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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

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I AM a military child living in Japan.
I WONDER how many places that I'll see.
I HEAR the courageous men and women.
I SEE the world, the trapped, the free.
I WANT to explore across the seas.
I AM a military child living in Japan.

I PRETEND to be strong as a brick.
I FEEL like glass, fragile and broken to the touch.
I TOUCH the grass, the sky, the sea, the ground while
I WORRY if I'll ever find a place to call home forever.
I CRY each time I leave my home, yet this time, my home left me.
I AM a military child living in Japan.

I UNDERSTAND the world that I'm in.
I SAY be kind and keep strong.
I DREAM a home, to stay with forever
I TRY my best to be on top.
I HOPE to find this place called home.
I AM a military child who needs my home.

– Samantha Stinson

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER what it means to be a military child.

I HEAR kids in Japan use the term.

I see just regular kids that say they are a military child.

I WANT to know what it means.

I AM a military child living in Japan.

I PRETEND I know what it means.

I FEEL lost

I TOUCH my head cause I feel lost and.

I WORRY People will judge me

I CRY for help.

I AM a military child living in Japan.

I UNDERSTAND what it means.

I SAY it means you meet new friends in a new area and military children is just a definition.

I TRY to be myself.

I HOPE people don't judge me.

I AM a military child, but I am also me

– John Parilla

I AM a military child living in Japan.
I WONDER how it will be at my next base?
I HEAR the school bell ring.
I SEE the cherry blossoms dying.
I WANT to see Tokyo. I AM a military child living in Japan.
I PRETEND that i want to go back to my old base.
I FEEL confident every time i move.
I TOUCH the uniforms at my old school.
I WORRY about what tomorrow will bring.
I CRY when i have to leave my friends.
I AM a military child living in Japan.
I UNDERSTAND how most people feel about moving.
I SAY to much about myself.
I DREAM of being on broadway one day.
I TRY my hardest to be the best.
I HOPE to meet davis diggs one day.
I AM a military child with big dreams.

– Rhya Washington

I AM a Military child living in Japan
I wonder where i will move next
I hear the sounds of jets flying around base
I see new people every day
I want to explore every new place I go to

I AM a Military child living in Japan
I pretend i am a spy traveling around the world
I feel sad when moving comes around
I touch my moms hand as we fly to our new location
I worry about moving far away from my family
I cry at the thought of leaving everyone

I AM a Military child living in Japan
I understand what other kids have to go through
I say my goodbyes as they are my last

I dream of what my new area will look like
I try to have happy thought of meeting new people
I hope i will see my friends again
I AM a Military child with a passport

– Alyssa Sanders



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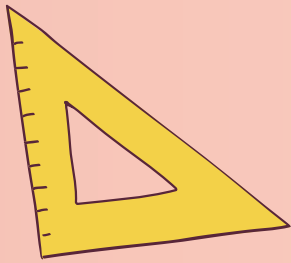
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I AM a military child living in Japan

I HEAR the people saying good-bye to their friends

I SEE my house getting packed by workers
I WANT to see what my new base is going to be like
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND to be sad when I move
I FEEL like moving is a good thing
I TOUCH my things before they get packed away
I WORRY I won't see the people I met before
I CRY out why we have to move so much

I AM a military child living in Japan
I UNDERSTAND that there is a reason that we have to move
I SAY that it is a good thing that we move
I DREAM that I can possibly move back somewhere that I used to live in
I HOPE that the new base I go to is a good base
I AM a long term military child living in Japan

– Shayne Wallen

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER if all of my old friends remember me
I HEAR the cries of the soldiers missing their families
I SEE the world changing day by day
I WANT people to start caring more
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND I'm okay
I FEEL sad whenever my dad deploys
I TOUCH the cold-hearted world.
I WORRY that I will be alone one day
I CRY for people who have lost their lives
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND how hard it is to be a military child
I SAY what I feel
I DREAM of a better world for us all
I TRY to make the world a better place
I HOPE my parents understand me like I understand them
I AM a responsible, caring, military child living in Japan, just trying to make a difference

– Bella Valenzuela

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER what it's like to stay in one place
I HEAR different languages
I SEE the jets flying above
I WANT to explore
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND I'm a soldier like my mom
I FEEL nervous meeting new people
I TOUCH the grounds of the world
I WORRY about leaving my friends
I CRY when my mom leaves to be deployed
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND the duty of being a military child
I SAY goodbye to my friends and family
I DREAM to succeed
I TRY different foods
I HOPE to see my friends again
I AM a military child with an interesting life

– Noe Corral-Galvan

I AM a military child living in Japan.

I WONDER about my thirds, one left behind, the other fancies Texas.
I HEAR the silence that is so loud, leaving me alone with my thoughts.

I SEE my room that shares my many memories.
I WANT to go back, I smile as I think of my thirds but I remember.

I AM a military child living in Japan.

I PRETEND not to notice my third's empty smile as the deadline nears.

I FEEL empty as the deadline hits.

I TOUCH the heart of my third as I say "now our three is down to two."

I WORRY for my third's face as I say "keeping your eyebrows furrowed will leave wrinkles, what's bothering you?"

I CRY when I hear of my deadline coming because I soon will be the one to say.

I AM a military child living in Japan.

I UNDERSTAND the cries of my third.

I SAY to them "now our three is down to one, good luck my friend."

I DREAM of liminal spaces and never ending hotel rooms. Maybe this is my poetic justice.

I HOPE the sound of ringing that comes with tears turned cold and dry will stop.

I AM a military child as much as I am numb.

– Yuriko Pineda Bombase

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER what life is like as a normal child
I HEAR loud jets
I SEE many foreign flags
I WANT to see my family, friends, and stuff left in America
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND I am still in the USA
I FEEL Sad that I leave my friends every 4 years
I TOUCH cherry blossoms while living in Japan
I WORRY that rival countries will bomb us
I CRY when my dad leaves to go TDY or deploy
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND that we do this for our country
I SAY I love exploring but miss home in the USA
I DREAM about my past friends and homes
I TRY to do my best to help
I HOPE I can reunite with old friends one day
I AM a military child facing adventures and hardships

– Kimora Rapsing-Rouis

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER what base I get to live at next
I HEAR a lot of planes in the air
I SEE jets
I WANT to stay in one place over 3 years
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND to be fine when moving

I FEEL sad sometimes when moving
I TOUCH food a lot
I WORRY about leaving friends
I CRY when I move
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND why I move everywhere

I SAY I love traveling
I DREAM of living in one place for over 3 years
I TRY to do my nest at new schools
I HOPE to make my parents proud
I AM a child who travels the world for my whole life

– Isabella Simon

I PRETEND that I have a forever home

I FEEL scared of what friends I will lose
I TOUCH the flowers growing strong like me
I WORRY about North Korea's threats
I CRY when I am bullied for being loud
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND I have a hard life

I SAY what my mind thinks
I DREAM of having a life different than this one
I TRY new foods in Japan
I HOPE that my dad retires soon
I AM a strong and intelligent child living in Japan

– Raegan Bradbury

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER what it's like to not move and stay put
I HEAR soldiers marching on foot
I SEE men and women in camouflage with caps and boots
I WANT to be more than the person who just salutes
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND to not care if I lose friends
I FEEL that all friendships always seem to end
I TOUCH my dad and hug him tight
I WORRY that maybe the last time he kisses me good night
I CRY when he's deployed and out of sight
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND the sacrifice to help protect another life
I SAY God bless America without a strife
I DREAM to soon be like my father and follow in his steps through life
I TRY to be like my mother; she's the most loving mom and wife
I HOPE to be better and to live a long, good life
I AM a military child living in Japan

– Stephen Bradbury

I AM a military child living in Japan

I WONDER how non-military children feel
I HEAR the sound of freedom
I SEE the dandelions fly
I WANT to explore new bases
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND to be a normal kid without a military parent

I FEEL happy
I TOUCH the commissary and BX doors
I WORRY that my parents will be injured from their jobs
I CRY whenever I move from state to state
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND why my parents chose to be in the military

I SAY hello to new people I meet
I DREAM to be able to know what life is not being a military child
I TRY to be comfortable with moving
I HOPE to see my old friends
I AM a military child living in Japan

– Guenchelle Ocenar

I AM a military child living in Japan
I WONDER what life would be like if I wasn't a military child
I HEAR jets flying during school
I SEE kids with different and unique backgrounds at school
I WANT to some day live in the states again
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND to be someone I'm not sometimes
I FEEL excited and scared every time I move
I TOUCH many different things today
I WORRY about my life in the future

I CRY when I feel like I'm not good enough
I AM a military child living in Japan

I UNDERSTAND friends and people come and go

I SAY that I'm grateful for being a military child
I DREAM to be happy and successful one day
I TRY my best in everything I do

I HOPE that one day the world will be at peace
I AM a military child living in Japan

– Paulene Perez

I AM a military child living in Japan

I WONDER what it would be if I wasn't a military child
I HEAR jets from the outside
I SEE men in military suits
I WANT to live in the states
I AM a military child living in Japan

I PRETEND to be a normal kid without a military parent

I FEEL happy
I TOUCH the commissary and BX doors
I WORRY that my parents will be injured from their jobs
I CRY whenever I move from state to state
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I TRY to be comfortable with moving
I HOPE to see my old friends
I AM a military child living in Japan

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militarychild.stripes.com



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I'm a Dandelion

Former DODEA educator authors children's book for military families

BY ERICA EARL,
STARS AND STRIPES

Moving to a new place every few years is an inevitable part of the military experience. While this can be stressful for even the most seasoned people in the forces, it can be even more distressing for children.

There are a several children's books on the market addressing topics like uniqueness or what it is like to be the "new kid," but not very many are military specific. This prompted a former Defense Department Education Activity teacher to pen a book especially for this niche.

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Brooke Mahaffey wrote "I'm A Dandelion: A PCS Story for Military Children."

PCS means Permanent Change of Station and is military lingo for being reassigned to a new location.

Mahaffey, facing the challenges of the pandemic and her Marine Corps spouse deploying, self-published the book in April 2021.

Mahaffey had always dreamed of writing whimsical stories for children. She worked as an elementary school teacher for several years, including teaching first grade at MC Perry Elementary School at MCAS Iwakuni.

In addition to working with military children, Mahaffey is a military spouse with three



Brooke Mahaffey poses with her husband, Marine Corps CW03 Jacob Mahaffey, and her family. Photo by Tina Laser

children of her own, so she knew she wanted her audience to be military families.

"It's hard as an adult to navigate the emotions around a PCS, let alone for children," Mahaffey said in a recent Zoom interview from her home in California.

A dandelion gives strong imagery of drifting through the breeze ready to land and flourish in a new location, which is significant to Mahaffey. She has moved six times with her family, and she based her book on those experiences.

"I'm a Dandelion" tells the story of a family who receives orders to move. Their youngest

daughter becomes frightened at the looming instability and new start somewhere unknown, and their older son is angry that they can't stay where they are. The book deals with how the family moves forward, both literally and emotionally.

Mahaffey said the book is based heavily on her most recent move from Japan to California.

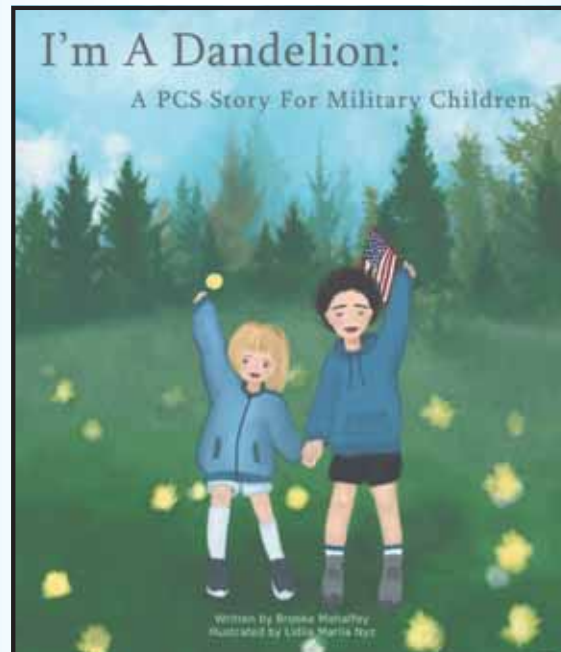
"It was the hardest on the family," she said. "My oldest daughter was between middle school and starting high school, and my middle child was about to start middle school, so it was already a time of changes."

"I'm a Dandelion" is available

for purchase on Amazon. Last year for Month of the Military Child, Mahaffey donated 25% of her book sales to the Military Child Education Coalition, a nonprofit organization that helps prepare military children for college and the workforce. The book has sold around 800 copies so far. She is donating 25% of all her book profits again this month.

While the writing part was fun for Mahaffey, she said publishing her first book came with a learning curve. She commissioned an illustrator she found online and used YouTube tutorials and various resources she found on the internet to help her navigate the publishing process.

Last year, Mahaffey used this knowhow to write another children's book called "The Day Uncle Sam Lost His Yankee Doodle Dandy." The story is about Uncle Sam pursuing his lost dog through multiple historic monuments and sites around Washington D.C.



and New York City. She self-published the book last July, and it is also available for purchase on Amazon.

Mahaffey hopes to make this adventure and educational book a series highlighting different places around the U.S. She also has goals to enter the world of adolescent literature and write books for more advanced readers.

"It's nice to be able to let my whimsical and goofy side out," she said.

For families who are struggling with a PCS, whether it is overseas or within the U.S., and whether it is their first move or what seems like their thousandth, Mahaffey said she hopes her story can help bring peace of mind.

"My biggest piece of advice is to take the move one day at a time," Mahaffey said. "Keep open communications with your children, validate their feelings and let them know that it is alright to be scared or nervous."

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Twitter: @ThisEarlGirl

<https://amzn.to/3r3tE14>

"I'm a Dandelion:
A PCS Story for
Military Children"
is available for
purchase
on Amazon for \$12.99



More trash cans will vanish in Tokyo for safety reasons

STORY AND PHOTO BY
HANA KUSUMOTO,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: April 28, 2022

TOKYO – Another quantity of garbage cans is set to disappear from the city's subway stations.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Bureau of Transportation will remove all the garbage cans at its stations on May 9, according to a bureau news release.

The transportation bureau operates Toei subways and the Nippori-Toneri Liner, a short train line in northeastern Tokyo.

The garbage cans near ticket gates at each station will be removed as a safety measure, according to the release.

"We are sorry for the trouble we may cause the users, but we kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation with taking garbage with you," the release stated.

The bureau is not the only train operator removing trash cans from the stations for security reasons and to prevent people from depositing their household garbage in them.



A worker empties a trash receptacle at Azabujuban Station in central Tokyo on April 27. Photo by Akifumi Ishikawa, Stars and Stripes

Tokyo Metro, which operates subways in Tokyo, removed trash bins from 239 locations in January, the Asahi newspaper reported that month. Odakyu Railways took its receptacles away in March and Odakyu

Railways removed trash bins last spring, according to Japanese media reports.

Many trash cans were removed from public areas, such as stations and parks, after the 1995 sarin gas attacks in Tokyo.

The attack, staged by the Aum Shinrikyo cult, targeted the Tokyo subways and killed 14 people and injured more than 6,000 who were exposed to the toxic gas.

However, trash cans slowly

reappeared at parks and stations from 2005, according to a 2019 report by Bloomberg News. An increasing number of foreign tourists who are accustomed to trash cans in public places contributed to their return, among other factors, according to the report.

To avoid the use of trash cans in terror attacks, some were made transparent, so the contents of the bin may be easily seen; and many garbage cans were placed near ticket gates, within sight of station staff.

Trash cans were also sealed off or locked and could not be used when major events or international meetings occurred in Tokyo, such as when former President Donald Trump visited Japan in 2017.

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EXCLUSIVE NEWS FROM:
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Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child



Narrow portal leads to a world of Japanese culture on Yokota

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MIKE VAN HOECKE,
STRIPES JAPAN



Masami Obata's antique shop at Yokota Air Base looks tiny from the outside. Pedestrians might pass it and confuse it for a dry-cleaning outlet or another business. The foyer barely has room to sit and is overseen by an array of curious masks that keep watch over the store and customers. Beyond the small foyer is a large hidden storeroom full of incredible cultural items.

As the passage opens up it reveals cast iron tea kettles, huge, decorated plates, long flowing carp streamers, wooden kokeshi dolls, replica samurai armor and helmets,

colorful kimono, and Japanese wooden items like pendulum wall clocks and tansu hand-crafted cabinets.

Obata began his antique business selling tansu to Yokosuka Naval Base families about 40 years ago. One of his favorite styles of tansu has a golden-brown finish with a clear grain pattern and is made from keyaki – a durable and pretty wood.

"Even back then, these 100- to 150-year-old cabinets went for 800 to 1,000 dollars each," he said. They are especially pretty when matched with a wooden wall clock of about the same era and perhaps a woman's kimono sash, called an obi, folded across the top of the wooden cabinet.

Eventually, Obata's business would expand to selling a variety of antiques to Yokota Air Base families and young airmen.

"Half of the things [Yokota airmen] purchase are for themselves and half are for souvenirs to send back home," he said. "They tend to buy smaller items like the masks and Boy's

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Day samurai helmets."

Many of the hand-carved masks in the store were worn by actors who danced on wooden floats during Japanese festivals. They are likenesses of fools, farmers, pretty girls, animals, and demons. The masks cost from \$80-\$200 apiece and can be several decades old.

Surprisingly, Obata said demand for the colorful obi is tapering off. Obi used to be very popular and were repurposed as wall hangings, table runners, or as decorative components for making shoulder bags. Nowadays, Obata has so many in stock that he says he keeps

his prices very low for these.

Most of what Obata sells – like the tansu, the masks, the clocks, and porcelain hibachi – are genuine antiques. The Japanese swords, by law, are replicas for display only. Though they may be faithful in design, Obata said the blades are polished aluminum instead of steel. He explained that Japanese authorities won't allow him to sell steel swords that can be sharpened. However, there are actual sword hand guards in the shop that are authentic.

He acquires his goods at a regular auction in nearby Hachioji City. Whenever Obata receives a new item that he thinks one of his clients might be interested in, he uses his smartphone to send them a photo. The shop doesn't have an online presence and the 81-year-old merchant explained that he is still old-fashioned.

Obata's store and the items he sells are hidden gems waiting to be discovered. There is a lot to see and great opportunities to bring a touch of Japan home or to send to your family and friends back in the States.

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CHERRY BLOSSOMS ON CANVAS

Blooms live on at Damien Hirst exhibit in Tokyo

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MICHELE TANABE,
STRIPES JAPAN

For those who can't get enough of cherry blossoms, check out this beautiful exhibition for a non-traditional version of "hanami" at the National Art Center Tokyo in Roppongi.

"Cherry Blossoms" by English contemporary artist Damien Hirst will have you struck in wonder at his towering paintings, first shown in Paris at the Fondation Cartier back in July 2021. The exhibit, which runs through May 23 at the museum, is the artist's first solo show in Japan.

Hirst describes his pieces as a mixture of abstraction and figuration and has accomplished a balance of truly aggressive, yet serene works that can be appreciated by anyone.

From afar, each canvas has a clear depiction of cherry blossom trees in peak bloom. Varying hues of pinks, reds, whites, and even greens can

be observed on the canvas. However, when one steps closer, the paintings become something else entirely. Flecks of textured dots become tangible between hard layers of colorful pigment.

Charged by his fascination with nature, Hirst's scale and framing of his paintings mirror the true size of what you'd find out in the real world, making this exhibition truly immersive. The towering canvases—one of which is over 16 feet tall—are so big that they are basically "big [enough] to fall into" as Hirst describes in a video introducing the exhibit titled "Damien Hirst, Cherry Blossoms." The video is available to watch on the event website.

The pieces are methodically placed along stark white walls of the museum's second-floor exhibition hall. Here you'll find lots of space to observe and, if you can snag a bench, sit back and relax to view the sakura once more this spring.

The National Art Center Tokyo itself is an architectural marvel and you'll find yourself returning time and time again for an art fix, especially as new exhibits run every few months. The museum is child-friendly and has varying accommodations like station entrance, elevators, changing tables, lockers, and even hosts a spot for coffee or lunch.

This was one of my favorite exhibitions of 2022 so far, and its serene paintings were a much-needed respite amongst the bustling city life of Tokyo.

About the writer: Michele Tanabe is a writer and artist currently living in Shinjuku, Tokyo, with her 10-month-old baby and husband. She spends her time frequenting trendy cafés and the many creative spaces Tokyo has to offer. You can find Michele at her blog www.shinjukushufu.wordpress.com/ or her art Instagram @MeeshlyArt.



Check out
the Website!

The Damien Hirst exhibition through May 23, 2022.

Address: 7 Chome-22-2 Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo 106-8558

Getting there via train: To access this exhibition, take the Chiyoda Line from connecting stations and get off at Nogizaka Station. Signs labeled "The National Art Museum Tokyo" will direct you straight out of the station and right into the museum.

Price: 1,500 yen for adults; 1,200 yen for college students; 600 yen for high school students, free for junior high school students and younger.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Closed Tuesdays.

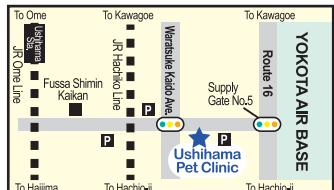


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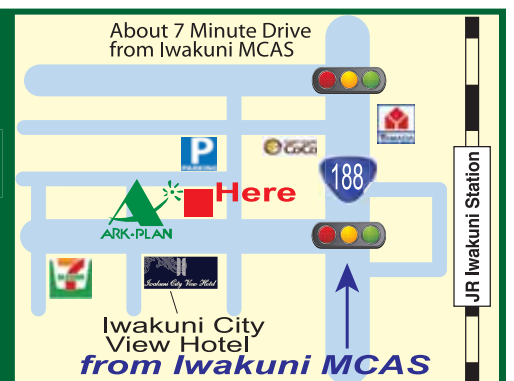
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MY FAVES

Night views

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPE JAPAN

Hang around long enough and you'll notice that in Japan's cities, the hustle and bustle often continues on into the night. What does change however, is the nightly glow of the streetlights and illuminations some of the major buildings host. I like the nostalgic feeling the glowing buildings and bright cityscapes bring.

During my travels around the country, I've seen many breathtaking night views, each one as unique as the next. Next time you head out, make sure to factor in a nighttime stroll and check out some of my favorite spots to get a good view of Japan's impressive evening glow.

■ Rainbow Bridge in Tokyo – Splendid night view of Tokyo Harbor

Tokyo Bay Connector Bridge, famously known as the Rainbow Bridge, is one you may have seen on postcards or travel sites.

This impressive bridge is only a 15-minute-drive from Hardy Barracks, and you can cross it along the Shutoko Expressway through a portion of Tokyo Harbor.

Driving through this bridge at night always overwhelms me with its views of the Tokyo Harbor, skyscrapers, Tokyo Tower and Tokyo Skytree all lit up in various colors. It's like traveling inside a jewelry box!

The 2,618-foot-long, 413-foot-high, two-story suspension bridge that connects the Odaiba waterfront district to the Shibaura Pier is actually painted white. At night, however, the bridge shines in vivid colors thanks to the 444 LED lights illuminating from sunset to midnight. Depending on the season, the colors of the bridge will change, but the holiday season is when you'll catch a full rainbow. Currently, the bridge is illuminated in red to reflect the state of emergency due to COVID-19.

This isn't just a pretty bridge. This double-decker bridge accommodates an expressway, a toll-free highway, a monorail and pedestrian walkways. Walk across the bridge for the "Rainbow Promenade," which will take about 20 to 30 minutes. There are observatory points with benches on the bridge where you can stop and enjoy the gorgeous views and rest. Alternatively, get a great view of the bridge from Odaiba's Kaihin Park, where you'll also find a replica of the Statue of Liberty and the Olympic rings in the harbor.

Rainbow Bridge (Tokyo Bay Connector Bridge)

LOCATION: 3-33-19 Kaigan, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Rainbow promenade

HOURS: Apr - Oct, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Nov - Mar, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ADMISSION: Free

■ Kawasaki – Surrealistic night view of factories

Kawasaki City's waterfront district offers a unique night view with a steam-punkish look. The area is the nation's largest Keihin industrial zone, which, at night, gives a sort of industrial, sci-fi feeling many photographers in Japan flock to capture.

The artificial, somewhat surrealistic views of the various shaped factories created by lights, the orange of fire and grey smoke from chimneys, together with a backdrop of a port with gigantic tankers and cargo ships, is considered "cool."

Located in the center of such the industrial area, Kawasaki Marien is considered one of the best night view spots in the district and was nominated as a Japan night-view heritage site in 2014. The observation platform on its 10th floor (167-feet high) provides a panoramic view of the entire Kawasaki factory area; packed with power plants, chemical, metal factories and oil refining factories.

Rainbow Bridge in Tokyo



File photo

Kawasaki



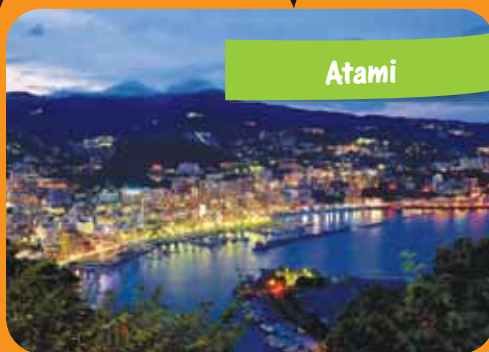
Photo by Takahiro Takiguchi

Nagasaki



File photo

Atami



File photo

Kobe



Photos by Takahiro Takiguchi

During my visit, I noticed many photographers setting up for the perfect shot as the sun started to set. For me, this view was surreal and reminded me of a gigantic spaceship from a sci-fi movie.

If you visit Kawasaki Marien for some unique photography, be sure to bring a tripod and telephoto lens along for optimal photos.

Kawasaki Marien

LOCATION: 38-1 Higashi Oogishima, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki City, Kanagawa Pref.

HOURS: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

ADMISSION: free

URL: www.kawasakiport.or.jp

TEL: 044-287-6000

■ Kobe – A view worth \$10 million from Mount Rokko

Kobe is one of Japan's Three Great Night Views, along with Hakodate and Nagasaki. Mount Rokko and Mount Maya are especially famous for their "10-million-dollar nightviews."

Head to the summit of either of these and get ready to be wowed. Mount Maya is the more popular one to hike up, but if you're driving, check out Mount Rokko's Hachimaki Platform off Omote Rokko Driveway.

Whichever spot you choose, you'll know immediately why this is considered a 10-million-dollar view. As the sun starts to set, you'll see the city and port gradually illuminated in various colors against the wonderful backdrop of the golden sea and two artificial islands off Osaka Bay.

Hachimaki Observation Platform on Mt. Rokko (Omote Rokko Driveway)

LOCATION: Minami Rokko, Rokkozancho, Nada-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo Pref.

TEL: 078-230-1120

■ Atami – Hot springs with a vertical night view

Though many find themselves in Atami for a soak in the hot springs, this resort town also has a great view at night.

The topography and shape of the city has deemed it a moniker of the "Naples of Asia." You'll notice this unique location from its U-shaped coastline, surrounding mountains and hilly roads.

At night, the dozens of hotels packed into the area light up with Atami Castle as the centerpiece. Head to the castle observation deck for the panoramic view during the day. After sunset, many visitors stick around the parking lot for a view of the surrounding vertical spread of illuminated hotels and buildings.

There are many one-day hot spring facilities around the location, so you can enjoy a hot soak before or after you see the night view.

Atami Castle

LOCATION: 1993 Atami, Atami City, Shizuoka Pref.

URL: <http://atamijyo.com/>

TEL: 0557-81-6206 (Japanese)

■ Nagasaki – A 360-degree view of one of "World's 3 Best Night View Cities"

Designated as one of the "World's Three Best Night View Locations" in 2012 along with Hong Kong and Monaco, Nagasaki offers a picture-perfect night display.

To get the best view, head to the top of Mount Inasa near the city center, where the observation tower will give you a 360-degree panoramic look, 1,093 feet high above Nagasaki.

Time your visit for sunset and catch the golden crimson views of sky and sea silhouetted by the surrounding grey mountains and many islets dotting this corner of Japan. And, check out the restaurant next door for a meal and a view!

There are many ways to get to the summit of Mount Inasa, including by bus. But, try the cable car for a fun way to experience this beautiful location.

Mount Inasa (observation deck)

LOCATION: 407-6 Fuchimachi, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Pref.

URL: www.inasayama.com/

TEL: 095-822-8888 (Japanese)

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



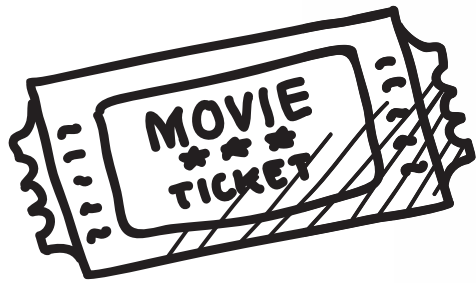
Park Hyatt Hotel, Lost In Translation



Wako Clock Tower, Godzilla



Gonpachi, Kill Bill



STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERICA EARL,
STARS AND STRIPES

Tokyo, camera, action! For movie lovers of all genres, standing in the exact spot where some of your favorite scenes were shot is a special opportunity. And, Tokyo has plenty of them to check out.

Almost all movies that take place in Tokyo feature an aerial shot of Shibuya Crossing, the scramble where throngs of people cross the street at once in multiple directions. But from the touristy to the subtle, Tokyo has many more locations that have made appearances on the big screen.

For the sake of this article, I only included films that are either popular in Western culture or had a theatrical release in the U.S., as there are thousands of Japanese film locations around Tokyo, enough to fill a whole book or maybe even a library.

From the Grudge to Fast and Furious, here are some stops for cinephiles.



Sofia Coppola's 2003 movie uses the Park Hyatt Hotel in Shinjuku as an anchor location throughout the film as Bill Murray's character finds himself there for a promotion campaign for Suntory Whiskey. While an overnight stay in this hotel can be expensive, especially if you want the view Murray had in the film, there are other places in the hotel where you can get exact scene replications, such as the New York Bar on the hotel's 52nd floor.

The bar opens at 5 p.m., offering breathtaking views of the city lights below. Because you get such a sweeping view of Tokyo, it is clear to see why it was chosen as a film location. It usually offers jazz entertainment, as seen in the movie, but due to coronavirus restrictions, the hotel has limited some of the performance times.

You can also eat at the nearby Shabuzen, a shabu-shabu restaurant where Murray and Scarlett Johansen's characters reflected their moody conversation in their behavior and were super gaijin smashing by being rude to their waiter and scoffing at the food.



The Wako Clock Tower in Ginza, a landmark in the upscale district of Tokyo, has gotten a little bit of a face-lift since its appearance in the 1954 genre-defining film Godzilla, but it is the same building featured in the movie.

Godzilla, a staple of both Japanese lore and cinema, destroys the clocktower in a fiery spectacular fashion, especially by cinematic standards of the time.

Today, this area is known for its ritzy shopping, so it's funny to picture Godzilla trampling past the nearby Gucci store.

It could be a fun idea to bring a Godzilla figurine with you and do some camera magic to make it look like the sea monster kaiju has come back to destroy it again.



My personal favorite movie franchise on this list, Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill: Vol 1, is probably the most sought-after film location destinations in Tokyo by Westerners.

At the restaurant Gonpachi, visitors can see where Uma Thurman fought off the Crazy 88 and scalped Lucy Liu.

I was warned that the restaurant is much smaller than it appears in the film, as can be expected, so I was pleasantly surprised to see it was actually larger than I had imagined it after those warnings and looks close to how it does in the film. From the moment I walked in, I could tell I was in the right place.

Our waitress was also a fan, and said she started working there because of her love of the movie.

Gonpachi has a restaurant on the first floor, private tables on the second floor and a sushi bar on the top floor. The sushi section opens at 5 p.m. and offers guests access to the patio where the fight scene between Thurman and Liu was filmed.

While the interior of the restaurant is pretty spot-on, expect the outdoor area to be starkly different from the film, as it appears much smaller, is filled with tables, and is surrounded by high rise buildings that were edited out of the movie to make the location look more remote. But



if you can imagine the tables gone and the patio coated with snow, you can definitely tell that is the spot.

The restaurant used to offer drum shows on Sunday evenings, but the entertainment seems to still be on hiatus. But even without the drums, I enjoyed walking around the restaurant in my yellow moto jacket, a replica of Beatrix Kiddo's costume, pretending I was Black Mamba.

Gonpachi is a chain, so make sure you go to the Nishi-Azabu location.



This one isn't exclusively a film, but it has movies in its franchise and is immensely popular in Western culture,



Azabu-Juban, Fast and Furious



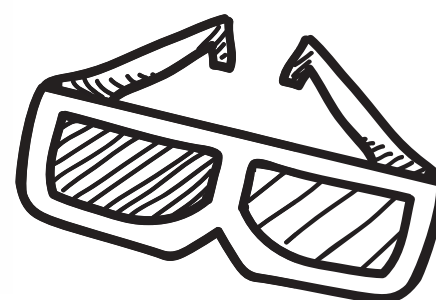
Contenart Tea and Sweets Lab



Zojoji Temple, Wolverine

OD IN JAPAN

ic film locations

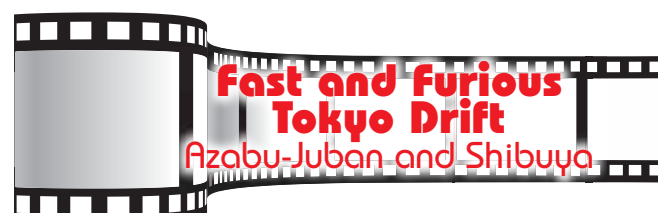


work. It is also used throughout the series as a gathering point for the Sailor Guardians.

It is a small shrine, but for fans of Sailor Moon, it possesses a certain inspirational magic to it to imagine Sailor Moon's creator Naoko Takeuchi scouting the location for her stories about feminism and friendship.

Just remember to be respectful when you visit, because this isn't just a location of a globally-recognized anime, but a significant place of worship.

After feeling eerie and reflecting on a movie with centric themes of grief and death, round the corner to cheer yourself up at Contenart Tea Sweets Lab, a shop with a massive variety of loose-leaf teas and heaping, beautiful servings of shaved ice that look like works of art. The tea is displayed along the walls in tiny vials, and the shaved ice, with seasonal flavors like Sakura, are fantastical looking in both their size and presentation.



While most of this movie was filmed in Los Angeles, with Beverly Hills' Wilshire Boulevard standing in for downtown Tokyo and soundstages standing in for the Chichibu Mountain Pass, some of Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift was filmed in Tokyo.

Some street scenes were filmed in the Azabu-Juban district, close to the Sailor Moon shrine. Azabu-Juban is a trendy residential neighborhood in Tokyo, with cobblestoned paths in some places that give the area a more village-like feel while still being in the center of the city.

The movie also uses Futsal Park in Shibuya, a rooftop soccer field with impressive views of the skyline, including the scramble mentioned at the beginning of this article.



Zojoji Temple is the backdrop of an epic fight scene in The Wolverine of the X-Men franchise. The Japan-centric installment is one of the most visually appealing in the series in my opinion.

Even if you are not a fan of X-Men, this area is gorgeous and is clear to see why it was chosen as a film location. Old meets new as Tokyo Tower provides a backdrop to the temple, and it is a nice spot worth a visit to take pictures and walk the grounds.



This one may be less popular among Western viewers, but I included this 1999 movie because it is one of my all-time favorite horror flicks and inspired many current popular Western directors of the genre, including Eli Roth.

Most of this movie was filmed in studios, but outdoor scenes are filmed on Omotesando Avenue, a tree-lined street that serves as the main thoroughfare between Shibuya and Harajuku with high-end shopping and dining.

I scoured the internet for which exact café the fateful first date scene was filmed in, but all I could find was that production did take place "at a real restaurant" (very helpful, I know). Just about any of these cafes along this street though serve as a close-enough reference of the film, and enough to give you a sinking, eerie feeling that Asami may walk in at any moment.

Because of the proximity of these places on Tokyo's train lines, it is possible to marathon it in one day. It could even be fun to turn touring these places into a photo scavenger hunt.

earl.eric@stripes.com
Twitter: @ThisEarlGirl

especially for women who were teens or pre-teens in the 90s or early aughts, so I counted it.

Visitors can see the Hikawa Shrine in the Minato ward, where Sailor Mars and her grandfather live and



Hikawa Shrine, Sailor Moon



While the house in The Grudge was filmed on a soundstage, and the building used as the house's exterior is no longer there, the street leading up to the house in both the Japanese and American versions still has seriously ominous vibes for horror fans.

The Grudge is in my opinion one of the best Japanese-to-American remakes as Takashi Shimizu, the director and creator of the original film, also directed this version. I am talking about the 2004 film, not the 2020 travesty.

While the street, a short walk from Yoyogi Station, may not feel like anything special to passersby, I instantly recognized it from the opening scene in both movies.

You can also visit Fungo Dining, the restaurant in Shinjuku where Jason Behr's character works. For me, however, the uniqueness of The Grudge is the chain of horror and sorrow attached to suburbia and the Saeki house.

Photos Courtesy of byFood

Sugamo: What to **Eat** and **Do** in the 'Grandmas' Harajuku'

BY LUCY BAKER,
BYFOOD

Historic Sugamo is a quaint area located in the Toshima ward of northern Tokyo, one that's famous for catering to the elderly population of the city. The centerpiece of Sugamo is Jizo Dori Shopping Street, which is a retro outdoor shopping street that runs northwest of Sugamo Station for a whopping 800 meters.

With an affectionate nickname, Jizo Dori is colloquially known as "Grannies' Harajuku" or the "Harajuku for Old Ladies." This comes from the shopping area being reminiscent of Harajuku's bustling Takeshita Street, but appealing to the grandmas of Tokyo with a more relaxed and nostalgic atmosphere, and history dating back since the Edo period.

When wandering through Sugamo and Jizo Dori, you'll find street food vendors and local shops selling traditional wares and wagashi sweets (including more mature and conservative fashion on sale). A visit to Sugamo is great for those wanting to get away from busy tourist districts for an afternoon or so in Tokyo.

A Brief History of Sugamo

Sugamo has been bustling since the Edo era, with Jizo Dori Shopping Street originally established back in 1903. In fact, the area got its start as the first pit stop along the Nakasendo Road, which was the common pilgrimage route from Tokyo to Kyoto during that time. It has since kept its nostalgic feel, now catering to the oldies of Tokyo (think a demographic of 60+) with traditional street food, local clothing shops, wagashi sweet vendors, and more. It's still one of Tokyo's hidden gems as a neighborhood that's over 100 years old, but



Photo Courtesy of Source: Shutterstock - kuremo

today stores for the younger generation are starting to open up gradually.

Jizo Dori Shopping Street

Jizo Dori Shopping Street is flat and suitably accessible, particularly for its elderly shoppers, with textured bricks to help prevent slipping. Featuring over 200 shops, Jizo Dori Shopping Street has plenty of clothing stores, traditional goods, and street food shops dotted throughout the district.

Along Jizo Dori, you'll find the main attraction is Koganji Temple which is home to the "splinter-removing Buddha," Togenuki Jizo. A visit to this temple is said to cure all sorts of ailments, and what's more, they hold regular small-scale festivals on the 4th, 14th, and 24th day of each month! On these days, street vendors fill Jizo Dori and people come to shop and enjoy street food snacks like takoyaki and yakitori.

Things to Do in Sugamo

If you aren't able to visit Sugamo on a festival day (one with a 4 in the date), there's plenty of things to do when at this nostalgic meeting place for Tokyo's Grannies. Here are some of the best things to do in Sugamo!



1. Shop for Lucky Red Underwear

If you're feeling lucky, Maruji is the place to pick up a pair of red underwear, Sugamo's signature souvenir that comes in a number of tasteful styles. In

Japan, red is the color of luck and longevity, so these red panties or akapan are meant to bring luck to the person wearing them!



2. Heal Yourself at Koganji Temple

If you're wandering through Jizo Dori Shopping Street, be sure to stop along the way at Koganji Temple approximately halfway down the street. Not only is it the temple for the splinter-removing Buddha, but it's also known for generally healing ailments. You can put the temple's incense smoke on areas of your body that are injured, or for 100 yen you can buy an omikage. This is a paper wrap that contains five images of the Jizo (Buddha), and you can attach them to parts of your body that you would like to heal, or for a holistic approach, you can eat them.

3. Join a Sugamo Food Tour & Learn Calligraphy

To add a wonderful blend of traditional food and culture to your Sugamo visit, why not join a Food Tour in Sugamo with Calligraphy Experience? One of the best things to do in Sugamo, you can taste different snacks and traditional Japanese food dishes at five food stops with a local guide, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and join a Japanese calligraphy class with an instructor!

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→ 4. Stroll Through Rikugien Gardens

To the eastern side of Sugamo, you will find the traditional and undeniably beautiful Rikugien Gardens. Centered around a specially designed man-made pond and hill, wander through the network of aristocratically designed garden paths for a peaceful immersion in perfectly crafted nature.



5. Meet Sugamo's Local Mascot, Sugamon!

Ever touched a duck's bottom? With its name meaning "duck nest," the local mascot is a kawaii duck character named Sugamon, who you can see scattered around the area. Along with this cute symbolic character (like everything in Japan), the entrance to Jizo Dori Shopping Street features a big fluffy ball, with a sign reading that it is meant to be Sugamon's bottom! Touch it, and you will get married, or touch it gently, and that means you won't need extra help when you become old!

Must-Try Sugamo Foods:

Here are some of the must-try street foods when visiting Sugamo in Tokyo! They are definitely worth a taste when wandering through Jizo Dori Shopping Street.



1. Nuresenbei ("Moist Rice Cracker")

You can buy special local nuresenbei "moist rice crackers" from Raijin-do, a local rice cracker specialty shop in Sugamo. Nuresenbei translates to mean "moist rice cracker," where nure means "moist" and senbei is the word for rice cracker. What's different about these is that they are soft rice crackers instead of those with the traditional crunchy texture. As they have not been dried or grilled, their texture resembles mochi (pounded rice cakes). Covered in a sweet soy sauce that is not too overpoweringly salty, nuresenbei are chewy and soft, almost like a pancake.



2. Shio Daifuku (Salted Mochi)

Shio daifuku or salted mochi can be purchased from Mizuno, a small hole-in-the-wall specialist wagashi sweets shop in Sugamo that opened in 1937. Daifuku mochi are typically traditional Japanese sweets made from pounded rice cakes on the outside with red bean paste filling inside. These shio daifuku are extra delicious because the red bean inside is not overly sweet, and the salty flavor sings through the soft and fluffy mochi on the outside. With a cloud-like texture, it is great for those who don't like their daifuku too sweet!



3. Ice Cream with Honeycomb

Along Jizo Dori Shopping Street, Sugi Honey Products is a specialty

honey shop in Sugamo where you can try the delicious premium ice cream or "soft cream" that features pieces of honeycomb inside! The ice cream is incredibly milky, creamy, and delicious, just like a rich Hokkaido milk ice cream; with the ice cream also generously cup coated in honey. In Japanese, honey is known as hachimitsu.



4. Daigakuimo (Candied Sweet Potato)

At Koshin Sweet Potatoes, which is an oimoyasan (meaning a "sweet potato shop"), you can taste some local daigakuimo. This street food is candied sweet potato that has been fried and covered in a deliciously sticky and sweet sauce. It is dense and starchy, with a signature firmness to the outside and a sweetness on the coating that is not too overpowering.

Daigakuimo from this local Sugamo shop features flecks of black sesame seeds, which balances the sweetness with a hint of savory nuttiness.



5. Isoage (Fish Cake)

Sugamo's local store called Isoage Maruten specializes in isoage fish cakes, which are generally fried and topped with nori seaweed. You can purchase isoage on sticks which makes for a portable Sugamo street food to enjoy while wandering through Jizo Dori.

Their most popular flavor of isoage is the takobo, or octopus stick. It features pieces of benishoga (pink pickled ginger) throughout the fishcake, which compliments the savory fishy flavor. They also sell an oozing ebimayobo, which is a fish cake with juicy shrimp pieces inside with mayonnaise! Isoage is chewy like chikuwa (a Japanese fishcake that is tube-shaped and made from ground fish meat) but also warm and easy to eat while walking around.



How to Access Sugamo Jizo Dori Shopping Street

Jizo Dori Shopping Street in Sugamo can be easily accessed from Sugamo Station on the JR Yamanote Line, or you can also access it from the Mita Subway line. It is just a 5-minute walk away; exit the station and head northwest. Sugamo is 20 minutes from Tokyo Station and 13 minutes from Shinjuku Station on the JR Yamanote Line.

Check out more videos and subscribe to the Japan by Food YouTube channel to keep up with our latest food adventures!



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Dress, stroll and eat in the Taisho Era

with Tokyo hotel's kimono plan

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

Japan's Taisho Era from 1912 to 1926 is considered one of Japan's most brilliant and romantic periods in modern history. Western arts and culture imported during this time had a major influence on Japan's own fashion, arts and culture.

A Tokyo hotel is offering guests an opportunity to return to the colorful era for a day. Gajoen is hosting an interesting package plan which includes a rental of a Taisho-style kimono, high-end lunch and exhibition on the artworks of the era inside its historical banquet annex.

The "Retro Kimono Plan with Restaurant and Cultural Assets" starts from 17,000 to 18,000 yen (\$150-160) and allows you to choose a kimono, sash and various accessories like zori traditional sandals, bag and hair ornament for an authentic Taisho-style look.

After getting fitted in the kimono rental and accessories, you will enjoy a high-end lunch or afternoon tea set at one of Gajoen's high-end restaurants of your choosing. After lunch or tea, guests are allowed to stroll in and around the "museum hotel," as Gajoen is described on its website. In the wooden Hyakudan Kaidan banquet annex, peruse Taisho Era artwork.

The plan is a great way to experience history through art, fashion and food. The kimono, the hotel grounds and nearby Meguro River will make for wonderful Instagram photos. For an additional fee, the plan can include a professional photographer to capture you in the Taisho Era.

Take a walk into the Taisho Era now through June 12 at the Gajoen Hotel!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



Photos Courtesy of Hotel Gajoen Tokyo

A stroll through Taisho

Location: Hotel Gajoen Tokyo: 1-8-1 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo

Phone number: 050-3188-7570.

Period: Through June 12, 2022

Hours: 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., or 11:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Prices: Rental with Lunch Set: 18,000 yen,
Rental with Afternoon Tea set: 17,000 yen
(Optional professional photo-shooting: 5,500 - 8,800 yen)

Tel: 03-3491-4111

Notes: Kimonos available for women only and run in standard size.
The hotel cannot accommodate larger kimono sizes. Call ahead to check if they have a specific size available.



HOTEL GAJOEN TOKYO

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Karaage spot near Hardy Barracks hits the spot



STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPE JAPAN

Aside from sushi, ramen and tonkatsu, “karaage” deep-fried meat, fish or vegetables without the use of batter, is one of the most popular dishes in Japan. While any meat, fish and vegetables can be cooked as a karaage, most commonly, the dish is made with chicken.

To get the crisp and juicy texture, small pieces of chicken are marinated in soy-sauce-based broth, dredged in flour or starch powders and then deep fried. Karaage is often enjoyed with a squeeze of lemon, a side of mayo or tartar sauce for dipping.

The dish is very popular at izakaya pubs and other restaurants as a side, appetizer or even meal. As you stroll around cities in Japan, you may notice that there are even restaurants dedicated to serving up the fried delicacy.

In Tokyo, you’ll find IPPO, a stone’s-throw from Hardy Barracks. The eatery specializes in karaage and offers great weekday lunch deals perfect for a break on you and your wallet while exploring the city.

IPPO is in the basement of a building near the Nishiazabu Intersection and has a clean, cozy Japanese-style interior with a long wooden bar and tables on tatami. Heading down the staircase to this relaxing environment with the promise of a tasty, fried treat, is a great way to disconnect

from the hustle and bustle of the city above. The restaurant can accommodate as many as 40 diners and is a great spot for hosting a party or large groups, as well.

For lunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., diners can choose from three options ranging in price from 880 to 950 yen (about \$7.50 to \$9.25) including karaage, oyakodon (a bowl of rice topped with chicken and eggs cooked together) and chicken-soup ramen.

My usual order is the karaage set with about four or five large pieces of chicken thigh, salad, miso soup, steamed rice and pickles.

Since the eatery makes its karaage using the famous “hinaijitori” chicken brand produced in Akita Prefecture, the result is full-bodied, chewy yet tender and crispy-crust pieces. The flavor is exceptional and pairs well with the rice and miso soup. I recommend sprinkling some of the rock salt IPPO keeps on the tables and counters over your karaage.

While sampling tasty karaage, you may want another bowl of rice. Don’t worry – rice refills are free IPPO!

If you’re staying at Hardy Barracks or New Sanno, or are simply out and about in Tokyo, IPPO is a great option for a cheap and delicious lunch. Give them a try next time you find yourself hungry for crispy fried karaage chicken!

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



IPPO

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Learning how ramen saved Japan

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
YASHIRA M. RODRÍGUEZ SIERRA,
STRIPES JAPAN

For many of us, one of the first things that comes to mind when we think of Japan is ramen. However, you may be surprised to know that this famous bowl of broth and noodles is not originally from Japan but from China.

During World War II, famine struck Japan and ramen was key in feeding the country. With the idea of ramen being a soup known for its easy preparation and inexpensive ingredients, Momofuku Ando (1910-2007), an inventor of Taiwanese and Japanese descent, invented the “instant noodles” as a response to the food shortages. It took him several months of scientific research and hard work to make the best production. One of his quotes is “peace will come to the

world when all its people have enough to eat.” How true is that! And, those quick-made noodles fed the nation.

There are many stories surrounding the origin of ramen. One of them mentions that by 1660, feudal lord Tokugama Mitsukuni was the first to establish ramen, which was then called chuuka soba. A different story recorded in Japanese historical archives published in 1987, says a Chinese refugee who arrived in Japan suggested adding condiments like onion, garlic and ginger to ramen. Another version notes that a group of Japanese who were in China after the war returned with a ramen recipe. Yet another story suggests that Chinese nationals started opening restaurants in 1870 and served noodles called nankin soba. Also, the Chinese popularized mobile noodle stalls called Yatai.

We may never know the true origin of ramen, but we can certainly agree that the noodles are delicious and there are great opportunities to learn how to make them while in Japan. For this, I visited Ippudo Child Kitchen in Fukuoka Prefecture.

I donned a white apron and headed into the kitchen to make the noodles from scratch! The most surprising thing that I learned from this experience was that after making the dough, they cover it with several layers of plastic, throw it on the ground and start stepping on it. Yes, they step on the dough. Just like the French people traditionally prepared wine – crushing the grapes with their feet. We were tasked to flatten the ramen dough using our feet (no shoes, only with our socks on). To be honest, I didn't really like that step of the process, but that's the way they do it.

For me, broth is the secret for a delicious bowl of ramen. Unfortunately, we were not taught how to make the broth in this lesson. After making the noodles using a noodle-maker machine, we cooked and enjoyed our handiwork!

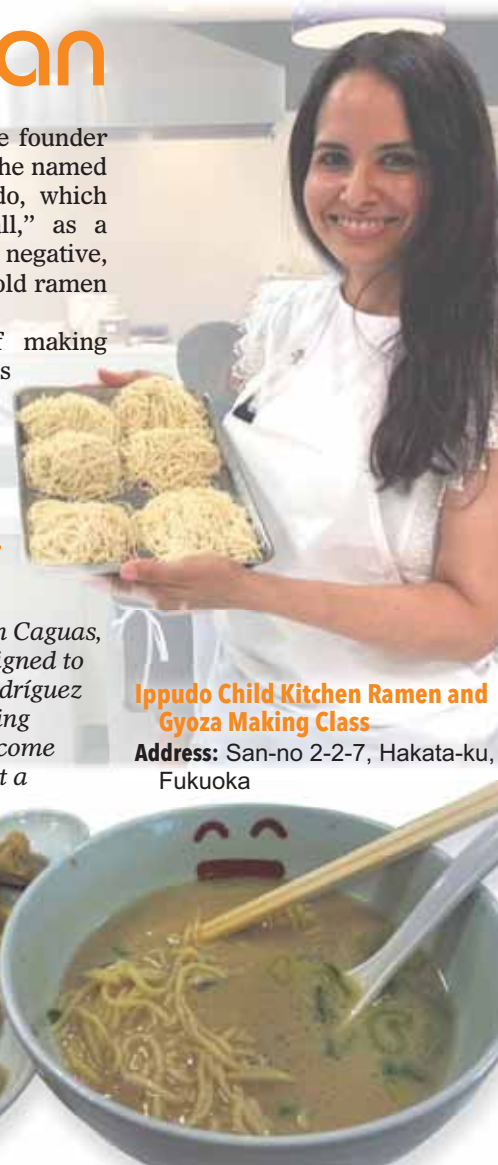
Ippudo's broth is a rich, pork-based delight. According to

Shigemi Kawahara, the founder of Ippudo restaurants, he named his ramen style ippudo, which means “one wind hall,” as a means of changing the negative, old perceptions of the old ramen restaurants of the past.

The experience of making noodles at Ippudo was so fun that I recommend it to everyone! And this ippudo ramen was one of the best ramen I've ever had.

About the writer:

Yashira M. Rodríguez Sierra is originally from Caguas, Puerto Rico. She is assigned to Sasebo Naval Base. Rodríguez enjoys nature and moving to Japan was a dream come true. She volunteered at a local orphanage and before joining the Navy she was an artist-artisan and journalist.



Ippudo Child Kitchen Ramen and Gyoza Making Class
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Stripes Sports Trivia

The 1999 NFL Draft saw three quarterbacks go in the first three picks. Kicked off with Tim Couch to the Browns with the first overall pick, four other signal callers went within the next 11 selections. How many of those four can you name?

Answer
Donovan McNabb (2), Akili Smith (3), Daunte Culpepper (11), Cade McNown (12)

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Kanji of the week

浅

Shallow (asai or sen)

Language Lesson

Good night.

Oyasumi nasai.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- Salary limits
- Sign of life
- one's time
- Away from the wind
- Pass into law
- Bidding site
- Reddish-brown
- Good-looking
- Send into a swoon
- Reacts to yeast
- Triangular Greek letter
- Like many wedding cakes
- Welles of film fame
- Swelling reducer
- Leave a mark on
- Take the pulpit
- One of Mickey's exes
- TV cabinet
- Twisting Chubby
- "Tarzan" extra
- Reason out
- Ethereal
- Beginner, slangily
- When tripled, an Elvis tune
- McDonald's clown
- Meddlesome sort
- French farewell
- Fuel for big rigs
- Workplace trouble, sometimes
- Not fooled by
- Send forth
- Rotini, for one
- Civil rights org.
- Work well together
- Unable to relax
- Property title

DOWN

- Gave a hoot
- Unaccompanied
- Necklace item
- Ottawa's NHL team
- Gardening moss
- Lacking in schooling
- Base "facilities"
- Rockslide debris
- Capt.'s guess
- Come to pass
- Egyptian bird
- Kevin Kline title role
- Spud's buds
- Nativity scene
- Golfer's concern
- Heavier, as a dessert
- Stomach neighbor
- Make cookies
- Say it's so
- Larson of "The Far Side"
- Read a bar code
- Manage somehow
- One more time
- Fender benders
- Rotten to the core
- Social worker's work
- Worst looking
- Bit of fresh air?
- Caustic cleaner
- Commercial creator
- Present time
- Boxer's quest
- Vocally
- "Beg pardon ..."
- British title
- Pupil's place
- Legal postponement
- Chic getaway

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

S	T	I	R	C	A	B	S	C	L	I	N	T
P	A	N	E	A	L	O	E	R	I	D	E	R
A	X	I	S	P	L	O	W	O	B	E	S	E
S	I	T	U	P	S	S	E	P	A	R	A	T
I	L	L	U	S	T	R	A	T	E			
S	P	A	T	U	L	A		W	I	T	C	H
C	A	T		G	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I
A	C	I	D		G	A	M		O	T	T	O
R	E	V	E	R	B	E	R	A	T	E		R
R	E	P	E	L		G	R	A	N	O	L	A
				O	P	E	N	S	E	A	S	O
A	C	C	R	E	D	I	T		G	E	N	E
Q	U	O	T	A		C	E	D	E		F	L
U	P	S	E	T		H	E	A	D		A	L
A	S	H	E	S		E	D	D	Y		T	A
												P

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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:

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

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

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