

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

* Schedule posted may be subject to change.

May 10, 2014 Vol.31

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

- 17-18- Spring Rose Festa
(Verny Park)
- 17-18- Kurihama Flower
Town Spring Fair **pg 2**
- 25- JGSDF Camp Takeyama
open base **pg 2**

JUNE

- 1- Poppy Picking Party
(& 6/8) **pg 2**
- 7- Experience Japanese Culture
- 7- Kinugasa Iris Festival **pg 2**
- 14-15- YY Transport Festa **pg 3**
- 30- Otsu Suwa Shrine
Festival **pg 3**

JULY

- 10- NEXT ISSUE
- 12- Kurihama Perry Festival
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- 13- Oppama Festival **pg 3**
- 18-19- Uwamachi Lanterns
Night Market **pg 3**

The Yokosuka Call Center
046-822-2500; 8am-8pm
daily offers English info
about events in Yokosuka.
Operators may need time to
search for info.

Dollar Travels Campaign

When: Apr. 26 – Dec. 31

What: The *Dollar Travels Campaign* has been expanded in its second year to show off the uniquely international feel of Yokosuka. For the rest of 2014, you can **use U.S. dollars at 65 different shops, restaurants, and tourist spots** around central Yokosuka.

Details:

- Exchange rate is determined at each shop
- Don't forget about special events such as the Arm Wrestling Tournament (Aug. 9-10) and Japan-U.S. Tug-of-War (Sept. 20)
- Each participating store will display the American flag dollar sign.
- Pick up your **Yokosuka Passport** at train stations or tourist spots. Not in English but it will include a full list of shops and maps.
- American coins are not used. Amounts will be rounded.



Collect **STICKERS** by using dollars in each area. Get all three and receive a **FREE MONEY CLIP**



CHUO STICKER



DOBUITA STICKER



BAYSIDE STICKER

UPCOMING EVENTS (All events are free unless noted otherwise)

Yokosuka Call Center: 046-822-2500



Kurihama Flower Town Spring Fair

When: May 17 (Sat.) & May 18 (Sun.) 10:00-15:00

Where: Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World (Shinmei-cho 1)

What: Throughout this fair in the middle of the Poppy Festival, Kurihama Flower World will be bustling with **stage performances, flower sales, local goods market, games,** and more.

Directions: 15-minute walk from Keikyu Kurihama Station. Pay parking is available but limited.

JGSDF Eastern Army Combined Brigade Founding Anniversary Event (OPEN BASE DAY)

When: May 25 (Sun.) 9:00-15:00

Where: JGSDF Camp Takeyama North Gate
(Miyukihama 1-1)

What: Much like CFAY, this Self Defense Force base is normally closed to the public. But for this event, Japanese and non-Japanese visitors will be allowed in to experience a number of military-themed activities, including **trying on uniforms, military drills, marches, performances,** and **military vehicle displays.**

Directions:

- Cars and pets are not allowed to enter the base.
- There is no set parking for the event, but there are some pay parking lots in the area.
- Take the 衣6 bus from either JR Kinugasa or Keikyu Misakiguchi, get off at the hayashi (林) bus stop.

Contact: Combined Brigade General Affairs: 046-856-1291 ext. 417 (Japanese only)



Kinugasa Iris Festival

When: June 7 (Sat.) 9:00-16:00

Where: Shobu-en Iris Garden (Abekura 18-1)

What: The Iris Festival actually runs throughout June, but on this day there will be **FREE Admission.** Check out some great performances and beautiful flowers.

Directions: Pay parking available. Easiest bus route is to take the direct bus from temporary pole #5 outside Shioiri Station (¥220). Leaves 2-3 times/hr

Poppy Picking Party!

When: June 1 (Sun.) & June 8 (Sun.) 14:00-16:00

Where: Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World
(Shinmei-cho 1)

What: With the end of the poppy festival, there will be an abundance of poppies that need picking. Bring your own scissors and gardening gloves on these two Sundays to pick as many poppies as you would like to take home with you!

Yokosuka YY Transport Festa 2014

When: June 14 (Sat.) & June 15 (Sun.) 10:00-16:00

Where: JR Yokosuka Station, Verny Park, Mikasa Park, JMSDF Yokosuka District Headquarters

What: This event is spread out over a couple of different locations and is geared towards the vehicle lover in your family. **Your little one will get the chance to climb on cars, trucks, buses, boats, and trains!** For those lacking a vehicular passion, there will be **food booths, performances,** and everything else that we all love about Japanese festivals.

Other info: There will be a free shuttle running between Verny and Mikasa parks throughout the events.



Otsu Suwa Shrine Summer Festival

When: June 30 (Mon.) 1st round @ 16:00, 2nd round @ 18:00

Where: Otsu Suwa Shrine (Otsu-cho 4-22-22)

What: In this Shinto rite participants duck through a large ring made of thatched grasses to cleanse themselves of the bad luck that builds up every day. This tradition has existed since the 8th century and takes place twice a year all over Japan, once in summer and once at the end of the year.

Directions: The shrine is a 5-minute walk from Shin-Otsu Station. It is just next to Otsu High School. No parking available.

2014 Kurihama Perry Festival

When: July 12 (Sat.) 10:00-20:10

Where: Kurihama Perry Park and surrounding area (Kurihama 7-14).

What: An entire day dedicated to celebrating the anniversary of Matthew Perry's landing in Kurihama in 1853. **Food booths and games** will line the streets during a **bazaar,** official ceremony (15:00-), and **Perry Parade** (16:00-). The day will finish with over 3,500 **fireworks** lighting the night sky (19:30-).

Uwamachi Lanterns – Night Market

When: July 18 (Fri.) & July 19 (Sat.)

Where: Uwamachi (the area up the hill from Yokosuka Chuo Station)

What: Lanterns will be lit up at 18:30 along the Uwamachi streets to create a magical feel on these hot summer nights.

Oppama Festival

When: July 13 (Sun.) 11:00-18:00

Where: Oppama Ginza Street Plaza

What: Traffic will be shut down during this festival turning the shopping plaza **just outside of Oppama Station** into a pedestrian paradise! Check out a Rio Carnivale, a procession of *mikoshi* (portable shrines), and a parade.



YOKOSUKA LIVING

Way out West-Coast Yokosuka

Central Yokosuka has so many nooks and crannies to explore that one could go years without venturing any further away from Tokyo Bay than Chuo Station. Because of this, it is easy to forget that Yokosuka is actually quite large and spans the width of the Miura Peninsula. Life flows a bit more slowly on the Sagami Bay side of Yokosuka. Why not leave the busy Chuo streets behind for a day to explore the relaxed atmosphere of Yokosuka's west coast?

Going by car is the easiest way to get across the peninsula. You can take route 134 for the full coastal loop or cut across via route 26. For the truly adventurous and automobile-challenged, you catch bus 須4 at JR Yokosuka Station or Yokosuka Chuo Station and ride it to the end which will let you off near Sajima Island.

All along the coast, you will find activities and experiences built to let you feel the laid back atmosphere of the west coast. Whether you are a first timer or old pro, you can find lessons and rentals for a variety of marine activities including windsurfing and sea kayaking. If you are more of a land lover, you could take a walk around Sajima Island or check out Soleil Hill (Nagai 4), a free to enter public park with a variety of activities including a petting zoo, horse rides, a hot spring, and more (parking: ¥1000).



The biggest draw of Yokosuka's west coast is the view. On a clear day, you can see Mt. Fuji across the bay, but even if Fuji is being shy, it is hard to beat a sunset over Sagami Bay. Many local restaurants are set up to let you enjoy a delicious meal while taking in the natural beauty of the west coast.

On your way home, you may want to pick up some fresh produce or other local products at the local farmer's market, Suka-Na-Gosso (Nagai 1-15-15, closed Wednesdays).

-Marshall Smith, a native of Illinois, U.S.A, is Yokosuka City's Coordinator for International Relations. "Yokosuka Living" is in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka and includes useful information for everyday life in Japan.

READER SUBMISSIONS

Send in your submissions to ir-mo@city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp by June 10.



These beautiful shots of Yokosuka cherry blossoms were sent in by Michelle Dearing.

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