

# What's New in Yokosuka

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/0140/english/welcome/documents/cultureinfo.pdf>

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## CHERRY BLOSSOM INFO

### Funakoshi Nango Park Cherry Blossom Festival (船越南郷公園桜まつり)

A park full of blossoms, to be lit up until 21:00 each night from March 21<sup>st</sup> through April 16<sup>th</sup>! There will be several special events on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, including a parade (10:00, to be cancelled in event of rain), a ceremony (11:30), and entertainment and performances (12:00-15:00).

Where: Funakoshi Nango Park (船越南郷公園)

When: March 20<sup>th</sup>-April 16<sup>th</sup> [Taura Sightseeing Association 046(861)4181]



### Kinugasa Cherry Blossom Festival (衣笠さくら祭)

A famous traditional place for blossom viewing, chosen as one of Japan's top 100 cherry blossom spots! The trees will be lit up from 18:00-20:00 every night. There will be many special events:



- Opening ceremony (March 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00)
- Musical and dance performances three times a day on Saturdays and Sundays (11:00, 12:00 and 13:00 on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Musical and dance performances on weekdays: 11:00 and 13:00 on March 28<sup>th</sup>; 11:00 on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup>; 10:00 on April 4<sup>th</sup>

Where: Kinugasayama Park (衣笠山公園)

When: March 25<sup>th</sup>-April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-20:00

[Kinugasa Sightseeing Association 046(853)1611]

### Tsukayama Park Cherry Blossom Festival (塚山公園さくら祭)

This park, selected as one of the "50 Views of Kanagawa," commands a spectacular view of nearby ports and cities. A designated national historical site, it also contains the tombs of William Adams and his wife. There is no better time to visit than in spring, when around 1,000 cherry trees are in bloom! Special events will include a parade on March 27<sup>th</sup>, a performance on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a talent show on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Where: Tsukayama Park (塚山公園)

When: March 25<sup>th</sup>-April 10<sup>th</sup>, ~21:00 [Hemi Sightseeing Association 046(822)2575]



### Kita-kurihama Cherry Blossom Festival (北久里浜桜まつり)



The area surrounding the park will be covered in cherry blossoms! There will be a ceremony on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and performances and a flea market on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Where: Negishi Traffic Park, Negishi Daisan Park

(根岸交通公園・根岸第三公園)

When: March 26<sup>th</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00-21:00

[Kita-Kurihama Cherry Blossom Festival Planning Committee 046(836)3531]



## Hashirimizu Reservoir Open Week (走水水源地一般開放)

Hashirimizu Reservoir, usually closed to the public, will be opened for cherry blossom peak! The contrast of the delicate blossoms and the bright blue sea is spectacular.

Note: Please do not bring pets, flammable substances or any dangerous items; please take your trash home with you.

Where: Hashirimizu Reservoir (走水水源地)

When: March 26<sup>th</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00-17:00

[Waterworks and Sewerage Bureau Management and Planning Division 046(822)8607]



## U.S.-Japan Spring Festival (日米親善よこすかスプリングフェスタ)

A Yokosuka spring tradition! The cherry blossoms inside the Yokosuka Navy Base will be open to the public. There will be stage shows, and stalls selling delicious American food!

Where: Designated parts of Yokosuka U.S. Navy Base (entry through Womble Gate)

When: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-17:00 (last entry at 15:00)

[Suka navi i (Yokosuka Sightseeing Information) 046(822)8301]

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dobuita Bazaar (どぶ板バザール)

Flea market with over 100 stalls. A classic Dobuita event with live music and dance performances!

Where: Dobuita Street area (どぶ板通り周辺)

When: May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-18:00

[Honcho Merchants Association 046(824)4917]



### Takeyama Azalea Festival (武山つつじ祭り)

Two thousand azalea bushes will be in bloom on Mount Takeyama! The festival will include a sketch contest and dance performances.

Where: Summit of Mt. Takeyama (武山山頂)

When: May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

[Takeyama Sightseeing Association 046(856)3157]

### Shonan Village Festival (湘南国際村フェスティバル)

Three days full of fascinating events including concerts and lectures.

Where: Shonan Village area (湘南国際村周辺)

When: May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-17:00 [Shonan Village 046(855)1801]

### Yokosuka Curry Festival (よこすかカレーフェスティバル)

A food festival in Yokosuka, the birthplace of Japanese curry! Come try local tastes and buy local food products. Enjoy a souvenir contest, a performance by the JMSDF Band Yokosuka, and a variety of street performances!

Where: Mikasa Park (三笠公園)

When: May 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-16:00

[Suka navi i (Yokosuka Sightseeing Information) 046(822)8301]





## Year Event Schedule

<p>2011 April 4月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funakoshi Nango Park Cherry Blossom Festival</li> <li>• Tsukayama Park Cherry Blossom Festival</li> <li>• Kinugasa Cherry Blossom Festival</li> <li>• Kita-kurihama Cherry Blossom Festival</li> <li>• William Adams Cherry Blossom Party</li> <li>• Yokosuka Black Ships Walk</li> </ul>	<p>November 11月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kannonzaki Festa</li> <li>• VERNY-Oguri Memorial Ceremony</li> <li>• Y Festa Oppama</li> <li>• Japan Festival in Yokosuka</li> </ul>
<p>May 5月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takeyama Azalea Festival</li> <li>• Yokosuka Curry Festival</li> <li>• Kanrin-maru Festival</li> <li>• Kurihama Hana-no-machi Spring Flower Fair</li> </ul>	<p>December 12月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oppama Night Bazaar</li> <li>• Kurihama Christmas Festa</li> <li>• Yokosuka Countdown</li> </ul>
<p>June 6月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinugasa Iris Festival</li> <li>• Experience Japanese Culture</li> <li>• YY Transport Festa</li> <li>• Nagoshi-no O-harae Chi-no-Wa Kuguri (Otsu Suwa Jinja Shrine Festival)</li> </ul>	<p>2012 January 1月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takeyama Hatsufudo</li> </ul>
<p>July 7月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kurihama Perry Festival</li> <li>• Oppama Festival</li> <li>• Yokosuka Kaikoku Festival</li> </ul>	<p>February 2月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taura Plum Blossom Festival</li> </ul>
<p>August 8月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yokosuka Kaikoku Fireworks Display</li> <li>• Uraga Port Festival</li> <li>• Nishi District Summer Fireworks</li> <li>• Kita-shitaura Summer Hometown Festival</li> </ul>	<p>March 3月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awashima Shrine Nagashi-bina</li> <li>• Experience Japanese Culture</li> <li>• Hashirimizu Shrine Harikuyo</li> <li>• Funakoshi Nango Park Cherry Blossom Festival</li> </ul>
<p>September 9月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kita-shitaura Bokusui Festival</li> <li>• Kita-kurihama Fall Festival</li> </ul>		
<p>October 10月</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oryo-san Festival</li> <li>• Kurihama Hana-no-machi Fall Flower Fair</li> <li>• Yokosuka Mikoshi Parade</li> <li>• Tsukuihama Mikan Festival</li> <li>• Kids Festival</li> </ul>		

※Schedule is subject to change.

## Bonnie's Corner

As we move into cherry blossom season, I encourage you to enjoy not only the flowers but also the culture surrounding them! Cherry blossom viewing is just one of many opportunities in Japan culture for appreciating nature in a culturally traditional way. Other seasonal traditions include fall leaf viewings, harvest moon viewings, snow-viewings, and many more—and for each event the feelings you're supposed to experience are clearly defined ahead of time!

Cherry blossoms hold perhaps the highest place of all, however. Sages of old who waxed poetic about cherry blossoms considered them precious because they fall and scatter so quickly. Folks here are disappointed when a storm rolls in and the season comes to an untimely end, but they're not quite as upset as you might expect—it's precisely the fragility of cherry blossoms that makes them so special. A magnificent cherry blossom season is even more celebrated because it doesn't happen every year.

When you go on *hanami* (blossom viewing), make sure to take advantage of the people-watching opportunities! You'll see lots of people eating and drinking under the cherry trees. In fact, some people see cherry blossom season as a rare excuse to party it up during the day!

There's a famous saying in Japanese, "*hana yori dango*," which means "dango (sweet mochi balls) are better than blossoms." Or, you might say, enjoying the celebration is at least as important as what you're celebrating, because after all culture is for the people. During cherry blossom season many people who spend most of the year in a rush take the chance to relax a bit.

*Bonnie McClure, a native of Georgia, U.S.A., is Yokosuka City's Coordinator for International Relations. Bonnie's Corner in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka features fun information useful for everyday life and cultural encounters in Japan.*



## Event Calendar

MARCH				MAY	
12	• Hashirimizu Shrine Harikuyo	26	• Hashirimizu Reservoir open to the public (until 4/3)	3	• Dobuita Bazaar (until 5/5)
20	• Funakoshi Nango Park Cherry Blossom Festival (until 4/16)	27	• U.S.-Japan Spring Festival		• Takeyama Azalea Festival (until 5/5)
25	• Kinugasa Cherry Blossom Festival (until 4/5)	<b>APRIL</b>			• Shonan Village Festival (until 5/5)
	• Tsukayama Park Cherry Blossom Festival (until 4/10)	1	• Yokosuka Black Ships Walk (until 6/30)	7	• Yokosuka Curry Festival (until 5/8)
26	• Spring Concert in Uruga (Uruga Community Center)	2	• Otsu Cherry Blossom Walk		
	• Kita-kurihama Cherry Blossom Festival (until 4/3)	8	• William Adams Cherry Blossom Party		
					* <i>What's New in Yokosuka comes out again on May 10<sup>th</sup>!</i>

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