

# What's New in Yokosuka

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

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\* All information may be subject to change

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## EVENT CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 21- 10K Promenade Walk
- 21- Vernal Equinox
- 25ish- Expected start of cherry blossom season
- 29- Funakoshi Nango Park Safety Fair
- 29- U.S.-Japan Spring Friendship Day (open base day)

### APRIL

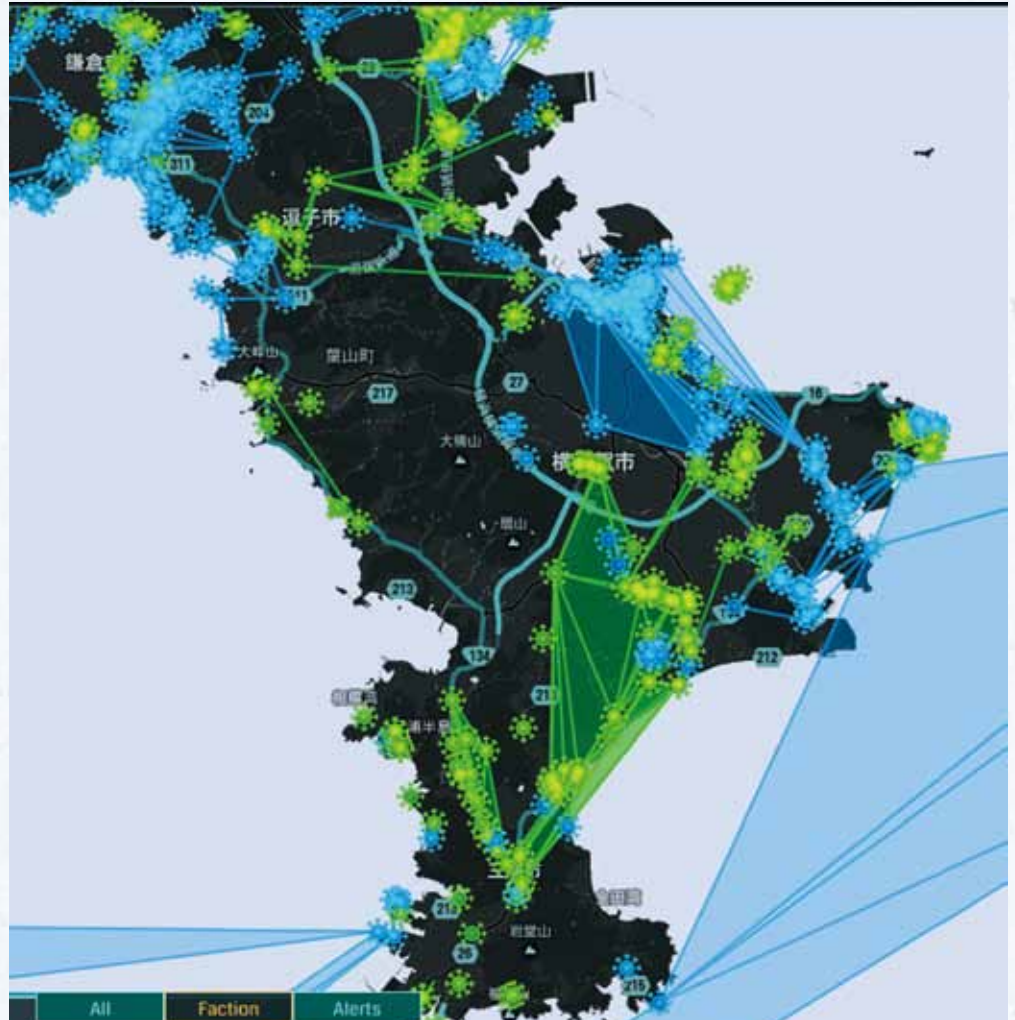
- 4- Otsu Sakura Walk
- 4-5- Kitakurihama Cherry Blossom Events
- 8- William Adams Cherry Blossom Party
- 9- Umi no Sachi Fair 3 starts (ends 5/2)
- 29- Showa Day

### MAY

- 3-5- Mt. Takeyama Azalea Festival
- 3- Constitution Day
- 4- Greenery Day
- 5- Children's Day
- 9- Mamonzan Navy Cemetery Ceremony
- 9-10- Yokosuka Curry Festival
- 16- Sakura Elem. School Sumo Tourn.

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.

## Ingress in Yokosuka



Are you with the RESISTANCE or the ENLIGHTENED? Do you strive to preserve what little freedom we have left? Or do you seek to bring about the next stage of human evolution? The time has come to pick your side in the augmented reality game, Ingress. Download the free app to start taking over territory right here in Yokosuka. The map above represents each faction's territory.

Which side will you choose?

Playing Ingress is a lot of fun on its own, but the city is working to create real life benefits to playing in Yokosuka, such as discounts at certain locations and prizes for taking over different territories. For more info about the app and how to play, use the QR code!



[www.ingress.com](http://www.ingress.com)

## Cherry Blossoms Season - Hanami



The exact dates change each year, but you can usually expect Japanese cherry trees in Yokosuka to burst to life between Mar. 25 and Apr. 5 each year.

There are a lot of great places to enjoy cherry blossoms in Yokosuka. Below are some of the good spots for seeing cherry blossoms. Some will have events going on and others will be more subdued.

Funakoshi Nango Park (Funakoshi-cho 4-6)  
Kinugasayama Park (Koyabe 4-922)  
Tsukayama Park (Nishi Hemi-cho)  
Negishi Traffic Park (Negishi-cho 3-17)  
Chuo Park (Fukadadai 19)

Hashirimizu Reservoir (Hashirimizu 1-2-1)  
Kanagawa Dental College (Inaoka-cho 82)  
Route 134 (between Kitakurihama and Shin-Otsu St.)  
U.S. Naval Base (Inaoka-cho 82-14)  
Open base day on Mar. 29 (see below)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

### 10K Promenade Walk

**When:** Mar. 21 (Sat.) 9:30-13:00

**Where:** Verry Park → Yokosuka Art Museum

**What:** What better way to spend the first day of spring than out for a walk along Tokyo Bay? Ten kilometers is just over six miles. Participation costs 300 yen for high school age and above and 200 yen for jr. high and below. Registration starts at Verry Park. Once registered, go at your own pace down the coast. There will be various booths and prize lotteries waiting for you at the art museum.



### Tsukayama Park Cherry Blossom Party

**When:** Mar. 25 (Wed.) - Apr. 8 (Wed.)

**Where:** Tsukayama Park (Nishi Hemi-cho)

**What:** There will be a *Soran* Dance, a parade, free green tea, and cherry blossoms of course! Up at the top of Tsukayama Park, there will be a special cherry blossom viewing party in celebration of William Adams (see page 4).

### U.S.-Japan Spring Friendship Day

**When:** Mar. 29 (Sun.) 9:00-16:00

**Where:** U.S. Naval Base, Yokosuka via Mikasa Park

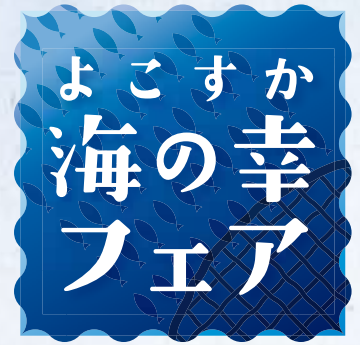
**What:** Every year for this event, the U.S. base opens its doors to the public. It is a great chance to get a feel for America without leaving Yokosuka. On top of the amazing food, the cherry blossoms along Tokyo Bay will be in full bloom for some *hanami*, American style. Bring photo I.D.



### Umi no Sachi Fair: Session 3

**When:** Apr. 9 (Thu.) - May 2 (Sat.)

**What:** Yokosuka is surrounded on three sides by water, which means we are blessed with extra delicious seafood. Each session of the *Umi no Sachi* Fair highlights different, in-season products. This time the selected items are hijiki seaweed, squid, and a type of Japanese sardine. Keep your eye out for the icon to the right for participating restaurants and fish mongers!



### Yokosuka Curry Festival

**When:** May 9 (Sat.) - May 10 (Sun.) 9:00-16:00

**Where:** Mikasa Park

**What:** This annual, two-day festival takes over the entire Mikasa Park. The focus of the event is a most definitely curry, with a special curry area where you can get a tasting plate of 4 different options. There will also be live music and dance performances, and a wide variety of a different booths.

### Mt. Takeyama Azalea Festival

**When:** May 3 (Sun.) - May 5 (Tues.) 9:00-15:00  
(until 13:00 on May 5)

**Where:** Mt. Takeyama Summit

**What:** From the middle of April until early May, there will be over 1200 blooming azalea trees on top of Mt. Takeyama. This festival, taking place over the Golden Week holidays, will be sending off the flowers in grand fashion!

### Sakura Elementary Sumo Competition

**When:** May 16 (Sat.) 13:00-17:00

**Where:** Sakura Elementary School  
(Sakamoto-cho 1-19)

**What:** The students of Sakura elementary school are holding a sumo tournament. Participation is limited to Sakura students, but the competition is open to spectators.

## YOKOSUKA MUSEUM OF ART (MAR.-MAY)

Located at Kamoi 4-1. Open 10:00-18:00 Pay parking available

### Hokkori Museum: Warm and Fuzzy Feeling in Japanese Art

No period and no medium will be left out during this special exhibit focused on how Japanese artists have grappled with that most important issue: portraying the warm and fuzzy.



Hasegawa Rinjiro's "Cat" 1966

Find your own sense of *hokkori* -warm and fuzzy feeling- this spring.

Apr. 18 - June 14  
¥900 general entry

*other exhibits:*

### Kinosuke Ebihara exhibit

ends Apr. 5  
¥900 entry

### Masayoshi Maeda sculptures

ends Apr. 19  
¥310 entry



Utagawa Hiroshige's "Asakusa Rice Fields and Torinomachi Festival"

## YOKOSUKA LIVING

### Yokosuka History Hunters

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when French engineer Francois Verny founded the Yokosuka Arsenal, which would form the base of Japan's modernization and eventually become the United States Naval Base. Yokosuka residents will surely be hearing a lot about this throughout the year; it will likely be a prominent feature of the November issue of WNIY. However, April is a big month for another important historical figure in Yokosuka. I would like to introduce you to William Adams, also known as Miura Anjin and the only blue-eyed samurai.

Adams was born in 1564 in Gillingham, England (now known as Medway and a sister city of Yokosuka). He was a sailor and navigator, completing many commercial voyages around the globe. In 1600, after a voyage plagued with hardships, he was one of the few survivors that drifted to shore in southern Japan. Adams stumbled into a tumultuous time in Japan. Tokugawa Ieyasu was beginning to consolidate power, which included taking control of foreign influences. Adams was soon brought in as an advisor, and after gaining the shogun's favor, he was granted a fief in present-day Hemi and thus rose to samurai status. Adams spent the rest of his days in Japan. He passed away in 1620 at the

age of 56.

Adams' influence lives on in Yokosuka. A train station, neighborhoods, and even a street near Hemi Station still bear his Japanese name, Anjin. People can visit the Englishman's grave in Tsukayama Park (Nishi Hemi-cho) or Jodoji (Nishi Hemi-cho 1-11), his family temple, which has a collection of Adams'



belongings. Every year on April 8 a ceremony and cherry blossom party are held in his honor (page 2), and this year, Yokosuka is even hosting the Anjin Summit, a gathering of representatives of the Four Anjin Cities to discuss and honor Adams.

It has been more than 400 years since Adams first arrived in Japan and gained land in Hemi, but his historical significance remains.

*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

**Name:** Koji Tomioka

**Brief introduction:** I am the president of FM Blue Shonan 78.5, a radio station broadcast from and for Yokosuka. I was born and raised in Yokosuka, and I can't imagine living anywhere else.

**Describe your new radio show "Yokosuka English Information":** It is a weekly bilingual English-



Japanese radio show. The same episode repeats at noon for a week at a time, and then we start a new episode every Monday. I speak in Japanese and

my co-host speaks in English, and we talk about upcoming Yokosuka events, tips for living in Japan, and local businesses.

**Your goal for the program:** If you don't speak Japanese, getting local information can be difficult, so I really just want to get useful, interesting information out to Yokosuka's English speaking residents. At the same time, if we can create fun study materials and help contribute to the bilingual atmosphere in this city that would be excellent.

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