

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 may be subject to change

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EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 15 - Kurihama Food Festival
- 15 - VERNY-Oguri Memorial Ceremony
- 23 - Labor Day (obs. 11/24)
- 23 - Yokosuka Seaside Marathon
- 30 - Japan Festival in Yokosuka
- 30 - Tangerine picking season ends

DECEMBER

- 6 - Oppama Night Bazaar
- 14 - Yokosuka Ekiden
- 23 - Kurihama Christmas Festival
- 23 - Emperor's Birthday
- 31 - Yokosuka Countdown 2015

JANUARY

- 1 - Strawberry picking season begins
- 1-3 - New Year's Holiday
- 17-18 - Overnight Disaster Training
- 18 - Miura Peninsula Prefectural Ekiden

For English info about events in Yokosuka call the **Yokosuka Call Center 046-822-2500**. Operators may need time to search for info. **8am-8pm daily**.

Yokosuka Countdown 2015



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!!



When: Dec. 31 (Wed.) 18:00-25:00

Where: Verny Park (Shioiri-cho 1-1-1, next to Daiei)

Details: Yokosuka knows how to start a new year right! Leading up to midnight, Verny Park will be bustling with a ton of delicious food and great dance and musical performances. When the clock strikes midnight, fireworks, Naval ships covered in Christmas lights, and a search light will light up the sky while steam whistles bring in the new year! Stay warm out there!

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS in Japan

Yokosuka is one of the few places in Japan where you can ring in the new year with this type of party. New Years in Japan is very much comparable to Christmas in western countries. Most people welcome the

new year quietly with their families at home. Christmas here, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. Young people especially consider Christmas to be the perfect date night!

UPCOMING EVENTS ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



Kurihama Food Festival

When: Nov. 15 (Sat.) 10:00-15:00

Where: Kurihama Harodo-dori Street (just outside of Keikyu Kurihama Station)

What: Last year Sagami-wan's "Kurihama Fish Soup" reigned supreme, but who will be the Fall Food King this year? Many different groups will be bringing their best, locally inspired dishes to compete for your votes. Enjoy great dance and musical performances, meet Admiral Sukarin, and don't forget to vote for your favorite dish!

Japan Festival in Yokosuka

When: Nov. 30 (Sun.) 11:00-16:00

Where: Sogo Fukushi Kaikan Hall, 5th and 7th floors (in between the main gate of the U.S. Naval Base and Daiei Shoppers Plaza)

What: One of Yokosuka's most popular yearly traditions, this day-long event is a great way to get a taste of Japanese culture. Entrance is free as are most activities, but some require a small materials fee.

Contact: Yokosuka International Association

TEL: 046-827-2166

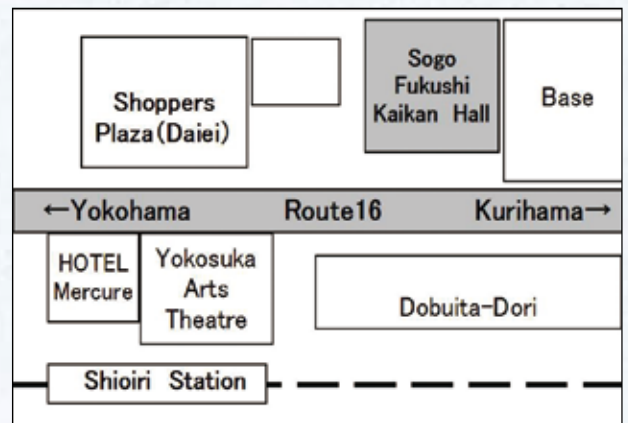


Activities

- Tea ceremony
- Origami
- Martial arts
- Japanese dance
- Koto & shamisen
- Try on samurai armor and kimono
- Calligraphy
- and more!

Performances

- Elementary School Choirs
- Martial Arts
- Japanese Drums
- Tahitian Dance
- Armored Samurai
- and more!



Oppama Night Bazaar

When: Dec. 6 (Sat.) 15:00-20:00

Where: The area around Keikyu Oppama Station

What: The area just outside of the station will be beautifully lit up with Christmas illumination. Enjoy the lights while wandering from booth to booth, playing games, and warming up with some delicious *imoni*, a traditional taro root and meat soup from Yamagata prefecture.

Ekiden Races in Yokosuka

Ekiden are long-distance relay races which originated in Japan hundreds of years ago when messengers would run great distances to the next station to pass off their messages and parcels. Currently, *ekiden* races are popular at all competition levels, and there are two coming up in Yokosuka.

Yokosuka Ekiden - Dec. 14 (Sun.) Starts 9:00 at Shinmei Jr. High School in Kurihama and goes around Kurihama Flower World Hana-no-Kuni.

Miura Peninsula Prefectural Ekiden - Jan. 18 (Sun.)

Starts at 9:00 at the Yokosuka Arena in Iriyamazu, goes to Sagami Bay, then along route 134 around the peninsula and ends at Yokosuka Sogo High School in Kurihama.



Overnight Disaster Training

When: Jan. 17 (Sat.) - 18 (Sun.) 17:00-7:00

Where: Natsushima Elementary School (Urago-cho 4-35)

What: Natural disasters do not wait for warm spring days to strike. They can come at any time, including the dead of winter. We cannot know when we may have to evacuate our homes, but we can at least be ready when the time comes. This overnight training takes place in a local school gymnasium once a year in the middle of January. Participants can get a taste for what



an evacuation center (*hinanjo*) is like and experience it in less than ideal conditions. Dinner and breakfast are part of the training. I went last year and can say that, despite the bitter cold, I learned a lot about what I will need if the time comes to set up shop in an evacuation center.

Registration: Prior registration is required. Contact the Yokosuka International Association by Jan. 6 (Tue.), 2015 to sign up. TEL: 046-827-2166 or npo-yia@kb3.so-net.ne.jp. YIA will provide sleeping bags.



Tangerine and Strawberry Picking!

Throughout the year, the [Tsukuihama Tourist Farm](#) (Tsukui 5-15-20) offers visitors the chance to pick their own fruits and vegetables. The farm is a 20 min. walk up from Keikyu Tsukuihama Station or take the shuttle from the same station.

Tangerines: daily ~11/30; 9:00-15:00 ¥650 for all-you-can-eat within the farm, extra cost to take fruit home.

Strawberries: daily 1/1-5/5; 9:00-15:00. Price depends on the date: 1/1-1/5 ¥1,900; 1/6-2/28 ¥1,700; 3/1-3/31 ¥1,500; 4/1-5/5 ¥1,200

YOKOSUKA LIVING

On heated tables and bellies

Yokosuka's winter is quite mild in contrast to other locales, but because residences here tend to forego insulation and central heating in favor of the more economical option of heating individual rooms, it can be a challenge to stay warm in your own home. Before I finally figured out the time-delay settings on my heater, I woke up to the sight up of my own breath many times during my first winter here.

There are ways to stay warm that won't lead to a skyrocketing electric bill. Indeed, the tips I will introduce here will not only keep your fingers and toes from going numb, they will also give you some quintessentially Japanese experiences.

The first is the *kotatsu*. A *kotatsu* is a low table covered with a thick blanket which hangs down and spread across the floor, allowing people to sit with their legs under it. The key here is that the table is electric and its underside is heated so that all the warmth is trapped within the blanket, thus keeping everyone nice and toasty. You will want to make sure that you have your tasks for the day done before setting up under the *kotatsu*, because once you get in you will find it hard to leave.

Staying in a warm room is all well and good,

but heating up from the inside out with delicious food is much more fun. My favorite Japanese winter food is *nabe*. This is cheating a little



bit, because *nabe* is not a specific dish but rather the pot in which you cook your favorite ingredients in broth. My favorite is a kimchi based broth with pork, veggies, tofu, and mushrooms, but you can use anything you want. Grocery stores even sell pre-arranged *nabe* packs. *Nabe* is most fun when it is cooked on a portable burner on the kitchen table and everyone can grab what they like as it bubbles away.

I hope these tips help you all stay warm during the coming winter months, and don't forget that sake is just as good served hot as well.

Marshall Smith, a native of Illinois, U.S.A., is Yokosuka'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.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

NEW COLUMN!

Name: Yuto Yoshida

Occupation: Mayor of Yokosuka

Favorite thing about Yokosuka: Located closed to Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kamakura, Yokosuka is a great place for work and pleasure. My favorite thing is how this city has everything you



could want. The downtown area is built up and feels like a big city, but if you go just outside of the main areas, you can really

get back into nature and escape your busy life. Yokosuka strikes that perfect balance between urban and rural. It has something to offer everyone. There are also so many great fishing spots!

Advice for our readers: I lived in London for a while, so I know how it feels to be out of your comfort zone. It can be difficult, but living abroad can be the most rewarding experience of your life. Don't be hesitant to ask for help, because everyone in Yokosuka is working hard to make our city welcoming and accessible for absolutely everyone. I hope you love your Yokosuka life!

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