

YOKOSUKA LIVING

This month's special Yokosuka Living is by Kevin Cuello and is about his impressions as a first-time visitor to Japan. Kevin is a graduate student from Brest, France – one of Yokosuka's four sister cities – and he recently completed a two-month internship in the International Relations Division.

Fresh French Impressions

“What are all these brown squares and green areas?” I wondered when I saw Japan for the first time from the plane. Hills entirely covered with green trees and bamboo, the ocean, what a great spectacle! My image of this beautiful country was very far from the reality.

When I arrived in Yokosuka on May 7, I discovered a city where, in only ten minutes, you can walk from the little wood houses tucked in the greenery of the Uwamachi hills to Yokosuka-chuo with its high buildings, shops, and railway. Brest does not have this kind of mixture of old and new, natural and man-made.

So many differences, and I only have two months to experience all the aspects of this interesting culture. I have begun with food – tempura, soba, udon, sashimi, sake, curry rice, ramen, shabu-shabu – it is all so good! But the sweets like azuki, the red beans, are strange to me. French sweets are better in my opinion. Nevertheless, I have noticed several French restaurants and stores in Yokosuka. What a surprise when you know that only nine French people live in the city!

My interest in Japan was inspired by my love of the game of Go, a two-player board game where players take turns



Playing Go with some college students

placing white and black stones on a grid to create a larger territory. I have been working to set up Go exchanges between Yokosuka and Brest, and I've gotten to know some players in Yokosuka. They are very nice, and fortunately some of them speak English. I went to the Tengen Go club, nearby More's



City and was able to meet a Go master there. I also went to a Go club close to Keikyu Kurihama station which even had a classroom for children. There certainly is a big range of Go players in Yokosuka! I have had such a great time bonding with Japanese people over our shared passion for Go. If at all possible, I recommend using your interests to get involved in your local community.

Furthermore, I have spent my time visiting famous places in Yokosuka, like Verny Park, Perry Park, Tsukayama, and Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World. I traveled outside of Yokosuka during the weekends to Kamakura, Yokohama, Hakone, and Tokyo. I can't explain how wonderful these places are; you'll have to go explore them by yourself! I have also met the Yokosuka International Association, which helps foreigners to get involved in city life. They suggested several things like Japanese classrooms, a tour to Kannonzaki, and cultural activities during the Iris Festival.

In a nutshell, Yokosuka is a fantastic place to live! I hope I can come back soon with French friends. Indeed, Mayor Yoshida told me to promote the city when I return to Brest. I swear I will.

“Yokosuka Living” is in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka and includes useful information for everyday life in Japan.

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

* All information posted may be subject to change.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

- 12 Kurihama Perry Festival
- 13 Oppama Festival
Pedestrian Paradise
Carnival **pg 2**
- 20 International Youth
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- 27 Yokosuka *Kaikoku-sai*
Festival (-8/2) **pg 2**

AUGUST

- 9-10 Dobuita Arm Wrestling
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- 23 Uraga Port Festival **pg 3**
- 23-24 Onbashira-sai Festival
pg 1
- 26-27 Oppama Bar *Meguri*
pg 3

SEPTEMBER

- 10 NEXT ISSUE!
- 13 Cosmos Matsuri Begins
- 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.

Otsu Onbashira-sai



Otsu Suwa Shrine is part of a larger network of over ten thousand individual Suwa shrines throughout Japan with the grand shrine located in Nagano prefecture. Once every six years, the main shrine holds the Onbashira-sai festival in which they cut down a fir tree, drag/ride it down a mountain, and then erect it as a symbolic renewal of the shrine.

This year, for the first time, Otsu Suwa Shrine will hold a similar festival in commemoration of the shrine's 1200-year existence. A tree has been cut down and delivered from Nagano, and during this festival, it will be carried from the parking lot of Otsu Park to the shrine and then raised to its final position.

When: Aug. 23 (Sat.) @13:00 for the delivery of the log to the shrine

Aug. 24 (Sun.) @ 10:00 for the raising of the pillar

Where: Starts at Otsu Park (Otsu-cho 5-11-2) and will finish at Otsu Suwa Shrine (Otsu-cho 4-22-22)

It is a five-minute walk from Keikyu Shin-otsu station to the shrine.

※There will be normal festival activities in addition to the special event.

International Youth Forum

When: July 20 (Sun.) @ 13:00-15:00

Where: Werk Yokosuka, (Hinodochi 1-5)
6th floor hall

What: Local and international high school students will give speeches about a variety of topics with a reception to follow. A perfect chance to make new friends!



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UPCOMING EVENTS ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Umikaze Carnival

When: July 19 (Sat.) - July 20 (Sun.) @ 10:00-15:00

Where: Umikaze Park (Heisei-cho 3-23)

What: Yokosuka is a port city, and that means that there is a lot of fun to be had out on the water! At this festival you'll be able to take free rides on a variety of different vessels, learn about the Japanese coast guard, and check out a jet sports freestyle competition!
 ※If you do not understand Japanese, you must have someone with you who can interpret the safety instructions to go on the boat rides.



Yokosuka Kaikoku-sai Festival

When: July 27 (Sun.) - Aug. 2 (Sat.)

What: *Kaikoku* means "open country" and is the word used to describe what happened after Matthew Perry "opened" Japan with his 1853 landing. This week-long festival is full of events to celebrate Yokosuka's important role in Japanese history and to show off the adorable mascot versions of Perry and Oguri.

Kaikoku Dance Dreams Contest 7/27 @14:00-19:00

30 teams will bring their best dance moves to the park in front of city hall

Kaikoku YY Area 7/28 - 8/1 @17:00-20:00

Enjoy food, drink, and performances each night in the park in front of city hall



Dobuita Street Arm Wrestling Tournament

When: Aug. 9 (Sat.) - Aug. 10 (Sun.) @ 13:00

Where: The Dobuita Street event area (Honcho 2-27)

What: As a part of the *Dollar Travels* campaign, there will be a special two-day arm wrestling tournament. On Saturday, anyone can participate in the tournament. The winner of the day one competition will have the chance to compete in the invitational final stage on Sunday. Come out and prove your strength, or just exercise your beefy arms by holding your drink and cheering on the participants.



Uraga Port Festival

When: Aug. 23 (Sat.) @ 10:00-20:00

Where: Nishi Uraga Port and surrounding area

From Uraga Station: 15 minute walk OR take a bus bound for Kurihama st. and get off at *Kon'ya-cho* (紺屋町) ~5 minutes

What: This festival celebrates traditional Japanese culture and history. Check out Japanese dances, music, and carnival booths at this historic port. The night will end with a beautiful fireworks display.



Oppama Bar Meguri

When: Aug. 26 (Tues.) - Aug. 27 (Wed.)

Where: Area around Oppama Station

What: For ¥2,500, you will get three tickets which can be used at a number of different bars and restaurants around Oppama station. Each ticket will get you a drink and a small dish. It's a great way to get out and explore some restaurants you have never been to before. *Tickets can be purchased in front of Oppama station on the days of the bar crawl.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Sarushima Island is the only natural island in Tokyo Bay. What better way to enjoy the summer than heading out to an island where you can [swim](#), [play on the beach](#), [go fishing](#), [have a BBQ](#), [go hiking](#), [learn about history](#), and more? It is only a 10 minute ride from near Mikasa Park. Boats leave once an hour from 8:00 to 16:00. Round trip tickets: Adults ¥1,300 // elem. student ¥650.

SUMMER-LOVIN' SPECIAL EDITION

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Below is a quick list of some of the **FIREWORK DISPLAYS** that will be held in Yokosuka this summer. Put on your *yukata* or *jinbei* and get there early to secure a good spot!

7/12 Perry Festival (19:30-)

@ Perry Park in Kurihama

7/17 Kurihama Noryo-sai

@ JGSDF Camp Kurihama

8/2 Kaikoku Festival (19:15-)

@ Umikaze Park/Mikasa Park

8/23 Uraga Port Festival

@ Uraga Port

8/30 Nishi Noryo-sai (19:30-)

@ JGSDF Camp Takeyama

Ta-no-ura Park Nagaura-cho 1-20-1

Negishi Park Negishi 3-17

Hirasaku Park Hirasaku 7-5

Uraga 7 cho-me Park Uraga 7-1-1

Kamoi Park Kamoi 3-1-1

Kurihama Park Kurihama 6-11

Tomiuura Park Nagai 1-1-2

Nagasawa Muraoka Park Nagasawa 1-57

Shonan Takatori 5 cho-me Park #2 Takatori 5-20

Open: July 4- Sept. 7 9:00-17:00

Entrance fee: Adults: ¥150 // elem and jr. high students ¥50

Mabori Kaigan Park Mabori Kaigan 2-39-1

Open: July 1- Aug. 31, Sept. 6 - 7

7/1-7/19: Mon.-Fri. 12:00-18:00 // Weekend 9:00 - 18:00

7/20-8/31, 9/6 - 7: 9:00-18:00

Entrance fee: Adults: ¥460 // elem. and jr. high students: ¥190

※Each pool will have a summer event on Aug. 16 - 17.

※Please cover any tattoos when visiting public pools.

