

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

JULY

18-19 Umikaze Carnival

20 - Sea Day

20 - Yokosuka International Youth Forum

26 - Yokosuka Kaikoku-sai Festival (~8/1)

29-31 - Kinugasa Choi-nomi Bar Crawl

AUGUST

1 - Yokosuka Friendship Day (Open U.S. Navy Base)

8-9 - Arm Wrestling Tournament

22 - Uraga Port Fireworks

23 - Uwamachi Festa

29 - Nishi District Fireworks

SEPTEMBER

26 - Yokosuka Tug-of-War

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.

International Summer Fun!

Yokosuka International Youth Forum

When: July 20 (Mon.) 13:00-15:00

Where: Werk Yokosuka 6F

What: A great chance for jr. high and high school students to make some international friends and learn about the world. This forum consists of speeches in English from Yokosuka's sister city exchange students, fun games, and the chance to talk to people from all over the world.



Dollar Town Campaign



When: Aug. 1 (Sat.) - Sept. 30 (Wed.)

Where: At participating shops all over the Honch, Dobuita, Wakamatsu, Chuo, and Shioiri areas of Downtown Yokosuka

What: There are many shops in central Yokosuka that accept U.S. dollars. During this campaign, using dollars at participating shops will earn you a special hand towel! You can even earn stamps by using U.S. currency at multiple locations, and if you collect them all, you will receive a free coin purse! Each shop determines its own rate.

Arm Wrestling Tournament

When: Aug. 8 (Sat.) - 9 (Sun.) 14:00-15:00

Where: Dobuita Street Event Area

What: This two-day tournament is quickly becoming a yearly favorite. The preliminary round on Saturday is open to all challengers. Do you have what it takes to advance to the second day where you will take on special American and Japanese invitees?



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Umikaze Carnival

When: July 18 (Sat.) - 19 (Sun.) 10:00-15:00

Where: Umikaze Park

What: There's great fun to be had on land and sea! Take FREE rides on all sorts of different boats, learn about the Japanese Coast Guard, and of course eat amazing food! On Sunday, you can watch the thrilling national Jet Ski 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 26 (Sun.) - Aug. 1 (Sat.)

Where: Shiyakusho-mae Park (in front of city hall), Umikaze Park (8/1)

What: For the week of the *Kaikoku-sai* Festival, a stage and eating area will be set up at the park in front of city hall. Spend a summer evening outdoors, listening to great live music, and enjoying some nice refreshments. The festival will finish on August 1 with a huge fireworks display off the coast of Umikaze Park. This year will be especially spectacular in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Yokosuka Arsenal.



Hometown Yokosuka Uwamachi Festa

When: Aug. 23 (Sun.) 14:00-18:00

Where: Uwamachi Main Street (just up the hill from Yokosuka-Chuo Station)

What: The Uwamachi area of Yokosuka has a wonderful, nostalgic feeling. This small festival is a great way to meet some of the local community. It will include a tug-of-war competition, hula performances from local groups, watermelon smashing games, taiko drum performances, and great food. All are welcome!



Kinugasa Choi-nomi Bar Crawl

When: July 29 (Wed.) - 31 (Fri.)

Where: Shopping area around Kinugasa Station

What: For three nights, restaurants and shops around Kinugasa will be participating in this fun event. Buy a three- ticket set for ¥2,500. Each ticket can be redeemed at any participating shop for their "choi-nomi set," which usually includes a drink and a small dish. Use these tickets in any combination you see fit. The tickets will be sold at participating shops and a temporary booth.



Uraga Port Fireworks

When: Aug. 22 (Sat.) 19:30-20:00

Where: Uraga Port - just a 2 minute walk from Uraga Station

What: There won't be a bad seat in the house for this beautiful fireworks display out over the Uraga Port.



Yokosuka Tug-of-War

When: Sept. 26 (Sat.) 13:00-15:30

Where: Shiyakusho-mae Park (in front of city hall)

What: Get together 8-10 of your strongest friends to compete in this annual tug-of-war. Each team will receive a participation gift, and the top teams will win a special prize! Contact the Yokosuka Visitor Attraction Committee to register ahead of time. Day-of registration is also allowed.

Nishi District Fireworks

When: Aug. 29 (Sat.) 16:30-21:00

Where: JGSDF Camp Takeyama

What: For this special event, the Self-Defense Force base will be open to the public. Check out *obon* dances, SDF drum performances, and a ton of irresistible food booths! Once the sun goes down, the night will be lit up with over 1,200 fireworks! Don't forget your picture ID to enter the JGSDF base.

Culture Note: Jinbei and Yukata

There is no better way to spend a summer evening in Japan than heading out to a festival, preferably with fireworks. Many Japanese people go to local festivals in traditional summer wear such as *yukata* (for both men and women) or *jinbei* (for men). You can find both for pretty cheap at most places. If you are a true pro, you can even try to walk in *geta*, raised wooden sandals.



YOKOSUKA MUSEUM OF ART

Located at Kamoji 4-1. Open 10:00-18:00

Pay parking available

Exhibit:

"The Genesis of Ultraman 1966-1980"

Ultraman was an extremely innovative science fiction show, which influenced film-makers worldwide. This exhibit shows the passion of the show's makers and offers a window into Showa-era children's culture.

June 27 - August 30

General admission: ¥1,000

High school, university, 65 and over: ¥800

Jr. high and under: FREE



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continuing exhibit:

"Choshinta Brain Graphic"

Sept. 12 - Nov. 3

YOKOSUKA LIVING

Survival Japanese!

Gaining fluency in any foreign language is a lifelong process. However, enjoying life in Japan does not require the ability to analyze a Japanese newspaper or discuss the intricacies of foreign policy. For most, being able to figure out a menu and have conversations with friends is a much more useful and attainable goal. With this in mind, allow me to give a couple of ideas for how to approach this beast of a language.

Forget *kanji*. Forget *hiragana*. Focus on *katakana* at the beginning. There are more than 2000 *kanji* to learn, each with multiple readings, and very few words are written in *hiragana* alone, making it all but useless without knowing *kanji*. In studying *katakana*, you gain an understanding of how Japanese sounds. You can start to hear words as combinations of consonant-vowel components. Furthermore, you will be able to read words that are most often transliterations from English, meaning you already know the vocabulary. Lastly, there are only 46 relatively simple *katakana* characters, allowing you to memorize them fairly quickly.

Now that you have put in the effort to learn *katakana*, my advice is to put it aside and use a textbook that uses *romaji* - romanized Japanese. Grammatically, Japanese is difficult mostly because it is so different from English, but it follows its own logic with very few irregulars. What slows down native English-speakers is trying to learn to read. In



my opinion, if you study Japanese using your native writing system, then you will be able to progress much more quickly from the beginning.

Again, this advice is aimed at native English speakers who may only be in Japan temporarily but would like to learn basic Japanese to make their life a bit easier. This is not the same advice I would give to someone who hopes to become an interpreter or someone whose goal is to read their favorite *manga*. To find what's best for you, you must first determine what your goals with the language are and then create a method that suits those.

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

Yokosuka has four international sister cities:

Corpus Christi, USA
Brest, France
Fremantle, Australia
Medway, England

Every summer, Yokosuka City and the Yokosuka International Association send two local high school students to each sister city. Out of over sixty applicants, these eight students were chosen to represent Yokosuka as ambassadors.

Prior to their two-week trips in August, these *genki* students participate in weekly pre-departure orientations. At the orientation sessions, they learn about Yokosuka, practice speaking English with native speakers, study different aspects of Japanese culture, and prepare their English presentation for the International Youth Forum.

Wish them the best as they prepare for their life-changing trips!



All eight students in their "Ganbaru!" pose

Ganbatte Kudasai!

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