TATEYAMA
Peaceful city with a great panoramic view of Tokyo’s gulf

Pages 8-9
Halloween is fast approaching and many bases are hosting fun events for the kids. Each base has different requirements and rules in place. Please visit your local command’s Facebook page or website for updates. The events below are subject to change at the discretion of base officials.

**Yokota**

**Trick or treating**

**DATE:** Oct. 27, 6-8 p.m.

**DETAILS:** Visit Yokota Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/yokotaairbase/posts/2176809965880024](https://www.facebook.com/yokotaairbase/posts/2176809965880024)

**Taito House of torment (Kid day)**

**DATE:** Oct. 23 & 24, 5 - 9 p.m.

**PLACE:** Ikego Joint Use Area – Campgrounds.

For more information please call 241-3077 or visit [https://www.facebook.com/MWRAthleticsYokosuka](https://www.facebook.com/MWRAthleticsYokosuka).

**7th Fleet Band Halloween concert**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 5 - 6 p.m.

**PLACE:** Berkey Field

**Yokosuka movie night**

**SHOWING:** “Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation” PG

**DATE:** Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Berkey Field

**Nerf battle**

**DATE:** Oct. 31

**TIME:** 2 - 4:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Softball Field #3, Ikego Field #5

On-line pre-registration is required through MYFFR from now - Oct. 23.

For more information, visit the Nerf Battle [https://www.facebook.com/MWRAthleticsYokosuka](https://www.facebook.com/MWRAthleticsYokosuka).

**Yokosuka**

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.

**Halloween dress the pin last day**

**DATE:** Now through Oct. 29

**COST:** Free

**PLACE:** Tomodachi Bowling

For more information, call Tomodachi Lanes at 225-7191.

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 Includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.

**Fall fest to-go**

**DATE:** Oct. 30 - Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Library at 225-7490.

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 Includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 Includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.

**Fall fest to-go**

**DATE:** Oct. 30 - Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Library at 225-7490.

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 Includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 Includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.

**Fall fest to-go**

**DATE:** Oct. 30 - Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Library at 225-7490.

**Halloween Glow Golf**

**DATE:** Oct. 30, 6 - 8.30 p.m.

**COST:** $20 Includes: Glow Golf Ball, Food & Prizes

**PLACE:** Yokota Golf Center

For more information, call Yokota Golf Center at 225-8815.

**Comedy dinner theater: How to survive a zombie apocalypse**

**DATE:** Nov. 6

**PLACE:** Library

For more information, call Officer’s Club at 225-8526.
Now through Oct. 29
Best house decorating contest (Yokosuka & Ikego Base)

https://www.facebook.com/Yokosuka.MWR.ComRec/

Virtual contests
- Trick or treating
- Halloween flocks at the barracks
- Creepy Cruisin at Main Base

For more information please call at 241-5060.

To enter the contest patrons are requested to send their costume photo submissions to mwrc_special_events@fe.navy.mil until Oct. 26.

Event start at 5:30 p.m., run starts at 6 p.m.

- Households cannot leave a bowl of candy outside their house. Households must pass out treat in small groups while maintaining social distance.
- No Strollers
- Must wear mask when not running
- Social distancing will be implemented

For more information, call SHIA Sports Complex at 81 (42)869-6130.

---

**Spooky speak**

In recent years, the modern Western tradition of Halloween has crept up on Japan in the form of commercial and entertainment events – especially in big cities. Don’t be surprised to see parties, fancy costumes and parades celebrating Halloween. Here are a few words and phrases to help get you in to the spirit.

- "kowai hanashi" = scary story
- "obake" = ghost
- "kodomo" = children
- "ama" = candy

- "totemo kowai" = very scary
- "kawaii" = cute
- "banpaiyah" = vampire

- "watashi wa banpaiyah ni naru yotei desu." = I am going to a Halloween party.
- "ni ikimasu" = go to
- "kyo wa ... desu." = Today is …
- "kazo" = dress up
- "kyo wa Halloween desu." = Today is Halloween.
- "kowaku nai" = not scary
- "kodomo wa trick-or-treating wo tanoshimi ni shiteimasu." = The children are looking forward to going trick-or-treating.
- "anata no costume wa kakkoii desu." = Your costume is cool.
- "halloween no kaso wo shimasuka?" = Will you dress up for Halloween?
- "ameno ni kowai hanashi" = Scary story

---

**Japanese**

"Anatano" = your; "ie" = house; "suteki" = nice

"Anatano ie no kazari wa totemo suteki desu." = house's decorations are very nice.

"Halloween no kaso wo shimasuka?" = Will you dress up for Halloween?

"Anata no costume wa kakkoii desu." = Your costume is cool.

"Anata no costume wa kawaii desu." = Your costume is cute.

"Anatano" = your; "ie" = house; "suteki" = nice

---

**Pronunciation key:**

- "A" is short (like “ah”); "E" is short (like “get”); "I" is short (like “it”); "O" is long (like “in”); "U" is long (like “tube”); and "AI" is a long "I" (like “hike”). Most words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable, but "OU" is a long "O" with emphasis on that syllable.

**General expressions:**

- "kari" = decoration
- "kawaii" = cute
- "kakkoii" = cool (or handsome)
- "ni ikimasu" = go to
- "paat" = party
- "kimo" = children
- "tanoshimi ni shiteimasu." = looking forward
to
- "kowaku nai" = not scary

---

**Halloween Party**

- Doors open at 10 p.m.
- COST: Free Admission
- PLACE: Misawa Club Parking Lot

**Halloween Movie Time**

- DATE: Oct. 31
- PLACE: Overstreet Memorial Library

**Halloween Costume Contest 2020**

Special: $50  Group: $30  Individual: $20 and more!

Voting Posting: Oct. 23 to Nov. 3
Voting Deadline: Oct. 29 to Nov. 5

For more details and rules, visit facebook.com/StripesPacific

---

**Misawa**

**Halloween pin decorating contest**

DATE: Now through Oct. 29
PLACE: Atsugi Lanes Bowling

For more information, call Atsugi Lanes Bowling at 264-3790.

**Sasebo**

**Best house decorating contest (Yokosuka & Ikego Base townhouse & Tower balconies)**

DATE: Now through Oct. 29
PLACE: Yokosuka & Ikego's Best Halloween Decorated House & Tower Balcony contest, please register online at MYFFR (https://myffr.navy.military.com/armymwrjapan/photos)

**Iwakuni**

**Halloween Drive-Thru**

DATE: Oct. 30, 6 - 8 p.m.
For more information, call 252-1803 or 252-3930.

**Sagamihara Housing Area**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 31, 5 - 7 p.m.
PLACE: Overstreet Memorial Library

**Camp Zama & Sagamihara Housing Area**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 31, 6 to 9 p.m. (both Camp Zama and Sagamihara Family Housing Area)

*A closed post event. Only SOFA personnel, MLC/IHA employees and anyone with ID access to the installations will be allowed to participate. No guests or visitors.

- All participants must wear a mask over their mouth and nose, if their costume isn't already covering their face.
- Children and families must trick or treat in small groups while maintaining social distance.
- Those passing out candy must use hand sanitizer regularly, wear a mask and gloves, and hand the candy out individually.
- Households cannot leave a bowl of candy outside their door or on their porch with a “Please Take One” sign.

(For more info: https://www.facebook.com/ armymwrjapan/photos \a/494923173901025/2452269301499716 and https://www.facebook.com/ armymwrjapan/photos \a/49423173901025/2452269301499716)

**Bunko**

**Halloween fest**

DATE: Oct. 23, 5 - 8 p.m.
PLACE: Arts & Crafts Center

**Halloween Movie Time**

DATE: Oct. 31
PLACE: Overstreet Memorial Library

---

**Misawa**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 31
PLACE: Arts & Crafts Center

- Only those with regular access to the base (no visitor passes will be issued)

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 31
PLACE: Overstreet Memorial Library

**Sagamihara Housing Area**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 30, 5 - 8 p.m.
PLACE: Arts & Crafts Center

**Sasebo**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 31
PLACE: Overstreet Memorial Library

**Misawa**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 30
PLACE: Arts & Crafts Center

- Only those with base access allowed to participate.

**Dress the pin contest at Walmsley Bowling Center**

**PIN SUBMISSION DATES:** Now through Oct. 23
**VOTING:** Oct. 23 - 30
**WINNER ANNOUNCED:** Oct. 31

**Halloween Cruiisn at Main Base**

**Halloween Drive-Thru**

DATE: Oct. 30, 6 - 8 p.m.
For more information, call 252-1803 or 252-3930.

**Atsugi**

**Halloween pin decorating contest**

DATE: Now through Oct. 29
PLACE: Atsugi Lanes Bowling

For more information, call Atsugi Lanes Bowling at 264-3790.

**Sagamihara Housing Area**

**Trick or treating**

DATE: Oct. 31, 5 - 7 p.m.
PLACE: Atsugi Lanes Bowling

**For more information please call at 241-4111.**
Go To Travel explained
How to enjoy a trip in Japan at up to 50% OFF!

Editor’s Note: These are uncertain times and this article mentions places to visit in Tokyo, which is currently off-limits. The Go To Travel campaign includes many locations outside of Tokyo, so please plan ahead if and when you decide to travel. Follow safety guidelines set by your base and always remember to practice proper hand-washing and social distancing.

J
apan’s Go To Travel Campaign, a Japanese government subsidy-backed tourism program, is under way! But what is this campaign all about, who can benefit from it, and how do interested ones apply for the subsidies? Also, how long will the Go To Travel Campaign last, and can someone use it to travel overseas and back? What are the differences between phases one and two of the campaign?

Here we’ll provide some answers and clear up any doubts for you! In case you didn’t already know, you can definitely apply for these subsidies through websites that support English, too!

Let’s first properly define what Go To Travel is. This is a program introduced by the Japanese government to revive tourism-related spending in domestic regions and restore travel demand, which has understandably plunged significantly since the start of the pandemic. The first phase of this program provided travel subsidies that covered the period between July 22, 2020 to September 1, 2020, both dates inclusive.

The next phase will begin in October 1 and this time, it includes Tokyo City as well. The metropolis was previously not covered in the first phase, so its inclusion in the second phase is a hot topic for discussion among potential travelers.

Without further ado, let’s take a look at what phase two can do for you!

- **GO TO TRAVEL CAMPAIGN PERIOD (PHASE 2):** Trips starting from Thursday, October 1, 2020

  - **SUBLIY:** Half of the accommodations or day trip costs for domestic trips (including tour groups), 70% of which is a straight discount for trip costs and 30% in the form of general vouchers to be used at the destination.
  - **SUBSIDY CAP:** Capped at 20,000 yen per person per night’s stay. For day trips, the cap is 10,000 yen per trip.
  - **USAGE LIMITS:** No limits to number of usage times or amount of consecutive days. For example, if your trip includes a 2-night stay, the cap will then be 20,000 yen x 2 nights = 40,000 yen.

- **APPLICABLE TRAVEL PRODUCTS:**
  - Trips with overnight stays
    1. Accommodations + transportation
    2. Accommodations only
    3. Quasi-accommodations such as cruise ships, night ferries, or sleeper trains (excluding tickets considered seats-only)
  - Day trips
    Round trip transportation + food or sightseeing costs at the destination

- **APPLICABLE PERSONS:**
  - Residents of Japan, including service members and other foreigners residing in Japan.

In phase one, which covered the period between July 22 to August 31, travelers were reimbursed 35% of their accommodations or day trip costs. For those who made a reservation or payment directly with the place of accommodation, they were required to apply for this reimbursement manually.

In the second phase, travelers will be reimbursed 50% of travel costs (up to 20,000 yen per night’s stay), and vouchers that can be used throughout the region will be issued as well. There is also no need to manually apply for the subsidies anymore.

*Please note that the above maximum amount and usage restrictions may differ depending on the travel site you are applying through.*

We know it’s not easy to figure out the exact amount of subsidies you can receive, so here are some examples for you to refer to.

- **EXAMPLE 1:** Travel or accommodation cost is 20,000 yen

  Total Travel & Accommodations Cost = 20,000 yen
  If your travel or accommodation costs come up to 20,000 yen, the subsidy will be 50% of that - i.e., 10,000 yen.

  This amount will be split into a cash discount (70% of subsidy, or 7,000 yen) and general vouchers (30% of subsidy, or 3,000 yen).

  IMPORTANT NOTE: What this means specifically is that the discount on your travel cost is 7,000 yen in all, so you’ll be paying 13,000 yen in the end.

  It doesn’t mean your travel cost is given a 50% flat-rate discount of 10,000 yen. Something to keep in mind!

- **EXAMPLE 2:** Travel costs for a three-day two-night tour is 100,000 yen (including transportation, accommodations, etc.)

  If your total cost for a two-day three-night tour comes up to 100,000 yen, because each night’s stay qualifies you for a subsidy of up to 20,000 yen per night, your subsidy will be 40,000 yen, of which 70% (28,000 yen) will be a direct discount, and 30% (12,000 yen) will be reimbursed in the form of general vouchers. You’ll be paying 72,000 yen (100,000 yen minus 28,000 yen) of the total bill.

*Please note that the above amount may vary depending on the travel site you apply for.*

There is no need to make a special application to qualify for the discounts and vouchers. That’s right, not even if you’re a foreigner residing in Japan!

Simply ensure that you’re buying your travel plans from tour agencies or accommodations that are officially registered with the Go To Travel campaign. As previously explained, the discount is automatically applied, and you only need to pay the rest of the amount to the travel agency or accommodations facility.

- **IN SUMMARY:**
  1. Reserve or buy from a registered tour agency/travel site
  2. Make a reservation directly with registered accommodations providers

- **ENGLISH WEBSITES SUPPORTING GO TO TRAVEL**
  - Booking.com: https://www.booking.com/gototravel.html?aid=1725679
We’ve talked about how 30% of the subsidy will be in the form of general vouchers to be used at the destination, but how exactly does it work?

- **VOUCHER AMOUNT:** 30% of subsidy, or 15% of total travel costs, rounded off to the nearest thousand yen. For example, if the amount is 500 yen or above, you’ll be issued a 1,000 yen voucher.
- **USAGE PERIOD:** Only during your trip.
- **USAGE AREAS:** Your destination prefecture and city + adjacent prefectures and cities
- **APPLICABLE SHOPS:** Shops and facilities registered with the Go To Travel Bureau
- **VOUCHER TYPES:** You’ll either receive paper or digital vouchers, depending on your trip destination. Generally, you’ll receive paper vouchers if you purchase your trip through travel companies with retail stores or reserve a room at an accommodations facility. If you make your reservation online, the type of vouchers you receive will depend on the service provider you made the reservation with.

Note that no change will be given back for either types of vouchers, even if what you buy does not make up the voucher’s full stated amount.

#### Vouchers at my destination

There are a couple of other important things to remember:

1. Airplane tickets from overseas to Japan or vice versa are not a part of this program.
2. Currently, the tentative end-date for the program is January 31, 2021 (checkout by February 1 for those who reserved accommodations). However, this date is subject to change by the government, depending on the speed in which the budget allotted for the program is used up.

If the budget is used up at a faster pace than anticipated, there’s a high chance the program will be ended before January 31, so make your reservations quickly to avoid losing out!

#### What is the “top-up” subsidy that was announced by Tokyo City?

On September 24, Tokyo City and Go To Travel jointly announced that there will be a top-up subsidy of 5,000 yen per person per night’s stay, or 2,500 yen for day trips for Tokyo residents purchasing accommodation plans or day trip tours within the metropolitan area, including Tokyo Islands.

Once this policy is implemented, it gives city travelers an enhanced subsidy of up to 25,000 yen per night’s stay, including the 20,000 yen subsidy already being given out by the Go To Travel campaign.

This is exciting news for Tokyo residents who have been waiting for their turn since phase one! Although details are still being ironed out, the subsidy will most probably apply to accommodation plans, day trip tours, and other travel products being sold by travel agencies or accommodation facilities from late October onwards.

Since Tokyo City is giving out extra subsidies to its residents, this is an excellent chance for those who qualify to give that luxury hotel or traditional Japanese inn they normally wouldn’t be keen to cough up so much dough for a go.

Another thing to try, even though this won’t qualify for the city’s extra subsidies, is to book a condominium or other lodgings in the Tokyo suburbs for a workation. It’s been known to do wonders for productivity!

#### Save on these luxury hotels!

Spend your special days like Christmas or New Year’s Day in a special hotel! Combine your vouchers with the Go To Eat Campaign and you’ll have a splendid dinner covered as well.

- **SHINAGAWA PRINCE HOTEL**
  - ADDRESS: 4-10-30 Takanaawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108-8611
  - VACANCY SEARCH, RESERVATION BOOKING.COM from 14,500JPY (1 room, 2 adults)

- **SEQUENCE MIYASHITA PARK / SHIBUYA**
  - ADDRESS: MIHASHITA PARK North, 6-20-10 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150-0001
  - NEAREST STATION: Shibuya Station
  - TEL: 03-5468-6131
  - VACANCY SEARCH, RESERVATION BOOKING.COM from 11,868JPY (1 room, 2 adults)

Traditional Japanese ryokan inns to put on your bucket list

For busy folks who can’t seem to find the time to go out for a trip, there’s always the option of enjoying the authentic Japanese experience right within Tokyo City itself. Stay at one of these conveniently located Japanese inns during your city tour for a full cultural immersion!

- **CYASHTSUYUKOKAN ASAKUSA**
  - ADDRESS: 3-32-12 Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 111-0032
  - NEAREST STATION: Asakusa Station
  - VACANCY SEARCH, RESERVATION BOOKING.COM from 22,800JPY (1 room, 2 adults)

- **RYOKAN ASAKUSA SHIGETSU**
  - ADDRESS: 1-31-11 Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 111-0032
  - NEAREST STATION: Asakusa Station (Toei Subway Ginza Line / Toei Asakusa Line / Tobu Isesaki Line (Tobu Sky Tree Line) / Tsukuba Express)
  - VACANCY SEARCH, RESERVATION BOOKING.COM from 17,000JPY (1 room, 2 adults)

#### Resort-like accommodation facilities in the Tokyo suburbs

Surround yourself with nature or gaze at the calm waves of the sea in one of these condominiums or cottages that are great for workations!

- **ZAIMOKUZAI SEASONS**
  - ADDRESS: 5-8-25 Zaimokuza, Kamakura-shi, Kanagawa Pref., 248-0013
  - NEAREST STATION: Kamakura Station
  - TEL: 04-6791-9216
  - VACANCY SEARCH, RESERVATION BOOKING.COM from 18,000JPY (1 room, 2 adults)

- **SHIRAHAMA OCEAN RESORT**
  - ADDRESS: 2784 Shirahama, Shirahamacho, Minamiboso-shi, Chiba Pref., 295-0102
  - TEL: 04-7038-2511
  - VACANCY SEARCH, RESERVATION BOOKING.COM from 7,700JPY (1 room, 2 adults)

With the new normal slowly entering everyone’s life, don’t forget to follow the new traveling etiquette as well by wearing a mask at all times outside and refraining from making conversation in enclosed spaces like trains and vehicles. Vigilance is key! Sticking to the new etiquette will allow you and your companions to enjoy your subsidized trip with greater peace of mind.

The Go To Eat Campaign will also be launched during the same period, and we’ve prepared an article that answers burning questions about how foreigners residing in Japan can take advantage of the benefits being offered here as well. Don’t forget to take a peek!

---

*This information is from the time of this article’s publication. Prices and options mentioned are subject to change.*

*Unless stated otherwise, all prices include tax*
TOKYO — U.S. troops and their families can eat for less at off-base restaurants thanks to Japanese government efforts to boost the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The “Go To Eat” campaign that kicked off Oct. 1 provides a 25% discount at participating eateries.

To take advantage of the deals, diners may buy up to 20,000 yen ($190) in coupons at a time, either online or at convenience stores, according to Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Diners can earn points that provide discounts on future meals when making reservations through a variety of websites, including Tabelog.com and Gurunavi.com, according to the ministry website. However, Japanese language skills will likely be required.

Diners can earn points or purchase meal coupons until the end of January. The deadline to use the points is March 31.

Meanwhile, Japan’s “Go To” travel campaign, which offers discounts on hotels, transport and tourism activities, was recently extended nationwide and to allow U.S. military personnel to take advantage of it without having to provide official Japanese identification, a requirement when the campaign began in spring.

Online travel website booking.com, for example, displays a “Go To” logo on listings for hotels offering the discounts. The website lists the Forest Inn Showakan in Akishima, near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, which is offering rooms discounted from 27,000 yen ($256) to 17,550 yen ($167) this month. A room at the Hilton Niseko Village on Hokkaido, also advertised on the website, is marked down from 28,889 yen ($274) to 18,778 yen ($178).

The travel savings have been a hot topic on local military social media pages, according to Air Force spouse Brittnie Lyons, who was shopping at Yokota. “We love to travel around Japan but sometimes it gets a little unaffordable,” she said.

Since arriving in Tokyo 18 months ago, her family has been to Nikko and Nagano, which are both popular with tourists. Discounts at local restaurants are a bonus, Lyons said. “We eat out all the time,” she said. “We eat every kind of Japanese food we come across. There’s not a lot of local food that I’ve tried that I haven’t liked.”

by Seth Robson and Hana Kusumoto, Stars and Stripes

Published: October 14, 2020

Troops eligible for ‘Go To Eat’ discounts
A day trip to Mount Mitake
near Yokota

By ERICA EARL

October 1, 2020

As you make your way on a hilly trail canopied by greenery, you come across a small village. After a traditional Japanese tea, the winding path leads you to a beautiful staircase to a scene of statues, vibrant architecture and misty mountain views.

While it might sound like a dreamscape, this outing is an easily accessible day trip in the Okutama region, just one hour away from Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, and tends to be less crowded than the popular Mount Takao.

Mount Mitake, one of the many highlights of the Chichibu-Tama-Kai National Park, features a railway and hiking path that takes visitors on a journey through a tranquil forest, a charming small village and a shrine.

A trip to Mount Mitake can easily be made into a full-day visit, starting with the funicular up the steep incline.

The Mitake Tozan Railway costs 1,130 yen, about $10.75, for a round-trip ticket and takes six minutes to make its way to the base of the trail. Visitors can purchase tickets with either cash or their Suica or PASMO transit cards. I suggest sitting toward the back of the car facing outward to get the most of the sweeping views, as the sides and back of the train offer more of a sightseeing opportunity than the very small window to the tracks at the front of the train.

Much of the appeal of the winding, meandering 1½-mile hike from the train station to Musashi Mitake Shrine is the whimsical sensation of feeling like you are walking somewhere untouched and unexplored by outsiders rather than on a pre-determined path.

In addition to the natural beauty, the mountain and its shrine have historical and spiritual significance. About two-thirds of the way to the shrine, the trail leads through a small, two-street village. The homes in the village and on the path to the peak of Mitake are mostly occupied by Shinto priest families who are caretakers for the park and shrine. Since the Edo period, locals have considered the hike up Mount Mitake to be a sacred pilgrimage.

The shrine and spaces around it boast a variety of wolf statues, making it a popular spot for visitors to bring their dogs. The appearances of wolves around shrines dates to a legend from year A.D. 150. In the story, Imperial Prince Yamata Takeru was saved by a large, mysterious white wolf while battling an evil spiritual entity.

Mount Mitake’s dedication to wolves is curious, however, because it was allegedly established before the legend of Takeru’s otherworldly acts of heroism.

In addition to the stunning red and gold Musashi Mitake Shrine is the Ubuyasusha, a humble yet beautiful wooden shrine believed to bring health, ease and happiness to families raising a child.

After paying respect to the shrines and appreciating the views from the mountaintop, visitors can rest and meditate in the rock garden on the back side of the mountain before making the trip back down.

On the trip, keep an eye out for Japanese giant flying squirrels, although a sighting is rare. I was not fortunate enough to see one in the flesh and had to settle for painted and carved depictions of them in the village shops.

While the shrines are said to nourish the soul, there are several options on Mount Mitake for nourishing the body. On the sojourn to the summit, it is recommended to stop in one of the tea or noodle shops in the village.

DIRECTIONS: About an hour by car from Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo. Google Plus code: Q4MX+5R Ome, Tokyo

TIMES: Open daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

COSTS: About $10.75 for a roundtrip adult ticket, $5.40 for a roundtrip child ticket (school-age children), and $2.50 for a roundtrip pet ticket

FOOD: Tea shops and noodle shops are available in the village toward the top of Mount Mitake. Shops at the train station at the base of the trail offer snack options.

PHONE: 0428-78-9363

twitter: @ThisEarlGirl
Tateyama, on Bosō (Chiba) Peninsula’s south end, is a beautiful castle city and a great one-day sightseeing attraction if you’re visiting from Yokosuka Naval Base.

Only a 90-minute trip, including a 30-minute ferry boat ride across the bay, will get you to this relaxed area with scenic coastlines, sprawling beaches and lush greenery.

We drove through Tateyama and visited some of the nearby tourist attractions.

**REPLICA CASTLE**

Tateyama Castle is known as a landmark of its surrounding city. It sits atop a mountain and can be seen from anywhere in the city.

We arrived at the castle park’s parking lot and were greeted by city employees disguised as ninja ready to take visitors aboard a black shuttle van up to the castle entrance free of charge.

As soon as our ninja shuttle dropped us off at the top of the mountain, the view took our breath away. From here we could see the whole city, Tateyama Port and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force’s air facility against the backdrop of Tokyo Gulf littered with ships and boats sailing in different directions. This view was spectacular, but not as spectacular as it could’ve been had there been no fog — this location is nominated as one of the 100 best Mt. Fuji viewing spots. We didn’t get to see Fuji this time, unfortunately.

The castle itself is the traditional tower style you may have seen in your travels around the country. This isn’t the original building as it was demolished in 1614, only 34 years after it was built by Satomi Tadayoshi was relocated, to the western Ther-in-law Okubo Tadachika, a powerful direct subordinate of the Shogun, fell out of favor and was banished along with Satomi and other relatives.

In 1982, this replica of the four-storied and three-layered castle was built. After admiring the architecture of the replica, a stroll around the well-maintained traditional Japanese garden, teahouse, souvenir shop, children’s athletic field and park on the surrounding grounds.

**SHINTO SHRINE**

Our next stop was Tsurugaya Hachimangu, the main Shinto shrine in the Southern Chiba region.

The huge stone torii gate and a wide, long apron gate were amazing. The old, wooden main shrine decorated with tiny dragon and tiger sculptures. Since its foundation in 717, the shrine was venerated by various feudal lords of the Minamoto and Satomi Clans throughout the medieval era.

Make sure to stop at the bee farm you’ll find next to the large torii gate. Hifumi Yohoen has been around for 70 years and features nanohana honey. The shopkeeper gave us a sample, convincing us that we could not leave without our own bottle of this bright golden honey for 1,650 yen (about $14).
TATEYAMA

A scenic view of Tokyo’s gulf

Tateyama Castle
LOCATION: 362 Tateyama, Tateyama City, Chiba Pref.
HOURS: Tue - Sun, 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
*The shuttle van service is available 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. every weekend.
ADMISSION: adult 400 yen; elementary, middle and high schoolers 200 yen
URL: www.tsukahara-li.co.jp/tateyama/
TEL: 0470-23-2164

As we drove along the main street of Tateyama City, we passed the JR station, which has an eye-catching orange tile roof, white walls and large windows. This, coupled with tall palm trees lining the front, gave it the air of a Spanish castle or church rather than a train station.

Tateyama Bay near the station offered us a pleasant drive. We enjoyed the beautiful sunset made up of bright orange reflection on the sea and silhouettes of ships and boats against the backdrop of Miura Peninsula. It was just a calm and peaceful view. The changing colors of the sea and sky drew us to pull over along the road several times to catch the perfect photo.

Off in the distance we could see Daifukuji Temple, also known as cliff temple, looking like it was floating mid-bay — an optical illusion. We arrived after it was closed, but if you’re here before 4:30 p.m., check out its 11-headed Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy, carved directly into the cliff. An offering for sea safety, this statue dates back to 717 A.D., when a Buddhist monk Gyoki visited the cliff to carve it. As the temple is also known for a great spot to view the gulf, we decided to come back to check out both the great landscape and historical carved statue someday soon.

Our trip to the area ended on a peaceful note as we saw the sun disappear into the distance over the waters of Tokyo Gulf. There is so much to discover on this side of the gulf and we are already planning our return to see what more Tateyama will enchant us with.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com
For nearly six months, my wife and I have stuck close to home to avoid COVID-19. As the number of infections slowly starts to decline and restrictions on travel are lifted, we embarked on a daytrip to nearby Nagano Prefecture for a change of scenery, to stretch our legs, take a fresh breath of air and recharge.

Kiso Valley is about a 3.5-hour drive from our home in Yokosuka City, near the U.S. naval base. Here, you will find beautiful landscapes, including the majestic Japanese Alps, clean rivers and impressive villages where old traditional buildings, homes, temples and shrines await.

Seeking to take advantage of a full day in Nagano, we hit the road at around 3 a.m. to avoid traffic and enjoy a pleasant, stress-free drive.

Our first peek at Kiso Valley was of the crystal-clear Kiso River, impressive mountains and bright greenery illuminated by the early morning sun. We could not contain our excitement and opened the car windows to take in the fresh mountain air.

Our first stop was Kisomura, a rest stop with a sizeable shopping area, for a quick break. Here, visitors can buy virtually any local product Kiso Valley is known for. Pick up local vegetables, honey, sweets, sake and noodles, or even wooden and ceramic crafts. We left Kisomura with fresh vegetables and honey before heading to a local tourist attraction, Naraijuku.

Naraijuku is an old station town on the old Nakasendo Highway which connected Tokyo and Kyoto in the Edo Era (1603-1867). This town offers many elegant wooden houses and roads in their original condition perfect for photos and a trip to “old Japan.”

With our car parked safely at a public parking lot near JR Narai Station, my wife and I took in this quaint village. Though many of the shops and restaurants were still closed, we enjoyed the quiet walk with no crowds. At the edge of town, we reached Shizume Jinja, a Shinto shrine that enshrines a god of warding off evil and epidemic, a fitting place to go pray for the end of the current global pandemic.

An autumn drive to Japan’s Kiso Valley

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN
The next location on our list was Nezame no Toko, known as one of the five most beautiful valleys in Japan. There, from Rinsenzenji, a Buddhist temple, we were given a breathtaking view of the valley with its countless white rock formations, the deep turquoise water of the Kiso River and the thick green forest. We walked from the temple to the bottom of the valley down a long rock stairway. Along the way, we saw a small temple on one of the large white rocks and enjoyed the view from the river for a while.

It was already 2 p.m. and time for lunch, so we made our way to Kisofukushima Town for the region’s favorite soba noodles. Nagano Prefecture is famous for buckwheat production, which also means tasty soba!

Among numerous soba joints scattered in the Kiso area, Kurumaya is known as one of the best, and its unique flavor and texture of well-grounded buckwheat noodles attracts soba noodle enthusiasts from all over.

Upon entering Kurumaya, we disinfected our hands, then were seated at a tatami floor table away from other patrons as the restaurant followed social distancing measures. We ordered zaru soba (cold buckwheat noodle) for 1,220 yen (about $11.50) and tempura soba for 1,880 yen.

The soba noodle at Kurumaya literally charmed me with the pleasant aroma, perfect chew, and sweet and smooth flavor. The shrimp and vegetable tempura were hot and crispy and went well with the high-grade buckwheat noodles and broth. Even my wife was impressed. “It was one of the most delicious soba noodles I’ve ever sampled,” she said.

After lunch, we walked within the small town of Kisofukushima along the Kiso River. The town had a sort of 1970s nostalgic feel to it and, again, no crowds so we could breathe comfortably and enjoy our stroll.

We breathed in the mountain air as much as we could, thankful to be out after six months of staying in. Then, we hopped in our car for the long trip home at around 4 p.m.

Kiso Valley is beautiful and the perfect place to shake the cabin fever, even for a few hours. It’s definitely a place you’ll enjoy as the leaves start to turn and the fall season picks up in Japan. Add it to your list, you won’t regret it!

Location: 5367-2 Fukushima, Kiso Town, Kiso-gun, Nagano Prefecture (a 15-minute drive from Nezame-no-toko)

Location: 1704 Agematsu, Agematsu Town, Kiso-gun, Nagano Prefecture (a 40-minute drive from Naraijuku)

Location: 1704 Agematsu, Agematsu Town, Kiso-gun, Nagano Prefecture (a 40-minute drive from Naraijuku)

Tel: 0264-52-1133

Tel: 0264-22-2200

Tel: 0264-24-0024

Tel: 0264-22-2000

It was already 2 p.m. and time for lunch, so we made our way to Kisofukushima Town for the region’s favorite soba noodles. Nagano Prefecture is famous for buckwheat production, which also means tasty soba!

Among numerous soba joints scattered in the Kiso area, Kurumaya is known as one of the best, and its unique flavor and texture of well-grounded buckwheat noodles attracts soba noodle enthusiasts from all over.

Upon entering Kurumaya, we disinfected our hands, then were seated at a tatami floor table away from other patrons as the restaurant followed social distancing measures. We ordered zaru soba (cold buckwheat noodle) for 1,220 yen (about $11.50) and tempura soba for 1,880 yen.

The soba noodle at Kurumaya literally charmed me with the pleasant aroma, perfect chew, and sweet and smooth flavor. The shrimp and vegetable tempura were hot and crispy and went well with the high-grade buckwheat noodles and broth. Even my wife was impressed. “It was one of the most delicious soba noodles I’ve ever sampled,” she said.

After lunch, we walked within the small town of Kisofukushima along the Kiso River. The town had a sort of 1970s nostalgic feel to it and, again, no crowds so we could breathe comfortably and enjoy our stroll.

We breathed in the mountain air as much as we could, thankful to be out after six months of staying in. Then, we hopped in our car for the long trip home at around 4 p.m.

Kiso Valley is beautiful and the perfect place to shake the cabin fever, even for a few hours. It’s definitely a place you’ll enjoy as the leaves start to turn and the fall season picks up in Japan. Add it to your list, you won’t regret it!

Location: 5367-2 Fukushima, Kiso Town, Kiso-gun, Nagano Prefecture (a 15-minute drive from Nezame-no-toko)

Location: 1704 Agematsu, Agematsu Town, Kiso-gun, Nagano Prefecture (a 40-minute drive from Naraijuku)

Tel: 0264-22-2200

Tel: 0264-22-2000

Tel: 0264-24-0024

Tel: 0264-52-1133

Though the drive back was a little longer, there was no traffic and the mountain air kept us feeling refreshed and energized until we got home.

Kiso Valley is beautiful and the perfect place to shake the cabin fever, even for a few hours. It’s definitely a place you’ll enjoy as the leaves start to turn and the fall season picks up in Japan. Add it to your list, you won’t regret it!
Flowers for that Special Person or Occasion available for delivery anywhere in Japan!

Some of Our Flower Arrangements
- Rose Bouquet
- Moss Ball Planter
- Soap Flower
- Garden Plants

Services Available
- Flower Arrangements
- Preserved Flowers
- Soap Flowers
- Garden Plants

KAZAHANA
http://kazahana.net/

Kazahana Flower Shop is Here!

Open: 10:00～19:00
TEL: 0956-24-3987
Address: 1F 21-1 Miura-cho, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture

With superb scenic views made up of pristine forest in autumn colors and crystal-clear waters, the Oirase Mountain Stream is known as one of the most beautiful areas in Japan. It is especially famous for its brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange around late October through early November.

You'll find this picture-perfect fall location in the central mountainous region of Aomori Pref., about a one-hour drive from Misawa AB.

Although the Towada Tourist's Bureau suggests taking on a 4 to 5-hour hike along the 8-mile gorge to get the best views of the stream, you can also enjoy it with a drive (which is also easier on the knees!).

If you do choose to hike along the stream, there are buses that run alongside that are available should the weather turn.

Despite its location in the pristine forest of white cedar, beech and maple trees, well-paved roads run along the stream. The smooth ride went along well with the picturesque mountain stream of greenish water and white splashing in the forest of gorgeous autumn colors.

Getting out to enjoy the change of the seasons and the relaxing sounds of the water sound like a great way to spend a nice fall day.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

Enjoying autumn in Oirase

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI, STRIPES JAPAN

OIRASE MOUNTAIN STREAM

LOCATION: 11-12 Tachikubo, Dirase, Towada City, Aomori Pref.
TEL: 0176-74-1121 (Dirase Tourist Center)

Photos by Yoshihito Morita, Stripes Japan
Serving up one of Aomori’s more modern soul foods, Aji no Sapporo Onishi offers up a unique ramen dish unlike any other – Miso Curry Milk Ramen.

There’s no mistaking what’s in the bowl really – the miso base combines with curry and milk to provide a unique blend. The Hokkaido influences are quick to see: curly, egg noodles provide a good bite and the slab of butter slowly melts into the bowl, adding extra complexity to the flavour. Pork slices, wakame seaweed and bamboo shoots complete the experience.

It’s an instantly memorable bowl – and perfectly suited to the colder months which Aomori Bay sees from early autumn.

The setup here is very much local shokudo/canteen-style, with 700 yen a bargain for such a well-known dish in the local community, loved by locals and Aomori visitors alike.
Earlier this year in March, as COVID-19 made its sweep across the world, Disney closed all of its theme parks. When, one month later, it was decided the parks would remain closed longer than anticipated, Disney decided to share with its loyal fans the recipe to a crowd favorite—a churros.

The recipe was a hit among YouTubers and food bloggers trying to bring a little taste of Disney back into their lives during quarantine.

Six months have passed since then and some of Disney’s theme parks have reopened. Though the company removed the churro recipe from their own website, like everything shared online, this recipe, too, has taken a life of its own out of reach from Disney’s grasp.

I missed the initial Disney Churro craze but came across a video for it on YouTube recently. The video featured folks wearing Mickey Mouse ears while cooking and enjoying the treat, which motivated me to give it a try for myself.

It’s been a summer of instant noodles and donuts, so this didn’t seem like a smart choice for me, but one bite in and I am so glad I went for it.

The recipe seemed simple and easy to follow. I struggled a little bit with using a pastry bag. Some of my Disney Churros ended up taking on weird shapes, looking more like A&W’s super fries than churros. They were so delicious; I could hardly stop eating them.

And, while I may not be a Disney fan—the last movie I watched was Aladdin in 1992, the last time I visited a park was in early 2000s, not to mention how I am not crazy about how they’ve handled the Star Wars franchise—I do give them credit for this awesome recipe and their tasty churros.

These churros were so good, in fact, that I may be inclined to give the Toy Story and Lion King movies a chance.

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com

**Ingredients**

- 240 cc water
- 120 cc butter
- 1.25 cc salt
- 3.75 cc cinnamon
- 150g all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs
- 360 cc vegetable or canola oil
- 100 g sugar

**Recipe**

1. Pour water in a pot over medium heat and add in butter, salt, half of the cinnamon (1.25 cc).
2. Change the medium heat to low.
3. Add eggs in one at a time as you knead the dough.
4. Place the dough in a pastry bag with a star-shaped piping tip. Prepare a plate with paper towels to place fried churros cool and drain excess oil.
5. Pour oil into a frying pan or another pot over medium to high heat until the oil reaches about 170°C (338°F).
6. When the oil reaches the temperature required, squeeze dough into the oil in 2.5 cm-long portions.
7. Fry until golden brown, then transfer onto the plate with the paper towels.
8. Mix sugar and cinnamon (2.5cc) in a bowl.
9. After the churros have cooled and strained excess oil place into the sugar-cinnamon mix and coat.
10. After this, your churros are ready to devour. Bon appetite!
Strips Sports Trivia

If you watched the ESPN documentary “The Last Dance,” you heard from countless ex-Michael Jordan teammates, including the only player to win all 6 titles with him in Scottie Pippen. Although Pippen never won a title without MJ, he made the playoffs every year except his final. What team did he play for that season?

Answer

KELLY & KELLY

Used Cars & Insurance Agency

On Base Pick-Up & Drop Off Service!

Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday Close at 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

KELLYandKELLY.com

SUDOKU

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.

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

Language Lesson

Kanjı of the week

Cheers!

Kanpai!

Copyright 2020 by The Puzzle Syndicate
LIFEHOUSE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
We have churches near military bases:
YOKOHAMA // YOKOSUKA // ATSUGI // ZAMA // YOKOTA
IWAKUNI // SASEBO // MISAWA // OKINAWA
+ other locations across Japan & Asia.

Find your closest location at mylifehouse.com

16 STRIPES JAPAN
A STARS AND STRIPES COMMUNITY PUBLICATION
75 YEARS IN THE PACIFIC
OCTOBER 23 − OCTOBER 29, 2020

ARIES’ Eikaiwa Classroom Presents...

Hi! I’m Aries!
I’m looking forward to meeting you all!
University of Vermont, Class of ’17
B.A. Mathematics
Minor: Japanese and Economics

ARIES’ Eikaiwa Classroom Presents...

Alexis’ English Conversation Classes
HIU-CHO, SASEBO

Let’s UNITE our Hearts and FIGHT SARS-CoV-2!

YAKINiku & Buffet
AIZAN-TEI Restaurant
Temporary Reduced Hours of Operation
11:30 AM - 09:00 PM
(Open at 10:00pm on Tues.)
Thank you for understanding.

Are You PC’sing & Looking to Junk Your Car?
GET AN OFFER NOW!
Drop your car off & get extra ¥3,000

house & u-cars
agent
KAZ

WE MAKE LIVING IN THE IWAKUNI AREA EASY!
HOME RENTAL AGENT & USED CAR SALES

We offer total support for your daily life needs such as:
- Medical/Dental Provider Listings
- House and Apartment Realtor
- Internet Setup
- Pre-Owned Vehicle Sales
- JCI Inspections / Repairs
- Transfer to Iwakuni License Plate Service
- Vehicle Junking Service

We Provide Full Support
for All Your Vehicle Needs!

ANNOUncING THE BEST OF 2020
Your votes. Your favorites. Your Best of the Pacific.
STARS and STRIPES
View the digital edition or download now

English OK! Call NOW at 0827-35-4917
OPEN Monday through Thursday 10am to 7pm

www.sunny-net.net.jp
Sunny-net BIKARI
Sunny-net BIKARI
- No Minimum Contract.
- Reasonable Monthly Fee for Internet Service.
Call 050-5212-1355
Visit Us at Kez Housing Office!