjoy traditional Japanese games, including kingyo-sukui (goldfish scooping) and shateki, a shooting game.

Can't make it to the festival? Don't worry, the hanging goldfish lanterns along the shirakabe no michi are illuminated nightly from 7 to 10 p.m. through the end of August.

Enjoy Yanai's local tradition and take a step back in time this summer season!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



Photos by Takahiro Takiguchi, Stripes Japan

YANAI GOLDFISH LANTERN FESTIVAL

LOCATION: Shirakabe-no-michi, Yanai City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

DATES: Aug. 13, 4:30 – 9 p.m.

■ Hirosaki Neputa lantern floats procession 4:30 – 5 p.m. and 8:30 – 9 p.m.

■ Yanai Goldfish lantern floats procession 5:25 – 8:30 p.m.

*The Yanai Shirakabe Street is illuminated until Aug. 31, 7 – 10 p.m.

ADMISSION: Free
PHONE: 0470-80-1146
(Yanai Tourist Association)



Website



100,000 sunflowers blooming in Yokosuka

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

Plan to head to Soleil Hill, a beautiful European-style park, for a wonderful summer sight of over 100,000 sunflowers!

The park is only a short 40-minute drive from Yokosuka Naval Base and offers great views of the summer beauties and the stunning blue waters of the Sagami Gulf.



VIEW VIDEO!

According to a park employee, the summer flowers just started blooming and you can enjoy the full bloom starting at the end of July to early August.

The grounds span 28 hectares and boast flower gardens, a Ferris wheel, a restaurant and spa. You can also BBQ year-round with rental grills and supplies available for a delicious lunch. Western-style farmhouses, fountains, shops and storage buildings, modeled after houses in South France, are scattered throughout the park.

After recent renovations, the park now has a large athletic field, a zipline and various glamping cottages and bungalows. They even have a dog run for fido. There is plenty to do at the park

Things to know

LOCATION: 4 Chome, Nagai, Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture

(a 40-minute drive from Yokosuka Naval Base)

HOURS: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ADMISSION: Free

PHONE: 046-857-2500



WEBSITE

for the whole family!

Originally, the park was a housing and radio facility for the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Forces. Soleil Hill opened to the public as a park in 2005.

Sunflower viewing lasts only a few weeks, so plan a visit to Soleil Hill soon!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



KIMODAMESHI

A bone-chilling Japanese summer

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPE JAPAN

Much like Halloween in October in the West, mid-summer is a season to intersect with the dead in Japan, as deceased ancestors are believed to visit and spend few days with us during traditional Obon period (August 13-15).

Also similar to the U.S., temporary haunted houses are built in amusement parks or shopping malls as seasonal attractions. Horror movies and reports of haunted locations are televised, while popular kimodameshi (literally, to test your courage through scared route) games are enjoyed in schools and local communities throughout summertime.

Just like horror films and scary stories give you goose bumps, kimodameshi and haunted houses make the Japanese cool with fear and terror - another reason they are considered summer attractions. On a hot summer evening, students will often explore cemeteries or haunted locations and enjoy exchanging

horror stories with friends.

Kimodameshi is a must-play for students away at summer camp. It can be seen as a rite of passage for teenagers as they show their courage in public, and is a great chance for them to cling to someone they might have a crush on.

In kimodameshi, challengers, usually paired as boys and girls (sometimes alone or in a small group), walk along a spooky path in dark forests, grave yards, shrines, temples, abandoned buildings or any other haunted and mysterious spaces. In order to maximize fear, the location is scouted and scary objects, such as skulls and horror-props, are planted in advance. Sometimes, audio and visual effects are used to create an unusual atmosphere.

A good story teller, usually a teacher, provides a horror story before sending them out to the spooky path. To prove that they had walked through the designated course, challengers need to bring something back from the haunted location or leave

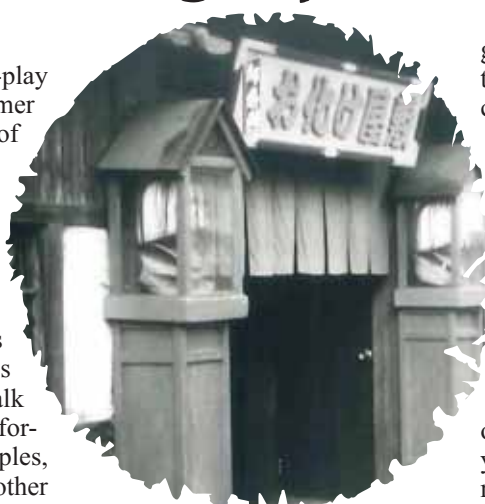


Photo courtesy of Asakusa Hanayashiki

some sort of token (often a card or stones written with challenger's number or name) at the location, which can be recovered later.

Teachers, volunteering parents or senior colleagues hide along the path in ghost costumes, and jump out at challengers walking along the course.

During the event, students witness a strong-looking boy unable to move in his terror at haunted location while a gentle graceful

girl shows her courage to take him out on the course. Some bust into crying and others leave their partner and run away from the course, and that makes some of great memories of school days that cannot easily be forgotten.

The tradition of kimodameshi goes back to the reign of Emperor Hanayama, about 1000 years ago. An official history book in the era "Ookagami" describes that Emperor sent three young aristocrats to an old house known as home of evils around 2 a.m. to test their courage. Only one of them was brave enough to accomplish his order, and he brought back a chip from the haunted house to show the emperor. The brave young aristocrat, Fujiwara Michinaga, later became prime minister and wielded his power over the nation.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

ASAKUSA HANAYASHIKI Haunted House - Curse of the Neck

Asakusa Hanayashiki opened as a flower garden 172 years ago and is known as Japan's oldest amusement park. It's long been a popular attraction filled with mysterious and spooky legends. This summer, the park offers a haunted house with a ghost story related to an old well located within the park.

ADDRESS: 2-28-1 Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo

HOURS: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ADMISSION: 800 yen (park admission for middle school students and older, 1,600 yen)

PHONE: 03-3842-8780



WEBSITE

BY VERONICA CARNEVALE,
JAPAN TRAVEL

Whether you are seeking scary stories for the Halloween season or simply looking for hair-raising tales, Japan's urban legends have you covered.

These modern stories have vague origins and are often told as truth, since they cannot be confirmed or disproved, heightening their believability and horror. Japan's breadth of culture has conjured tales of vengeful onryo (malevolent spirits), yurei (modern ghosts), and yokai (spirits in Japanese folklore) that continue to terrify generations. As with any oral story, there are multiple variations of these tales. Listed below are popular iterations of Japan's most chilling urban legends. Be sure to take notes should you be unlucky enough to encounter one of these unpleasant characters.

Turn off the lights and make sure no one is watching you from the dark. Let's begin.

As some of these tales can be gruesome and disturbing, reader discretion is advised!

Aka Manto (Red Cloak)

We begin our first story in the bathroom, a seemingly popular place for Japanese urban legends. Aka Manto is a male spirit who dons a red cloak and mask and is said to haunt school and public restrooms with a particular fondness for the last stall in the women's bathroom. Once you are seated in the stall, you will hear a male voice ask if you want red or blue paper. Choose your words carefully. If you say red paper, you will meet a bloody end,

JAPANESE URBAN LEGENDS

Are you brave enough to make it to the end?

and if you say blue paper, you will be suffocated to death until you are blue. If you try to confuse the spirit by asking for a different color paper, you will be dragged into hell. To avoid a brutal end at Aka Manto's hand, simply refuse his offer and run.

Kuchisake-onna (Slit-Mouthed Woman)

Anyone who is familiar with Japanese urban legends, knows of the infamous, yet popular, Kuchisake-onna. This vengeful ghost appears as a seemingly beautiful woman who roams the streets at night. She wears a face mask and carries a concealed pair of scissors.

If you are unlucky enough to meet Kuchisake-onna during a solitary stroll, she will ask you if you think she is beautiful. As with Aka Manto, consider your answer like your life depends on it (since it does). If you say no, she will immediately murder you with her scissors. If you say yes, she will remove her face covering to reveal a gaping mouth that has been slit from ear to ear in a haunting smile. Then, she will ask again: say 'no' and you die, but stick with 'yes' and she will slit your mouth like hers. The only way to escape Kuchisake-onna, is to tell her that she looks average.

If you are concerned about possible encounters with Kuchisake-onna

or any of the other ghouls, why not try testing your survival skills at Tokyo's top haunted house attractions. If you fail, at least it is only a game.

Teke Teke

Teke Teke is said to be the ghost of a woman or schoolgirl who fell on a railway line and was cut in half by an oncoming train. The vengeful spirit—outraged by her untimely death—now haunts urban areas and train stations at night. Since she no longer has legs, she drags herself on her hands and elbows, which produces a chilling "teke-teke" sound. Should you encounter Teke Teke, run! If the malicious spirit catches you, she will slice you in half with a scythe. Although she lacks legs, she is extremely fast, and has been known to keep up with cars. In some renditions of the story, she will ask you where her legs are, in which case you must reply "Meishin Expressway" in order to survive. In less hopeful iterations, your only chance of survival is to outrun her, which is completely impossible.

Toire no Hanako-san (Hanako-san of the Toilet)

For our next story, we return to the bathroom with a legend some compare to Bloody Mary. Hanako is the spirit of a young schoolgirl who met her end in an elementary school bathroom as a result of suicide due to bullying or WWII bombings and

is now said to haunt them. Many children test their wits by summoning the child spirit. In order to summon her, you must go to a third floor bathroom and knock on the third stall three times, after which you say, "Are you there, Hanako-san?" If you hear even the faintest reply, make a hasty exit. If you are too slow or choose to enter the stall, Hanako will drag you into the toilet, and you will never be seen again.

Okiku Doll

The legend of the Okiku Doll differs from our previous stories as the doll physically exists and resides in Mannen-ji Temple in Hokkaido. The tale dates back to 1918 when a boy purchased the doll for his younger sister, noting that they both had bob haircuts. The little girl was infatuated with the doll, and they were inseparable. Tragically, a short time later, the girl passed away from an illness. Her family displayed the doll, named Okiku, on an altar in remembrance of their daughter and noticed that the doll's hair was growing. They concluded that their daughter's restless spirit was inhabiting the doll and eventually provided it to Mannen-ji Temple where it remains today and is viewable to guests. Okiku's hair continues to grow to this day despite haircuts from the temple's priests. If you are in Hokkaido, why not stop by and observe the eerie phenomenon yourself?

Hokkaido's not the only place in

Japan with terrifying real-life legends. Hidden among Tokyo's advanced skyscrapers and quaint temples are some truly horrifying spots. Check out Tokyo's most haunted locations, and decide for yourself if the shadows of the night live up to their reputations.

The Red Room Curse

For those reading these tales on your computer, this story is for you. The Red Room Curse is an internet-focused story that starts with an ominous pop-up. The pop-up features a red screen with black text that reads, "Do you like the red room?," which is accompanied by a sinister pre-recorded voice asking the same question. No matter how many times you close the pop-up, it will continue to appear until the voice has finished its question. Afterward, your entire screen will turn red and become flooded with past victims' names. No one knows what happens next, but the receivers of the pop-up are always found dead with their blood painting the walls red, creating the titular red room. Once you receive the pop-up, it is impossible to escape your fate.

If you are interested in experiencing this horror without putting your life on the line, check out Escape the RED ROOM, which is a themed escape room offered by The Real Escape Room in Asakusa. Also, check out the location's other terrifying attraction, Survive the Urban Legend.

Are you scared?

Of course, you can tell yourself that these stories are fictional, but are they? Sweet dreams.

Taco truck in Sagamihara worth 2-hour trip from Tokyo

STORY AND PHOTO BY JONATHAN BAEZ,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: July 23, 2026

Tacos El Trompo, a taco truck in Sagamihara, was born from one man's dream and his love of a Hispanic subculture.

Ricky, with the help of his wife, Sasha, created Tacos El Trompo out of his love for the Mexican subculture of Los Angeles and the lack of traditional al pastor tacos available in Japan.

The truck is not parked in a random lot. It sits in front of their business, Nicety, a clothing and accessories store that sells Ricky's original brand, Ossan N the Hood. Ricky takes orders inside the store, then customers bring their ticket to Sasha in the truck

outside, where she prepares each order.

Sasha spent more than two years developing the recipes before they began selling out of the truck.

The menu is limited to tacos, quesadillas and birria tacos, all built around al pastor, thinly sliced marinated pork cooked on a vertical rotisserie and topped with fresh pineapple.

Expect to wait at least 45 minutes.

Reviews by The Taco Fiend on Instagram (@the.taco.

fiend1) have driven a surge of visitors to the truck, and the appetite for authentic tacos has done the rest.

The local military community from Camp Zama and nearby bases had taken notice, and while waiting



Al pastor tacos and birria tacos from Tacos El Trompo in Sagamihara, May 24.

in line I met people from Los Angeles that made a two-hour train ride from Tokyo just to eat here on their vacation.

Getting to Tacos El Trompo from Yokosuka can be a trek, about two hours by train and bus. Not wanting to make the journey twice, I ordered all three items on the menu.

The tacos and salsa were on par with the Tijuana-style al pastor you can find in Southern California, acidic and layered with the char of a well-seasoned trompo. That's a genuine surprise given how hard certain fresh ingredients, like tomatillos and dried chiles, can be

to track down in a typical Japanese grocery store.

The quesadillas were stuffed generously with al pastor and plenty of cheese that pulled apart in long, satisfying strings.

But the birria tacos stole the show. The meat was deeply braised, tender enough to fall apart but with enough body to hold its own inside a crisped, grease-fried tortilla. The consommé, the rich broth left over from cooking the birria, arrived dark and fragrant, waiting to be sipped on its own before you even thought about dipping. It was some of the best I have tried anywhere.

Tacos El Trompo

DIRECTIONS: A 15-minute walk from Harataima Station to the Tacos El Trompo truck. From the stations only exit, walk northeast toward the traffic light, make a left and walk to the next light, make a right and the truck will be on your left after a short walk. Google plus code: G9PH+CV Sagamihara, Kanagawa, Japan

HOURS: Open Sundays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

COST: The tacos are 450 yen, or \$2.77, each; quesadillas are 1,400 yen; and the birria tacos are 1,200 yen.

DRESS: Casual

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Answer

Adrian Peterson

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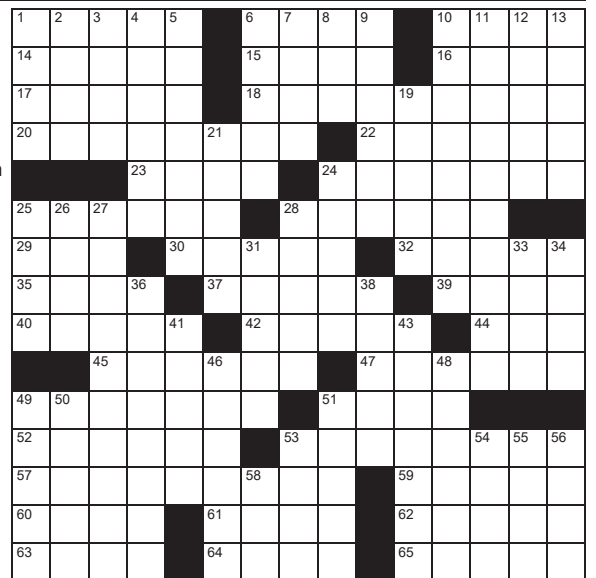
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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Sultan's ladies
- 6 Sitting on
- 10 Budget rival
- 14 Amazon assistant
- 15 Elisabeth of "On the Verge"
- 16 Word with ditch or minute (hyph.)
- 17 Bounded
- 18 Cadbury bar
- 20 Jerry Lewis tradition for 44 years
- 22 Creator of Boo and Atticus
- 23 ___-chat
- 24 Having teeth
- 25 Lessener
- 28 First-place finisher
- 29 Spy's device
- 30 W-2 information
- 32 Most Saudis
- 35 Tennis legend Bjorn
- 37 Gardener's spread
- 39 Missile housing
- 40 Watchful ones
- 42 City on the Ruhr
- 44 Work on a tan
- 45 Billie with ten Grammys
- 47 Breaks one's back
- 49 Campus dining area
- 51 Pitchfork part
- 52 Sports venues
- 53 Wryly funny
- 57 Person of no importance
- 59 Fit to be tied
- 60 Pantry invaders
- 61 Just makes, with "out"
- 62 Continental coins
- 63 Insurance claim
- 64 Nuisance
- 65 Flower features



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DOWN

- 1 March leader's command
- 2 Sheltered, in a way
- 3 Authentic
- 4 Anticipate
- 5 Lillard or Modine
- 6 Knotted neck-wear
- 7 Larger-life link
- 8 "Days of ___ Lives"
- 9 Showy bird's mate
- 10 Sirens, say
- 11 Seaport of Chile
- 12 Archipelago part
- 13 Squirrel away
- 19 Food from heaven
- 21 Dr. ___ Baker of "Little House..."
- 24 Spinal parts
- 25 Priest in Paris
- 26 Harbor bobber
- 27 Covenants
- 28 Born in Cardiff, e.g.

- 31 "You'll never ___!"
- 33 Picture problem
- 34 Male heirs
- 36 Severity
- 38 Prefix with centric
- 41 Dane's "Grey's Anatomy" role
- 43 Female goats
- 46 Part of the foot
- 48 Lebanese capital
- 49 Panama, e.g.
- 50 Home of the Black Bears
- 51 Secret rendezvous
- 53 Suffix with social
- 54 Give a hoot
- 55 Proton's place
- 56 More or ___
- 58 Presidential nickname

Answers to Previous Crossword:

S	H	A	R	P	B	I	D	S	S	M	U	G
L	E	V	E	R	L	O	U	T	P	I	T	A
A	R	I	S	E	A	N	N	O	T	A	T	E
M	O	D	I	C	U	M	G	A	R	N	I	S
G	E	N	E	R	A	T	I	N	G			
B	L	U	N	D	E	R	E	R	B	E	A	S
R	I	N	S	E	S	D	E	S	E	R	T	E
I	D	I	C	A	D	E	T	I	V	E		
N	O	T	A	L	O	N	E	O	L	I	V	E
E	N	A	T	E	D	E	C	L	I	N	E	R
R	E	D	H	E	R	R	I	N	G			
A	V	I	A	T	O	R	A	D	D	E	D	U
Z	E	A	L	O	U	S	L	Y	S	N	A	R
O	R	N	O	R	O	B	O	A	U	D	I	O
V	A	S	T	I	N	O	N	Y	E	A	S	T

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Japanese arcade industry hauls in 450 billion yen a year. Today, there are nearly 6,000 licensed arcades in Japan while there are 10,297 small game spaces located in shopping malls, hotels, theaters and bowling alleys. Arcades can only be open from 10 a.m. to midnight and laws prohibit those under 18 from entering an arcade after 10 p.m. On Okinawa, those under 18 can't go to an arcade after 8 p.m. Be aware!

Kanji of the week

空
sora/kuu [sky]

Language Lesson

It's hot.

Atsui desune.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

5	1	2	4	3	7	6	8	9
7	4	9	8	1	6	3	2	5
6	8	3	2	9	5	4	1	7
4	3	7	9	5	8	1	6	2
1	6	8	7	4	2	9	5	3
9	2	5	3	6	1	7	4	8
8	7	6	1	2	9	5	3	4
3	9	1	5	8	4	2	7	6
2	5	4	6	7	3	8	9	1

1	7			6				
								9
			2			5	8	
3				2		8	7	
6				4				2
		8	6				5	
					1	2		
	5	7						8
8	1		4					

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sushi

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Marugen Ramen
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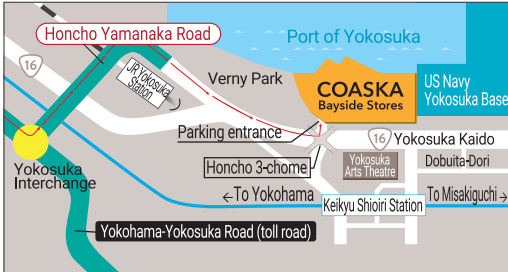
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