

What's New in Yokosuka

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

Inquiries in English: Yokosuka City, International Relations Division 046(822)8138

* The schedule posted may be subject to change.

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JAPANESE CULTURE INFO!

Experience Japanese Culture (日本文化体験教室)



Come and spend your Saturday weekend with Japanese culture! You can try lots of hands-on cultural experience including origami, calligraphy, flower arrangement, and tea ceremony; put on a kimono; or try playing traditional Japanese musical instruments! Entry is free, but some activities may require a small materials fee.



When: June 8th (Sat.) 13:00 – 17:00

Where: Sogo Fukushi Kaikan Hall 6th flr.

(総合福祉会館6階)

Fee: Free Admission

[Yokosuka International Association 046-827-2166]



UPCOMING EVENTS



2013 Kurihama Perry Festival (2013久里浜ペリー祭)

A commemorative event held every year with several major events including a ceremony, parade, bazaar, and fireworks. A canon and the black ship will make an appearance for this year's parade!

When: July 13th (Sat.) 10:00 – 20:10

Where: Kurihama Area (久里浜周辺)

Fee: Free [Yokosuka Call Center 046-822-2500]

・ Ceremony of the Landing of Commodore Perry (水師提督ペリー上陸記念式典)

This ceremony is held in memory of the achievements of Commodore Perry, whose arrival at Uraga in 1853 with his fleet of four “Black Ships” brought about the end of Japan's policy of isolation and ushered the nation into the modern era.

When: July 13th (Sat.) 14:30 – 15:00

Where: SEA Hall in Yokosuka Sogo High School (市立横須賀総合高等学校 SEAホール)

Fee: Free [International Relations Division 046-822-8138]

Kurihama Hana-no-Machi Fair (くりはま花の街フェア：春)

Enjoy the gorgeously blooming flowers at Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World! There will be various performances and booths selling local products.

When: May 18th (Sat.) – 19th (Sun.) 10:00 – 15:00

Where: Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World (くりはま花の国)

Fee: Free [Yokosuka Call Center 046-822-2500]



Spring Rose Festa (春のローズ・フェスタ)

It's almost time to come back and see the 2,000 roses in bloom! There will be a rose music festival and stores selling rose seedlings on both days. Come on the 19th if you're interested in the flea market. What better way to spend a breezy spring weekend than surrounded by roses!

When: May 18th (Sat.) – 19th (Sun.) 10:00 – 15:00

Where: Verny Park (ヴェルニー公園)

Fee: Free [Mikasa Park Administration Office 046-824-6291]

Yokosuka YY Transport Festa (よこすかYYのりものフェスタ2013)

At Yokosuka YY Transport Festa, various vehicles including trains and automobiles will gather together in Yokosuka. It's also a great opportunity to see the ships of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force! A fun family event where children can have their pictures taken with uniforms on and enjoy some Yokosuka gourmet!

When: June 1st (Sat.) – 2nd (Sun.) 10:00 – 16:00

(cancelled in the event of foul weather)

Where: JR Yokosuka Station, Verny Park, Mikasa Park, and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Yokosuka District Headquarters (JR横須賀駅・ヴェルニー公園・三笠公園・海上自衛隊横須賀地方総監部)

Fee: Free [Suka navi i 046-822-8301]



Iris Festival (花しょうぶまつり)

The 140,000 irises will be at their peak from late May to late June. There will be a KOTO (Japanese Harp) performance held every Sunday (June 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd).

When: June 1st (Sat.) – 30th (Sun.) 9:00 – 19:00

Where: Shobu-en Iris Garden (しょうぶ園)

Address: 18-1 Abekura, Yokosuka City 238-0033

Fee: Adult 300yen // Elementary – Middle School Children 100 yen
[Shobu-en Iris Garden 046-853-3688]



• Kinugasa Iris Festival (衣笠しょうぶ祭)

Free admission ONLY on this day! A great way to spend the first June weekend surrounded by blooming irises and other exciting performances such as a band performance, magic show, traditional Japanese drums and dance, and more! (Programs held outside will be cancelled in the event of rain.)

When: June 1st (Sat.) 9:00 – 16:00

Where: Shobu-en Iris Garden (しょうぶ園)

Fee: Free admission but parking fees will apply [Kinugasa Sightseeing Association 046-853-1611]



Otsu Suwa Shrine Summer Festival (夏越しの大祓 茅の輪くぐり)

Enjoy this unique festival traditionally meant to cleanse the soul of unconscious sins. The festival features a large wreath (“chi-no-wa”) which visitors walk through and pray for their health and well-being. The wreath ritual will occur twice for about an hour (times shown below). Come see this beautiful local tradition!

When: June 30th (Sun.) 1st Round 16:00 // 2nd Round 18:00

Where: Otsu Suwa Shrine (大津諏訪神社)

Fee: Free [Otsu Suwa Shrine 046-836-3570]

Oppama Festival (おっぱまつり)

Full of fun events including a parade, mikoshi (portable shrine), Rio Carnival and more along *hokosha-tengoku*—directly translated as pedestrian paradise—which means vehicle-free street.

When: July 14th (Sun.) 11:00 – 18:00

Where: Oppama Ginza Street Plaza (追浜銀座通り商店街)

Fee: Free [Oppama Administration Center 046-865-1111]

Mikasa Park Summer Festa (三笠公園サマーフェスタ)

A summer bon-odori dance festival at Mikasa Park with summer illuminations and *takedouro* (bamboo lanterns, as shown on right).

When: July 16th (Tues.)

Where: Mikasa Park (三笠公園)

Fee: Free [Mikasa Park Management Office 046-824-6291]



TANABATA ~Star Festival~



Quick info about Tanabata

Tanabata (七夕) is a Japanese star festival generally held on July 7th of every year. On this day, people write their wishes on a small, colorful piece of paper called tanzaku (短冊) and hang them on a bamboo with various other colorful decorations.

Japanese Survival Tips

Exploring various kinds of restaurants in Japan is always fun and enjoyable as you can encounter many aspects of Japanese culture, but are you really familiar with the table manners of Japan? You might unconsciously be doing something at a restaurant that may be considered unpleasant or even unacceptable when eating with Japanese people. This month, I'll briefly touch on the basic manners and a few tips when dining at a restaurant in Japan or with Japanese friends.

The first thing to always remember before you eat is to say, "itadakimasu" (EE-tah-DA-kee-mahs) which expresses appreciation to all living things such as plants and animals that gave their lives for our meal. When you're finished eating say, "gochiso-samadeshita," (go-chee-SO-sah-mah-DESH-tah) which means "thank you for the meal." These are one of the first manners that are taught to Japanese children at a young age. "Gochiso-samadeshita" is also a polite greeting used toward chefs and servers when you're leaving the restaurant. This term is slightly different from the commonly used "arigato-gozaïmasu" as it is a way of showing thanks only at meal settings.

When going to Japanese-style pubs or izakaya, you usually share the food with others. At these settings, you'll have a small plate in front of you to take a small portion of food for yourself. There are many rules for using chopsticks. The two things that are especially taboo and unacceptable are sticking chopsticks straight into your bowl of rice and passing your food from your chopsticks to the other person's chopsticks because these are both funeral traditions.

Of course, don't be so overly conscious about dining etiquette that you can't enjoy your meal, but it would be nice to keep some of these manners in mind when you eat at a restaurant or with Japanese people. You might even impress your Japanese friends!

Miho Tanaka, a native of Georgia, U.S.A., is Yokosuka City's Coordinator for International Relations. "Japanese Survival Tips" in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka features fun information useful for everyday life and cultural encounters in Japan.



Event Calendar

MAY		JUNE		JULY	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yokosuka Curry Festival (- 12th, 9:00 - 16:00, Mikasa Park) 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yokosuka YY Transport Festa (- 2nd) Iris Festival (- 30th) Takeyama Sightseeing Association Sketch Contest Exhibition (- 30th, Nishi Community Center 3rd flr.) 	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurihama Perry Festival
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurihama Hana-no-Machi Fair (- 19th) Spring Rose Festa (- 19th) 	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otsu Suwa Shrine Summer Festival 	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oppama Festival
				16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mikasa Park Summer Festa <p>* <i>What's New in Yokosuka comes out again on July 10th!</i></p> <p>* <i>The schedule posted may be subject to change.</i></p>

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