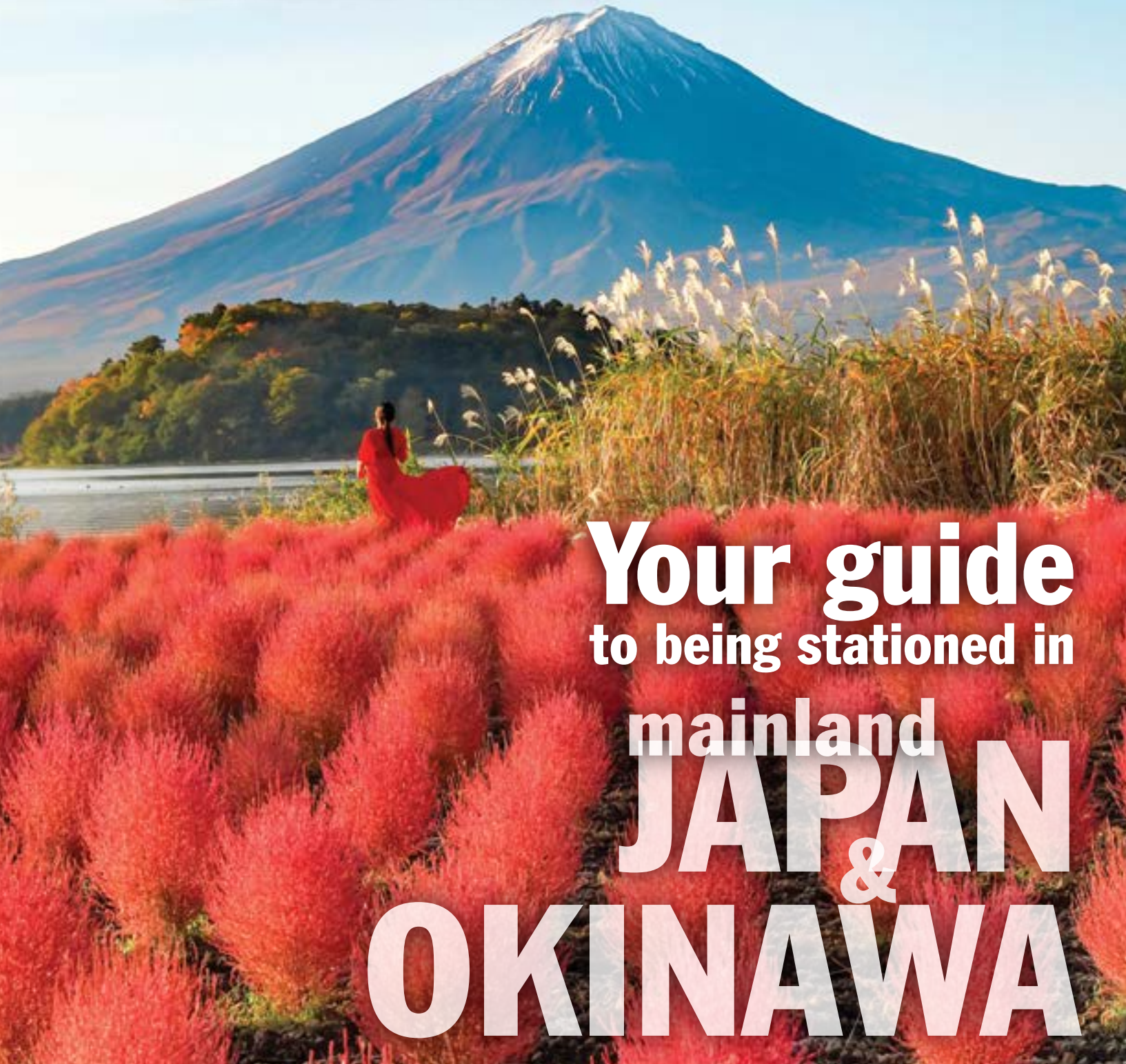


STARS  AND STRIPES[®]

2021-2022

Welcome to the Pacific



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to being stationed in**

mainland

JAPAN

&

OKINAWA



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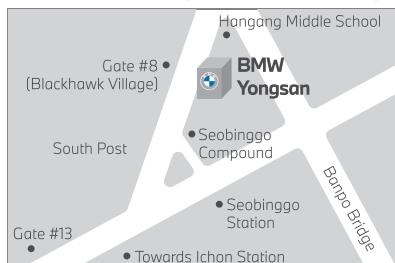
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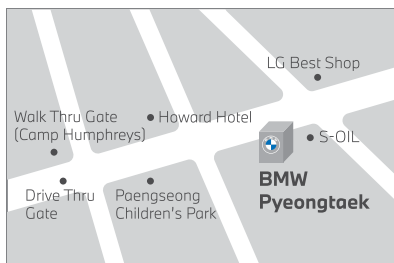
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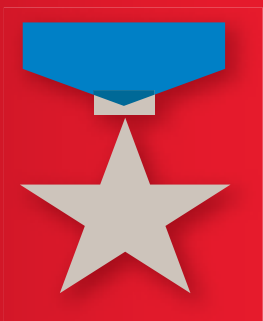


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Cover photo
 Jessica Morales enjoys a view of Mount Fuji from Oishi Park in Kawaguchiko.

Welcome to the Pacific

2021-2022

Our commitment to you continues

Every year, our team at Stars and Stripes gathers information that will be important to you as you begin this chapter overseas. We bring you the latest updates to local laws, base policies, and information on host-nation traditions and culture so you don't have to go about it on your own. We know you have questions, but Stars and Stripes is with you.

Our commitment to provide support strengthened as COVID-19 reached the Pacific. Our role was reinforced during the uncertainty we all faced as a global community. YOU are the reason why we work hard to compile this magazine every year, the newspapers every week and update the websites every day. This is, after all, YOUR magazine, YOUR newspaper, and YOUR websites. We are here to support you and the mission. Without you there is no us.

We strive to demonstrate how valuable each and every member of the community is to the work we do. You'll see it in these pages, as we highlight the talent of members of the military community through the wonderful photographs they've contributed. Check out Jessica Morales' stunning cover photo and the fun photo submitted by Rosie Ortiz-Torres on Page 17.

Beyond the beautiful photos in this magazine, you'll find key information to living life in Japan and Okinawa. Worried about where to get a car? Flip to Page 42. Curious about the cultural experiences that await you? Head over to Page 23 to learn more.

For everything else not covered in this guide, don't forget to pick up copies of Stars and Stripes Japan or Okinawa on base or visit stripesjapan.com and stripesokinawa.com where there's plenty more to discover! Count on our writers, Hiro Takiguchi and Shoji Kudaka (learn more about them on Page 10) to bring awesome food suggestions, useful language lessons and fun day trips to check out.

If there is anything else, they haven't covered—they're always open to feedback and suggestions. Let us know!

On a similar note, we'd love to tell your story! Are you a volunteer at the local orphanage or is your spouses' group working on a cool project? Do you know an exceptional military child who deserves to be spotlighted? Is travel photography or writing your hobby? Send your stories, photographs or ideas and you may find them in an upcoming magazine or on our community sites. We'll make you famous!

The last year has been one of so much uncertainty, but one constant you can count on is that Stars and Stripes is with you every step of the way. Join us on Facebook (Pacific Stars and Stripes) and Twitter (@StripesPacific) as we continue to bring you the latest information and resources you don't want to miss.

As we adapt to our "new normal," our mission to seek out and adapt to the needs of our servicemembers, military families, and DOD civilians in the Pacific continues. We are here for you!

Thank you for being a valued reader and as they say here in Japan:
 いらっしゃい! (Welcome!)

Denisse Rauda
 Publishing and Media Design Editor
 Stars and Stripes
japan@stripes.com and okinawa@stripes.com

Background photo
 Tanya Courtney set up this beautiful shot of the Atami Garden's waterfall.

Welcome to the Pacific Staff

Denisse Rauda
 Editor

Yukiyo Oda
 Layout Designer

Writers and Photographers

ChiHon Kim Shoji Kudaka
 Takahiro Takiguchi

Max D. Lederer Jr.
 Publisher

Lt. Col. Richard E. McClintic
 Commander

Scott Foley
 Revenue Director

Marie Woods
 Publishing and Media Design Director

Chris Carlson
 Publishing and Media Design Manager

Eric Lee
 Revenue Manager

Kentaro Shimura
 Production Manager

Rie Miyoshi
 Engagement Manager

Area Managers
 Monte Dauphin, Japan/Guam
 Rick Villanueva, Korea

Multimedia Consultants
 Max Genao Doug Johnson
 Jason Lee Hans Simpson
 Chae Pang Yi Gianni Youn
 Robert Zuckerman

Sales Support
 Kazumi Hasegawa Yoko Noro
 Ichiro Katayanagi Saori Tamanaha
 Hiromi Isa Yusuke Sato
 Toshie Yoshimizu UnChong Yu

Graphic Designers
 Mamoru Inoue Kenichi Ogasawara
 Yuko Okazaki Kayoko Shimoda
 Yosuke Tsuji

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your contributions in special publications such as "Best of the Pacific," "Destination Paradise" and "Welcome to the Pacific," which are published in three separate editions for Guam, Japan and Korea.

Our community sites serving Guam, mainland Japan, Okinawa and Korea help you navigate life in the Pacific with tips, reviews, experiences, and other useful information

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Living here presents many opportunities to experience the diverse Pacific region. Stars and Stripes provides a variety of information regarding travel, culture, local news and more to help you make the most of your tour. Our community publications are distributed in Guam, Japan, Okinawa and Korea.

Pick up your free copy at one of the 800 locations throughout the Pacific region — look for the bright blue Stars and Stripes boxes located on installations.

You can also contribute to Stars and Stripes in the form of article submissions, reviews, or suggestions. We capture most of





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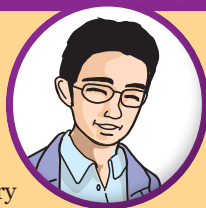
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HISAI!

(Greetings in Okinawan dialect)



I am Shoji Kudaka, a native Okinawan who has been writing for Stripes Okinawa for more than 4 years. I'm here to share with you what our beautiful islands have to offer.

Have you relaxed on Emerald Beach or tried Okinawan soba noodles topped with pork ribs and seaweed? If you haven't, no need to worry. I will bring you up to speed with reports that will cover the best of Okinawa and take you on journeys you have never experienced.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, my stories have shifted focus to activities we could all do safely at home. This season has meant a lot of cooking, culture and virtual travel stories to keep you safe and entertained. As restrictions slowly start to lift and we adjust to a "new normal," I am bringing you along to some of the outdoor spots for surfing or trekking, which are perfect for practicing a little exercise and plenty of social distancing.

Starting with basic information on where to dine and shop, my reports include in-depth coverage of what's happening in the local scene, focusing on up-to-date information on emerging businesses, products and people.

If you go out in Okinawa, it won't take long to note that there are a lot of new things happening across the prefecture each

and every day, with many new restaurants, shops and cafes opening every year.

It's time to go out and feel the Okinawan vibe, folks! Oh wait, let me remind you one thing: Although it is good to chase up-to-date scenes, traditional culture is still big. Festivities like our Dragon Boat races, tug-of-wars and Eisa dance date back hundreds of years, but still attract huge crowds. And the art of making Yachimun pottery and dyeing clothes in the traditional Okinawan Bingata way are still passed down from generation to generation.

Of course, Okinawa can also proudly show off its beautiful nature. Scuba diving. Whale watching. Fishing. Hiking in the mountains. You can enjoy it in so many ways.

I am a native Okinawan who grew up passionately learning English, watching WWF, NBA games, and sometimes Star Trek on AFN Channel 6. My childhood love for American culture carries on today, which was a motivator for me applying for this job. But this time around, my job is about another kind of love: my love of Okinawa.

Stories

Ie Island



Okinawan Doughnut



Videos

Kinkan no Kanroni



Hayaoki Shimasho



Tataki Waterfalls



Off-shore fishing



KONNICHIIWA!!



I am Takahiro Takiguchi from Yokosuka City in mainland Japan. I have worked with Stars and Stripes for eight years.

Since COVID-19 has made many of us switch to working from home, for me, it also meant changing the stories I bring to you. The focus switched from travel to home activities, crafts, culture and virtual travel. This time gave me the opportunity to rediscover the importance of warm hearts, love and consideration amongst family and friends. My family is what kept me in good shape, both mentally and physically.

But as coronavirus numbers start to decrease and we adjust to a "new normal," you can continue to count on me and the rest of the staff to bring you the information you can count on.

With four seasons, the Land of the Rising Sun is blessed with countless natural attractions. My Filipina wife and I enjoy taking day trips and longer excursions to explore the beauty and uniqueness of my country.

We cherish being showered by cherry blossom petals, picking sunflowers in a large field, sampling hot coffee while taking in the gorgeous colors of autumn, soaking in an outdoor onsen bath as snow falls, and taking a midnight walk to a Shinto shrine to wish for a happy new year on oshogatsu.

While viewing majestic Mount Fuji and strolling along the Gion

streets in Kyoto illustrate the elegance of Japan, discovering the "Hid-den Christian" ruins in Hirado give you a peek into how our Japanese ancestors lived through years of oppression.

My countrymen are known for their splendid architecture craftsmanship throughout the ages. The shrines, temples and castles dotting the Japan landscape will amaze you.

Having worked 18 years in the public affairs field on Yokosuka Naval Base, I observed how its historical shipyard built by the Japanese empire now accommodates the cutting-edge naval vessels of U.S. Seventh Fleet.

My country offers a lot of opportunities to enjoy sports, music and arts. You'll never experience anything like the authentic Kabuki plays in Ginza, Tokyo. And, whether you are a baseball fan or not, you have to check out a professional Japanese baseball game. It's great baseball, but watching or being a part of the cheering sections and enjoying the Japanese take on ballpark food, is something you'll never forget.

So, during your stay in Japan, you have a mission: Get off base and explore!

Don't worry, you can count on me to be your guide!

Stories

Japan's Hidden Christians



A trip to Yokosuka



Kyoto by bullet train



Walking in Aizu



Videos

Virtual travel in Hiroshima



Speakin Japanese: Tanabata



The Japan way

Crash course in customs & etiquette

Taking a swing at
Makaino Farm in Shizuoka.
Photo by Miguel Torres

Every culture has its own rules regarding etiquette. In Japan, some of these rules are straightforward while others are more subtle. One of the basic concepts of Japanese society is to maintain social harmony by respecting how others might feel.

A subtle aspect of this is that Japanese often do not present their true feelings (*“honne”*) to avoid conflict. The appearances they may present are called *“tatemae”* and are considered good manners.

A clear example is that Japanese often postpone what they want to do in order to support what others need to do. When you get lost, many Japanese are willing to take you to the right place regardless of their destination. If you ask for language support from your Japanese friends, most likely they will coordinate their schedule to help you right away.

Bear in mind, however, that this may be the result of *tatemae* – their desire to be polite despite how it may affect them. Don't take too much advantage of their kindness, and always show your appreciation – maybe with a small gift or by buying lunch.

Never be late or cancel an appointment with a Japanese friend that was set up to help your personal needs; it is considered very rude.

First encounters

When Japanese people meet for the first time, they say *“hajime-mashite”* and give their name followed by the word *“desu”* (e.g., John desu). Usually they'll bow if the situation is formal or just nod their heads otherwise.

The degree of bowing depends on the formality of the situation

and the relationship between the people.

Business professionals exchange *“meishi”* (business cards) at the beginning of a meeting; make sure you have enough for everyone. Stand, bow slightly and use both hands to present your card with the Japanese side up and the text right-side up for your counterpart to read. The same rule applies when receiving a card from someone else.

Take time to review your counterpart's card carefully. You can ask about correct pronunciation of his or her name, or for an explanation of a job title. You want to show interest in, and respect to, the other party. Never shove the card into your back pocket.

Meishi should be handled respectfully because they represent the person. If you are seated at a meeting, place the card gently on the table in front of you. If you are meeting more than one person and have received multiple cards, arrange them neatly in front of you.

When visiting someone's home, it is polite to bring a gift, usually an inexpensive food item, which should be wrapped. When you visit a local home or office, you may be served green tea without asking. This custom is based on the idea that most people like green tea. If you don't want it, it's best not to refuse it, but say *“thank you”* and not drink it.

Every Japanese home has a

“genkan” (hallway) with a lower tiled floor right inside the door where you take off your shoes (and never step on without shoes) and the upper wooden floor where you should walk without shoes or with slippers on. Often, if you use the toilet, you'll have to change slippers again. If you see slippers or sandals at toilets in hospitals or other offices, you should use them. It is a sanitary custom.

In order to thank someone, e.g. for an invitation, one often presents a gift (*“temiyage”*) such as sweets or drinks. Similarly, when a Japanese person returns

from a trip, he or she is supposed to bring home souvenirs (*“omiyage”*) to friends, co-workers and relatives.

Eating out

Most restaurants provide an *“Oshibori”* a moist hand towel for cleaning your hands before eating.

Before eating, it is customary to say, *“itadaki-masu”* (“I gratefully receive”) before eating and, *“gochiso-sama deshita”* (“Thank you for the meal”) after finishing the meal. It's not impolite to ask for a knife, fork or spoon if you have trouble with chopsticks. Some restaurants may not have them, but those serving Western food always do.

Chopsticks should not be used for anything other than putting food in your mouth; not for pointing at someone or moving dishes around the table. And they should not be stuck into

a bowl of rice – as it resembles a funeral practice. When eating noodles, such as soba or ramen, it is okay to slurp loudly. In fact, they say it improves the flavor!

Many restaurants in Japan display plastic or wax replicas of their dishes at the entrance. They usually look very similar to the real dishes.

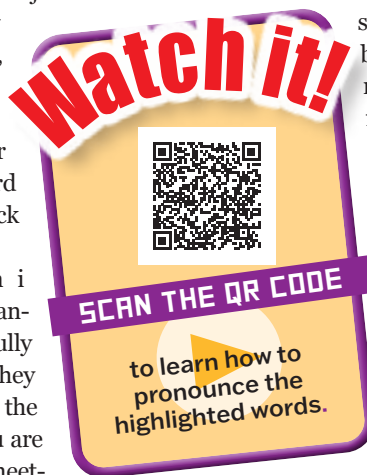
When you enter a restaurant, you will be greeted with the expression *“Irasshaimase”* (“welcome”), as you will find in any Japanese store as well. Waiters and waitresses are generally trained to be extremely efficient, polite and attentive.

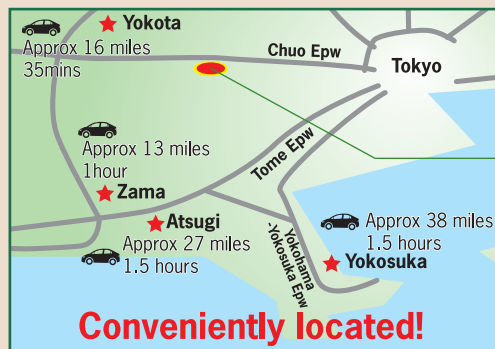
While a majority of restaurants in Japan are equipped exclusively with Western-style tables and chairs, restaurants with low traditional tables and cushions for sitting on the floor are also common. Some restaurants feature both styles side by side. In case of a traditional Japanese interior, you are usually required to take off your shoes before stepping onto the seating area or even at the restaurant's entrance.

It is common in private households and in certain restaurants to share several dishes of food at the table rather than serving each person an individual dish. When eating from shared dishes, move food from the shared plates onto your own with the opposite end of your chopsticks or with serving chopsticks that may be provided for that purpose.

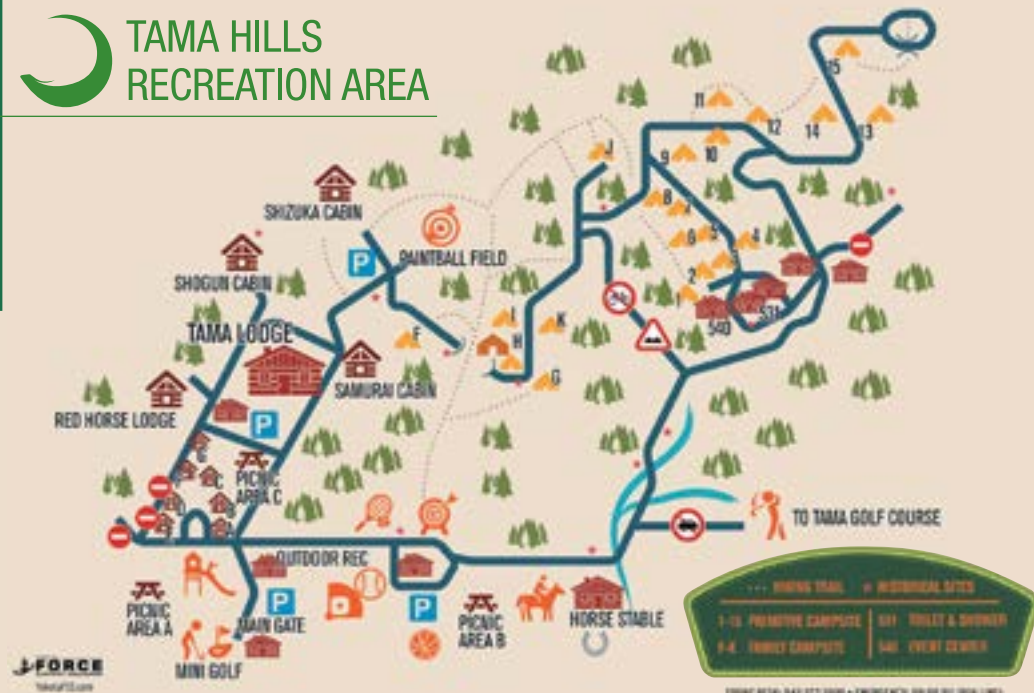
See CUSTOMS on Page 14

For more on chopsticks
SEE PAGE 26





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Traditions unique to Okinawa

Okinawan society and culture have survived hundreds of years. The island may have evolved from an agrarian and trading culture to a modern business and tourism frontier, but many ancestral traditions remain. In addition to Japanese etiquette, Okinawans also adhere to their own cultural practices.

The elderly still have an exalted place in Okinawan society and should be shown respect.

Okinawan family life revolves around the household of the eldest son. Each new generation is obligated to the welfare of all the others. While the family is basically a male-dominated unit, women hold a respected status.

As a result of contact with China, Korea, mainland Japan and the West, Buddhism, Shintoism and Christianity have been introduced, but native animism remains the primary religion. Characteristics include a female priestess (Noro) and the worship of the spirit of things such as fire, rice, water and ancestors.

You will find many “utaki,” or sacred places, on the island. In the center of a grove of trees, for instance, you may observe a small grouping of stones near a larger “ibe,” a stone which marks sacred spots. Located at higher elevations in many cases, utaki are believed to be places where gods descend. Okinawans offer prayers at these stones, which should be treated with great respect.

Okinawans have intertwined the cultures of the Chinese and Japanese into their own, producing a multitude of colorful holidays

and festivals. A popular festival is “Naha Oo Tsunahiki.” This October celebration takes place in Naha, Okinawa’s capital city, featuring a giant tug-of-war between the East and West teams. Everybody is welcome to join either team.

During this event, people in traditional costumes of Ryukyu Kingdom ride two huge ropes down the main street coming from opposition directions. When the two sides meet, the ropes are joined. Thousands of festival participants pull on each end of the rope in a great tug of war.

Dragon Boat races and Eisa dance festivals are also a big part of local festivities on the island. Every year in May, the Naha Dragon Boat Race is held. This dynamic competition between teams from across the island, including those from the U.S. military, is quite the spectacle. Thirty-six crewmembers crammed into long, colorful and traditional boats rowing in unison. It’s fun to watch. Even better to participate!

Eisa is a traditional dance through which Okinawan’s culture and emotions are dramatically and effectively displayed. Styles of dress and hairdos provide an insightful record of the distant past. Performance of classical and semi-classical island dances frequently highlight local festivals. There are dance organizations that welcome Americans. Taking advantage of such opportunities and learning from Okinawans is one of the best ways to enjoy and experience local customs and culture.

— Shoji Kudaka



Okinawa's famous shisa dog.
Photo by William Edward Jones IV

CUSTOMS continued from Page 11

On the other hand, At restaurants that serve “set menus,” bowl dishes (e.g. donburi or noodle soups) or Western-style dishes, each person usually orders and eats one separate dish. When you are ready to order, you can call the waiter/waitress by saying, “sumimasen” or excuse me. The bill will be given to you when the dishes are brought to your table or after the meal. In most restaurants, you are supposed to bring your bill to the cashier near the exit when leaving in order to pay.

Some restaurants, especially cheaper ones, have different systems for ordering and paying. At some, you may be required to pay right after ordering; at others, you have to buy meal tickets at a vending machine near the

store’s entrance. In restaurants in Japan, you are not expected to tip. When leaving, it is polite to say “gochisosama deshita”(It was quite a feast).

Drinking

The Japanese are known for being reserved; but like most of us, they can also shed their customary social inhibitions when drinking – and many appreciate the opportunity to do so. Going drinking with friends or coworkers is almost a ritual in Japan. It is considered the best way to break down barriers and cement relationships. Behavior can get pretty rowdy. But all – within reason – is forgiven and forgotten the next day.

It is considered polite to pour other people’s drinks then hold your own glass while your host or friend fills it. Having other

people constantly fill your glass can lead to a lot of alcohol disappearing very quickly! The Japanese toast is “Kampai” (literally, “dry glass”). At “izakaya,” local pubs, where you usually drink and share dishes with your friends, it is common to divide the bill regardless of how much you ate or drank. Most bars (with the exception of Western-style pubs) have a tab system. The bill is paid when you leave.

Miscellaneous

As a general rule, it’s considered impolite to speak very loudly in public. Public displays of romantic affection are also frowned upon, as is eating on the street and commuter trains or buses (but not their long-distance counterparts). However, these days it’s not uncommon to see any of these behaviors.

The Japanese study English in junior high school for three years, yet most don’t speak it, and some may feel embarrassed about their ability to speak it. On the other hand, many people will understand English if you write it in block letters.



A place to eat and drink in Sapporo.
Photo by Gaye Perera

首里城公園 SHURIJO CASTLE PARK



The Shurijo Castle in Shuri, Naha City, is the symbol of Okinawa and a registered UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. Its main building, Seiden, is the most prominent building of the Ryukyu Kingdom and unique fusion of Japanese and Chinese architectural styles. Although its first construction date is unknown, by 1427, its appearance was the same as today. It housed the royal residence and the headquarters of the government for nearly 450 years. The Shurijo Castle was the center of culture and arts, spawning gorgeous Ryuso clothing and exquisite Ryukyu court cuisine. It has several gates, including the Shureimon and Sonohyan-utaki Ishimon. The sunsets from the hill are breathtakingly beautiful. Many seasonal and cultural events take place at the castle. The toll area closed after the fire, reopened June 12, 2020, showing visitors the restoration efforts and remains of Shurijo Castle.



Seiden Remains

See the remains of Seiden, a World Heritage Site.



From Agari-no-Azana, visitors can see the entire castle. Kudaka Island to the east and Kerama Islands to the west are visible on sunny days.



As the sun goes down, the castle walls are lit up creating a fantastic, expansive scene.



Reconstruction Exhibition

Lion tiles and remnants of small dragon pillars and lions that decorated the Seiden are on display in the Reconstruction Exhibition Room.



You can enjoy Okinawa soba and traditional Ryukyu confectionery at the restaurant. Shops also sell goods available only at the Shurijo Castle Park, such as popular T-shirts and towels.

Hours	Toll area 9:00 to 17:30
	Free area 8:30 to 18:00

Admission	Adults 400 yen
	Junior high school students 300 yen
	Elementary and junior high school students 160 yen

* Please check the website for the latest information and details.

<http://oki-park.jp/shurijo/en>



〒903-0815 1-2 Shuri Kinjocho, Naha City
Tel: 098-886-2020



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Say it like a local

Japanese language guidelines

Japanese is not an easy language to master, but getting familiar with it can make a world of difference when getting around off-base. Many locals you encounter will be familiar with some English (its basics are a required subject in schools), and will try to communicate even if they do not fully understand you. Returning the linguistic effort will win you a wealth of appreciation.

Tips to get you started

Kanji are adopted Chinese characters used in modern Japanese writing with

hiragana and katakana. Sometimes Roman letters, or “romaji,” are also used. There are literally thousands of kanji used in Japanese (several tens of thousands in Chinese). Learning the much-simpler hiragana and katakana alphabets can be useful during your tour of Japan.

Hiragana is a phonetic alphabet like English whose symbols stand for sounds. It is the first alphabet learned by Japanese children, allowing them to write the language without having yet learned kanji. Hiragana is generally used with kanji for grammar. Katakana is a phonetic

alphabet using the same sounds as Hiragana. It's used to write foreign words and in some official documents. Since there are many English words incorporated into modern Japanese (though most are pronounced differently), learning katakana allows you to understand most words written in this alphabet.

When Japanese is written using Roman letters, the rules for pronouncing vowels differ from English. “A” is always short, like “ah” (but never like “bat”); “E” is always short,

as in “get”; “I” is always short, like the “ea” in “eat”; “O” is always long, like “old”; and “U” is always long, like “tube.”

Also, “AI” indicates the long “I” sound, while the consonant “R” is somewhere between an “R” sound (at the start) and an “L,” with the tip of the tongue hitting the roof of the mouth (near the end). Unlike English, most multi-syllable Japanese words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable.

ARIGATO!
(THANK YOU!)

Visitors stroll near Sensouji Temple.

Photo by
Akifumi Ishikawa/
Stars and Stripes

HIRAGANA

あ	a	い	i	う	u	え	e	お	o
か	ka	き	ki	く	ku	け	ke	こ	ko
さ	sa	し	shi	す	su	せ	se	そ	so
た	ta	ち	chi	つ	tsu	て	te	と	to
な	na	に	ni	ぬ	nu	ね	ne	の	no
は	ha	ひ	hi	ふ	fu	へ	he	ほ	ho
ま	ma	み	mi	む	mu	め	me	も	mo
や	ya			ゆ	yu			よ	yo
ら	ra	り	ri	る	ru	れ	re	ろ	ro
わ	wa							を	wo
ん	nn								

KATAKANA

ア	a	イ	i	ウ	u	エ	e	オ	o
カ	ka	キ	ki	ク	ku	ケ	ke	コ	ko
サ	sa	シ	shi	ス	su	セ	se	ソ	so
タ	ta	チ	chi	ツ	tsu	テ	te	ト	to
ナ	na	ニ	ni	ヌ	nu	ネ	ne	ノ	no
ハ	ha	ヒ	hi	フ	fu	ヘ	he	ホ	ho
マ	ma	ミ	mi	ム	mu	メ	me	モ	mo
ヤ	ya			ユ	yu			ヨ	yo
ラ	ra	リ	ri	ル	ru	レ	re	ロ	ro
ワ	wa							ヲ	wo
ン	nn								

SOME USEFUL JAPANESE PHRASES

My name is~.

Watashi no namae wa ~ desu.

Wah-tah-shee noh nah-ma-eh wah ~ dehs.

What's your name?

Anata no namae wa nandesuka?

Ana-tah noh na-ma-eh wah nan-de-sue-kah.

Thank you.

Arigato (informal)

Air-ee-gah-toe.

Thanks.

Domo (very casual)

Dough-moe.

Nice to meet you.

Hajimemashite.

Ha-gee-meh-mash-ee-teh.

Thank you very much for everything.

Domo arigato gozaimashita (formal)

Dough-moe air-ee-gah-toe go-zah-ee-mash-ee-tah.

You're welcome.

Doutashimashite.

Dough-tash-ee-mash-ee-the.

What time is it now?

Ima nanji desuka?

Ee-mah nan-gee deh-sue-kah.

What is that?

Sorewa nan desuka?

Sore-eh-wah nan deh-sue-kah.

That's ok.

Daijoubu desu.

Day-joe-boo dehs.

When?

Itsu?

Ee-tsoo.

What?

Nani?

Nan-ee.

DOKO?
(WHERE?)



People on Takeshita street stretching from Harajuku Station stroll wearing masks amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Photo by Akifumi Ishikawa/Stars and Stripes

BASIC JAPANESE VOCABULARY

NOUN

Water	mizu
Morning	asa
Day	hiru
Night	yoru
Fire	hi
Toilet	toire
House	ie
Mountain	yama
River	kawa
Soap	sekken
Blanket	moufu
Hospital	byouin
Police	keisatsu
Train station	eki
Money	okane
McDonalds	Makudonarudo

ADJECTIVES

Light	karui
Heavy	omoi
Dirty	kitanai
Clean	kirei
Strong	tsuyoi
Weak	yowai
Deep	fukai
Shallow	asai

TIME REFERENCES

Today	kyo
Tomorrow	ashita
Day after tomorrow	asatte
Yesterday	kinou
Day before yesterday	ototoi
Tonight	konya
This month	kongetsu
Next month	raigetsu
Last month	sengetsu
This year	kotoshi
Next year	rainen
Last year	kyonen

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January	Ichigatsu
February	Nigatsu
March	Sangatsu
April	Shigatsu
May	Gogatsu
June	Rokugatsu

July	Shichigatsu
August	Hachigatsu
September	Kugatsu
October	Jyugatsu
November	Jyuichigatsu
December	Jyunigatsu

SEASONS

Spring	haru
Summer	natsu
Autumn	aki
Winter	fuyu

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday	Getsuyoubi
Tuesday	Kayoubi
Wednesday	Suiyoubi
Thursday	Mokuyoubi
Friday	Kinyoubi
Saturday	Doyoubi
Sunday	Nichiyoubi



Family fun on the grounds of Hirosaki Castle in Aomori. Photo by Rosie Ortiz-Torres

Check out **Speakin' Japanese** segments at **StripesJapan.com** and **StripesOkinawa.com**



Could you please take me there?
Soko made tsuretette itadakemasuka?
So-co mah-deh zoo-reh-teh-the ee-tah-dah-keh-mass-kah.

Please drop me here.
Koko de oroshite kudasai.
Cocoa deh oh-roh-she-teh coup-dah-sigh.

Please follow me.
Tsuite kite kudasai.
Suite-teh kee-teh coup-dah-sigh.

I didn't know.
Shirimasendeshita.
She-ree-mass-end-esh-tah.

I don't understand.
Wakarimasen.
Wack-ari-mass-en.

See you tomorrow.
Mata ashita.
Mat-ah-shoe-tah.

Have a nice day.
Yoi ichinichi wo.
Yo-itchy-knee-chi woe.

How much?
Ikura desuka?
Ee-coup-rah deh-sue-kah.

What day is today?
Kyou wa nanyoubi desuka?
Kee-yo-wah nan-yo-bee deh-sue-kah.

I'm hungry.
Onaka suitea.
Oh-nah-kah suite-ah.

My ~ hurts.
~ ga itai.
~ gah eat-thai.

Help!
Tasukete!
Toss-sue-keh-teh!



Out fishing on Ojima Island, Okinawa.
Photo by Tiffany Bauman

GAMBATTE!
(GOOD LUCK TO YOU!)

A valuable lesson

Knowing your yen

If you are new to Japan or Okinawa, local currency and the conversion between dollars and yen may leave you annoyed at the cash register.

“It’s 3,240 yen, sir.”

When the cashier tells you the price, you may have no idea whether it is expensive or cheap.

Well, the simple conversion is not hard if you remember the formula, \$1 = 100 yen.

The actual exchange rate as of March 2021 is \$1 = 109.07 yen, which indicates a dollar is more expensive than 100 yen. Considering the 10 percent consumption tax and handling charges in exchanging currency, however, one dollar is much closer to 100 yen than the rate. So, as long as you are in Japan and use yen cash for your personal shopping or service, the formula can give you a clear idea of the value in yen at shops or eateries.

So, according to the formula, that 3,240 yen tab is roughly \$32.40.

Bills

Now, take out all the local bills you have in your pocket and lay them out on the table to compare. Since there are only three bills - 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen and 1,000 yen - commonly in use, it’s easy to remember them. There is also the less-common 2,000-yen note and you can read more about that below.

While all the three bills have same height (76 millimeter), the width is different – a 10,000-yen bill is the widest at 160 mm, and at 150-mm, the 1,000-yen bill is the shortest. The colors are different, as well. 10,000 yen is dark brown, while that of 5,000 yen is dark violet and 1,000 yen is dark blue.

Interestingly, although \$100 and 10,000-yen bills are almost same in value, \$100 bills are not used nearly as much in daily shopping in the States as the 10,000-yen bill is in Japan. People often use 10,000-yen bills at the bar, flower shops and even taxis.

Among the three bills, 1,000 is the most useful for daily use. Most vending machines accept it along with coins. Many eateries offer a lunch set for 1,000 yen or

less, and most taxi rides within town can be managed with a 1,000-yen bill. So, I encourage you to possess as much yen cash in the form of 1,000-yen bills as possible for your convenience.

Different bills are used for different occasions in Japan. When you are invited to a wedding reception, you are supposed to wrap new and unfolded bills in red and white envelope to congratulate the new couple. On the contrary, when you attend a funeral or any memorial service, you can enclose rather old and not clean bills in a black and white envelope to the deceased family, so that they can use the bills without hesitation.

Coins

Now, let’s check out the local coins. There are six - 500 yen, 100 yen, 50 yen, 10 yen, 5 yen and 1 yen.

Among the six coins, the 100 yen coin is the most useful for various vending machines, coin laundries and parking lots. You may notice that there are many 100-yen shops near your base. But, be aware, when you buy a 100-yen item in the shop, you have to pay 118 yen at the cashier thanks to the 10 percent consumption tax.

When you visit Shinto shrines or Buddhist temples, be sure to bring coins for casting in front of the main halls. Japanese believe the sound of casted coins in the wooden box can remind gods of us and our wishes. A 5-yen coin is often cast, as it is pronounced “go-en” in Japanese, which is associated with good relations (goen) with gods or Buddha.

With its high value, the 500-yen coin is often considered a saving coin. Some people, including my wife, will always put the coin in a piggy bank whenever they find one in their supermarket change.

Save 200 of the coins, and you’ve got yourself a nice overnight package to a hot spring resort. So, make sure you check those couch cushions every once in a while – it’s probably worth your time.

– Takahiro Takiguchi

Behind the bill



1,000 yen

76 x 150mm, dark blue

Front: Portrait of Hideyo Noguchi, a medical scientist.

Back: Mt. Fuji and cherry blossoms.



2,000 yen

76 x 154mm, dark green

Front: Shurei-mon Gate of Shuri Castle (Okinawa)

Back: A scene from the Tale of Genji and portrait of its author, Murasaki Shikibu.



5,000 yen

76 x 156 mm, dark violet

Front: Portrait of Ichiyo Higuchi, a writer.

Back: Painting of irises by Kourin Ogata.

shopping

“Kore wa ikura desuka?”

= How much is this?

Co-reh wah ee-cure-ah deh-sue-kah.

“Kono ningyo wa ikura desuka?”

= How much is this doll?

Cone-oh knee-n-gee-yo wah ee-cure-ah deh-sue-kah.

“Chiketto wa ikura desuka?”

= How much is a ticket?

Cheek-eh-toe wah ee-cure-ah deh-sue-kah.

“___ wa arimasenka?”

= Do you have ___?

___ wah air-ee-mass-en-kah.

“Osusume wa nandesuka?”

= What is your recommendation?

Oh-sue-sue-meh wah nan-deh-sue-kah.

“Nandesuka?”

= “What is ...?”

Nan-deh-sue-kah.

“Kaado wa tsukae masuka?”

= Can I use a credit card?

Cad-oh wah sue-kah-eh mass-sue-kah.

“Kono kuupon wa tsukae masuka?”

= Can I use this coupon?

Cone-oh coup-pon wah zoo-kah-eh mass-sue-kah.

Giving gifts and tipping in Japan

For foreigners new to Japan, guidance toward tipping is usually pretty straightforward: You don't tip in Japan.

While this is a good general rule, the tipping situation in Japan is a bit more complex than that. There are a few circumstances when it is appropriate or expected to provide either a tip or some form of extra compensation in the form of gifts or treats. Travelers should keep in mind that, like in the U.S., local customs can change from prefecture to prefecture and there is no set-in-stone rule on tipping or compensation, just general guidelines. But remember, if you're at an on-base restaurant, you are expected to tip.

When to tip

It's common for Japanese staying at ryokans (Japanese-style hotels) to give a tip to the staff in advance of the service they provide. This is seen as providing your gratitude in advance for the service the staff will provide. This is known as “kokoroduke” and should be somewhere around 1,000 or 2,000 yen. These tips should be provided in a somewhat discrete manner. The currency should be placed in some sort of paper or envelop and provided to the hotel staff after you are escorted to your room. If you're staying at a high end western style hotel, it's acceptable to leave some coins underneath your pillow after you check out of the room. But it's not expected.

Other situations where you might tip include receiving a massage at a spa or having someone bring bags to your room. Additionally, if you find yourself taking a taxi and the bill comes to somewhere around 800 or so yen, it's not uncommon to hand the driver a 1,000 yen note and tell them to keep the change. Again, this is not expected, but it is acceptable.

However, if your bill ever lists something similar to a “service fee”, then a tip has already been calculated into your bill. If you're ever in doubt, simply do not tip.

Tips in Japan are seen as more of an appreciation for service, unlike the U.S. where tips are often given to compensate workers for low wages.

Gifts of gratitude

Americans affiliated with the military often have questions regarding providing gifts or tokens of gratitude to Japanese people. The most common examples are usually neighbors, or workers from the Japanese moving companies who move household goods to or from the base. In these situations, it is acceptable to provide some sort of gift or treat but providing money would be a social faux pas.

Keep in mind, that while Japanese do appreciate gifts or treats from a foreigner's homeland, you should generally provide something that will go along with the Japanese taste palette. For example, sugary lemonade is a common drink for Americans during the summertime. Japanese, however, typically do not like things containing a lot of sugar.

In the case of Japanese movers, leaving a tray of chocolates or cookies with some soft drinks or bottles of water would be acceptable and appreciated. If the weather is cold outside, coffee would also be a good treat. In the case of trying to give a gift to someone like a Japanese neighbor, good ideas include American beer (which is much cheaper on base) or packages of smoked salmon (which are also sold on base at a far cheaper price). Keep your gifts simple and thoughtful and they will be well received no matter what you decide on.



10,000 yen

76 x 160mm, dark brown

Front: Portrait of Yukichi Fukuzawa, a philosopher and preceptor.

Back: Statue of Phoenix in Byodoin Temple.



A whole day of fun for everyone

Ocean Expo Park

Located on the beautiful west coast of the Motobu Peninsula, Ocean Expo Park is home to such major tourist attractions as Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium and Tropical Dream Center, featuring an exhibition of approximately 2,000 orchids, as well as Tropical & Subtropical Arboretum, Native Okinawan Village and Oceanic Culture Museum with its planetarium and sea turtle and manatee pools. Also located on the grounds are Dolphin Lagoon and Oki-chan Theater, where a group of lovable dolphins perform a spectacular show for visitors.



Ocean Expo Park Map

A Tropical Dream Center

Exotic botanical garden

Featuring over 2,000 orchids displayed throughout the year in three individual greenhouses, the vast six-hectare grounds of Tropical Dream Center include the Cloister Gallery, the Observatory Tower, the Fruit Tree Greenhouse and the Victoria Greenhouse, all of which welcome visitors into a tranquil setting in which they are surrounded by beautiful, fragrant flowers and exotic fruits and plants. Visitors can borrow an audio guide for free at the counter located in the entrance hall. The audio guide explains in detail each of the major displays in English, Korean or Chinese.



Hours: October-February 8:30-17:30 *Last entry 17:00; March-September 8:30-19:00 *Last entry 18:30
Admission: ¥760 for high school students and up, free for junior high school students and under

B Oceanic Culture Museum (Planetarium)

Experience one of Okinawa's largest planetariums

The Oceanic Culture Museum features a planetarium that allows you to explore the night sky with millions of twinkling stars and an exhibition through which you can learn how the ocean plays an important role in people's lives in the Pacific Ocean area including Okinawa.



Hours: October-February 8:30-17:30 *Last entry 17:00;
March-September 8:30-19:00 *Last entry 18:30
Admission: ¥190 for high school students and up;
free for junior high school students and under

*The following planetarium shows can be enjoyed in English:
"The Great Voyage of Roy and His Friends"
"Okinawa's Chura Bushi" (Beautiful Stars)

C Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium

Okinawa's No.1 tourist attraction

Internationally renowned for huge whale sharks, one of which measures 8.8 meters in length, along with various other species of fish that can be observed through a massive acrylic panel, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium is a must-see when you visit Okinawa. Divided into three distinct sections showcasing coral reef, the Kuroshio (Black Current) and the deep sea, the exhibits, painstakingly designed to create a natural ocean environment in the aquarium, will take visitors on a virtual dive, starting from a coral reef lagoon and descending 700 meters to the deep sea world.

In order to enjoy these much-in-demand exhibitions of marine life at your leisure, entry towards evening is recommended to avoid crowds in the aquarium. Between March and September in particular is a good season, with the hours of operation extended to 20:00. In addition, discount is available for late entry after 16:00.



Hours: October-February 8:30-18:30 *Last entry 17:30; March-September 8:30-20:00 *Last entry 19:00
Admission: ¥1,880 for adults, ¥1,250 for high school students, ¥620 for elementary and junior high school students, free for children under 6 / Annual passport: ¥3,760 for adults, ¥2,500 for high school students, ¥1,240 for elementary and junior high school students



D Oki-chan Theater

Oki-chan Theater features a dolphin performance by a park idol, Oki-chan, and her friends. The show's stars will fascinate audiences with their dynamic high jumps and humorous, impressive dance routine. The theater is located right next to the aquarium building.

Admission: Free
Dolphin show (approximately 10 min): 10:30, 11:30, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00



E Native Okinawan Village

Get a taste of old Okinawa

This is the re-creation of an old community of the 17-19th centuries where visitors can explore traditional houses and high-floored storehouses, get a glimpse into the old-fashioned lifestyle of Okinawa entertainingly presented by local staff and also enjoy complimentary tea and sweets between 10:00-16:00. Audio announcements are set each houses in English

Hours: October-February 8:30-17:30;
March-September 8:30-19:00 / Admission: Free



海洋博公園
OCEAN EXPO PARK

For more information

Ocean Expo Park Management Center
424 Ishikawa, Motobu-cho, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa 905-0206
Tel: 0980-48-2741 Fax: 0980-48-3339

<http://oki-park.jp/kaiyohaku/en>

Hours: October-February 8:00-18:00; March-September 8:00-19:30
Ocean Expo Park is closed on the first Wednesday and the following Thursday of December for maintenance.

OCEAN EXPO PARK

Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium

Admission Fees

	General	Group (20 or more)	Time Discount (after 16:00)	Annual Passport
Adult	1,880yen	1,500yen	1,310yen	3,760yen
High school	1,250yen	990yen	870yen	2,500yen
Junior high / elementary	620yen	490yen	430yen	1,240yen

- Admission is free for children under 6.
- School groups are eligible for discount. For elementary / junior high / high school activities only. Applications must be made in advance.
- Persons who are designated as physically or mentally disabled are eligible for free admission. Please show your certificate at the ticket counter. Escort (1 person only) is also admitted for free.
- After 16:00, admission fees become uniformly discounted. School and Group discounts become void after 16:00.
- Annual Passport holders can enter Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium as many times as they like for 12 months.

Open Hours

	Open	Last admission	Close
Oct. - Feb.	8:30	17:30	18:30
Mar. - Sep.	8:30	19:00	20:00

- Ocean Expo Park opens at 8:00.
- Closed on the first Wednesday of December and the following day (the same as Ocean Expo Park)
- No Food or Drink inside. ● No Smoking inside.
- No Pets inside (Except for guide and service dogs).

Tropical Dream Center

Admission Fees	General	Group (20 or more)
Adult / high school	760yen	550yen
Junior high / elementary	Free	

Oceanic Culture Museum (Planetarium)

Admission Fees	General	Group (20 or more)
Adult / high school	190yen	80yen
Junior high / elementary	Free	



Tropical Dream Center | 8:30-17:30 (Oct.-Feb.)
8:30-19:00 (Mar.-Sep.)



Oceanic Culture Museum | 8:30-17:30 (Oct.-Feb.)
(Planetarium) | 8:30-19:00 (Mar.-Sep.)

海洋博公園
OCEAN EXPO PARK

<http://oki-park.jp/>

*Hours for the peripheral area of Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium
8:00-19:00 (Oct.-Feb.) / 8:00-20:30 (Mar.-Sep.)
Closed on the first Wednesday of
December and the following day

For more information

Ocean Expo Park Management Center
424 Ishikawa, Motobu-cho, Kunigami-gun,
Okinawa 905-0206
Tel: 0980-48-2741 Fax: 0980-48-3339



- 1 Oki-chan Theater
- 2 Sea Turtle Pool
- 3 Manatee Pool
- 4 Dolphin Lagoon
- 5 Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium
- 6 Park Information Center (Haisai Plaza)
- 7 Oceanic Culture Museum (Planetarium)
- 8 Native Okinawan Village
- 9 Emerald Beach
- 10 Tropical Dream Center
- 11 Tropical & Subtropical Arboretum
- 12 Main Rest House (Churaumi Plaza)

Climate change

Weather in The Land of Rising Sun

The Japan Archipelago stretches nearly 1,700 miles from the northern mainland of Hokkaido to the southernmost islands of Okinawa, and the climate can vary widely depending on where you are stationed.

While the mainland – home to Misawa, Yokota, Yokosuka, Zama, Atsugi, Fuji, Iwakuni and Sasebo – has four distinct seasons, Okinawa, with its subtropical climate, doesn't show the clear seasonal changes. However, Okinawa does have a couple of chilly months and a rainy season.

Here is a breakdown of the climate in Japan and Okinawa below:

Spring (March.-April)

Splendid views of cherry blossoms highlight spring throughout the nation. With the rise in temperatures comes the color explosion at the end of March or beginning of April, finishing up near the end of April in Misawa. Temperatures range from 40-60°F.

Summer (June-Aug.)

Summer begins with the rainy season - cold northerly and warm southerly air masses collide to create 45 to 50 days of dreary

weather, dropping anything from drizzle to torrential downpours.

Heavy thunderstorms in July often precede the end of the rainy season. The steamy 80-90°F weather during the summer lead to many locals hitting the water or relaxing at cool resorts in mountainous areas.

Autumn (Sept.-Nov.)

Temperatures begin dropping in September, with light breezes and cooler temperatures around 55-65°F. Just as the cherry blossom is a symbol of spring in Japan, the autumn colors embody the spirit of fall, with the front moving across mainland Japan and finishing in Sasebo in early December.

Winter (Dec.-Feb.)

Winter in the Pacific coastal area is quite dry and sunny, with the temperatures rarely dropping below 30°F. Meanwhile, the northern and central regions experience snowfall and temps around 10°F colder. In fact, the Misawa area gets the most snow each year, while the other mainland installations are blessed with relatively mild temperatures and very little snow.

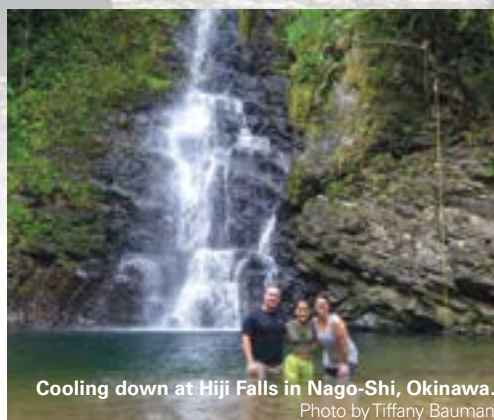
Okinawa

Although there are cherry blossom trees on Okinawa, they are different from those in the mainland and the warmer weather helps make the viewing season the earliest in Japan - usually January or February.

March and April are a nice 70-75°F, though it gets a little bit chilly in the morning and evening. This leads into Golden Week, which on Okinawa signals the start of the rainy season. Believe it or not, the island is known to experience the least amount of clear sunny days in the nation, so the end of the rainy season in June is met with joy and a sense of liberation. Then, summer continues July through September, with the annual highest temperature around 90-95°F. Temperatures begin to drop in October, but usually don't get below 60°F.

December through February are usually chilly, around 55-65°F, with sparse rainfall and occasionally strong winds. And it almost never snows on Okinawa.

– Takahiro Takiguchi



Cooling down at Hiji Falls in Nago-Shi, Okinawa.
Photo by Tiffany Bauman

	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
Aomori (Misawa)	29°F (7.2)	46°F (2.8)	70°F (4.0)	47°F (5.1)
Tokyo	40°F (2.2)	57°F (5.0)	77°F (5.0)	63°F (7.2)
Yamaguchi (Iwakuni)	42°F (3.2)	56°F (6.8)	78°F (11.6)	64°F (3.7)
Nagasaki (Sasebo)	44°F (3.2)	59°F (8.0)	80°F (12.4)	66°F (4.0)
Naha	64°F (4.7)	70°F (7.4)	83°F (7.6)	76°F (7.3)

*degrees [°F] (precipitation [inch])

DID YOU KNOW?

Summer brings typhoons, as well. Tropical storms often hit Okinawa and the mainland causing serious damage between July and October, especially from August to September.

Land of earthquakes

An earthquake occurs when two tectonic plates slip over each other. Japan is situated at the intersection of three tectonic plates, making it highly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity. So, unfortunately, it is highly likely that you will experience one.

Be aware: Tsunamis can follow a large-scale quake. It is recommended to keep an emergency earthquake kit available with the survival basics.



Typhoon season primer for those new to the Pacific



Only in Japan

You have to see it to believe it

When you think of Japan, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Mount Fuji? Cherry Blossoms? Those would be two that truly represent The Land of the Rising Sun, but there are a many more lesser-known things that can be found in mainland Japan and Okinawa. Though many of these activities were interrupted or postponed in 2020 and early 2021, these are all part of Japan's identity and, with some luck, we'll all be able to enjoy these safely again:

Onsen

Soaking in an onsen is about as Japanese as it gets. There are thousands of these bathing facilities near hot springs throughout the country, and if you want the true Japan experience, these are a must. Most don't allow tattoos, so check before going. And never wear a bathing suit. Naked people only!

Sumo wrestling

Japan's national sport is huge – both literally and figuratively. With six main events each year, sumo enthusiasts turn out in droves to watch these half-naked giants prove that you don't need to look fit to be a top-notch athlete.

Baseball

With rules almost identical to MLB, baseball on the field is similar in Japan. Off the field though, it's a whole different ballgame being played. From relentless cheering on offense to "beer girls" with mini-kegs on their backs, the fan experience at a Japanese baseball game is worth the price of admission.



Sumo tournament in Tokyo.
Photo by Marion Salaun Fairbanks

Mt. Fuji

Fuji-san, as the cool kids call it, is Japan's tallest mountain – well, volcano, but that's another story. As the symbol of Japan, Fuji can be found in art and photos all across the world, and on a clear day can be seen from many different regions in Japan. The climbing season typically runs from early July through August.

Vending machines

These things are everywhere. No, really – EVERYWHERE. From beer to hot coffee, cigarettes to cup noodles, you can find



just about anything in a vending machine in Japan. Feeling parched while walking down a dark alley in the middle of nowhere? You're covered. On Mt. Fuji? No worries, there's one at the top.

Convenience stores

Like the vending machines, convenience stores can be found wherever you look. Whether it's a Family Mart, 7-Eleven, Lawson or something else, these things truly epitomize the word "convenience." And they serve delicious food. No kidding! Next time you're at a major intersection in Tokyo, count how many of these you can see at one time. It's fun! It's Japan!

Naha Tug-of-War

An annual event on Okinawa, this is not your ordinary game of tug-of-war. In fact, it was once recorded as the largest tug-of-war event in the world. Every year, over a quarter million people attend the October event. Equally as impressive as the size

of the crowd is the weight of the rope – roughly 40 tons.

Stores from home

Just because you're halfway across the world from home, doesn't mean you can't get a good ol' taste of the U.S.A. every once in a while. Many places from the U.S. can be found here, including: Costco, IKEA, McDonald's, Denny's, 7-Eleven, TGI Friday's, Hooters, Gap, H&M and many more.

Whale watching

The winter months on Okinawa don't bring snow, but what they do bring are giant humpback whales. Every January through March, the whales migrate south to warmer Okinawan waters. There are many places that offer whale watching tours, so make sure to take advantage while you're there!

Depachika

When you think of department stores, you often think of the past, and you never think of food. In Japan, the department stores thrive and the basement floors hold the depachika – a magical food wonderland where you can find just about anything you want. Yakitori, sushi, salads? All there!



People crowd through Tokyo's Shibuya Crossing.
Photo by Akifumi Ishikawa/
Stars and Stripes

See ONLY on
Page 24

For more culture, travel, food and more, be sure to check out StripesJapan.com



ONLY continued from Page 23

Cherry blossoms

Every spring, the cherry blossom trees bloom in Japan and it's a BIG deal. The world-famous re-birth each spring draws massive crowds during peak blooming days, and many Japanese partake in hanami – a social eating and drinking party under the cherry blossoms. This is a must as far as Japan experiences go.

Cherry blossoms can also be found during springtime on Okinawa, although they bloom much earlier than those on the mainland.

Manga

If you haven't heard, comics are a "thing" here in Japan. And the word for Japanese comics is manga. People young and old alike read manga, whether by book or mobile device. Akihabara, known as the hotspot for Japanese pop culture, is home to the Tokyo Anime Center.

Pachinko

Although there are no casinos in Japan, there is Pachinko. There are many Pachinko parlors throughout Japan, so you're likely to see, or hear, many. They're loud and smoky, but if some gambling-style entertainment is what you're looking for, this is about it in Japan.

Karaoke

First off, this is not Tuesday night karaoke at Bill's Saloon. In Japan, it's different, of course. Karaoke is something you do in a private room with your friends. You pay by the hour, get costumes, and get to limit your off-key singing torture to only your group of friends.

Dragon boat races

Each spring, around early May, Okinawa is invaded by dragons. Specifically, dragon boats in search of glory on the water. The Naha Hari Festival is host to the races, and the event as a whole is a great slice of true Okinawa. Members of each U.S. military branch row in the fiercely competitive boat races, which regularly draw a large crowd.

Animal/maid cafés

You've heard of the famous cat cafés, but in Japan, the animals-café mashup doesn't end there. Not a cat-person? Also offered in Japan are: owl, dog, bird, hedgehog and rabbit cafés. If you're not an animal-lover and prefer to be served by maids, there are maid cafés as well.

Shrines/temples

As many convenience stores as there are in Japan, there are three times as many shrines and temples combined. Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples are everywhere. From giant ones

like the Meiji Shrine, to small ones you wouldn't even notice, there is definitely no shortage of places for one to worship.

Blood type

In the U.S., there are astrological signs that many think determine your personality. In Japan, it's believed that your blood type is the determining factor. So, if you meet someone new and they ask what your blood type is, they're likely not a vampire. They probably just want to get to know you better.

Rest areas

These are not what most think

of when they think of a rest stop. Big parking lots lead to shopping, food and bathrooms – nice and clean bathrooms. Some even have hotel rooms for those looking for a place to literally rest. In Japan, the rest areas are not just stops, they are destinations.

Water sports

From scuba diving and snorkeling, to kayaking, parasailing, surfing and Flyboarding, there is no shortage of fun to be had in the waters of Okinawa. With year-round weather that is ideal for being outside, Okinawa makes it easy for the outdoorsy, water-lovers to enjoy their stay.



The Kadena Shoguns Women's Dragon Boat Team competes in Naha, Okinawa.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Omari Bernard/U.S. Air Force.



There are 16 national holidays on the current Japanese calendar. While some of them are memorial days for the imperial family of Japan, others are related to historical events.

There are also local days of remembrance. For the people of Hiroshima, Aug. 6 is an important day to reflect back on the day the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. Likewise, June 23 is a memorial day for Okinawans to commemorate the Battle of Okinawa, which ended that day the same year.

There are also Japanese holiday seasons and traditions to be noted. "Golden Week" marks a highlight of the first half of the year. From late April through early May, many people will travel during this time, which consists of multiple holidays.

Obon is another big holiday tradition. For several days in July or August (depending on the region), Japanese families get together to welcome the spirit of their ancestors and then send them off again. In addition to Obon, Okinawans also hold a family gathering called "See Me" in the spring.

Celebrating holidays

New Years' Day (Jan. 1)

A day to celebrate the new year.

Coming-of-Age Day (2nd Mon. of Jan.)

Celebrate those who turned or are going to turn 20 in a given year.

National Foundation Day (Feb. 11)

The day when the first emperor is said to have assumed the position.

The Emperor's Birthday (Feb. 23)

The birthday of Emperor Naruhito.

Spring Equinox Day (Mar. 20 or 21)

A day which supposedly has equal day and night length. Also a day to adore nature.

Showa Day (Apr. 29)

Originally the birthday of Emperor Hirohito.

Constitution Memorial Day (May 3)

The current Japanese constitution took effect on this day in 1947.

Greenery Day (May 4)

A day to commune with nature and to be thankful for blessings.

Children's Day (May 5)

A day to adore children and appreciate mothers.

Marine Day (3rd Mon. of July)

(Observed July 22, for the eve of Tokyo Olympics)

A day to appreciate ocean and celebrate Japan as a marine nation.

Mountain Day (Aug. 11)

(Observed Aug. 8, for closing of Tokyo Olympics and following day (Mon.) is substitute day-off)

A new holiday to show appreciation to mountains.

Senior Citizen Day (3rd Mon. of Sept.)

A day to pay respect to senior citizens.

Fall Equinox Day (Sept. 22 or 23)

A day which supposedly has equal day and night length. Also a day to commemorate ancestors.

Sports Day (2nd Mon. of Oct.)
(Observed July 23 for opening of Tokyo Olympics)

The 1964 Tokyo Olympics kicked off on this day.

Culture Day (Nov. 3)

A day to promote culture and arts.

Labor Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23)

A day to commemorate labor and production and give one another thanks.

Yokota Arts and Crafts Center

Located in building 334 on Yokota Air Base Japan, the Arts and Crafts Center provides a full-range sales store offering a wide selection of art and crafts supplies to feed your creative desires. Call the Sales Store at 225-7837.

Within the Arts and Crafts Center these shops are available to make that unique something for someone special or support a gala event. Call our store at 225-7837



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The Photo Studio

From family photo sessions to custom printing services, come see us for PCSing picture gifts or use the DIY photo kiosk to print images from your USB device or smartphone. Even passport photos are a snap! Visit or call 225-8133 for more info.

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Fam/Exr Normal

Tue-Sat 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
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Yokota Auto Hobby Shop

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Fam/Exr Normal
Hol Closed

*JCI Inspections by Appointment Only

Hours for DIY/Stall Use
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- Engine Oil Change
- Vehicle Condition Check
- Audio Installation
- Vehicle Junking
- A/C & Coolant System Service
- Car Detailing
- Repair Stall Rental
- A/C System Check
- Oil Change
- Sign Up for our Beginners or Advanced Classes

Chopsticks and Japanese dining

Any meal in Japan is sure to include some form of chopsticks.

Since their invention in ancient China more than 3,000 years ago, chopsticks have been widely used in Asian countries. In Japan, chopsticks are called “*hashi*” and are used for cooking and eating all kinds of dishes, including rice, raw fish, vegetables, noodles, soup and desserts. At some restaurants, you’ll even catch locals using their chopsticks to eat French fries.

Being an important dining tool, us Japanese usually learn how to use chopsticks before we start walking. Japanese parents take teaching the skill to their children seriously, as it is considered one of the most important manners in society.

As a child, I remember not being allowed to eat unless I used my chopsticks. If I stuck my chopsticks vertically into a bowl of rice – a big no-no in Japan – my father would scold me severely because it is a funeral tradition to offer a bowl of rice in this manner

to the altar of our departed ancestors.

My wife and I also struggled in teaching our daughter how to use chopsticks. At first, she tried to grip it the same way she would hold a spoon, but eventually, with much persistence and patience, she became comfortable enough to pick up food with her chopsticks.

Despite chopsticks’ importance to Japanese culture and tradition, there are still some Japanese people that do not know how to use them correctly. According to a survey by the Cabinet Office (2010), only slightly more than half of Japanese over the age of 18 were deemed to be able to hold their chopsticks correctly. In fact, I often observe some young people using their chopsticks incorrectly and awkwardly.

In Japan, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to master the technique at restaurants or at the home of Japanese

friends. As Japanese food gains popularity globally, having chopsticks skills will come in handy when you enjoy sushi, soba noodles and other Japanese and Asian dishes.

Just as chopsticks are a unique, beautiful dining tool, a pair can also be an ideal souvenir for your friends and relatives. Many souvenir stores sell novelty pairs with Japanese animated characters like Hello Kitty or Gundam, but you can also find nicer ones made of lacquered wood or bamboo ranging from 1,000 – 5,000 yen (\$9–45).

At restaurants and convenience stores, you may encounter disposable chopsticks, called “*waribashi*.” These are made of wood or bamboo and are attached at the top, requiring them to be split apart before use.

As the

DID YOU KNOW?

Tatebashi is a ritual where a pair of chopsticks are stuck upright in a bowl of rice and presented as an offering to the newly deceased. Doing this at a table is frowned upon and considered bad luck. Another blunder to be careful to avoid is passing food directly from one chopstick to another. Much like sticking your chopsticks into a bowl of rice, this also has to do with Japanese funeral rituals. In *hashiwatashi*, relatives of the deceased use chopsticks to pluck bones from the cremated remains, and then pass the bones from chopstick to chopstick until the remains finally reach the *kotsutsubo*, or urn.



saying goes, practice makes perfect. Though chopsticks may seem difficult at first, consistently trying to use them will go a long way in ensuring you enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine the authentic Japanese way.

Waribashi

– Takahiro Takiguchi



Chopsticks Talk

Asking for help with your chopsticks

"Hashi no tsukaikata wo oshiete kudasai." = Please teach me how to use chopsticks.
(pronounced – hashee noh zookaheekah-tah woe ohsheeheyteh coup-dah-sigh)

"Doko wo nigittara ii desuka?" = Where can I grip?

(pronounced – doughkoh woe neegeetahrah ee deh-sue-kah)

"Tadashii mochikata wo misete kudasai." = Show me how to hold them right.

(pronounced – tah-dahshee-ee moecheekah-tah woe me-set-teh coup-dah-sigh)

"Muzukashii desune?" = It is difficult, isn't it?

(pronounced – moo-zoo-kah-shee de-sue-neh)

In a Japanese restaurant

"Irraishaimase" = Welcome!

(pronounced – ee-rah-shy-mah-seh)

"Waribashi wo kudasai." = May I have a pair of disposable chopsticks, please.

(pronounced – Wah-ree-bash-ee woe coup-dah-sigh)

"Fooku wo kudasai." = May I have a fork, please.

(pronounced – folk-oo woe coup-dah-sigh)

"Sumimasen. Hashi no tsukaikata ga wakari masen." = I'm sorry, but I don't know how to use chopsticks.

(pronounced – zoo-me-mass-en. Hashee noh zookaykahtah gah wack-ari-mass-zen)

Shopping for chopsticks

"Kono hashi ga hoshii desu." = I want this pair of chopsticks.

(pronounced – cone-oh hashee gah hoe-shee deh-z)

"Kirei desune?" = They are pretty, aren't they?

(pronounced – kee-ray deh-z-neh)

"Ikura desuka?" = How much is it?

(pronounced – ee-koo-rah deh-sue-kah)

"Kaado wa tsukae masuka?" = Can I use a credit card?

(pronounced – kah-doe wah zoo-kai mass-sue-kah)

– Takahiro Takiguchi

How to use them

1. Use both hands when you pick up a set of chopsticks.
2. In the same manner you would hold a pencil, hold the chopsticks about one-third from the top.
3. Then, grip the upper stick with your thumb and index finger, while the lower stick rests on your middle and ring fingers.
4. Bend only the upper chopsticks up and down to make the ends of two chopsticks meet (The lower chopstick shouldn't move.)

Watch it!



SCAN THE QR CODE

to find a step-by-step video on how to use chopsticks.

Practice enables you to grip, divide, pinch and even scoop foods with your chopsticks. To hone your chopsticks skills, try picking up beans, shelled peanuts or rice grains when you're comfortable with your grip.



Don't do these things!

Because chopsticks have a 3,000-year history, various customs and traditions surround their use. Be sure to avoid the following no-nos as they are considered rude:

1. Don't pass food from one set of chopsticks to another.
2. Don't use only one stick to pierce any food.
3. Don't touch others' chopsticks with yours.
4. Don't use your chopsticks to move bowls or plates.
5. Don't suck on your chopsticks.

Watch it!



SCAN THE QR CODE

to learn about things you shouldn't do with chopsticks.

6. Don't stick potatoes or other foods with chopsticks. Instead, hold food by pinching up to help lift it or split the potato into small pieces with the chopsticks first.



Getting connected with a cell phone

So, you've just PCS'd to Japan, and now you need to get a new cell phone. Well, first off, they have those here, so you're in luck. Now, where do you start?

As you've likely already noticed, most bases in Japan already have a branch where you can get a phone without leaving your installation. There are definitely benefits to staying on base, but just because it's the easiest, doesn't mean it makes the most sense for your situation. There are plenty of off-base locations throughout the country, but if you do go this route, you might consider bringing someone who can speak Japanese.

In Japan, there are three main providers: SoftBank, au and NTT DOCOMO. If you want to weigh your options and see all of what Japan cell providers have to offer, here is a quick breakdown.

SoftBank

softbank.jp/en/mobile

SoftBank has been one of the big boys on the block ever since it became a major player on the Japanese cell phone scene. It was the first provider to offer Apple's iPhone and iPad devices. SoftBank pioneered discount service plans, and currently has 12 locations on U.S. military installations throughout mainland Japan and Okinawa.

NTT docomo

nttdocomo.co.jp/english

Almost every major technological advance in the Japanese cell phone industry has come from the minds of the people from NTT DOCOMO, whose parent company, Nippon Telegraph and

Wi-Fi provider

Are you in need of a SIM card, hotspot or phone? Allied Telesis provides on-the-go service to the military communities throughout mainland Japan and Okinawa. Find out more at www.atcc-gns.com

Telephone Corporation (NTT), is to telecommunications services in Japan what AT&T used to be in the U.S. So it is no surprise that NTT DOCOMO phones can receive signals just about anywhere in the country.

au

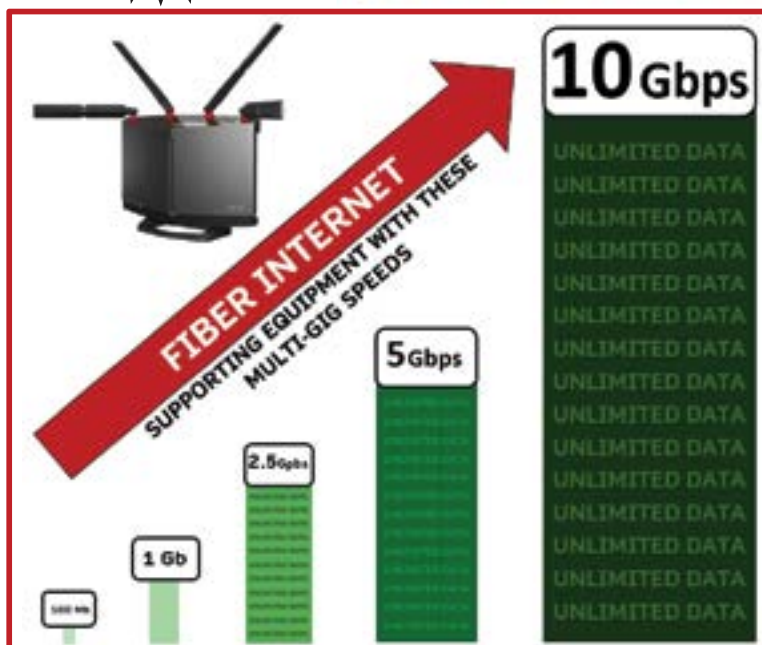
au.kddi.com/english

Handsets made by au have had the distinction of getting the best signals on and around military installations. That's no small thing when you consider the proportion of calls that you make or receive on base. Being owned by KDDI, Japan's leading international telephone service provider, enables au to offer superior global roaming services for people traveling abroad.

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Just a click away

Websites worth bookmarking

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Stars and Stripes and Stripes Japan are the best sources for military and local military community news, respectively.

Stripes.com and **Japan.Stripes.com**

The website of Japan Times, the country's main full-fledged English daily newspaper, offers the traditional range of coverage – national and local news, sports, business, op-ed and entertainment. **www.japantimes.co.jp**

Popular with the expat crowd in Tokyo, the online version of Metropolis magazine offers a wealth of info – from local fashion, sports and travel to music, the arts and feature articles. **metropolis.co.jp**

FOOD

This site enables users to find local restaurants according to general locale, cuisine or price. Results come with contact information, maps, average costs and details about the food and venue. **www.gnavi.co.jp**

This site lets you explore a wide range of Japanese cuisine through pictures and simple explanations. Easy to follow recipes are also included. **www.bento.com**

This site is the go-to platform for foreigners in Tokyo who share a love for Japanese food. **www.byfood.com**

COMMENTARY

Operated by a naturalized Japanese citizen originally from the U.S., this site monitors legal, social and political issues that may be important. **www.debito.org**

JAPAN BLOGGING

The perfect blog for someone located in Japan that wants to know where to go. Updated frequently, the site is full of beautiful photos and writing that is chock-full of info that has you in mind. Best of all, it's written by a U.S. military spouse. **www.travelswithnano.com**

TRAVEL

A for-the-traveler, by-the-traveler website, this community travelogue is continuously updated with first-hand accounts and tips on sites, both popular and obscure, to see;

adventures to be had; and even places to eat – all over the country. **en.japantravel.com**

SKIING/SNOWBOARDING

This site for skiing and snowboarding in Japan covers almost every aspect of getting to the slopes. **www.snowjapan.com**

TOKYO SPOTS

Focusing its gaze on Japan's capital, this site offers word-of-mouth reviews to help readers discover cool and traditional spots they can't find in travel guidebooks. The site is ideal for locating various interesting aspects of Tokyo life. **www.sunnypages.jp**

KITCHEN SINK

A great site that covers a wide range of topics regarding Japan, especially learning the language. **www.tofugu.com**

Provides details about museums, restaurants, historical sites and pop culture spots in the Tokyo area. **www.timeout.jp/en/tokyo**

CLASSIFIEDS

A convenient no-frills classifieds page largely for the Yokota community, the site enables users to browse, search by one of several different categories, or post about an item. **www.yokotaads.com**

With more than 5,000 members, the Facebook page, "Yokota Swap Page" is a testament to its success. Competing Facebook page "New Yokota Swap" also tops 5,000 members. The "Yokosuka Resale" page also has an impressive 5,000+ membership, searching the name "Yokosuka resale" on Facebook will reveal at least two others. "Misawa Web Sale 2.0" is home to more than 4,000 members, while "Camp Foster Yard Sale" sports more than 2,800.

Okinawan sites

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Call us biased, but Stripes Okinawa is the best sources for local restaurants, travel spots and everything Okinawa. **Okinawa.Stripes.com**

With a host of regular contributors, this site

Useful Apps



Stars and Stripes

Get all of the U.S. military news you need on the device you use most. Enjoy a free preview of the front page top stories..



AFN-360

AFN-360 provides information such as weather, exchange rate, traffic, and gas prices.



HYPERDIA

Hyperdia is a website and app, which can be used as a guide to any city/town/village in Japan. It's available in English.



GuruNavi

An app for those who like to eat. It's an easy to use restaurant finder app that searches for places to eat in your area.



Liberty MCCS OKINAWA

Helps you locate your favorite places, as well as provides information such as transportation schedules.

is chock-full of info such users would want to know: off-base eatery reviews, on- and off-base school resources – including homeschooling – and an army of active forums and blogs. **okinawahai.com**

GENERAL INFO

Okinawa Lab is a site with useful information to tourists on the island in categories such as "sightseeing", "knowledge", "play-experience", and "gourmet." **https://okinawa-labo.com/en/**

The site is geared towards tourists to the island, which makes it perfect for someone just arriving and planning on staying for a few years. **www.beokinawa.jp**

GUIDES

Courtesy of the Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau, this searchable, user-friendly site has a detailed destination guide and summaries of topics. **Visitokinawa.jp**

On this website, you can enjoy photos and articles on tourist stops and activities on the island. **okinawaclip.com/en**

Information on morale, welfare, and recreation for each branch of service is available at **www.mccsokinawa.com/**, **www.kadenafss.com/**, **www.navymwrokinawa.com/**, **www.torii.armymwr.com/**

Ridin' the storm out with Dave

Dave Ornauer has been with Stars and Stripes since 1981, and one of his first assignments as a beat reporter in the old Japan News Bureau was "typhoon chaser." Pacific Storm Tracker is designed to take the technical weather lingo and simplify it for the average Stripes reader. **www.stripes.com/blogs/pacific-storm-tracker**





Guam Reef Hotel offers hospitality and high quality entertainment venue. Located in the center of the shopping and entertainment district and within walking distance of all the exciting Tumon attractions.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The health and safety of our guests and employees is our first priority. In consideration of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, we have enhanced our standards of cleanliness and hygiene protocols and are taking precautionary and response measures that meet the "Safe Travels" standard by World Travel & Tourism Council. For more information, please visit our website.



ROOMS

Guam Reef Hotel has 426 well-appointed stylish rooms and is located in the heart of Tumon. Our Beach Tower and Infinity Tower offer you a wide range of rooms from modern minimalist to rooms with panoramic views of Tumon Bay. All rooms include a flat-screen TV, hot/cold water dispenser and free Wi-Fi for your pleasant stay.

FITNESS & AMENITIES

A fitness room (678 sq ft) is available to help you unwind and further enhance your stay with us. We also have a microwave on every floor and a free laundry facility located at the lobby level, available 24 hours for your convenience.





Guam Reef Hotel

On The Beach in The Heart of Guam



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reservations@guamreef.com

****Military Rates available***



1317 Pale San Vitores Road, Tamuning, Guam 96913

Do your DoDEA homework

The Department of Defense Education Activity is a K-12 American school system for U.S. military, DoD civilian dependents and other eligible families. DoDEA Pacific manages on-base schools in Guam, mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea.

Registration

Families can register online using the DoDEA Online Registration System (DORS). This system allows sponsors to complete required documentation and include uploads of required forms prior to arriving at the new duty location. A visit to the assigned school is necessary to verify eligibility and enrollment documents, and to finalize registration. Families may also complete their registration in-country upon arrival to the new PCS location. Contact the school website for office hours.

Enrolled students who are advancing to the next grade level will need to revalidate enrollment eligibility by providing a copy of orders or Letter of Employment verification along with any required and updated immunization records for each child.

Students preparing to enter kindergarten must be five years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling school year. Proof of your child's age must be provided through documentation such as birth certificate or passport.

Some DoDEA Pacific schools offer a pre-kindergarten program called Sure Start. The program offers a comprehensive approach to early childhood education in the areas of education, health, social services and family involvement. Students must be four years old by September 1 of the enrolling school year. Contact the school directly to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply for Sure Start.

Records

Parents should hand-carry all academic, immunization and special education records if possible. Some schools may require records to be mailed. If

so, send records via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail to the military address of the receiving school. Sending priority mail to the Pacific usually takes about seven to 10 days, while other methods could take several months. The sending school can also ship records to the commercial address of the DoDEA Pacific school. It is recommended that you confirm the current mailing address with the school.

Student meal / free and reduced lunch program

All families with students enrolled in DoDEA Pacific schools are eligible to apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Completing this application is an annual requirement for families, if eligible, to continue to receive either a free or reduced lunch. To find the correct Free and Reduced Meal Program point of contact for your family's school, please visit the DoDEA Pacific website.

To pay for school lunches, parents and sponsors will need to set up and fund a prepaid account with the agency that operates your school's lunch program. Contact your school for additional information.

School liaison officers

School liaison officers can help your family with transition issues. SLOs operate independently of DoD schools and have expertise in transition support.

Sites to visit

DoDEA registration information:
www.dodea.edu/registration-process.cfm

DoDEA-Pacific
www.dodea.edu/Pacific

Exchange Student Meal Program
www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program/

Exceptional Family Member Program
www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp

Tutor.com (Free online tutoring for military families)
www.tutor.com/military

Special needs children

If your child has special needs, be sure to research the available support options for your desired location. To the greatest extent possible, we follow an inclusion model and work to provide individualized support as needed.

However, overseas locations may not have the specialized medical or other support services necessary to fully meet your child's unique needs. Parents should consider how limited services may impact the growth and development of their special needs child. DoDEA Pacific staff members are available to help parents with special needs children make informed choices throughout the school year.

You can reach out to the District Special Education Instructional Systems Specialist (ISS) by contacting the DoDEA District Superintendent's Office in the location where you are considering your next assignment.

A very helpful source for information to families can also be accessed through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Home school support

DoDEA-Pacific schools offer auxiliary services to eligible military families who choose to home school their children. Auxiliary services include use of academic resources, access to the library of the school, after hours use of school facilities, and participation in music, sports, and other extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is limited to students who are designated as space-required (mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea) or DoD dependent students eligible to enroll in Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (Guam) on a tuition-free basis. Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must also meet the same eligibility requirements as dependents enrolled in DoDEA schools who use or receive the same auxiliary services. Eligible home schoolers are not required to attend a specific number of courses to receive auxiliary services, including participating in extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

DoDEA encourages DoD sponsors who wish to home school their dependents to communicate the desire to their commanders in order to determine if there are any command policies or other rules ensuring that home schooling practices meet host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory requirements. Sponsors are responsible for complying with applicable local requirements. Contact your local School Liaison Officer or command representative to learn more.

Celebrate April's
Month of the Military Child
with us!

Each year,
Stars and Stripes teams up with
DoDEA to give our wonderful military brats
a platform to be heard. Kids of all ages from
across Pacific bases submit stories, poems,
drawings and photos about what life is like as
a military child. These run in our community
newspapers in mainland Japan,
Okinawa, Guam and Korea in April.
They are also all published at
<https://militarychild.stripes.com/>. We hope you
and your children join in on the fun.



— DoDEA-Pacific

Take advantage of on-base colleges

The Defense Department has contracted colleges and universities to provide in-resident college and graduate programs on military installations in mainland Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and Guam.

The current contracted institutions are:

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's award-winning undergraduate and graduate degrees are available in the Pacific! They can help you select the right degree to match your career goals in the aviation, management, safety, logistics, and engineering industries. The school offers local and online courses to accommodate your busy schedule. Visit your local campus and speak to an academic advisor today!



University of Maryland Global Campus

UMGC is one of 12 regionally accredited, degree-granting institutions in the University System of Maryland (USM). The university brings quality higher education wherever the military needs it, with cutting-edge degree programs and classes offered both online and on-site



at military installations worldwide. As the first university to serve military overseas, UMGC has earned a global reputation for excellence. Headquartered in Adelphi, Maryland, UMGC has on-site classroom locations in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Offering both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, UMGC Asia's mission is to provide top quality education and services to U.S. military communities in Asia and the Pacific.

Troy University

The University proudly counts some 60 flag officers among the ranks of its alumni, has a presence on or near over 30 military installations worldwide and participates in online learning programs with all service branches. For generations, Troy University has understood the needs of the military student and has built a military inclusive institution offering a broad range of high quality, very affordable undergraduate and graduate academic programs supported by outstanding student services. Contact your education center to learn what in-residence and distance-learning programs are available on your base.



Military Tuition Assistance

If you've thought about going to college, but didn't know if you could afford it, then the Military Tuition



Read more

Assistance program may be just the benefit you need. The program is available to active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component service members. While the decision to pursue a degree may be a difficult one personally, TA can lessen your financial concerns considerably, since it now pays up to 100% of tuition expenses for semester hours costing \$250 or less.

Courses and degree programs may be academic or technical and can be taken from two- or four-year institutions on-installation, off-installation or by distance learning. An accrediting body recognized by the Department of Education must accredit the institution. Your service branch pays your tuition directly to the school. Service members need to first check with an education counselor for the specifics involving TA by visiting their local installation education office or by going online to a virtual education center. Tuition assistance may be used for the following programs:

- Vocational/technical programs
- Undergraduate programs
- Graduate programs
- Independent study
- Distance-learning programs

Eligibility

All four service branches and the U.S. Coast Guard offer financial assistance for voluntary, off-duty education programs in support of service members' personal and professional goals. The program is open to officers, warrant officers and enlisted active-duty service personnel. In addition, members of the National Guard and Reserve Components may be eligible for TA based on their service eligibility. To be eligible for TA, an enlisted service member must have enough time remaining in service to complete the course for which he or she has applied. After the completion of a course, an officer using TA must fulfill a service obligation that runs parallel with – not in addition to

– any existing service obligation.
Coverage amounts and monetary limits

The Tuition Assistance Program may fund up to 100% of your college tuition and certain fees with the following limits:

- Not to exceed \$250 per semester credit hour or \$166 per quarter credit hour
- Not to exceed \$4,500 per fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30

Tuition assistance vs. VA education benefits

While the TA program is offered by the services, the Department of Veterans Affairs administers a variety of education benefit programs. Some of the VA programs, such as the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, can work well with the TA program, as it can supplement fees not covered by TA. In addition, the Post-9/11 GI Bill® funds are available to you after you leave the military. If your service ended before Jan. 1, 2013, you have 15 years to use this benefit. If your service ended on or after Jan. 1, 2013, the benefit won't expire. The TA program is a benefit that is available only while you're in the service.

Tuition assistance benefits and restrictions

Tuition assistance will cover the following expenses:

- Tuition
- Course-specific fees such as laboratory fee or online course fee

NOTE: All fees must directly relate to the specific course enrollment of the service member.

Tuition assistance will not cover the following expenses:

- Books and course materials
- Flight training fees
- Taking the same course twice
- Continuing education units, or CEUs

Application process

Each military branch has its own TA application form and procedures. To find out how to get started, visit your local installation education center, go online to a virtual education center or click on the following links for each service branch.

Education Centers

Mainland Japan

Yokota Air Base
Bldg. 316, 2nd floor
DSN: 225-7337

MCAS Iwakuni
Bldg. 411, Rm. 127
DSN: 253-3855

Yokosuka Naval Base
Bldg. 3008
DSN: 243-8131

Misawa Air Base
Bldg. 653, Rm. 203
DSN: 226-4201

Sasebo Naval Base
Bldg. 155
DSN: 252-3511

Camp Zama
Bldg. 278
DSN: 263-5068

NAF Atsugi
Bldg. 987
DSN: 264-3280

Camp Fuji
Bldg. 110
DSN: 224-8353

Okinawa

Torii Station
Bldg. 207
DSN: 652-4954

MCAS Futenma
Bldg. 407
DSN: 636-3036

Kadena Air Base
Bldg. 59
DSN: 634-1500

Camp Hansen
Bldg. 2339
DSN: 623-4376

Camp Foster
Bldg. 5679
DSN: 645-7160

Camp Kinser
Bldg. 1220-B
DSN: 637-1821

Camp Courtney
Bldg. 4425
DSN: 622-9694

Camp Schwab
Bldg. 3429
DSN: 625-2046

Space-A travel

A way to see the world

Space Available travel offers a way for Armed Services personnel, their dependents, retirees and others who support the mission to see the world on a budget... if the timing is right. Below is what you need to know about this great privilege:

What is Space-A?

It is a program that allows authorized passengers to occupy surplus seats after all cargo and space-required duty passengers have been accommodated.

Who can fly Space-A?

Uniformed services duty personnel, their dependents, Red Cross personnel, USO personnel who also support the mission, and veterans. Passengers may not use the flights for personal gain, in relationship to employment, to find a house or for other prohibited activities.

What do I need to qualify?

- Qualified travelers must have completed the proper procedures and have the required documentation for travel.
- Active duty must be on leave before they can register for Space-A.
- Dependents of active duty flying unaccompanied need an Unaccompanied Command Sponsorship from his or her spouse's commander. The letter is valid for one round trip travel via military aircraft, describes the reason for travel and the category of passenger travel.
- Also mandatory for travel: military ID cards, passports, social security numbers and emergency contact information at the final destination.

How much does it cost?

Most flights offered through

the Air Force's Air Mobility Command (AMC) or the Navy and are usually free of charge.

Patriot Express flights are commercial, so a small tax (usually under \$30) is charged per seat and per leg.

Where can I go on Space-A?

Common destinations include the Continental U.S. states, Hawaii, Alaska, Germany, England, Spain, Italy, Japan and South Korea. In spring of 2020, flights between Seattle and Guam were added on a bi-weekly, proof-of-concept basis. Flights may even go to South and Central America, Africa and Australia.

When is the best time to fly?

The best time to obtain seats is when DODEA schools are in session.

Because the program is a privilege, it is imperative to understand the circumstances may change due to mission mobility. Flying exactly where you want to go at the time or day you want to fly is not always possible. So, if you have a specific itinerary for your destination or your return, you may want to reconsider using Space-A for those travel plans. This program is designed for those who have enough available leave, time and flexibility to wait or change their schedule.

Where can I register?

There are many ways. In-person registration can be completed at the terminal's helpdesk or self-help kiosks. You can also register via email, fax or online through www.takeahop.org. Registration is allowed for up to five departure airports and five countries of destination.

The website also offers a smartphone app where, for a couple of dollars, users can

quickly sign up for the flights and destinations. Also, save time by monitoring terminal activity via the phone app.

What happens after I register?

Once registered, your information remains active for either 60 days, or for the duration of your leave orders or authorization of flight, whichever occurs first. Print a copy of your registration to keep on hand at the terminal. The time and date stamp of your registration determines your position and priority within your Space-A category.

On flight day, decide which terminal you think would be the best chance for Space-A departure and head out. It helps to phone the terminals that you requested for departure and to monitor recent schedules. Check online and on Facebook for your favorite Space-A terminals' information. Available seats are now identified between two to five hours prior to departure but being at the terminal early will help you vie for seats. Be "travel-ready" with the proper luggage, any dependents and paperwork, your car parked or rental returned, etc. If your name is called and you are not physically present to hear the roll call, your name will be put at the bottom of your category list, and you may not make that flight.

What are the categories?

Each passenger is assigned a passenger category for travel. These categories designate the order by which you may be boarded on Space-A flights. The following list is generalized:

- Emergency travel on a round-trip basis in connection with serious illness, death, or impending death of a member of the immediate family.
- Environmental Morale Leave (EML) and dependents.
- Active duty ordinary Leave and dependents; convalescent leave; permissive TDYs; Unaccompanied dependent of deployed servicemember for

more than a year.

- Unaccompanied dependent of deployed servicemember on EML status.
- Unaccompanied military dependent of non-deployed servicemember.
- Retirees, Reservists.

What baggage can I bring?

- Two pieces of checked baggage; 70 lbs each; up to 62 linear inches in size. (families can pool baggage allowances)
- Carry-ons must fit in overhead bins (if available) or under your seat
- Travel light as baggage weight could be restricted for your flight.

What else should I know?

- Wear appropriate footwear, bring jackets, blankets, snacks, bottled water and things to keep you busy, like books, games or electronic devices.
- Available plugs for charging are along the walls.
- Remember to stay flexible. Travel during off-peak seasons (stay away from summer break and major holidays).
- Sometimes travelers attempt to catch a hop at neighboring base terminals to maximize chances of getting on a flight.
- For your return flight, you could wait several days for available space. Or, you could even be dropped off in another country to wait for a flight.
- Remaining calm, positive and being flexible will help.
- When flying Space-A, be ready for anything.

For restrictions and information regarding COVID-19, please visit:
<https://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/Coronavirus/>



PACIFIC LOCATIONS

OKINAWA KADENA AB

733 AMS, Unit 5145 Box 10
Phone: 634-5806 / 098-962
6487
Facebook.com/AMCKadena

GUAM ANDERSEN AFB

Bldg. 17002 Unit 14008
Phone: 671-366-5165

MAINLAND JAPAN MISAWA AB

Bldg. 943
Phone: 315-226-2370/2371
Commercial: 011-81-176-77-
2370/2371
Facebook.com/
MisawaPassengerTerminal

NAF ATSUGI

Bldg. 206
Phone: 0467-63-3118
Facebook.com/AtsugiTerminal

MCAS IWAKUNI

Bldg. 727
Phone: 315-253-5509
Facebook.com/
IwakuniPassengerTerminal

YOKOTA AB

Bldg. 80
Phone: 315-225-5660/5661/
5662
Facebook.com/
YokotaPassengerTerminal

KOREA OSAN AB

Bldg. 648
Phone: 315-784-6883
Facebook.com/
OsanABPassengerTerminal

KUNSAN AB

Bldg. 2858
Phone: 063-470-4666

Quick links to ease travel

Make reservations on
the AMC Space-A
Travel page:



Additional PE travel
information can be
found here:



MC Pet Travel Site:



Travel site for military,
DOD & veterans:



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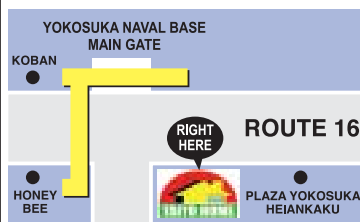
E-mail : yipk@keitokuen.or.jp

4-16-70 Higashi Hemi-cho, Yokosuka



TAIYO HOME

1-4 HONCHO, YOKOSUKA



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**
CALL: (046)825-0061
FAX: (046)822-0561
(MON - SAT 10:00-18:00)

Going out & about

Mass transit in The Land of the Rising Sun

Unless you are on Okinawa (see page 38), you'll likely find the U.S. military base you are assigned to in Japan is somewhat out of the way of the big-city bustle that can make overseas assignments exciting. It is an unfortunate reality, but there are, literally, ways to "get around" it.

All it takes is a little initiative. While in **Misawa, Sasebo and Iwakuni** (see page 37), taxis may be your best bet for getting around just outside the gates. You can navigate Japan's train and subway systems to get where you want to go throughout the Kanto Plain and to many points beyond.

Planning and paying

First, plan before you go. Want to check out that hot new club you've heard about, a restaurant serving delicious food, or a great place to bring the kids, go online to HyperDia (www.hyperdia.com/en/) or Jorudan (world.jorudan.co.jp/mln/en/), two English-language information sites providing detailed train times and travel directions.

Just type in your starting point, destination and, if desired, time of departure or arrival. This will give you train times, as well as cost, travel time and, if applicable, alternate routes. To return home, simply reverse the direction you are traveling and input a new departure or arrival time. Both sites also have nearby hotel and map information for each station. HyperDia even has a Chinese-language option, though its maps are entirely in Japanese. Jorudan's maps are in (limited) English and Japanese, and its travel searches will include any applicable bus routes and times as well as trains.

Second, go high-tech to avoid ticket

purchasing hassles each time you go somewhere by train or bus. Instead of repeatedly standing somewhat foolishly in front of the fare maps at train stations figuring out how much to pay, purchase a Suica prepaid electronic card issued by East Japan Railway (JR East).

For 2,500 yen (about \$22.80), including a 500 yen refundable deposit, you can buy your first 2,000 yen worth of fare credits for your next trip. Suica cards can be purchased from machines at JR East stations or from the station clerk, and can be recharged in denominations of 1,000, 2,000, 4,000, 5,000 and 10,000 yen at a time, up to a maximum of 20,000 yen.

With trains to Tokyo costing around 800-1,000 yen one way from almost every base on the Kanto Plain, it can be a while before you have to recharge, depending on the amount of credits you choose to purchase.

Map out
mass transit trips at:
Hyperdia or Jorudan



To use a Suica card, simply place it over the scanner when you pass through the ticket gate at the beginning of your journey. When you reach your destination, pass the card over the scanner one more time and a screen built into the gate automatically tells you how much has been deducted from the card and the amount remaining.

The card can also be used in subways, public buses and the Tokyo monorail, which connects Haneda Airport to Tokyo. Moreover, it can be used as money in many convenience stores, station kiosks and other shops, as well as to make purchases from many vending machines and to rent coin lockers at stations.

JR East and the Tokyo Metro subway, which issues the PASMO card, accept each



Ikura
desuka?

I'm going to [station].

(...eki ni) mukatte masu.

(...eh-key knee) moo-kat-the mass.

Where do I go?

Doko yuki desuka?

Doe-coe you-key de-sue-kah

Where is [train line]?

[train line]-sen wa doko desuka?

[train line]-zen wah doe-coe de-sue-kah

other's card, making travel in the Tokyo area virtually seamless. Suica and PASMO can also be used on railways in other parts of Japan, such as JR Hokkaido, JR Central in the greater Nagoya area, JR West in the Greater Osaka, Okayama and Hiroshima areas, JR Kyushu in the Fukuoka area as well as the Fukuoka City Subway. But while such cards can be used inside many metropolitan areas, they are still not accepted for travel on the "shinkansen" (bullet train) and some other long-distance trains.

Mainland maneuvering

Equally as important as planning and paying, is how to get around on those trains, especially the ones that serve your local train station.

Fortunately, the trains operated by JR East in the Tokyo area – as well as their routes on train maps – are color-coded:

The Yamanote Line, the workhorse of the system, is green. It runs in a 35-kilometer (22-mile) loop, in both directions around central Tokyo, passing through stations in popular shopping and entertainment areas such as Shinjuku, Shibuya and Harajuku.

Chuo Line trains are orange and run east to Tokyo and west to Hachioji and Mt. Takao. At Tachikawa, the Chuo links up with the Ome Line, which goes to **Yokota Air Base's** nearby Fussa Station, before continuing on to Mitake and Ome. (Alternately, JR East competitor Seibu has a line of the same



Hitch a ride on the Sea Side Liner (Sasebo - Nagasaki).



Does this train stop at [station]?
 (...eki ni) **tomari masuka?**
 (...eh-key knee) toe-mary mass-sue-kah

How much? (price)
Ikura desuka?
 Ee-cure-ah de-sue-kah

How do I get to Tokyo Tower?
Tokyo Tawaa niwa douyatte ikimasuka?
 Tokyo ta-wah knee-wah doe-yeah-the
 icky-mass-kah



name running from Seibu Shinjuku Station that stops at Seibu Tachikawa Station, a brief hike or taxi ride to Yokota's East Gate, before ending at Haijima Station.)

The yellow Sobu Line runs local service parallel to the Chuo Line from Mitaka to Ochanomizu, in central Tokyo, before it peels off to go to Akihabara, the electronics mecca, and into nearby Chiba Prefecture, home to Tokyo Disney Resort.

The Keihin Tohoku Line is blue and operates from Omiya in Saitama Prefecture to areas south of Tokyo, where it connects with the Keikyū, Negishi, and Yokohama lines. This ultimately links with the Yokosuka Line, which goes to **Yokosuka Naval Base** as well as the Ikego and Negishi housing areas.

The Keihin Tohoku Line stops at Tokyo Station, a major hub for these and other lines, including Shinkansen bullet trains with connections to **Misawa**, **Sasebo** and **Iwakuni** stations.

Camp Zama's

nearest station is Sobudaimae, which is serviced by Odakyu Railway, a large privately owned transit system. The line runs directly to Shinjuku, one of the major stations in Tokyo, or riders can get off at the shopping town of Machida, where they can change to the Yokohama Line for

travel elsewhere.

The Sobetsu Line stops at Sagami and Sagami Otsuka stations, nearest to **Naval Air Facility Atsugi**; taking about 30 minutes from Yokohama.

The Tokyo Metro subway, which mainly serves central Tokyo inside the Yamanote loop, is one of the most efficient in the world. Similar to JR East, its train map routes are color-coded, and its stations have numerical designations in addition to names, making them easy to navigate.

Station names are rendered in English as well as Japanese, and most other important signs are also in English or internationally understood symbols.

Navigating Kyushu & northern Honshu

Misawa Station is about three miles from **Misawa Air Base**. The Aomori Railway Line stops at Hachinohe Station (15 minutes south of Misawa), where you can connect with the Tohoku Shinkansen bullet train for 580 yen (\$5.25). Aomori (City) Station is about an hour north of Misawa by train

(1,830 yen). Misawa Airport is a 15-minute bus ride from Misawa Station (400 yen).

Kichi Taxi in building 14 on Misawa Air Base, provides taxi service with the ability to pick up and deliver passengers both on and off the installation. Call: 0176-53-6481

JR Iwakuni Station is less than two miles from **Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni**. Buses leave the train station every 5-15 minutes in the direction of Kintai-kyo Bridge, Iwakuni Castle and other local attractions; it takes about 20 minutes and costs about 250-300 yen (\$2-\$2.50). The JR Sanyo Line travels between Iwakuni Station and Hiroshima (City) Station in 50 minutes (770 yen). To Hiroshima Airport, it takes just under two hours and cost roughly 2,000 yen.

In addition to on-base shuttle buses, MCAS Iwakuni has taxi stands at Strike Zone Bowling Center, across from Crossroads Mall and several other locations. You can also call Iwakuni Eki Konai Taxi at 082-721-1111 or Daiichi Kotsu Taxi at 082-731-5151 for taxis with on- and off-base access. A blue sticker on the left side of the windshield indicates a taxi is authorized to drive on base. The fare is about 1,200 from MCAS Iwakuni to Iwakuni Station.

JR Sasebo Station is just over one and a half miles from **Sasebo Naval Base**. Rapid Liner trains get to Nagasaki in just over 90 minutes for about 1,600 yen (\$14.50). The

See TRANSIT on Page 38

Train (and other) travel made easy

When traveling within mainland Japan, the two most common transportation cards are PASMO and Suica. Both cards allow you to use most of the trains and buses within Japan. Picking up one of these cards will make your traveling life that much easier in Japan. The alternative to using one of these cards is purchasing a ticket from the machine each time you take the train. This can take time and often is confusing to someone new to Japan travel.

Either of the cards can be purchased at most train stations and

require a 500-yen deposit. Both also offer cards for child fares available at select train stations. Ask the gate attendant for assistance to obtain one of the cards designated for child use.

When you make the initial purchase of the card, you choose how much you want to put on it. Once you run out of your initial deposit, you just recharge the card you've already purchased. Recharging is as simple as inserting your card, pressing the amount you want to put on it, and

inserting the matching amount of yen. While the process may seem intimidating at first, it is actually very simple and easy to understand. There is even a button to change the language to English.

Both cards also can act as money at vending machines and at some stores, as well as some taxis. They work the same as a credit card that you just place over a reader.

As a note, although the vast majority of rail lines and buses will accept one of these cards, it is not 100%.

For more information, visit:
www.jreast.co.jp/e/welcomesuica/
www.pasmo.co.jp/visitors/en/



Let's go!

1. Press the PASMO/SUICA button (press English).
2. Press Purchase new PASMO/SUICA.
3. Select the type of PASMO/SUICA you want to buy.
4. Select the initial deposit amount to put on your PASMO/SUICA.
5. Insert the selected amount into the machine.
6. Take your PASMO/SUICA and receipt.



TRANSIT continued from Page 37

Midori Limited Express goes to Hakata Station in Fukuoka City in about one hour and 45 minutes (3,870 yen). From there, a one-mile subway ride takes you to Fukuoka Airport (270 yen).

There is also a shuttle bus between the base and Fukuoka Airport for authorized personnel with reservations, military ID and orders. Call: DSN 315-252-3627 or 001-81-956-50-3627. Public buses from Sasebo Station to Nagasaki Airport take about an hour and 45 minutes (1,400 yen).

Most taxis have base access. A green sticker on the left side of the windshield indicates a taxi is authorized to drive on base. It costs about 700 yen from base to Minato Town, and 1,000 yen to Sasebo Station. Call King Taxi at: 09-56-22-4136 or Kokusai Taxi at 09-56-31-5931.

Exploring Okinawa Bus service

Buses are the only public transportation on Okinawa, except for the Okinawa Monorail in and around central Naha. The bus network is quite extensive, but finding the right bus to take can be complicated. The frequency of service also differs between lines. It is, however, a relatively inexpensive way to travel. There is a number assigned to each line. When riding a line between No. 1 through 17, enter from the front and exit the rear door except No. 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16; the fare is usually paid when entering. For line No. 18 and above, enter from the front and pick up a ticket. You also usually exit from the front. Fares will be displayed on the front monitor with numbers that match those on tickets. For No. 7, 8, 10, 12, 94, enter from the rear door, pick up a ticket, and exit the front door.

Buses No.1 through No. 19 cost a fixed 240-yen fare (approx. \$2.29) for adults and 120-yen (approx. \$1.14) for minors, except No. 8 and 10, whose fare are either 240 or 150 or 100 yen. Fares for buses No. 20 and above change depending upon distance, with the exception of No. 95 and No. 105, which have fixed rates of 300 or 250 yen for adults and 150 or 130 yen for minors (No. 95), and 160 for adults and 80 for

minors (No. 105) Comprehensive, English-language, printed schedules and route maps are a rarity. Although detailed bus information is available in English online, locating the line you need can be daunting. Listed below are some of the lines that can be used around each U.S. military installation.

1. Camp Schwab: No. 22, 77 (These lines run between Nago and Uruma, and Nago and Naha respectively, going by Camp Schwab and Camp Hansen. No. 77 goes all the way to Naha Bus terminal going by Kadena Air Base, Camp Foster, MCAS Futenma, and Camp Kinser)

2. Kadena Air Base: No. 20, 21, 23, 27, 31, 63, 77, 80, 90, 110, 112, 113, 123, 127, 331, 777 (No. 20 runs between Naha and Nago. The other lines run between Naha Bus terminal and Goya, which is near Gate 2 of Kadena Air Base. No. 113 and 123 stop at Naha Air Port)

3. Camp Foster: No. 20, 25, 60, 92, 93, 96, 125, 152 (No. 20 runs between Naha and Nago. The other lines connect Aeon Mall Okinawa RYCOM and some locations on the island. No. 25 and 92 go to Naha Bus Terminal. No. 60 goes to Awase area, No. 93 to Yakena near White Beach, 96 to Chatan. No. 125 and 152 go to Naha Air Port. No. 125 makes a stop near Shuri Castle on the way.)

4. Camp Kinser: No. 20, 31, 32, 63, 99, 110, 223, 227, 228, 263 (No. 20 runs between Nago and Naha. 31 between Awase and Naha. 32 between Convention Center and Naha. 63 between Naha and Gushikawa near Camp Courtney. 99 between Naha Air Port and Convention Center. 110 between Naha and Gushikawa near Camp Courtney. 223, 227, 228 shuttle between Shintoshin (Naha) and Gushikawa near Courtney, Yakena near White Beach, and Yomitan near Torri station respectively. 263 runs between Shintoshin and Gushikawa as well.

5. Torii Station: No. 28, 62, 228. (28 runs between Naha and Yomintan. 62 between Sunabe near kadena Air Base and Yomitan. 228 between Shintoshin (Naha) and Yomitan.

6. White Beach: No. 27, 52, 61, 80, 93, 127, 227, 777 (27, 52, 80 run between Naha and Yakena near White Beach. 61 between Yakena and Mashiki near Convention Center. 93 between Aeon Mall and Yakena. 127 between Naha bus terminal and Yakena via expressway. 227 between Shintoshin and Yakena. 777 is an express between Naha and Yakena.

7. Camp Courtney: No. 21, 23, 24, 63, 90, 110,



112, 113, 223, 263 (113 runs between Gushikawa near Camp Courtney and Naha Air Port via expressway. The other lines connect Gushikawa and Naha bus terminal or Shintoshin)

Okinawa Urban Monorail, or Yui Rail, is another way to get around in Naha. It runs from Naha Airport to Tedako Uranishi (Urasoe City) in about 37 minutes, and costs between 230 yen to 370 yen. A oneday pass is 800 yen and two days is 1,400 yen. Information on routes, schedules and fares is available online in English.

Taxi service

Taxis are widely available and inexpensive. The initial drop on the meter is 560 yen for the first 1.75 kilometers and then 70 yen for every additional 365 meters. When traffic slows down to 10 km/h or below, 70 yen will be charged additionally for every 2 minutes and 15 seconds. There is an additional 20 percent surcharge from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. There are large taxis which charge more than a regular taxi. The doors are automated, meaning that the driver pulls a lever inside the door to open the cab and hits it to shut the door. There is no tipping. Note that some taxi companies are authorized to go on U.S. military bases, so you can get all the way home and not just to the front gate. Such cabs have a written sign saying "Authorized on Base." There is also another type of taxi service available on Okinawa as well as mainland Japan. Known as "daiko," it is used by people who can't drive due to alcohol. Two drivers and a taxi will be sent to the location, with the customer riding home in the passenger seat and the other driver taking the customer's car home. The two drivers will then return in the taxi. The Exchange offers service to connect customers with this service. For taxi call 645-8888 on base and 098-970-8888 off base. For daiko, call 098-932-4035.



CONTACT INFO

Bus Map
Okinawa



Okinawa Urban
Monorail



Getting behind the wheel

Buying, registering and driving a vehicle

Driving in Japan can be likened to how one comedian once described red lights here – “optional.” Like everyone, however, SOFA-status drivers would do well to stop, not only for red lights, but to consider what is involved in purchasing and registering a vehicle here.

In addition to the usual considerations for purchasing a vehicle, service personnel must choose whether to buy from another service member or the equivalent, a local resident or a car dealer.

A fourth option is Military AutoSource. This last option is ideal for those who can afford it. Vehicles come with import licenses, bill of sale, warranty, U.S. specifications and an English-language manual. Just because someone can afford such a purchase, however, does not mean they can afford to ship the vehicle back home or to their next duty station.

So whether one’s “follow-on” orders are likely to include vehicle shipment is one thing to stop and consider with this option. The chances of selling the

vehicle for its true value before PCSing out are not likely to be high.

Many people opt for buying used vehicles from military or civilian personnel PCSing out. The ritual usually begins with a visit to the base’s so-called (sometimes figuratively, sometimes not) “lemon lot” for a few rounds of tire kicking and/or haggling. It is possible to find one’s ideal vehicle in near-perfect shape. The only guarantee, however, is that there are no guarantees.

People with short tours tend to do minimal maintenance, and a vehicle may have had more than one short-term owner. Analyze any defects and consider the repair costs. Without any warranty, the risk is significant.

Also, bear in mind that regulations vary between military installations, requiring different steps for vehicle transfers between bases, import vehicles and motorcycles. Check with the appropriate offices before making any plans or purchases.

An off-base dealer is probably the safest bet for getting a quality pre-owned vehicle. There are

likely to be hundreds of cars to choose from.

The registration process isn’t difficult and many dealers offer direct finance plans. Since local law and custom dissuade locals from owning older vehicles, reasonably priced cars with low mileage are not hard to find.

If the dealer has a garage for maintenance, that’s a bonus. Minor repairs can be taken care of before and after you select your car. If you have access to a base auto hobby shop, and you like working on cars, you can save a lot of money.

Always insist on a warranty when buying a car from a dealer.

Note that the auto skills centers on many bases offer inexpensive courtesy inspections of used cars that a servicemember is considering purchasing. This covers most of the points that the Japanese Compulsory Insurance inspection does.

Now that the hard part is over, it is time to talk about mandatory expenses. Japanese Compulsory Insurance, or JCI, is the big one. All cars on the road in Japan must pass inspection every two years. (Certain

makes and models must be inspected annually.) Strict government requirements must be met in order to pass the JCI inspection. The process is cumbersome. Either you get used to it and do the paperwork, or you have someone do it for you.

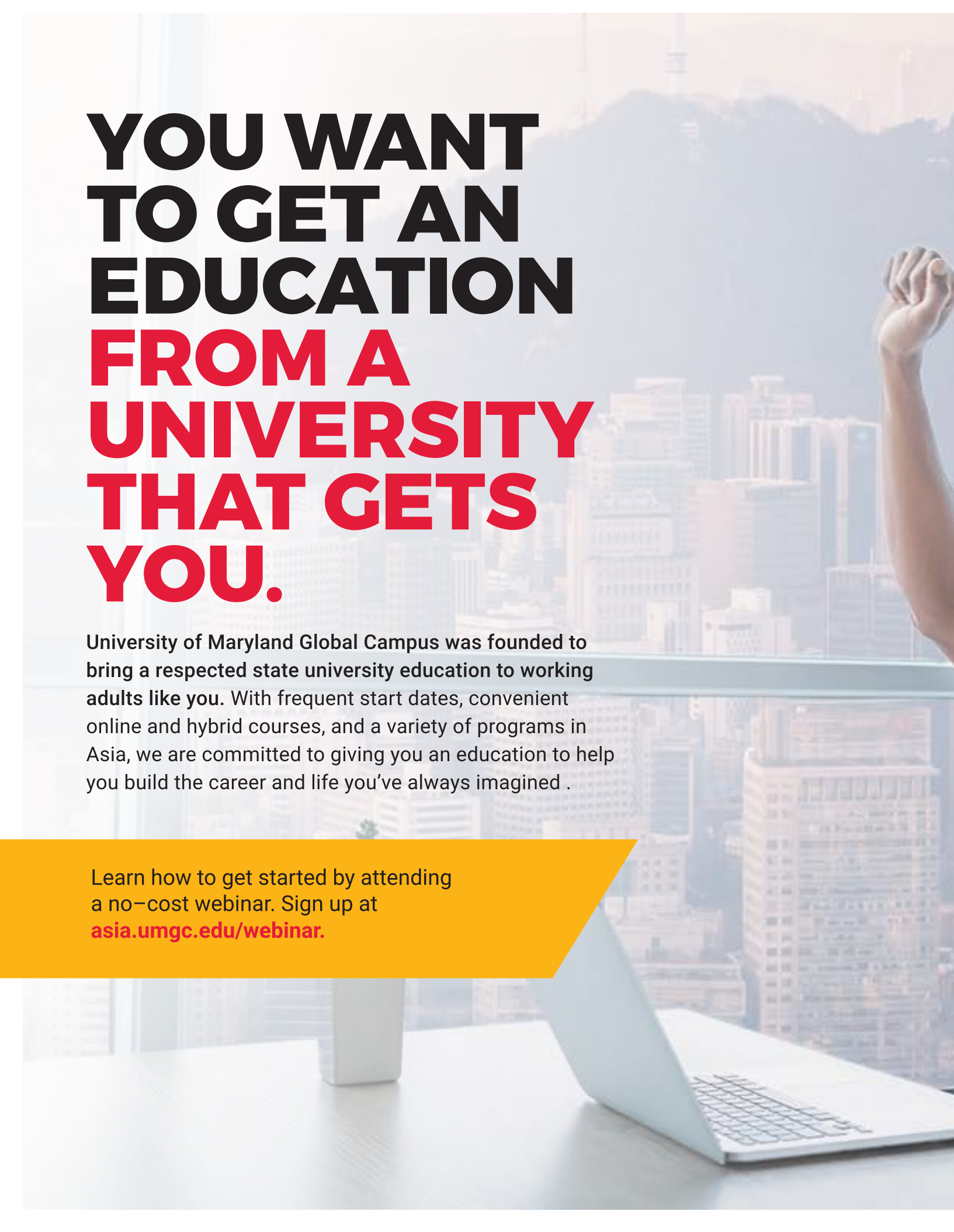
Another cost is road tax. The amount you must pay for the annual road tax, which is due in May, depends on the size of the vehicle’s engine. Please see page 41 for more information on road tax amounts and how and where to pay.

You are also required by law to purchase personal-liability insurance, or PLI, in case of an accident.

It can be purchased from a Japanese insurance agency and some car dealers. (The minimum amount required by U.S. Military Law is 30,000,000 yen for bodily injury and 3,000,000 yen for property damage, according to the U.S. Marine Corps website.) People can save some money by paying an annual fee instead of making quarterly or otherwise divided payments.

To register your vehicle, contact your base’s Pass and ID Office, Vehicle Registration Office or the equivalent thereof. You must have liability insurance before reporting to the office. Some car dealers near military bases may be able to do much of this footwork for you.





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Car sales for the military community



There are many car dealers in Japan anxious for U.S. military business, one of which is even located on base. Military AutoSource offers Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Ford, Lincoln and Harley-Davidson vehicles to military personnel, U.S. government civilians and civilian contractors who are entitled to unlimited Exchange privileges, are stationed or assigned abroad for at least 30 days, and are authorized to have a Privately-Owned Vehicle at that assignment. MAS has independent sales representatives on or near U.S. bases throughout Japan. www.militaryautosource.com

There are others with close connections to the military overseas. Among them are U.S. Military Sales (usmilsales.com), which sells Volvos at discounted prices, and BMW Military Sales (www.bmw-special-sales.com/en/topics/military-sales/overview.html).

If you are not looking for a new luxury car but want something a cut above what can be found on a base lemon lot, here are some dealers near U.S. bases that cater to SOFA personnel.

Camp Foster

B. C. Used Cars in Chatan has English-speaking staff and accepts payment in U.S. dollars. www.bc-used-cars.jp or 098-936-6366

Johnny's Used Cars, outside Foster's Legion Gate, offers a one-year limited warranty, zero-interest financing for up to 24 months and a no-down-payment program. www.johnnys-cars.com 098-982-0312
Pit Stop Used Car Sales is in Ginowan City, about 600 yards south of Foster's Commissary Gate on Highway 58. pitstopcars.jp 098-898-4061

Camp Shields

BC Used cars Garage and Rental Car has English-speaking staff and accepts payment in U.S. dollars. www.bc-used-cars.jp or 098-938-0302

Kadena Air Base

BC Used cars Garage and Rental Car, outside Gate 2, has English-speaking staff and accepts payment in U.S. dollars. www.bc-used-cars.jp or 098-938-0302

Johnny's used cars legion gate,

just outside Gate 1, offers a one-year limited warranty, zero-interest financing for up to 24 months and no-down-payment program. www.johnnys-cars.com 098-982-0312

M3 Used Cars: All Their cars come with 2-year JCI and 1 year Warranty. They also do auto repair, body repair and much more. To get there, exit gate 3 on Kadena Air Base and go straight past the Chibana Family Housing area. Their shop will be on the right-hand side. For more information, you may call 098-937-4370. Their website is: <http://www.m3carsokina-wa.com/>

Koza Used Cars is located just outside Kadena Air Base. They have a translator available Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. To get there, take the first left outside Kadena Air Base Gate 2. Koza Used Cars will be on your left side after a 1-km drive. For more information, you may call 098-938-8651. Their website is: <http://www.okistyle.com/usedcars/koza/>

Payless Motors, just a 5-minute walk from Kadena's Gate 2, boasts serving Okinawa's U.S. military community for three decades. It has a huge selection of used cars, trucks and vans to choose from, English-speaking staff and an 18-month payment plan with zero-percent interest. 098-933-2685 or www.paylessokinawa.com

MCAS Iwakuni

Kaz Used Cars, near the main gate, has English-speaking staff and all vehicles are warrantied with registration included in price. They also provide repair/junking and JCI services. 0827-35-4917 or visit them on Facebook at **Kaz Used Cars Iwakuni**.

Iwakuni Auto Sales, is located near Iwakuni base and has used cars available with warranty and loan services. Call 0827-88-0166.
Orange Stage, offers domestic and foreign vehicles for sale near Iwakuni base. Visit them on Facebook or call 0827-35-6606.

AUTOREC, serving the Iwakuni community with a nice selection of vehicles and reasonable prices that includes registration and JCI. Contact them at 0567-56-6111 or visit their web site at www.autorec.co.jp/iwakuni.php

Misawa Air Base

A-1 Used Cars 0176-57-0483
Lucky's Used Car Center, just outside the base's Falcon (POL) gate, offers a 60-day warranty and 6-month engine transmission warranty. 0176-53-5959

New Tokyo Used Car Center is near Misawa Air Base. 0176-53-5581

NAF Atsugi & Camp Zama

Gravity Auto operates a location on Route 51. It specializes in luxury cars, including Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar, BMW and Audi, as well as those with U.S. specifications that can be shipped to the U.S. www.hanamaru.co.jp or 046-738-0276

Muratomi Used Car Shop is a one-minute drive from Zama's Gate 7 accepts U.S. credit cards for payment. 042-767-5666

Wellcham Used Cars is a two-minute walk from Atsugi's main gate. It offers a 30-day guarantee and will handle all paperwork to register the vehicle. 0467-77-5427

Phoenix Used Cars: Offers a wide range of used cars. Call 050-3538-8456 or visit www.japanesecartrade.com/phoenix/

Araliya Trading Company (ATC) has built a reputation of quality service and reliability. Call 080-4328-8025 or visit atc.zama.com

Sasebo Naval Base

Sasebo Car Resale on Facebook is an unofficial virtual lemon lot for the Sasebo Naval Base community with more than 1,500 members.

Tamie's Auto offers a 2-month warranty, payment plans and vehicle registration is included in the price. JCI, repair and junking services available, so call for a pick up/drop off from the gate at 090-9478-0227 or visit www.sasebo-y-post.com/

Yamaguchi Auto prices include registration and they're English friendly. They also offer a pick-up service from the gate. 080-4694-5290

Yokosuka Naval Base

Minato Motors is conveniently close to Yokosuka Naval Base. The company is known for its reasonable, reliable and smooth transactions and specializes in fully inspected JCI-certified Japanese and European cars. Pick-up service at Kamiooka Station via Keikyu line. Contact them at 090-9150-6227 or visit www.minato-motors-japan.com

CheapToDrive
CheapToDrive is across Route 16 from Club Alliance and is a one-stop shop for your vehicle needs. They are licensed by US Military Sales Limited providing you peace of mind when shopping for your

next pre-owned vehicle. All vehicles sold at CheapToDrive undergo a 102-point check and come with a 30-day comprehensive warranty. Get your car insured with the on-premise insurance office, which also offers car junking. View vehicle stock at www.cheaptodrive.com Call 090-3573-2017 or visit [facebook.com/cheap2drive](https://www.facebook.com/cheap2drive)

Yokota Air Base

Japan Auto Ltd. located outside the Yokota East Gate, they offer many cars in stock, but will also search vehicle auctions Japan-wide. The dealer accepts most trade-ins and offers a variety of payment plans. Call for free pick up from Yokota Air Base to our shop at 090-1052-2964 or visit japan-autoonline.com

Kelly & Kelly Auto Sales is located only a 5-minute walk from Yokota's Terminal Gate. Kelly & Kelly has been serving the military community for over 50 years. With an inventory of at least 35 vehicles, they offer a warranty on all purchases with a variety of payment plans. For free pick-up on base, call 042-551-0556 or visit them at <http://kellyandkelly.jp.com/>.

M Trading is located near Yokota and offers used cars. Call 090-6934-9559

Real Speed Auto is a 10-minute walk from Yokota's Fussa Gate and offers free pick-up service. They provide a full 90-day warranty and free vehicle registration. English and payment plans okay! TOP \$\$\$ paid for your vehicle disposal! View their cars at www.realspeed.jp Call 042-513-3593 WhatsApp 080-3452-3341

Cheap2Drive offers newer models in great condition with low mileage. Located near Yokota Fussa #2 Gate. Provide friendly, reliable service with direct links to car auctions and offer price matching. Call at 090-2726-2000 or visit www.C2DYOKOTA.COM

Car junking

24 Express will pick up from any base in the Kanto area and pay to junk your used car when you are scrapping your car, at PCS or any other time. Call 090-7123-7100 for more details or visit www.24express.jp

Car insurance

Chubb Insurance Japan is available on or near US bases in Mainland Japan and Okinawa. They offer US Forces Automobile Insurance, JCI and Renter's Insurance, too. They accept US dollars and credit cards to make your life easier! More info: <https://www.chubb.com/jp-en/individuals-families/auto-for-us-military.html>

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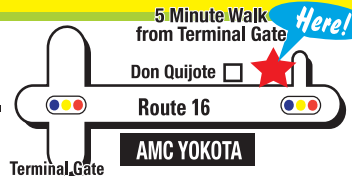
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Welcome to Japan!

The Sasebo, Japan, chapter of the DAR (despite our name, based in the Kanto area) is dedicated to community service, to history, and to supporting our military personnel and our sisters here and abroad. Our current projects include assisting the survivors of the Tohoku and Kumamoto earthquakes.

Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the Daughters of the American Revolution.

If you believe you are eligible for membership and would like to join our chapter, we can have a genealogist assist you with your papers.

If you are already a member of DAR and would like to transfer to our chapter or join us as an associate member, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Please check out our website (<https://sites.google.com/site/sasebochaptersdar/home>) for details.



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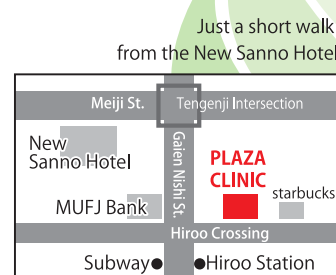
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Road wage

Ah, spring, when a young servicemember's attention turns to ... road taxes? Yes, it's time to pay your annual road taxes, which are mandated by Japanese law based on vehicle engine size. Luckily, most of you can pay them on base, where Japanese tax officials will be setting up collection

stations to process payments. Remember that payments must be made in yen.

All Department of Defense personnel are required to pay their road taxes in order to receive new base vehicle decals for 2021. Payments must be made by May 31 (the end of April on NAF Atsugi), either on base or at

the local Japanese tax office, and new 2021 USFJ decals obtained by June 1. Vehicles without new decals will not be allowed to be driven on or after June 1, depending on the base.

Unless you are in Okinawa, bring your vehicle's paperwork to the base Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) for issuance of a t decal. In Okinawa, bring it to the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office (JVRO). If

you own more than one vehicle, all of them must be registered at the same time.

Anyone can pay road tax for deployed or absent vehicle owners, but a power of attorney may be required for anyone other than a spouse to obtain a base decal. In mainland Japan, contact your base VRO for more information. On Okinawa, contact the Joint Service Vehicle Registration Office at 645-7481/3963.

What to bring?

Drivers must provide the following items when paying road tax on base:

- Military ID card
- Military vehicle registration
- Base driver's license
- Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI)
- Liability insurance policy

Drivers must provide the following items when paying load tax off base:

- SOFA ID Card (registered in DBIDS)
- Last year's road tax receipt
- Japanese title
- Base inspection sheet
- JCI insurance
- Liability insurance
- Parking certificate with current residence
- Driver's license
- Expired USFJ Base Vehicle Decal

How much?

Road taxes are determined by the number shown on top of each vehicle's license plate, which identifies the vehicle's engine size. Of course taxes, like all charges, are subject to change; here are last year's tax rates. Check with your on-base registration office for 2021 rates and where you can to pay on base.

Vehicle plates and taxes:

- 40/400 and 50/500 plates: 7,500 yen
- 33/300 plates (4.5 liter engines and below): 19,000 yen
- 33/300 plates (4.6 liter engines and above): 22,000 yen
- 11/100 and 88/800 plates: 32,000 yen

Minicar and Motorcycle taxes:

- Minicars: 3,000 yen
- Motorcycles 126 cc and above: 1,000 yen
- Motorcycles 125 cc and below: 500 yen



While Japan is known for its impeccable public transportation, a personal vehicle will help you get around base and even help you explore attractions near and far.

When you arrive, buying a vehicle may very well be one of the first things you do after checking into your new base. The following words and phrases will help you negotiating a Japanese car dealer outside of the gate.

"Kono kuruma wa ikura desuka?"

= How much is this car?
("kono" = this, "kuruma" = car, "ikura desuka" = how much is..?)
(Pronounced: cone-oh koo-roo-mah wuh eekoorah desookuh)

"Doru wa tsukae masuka?" = Can I use dollars? (Do you take dollars?)
("doru" = dollar, "wa tsukae masuka" = can I use..?)
(Pronounced: dough-roo wuh zookah-ey mass-oo-kah)

"Yasuku narimasenka?" = Can you give me a discount?
("yasuku" = cheaper, "narimasenka" = can you make...?)
(Pronounced: ya-zoo-koo nah-ree-mass-en-kah)

"Kono kuruma wa nannen-sei desuka?" = What year is this car?
(How old is this car?)
("nannen-sei" = ..year made)
(Pronounced: cone-oh wuh nahn-nehn-say desookuh)

"Shuurireki wa arimasuka?"

= Does the car have any repair history?

("shuurireki" = repair history, "arimasuka" = is there..?)
(Pronounced: shoo-ree-reh-kee wuh are-ee-mass-kah)

Hoken wa doko de kakeraremasuka? = Where can I insure the car?

("hoken" = insurance, "doko" = where, "kakeraremasuka" = insure/take)

(Pronounced: Ho-ken wuh dough-koh deh kah-keh-are-eh-mass-kah)

"Donna hoshoo to shiharai hoo hoo ga arimasuka?" = What kind of warranties and payment plans do you have?

("donna" = what kind of, "hoshoo" = warranty, "to" = and, "shiharai hoo hoo" = payment plans)
(Pronounced: dough-nah ho-show toe she-hair-eye ho-ho-o gah are-ee-mass-kah)

- Takahiro Takiguchi



Electronic tolls

Japan's ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system not only saves drivers time by letting them pay without stopping at an expressway tollgate, it also saves money due to discounted tolls for users during certain times and on certain days.

The catch is that it requires a credit card issued by a Japanese financial institution and most credit card companies here require an alien registration card from foreigners. Defense Department personnel in Japan under the Status of Forces Agreement, however, are not issued alien registration

cards. There is an alternative.

JapanETCcard offers a service for SOFA members that allows them to use their U.S.-issued credit card to get an ETC card.

They are able to process U.S. credit cards in such a way that is accepted by Japan's ETC system.

The company sends customers monthly bills detailing their ETC charges in English. The service starts from 1,200 yen (about \$11) per month and 989 yen for extended months.

JapanETCcard:
www.japanetccard.com

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<https://www.chubb.com/jp-en/individuals-families/auto-for-us-military.html>

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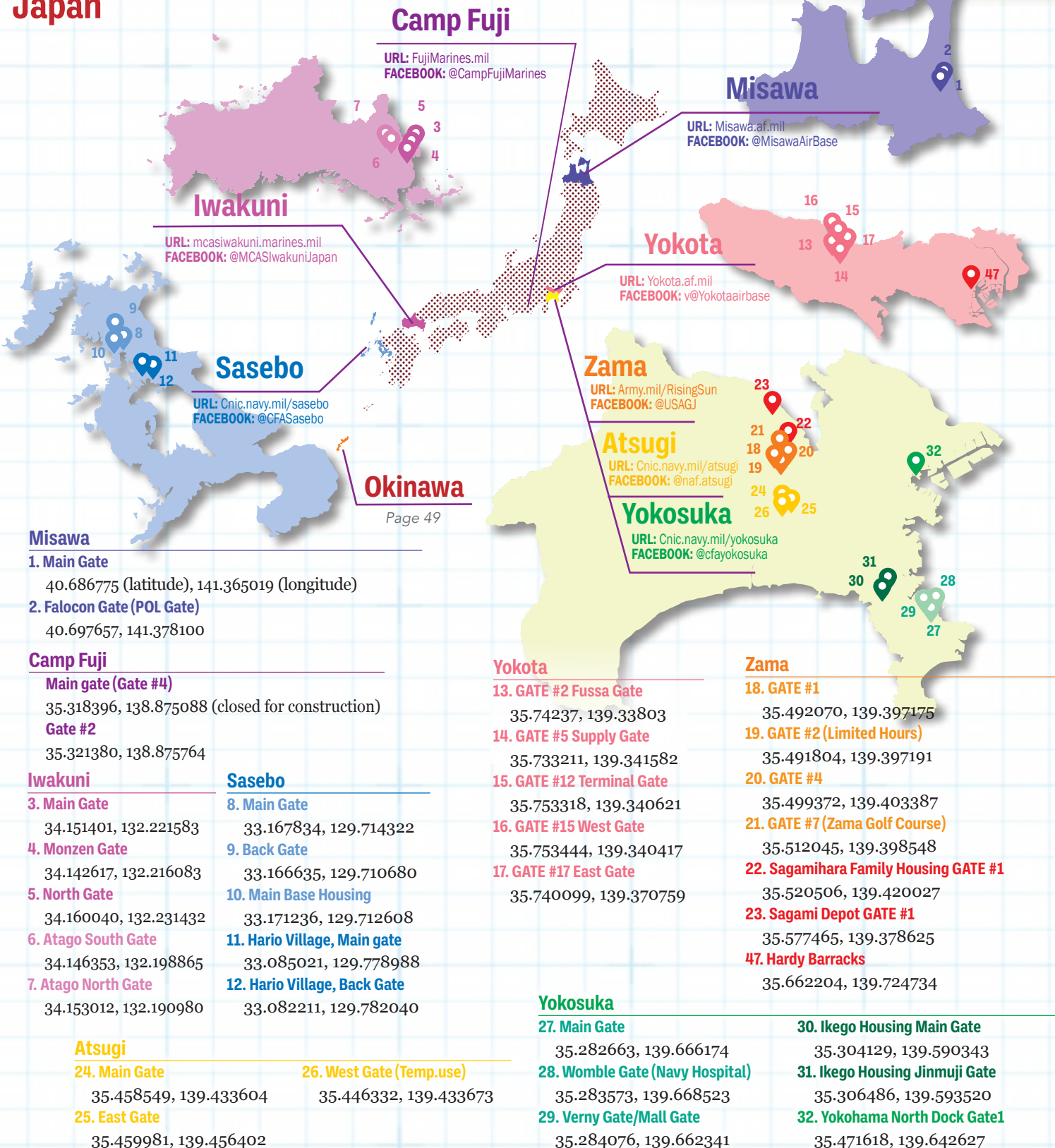


Camp coordinates

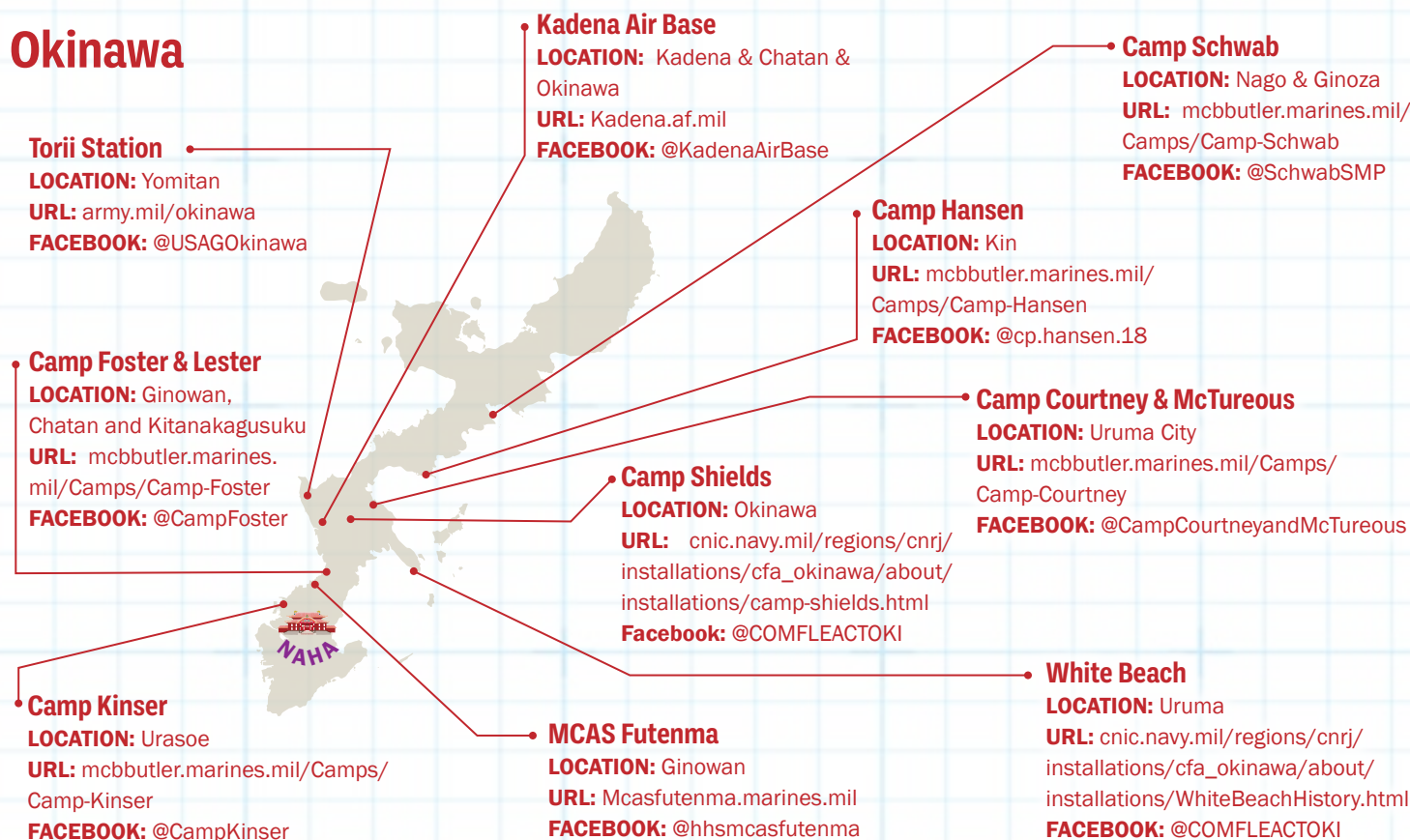
Travel base to base

Mainland Japan

Thanks to GPS, getting lost is nearly a thing of the past. Unfortunately, with military bases, and their many entrance gates, finding your exact destination via GPS can often prove harder than it should. Below, you'll find the exact latitude and longitude coordinates for many of the gates located in mainland Japan. Need to find the gate near the golf course at Camp Zama? Just input the coordinates below (35.512045, 139.398548) into your GPS device of choice, and you're sure to make that 7 a.m. tee time.



Okinawa



Okinawa

33. Camp Schwab Main Gate

26.52662, 128.036532

34. Camp Hansen

Gate #1 26.454877, 127.916203

Closed Due to Renovation

Gate #2 26.459154, 127.92819

35. Camp Courtney

Gate #1 26.390155, 127.857496

Gate #3 26.386004, 127.860215

Gate #7 26.393854149941895,
127.8529440789544

(North Gate/Conn Rd) located one block north of Gate 1 on Highway 75 open M-F for inbound 0600-1400/out-bound 1430-1900

Gate #12 26.389576, 127.851371
PX/Commissary Main Gate is open.

Gate #13 26.384978, 127.850379
PX/Commissary Back Gate is closed for renovation

36. Camp McTureous Main Gate

26.382011, 127.846498

37. White Beach Main Gate

26.304794, 127.915098

38. Torii Station

Gate #1 26.385087, 127.739276

Gate #3 26.374517, 127.745633

Gate #4 26.370649, 127.735737

Gate #5 26.384708, 127.732663

39. Kadena Air Base

Gate #1 26.331742, 127.752068

Gate #2 26.33849, 127.794243

Gate #3 26.361554, 127.79403

Gate #5 26.332647, 127.779516

40. Camp Lester Main Gate

26.314377, 127.761763

41. Camp Foster

Gate #1 26.29815, 127.780819

Gate #3 26.305143, 127.772459

Gate #4 26.30763, 127.766314

Gate #5 26.295444, 127.760969

Gate #6 26.297284, 127.777738

Gate #7 26.290722, 127.773361

Gate #8 (Plaza Housing)

26.316074, 127.791781

Gate #10 26.307031, 127.776536

42. MCAS Futenma

Gate #1 26.276305, 127.748613

Gate #3 26.28631, 127.77656

43. Camp Kinser

Gate #1 26.246127, 127.696131
closed due to renovation

Gate #2 26.253794, 127.705299

Gate #2 26.253794, 127.705299

Gate #4 26.269236, 127.708723

Gate #5 26.248568, 127.691443
The Gate is closed.

44. Camp Shields Gate #7152

26.368009, 127.803037

45. Chibana Housing Main Gate

26.363976, 127.79717

46. Naha Port Gate #1

26.204525, 127.670788

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One of Korea's most iconic vacation destinations is a UNESCO-recognized natural beauty. Jeju Island was designated a National Biosphere conservation area in 2002, a World Natural Heritage site in 2007 and received Global Geopark Network certification in 2010. It is the only area in the world that has achieved these three accolades at the same time. These three are only some of the reasons why travelers flock to this beautiful location.

Jeju Shinhwa World, located in the southwest region of Jeju, is Korea's largest integrated resort standing on an area of 2.5 million square meters. The resort is home to four hotels [Marriott Resort, Shinhwa Resort, Landing Resort, and Somerset], a theme and Water Park, dozens of restaurants and bars, and state-of-the-art MICE facilities guaranteed to accommodate all types of travelers.

UNRIVALED NATURAL BEAUTY – ONLY IN JEJU!

Jeju Shinhwa World is just a short drive away from some of the island's most beautiful attractions including coastal areas carved from volcanic activity dating back millions of years and Gotjawal, volcanic symbiotic forests you can only find in Jeju.

TAKE YOUR PICK FROM JEJU SHINHWA WORLD'S FOUR UNIQUE HOTELS

Jeju Shinhwa World has four hotels and condos to choose from to fit any of your travel needs.

Marriott Resort awaits international travelers seeking the comforts and services only the Marriott name can provide. At the Marriott's "Mosil" Clubhouse, soak in the heated outdoor pool year-round, and treat yourself at the spa featuring 8 private treatment rooms. The resort also offers easy access to Landing Casino, the largest foreigners-only casino in Jeju.



Traveling with your family? Somerset Resort offers three-bedroom suites equipped with two bathrooms, a spacious living room, and a kitchen stocked with smart home appliances including a refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine and even a wine cooler.

Smaller families and couples will fall in love with Shinhwa Resort's junior suites that can connect to other rooms. This resort offers an outdoor, year-round Sky Pool and the island's largest Sony Playstation Zone.

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At Jeju Shinhwa World, know you'll not only get a relaxing experience but also a delicious one! Enjoy authentic Cantonese cuisine served by award-winning star chef Alan Chan at Le Chinois. Savor some classic family favorites such as Beijing Duck, or embrace variety with Dim Sum Brunch including a selection of more than 20 juicy xiaolongbao buns and dumplings.

There are more bars and restaurants to check out including handcrafted Korean restaurant Jeju Seon offering amazing dishes using only the freshest of local ingredients. Steak lovers will want to try SKY on 5 Dining.



FUN-FILLED THEME PARK AND WATER PARK

Thrill and adventure-seekers will want to head to Shinhwa Theme Park, which offers fun rides for all ages, performances and shows throughout the day. In the winter, enjoy the ice-skating rink or in the summer, a refreshing



bumper car ride. The park also has a 4D theater and VR zone. Also in the summer months, enjoy Jeju's largest water park at Shinhwa with 13 different types of waves, slides and pools including two slides that stretch 230 meters long, the first of their kind in Asia. 🌊

Make sure to stop in at the "Mosil" Clubhouse at Jeju Shinhwa World Marriott Resort, inspired by Jeju's famous Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak, one of 12 UNESCO World Global Geoparks. Another must-see is Somerset Jeju Shinhwa World, enveloped by the lush Gotjawal forest, one of the most pristine forests in the world.



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Keeping up with the law

While in Japan, all U.S. military and civilians under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between Japan and America are subject to both U.S. and Japanese laws. While many Japanese laws are similar to those back home, some may catch you off guard. Your base chain of command or legal office should be the first place you go with legal questions, but here are a few local laws and legal customs you might want to consider.

Cell phone laws

- In Japan, as of Dec. 2019 penalties were toughened for drivers caught talking on cellphones or holding them while looking at their screens behind the wheel.
 - \$912 or up to six months imprisonment with hard labor maximum.
- Drivers who pose a danger to traffic or cause an accident while using a mobile device, face a \$2,736 fine and risk having their licenses suspended.
- On-base: Some bases in Japan and on Okinawa operate on a point system. Talking or texting on a cellphone while operating a motor vehicle will get drivers 3 points on their driving record and a one-week driving suspension.
 - 1st offense- 1-week suspension and 3 points
 - 2nd offense – 1-month suspension and 3 points
 - 3rd offense – 1-year suspension and 3 points
- Additionally, drivers on base who accumulate 12 points in a year or 18 points in two years will have their driving permit suspended for six months.

Carrying a knife

- Double-edged blades or switch-blades longer than 2.2 inches (5.5 cm) as well as spears, single-edge knives and swords with blades

longer than 6 inches (15 cm) are not to be carried without permission. Violators could face up to three years imprisonment or a fine of up to 500,000 yen (\$4,500).

- Exceptions for knives with blades longer than 2.4 inches are for home cutlery. The penalty for carrying knives larger than this is up to two years imprisonment or a fine of up to 300,000 yen (\$2,700).
- There are exemptions for blades used for cooking, fishing and other utilitarian purposes, as well as for someone with special authorization, (e.g. for use in an art or sport).
- For genuine or antique sword souvenirs, check with customs before making a purchase. Some items may be deemed cultural treasures that can't leave the country; if so, they may be confiscated at airports.

Child custody disputes

- When it comes to divorce, Japan's family courts do not issue joint custody of children. Sole custody is usually granted to the mother.
- In April 2014, the 1980 Hague Convention on Aspects of International Child Abduction went into effect after decades of Japanese government's refusal to sign on. Now, authorities must help foreign spouses locate their children. However, the new law, which is not retroactive, only applies when the child was a resident of the foreign country before the abduction and their return is not guaranteed – only a ruling on the matter in a Japanese court.
- In cases that the Hague convention does not cover, such as when an international family resides in Japan and the Japanese spouse flees with the child elsewhere in country, her or his counterpart has very little, if any, legal recourse. For all intents and purposes, the parent who already has

the child has de facto sole custody, even if it has not been legally granted. Authorities usually will not treat such incidents as abductions.

Saying you're sorry

- Apologies and cash payments play an unofficial – yet very important – role in Japan's legal system when it comes to civil disputes and criminal cases.
- "Jidan" is an informal out-of-court settlement for damages and/or to express remorse, is sometimes used in civil disputes such as fender-benders, damage claims or altercations. It is best to get the terms and finality of such agreements in writing. You may want to consider foregoing jidan and get the local authorities involved.
- "Gomen nasai" (I'm sorry) money is a payment made with an apology paid to the alleged victim. This can affect whether you are arrested, released into U.S. custody or prosecuted. (An apology needn't be an admission of guilt, but condolences for the alleged victim's hardship.) Japan's conviction rate is high, so it's not in your best interest, no matter how innocent you may be, to get indicted.

- A letter of apology to an alleged victim from the accused can impact that decision (submit copies of the letter). Apologizing to, paying the alleged victim (usually a lot) and getting them to write a letter on your behalf carries even more weight. Even if you are convicted, an apology prior to indictment – in word and monetary deed – may impact sentencing significantly.

Working off base

- As in the U.S., proper visas and/or permits are required for foreigners to legally work in Japan.
- SOFA allows some exceptions for military and civil-





Can you help me?

Tetsudatte kuremasenka?

(Tet-zoo-dat-eh coup-reh-mass-zen-ka)

I have SOFA status.

(Watashi wa) Beigun kankeisha desu.

(what-ashy wuh) bey-goan can-kay-shaw deh-sue.)

I'm sorry.

Sumimasen.

(Zoo-me-mass-zen)

I need to make a phone call.

Denwa wo kaketai no desuga.

(Den-wuh woe khaki-tay-no deh-sue-gah)



ians who fall under it. However, they are responsible for paying Japanese taxes on income earned on the Japanese economy.

- USFJ also has rules that apply to SOFA personnel. With the exception of teaching English as a foreign language, according to USFJ instruction 36-1001, all SOFA personnel must apply for permission from their chain of command to work off base. Those teaching English, however, should notify their chain of command.

- Review USFJ instruction 36-1001 for the full details.

- SOFA individuals are also prohibited from commercial activity. This includes ownership of, interest in, or private employment at a business that is, detrimental to the best interest of the United States, or affiliated with drugs, trafficking or prostitution. SOFA persons also may not:

- Work in an establishment whose primary service is the sale of alcohol to the Japanese public.

- Work in a business that is in anyway connected with gambling or making/trafficking weapons.

- Sell real estate, stocks, bonds, insurance, securities or mutual fund shares unless licensed by an appropriate U.S. authority and comply with Japanese law.

- Appear in any commercial media, stage plays or make recordings for publication without prior approval.

- Wear military uniforms or refer to their service affiliation while working off base if they are active-duty.

Biking laws

One thing you'll notice is that Japan has a large amount of bicycle traffic. Locals commute to work, go grocery shopping and trans-

port their kids to school on their bikes. There are strict laws in Japan regarding bicycles, but in reality, you will find there are more than a few riders who break them. Here are a few tips to make sure you abide by local biking laws:

- Don't ignore traffic signals or ride in prohibited areas.

- Ride on the left side of the street. Bicycles are classified as vehicles.

- If you live on base, you must register your bike at your Pass & ID office. If you buy a bike in Japan, the bike shop will help you register it with the local government if you live off base.

- Do not ride on sidewalks unless the areas are marked for shared space with pedestrians. (Children under 13 and adults over 70 years old are permitted to ride on sidewalks)

- Stop at crosswalks and if you need to turn, you need to follow crosswalks (do not go into traffic/turning lanes for vehicles).

- Don't ring bicycle bells at pedestrians. Pedestrians are given priority and cyclists are expected to dismount if necessary.

- After dark, you must have a front light on your bicycle.

- Do not use umbrellas or talk on your cellphone while riding.

- Children must wear a helmet if under age 13 or if under the age of six in a designated child seat.

- On base, riders must wear a helmet at all times.

- Only park your bike at designated bike parking areas. Parking in prohibited areas will get you a warning ticket or it could be impounded.

- Be aware of pedestrians, vehicles and other cyclists while you're on the road and follow safety rules at all times.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rey Ramon/U.S. Air Force

Don't drink and drive!

In Japan, drinking-and-driving laws are deadly serious. **The legal limit in Japan is 0.03, on and off base!**

- Japan's traffic law also goes after passengers who knowingly ride with intoxicated drivers – and anyone who provides alcohol or a vehicle to someone that subsequently drives drunk.

- Three months confinement and 500,000 yen for refusing a blood alcohol test.

- Penalties for drunk driving include up to:

- 10 years confinement and 1 million yen (\$9,000) for a hit and run while under the influence of alcohol.

- Five years confinement or 1 million yen for a blood alcohol content of 0.25 milligrams per liter (0.05 percent) or more – or for providing the driver with the vehicle; and three years or 500,000 yen

(\$4,500) for providing alcohol to, or riding with, the driver.

- Three years confinement and 500,000 yen for a blood alcohol content between 0.15 and 0.25 milligrams per liter (0.03 and 0.05 percent) – or for providing the driver with the vehicle; and two years or 300,000 yen (\$2,700) for knowingly providing alcohol to, or riding with, the driver.

- A recent U.S.-Japan agreement also put measures in place to ensure SOFA civilians, as well as military, cannot avoid prosecution – either here or in the U.S. – if they are caught driving while intoxicated in Japan.

- Civilians can also lose their SOFA standing if found driving under the influence of alcohol.

Protecting your pets in a new country

Most pet owners will tell you their dog or cat are not pets, but family members. And, when it comes down to it, finding the right doctor for your pet in a new country can be just as hard as tracking down the perfect pediatrician for your child. With that in mind, here are a few pointers to help get you started:

Finding a vet

When looking for your new vet, look for one that's local. This will not only be convenient for the regular checkups, but any emergency care needed will be that much less stressful. Walking distance is ideal. **Ask neighbors where they take their funny friends.** Also, many Japanese vets do not speak English, but that doesn't mean they're not out there. Ask around

to see who around you knows of an English-friendly vet. Many pet clinics offer pre-registration, which is a good idea if emergency services are needed.

Rabies shots

There has not been a recorded case of rabies in Japan since 1957. In order to keep the country rabies-free, **you are required by Japanese law to get your pets a rabies shot.** The shots can be administered at a veterinarian's office, or even at certain public schools.

Once your pet gets the shot, you'll receive a sticker showing they are inoculated. The sticker should be displayed in front of your home, for example, on your door, door frame, or mailbox.

Filariasis medication

Vets will also recommend pills for filariasis ("firaria" in Japanese) and ticks. These are mostly for those dogs that take walks in wooded areas, where fleas, ticks, and other parasites are prevalent.

Bringing a pet into Japan

The Animal Quarantine Service oversees bringing pets into Japan. Pets from the U.S. entering the country need to follow proper vaccination procedures in order to avoid being quarantined. The timeframe for being quarantined can range all the way up to 180 days if needed.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of Japan's favorite dogs is Hachiko, the faithful Akita dog who waited for his human, Professor Eizaburo Ueno, to return to Shibuya Station every day, even after Ueno's death. You can visit Hachiko's statue outside the station, which is considered one of the country's unofficial landmarks.

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Located outside Yokota AB, Ushihama Pet Clinic has been serving military community pets since 1977! Providing top care in all aspects of pet and exotic pet needs is our specialty! Our goal is to keep your pet Healthy & Happy during your stay here in Japan.



Speakin' Japanese

Furry family phrases

"**Totemo kawaii!**" = Very cute!

"**Kawaii.**" = Cute.

"**Busa-kawaii.**" = Ugly-cute. (Slang that combines "busaiku" [ugly] and kawaii [cute]; it works for a pet like a French bulldog.)

"**Kono inu wa nanno shurui desuka?**" = What kind of dog is this?

"**Kono ... wa nanno shurui desuka?**" = What kind of ... is this?

"**Inu**" = Dog

"**Neko**" = Cat

"**Usagi**" = Rabbit

"**Kame**" = Turtle

"**Sumimasen, anatano inu wa totemo kawaii desu.**" = Excuse me, your dog is very cute.

"**Sumimasen, anatano ... wa ...**" = Excuse me, your ... is ...

"**Namae wa nan desuka?**" = What is its name?

Like Americans, Japanese love pets. If you happen to see someone walking with a pet at park or on the street, it can be a great opportunity to strike up a conversation. Try using some of these phrases.

"**Osu desuka? Mesu desuka?**" = Is it male? Is it female? (Note:

"**Osu**" and "**mesu**" are used mainly for animals, not people.)

"**Totemo genki na inu desune!**" = That is a very energetic dog!

"**Kono inu wa kamimasuka?**" = Does this dog bite?

"**Inu to Sanpo ni ikimasu.**" = (I'll) walk the dog. (Literally, go on a walk with the dog.)

When on OKINAWA, you can also say it in "**Uchinaaguchi**" (island dialect) like this:

"**Inn guahh**" = Cute dog.

"**Nani san desu?**" = What is its name?

"**Inn**" = Dog

"**Mayahh**" = Cat

- Takahiro Takiguchi



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Know where to park, or pay the price

You are stationed in Japan for the first time. You just got your government driver's license, purchased a car at the lemon lot, filed all the proper paperwork and paid road taxes.

And now you're revved up to drive off base and explore Japan.

But before you put it in gear, have a plan on where you are going to park. Seriously. Parking can be a problem in Japan if you're not prepared, or don't bring enough yen.

You may think that you can get away with parking your car anywhere for a couple of minutes. Unfortunately, that is wrong. Most public roads in Japan are "no parking" zones unless there are signs that say so.

Parking police

It is very common to see parking enforcement officers (generally two people in green uniforms) walking the sidewalks and backstreets looking for cars illegally parked. And they have no mercy on you. They'll photo-

graph your illegally parked car, and post a ticket on the windshield within a minute. They're like ninjas.

If the green-uniformed parking police don't get you, look out for mini police cars trolling about. Police officers will periodically drive around looking for parking violators. If they find a car illegally parked, they mark a wheel of the car and the road with chalk and come back in five to 10 minutes. When they return to discover the car is still there, they'll issue a ticket.

But beware, a ticket is not the worst thing that can happen. In many cases, especially on congested streets, the police will put a lock on the wheel well of an illegally parked car and call a tow truck. The owner of the car is responsible for paying the tow truck fee and parking ticket, as well as the cost of storage from where

you pick up your car after it's towed. This can run you close to \$400.

Now that I've made it quite clear not to park illegally on the street, don't think for a second that it's okay to park in unmarked spaces in various parking lots found outside apartment complexes and in neighborhoods. These are reserved spots paid for by car owners.

In Japan, you can't register your car until you have proof that you have a parking spot for that particular car. So if you live out in town and have a one-car garage and two cars, you have to pay for another parking spot. These can run anywhere between \$100-\$200 a month or more depending on your location.

— Takahiro Takiguchi



How to use coin lots

1. To park:

When there is a vacant parking space, the main sign will read "vacant" (空) or (空車). If all the spaces are occupied, it shows "full" (満車) or (満), often in red letters.

Remember that you pay the fare when you leave the parking lot. After confirming that the locking flap is lowered, enter slowly into the parking space. Park your car within the lines of the parking space, ensuring that the wheels are in contact with the stopper.

The locking flap will automatically rise approximately 3 to 5 minutes after you parked the car.

2. To leave:

Make sure to get the right number of your parking spot, then go to the automated fare adjustment machine and press the number. Press the fare payment button and insert the ap-

propriate amount of yen. After confirming that the locking flap has lowered, exit the parking space within 3 minutes. Remember, the locking flap will rise again automatically after 3 to 5 minutes. If you have any problems, contact the call center by using the handy phone installed on the automated fare adjustment machine.

— Source: Japan Parking Business Association



When wanting to park, look for blue or yellow signs with a capital "P" on them.

Supermarkets, shopping malls, restaurants, government buildings and some leisure facilities usually have their own parking spaces. While some are free, many will issue you a card when you enter the parking lot. If you use the facility or shop at the department store, you get credit for your purchases, resulting in a couple hours of free parking. You simply pay at the automated fare adjustment machine located in the lot.

If you can't find free parking, you're going to have to fork over some yen. Like in the U.S., there are parking meters on city

streets. But, especially in Tokyo, these spots fill up quickly.

But there are many different types of facilities to park, including towers. A lot of foreigners are amazed at the cutting-edge technology used in these parking towers. Your car is driven to the front of the tower, where it is loaded on an elevator and moved electronically. Some of these car towers are 10-15 stories tall and have automated plate-number recognition and cashless payment systems.

There are also parking lots that are underground. You simply drive up to the spot and a car attendant will take your car down on an elevator.



You'll also find small 100-yen parking lots throughout cities. A lot of these lots are owned by individuals and only have 2-10 parking spots. This self-service coin parking is easy to use and usually open 24 hours a day.

According to Yoshio Yamamura, managing director of Japan Parking Business Association, when you use these parking lots, it is important to know the hourly fares before you actually park your car. Most parking lots only take yen, although some of the latest models accept credit cards and IC cards. But be prepared, if you don't have enough yen, you won't be able to drive off.

— Takahiro Takiguchi

Parking on Okinawa

In Okinawa, many facilities such as shopping malls, restaurants or beaches offer free parking spaces to their customers. Given the fact that we don't have trains in Okinawa, having large parking lots is important for local business owners to draw customers. (We do have a monorail, but it runs only in and around Naha city.)

However, if you go to Naha or Okinawa City, the two most populated municipalities in the prefecture, pay parking lots are common. You can usually find them a block or so off the main streets. On Saturday and Sunday, you will see many rental cars with "Wa" or "Re" number plates filling these parking lots, indicating that tourists are having a good time shopping at fashionable stores, or discovering unique local goods in a maze-like market.

So, if you are planning to ex-

plore local scenes in Naha or Okinawa City, especially in areas near Kokusai Street or Gate 2 street by Kadena Air Base, make sure you have Japanese yen to pay for parking. Rates vary from parking lot to parking lot, but 400 yen for an hour (100 yen for 15 minutes or 200 yen for 30 minutes) is the average in Naha.

In Okinawa City, 200 yen for an hour is a common rate. The fees increase every 15, 30 or 60 minutes. Some of the parking lots offer discounts if you shop or eat at specific places.

You also want to pay close attention to where you park. Busy roads like Route 330 have many cars parked on the side, causing traffic congestion. It is a commonplace to see people just pull over their cars to shop at stores. There are places like Gate 2 Street that have parking meters on the side of the road, but it



is not common. Most streets in Okinawa don't have space to park your car legally.

Realistically, there are cases when you need to park your car on the side of the road, but please make sure to do so in a location where it doesn't cause traffic problems. Use common sense and avoid parking on the side of a road for a long time, especially if you are on a busy street or in urban areas where there isn't much parking. This will also help you avoid getting a dreaded parking ticket.

— Shoji Kudaka

Don't get caught in Okinawa's bus lanes

Did you know Okinawa has certain driving lanes that at certain times only allow buses to use?

These bus lanes are those that can only be used by public buses during certain times of the day. And the penalty for violation can be 6,000-7,000 yen.

This law is an important one to know, and should be covered anytime someone is new to Okinawa. If you've been here for a while, you likely have heard of this many times.

There is nothing difficult about understanding the rule.

To put it simply, it is a lane designated for buses, most likely the lane you would see on the far left. But it may require special attention to note an actual bus lane when you get behind the wheel.

Although some bus lanes are colored green, some are not. Drivers need to note what time of day it is, because the rule only applies certain times of the day – typically 7:30-9 a.m. in the morning and 5:30 – 7 p.m. in the evening.

— Shoji Kudaka



Check Out

for more on Okinawa's bus lanes



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Get a taste of Japanese cuisine

What is Japan's favorite food? Japan has been cooking for thousands of years. As an island nation, it tends to go its own way. As a result, Japanese food evolved into a unique culinary tradition. Beyond tradition, Japanese food is a living part of the culture. It's always growing which has led to countless Japanese dishes.

The following are a few foods that all Japanese know well.

1. Makizushi



Makizushi is sushi that's rolled into long cylinders. It may be cut into shorter pieces before being served. The word makizushi can be translated "sushi roll." It's often simply called maki. It usually has nori on the outside but can also be wrapped with leaves such as shiso. Maki is filled with sushi rice and ingredients such as raw fish, cooked fish and vegetables.

2. Miso Soup

In Japan, miso soup is as important to breakfast as coffee. It's a hearty soup of dashi, miso and tofu. It often includes a variety of vegetables, seafood and meat. A good miso soup balances ingredients that float with ingredients that sink.



3. Yakitori



Yakitori can be literally translated "grilled chicken." It's a category of Japanese cuisine that includes dozens of items that are grilled on thin bamboo skewers, including every imaginable part of the chicken as well as other meats, tofu and vegetables.

4. Tempura

Tempura is deep fried fish and vegetables in a light batter. Care is taken to cook tempura at a low temperature for a short time to preserve the taste of ingredients. It's served with a light tentsuyu dip.



5. Edamame

Young soybeans cooked in their pod in salty water. Most restaurants serve frozen edamame, but they taste infinitely better fresh from the farm.



6. Ramen

Hot Chinese-style wheat noodles in a meat, fish, miso or soy sauce broth. It's an inexpensive, filling, easy-to-find snack. Despite the fact that ramen is cheap, there's a big difference in quality from one shop to the next. A shop that earns a reputation amongst ramen aficionados will regularly have long lines, while a shop just next door may be empty.



7. Mochi

A sticky variety of Japanese rice known as mochigome that has been pounded into a paste, toasted and eaten directly. It's also used in a variety of Japanese dishes and desserts.

8. Okonomiyaki

A type of savory Japanese pancake that was traditionally prepared to use up leftovers. Okonomiyaki restaurants let you customize your order, and in many cases, you can cook your own. There's an intense okonomiyaki rivalry between Osaka, Tokyo and Hiroshima.



9. Sashimi

Raw sliced fish or meat. Freshness and aesthetics are important to sashimi dishes. Otherwise, it's just chunks of fish.



10. Oden

Oden is a Japanese hotpot that is ordered item-by-item. It's a popular street food, konbini food, winter food and drinking food.



11. Soba

Thin Japanese buckwheat noodles served chilled with a dipping sauce or in a hot broth. Whichever you choose, it's perfectly polite to loudly slurp your noodles.



12. Natto

A type of fermented soybean. It's stinky and slimy with a challenging taste, but Japan likes it anyway.



13. Onigiri

Onigiri is any rice that's designed to be eaten by hand. It's the Japanese equivalent of the sandwich.



14. Japanese curry rice

A Japanese curry that's based on British Navy Curry. The curry spread from the navy to Japan's civilian population in the Meiji era. Over the years, it has adapted to local tastes. It's incredibly bland for a curry. Nevertheless, it has become one of Japan's most popular dishes.



15. Udon

Thick wheat flour noodles served hot in a soup, or chilled with a dipping sauce of dashi, mirin and shoyu. Udon is a staple of the Japanese diet and is easy to find in Japan. It's a somewhat thick noodle that's served with dozens of different toppings, including tempura, meat, tofu, seafood or vegetables.



See TASTE on Page 63

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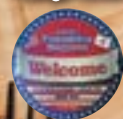
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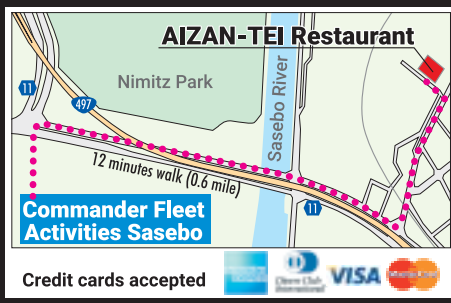


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TASTE continued from Page 60

16. Kaiseki

Kaiseki is a type of multicourse Japanese meal. It's fine cuisine that can include 5-16 courses. Each course is small and aesthetically pleasing with seasonal ingredients. Kaiseki is the creation of a chef, so there are no standard kaiseki dishes. Instead there are categories of dishes that are traditionally served.

**17. Yakiniku**

Yakiniku, literally "grilled meat," is Japanese-style barbecue. Yakiniku restaurants typically feature a coal grill built into the table. You order from a selection of bite-sized raw meats and vegetable plates and you cook the food yourself. If you're not skilled at grilling, you may accidentally cause a great deal of smoke and flame, which the staff may help you put out. Yakiniku restaurants are the smokiest places in Japan.

18. Takoyaki

Ball-shaped savory Japanese pancakes with a piece of octopus in the middle. Optionally topped with beni shoga, katsuobushi, nori flakes, mayonnaise and takoyaki sauce, a sweet soy sauce based condiment.

**19. Yuba**

Yuba is Japanese tofu skin. It can be enjoyed raw with a light dipping sauce. Fresh yuba has a texture that's similar to mozzarella cheese.

20. Sukiyaki

Sukiyaki is a Japanese stew that's typically cooked in a hotpot on your table as you dine. It consists of thin-sliced beef, vegetables and tofu in a fairly thick broth of soy sauce, sugar and mirin. Sukiyaki is often served with raw eggs as a dipping sauce. It's a winter food that's thought to warm you up.

**21. Shabu Shabu**

A hotpot of thinly sliced beef or pork prepared at your table by submerging a single piece of meat in a hot broth and swishing it around until it's cooked. The term shabu-shabu is a Japanese onomatopoeia, or sound-effect word, that imitates a swishing sound. It could be literally translated as "swish-swish."



– John Spacey

A TASTE of JAPAN

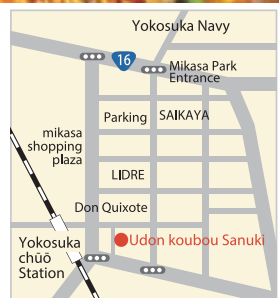
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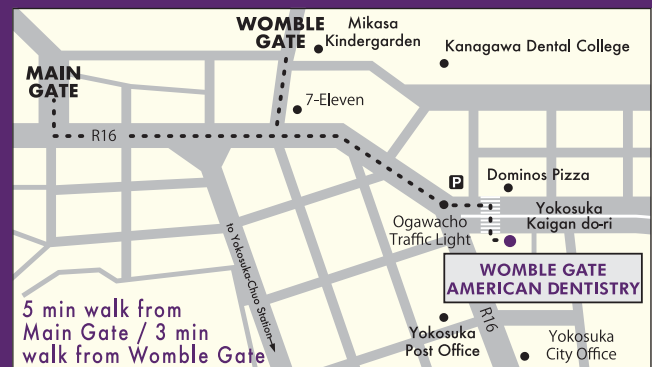
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While millions of Americans serving overseas have tuned in to AFN for popular entertainment over the years, the network has served an equally crucial role for commanders, helping them reach the force and their

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Today’s AFN stations enjoy advantages unimaginable generations ago. Once a single channel, radio now offers a dozen different audio services and streams over the Internet. Visit www.AFPacific.net/AFN-360 or install the AFN Pacific mobile app on your Apple iOS or Android device. AFN Eagle radio also broadcasts over the air in Japan and Korea.

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network offers shore-based audience members eight TV services, all in high definition. Sailors afloat in the Pacific receive three: a sports, news and entertainment TV service.

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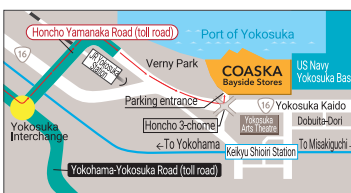
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05 Women divers (Haenyeo)

Haenyeo from Jeju have been making a living by diving for abalone, conch, and octopus. They never use any breathing equipment. Haenyeo are able to dive up to 65 feet under the sea, holding their breath for as long as two minutes at a time. Haenyeo are well-known for their diving skills and devotion to their family.

MUST-VISIT

01 Mt. Hallasan

Mt. Hallasan, which rises 1,950m above sea level, is the highest mountain in South Korea. Here you'll find Baengnokdam, the crater and lake located at the peak of Mt. Hallasan, and about 40 oreums, a beautiful sight of steep and fantastic rock cliffs are designated as Nature Monument and National Park. As the peak of Mt. Hallasan is made of diverse volcanic characteristics, depending on the angle of one's view, one can feel its uniqueness.

02 Seongsan Sunrise Peak (Seongsan Ilchulbong Peak)

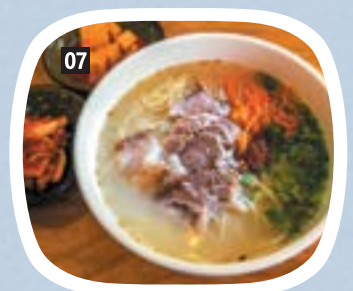
On the east coast of Jeju is situated the 182m Seongsan Ilchulbong which looks like a grand old castle. It was formed 5,000 years ago by an underwater eruption on the shallow sea bed. With a background of sun rising in the east beyond the horizon, the beauty of Seongsan Ilchulbong is beyond words description. That is why many people gather in this places on New Year morning to see the sun rise.

03 Hyeopjae Beach

Hyeopjae Beach is one of the most popular places in the summer. The water is relatively shallow but beware of rip tides. The white sandy beach has extra fine sand mixed with shells that glitter with silver, and the emerald-colored water is crystal clear.

04 Jeju Fire Festival

The Jeju Fire Festival is one of the world's greatest fire festivals. It reinterprets the cattle farming traditions of Jeju. The highlight of the event is the moment when a crater is set ablaze. The flames rise to the top of crater in spectacular fashion. This festival is one of the most popular attractions in Jeju, drawing more than 300,000 visitors each year.



MUST-EAT

06 Black Pork BBQ (Heuk Dwaegi Gogi)

Heuk Dwaegi Gogi is from the island's domestic pig, the Jeju Black Pig. Grilled to perfection on top of burning charcoal, wrapped in vegetables together with rice.

07 Pork Noodles (Gogi Guksu)

The most common delicacy on Jeju is Gogi Guksu. It is noodle soup made by skimming pork bones until a cloudy broth forms.

08 Abalone Porridge (Jeonbokjuk)

Jeonbokjuk is a nourishing porridge. It is well-loved for its chewy texture of abalone and its subtle flavor.

09 Grilled Sea Bream (Okdom)

Okdom is a small red fish that is known for its delicate taste and texture. It is usually served broiled. One fish will feed 1-2 people.

10 Tangerine (Gyul)

Jeju Tangerines are very high in sugar content and less sour than most varieties, so they taste better. They are good for dieting and help absorb calcium. They are rich in vitamin C, which is good for skin beauty and fatigue.

UNESCO in JEJU

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- World Natural Heritage Site (2007)
- Global Geopark Network (2010)
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How to get there

The easiest way to visit Jeju Island is by air. All domestic airports, including Gimpo, can get you there within an hour's flight time.

✈ Gimpo/Busan/Daegu/Gunsan etc. → Jeju: within 1 hour

✈ Tokyo→Jeju: 2 hours 30 mins | ✈ Osaka→Jeju: 1 hour 40 mins

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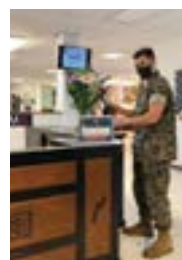
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Building 327

DSN: 225-6861

Facebook.com/USOYokota

IWAKUNI

IWAKUNI

Building 727 2F

DSN: 253-6574

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Culture

Online

Education

Transportation

Private vehicles

Base breakdown

Legal

Food

Leisure

Recommended for One-Night and Two-day course for healthy beauty



1 The Essence of Korean Traditional Culture,

Mo Myung-Jae Korean Traditional Culture Experience Center

Mo Myeong Jae is built when Yim-jin Whe-lan and Jung-Yoo Jae-Lan descendants in honor of Du Sa-chung, a Ming general who came to Jo Seon as a royal army during the Japanese Invasion of Korea.

Right across from it, there is a The Mo Myung-jae Korean Traditional Culture Experience Center, which you can experience Hanbok, tea ceremony experience, Dongui Bogam Food experience, and Daegu's representative archery experience.

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu Dalgubul-daero 527-gil, 13-5
☎ +82-53-666-4930 (Inquiry in Korean only)



3 A healthy and delicious dinner, Yakseon Pork Belly.

When you visit to Korea you must eat Bulgogi?! or Pork belly?!

What should we eat first?

However, I am a little worried that it might be too oily for my body.

The meat restaurant in Suseong district is specializing in Yakseon raw pork belly, will be served by the owner chef, who specialized in Yakseon cuisine, with first-class aged pork belly and well-being side dishes.

Wrapped fresh vegetables with the meat and eat it all at once, and it will relieve your fatigue.

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu Suseong-Ro 52 (money in a field of radishes)
☎ +82-53-764-5321 (Inquiry in Korean only)



Two-day trip to travel! Suseong Distric, Daegu

Suseong distric is known as "Gangnam of Daegu"

Daegu, the third city in Korea, located about an hour by express bus or KTX from Busan.

Suseong distric, is located in the eastern part of Daegu, and it is very similar to Gangnam in Seoul because of its high income level and advanced infrastructure such as broadcasting stations, newspaper companies and famous hospitals.

Suseong distric also has one-stop service for tourist information and medical interpretation for foreign travelers.

We want to invite you to Suseong distric, Daegu, which is the best place to enjoy a healthier and more beautiful "wellness trip," which is a different form of traveling from the past, where you enjoy natural scenery and foodies.

2 Magic to turn back time, dermatological skincare



Dermatology

Freckles, Lifting etc. Laser treatment
Votex, Fillers, beauty procedures

Daegu, a city with a lot of beauties with a lot of Miss Korea.

Let's become more beautiful and healthy with the state-of-the-art medical skincare that Daegu beauties usually go!!

In Suseong distric, skin care is carried out at an experienced foreign patient attraction medical institution recognized by the Daegu Metropolitan Government, so you can receive medical treatments with more confidence.

+ Daegu Severance Dermatology Clinic

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu Jibum-Ro 182
☎ +82-53-784-0555

+ Apple Dermatology Clinic

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu DongDaegu-Ro 311 Beomo Apple tower 12th floor
☎ +82-53-761-8888

+ Youmastem Dermatology Clinic

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu Beomo Chun-Ro 73 Hotel Ron Zena 3rd floor
☎ +82-53-721-7722

+ Cleanup Dermatology Clinic

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu DongDaegu-Ro 341 Jung-Ahn building 2nd fl.
☎ +82-53-746-0660

+ Prive Dermatology Clinic

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu Beomo Chun-Ro 3
☎ +82-1800-5475

+ Hwanggeum(Gold) Dermatology Clinic

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu DongDaegu-Ro 111 Whang guem Building 3rd floor
☎ +82-1600-9676



4 There is a lake park that represents Daegu, which is called Suseongmot lake.

It is Daegu's representative lake park, which is loved by Daegu citizens who have transformed from an agricultural water reservoir into a "Daegu representative landmark" where current history and culture are alive through an eco-friendly ecological restoration project in 2013.

The area around the Suseongmot Lake is well equipped with sophisticated cafes, restaurants, cosmetics, and miscellaneous shops, making it the most popular place not only for dating places but also for family visitors. In addition, it is highly recommended to cruise around the pond by a duck boat on a nice sunny day.

📍 Daegu Suseong-gu Doosan-Dong 512

How to find

It takes about 20 minutes from Dongdaegu Station to Suseongmot Lake by taxi.

It takes about five minutes by foot from Suseongmot S tation on Daegu Subway Line No.3

There is also a tourist information center at the entrance to the Suseongmot Lake.

There are many foreign language maps and tourist information, so you may want to stop there first to check it out.



5 Hotel Suseong



In the hotel's Suseong, you can enjoy the beautiful scenery because there is Suseongmot Lake, a pond representing Daegu, in front of you. The hotel is located on a hill about two minutes from the Suseongmot Lake. You can enjoy a romantic night view if you look down from the hotel or walk a little to the surrounding bench. Located on the top floor of the hotel's Suseong, Infinite Spa Pool is a must-see destination even for locals.



📍 106-7, Yonghak-ro, Suseong-gu, Daegu
☎ +82-1899-1001



6 Korean Herbal Tea Therapy



If you don't know what kind of tea to drink because there are various kinds, I strongly recommend Korean medicine tea therapy.

At Korean medicine clinic, you can learn Korean medicine tea that fits your body through tea therapy. you can make reservations to experience both of the tea therapy and Korean medicine bath together at Hanbang clinic through reservations system.

📍 149 Taeil Sanctuary, Daegu Suseong-gu Yonghak-Ro 149 Tae-eul YangSang Oriental Clinic.
☎ +82-53-781-1240(Inquiry in Korean only)



Wellness City, Suseong District

The center of wellness tourism, We want to invite all of you to Suseong district.

Daegu, the largest Korean medicine center in Korea with 350 years of history,

Suseong district is establishing itself as the core of Medicity Daegu, with five medical school hospitals with 100 years of traditional and a high-quality medical workforce infrastructure.

Experience true well-being in Suseong district, which is full of the best medical system, healthy attractions, fun, and visit the global well-being city Suseong district, the center of well-being tourism.



How to find



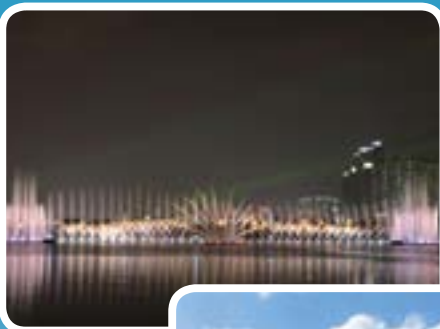
For Domestic Boarding

Incheon Airport & Gimpo Airport,
Jeju Airport & ~> Daegu Airport
: approximately 1 hour



For KTX Boarding

Seoul Station ~>
Dongdaegu Station : 1 hour and 50 minutes
Busan Station ~>
Dongdaegu Station : 50 minutes





Taking a leap at Nakagusuku Castle.
Photo by Stephanie Landaverde

Don't miss out on these Okinawa musts

Okinawa may not be the biggest island, but it sure has a long list of fun things to do. Sometimes, though, you just need to know where to go. Here is a look at some of the island's highlights. Let the adventure begin!

LOCAL FESTIVALS

Naha Dragon Boat Race

The major event in May draws around 200,000 people every year. Each heat features three teams that sail side-by-side for 2,000 feet. Rowers' stamina, teamwork and ability to make a smooth turn makes a difference between winners and losers in this physically challenging race. Among the many matchups scheduled for the event, the rivalry among men's and women's teams from the four service branches of the U.S. military attract much of the attention.

Naha Tug-of-War

This event is huge – literally. Known for it is exceptional scale, the giant rope of the event was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest rice straw rope used in a tug-of-war. Annually, 285,000 Okinawans, Americans, and tourists show up and either pull the rope or root for one side or the other.

Shuri Castle Festival

The age of the Ryukyu Kingdom is brought back to life in this autumn event. Traditional ceremonies, parades, and dance/music performances are presented with authentic

costumes at Shuri Castle. At night, the venue is illuminated with candles.

Eisa and beer festivals

From August through September, many festivals take place that present Eisa, an Okinawan style of dance. Choreographed dancers perform as a group to audiences at a venue, or march through local communities with their drumbeats marking the season of the dance. The Okinawa Zento Eisa Matsuri, the biggest among all the Eisa festivals on the island, is now combined with a beer festival.

Cherry blossom festivals

In Okinawa, cherry blossoms begin blooming in late January. The early bloomers draw many people at places such as Yaedake Mountain, Nakijin Castle and Nago Chuo Park. Unlike those on the mainland, the petals on Okinawa don't dance in the wind, but their vibrant pink color still dazzle countless visitors.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Marathons

On Okinawa, many marathons take place from fall through spring. Each race

provides unique challenges and attractions. In Ayahashi Kaichu Road Race, runners will hop around islands as they cross bridges overlooking the water. In Kourijima Magic Hour RUN, people can enjoy a beautiful view of the ocean during the sunset. There is also Iheya Moonlight Marathon where runners can enjoy different scenes from sunset well into the night. Naha Marathon and Okinawa Marathon are the two major races on the island and are very popular among runners.

Snorkeling/diving

There are many diving/snorkeling spots in Okinawa. At Sunabe Seawall, people can enjoy spotting colorful tropical fish and soft coral. At Maeda Point, a stunning view of the Blue Grotto welcomes divers and snorkelers. If you travel to Kerama Islands, you can even swim with sea turtles.

Beaches

Beaches in Okinawa offer all sorts of fun. Water obstacles at Manza Beach draw many Japanese and American kids during the summer. At Moon Beach, people can enjoy new water activities such as Flyboard and Hurricane Disco. Some military facilities

Places for kids



Round 1 Stadium is an amusement center where kids can enjoy various arcade games, bowling, karaoke, batting cages and more. At **Kukuru Yomitan Circuit**, kids can get behind the wheel of a go-kart. At **Owls Adventure Park**, they can put the birds of prey on their arms just like Harry Potter.

have beautiful beaches on site. On White Beach, there are cabins and pavilions lined up along the coast for parties on the beach. At Torii Beach, people can enjoy water activities such as ocean kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding. Kadena Marina is home to many water activities such as scuba diving, jet skiing and sailing. Plus, the beautiful Okuma Beach is a perfect destination for a getaway.

Trekking/hiking

There are places in Okinawa where people can enjoy trekking/hiking in the northern part of the island. At Mt. Yonahadake or Mt. Katsuu, routes are well maintained for mountain climbers. At Daiseikirinzan, people can see unique rock formations or tropical trees and plants. Around Hiji Falls, there is camping area as well as a route for trekking.

Theme parks

Although Okinawa may not have Disneyland or Universal Studios, there are theme parks that offer unique fun. At Expo Park, you can watch dolphins pull off acrobatic stunts or a large whale shark swim in a giant water tank. At Okinawa World, people can explore caves like a spelunker or catch a habu snake show at Habu Museum Park. At Doki Doki Yambarunture,

an exhilarating ride on an ATV is available. Okinawa Zoo & Museum near Kadena Air Base has 150 kinds of animals and creatures.

Cultural sites

Places like Nakagusuku and Katsuren Castles offers an opportunity to learn the history of the Ryukyu Kingdom. At Tsuboya Pottery Street or Yomitan Pottery Village, view and purchase some of the signature products of Okinawa. There are opportunities for people to watch craftsmen working on their pottery, or even get hands-on experience making their own. Places like Okinawa Peace Memorial Park, Hacksaw Ridge (Urasoe Castle Ruins) or the Former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters provide learning opportunities about the Battle of Okinawa.

SHOPPING & DINING

Shopping areas and a big mall

AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom near the Plaza Housing Area is one of the biggest shopping mall on the island. This is the place to go if you are looking for U.S. brands such as American Eagle or the Gap. Parco city near Camp Kinser is another large shopping mall, which houses brands such as H&M and ZARA. Kokusai Street in Naha is crowded with tourists looking for



local souvenirs and foods. Heiwa Dori off of Kokusai Street is also popular with many shops lined up in a maze-like arcade. American Village near Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base offers all sorts of different dining experiences.

Noodle joints

Okinawa soba noodles are one of the popular foods that the prefecture proudly presents. There are countless places where you can enjoy them. Chiruguwa Mihama and Hamaya are notable soba joints near Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base. There are many ramen noodle restaurants on the island, as well.

Chain ramen restaurants such as Tenkaippin or Hayatemauro are popular among servicemembers.

Steak houses

Okinawans love steak. And because of that, there are many steak houses on the island.

Jack's Steak House serves up one of the rarest steaks you'll find on the island. SAM's restaurants are very popular for sirloin steak, and Four Seasons near Kadena Air Base is popular among service members.

Old American brand

On Okinawa, there are many examples of "good 'ol America." One example of that is A&W restaurants. While it is becoming difficult to find them in the States, there are 27 of them on the island. Some even feature carhops bringing food to your vehicle. Foremost Blue Seal Ice Cream is another example of "born in America, raised in Okinawa." The ice cream maker was originally established by USA-based Foremost Ltd. Now, the ice cream maker is recognized in Okinawa as a major brand along with Baskin Robbins.

- Shoji Kudaka

Japan at a glance

There are so many places worth seeing while you're stationed in Japan. To fit them all in this space would be impossible. So, here's a look at some of the most popular cities to visit while on the mainland and Okinawa, and a few of the hotspots within Tokyo.

Kyoto



The former capital of Japan, countless tourists visit the city to enjoy numerous temples, shrines and traditional houses. **Kiyomizu Temple**, **Gold Pavilion** and **Arashiyama** district are some of the top attractions. If you are lucky, you might see **maiko dancers** in traditional attire strolling on the **Gion** or **Yasaka** district.



Hiroshima

Often called the City of Water, six large rivers flow through the center of Hiroshima, which has countless bridges, fountains and water monuments. Hiroshima, of course, will always be remembered as the first city to have the atomic bomb dropped on it. **Peace Memorial Park**, **Hiroshima Castle**, along with **Itsukushima Shrine** on the **Miyajima Island** are must-see attractions.



Miyajima Island. Photo by Ruvimbo Lindsay

Nagasaki



The peaceful port city of hills filled with Western-style buildings is often called "the San Francisco of Japan." It is the first port to open to the world after the nation's closed-door policy, and is the city that met atomic devastation alongside Hiroshima. **Ooura Catholic Church**, **Glover Garden** and **China Town** are some of the popular attractions.



Osaka

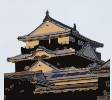


The largest city in the Western part of Japan functions as a business and commerce hub. It was the nation's former capital for brief times in the seventh and eighth centuries. **Osaka Castle**, **Dotonbori Street** and **Universal Studios Japan** are popular attractions. The city offers various tasty foods, including takoyaki (octopus ball) and kushikatsu (deep fried pork cutlet and onion).



OKINAWA

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Matsuyama

The largest city in the mainland of Shikoku offers various tourist attractions, including the magnificent **Matsuyama Castle** and Japan's oldest **Doogo Onsen** hot spring. You can enjoy your soak in the hot spring at a 130-year-old wooden public bathhouse. Shikoku region is famous for the pilgrimage to the **Eighty-Eight Sacred Temples**.

Niigata



Facing the Sea of Japan, the city is a relaxed elegant port town with traditional streets, famed sake breweries and quaint attractions that draw about 17 million tourists annually. A bullet train connects it to Tokyo via a two-hour commute. The 1,000-foot-long, six-arched **Bandai Bridge** over Shinano River is the city's de facto logo.

Sapporo



Since it hosted the winter Olympics in 1972, the capital of northern mainland of Hokkaido is known as the center of winter sports. The **Snow Festival** in February, which features giant sculptures carved from packed snow, draws more than 2 million tourists from all over the world. The city is home to **Sapporo Brewery**, miso-based ramen noodles and tasty Mongolian BBQ restaurants.

TOKYO

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Sendai



Zelkova trees line the central streets of Sendai, which is often referred to as the City of Trees. The city offers various tourist attractions, including **Sendai Castle**, **Rinnoji Temple** and the **Matsushima Gulf** with its 260 pine islands. While the lines of trees are decorated with thousands of lights for the Pageant of **Starlight** during wintertime, **Tanabata** (star festival) is celebrated with colorful street decorations in mid-summer.

Kamakura



The city is home to magnificent **Big Buddha** and various prestigious shrines and temples. Since it is located only 31 miles southwest of Tokyo, it offers great one-day sightseeing destination. Kamakura offers surfing and other marine sports on the beaches, as well.

Yokohama

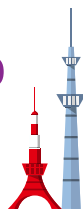


The second largest city in Japan, Yokohama is a nice day-trip for many installations in the Kanto Plain. With a beautiful bay area, the city has plenty of picturesque views to go along with attractions that include: **Chinatown**, **Cup Noodle Museum**, **Red Brick Warehouse** and a giant **Ferris wheel**.



Many visitors head to Yokohama's Chinatown for good shopping and good eats.
Photo by Akifumi Ishikawa/Stars and Stripes

Tokyo



7 Ginza

Known for its luxury shopping, all the top stores can be found here.

Check out Kabuki in Ginza



6 Odaiba

An artificial island in Tokyo Bay is full of entertainment and views of the water.

5 Asakusa

A very traditional district of Tokyo with lots of tourists, food and a giant shrine and temple.

1 Shinjuku

A very busy part of Tokyo full of skyscrapers and the world's busiest train station.

Enjoy a panoramic vista of Tokyo in Shinjuku



2 Harajuku

With countless boutiques and cafes along the main Takeshita-dori Street, the town is sanctuary for teenagers.

3 Shibuya

Home to the Meiji Shrine, Shibuya is a top stop along the Yamanote Line.

4 Roppongi

The trendy area has many shops and eateries and is the main entertainment district of Tokyo.

New Sanno, Hardy Barracks great options when visiting Tokyo



Tokyo tower in Roppongi is a symbol of Japan.
Photo by Julian S. Mapp



1 Naha

The most populated city in Okinawa has many shopping areas and tourist spots. Kokusai Street, the city's main street, is lined with many souvenir shops, old markets and night life spots. Many festivities, old and new, take place in this capital of Okinawa – home to the island's main airport and seaport.

How to hop around Okinawan islands on the cheap



2 Nago

The gateway to the northern part of Okinawa's main island, Nago is known for its large forest and beautiful beaches. The city hosts many unique attractions such as Pineapple Park, Underwater Observatory, Sweets Palace, and a brewery. It's also known for a cherry blossom festival and fireworks.

4 Chatan

The host municipality of Camp Foster and Camp Lester has many shops and restaurants along the coast. In American Village in Mihama, you can enjoy various cuisines, buy souvenirs, or even partake in a co-splay go-kart ride. Seawall Street to the north of American Village is also popular among servicemembers.

Taco rice is all the craze on Okinawa



3 Motobu

This town in a large peninsula in the northern area is rich in nature. At Churaumi Aquarium and Ocean Expo Park, two of the most popular tourist spots in Okinawa, you can see large sharks and rays cruise in a giant water tank. In winter, cherry blossoms at Yaedake Mountain draw many visitors.

Fukugi streets: A stroll through Okinawa's good-luck trees



5 Ishigaki

This remote island with beautiful nature is a one-hour flight from Naha. Among its many natural attractions such as a river with mangroves, Sunset Beach and a limestone cave, Kabira Bay would be the most famous for its iconic view. Ishigaki beef, a signature brand of the island, is popular across the country.

OKINAWA



Okinawa

Soaking in Kadena Marina. Photo by Stephanie Landaverde



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Sasebo Gobangai, a major commercial complex on the Sasebo waterfront near Sasebo Station and Sasebo Port, offers 73 specialty shops covering a wide selection of imported brands and ladies' fashion, as well as trendy accessories and local gourmet items. Restaurants and cafes look out over the water, and the complex hosts events for the whole family on weekends. Come and enjoy the ocean view in a unique shopping mall!

FASHION

FASHION GOODS

LIFE STYLE

SERVICE

FOOD

RESTAURANT



Conveyor Belt Sushi that goes around and around in front of you to pick up and eat. Offering a wide variety of sushi & side dishes, prices start at ¥110 a plate!

PROMENADE WEST ZONE 1F / 11:00 am – 11:00 pm



Shoe Shop till you drop!
All ages, men's & women's shoes for all occasions!

PROMENADE EAST ZONE 2F / 10:00 am – 9:00 pm



Get lost in Japan's very own "Dollar Shop". Attractive & Fashionable items that add a nice touch of happiness in your daily life!

TERRACE ZONE 2F / 10:00 am – 9:00 pm



Sasebo's famous lemon steak specialty restaurant, a juicy steak sizzling away with the mouth-watering aroma of our special lemon sauce!

TERRACE ZONE 2F / 11:00 am – 10:00 pm



Classic to fancy, grab a Starbucks drink with our pastries and sandwiches to make a great shopping day!

TERRACE ZONE 1F / 8:00 am – 10:00 pm



Serving authentic American hamburgers since 1948, as learned from an American military stationed at Sasebo. Our burgers are famous for the thicker patties and our special sauce!

TERRACE ZONE 1F / 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

CHECK OUT THESE FEATURED SHOPS & MUCH, MUCH MORE TO EXPLORE!

DOOR

- Mister Donut
- Momotaro - Steamed Buns
- Akai Fusen - Baked Goods
- Baskin Robbins 31 Ice Cream
- TSUKIJI GINDACO - Takoyaki Fish Balls
- Prunelle - Bakery
- Ellena - Supermarket

RESTAURANT

- SUSHIRO - Sushi
- STARBUCKS COFFEE
- Ootoya Gohan Dokoro- Japanese Cuisine
- Osakana Kazoku Zakoya - Izakaya, Japanese Style Bar
- SAGAYA Yakiniku - BBQ Beef Restaurant
- Sanuki Udon HANAMARU - Noodle Shop
- Mendokoro AKIRA - Ramen Shop
- SOJIBO Soba - Noodle Shop
- Hamburger Shop Hikari
- Brezza Terrace - Pasta
- Ringer Hut - Nagasaki Champion
- Lemoned Raymond - Lemon Steak

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- ALGY
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- BREEZE

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- GU
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- POUR MONSIEUR
- ABC-MART
- X-SELL
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- TIME TIME
- Prè de France
- cocokara fine
- MUJI

- VILLAGE VANGUARD
- MALAIKA



Depending on the situation, businesses may close or change operating hours.



We accept a variety of credit cards.



*Not all cards at all shops. Check with individual shops for details.

Please use the nearest public transportation

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- Local Bus Access 5 minutes walk from Sasebo Station Bus Stop (located in front of Sasebo Station)
- Expressway Bus Access..... 6 minutes walk from Sasebo Bus Terminal
- Vehicle Access..... About 3 minutes from Sasebo-Chuo Interchange
About 3 minutes from Sasebo-Minato Interchange

For more information

Visit our web site at
<https://sasebo-5bangai.com/english/>



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A close-up portrait of a young man with short brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a green and brown digital camouflage military uniform, including a matching garrison cap. The background is a plain, light gray.

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