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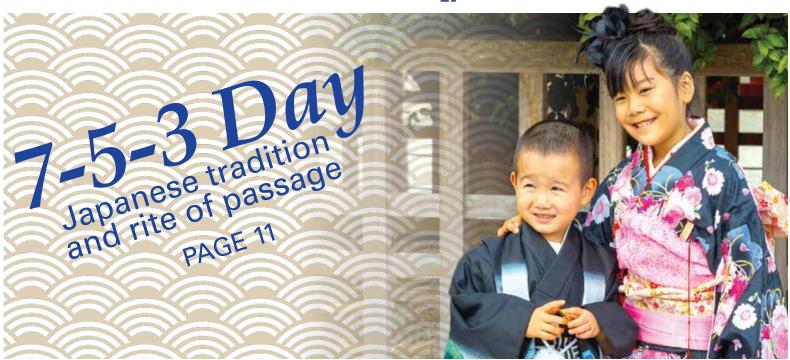
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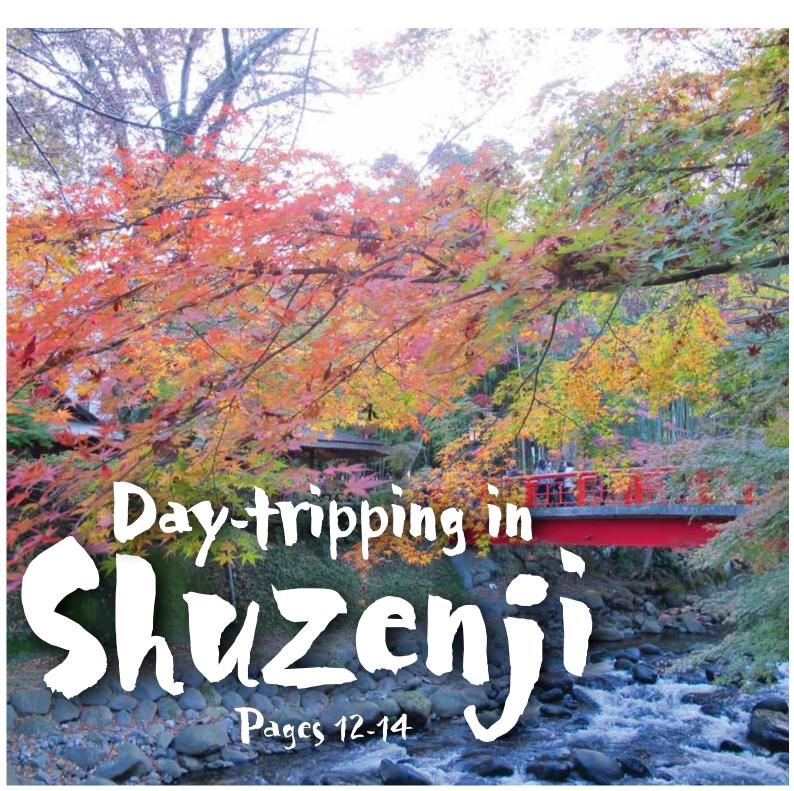


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# **DODEA** students best peers in reading, math test

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN, STARS AND STRIPES Published: October 31, 2019

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. military base students in fourth and eighth grades earned the highest percentage of reading proficiency in the nation and outpaced civilian schools in math, the latest national test results show.

Department of Defense Education Activity fourth-graders topped the nation in math proficiency, while DODEA eighth-graders ranked second in the subject, alongside New Jersey and behind Massachusetts.

DODEA eighth-grade reading scores held steady since the last time they took the National Assessment of Educational Progress test in 2017, while fourth-graders slightly improved theirs, the results show.

Meanwhile, DODEA's black and Hispanic students outperformed students from the same minority groups in civilian schools in all 50 states, DODEA director Thomas M. Brady said in a statement.

The base students' results stand out in the U.S. amid an overall decline in reading proficiency.

"Two out of three of our nation's children aren't proficient readers," Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said in a statement last month, lamenting that fourth-grade

reading scores in the NAEP test declined in 17 states and eighth-grade reading scores were down in 31 states.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress – also known as The Nation's Report



Card – tests fourth- and eighth-grade students every two years in reading and math.

About 300,000 students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Defense Department schools took the test this year.

The results were released Wednesday by the National Center for Education Statistics.

"I am extremely proud of our students' performance,"

said Brady, crediting teachers and administrators, along with rigorous academic standards, for the DODEA students' 2019 NAEP scores.

Overall, 49% of DODEA fourth-grade

students performed at or above NAEP reading proficiency standards, up 1% from 2017. Massachusetts, which ranked highest in 2017, dropped to 45% proficiency.

In math, 54% of fourth graders in DODEA school were proficient, compared to 41% nationally.

DODEA's proficiency level for eighthgrade reading was 52%, compared to 34% nationally. In the math assessment, 41% of eighth graders were at least proficient in math, compared to 34% nationally.

Information on each state's scores can be found at http://www.nationsreportcard.gov.

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# **Mental Notes with Hilary Valdez**

# Inhumanity never takes a holiday

BY HILARY VALDEZ, STRIPES JAPAN

nhumanity never takes a holiday, but how do we endure man's inhumanity? How do we face and deal with the anxieties of life? Some of us grew up believing the world is divided into right and wrong, good and bad. As children we lived in a world of should messages. Some of these childhood messages stay with us into adulthood. People have an idea about how they should be in the world and how the world should be. I attended Catholic boys

HILARY VALDEZ

high school taught by Jesuit priests...my world was right and wrong, black and white. Almost everything was a sin. I was afraid to leave the house. In reality, we're all "C" students in life. No one is wearing the Wizard Hat of Wisdom.

Living in a constant state of daily anxiety in a fragmented world, we are in a perpetual process of changing and re-balancing ourselves: readjusting our should messages. Who we are and what we should be is constantly being challenged. A global digital environment, can block a person's true human

potential. But, affirming ourselves and fulfilling our potential and our nature, can bring fulfillment and happiness in a busy world filled with distractions.

Freedom and responsibility are challenges all of us face in a society that is constantly testing our beliefs, values, and religious convictions. Yet society's digital venues can distort our values via behavior control and that can erode our individuality. Cell phones, electronic games, artificial intelligence, and computer technology, are gradually shaping our values and behavior.

Being aware of yourself and the consequences of your life choices means being in charge of your destiny. Knowing or discovering yourself is ongoing. Awareness of self and the world implies social responsibility and how you respond to the world around you. As we know, sometimes leadership is difficult to measure and has many components. It's a process of self-improvement. There is only one unique you on the planet. So, what do you improve? Start with improving your self-confidence, self-pride, initiative, your sense of self-responsibility, fairness, impartiality, and sound judgment. Maintain integrity by being truthful and honest. Maintain your personal discipline and be dependable.

As a former Non-Commissioned Officer in the Marine Corps, I learned to maintain courage despite criticism and stand for what is right. Corps values were: treat others with respect, maintain good relations, be courteous, avoid offending other people, and avoid vulgar language. Then, add being unselfish and not gaining advancement at the expense of others. Exercise care and thought when dealing with others. Develop an interest in people. Be approachable especially when receiving feedback from others. Be positive. All humans have feelings - become humane when dealing with people. Grrr! Leadership is taught by example. Set the example.

**Life Hint:** Thought draws the line of fate.

Hilary Valdez is a retiree living in Japan. He is an experienced Mental Health professional and Resiliency Trainer. Valdez is a former Marine and has worked with the military most of his career and most recently worked at Camp Zama as a Master Resiliency Trainer. Valdez now has a private practice and publishes books on social and psychological issues. His books are available on Amazon and for Kindle. Learn more about Valdez and contact him at www.hilaryvaldez.com or at InstantInsights@hotmail.com





PRESS ON!

by Randy Denman



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# 3 DODEA soccer teams earn academic honors





STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER, STARS AND STRIPES Published: October 24, 2019

ot only do Matthew C. Perry's boys and girls soccer teams and Nile C. Kinnick's girls team succeed on the field, they've proven they can crack the books as well, at least based on awards they received in October.

The Samurai boys and girls and the Red Devils girls were each accorded the United Soccer Coaches of America Team Academic Award for school year 2018-19. The award is given each year to celebrate academic achievement by soccer

teams which demonstrate a commitment to excellence in the classroom.

To qualify for the award, all players on their respective



teams must carry a minimum 3.25 grade-point average for the entire school year. Perry's girls carried a 3.71, Kinnick's girls 3.70 and Perry's boys 3.57, according to DODEA Pacific.

Out of 288 teams, 113 boys and 175 girls, which earned the award in the United States, just three were from DODEA, and Perry was one of just 30 schools that had both its boys and girls teams win the award.

It's the fifth straight year the Kinnick girls have won the honor and fourth straight for Perry's boys.

"I am constantly amazed at the commitment the players have," said Kinnick coach Nico Hindie of the attention given to class work even as his players prepare for matches. "Many of them will read and do homework on a bus to and from a match, before and after. We often come home very late from these (matches) and yet they still manage to get it (class work) done."

Such honors are significant given the number of high school teams across the United States, said DODEA Pacific's athletics coordinator Tom McKinnov

"DODEA Pacific's student-athletes continue to be a source of pride for all of DODEA," McKinney said. "The outstanding achievements of our student-athletes in the classroom and in competition reflect the effort and enthusiasm with which they go about their business."

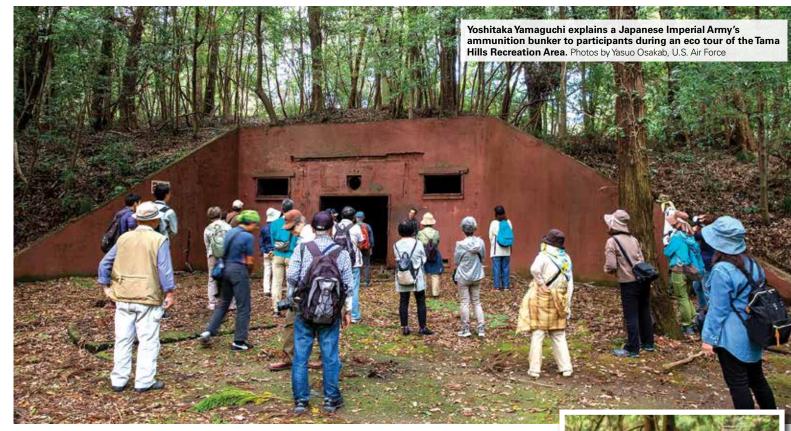
Kinnick's girls went 21-1-2 and won their second Far East Division I tournament title in three years. Perry's girls went 19-2-8 and took second in the Western Japan Athletic Association tournament. Perry's boys went 13-10-2 and won the DODEA Japan tournament title.

# Tama hills hosts local community for eco tour

BY NAOKO KUROKUI, 374TH AIRLIFT WING

YOKOTA AIR BASE - The 374th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Office hosted a nature and history exploration walking tour, known as an eco-tour, for 25 citizens of Inagi City at the Tama Service Annex on Oct. 23. As a protected and secured area for the U.S. military's natural and historical cultural resources, this facility has been left almost untouched for more than 80 years, providing tour attendees a rare glimpse into the past.

With the facility's opening in 1937 as the former Japanese Imperial Army arms and ammunitions, Itabashi facility, the Tama-branch factory came to be known as the "Tama Arsenal" after the land was ceded to the U.S. Army in 1946. Although no longer in use, the bunkers used to store munitions, wooden buildings, tunnels, a boiler plant, retaining walls made from stone combined with



concrete, and ruins of air-raid shelters from the former arsenal facility era remain, standing the test of The tour itself began with a

walk through the forest to the Tama Arsenal area. As attendees progressed further into the forest, the scenery changed completely. From the initial road to a path covered with fall-



welcomed them with the sound of birdsongs, the murmur of a stream, and the sound of leaves swaying in the wind. It was amidst that welcoming tune of the forest that the group began to hear the stories of the many rare plants and creatures inhabiting the forest from the eco-tour leader as well as the story of

the biological investigation conducted by the military at this very location.

With the tour moving closer to their destination, the historic buildings scattered hidden in the overgrown bush began to take centerstage, providing a chance to rediscover a world forgotten.

For one citizen who participated the sites visited were a

surprise, "I live nearby, but never thought that there were so many precious plants and rich history in this place. The tour in itself was an adventure into the past, with the explanations accompanying every step very interesting and informative. I think the eco-tour leader did an amazing job bringing the entire experience to life and I hope to get to go on future tours."



Rental & Real Estate Agent

Yoshitaka Yamaguchi gives a wildlife presentation.



**ARK-PLAN** 

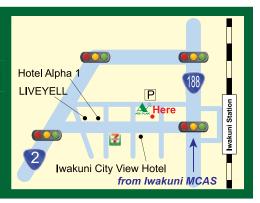
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English





# Enjoy Yamashiro products!

Yamashiro, located in the northern part of Iwakuni City, is made up of Hongo machi, Nishiki machi, Mikawa machi and Miwa machi.

The Nishiki river is widely known as a clear, clean stream and the fresh air brought about by the luxuriant forest and fertile land make Yamashiro an area rich in natural resources. Come and check out our products!



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Ganne-guri no sato Inc. Tel: 0827-97-0727



# **@**Ganne-guri marron pie

Sweetened boiled chestnuts wrapped in a flaky pie crust.

Ganne-guri no sato Inc. Tel: 0827-97-0727



# **3**Ganne-guri shochu

Enjoy the sweet smell and fluent taste of chestnuts in this 50-proof spirit.

Miwa kurishochu hanbai kyouryokukai Tel: 0827-96-0132



# **4** Ganne marron pie

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Konditorai HAKU Tel: 090-7376-6624



# **9**Kuro-main / Kuro-main sparkling

The only local sake made with black rice and cherry tree yeast.
Kuro-main - Sake (12 % alcohol),
Kuro-main Sparkling - Sparkling Sake (7% alcohol)

Horie sakaba Tel: 0827-72-2527



# **6**Beppin-manju

A steamed bun stuffed with lees of Kuro-main sake.

The fragrance of sake lees and special bean paste make the buns taste excellent.

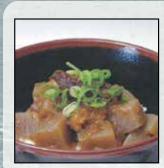
Mikamoto kingetsudo Tel: 0827-72-2520



## • Beppin-Ice cream

This thick, light purple ice cream contains Kuro-main sake lees and Jersey milk. Delicious!

Yamashiro Shokokai Women's department Tel: 0827-76-0100



# 

Nishikimachi's raw potato konjac is soaked beef broth. Delicious pre-packaged food great to eat as is or on rice.

Yamashiro Industry Promotion Center Tel: 0827-76-0100

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## **O**Hongo mura Kayahara's Tofu

Tasty Tofu made with pure spring water from Hongo-Hondani.

Made with hand-picked local soybeans and Amami's natural bitterns.
Savor our spring water Momen tofu and

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# **Ol**shizaka's Konjac

A Nishiki machi special Konjac made following traditional methods. If you try eating it once, you will become addicted to its flavor and texture.

Ishizaka store Tel: 0827-72-2728



Sweet and tasty chestnuts that are 1.5 times larger than ordinary chestnuts.



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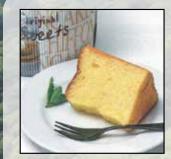




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# **®**Oku lwakuni Hongo's Kori-mochi

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A Yamashiro Village specialty product. Tel: 0827-75-2100



# **@**Oku lwakuni Hongo's Yacon Jam

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Houeido Miwa branch Tel: 0833-43-5988



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Kikkawa Rinsan Kogyo Co., Ltd Tel: 0827-41-0002



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# **O**Cutting board

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Mikawa Wood Work Inc. Tel: 0827-77-0903



# **Original Tenugui**

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Nishiki-gawa tourist association Tel: 0827-72-2354



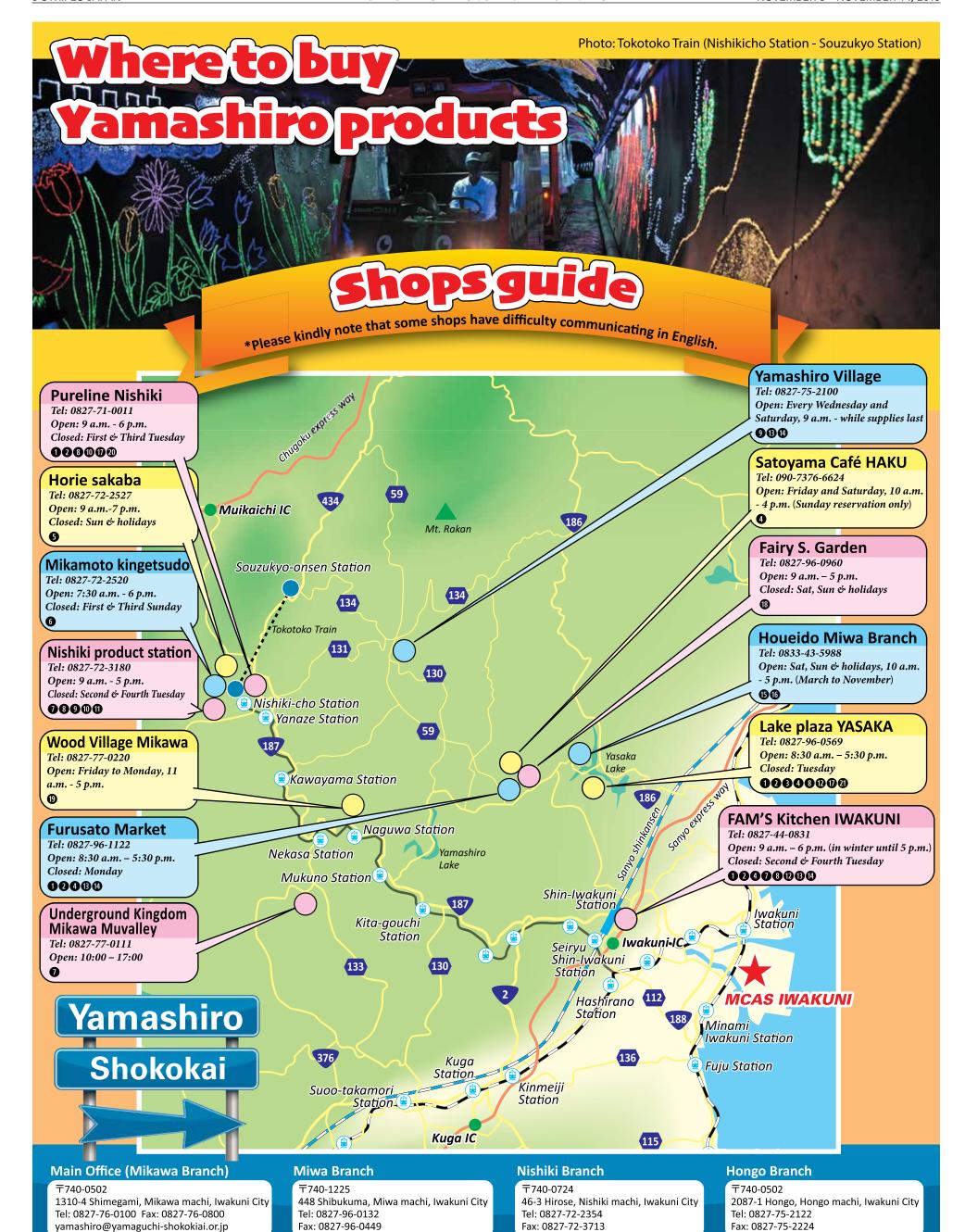


# **@**Kachi-guri Strap

A tribute to the Japanese ancient lucky charm "Kachi-guri." Great accessary and wonderful gift idea.

Miwa machi Tourist Association Tel: 0827-96-0132

Turn to next page to check out location of shops that sell these products.



terms such as "the best new thing in fast

food" and a "game changer in the fast-food world."

Two weeks after the launch, Popeyes nounced it was suspending sales because it had run out of supplies.

The suspension came before Popeyes could distribute the sandwiches to its stores on overseas bases, leaving military members and their families wondering what the fuss was all about.

of sales, Popeyes sold about 1,000 chicken sandwiches per store each day, doubling its store traffic, according to an industry analyst at KeyBanc Capital Markets.

During the two weeks

"We, along with our suppliers, are working tirelessly to bring the new sandwich back to guests as soon as possible," Popeyes said in September.

Sales have proved a bonanza for Popeyes and its owner, Restaurant Brands International, which spent the last weeks working to secure ingredients and negotiate prices with suppliers. The company hopes the sandwich will also pave the way for an international expansion, The Wall Street Journal reported

Restaurant Brands said third quarter results for Popeyes were among its best in nearly 20 years.

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**EXCLUSIVE NEWS FROM:** STARS STRIPES. Popeyes Internet-famous salidates in the storing fit s

Service announced that the crispy

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# Zama teacher nabs presidential award

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY WINIFRED BROWN, US ARMY GARRISON

CAMP ZAMA – Michael Pope, who has taught math and science at Zama Middle High

School for 14 years, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., Oct. 17.

"Science has always been my passion, ever since I was a young kid, since undergraduate, since graduate, since post-

graduate, since the research that I've done," Pope said about his life and work leading up to the award. "It's always been a passion."

Michael Pope

Pope was among 215 science,

technology, engineering and mathematics—or STEM—and computer science teachers to receive the award this year, and it is the highest recognition that teachers who teach those

> subjects in kindergarten through 12th grade can receive in the United States, according to the PAEMST website.

> Wayne Carter, principal of Zama Middle High School, said he is extremely proud of Pope's accomplishment.

"He truly deserves the award," Carter said. "He is

an accomplished science teacher and a math teacher and it is a recognition of his professional qualities and capabilities. It's also a reflection of the quality of instructors at DODEA and here at Zama Middle High School."

Pope, a teacher for 21 years, said he discovered his love for teaching when he took a job in college as an assistant math teacher at Southwest DeKalb High School in Georgia. A premed chemistry major at the time, Pope said the job changed his life.

"I thought, 'Wow. This is where I need to be,' and from there I switched into education and finished out my last year and a half and went straight into science teaching," Pope said.

Although he is teaching math this year, as a science teacher he particularly enjoys challenging students to make a to Svalbard, a Norwegian ardifference, Pope said. to Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.

"As we all know, kids are the future—it's not a cliché," Pope said. "... If we start young enough, then they have that inspiration at a young age to just transfer and carry throughout the rest of their school years, and hopefully they'll become a scientist or a doctor or an engineer because of the inspiration we gave them at a younger age."

Pope said he particularly enjoys learning about the geosciences.

Pope, a native of Queens, New York, holds a bachelor of science in engineering in middle school education from Georgia State University and a master's of education from Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. He is also certified in middle school social studies, science, mathematics, gifted education and Japanese studies.

In addition, Pope continuously expands his knowledge outside of the classroom.

This past summer, for example, Pope said he traveled

to Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, through the Grosvenor Teacher Fellow Program, facilitated through National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions, to study climate change, and to South Africa through the National Education Association Global Education Association to study ways to incorporate global education into classrooms and school teaching.

According to the PAEMST website, awardees receive a certificate signed by the President of the United States, a trip to Washington D.C. for recognition and professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

The award recognizes teachers who demonstrate a deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas. The program has recognized more than 5,000 teachers since it began in 1983.

# "As we all know, kids are the future—it's not a cliché."

- Michael Pope



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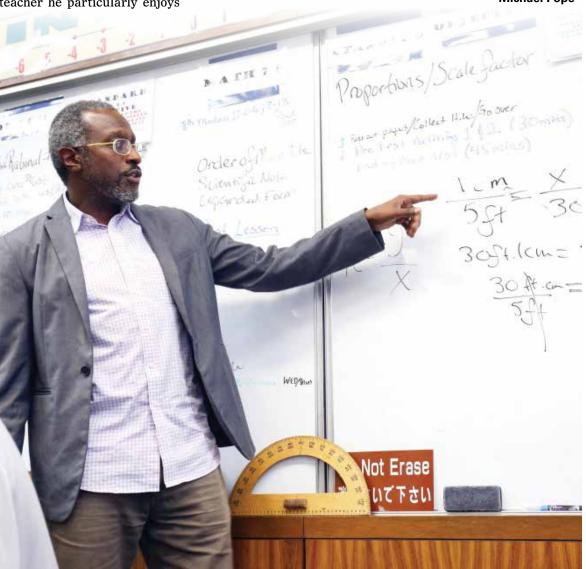
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(Last Order 7:30 p.m.)

TAKE OUT OKAY!







# It all adds up on Japan's 7-5-3 Day

BY TAKAHIROTAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

f you visit a Japanese shrine or temple in November, you will likely see a lot of young children dressed in beautiful traditional attire and holding colorful envelopes filled with candy. And you'll see their proud parents and other family members snapping photos and shooting video.

This is "shichigosan" (sevenfive-three), a traditional celebration and rite of passage in the Land of Rising Sun.

Tradition suggests that girls ages three and seven and fiveyear-old boys, should visit a local

Photo by Takahiro Takiguchi

shrine or temple to drive out used to tie their kimono with the evil spirits and wish for a long healthy life every year on Nov. 15. However, since shichigosan is not designated as a national holiday, any day in November is acceptable. I actually took my daughter for her celebration (many years ago) to a local shrine on Nov. 11.

originated during the Edo Period (1603-1867). For centuries in Japan, November has been the month to thank the gods for the year's harvest. On Nov. 15, ancestors gave thanks for a bountiful harvest, as well as the growth and health of their children, by offering harvested products at their family altars or to shrine or temple altars.

ditional rites of passage for children ages three, five and seven. Girls who reached the age of three were allowed to grow out their hair, 5-year-old boys of were allowed to wear hakama (traditional

Shichigosan is said to have

In the Edo era, there were tra-

After walking out of the shrine, we took a family male pants), and photo and had a din-7-year-old girls rener with my relatives. Christians placed the sim-Some ple cords they in Japan also celebrate shichigosan at their church, which is what we did the following week at our Catholic church.

traditional wider and elaborate obi (sash). When my daughter turned

three, my wife and I dressed her in traditional attire and took her to a local shrine. We and other participating families were asked to join a procession led by a Shinto priest and shrine maidens, who carried offerings to the gods. We followed the procession and walked along a path to the shrine as traditional music played.

Once in the shrine, a priest purified all the children in the Shinto way. He then called each child's name presented them with a chitoseame (thousandyear candy), long, thin, red and white candy in a long envelop decorated with a crane and a turtle. The candy symbolizes healthy growth and longevity. It was a joy watching my daughter answer the priest's call and receive her candy.

Traditionally, girls are supposed to celebrate shichigosan when they are three and seven. In fact, we took my daughter to the same shrine when she turned seven. I remember how impressed and proud we were to see my daughter wearing a elaborate kimono, while she had worn only a simple type of reddish padded vest called "hifu" during her ceremony when she was three.

Kimono rental shops are available anywhere in Japan, and most have set ups with studios, so you can have your photo taken at the studio before or after visiting a shrine. The price for kimono rental, hair and kimono preparation and photos may cost between 40,000 -60,000 yen (\$350-500).

Though the expense may seem high to some, celebrating Shichigosan in Japan is a rite of passage that is cherished by families.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

you are on a U.S. military installation in the Kanto Plain and are looking for a one-day trip to experience a traditional Japanese hot spring resort, a strong option would be Shuzenji. Situated in the hilly center of the Izu peninsula, the town offers hot spring resorts, open-air baths on a river bank, elegant Japanese bridges, classical graytiled inns and pristine, yet charming temples and shrines, which attract countless tourists domestically and

internationally. Shuzenji Onsen is considered the oldest of its kind in the Izu Peninsula and is listed as one of the nation's greatest 100 hot springs. Its transparent alkaline hot spring is good for neuralgia, fatigue and stiff shoulders, according to the Izu City

Tourist Association.

I always take my family to check out the gorgeous autumn colors in late November.

The colors are great, but besides autumn, the town offers various attractions throughout the year. Beginning with plum and cherry blossoms in spring, Shuzenji also features a green forest and the fantastic lights of fireflies in summer and snow in winter. Since the beautiful town has attracted many writers and artists throughout history, you will find many monuments dedicated to historical writers throughout the town.

The town is not large, so a halfday stroll along the Shuzenji River is plenty for you to see most of the attractions. Five bridges along the river, Katsura, Kaede, Kokei, Togetsu and Miyuki-bashi, are all built in the traditional Japanese

style. With traditional inns, thatch-roofed tea houses, bamboo forest and maple branches in full reddish bloom Shuzenji

**POPULATION:** 14,641 (as of 2016)

ATTRACTIONS: Shuzenji Temple, Hie Jinja, Shigetsudo Temple, Nij Tokko-no-yu

ADDRESS: Shuzenji, Izu City, Shizuoka Prefecture (2-3 hour drive from installations in Kanto Plain)

TEL: 0558-72-2501 (Izu City Tourist Association, Shuzenji Branch) URL: www.shuzenji-kankou.com/

spreading into the river, Shuzenji is sure to give you an idea of the typical Japanese hot spring resort in autumn.

For 350 yen (\$3), you can take a soak into a hot spring at a public bath, called Hakoyu. Be sure to bring a towel and soap with you, as they are not provided. There are also a couple of free 24/7 foot spas, called Tokko-no-yu and Kawarayu, located in the center of town.

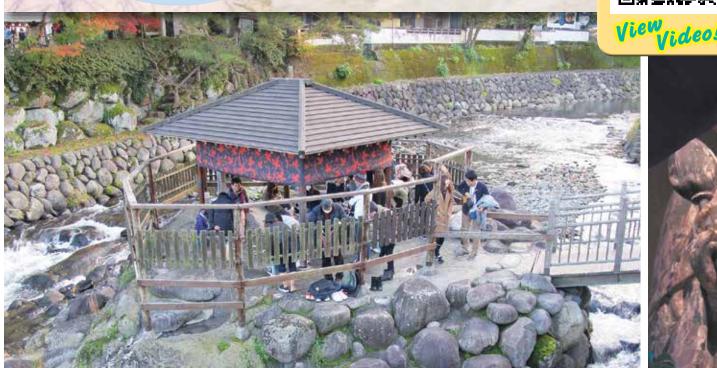
> When you go into a foot spa, be sure to pick up a "wasabi soft serve" at a café nearby. You might scoff at the idea of wasabi (horseradish) and ice cream together, but sweetness of the ice cream and taste of wasabi really

compliment eac

In fact, horse local specialties you are in the t home as a souve and friends.

All the hot w from a hot sprii the river. Even in public garder washing shacks warm. Accordin end, a Buddhist shi found the sp of the river be years ago. He, Shuzenji Templ developed with

So, Shuz Temple is a mus see attraction.



Sagami Bay

Oshima





# natural beauty, rich history

i-no-Sato, Hakoyu and n most of U.S. military

h other well. radish is one of the Sample one while own, or take some nir for your family

ater in town comes e, and the town has the temple.

ng in the middle of the fountain water s, parks and handof temples are all ig to the town legmaster, Kobo Daioring in the middle d more than 1,200 then, established

Although it is a small and pristine temple, the traditional building, with its majestic bell tower, makes a great contrast against the backdrop of a green bamboo forest and yellow and red colors of maple leaves, offering picturesque views. Hie Jinja, located near Shuzenji

Temple, is a quiet Shinto shrine. When you enter the shrine and walk up the 20 stairs to the main hall, you will find a pair of gigantic cedar trees standing next to each other on your left. These 800-yearold cedar trees are called Kodakara-no-Sugi (the cedar for children), and it is believed that you are blessed with many children when you pass through the pair.

Located a little off from the center of town, Shigetsudo Temple and tomb of Minamoto Yoriie are another attraction. Yoriie, the son of feudal lord, was confined in this town by his father after he was suspected of plotting an overthrow. Yorije was later assassinated.

The temple located next to the



# Hakoyu (hot spring bath)

HOURS: noon - 9 p.m. ADMISSION: (ages 12 or older) 350 yen ADDRESS: 924-1 Shuzenji, Izu City, Shizuoka Prefecture TEL: 0558-72-5282

to the temple legend, the mother of Yoriie built the temple to appease her son's angry spirit. With a tiny, yet elegant temple garden, you can't help but enjoy the somewhat quiet, soothing and mysterious feel of the temple.



# A tasty and peaceful sobanoodle lunch

There are handful prominent soba noodle shops in Shuzenji, such as Bokunenjin, Yamabiko and Zenpuutei Nanaban. They are, however, always crowded with tourists on weekends and throughout the autumn leaves season.

Located a little outside the center of town and near Shigetsudo Temple, you'll find a soba joint called Shigetsuso. It offers a tasty soba noodle lunch for a good price and less waiting in

The place is housed in a former traditional Japanese inn. According to a staffer, the inn was closed in 2016, and some of the employees began running the noodle shop using the inn's lobby. Old wooden tables, counters for receptionists, a grandfather clock and various scriptures made us feel as if we were staying at the inn.

We ordered the soba noodle lunch with locally produced wasabi, dumplings and orange for 500 yen. After receiving a discount because the dumplings and oranges had run out for the day, we got our soba in about 10 minutes. The noodles were placed in two places on the plate, so that we were able to sample it with broth and wasabi separately. The noodles were smooth and tasty, although not very chewy. The fresh local wasabi really stood out and helped the flavor of the noodles with its stimulating aroma. The broth made from kelp stock also went very well with the cold white noodles.

# Shigetsuso

HOURS: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. ADDRESS: 928-1 Shuzenji, Izu City, Shizuoka Prefecture TEL: 0558-72-2263



# Shuzenji: Stay the night after a long day exploring

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13** 



# Niji-no-Sato, park for colors of the four seasons

hen you visit Shuzenji, don't miss a leisure park called Niji-no-Sato (home of rainbow), as its 123-acre park (same size of Tokyo Disneyland) accommodates various natural and traditional attractions.

English and Canadian villages in the park are modeled on the 17th century villages and flower gardens of the two countries. In the English Garden, there are museums of toys and railways. The two villages are connected with a small English-made steam locomotive.

In the Japanese garden, you can enjoy the in-season flowers, such as daffodil, plum, cherry, rhododendron, iris and hydrangea. In its maple forest, you'll find breathtaking autumn colors from 1,000 trees between late November and beginning of December. During the season, the forest is beautifully lit up and draws many tourists.

At Takumi Village (craftsman's village) in the Japanese Garden, you can experience and observe the traditional manufacturing processes of paper making, embroidery and ceramics making. There are souvenir shops and food joints, as well.



## Niji-no-sato

**HOURS:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Apr – Sep), 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Oct – Mar), extended to 8 p.m. during the period of autumn leaves lit up (end of Nov.)

ADMISSION: (ages 12 or older) 1,200 yen, (ages 4-12) 600 yen ADDRESS: 4279-3 Syuzenji Izu City

TEL: 0558-72-7111

URL: https://www.nijinosato.com/

https://www.nijinosato.com/wp/wp-content/themes/nijinosato/ \_lib/pdf/english.pdf



There is plenty of free parking for guests who drive.

# Experience traditional Japan with an overnight stay

Lovely accommodations in heart of Izu Peninsula

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SANDRA ISAKA, JAPAN TRAVEL

ocated in the heart of the Izu Peninsula is the onsen town of Shuzenji. A river flows through its center and many lovely Japanese inns line its banks. With its friendly staff and cozy traditional atmosphere, the Marukyu Ryokan is a perfect choice for anyone staying overnight in the area.

As you enter the front door, you are greeted by a lovely okami-san (female inn owner) and her staff. You may even see your name, handwritten in gorgeous Japanese script, on tall, thin paper 'signs' beside the entrance. The lobby, decorated in a modern Japanese style, is very inviting - especially the beautiful sitting area containing a table made from an old wooden wheel. Nearby, there is a small souvenir shop and a lounge where guests can enjoy coffee, tea, ice cream or gelato, and alcohol.

The first floor also contains segregated communal onsen baths with a comfortable tatami resting area. There are both in-

door and outdoor pools filled with hot spring water that leaves your skin feeling clean and silky.

The lobby and hallways encircle a private garden complete with a pond full of colorful fish. Almost all of the 29 guest rooms are in traditional tatami mat style, but there are a few that have been partially 'Westernized' with twin beds. Most are quite large, but for those on a tighter budget, some smaller rooms are available. Prices



One of the lovely guestrooms

# Mizunosato Marukyu Ryokan

ADDRESS: Shizuoka-ken, Izu-shi, Shuzenji 1146 TEL: 0558-72-0260

URL: www.marukyu-ryokan.com

start at about ¥13,000 per person, with two delicious meals included.

In addition to the first floor onsen baths, there are also some private rotemburo (open-air

→ JapanTravel

baths) on the top floor that people can use with their friends or family, free of charge. I

find some onsen to be too hot, but these were perfect, especially when bathing outside in the crisp air.

Dinner and breakfast are served in a tatami dining area, but on regular chairs and tables. The selection of local, seasonal foods is impressive, and there are so many dishes to enjoy.

One of the most wonderful things about Marukyu Ryokan is

its staff. They are very friendly and helpful. Some speak English very well, while the others do their best to communicate. The inn, and the entire town of Shuzenji, is working hard to attract and accommodate non-Japanese guests. It is a wonderful area, and a perfect get-away for anyone who needs a break from busy city life.

Visit at any time of year, although the fall colors in early December are some of the most beautiful in the Kanto area. The center of town is small and easy to explore. Be sure to visit famous Shuzenji Temple and the nearby bamboo forest. Not too far away is a Napa Valley style winery, a beer brewery, and a lovely park called Niji-no-sato.

# -Schedule-

# **Medical Check-Up / Screening:**

January / February 2020
<u>Hospitalization:</u>

Early Feb 2020



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- Possible compensation



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- ✓ Females that can't bear children i.e. that are post menopausal, surgically sterile or due to a congenital disorder.
- ✓ Body mass index (BMI) less than 30.4
- ✓ Healthy with no history of severe allergies or serious medical conditions.

Interested in finding out more information, please contact:

Contact page: <a href="https://www.crht.jp/en/contact/">https://www.crht.jp/en/contact/</a>

Webpage: <a href="https://www.crht.jp/en/">https://www.crht.jp/en/</a>

Application: <a href="https://asbo.co.jp/asbo">https://asbo.co.jp/asbo</a> eng/

There is also the possibility of other trials in the future for healthy males and females, if you are interested in participating, please do not hesitate to make contact using the above links.

# Capsule hotels ... yes or no?

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOELY SANTIAGO, WWW.WHEREJOELYGOES.COM

apsule hotels (also called pod hotels) are very popular in Japan. You see them in most cities, and a lot of people really like them for overnight stays because they are relatively cheap (\foatigma3000 - \foatigma4000). I'm claustrophobic and never really had any interest in staying in a tiny space only big enough for a bed. Also, I'm not really a fan of communal bathrooms. But I just couldn't leave Japan without experiencing it at least once. It'd be like visiting Japan and never eating sushi or ramen. So on a rip to Kyoto, I decided to try one out.

I did my research before selecting my capsule. I'm picky about hotels. I'm very particular about cleanliness, and I really like to make sure the location meets my travel goals. So I checked all the hotel travel sites (Hotels.com, Agoda, Kayak, Booking, Trivago, etc.), Trip Advisor and Google. I read reviews, mapped the locations, and looked into amenities for each capsule hotel available. After several hours, I decided on the First Cabin Capsule Hotel in Kawaramachi Sanjo.

Capsule hotels vary. A lot. They're like hostels in that you share all facilities except the bed. However, the pod itself and types of common areas differ from hotel to hotel. Some are more like fabric-covered bunk beds while others are like stacked cubby holes with mattresses in them. The pods at First Cabin are not stacked, so you have more room than a lot of the other capsule hotels I saw online.



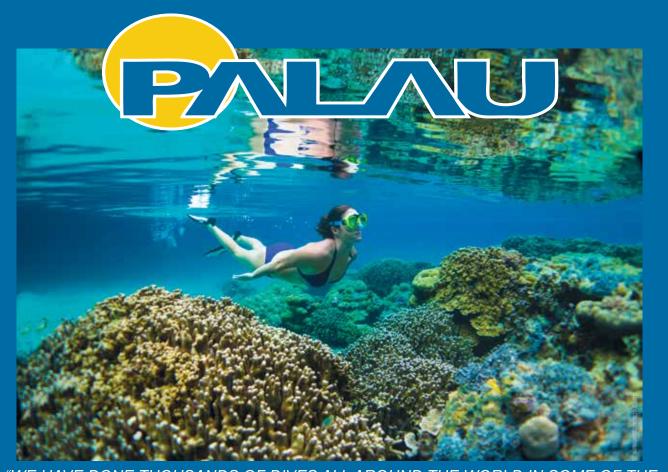
The one I staved in was as wide as a twin bed (the walls of the pod surrounded the mattress on all sides) and maybe six feet tall. I could sit up completely in my bed and even stand on the mattress with only having to duck just a tiny bit (I'm only 5'2"). The room also includes a TV, temperature control, two plugs, and a secure compartment to store your valuables while you're out. The pod doesn't have a door, but it has a shade that slides all the way down for privacy. This hotel also offers mini-suites (they refer to them as first-class cabins), which are slightly bigger spaces that offer more than just a bed but don't have private bathrooms. All capsules provide guests with disposable slippers, pajamas, and a towel and

washcloth.

The two major concerns I had about staying in this kind of hotel were safety and noise. Neither was an issue here. Rooms and floors are separated by gender for safety reasons at First Cabin. This isn't the case at all capsule hotels, though, so if it's something you're interested in, ask before booking. Japan is a relatively safe country, but I prefer staying in all-women dorms when traveling alone (as a peace of mind thing). At this hotel, the sleeping areas are accessed with key cards so not just anyone can get to the pods. And it's a completely noisefree zone. Guests are not allowed to listen to music or watch television without headphones. They're not supposed to talk on the phone and, honestly, I didn't even hear travelers talk to each other in the capsule space.

The shared spaces at First Cabin exceeded ALL my expectations. The lobby features a few sofas, a big table for travelers to sit around and socialize, and a bar with a variety of beers and cocktails available for purchase. The hotel also hosts special events in the lobby on some nights that offer guests free food or drinks. The bathroom situation is also quite good. Each floor has sinks, toilets, and vanities, and there's a shower area for each gender on one of the floors. The spa (shower area) has several private shower rooms, one or two secluded bathtubs (complete with body wash, shampoo, and conditioner), and a few vanities stocked with everything you could need, to include curling irons, facial care products, and even toothbrushes. There are also irons, steamers, and humidifiers in the dormitories and a spot to store your luggage.

From what I saw, most capsule hotel guests only stay a night or two. I stayed for five, and felt completely at ease and comfortable. The small space didn't bother me at all. It felt way more private than I thought it would, the amenities were great, and the hotel staff was wonderful. I managed to get a business-class cabin for only \$20 per night; a terrific value! I can't imagine a better accommodation for the price. I would definitely try a capsule hotel again. I highly encourage you to try one too.



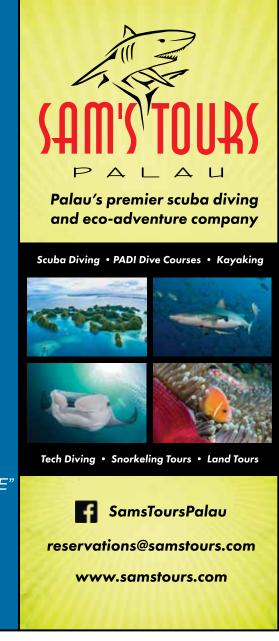
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-Dr. Enric Sala, Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic

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the restaurants

# OKOHAMA RED BRICK WAREHOUSE

# Unique shopping, entertainment all in historic buildings

STORY AND PHOTOS BY REY WATERS, JAPAN TRAVEL

he Yokohama Bay area is packed with attractions and events that can meet just about every desire. For the past three years, I have walked from home to the bay at least once a week. It takes about two hours, but you can do it from Yokohama station via the Negishi line in a few minutes.

One of my favorite places to go to is the Red Brick Warehouse. No matter what time of year, there is always an event with plenty of delicious food and entertainment. The warehouse was built during the Meiji era to support the Yokohama port. Just fifteen years ago, after a major conservation and renovation, it was reopened as a significant tourist spot in Yokohama. The two buildings consist of many excellent restaurants and cafes, along

with some very nice specialty shops. This was the place I first found the locally brewed Yokohama

beer. Inside Building One you can see various historic photos of shipping activities from the early port days and view various items from the original buildings via a glass floor.

In between the buildings is a large plaza where all types of festivals and



Night view

JapanTravel

events are held. Sometimes I do not even check the web page and just walk over to see what great event is talking place. My first year living in Japan, I attended the Octoberfest and

enjoyed several European beers along with some excellent sausage with sauerkraut. Last spring they held an Easter

flower show that was second to none. They also host the Strawberry Festival and the very popular Bread Festival. I have attended the Christmas event, which reminds me of home and puts me in the Christmas spirit. During the winter months they erect a large ice skating rink that is enjoyed by all ages.

Oh, and did I mention the balcony dinning area? In Building Two, go on up to the third floor and enjoy a meal at one of several restaurants balcony seatings with a view.

From the Hotel MyStays Yokohama Kannai, walk straight down Bashamichi Street, and keep going until you arrive at the waterfront where you will see Red Brick Warehouse over on the right (16 minute walk).

This is one of the places you do not want to miss during your visit to Yokohama.

Ice Skating Rink

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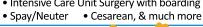
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Some of the hands-in-prayer style farmhouses are used as restaurants and souvenir shops.



The Sho River flows thorugh Toyama and Gifu

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

ravel around the hilly valley in the central part of northern Japan, and you will encounter an impressive rural landscape of traditional farmhouses with steep-angled roofs with a backdrop full of stunningly beautiful nature.

Majestic mountains, along with deep forests, clear streams and shinning green rice fields are the scene for these unique looking living quarters.

The inverse V-shaped farmhouses in the region look like two hands being placed together as if praying. In Japanese, it is called "Gassho-dukuri" (hands-in-prayers style). These farmhouses are widely scattered along the Sho River running through Toyama and Gifu Prefectures, and millions of domestic and international tourists flock to see the pristine rural landscape every year.

In 1995, UNESCO declared the Gokayama and Shirakawago regions World



Ogimachi in Shirakawago is a large village where private inns, restaurants and shops are housed in traditional farmhouses.



Heritage Sites. The areas have preserved the unique farmhouses from generation to generation.

My wife and I made the six-hour drive, from our home near Yokosuka Naval Base, to Suganuma, one of the villages recognized as a World Heritage Site in the Gokayama region.

We left our car in the public parking lot and walked for 15 minutes along a mountainous path and through a long pedestrian tunnel. When we came out of the tunnel, we were greeted by the large, steep-pitched farmhouses with strawthatched roofs.

According to a sign, there are nine buildings of the kind within the village and most were built in late Edo Period, about 100-200 years ago. Despite the age of the buildings, they still looked new and beautiful, and their "hands-in-prayer shape"s were as if they were praying for mercy in the severe mountainous valley.

Some of the farmhouses are used as restaurants, souvenir shops and inns. While strolling in the village, we met a group of high schoolers who were on a

trip from near our home in Yokosuka City.

"We had stayed overnight at an inn housed in farmhouse," said one of instructors who led the high schoolers. "That should have become a wonderful experience for all the students."

We then moved out to another village in the same region, Ainokura. There are 23 farmhouses in the village, and a folklore museum housed in traditional farmhouse offered us a chance to take a closer look at the inside, outside and architectural structure of the buildings.

Surprisingly, the farmhouses were built without nails. The flexible joints of many pillars and beams are very resilient and able to withstand the large amounts of snow falling during wintertime. The structure gives the building a large attic space, which was used for cultivating silkworms.

The museum also displayed some of items used in traditional settings, such as wedding ceremonies and Buddhist

rituals, as well as about 200 tools and utensils used for cultivating mulberry trees and rearing silkworms. The tools and utensils are very sophisticated and highly evolved to help cope with heavy snows and severe mountainous climate.

A curator explained that the collaboration efforts by residents is indispensable for maintaining the buildings. A thatched roof is replaced within 30 to

> 40 years, while reinforcing work is needed once or twice a year.

"All the members in the village need to work together to maintain each residence," the curator said. "This village has existed since the 11th century. Throughout the centuries, our ancestors kept a strong sense of community, and with longestablished restoration practices and principles, they have sustained the traditional farmhouses"

While we were there, we checked out a bamboo percussion instrument called a "sasara." Shaped like a large bamboo whisk, the instrument is used by locals while singing traditional folk music. I had a hard time with it, while my wife was able to create the mellow sounds of a gentle breeze blowing.

To visit Ogimachi village in Shirakawago, we drove 40-minute along the Sho River through tunnels and bridges. The winding road along the valley showed us how isolated the regions of Gokayama and Shirakawago from each other.

Ogimachi was a large and beautiful village - much larger than the first two we had visited. There were lots of "minshuku" (private homes that accept guests), restaurants and shops housed in traditional farmhouses.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



# THE DELIGHTFUL **DORAEMON MUSEUM**

Something for everyone in Kawasaki

BY SHOKO, TOFUGU.COM

lot of people know about the Studio Ghibli Museum in Tokyo– but they might not have known that there's also a museum dedicated to Fujiko F. Fujio, the creator of an infamous Japanese icon, Doraemon.

The museum was built in order to preserve Fujio's manuscripts of mangas he drew before his death in 1996. Fujio created more than just Doraemon- he drew out several other famous works, such as Kiteretsu Dai-hyakka, Esper Mami, Parman, and Obake no Q-taro. You can see some of his works' manuscripts- some original, some TOFUGU.COM copies.

I really enjoyed how fun and creative

they made this museum! Every corner you look you see some aspect of Fujio's works, and it's kind of fun to go around the museum trying to find them throughout your visit.

The museum also does a pretty good job following and describing the life of Fujiko F. Fujio, who's regarded as one of the pioneers in Japanese manga today, leaving behind works that have transcended for decades. Some of his possessions are displayed at the museum, including the desk that he used to worked on his manga.

There's quite a number of things you can do at this museum, so there's something for everyone of all ages. There's a theater that lets you see a short film (unfortunately no subtitles)... a big hall with interactive displays and games...

and some displays outside too, one

# FUJIKO F. FUJIO DORAEMON MUSEUM

ADDRESS: Tama-ku, nagao, 2-8-1 Kawasaki, kanagawa prefecture 214-0023 WEBSITE: fujiko-museum.com/ english/ TEL: 0570-055-245

being the field from Doraemon recreated!

If you ever get hungry, don't fret! There's a really cool cafe with cute meals and desserts designed with Fujio's works. The latte-art is definitely worth the order, even if you aren't hungry

enough to order food.

Quite possibly the cutest latte-art.

There's even an adorable blue bus with Fujio's characters all over it (outside and inside!) that'll take you from the train station to the museum and back.

I thoroughly enjoyed this museum! As a girl growing up watching Doraemon every week, this museum made me feel like I was a kid again. The museum does such an amazing job at blending little bits and pieces of Fujio's work- in areas like the signs, even the bathrooms - and it's really fun going around the museum identifying them along the way. I'll be completely honest - I had more fun spending hours at this museum than the more renowned Studio Ghibli Museum, probably because Fujio's Museum was much more interactive. If you grew up watching any of Fujio's works - be it our favorite blue robot, a mask-wearing superhero boy, or a little white ghost-



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# inatoan

# Tasty homemade soba noodle near Yokosuka

lar menu

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

t Minatoan, a popular soba noodle shop in Yokohama, don't expect to find the standard grey noodles you'll find at any other soba shop around Japan.

Here, chefs in the sobamaking studio visible from the dining room ground buckwheat seeds into a fine powder, shedding the dark shells, and creating a fine white flour. This then gets mixed into a white transparent dough used for the noodles, which are the base of all the dishes served

The restaurant itself can accommodate nearly 60 guests, but there is always a line outside for the unique white soba noodles served inside.

Inside, the seating provides a classic Japanese setting with white walls, bamboo pillars, dimmed lighting and wooden tables. From the dining area, a large window gives diners a great view of the chefs kneading and stretching soba noodles served fresh daily.

Despite the sophisticated dining atmosphere, my meal was inexpensive. I ordered one of the shop's most popuitems, "tsuketen," a set of soba noodles and assorted tempura for 780 yen (about \$7).

When my meal arrived, I was overwhelmed by the large portion of soba noodles on the plate - large enough for nearly two people! And, this wasn't even the largest serving. If you have a big appetite, order the "Fujisan-mori" portion. For an extra 220 yen, you'll get 2.2 pounds of noodles. That's a lot of noodle. But for me, my regular portion was quite a challenge to finish.

My tsuketen had a great aroma and the flavors burst in my mouth the more I chewed. The broth was slightly dry, and the tempura shrimp, eggplant, All of the elements of this meal were in harmony, bringing out the rich flavors of the unique white soba and the deep broth.

Besides tsuketen, Minatoan offers a variety of soba noodle dishes, including soba with ground potato and seaweed, soba with mochi or curry and chicken starting at around 600

Prefer your soba cold? Minatoan also serves up cold noodles perfect for the summer heat. And if you have picky eaters in the group, don't miss Minatoan's katsudon, a fried pork cutlet on top of rice, oyakodon,

LOCATION: 5-23-24 Konandai Konan-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Pref. HOURS: - 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. **URL:** minatoan.com/ TEL: 045-833-4111

quest to finding this unique soba is a mere 30-minute drive away. Minatoan offers the soba noodles you never knew you wanted to try and the price will keep you coming back for more. Plus, soba is the perfect dish to keep you warm this winter season. Give it a try!



# Iwakuni's Marifu Coffee great for brunch, cup of joe

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JAMES BOLINGER, STARS AND STRIPES Published: Oct. 11, 2018

t many of Japan's popular chain coffee shops, such as Starbucks or Doutor, massive amounts of coffee are brewed in a carafe and served to patrons hours later. While the method is efficient and delivers a brew that's fine for a quick coffee fix, independent cafe owners across the country have shunned this practice in favor of a more artisanal coffee experience where cups are care-

fully brewed one at a time. In fact, cities like Kyoto, which has an abundance of these small, hip cafes, are now must-visit destinations for coffee connoisseurs.

Luckily, those living near Iwakuni won't have to travel far for a handcrafted coffee experience, thanks to Marifu Coffee, a small cafe just a 10-minute walk from JR Iwakuni Station.

I first discovered Marifu Coffee completely by accident when I was still new to Iwakuni and unfamiliar with the area. While searching for a camera shop, I found myself distracted by the intoxicating smell of fresh coffee emanating from a building and decided to stop and enjoy a cup. After that first visit, I was hooked, and now Marifu is my go-to spot for brunch in Iwakuni.

Upon entering Marifu, guests are greeted by the pleasant smell of freshly brewed coffee and a smiling barista. Bar seating along the windows is perfect for solo diners, while ample table seating is available for larger groups. An easy-to-understand English menu with pictures of each dish makes ordering a breeze.

Marifu is completely different from most standard coffeehouses, as all the beans are roasted in-house and the cafe's baristas brew only a few cups of coffee at a time utilizing the pour-over method — a style of coffee brewing that's extremely popular with coffee aficionados. Fresh grounds are placed inside a cloth filter set over a cup or carafe while hot water is poured slowly over the grounds. This hand-brewed technique gives the coffee a bold flavor that never tastes burned.

In addition to their hand brewed coffee (420 yen, or about \$3.80), Marifu offers cappuccinos (600 yen), lattes (550 yen), iced coffees (420 yen) — and even a coffee float (580 yen) containing iced coffee served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Marifu is also unique in that the cafe features an extensive menu of food items perfect for breakfast and lunch, ranging from waffles to sandwiches.

The waffles at Marifu are a definite standout — crispy and golden on the outside with a warm, fluffy interior. The chocolate banana waffles (680 yen) are a work of art,

topped with vanilla ice cream, a sliced banana, whipped cream, a cherry and a drizzle of chocolate syrup and caramel.

The waffles are delivered to your table before the ice cream has time to melt and pair perfectly with a cup

of Marifu's signature coffee. While one waffle might not be enough food for those with a bigger appetite, it is delicious - and definitely something kids would like. Plain waffles are also available (550 yen) and can be paired with a cup of coffee as a part of a set meal for 650 yen.

www.stripes.com

For those without a sweet tooth, Marifu's more savory treats offer plenty to enjoy. The panini sandwich (680 yen) is filled with egg salad, ham, lettuce and tomato. The sandwich's toasted bread is perfectly thick and has just the right amount of chew, while the egg salad complements the other fillings nicely. The sandwich is also accompanied by a side salad and a slice of watermelon, which completes the meal

During breakfast, other offerings include egg salad sandwiches (650 yen), scrambled eggs with salad and toast (580 yen), a mixed

Marifu's panini sandwich (680 yen) is filled with egg salad, ham, lettuce and tomato.

berry waffle topped with vanilla ice cream (680 ven), and friend pork cutlet sandwich (880 yen) - more commonly known as "tonkatsu" in Japanese.

If you visit often, be sure to pick up Marifu's point card. Ten stamps will get you a free coffee.

House-roasted coffee, pristine golden waffles and a friendly staff make Marifu Coffee a must-visit for breakfast, brunch — or simply any time you crave a cup of perfectly brewed coffee.

bolinger.james@stripes.com Twitter: @bolingeri2004





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s the temperature drops around the country, it's time again for one of the delicacies of the season oysters! King amongst winter foods, the tasty white, plump and meaty shell can't be beat.

**BYTAKAHIROTAKIGUCHI** STRIPES JAPAN

Japan offers many opportunities to taste the local bounty and if you're in Sasebo don't miss the chance to visit the Kujukushima Oyster Festival.

Running every weekend from now through Dec. and again in Feb. through March, Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort's festival is expecting over 28,000 visitors.

The event site will have 400 grills set up so you can grill your oysters to perfection. Purchase the fresh catch at 800 yen per kilogram (2.2 pounds). Other local seafood including squid, abalone and mackerel will be available as well.

Sasebo-area's local oysters may be on the smaller side, but the flavor is one you certainly want to try if you're a fan of mollusks. Make plans for a taste of the seasonal flavors of Japan!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

## **Kujukushima Oyster Festival**

WHEN: 2019 autumn dates: Nov. 2-4, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, and Nov.30-Dec.1

2020 winter dates: Feb. 1-2, 8-9, 11, 15-16, 22-24, and Feb. 29- Mar. 1

**HOURS:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

LOCATION: Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort (1008 Kashimaecho, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Pref.)

PRICE: 800 yen per one kilogram of oyster, 250 yen for one kilogram of charcoal, 250 yen for rental knife and gloves

URL: https://www.pearlsea.jp/oysterfesta2019akinojin/

TEL: 0956-28-4187



Sunday, Nov. 17 Enjoy a trekking trip with Japanese interested in speaking English. Make new friends! Don't' be shy!

## Course

- 1 Makinotake Park → 2 Mountain Path
- 3 Shoyodokinenhi → 4 Ohashikannnon Precincts
- 5 Makinotake Park

Guide provided by Yoshii Ecotourism Association.

## Schedule

Reception | Orientation | Departure 9 a.m.

9:30 a.m. 10 a.m.

Snack /Conversation **End of tour** 

Communication Time at Makinotake Park during snack time.

## Sign up



E-mail: syakai@city.sasebo.lg.jp



- \*Registration necessary for participation
- \*First come, first served basis
- \*Free of charge
- \*Maximum 10 people
- \*Prefered Age is 5th grade or older

Meeting Place: In front of Makinotake Park Visitor Center





MISAWA YOKOSUKA ATSUGI ZAMA YOKOTA FUJI IWAKUNI SASEBO OKINAWA MISAWA YOKOSUKA ) *IACE TRAVEL* CONNECT TO > WORLD **IACE Official Website** = Serving the Military Community since 1998 = IWAKUNI www.iace.co.jp/en Kadena, Camp Foster, Yokosuka, Atsugi, Iwakuni \*\*\* Please ask agent or check our website for more All Prices include Tax/Fuel/Fees 2020 IACE SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR Feb 02 dep / Feb 05 return (4 days 3 nights) hese are the comments from our customers who joined our tour in 2019! All you can eat & drink at Sapporo Beer Garden included! Lake Shikotsu Ice Festival & Otaru City & Chocolate factory visit! MISAWA YOKOSUKA ATSUGI ZAMA We did a lot in our time in Hokkaido There was good variety in the itinera Adult: \$1,218 Round trip airfare, 3nights hotel, Child (6-11 years old): \$1,176 Breakfast, Transfer, 1 dinner at Beer Garden, Child (3-5years old): \$1,139 Tour (visit to "Otaru city", "Chocolate Factory' Overall this was Child (3-5years old, without bed): \$862 "Lake Shikotsu Ice Festival") Tax & Fuel charge, Tour escort Infart(Under 3 years old): Free

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# Hiroshima departure

4 days (Nov.26 ~ Nov.29) **\$426** 5 days (Nov 29  $\sim$  Dec 03) **\$510** 

6 days (Nov.24 ~ Nov.29) **\$598** \*Price includes...

Tax and Fuel charge

## Iwakuni departure

★Tokyo Bay Maihama Ĥotel First Resort★ (Disney Official Hotel)

♦Nov.24~28 departure ♦Nov.23,29,30 departure **\$601** \*Price includes

Round trip air fare
 2 nights hotel accommodation
 Breakfast

 Round trip airport transfer (Haneda - Tokyo Disney) 2 days Disney Pass

# Iwakuni departure

everything was well organize Thank you for a great trip!

Tour guides did a superb job! Thanks for such a pleasant experie

(Nov 24 - 28 departure) Okinawa Kariyushi Beach Resort Ocean Spa stay or Rizzan Sea-park Hotel Tancha-bay stay

4 days from \$508 ◆5 days Special◆

\*Price includes...

Round trip Airfare (Iwakuni - Okinawa)

3 or 4 nights hotel accommodation

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KINAWA MISAWA YOKOSUKA ATSUGI ZAMA YOKOTA FUJI IWAKUNI SASEBO OKINAWA MISAWA

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# Stripes Sports Trivia

'The Comeback" is an NFL record that has stood since 1993. Down 35-3 in the third quarter, the Buffalo Bills scored 35 of the next 38 points before eventually winning on a field goal in overtime. The Wild Card game was the beginning of a Bills run that eventually ended in pain with a third consecutive loss in the Super Bowl. Who quarterbacked the Bills to the record-win over Houston.

Answer

Frank Reich

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# KNOW?

he entrance to traditional Japanese houses are usually built higher than ground level by about six inches, so you can take off your shoes before entering. If you are invited to a Japanese house, be sure to wear your clean socks, preferably the ones without holes, so you can take off your shoes without making your feet the talk of the party. Slippers can be used on the floors, but make sure you take them off when you enter a tatami room.

Kanji of the week



# Language Lesson

I'm bored.

Taikutsu desu.

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## The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke ACROSS 1 Tapering hairstyles 6 Donations for the poor 10 Track assignment **14** Bungling 15 Cut the crop 16 One more time 17 Heart chambers 18 Reid of "American Pie" la France! 20 Antique photo 22 Scam artist 24 Icy coating 25 Eavesdroppers, say **26** In (not present) 30 Moral missten 31 Tuckered out 32 Sun. sermonizer 33 Minor quake

## DOWN

- 1 Italy-based car
- 40 She played Jan on a 60's sitcom
- 41 Bone-boring tool
- 43 Decompose
- 44 Film spool

37 Polish off

38 Bitty bouquet

- 45 Classifieds
- 46 Deodorant or
- shampoo, e.g.
- 48 Three-
- dimensional 52 "General
- Hospital", e.g.
- 53 Flat grassland 54 Hemmed-in
- territory
- 58 Folk stories 59 Church center
- 61 Ready for a nap
- 62 Shakespeare, the Bard of
- 63 Math course. briefly
- 64 Cake topping
- 65 Canvas cover
- 66 Pantyhose flaw
- 67 Golf attendant

- company 2 "Nay" sayer
- 3 "Jurassic Park"
- actress 4 "The Terrible"
- for Ivan, e.g. 5 Decide not to
- quit 6 Vital vessels
- 7 Grazing spot
- 8 Alligator's haunt
- 9 Skylab was the first U.S. one
- 10 Penny played
- her on TV
- 11 Japanese cartoons
- **12** Now or
- 13 Decorative pitchers
- 21 St. Jude and St.
- Joseph, et. al. 23 Like Sasquatch
- 26 Assist, in a way
- 27 Kodiak, for one 28 Fill to excess

29 Turn away 34 Place for a hurdle

38 Lowest point

scoreboard

my" extra

"Grey's Anato-

44 Model plane, e.g.

39 Zero on the

42 Role for a

35

- the edge 49 Put to the test 36 Count (on)
  - 50 Hank of baseball
    - 51 Find out

47 Milk-related

48 Comic strip

sound

- 55 Dry-as-dust
- 56 Peddle
- 57 Nervously
- irritable
- 60 By way of

## Answers to Last Week's Crossword.

	Allswers to Last Week's Crossword.														
S	L	Α	М		Α	L	U	М		Α	D	М	Α	Ν	
Т	0	F	U		М	Е	Ν	U		В	Е	_	G	Е	
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S	С	Е	N	Е		L	Е	Ν	S		С	Ε	Ν	Т	

## SUDOKU Edited by Margie E. Burke **HOW TO SOLVE:**

## Difficulty: Easy 4 9 1 3 6 1 8 6 4 5 9 6 8 2 3 7 4 8

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







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# Edo dining culture

Tracing the history of Tokyo's cuisine

BY JESSICATHOMPSON, METROPOLIS MAGAZINE

do: both the name of a particularly character-defining period in Japanese history and the old name for Tokyo. The Edo Era, in contrast to its antecedent "warring states" period, is known for being a time of relative peace as well as economic growth, strict social structure and a flourishing arts scene — noh, kabuki, ukiyo-e, poetry. Another key aspect of the era was advancements in culinary culture, with changes in dietary habits and the development of Edo ryori, "Tokyo cuisine."

In the upper echelons of society, highend cuisine continued on the exquisite multi-course path that emerged during in the Marunouchi Period. Ryotei, a type of luxurious restaurant, offered kaisekistyle (multi-course) dining served in private rooms, often accompanied by geisha entertainment, and upmarket kappo restaurants served elegant small dishes. But it was on the streets where the real changes were happening.

When Tokugawa Ieyasu stepped in as the first shogun of a united Japan, he moved shop from the former political HQ of Kyoto to Edo, and in doing so ordered the regional daimyo and their vassals, merchants and artisans to relocate. Peddlers and vendors of all sorts descended on Edo, selling daily necessities from



tofu to tobacco. The population boomed, and the former fishing village of Tokyo soon became the largest metropolis in the world. The male population was 1.5 times that of women, and because many of the men were either bachelors or had left behind wives and families in other areas, they were generally not being provided, or cooking, homemade meals. Enter yatai — street stalls providing quick and affordable meals on the go.





Photo by flickr\_Kyle Taylor

With the population growing, food stalls multiplied at an unprecedented scale. High competition meant an emphasis on quality ingredients and products, which, along with the culture of dining out, can be said of the modern Tokyo food scene.

## THE FOOD

The yatai served all manner of ready meals — breakfast dishes like dried fish, boiled beans, rice and fried tofu, but most notably, the "4 kings" of Edo food: soba, eel, tempura and sushi.

Soba, once the food of temples, became widespread. Popular types were kirisoba, where strands were cut shorter, making the noodles easier to eat in crowded establishments; sobagaki, soba-flour dumplings; and soba hanamaki, topped with torn nori sheets.

Eel was generally served kabayakistyle, butterflied, grilled, steamed and grilled again basted with a tare (a sort of sweet, thickened soy sauce). The preparation of kabayaki differs in the east, with the eels slit down the back instead of the front, as slitting down the front too closely resembled seppuku (ritual suicide).

Edo-style tempura also differs from that of western Japan — cooked in a

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mixture of vegetable and sesame oils, rather than the plain vegetable oil of Kyoto. This is because the heavier sesame flavor stands

up to the richer, more pungent flavor of the seafood used, whereas Kyoto tempura was largely vegetables. And where Kyoto tempura was served with just salt, Tokyo tempura was often served with mentsuyu dipping sauce.

Edo was the birthplace of sushi as we know it today — hand-pressed balls of rice topped with the fruits of the neighboring sea, known as edomae sushi (literally, "in front of Edo" sushi), evolved to what we know today as simply "nigiri sushi." Other popular dishes included dojo (loach) nabe, anago (conger eel), miso, oden, and later in the Meiji Period,

when the ban on meat was lifted, sukiyaki, sakuranabe and other horse meat dishes.

## THE INGREDIENTS

A linchpin shaping Edo ryori was its neighboring namesake body of water, the Edo Sea, which — at the time — was abundant with flounder, prawns, whitespotted conger, shad, halfbeak, mullet, rockfish, greenling, suzuki and many other kinds of seafood. The Nihonbashi fish market, Tsukiji's precursor, was opened in the early 17th century where the Mandarin Hotel, Mitsubishi Department Store and Bank of Japan now stand, and operated for more than 300 vears before moving to its Tsukiji location in 1935. At this time, Nihonbashi was very close to the sea, as depicted in many ukiyo-e prints, with vestiges detectable these days in local shops selling katsuobushi (bonito flakes), nori, knives, and area names containing ocean-related kanji characters. Laver, a type of seaweed, was also harvested from the bay and sold in Asakusa, and "Asakusa laver," was particularly revered.

In addition to fecund sea waters, Tokyo was surrounded by productive agri-

cultural lands and a range of native Edo-yasai (Edo vegetables) — komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach), Meguro eggplant, Toshima cucumber, bam-

boo shoots, Nerima Daikon, Yanaka ginger, Yodobashi kabocha (pumpkin), amongst many others.

For those interested in trying Edo ryori in modern Tokyo, there are countless edomae sushi and eel shops around town, plus restaurants specialising in Edo cuisine, such as Nishiazabu Hide, and Sakurada and Edo Shitamachi Cuisine Miyatogawa, both in Asakusa. Edoyasai, which decreased in availability during the 20th century, have recently benefited from movements to revive heritage varieties and can be found most often at local farmers markets.

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