



Oita Fried Chicken

Recently Oita and Beppu have been battling over the origins of Tori-ten. This is not the first "Nanboku Sensou" (North vs. South war) in the prefecture. For decades the Karaage people of the north have argued with the Tori-ten south over which is superior. No actual fist fights have occurred, many or maybe a few have exchanged words over their favorite fried chicken, though.

While the southern Tori-teners have been feuding over where the origins of Tori-ten, a couple of cities in the north, Nakatsu and Usa have teamed together to make Karaage maps. These types of allies are essential in a long hard fought war of food, where word of mouth and advertising are two of the most potent weapons.

With all of the chicken hype that started the year, The Tombo decided to check out the biggest craze in chicken since the Chicken Dance. All of our intentions were on reaching a sophisticated well calculated decision and settling the debate once and for all, but we soon found that to be nearly impossible. Tori-ten and Karaage both have an original tasty flavor, and are never a bad choice when in a restaurant and feeling confused over the amount of unknown foods. I have yet to be disappointed by a Tori-ten or Karaage meal.

The differences and similarities between the two are few and most of them subtle. Karaage actually comes from

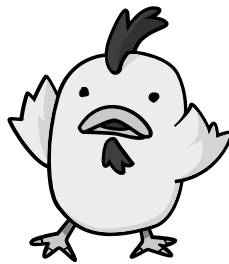


China, it is the kara in Karaage. The age comes from the word ageru, which means to deep fry something. The dish has evolved over time and according to a Chinese friend resembles nothing of a

Chinese dish. The main ingredients of Karaage are soy sauce, ginger, garlic, and chicken of course.

The biggest difference in each Karaage recipe's flavor is the amount of garlic. A popular monthly magazine in Oita Prefecture recently had a special article on Karaage in Nakatsu. The feature of this article was the garlic meter. Some restaurants and recipes use little garlic for a mild flavor, while others have a very strong garlic flavor. It all depends on your tastes as to which you choose to eat. Recently many restaurants have been adding new flavors like spicy hot (flavored with chili peppers) along with the different types of meat (breast, thigh, leg, etc.). The most traditional variations are boneless (hone nashi 骨なし) and bone-in (hone tsuki 骨付き) both made from thigh meat.

Tori-ten is much more of an original Japanese food. The



word Tori means chicken, and ten comes from the popular Japanese food Tempura. A homepage dedicated to Tori-ten has this on its title page "'Toriten' (chicken fried tempura style) is considered a symbol of original cooking in Oita!" (<http://www3.coara.or.jp/~toriten/>) It may not be Dango Jiru, but it is one of Oita's famous foods.

The main flavorings of Tori-ten are garlic, ginger, and soy sauce. The main difference in flavoring between Tori-ten and Karaage is in the sauce. Tori-ten is eaten with a tempura sauce and usually Chinese mustard (karashi). Another difference is the garlic flavor. Karaage tends to have a much stronger garlic taste than Tori-ten.

Many different Tori-ten dishes have been developed. My favorite is probably Tori-ten Nanban (this combines Chicken Nanban of Miyazaki with Oita's Tori-ten to make a wonderful treat).

The only decision that I was able to make on the battle of these two chicken dishes is they are both wonderful choices when at a restaurant trying to decide what to eat.

Also for those of you looking for Kentucky Fried Chicken here in Oita Prefecture, good luck. Oita has fewer Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurants than any other prefecture. Nakatsu Karaage prides itself on driving their lone Kentucky competitor out of business in the early 90's. Last year saw the return of Kentucky Fried Chicken to Nakatsu, but Nakatsu residents have predicted a quick departure. Good luck and happy chickening!



For more information on Tori-ten visit the Toriten World at <http://www3.coara.or.jp/~toriten/>. Also to pick up your own Karaage Map visit the Nakatsu or Usa City Halls (the Nakatsu map can viewed online at <http://www.city-nakatsu.jp/modules/kankou/index.php?id=181>). For information on a few suggested restaurants please visit the Oita International Plaza.

If you feel that Nakatsu is to far from Saiki, or you now reside in Tokyo but still crave good old Oita Chicken, a number of Nakatsu Karaage restaurants will mail you some of their famous chicken. See the Nakatsu Karaage map for more information.

If you would like to learn the Chicken Dance visit Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicken_Dance for step by step instructions.

Oita Fried Chicken Recipes

Karaage Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 chicken thigh
- 1 chicken breast
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup starch (片栗粉)
- 1 egg

Directions

1. Cut chicken into bite size pieces. Mix chicken with grated garlic, soy sauce, sesame oil, salt and pepper by hand.
2. Sprinkle starch over the chicken. Add egg and mix by hand.
3. Fry at 180 .



Tori-ten Recipe

Ingredients

- 400g chicken meat
- a pinch of garlic
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- a pinch of sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup flour (weak flour)
- water (to pancake batter thickness)

Directions

1. Cut chicken into bite size pieces. Grate garlic. Mix garlic, sugar, soy sauce, and meat together.
2. In a separate bowl mix flour, egg, and water. Add water little by little until the batter is a little thicker than regular tempura batter. (Small lumps in the batter are OK.)
3. Mix steps 1 and 2 together. Deep fry in oil at 180 Eat with Ponzu and Chinese mustard (karashi).

One of the Oita International Plaza Staff strongly recommends Tori-ten made with turkey rather than chicken, but that will probably have to wait until you are outside of Japan as turkey is not readily available here.



Aikawarazu Life in Japan

(J: JGY, and R: the reader)

J: This month I'd like to write a column about the Yamazaki Bread Truck.

R: The Yamazaki ... Bread Truck? You mean that white truck with the yellow trim and the little girl in the red circle biting into a piece of white bread?

J: That's the one. For some reason, every time I see it pass, I want to write something about it. It gives me a fortuitous feeling. As though it's trying to tell me that in this moment, everything is all right; that just maybe, I'm where I'm supposed to be ...

R: But of what use is it to put such musings into this newsletter? I couldn't help noticing that your column tends to be ... well ... for the most part, it just isn't exactly 'useful' to the Tombo reader ...

J: Maybe so. As a matter of fact, lately I've been veering towards writing about the 'useless'.

R: The useless? But why?

J: I read something that I agree with in a book called "Joy of Man's Desiring" by Jean Giono. Giono writes this: "Youth", said the man, is 'joy'. And youth is neither strength nor nimbleness, nor even youth as you described it; it's the passion for the useless."

R: Huh? Passion for the Useless? BTW, where did you find such a book anyway, here in Oita?

J: It looks like I am going to have to contradict myself here and give some 'useful' information after

all: I borrowed it from the Oita International Plaza Multilingual library.



^BI^ (Here, 'J' goes on with a lengthy discussion about the many fine points of the Oita International Plaza Multilingual library and its extensive collection of English language literature. Omitted, however due to space limitations) ^EI^

R: Ha, ha, ha. And, about the truck... I still wonder how the pieces connect. ^BI^ Youth, joy ... the girl ... the bread, the circle ^EI^

J: That's it! Something you just said. The bread I ate when I was a child ...

R: Could it be ... WONDER?!

J: ^BI^ (Alas, we've run out of space. Contentedly, as the dialogue trails off ...) ^EI^

JGY

**See page 8 for more information on the Oita International Plaza Multilingual Library and a chance to get some free books.*

The Necessities of Life

Dealing with Hay Fever

Hay fever is a common problem throughout the world. Sometimes a change of locations will help, and sometimes it will have the opposite effect. It all just depends on the pollens that you are allergic to. Pollen season in Japan is from mid February to late April, right now. If you happen to be one of the lucky sufferers here are a few words and a little advice that might help.



3. After coming inside brush down or change clothes.
4. After coming home for the day shower and change before moving around the rest of the house.
5. Don't dry laundry or futons outside.

Medications

Over the counter medications such as nasal sprays, medicated eye drops, and surgical face masks are available at most convenience stores, supermarkets, and drug stores. Other stronger medications can be obtained with a prescription. When using any medication it is recommended that you do so only as directed, as overdosing can have adverse consequences.

If symptoms persist or worsen it is recommended you see a doctor. If you need help finding an Ear Nose and Throat Clinic visit the Oita Medical Information System homepage at <http://www.hotnet.pref.oita.jp/qq/sho/qqtprforisr.aspx> (Otorhinolaryngology), or contact the Oita International Plaza.

Other Helpful words

English	Japanese
appointment	予約(yoyaku)
prescription	処方箋(shohosen)
hay fever	花粉症(kafunsho)
allergy	アレルギー(arerugi)
nasal Spray	点鼻薬(tenbiyaku)
eye drops	目薬(megusuri)

Information for this article was taken from the February 2008 Nagoya Calendar.

Common Symptoms

English	Japanese
sneezing	くしゃみ(kushami)
runny nose	鼻水がでる(hanamizu ga deru)
congested nose	鼻がつまる(hana ga tsumaru)
itchy nose	鼻が痒い(hana ga kayui)
itchy eyes	目が痒い(me ga kayui)
itchy ears	耳が痒い(mimi ga kayui)
itchy throat	喉が痒い(nodo ga kayui) 喉が渴く(nodo ga kawaku)
red eyes	目が充血(me ga juketsu)
watery eyes	涙目(namidame)
headache	頭痛(zutsu)
disturbed sleep	睡眠障害(suimin-shogai)
inability to concentrate	集中力がない(shuchuryoku ga nai)

Because the hay fever season and cold season overlap the two are often confused. If you think you might have hay fever you can be diagnosed at an Ear Nose and Throat Clinic(耳鼻咽喉科jibiinkoka).

How to prevent it

1. Wear a mask when you are outside.
2. Don't leave windows and doors open for prolonged periods

茶の味(The Taste of Tea)

DVD/1994/143min./English caption

Director : 石井克人(Ishii-Katsuto)

I'm very pleased to be allowed to introduce my favorite films to you all here. As a cinema lover, I'd especially like to introduce fine Japanese works which might be rare in your own country.

The very first picture that I want to recommend to you is "茶の味-The Taste of Tea". This film shows ordinary family life in Japan with a touch of comedy. Throughout the film, there are no big events, however, it shows that each person faces dramatic moments in their own lives.

Every scene is depicted with well-blended nostalgia

and modernity. Even though times are changing, there should be something eternal in people's lives, like the taste of tea for the Japanese.

At first, you might be surprised at the comical use of special effects in some scenes but you will soon get used to them. Pictures are stronger than words in the recollection of the memory. This unique film relies on pictures, so it might make it easier for Japanese learners to understand the whole movie.

Please remember your own moments from the past while watching this movie.

Kumiko Watanabe

History Corner: Japanese Student Movement Part 2

The second large wave of student protests in Japan began around 1967. This time the causes were numerous. The largest issue was the Vietnam War. Japan of course was not directly involved in the war, but the Japanese government was on record as officially supported the American War effort. Plus the many American military bases in Japan were often used as a stopping point for troops en route to Vietnam.

This was also true of the American basis in Okinawa, although Okinawa was still under the American administration authority at the time (it would not be returned to Japan until 1972). Thus the freedom of Okinawa became another issue in the student movement.

Students also protested the docking of American nuclear powered warships in mainland Japan, such as the visit of the "USS Enterprise" in 1967. Finally students pressed for reform within the University system, urging the University to become more democratic and protesting against exams and tuition increases.

At first the protests largely had the support of the Japanese public, but support waned as the protests became more and more violent. Images of students firebombing their own universities and throwing Molotov cocktails at police became common on Japanese TV. Finally in large universities the academic year was forced to stop all together as police stormed student barricades, and even the prestigious Tokyo University was not able to accept a new class of students because of riots on campus. When classes finally did begin again, they did so under police guard.

Much of the Japanese student movement was similar to student movements in Europe and in the United States at the same time. There was a generation gap between the old left in Japan and the new left. The old communist left had focused on sacrifice and misery, enduring torture and imprisonment in the 1930s. The new student left focused on joy, hedonism, excitement and happiness. The old left was dogmatically Marxist, while the new left showed a high interest in Marx, but also borrowed heavily from humanist and existentialist thinkers. In fact the student protests in 1960 were significant because they were the first leftist protests in Japan not controlled by the Communist party.

Also similar to Europe and America, many of the student organizations resisted the urge to organize themselves into well structured hierarchies despite large public support. A minimalist approach to structure was adopted, with an egalitarian emphasis. Visible leaders were discouraged.

However perhaps unique to Japan was the high level of factional infighting that took place among the student groups. Ideological splits have always been characteristic of the left, but at the height of the student movement in Japan the students spent more time fighting each other than they spent fighting the police. If you look at some of the old archival footage and see two groups of students with different color helmets

hitting each other over the head with wooden poles, you can not help but be reminded of a school sports day. Factional infighting between student groups even got so violent as to produce several casualties.

The violence on campus peaked around 1970, but various factions of the student movement continued in other places. The construction of Narita airport was a concentration of protest well into the 1970s, and even years after the airport was finished, protests would revive every time the airport expanded.

The farmers, who were forced to give up their ancestral land to make room for the airport, began the protest. They were quickly joined by the students who were able to lend ideological justification to the farmer's opposition. During the Vietnam War, there was also fear among the left that, because of the size of the proposed airport, it could be used to land U.S. military planes.

Two students and four riot police were killed during the years of violent protests surrounding the construction of Narita Airport.

Also as in Europe in America, some small terrorist groups did emerge out of the broader based student movement. The most famous of these was "The Japanese Red Army", which itself split into several different factions using the same name. One faction of the Red Army isolated itself up in the mountains where they held nightly purges until they had killed off 14 of their own members. The surviving members then took a tourist lodge hostage during a televised stand off with the police.

Another faction of the Red Army hijacked a passenger airplane and flew it to North Korea. They resided in North Korea for several years afterwards, and are rumored to have helped in the much publicized abduction of Japanese citizens by the North Korean government.

A third faction went to Paris where they hid out disguised as Japanese tourists. They formed alliances with Palestinian terrorists and are most famous for an attack at Lod Airport in Israel in which 26 people were killed. They also hijacked a Japan Airlines plane in Libya in 1973, and in 1974 blew up an oil storage tank in Singapore.

Further Reading

"Fire Across the Sea: the Vietnam War and Japan" by Thomas Havens.

"Blood and Rage: the story of the Japanese Red Army" by William Farrell (which can be found in Oita's Prefectural library).

Films

"Terrorist"

"The Choice of Hercules"

"Hikari no Ame"

Other than that, many local libraries have some sort of series of documentary videos on 20th Century Japan, which contain some footage of the student protests.

Joel Swagman

What's Going On?

Oita Heat Devils

Tickets can be purchased at Lawson Ticket and the Oita Heat Devils Homepage. For more information visit the homepage at www.heatdevils.com.

Mar. 8 (Sat) 16:00 Sendai 89ers
 Mar. 9 (Sun) 12:30 Sendai 89ers
 Oita Prefecture Gymnasium
 Mar. 29 (Sat) 17:00 Toyama Grouses
 Mar. 30 (Sun) 11:00 Toyama Grouses
 B-con Plaza

Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

Beppu City Hall offers free Japanese lessons every Tuesday from 13:30 - 15:00 at the Beppu City Hall. For more information contact the Beppu City Hall International Affairs Division 0977-21-6133 or int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp.

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita Emigration/Immigration Affairs Council organizes free consultations on the first Sunday of every month at Compal Hall in Oita City. Interpreters are available for English and Chinese. Consultations will be held on Feb. 3rd and March 2nd from 13:00 till 16:00.

The Oita International Plaza also organizes free legal consultations on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Oita International Plaza. Languages other than English may be available with a reservation at least 2 days prior to the consulting day. The next consultations will be held on Feb. 16th and March 15th from 13:00 till 16:00.

Oita International Charity Bike Ride

March 20th to 22nd will see some of Oita's bravest souls ride 300 grueling kilometers in three short days around Oita Prefecture. If you would like to sign up or donate to their cause contact Ryan Patalita at patalita@yahoo.com.

Clubs and Groups

AIUEO Japanese Lessons

Volunteers offer free Japanese lessons on Tuesday and Friday from 10:20 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Iichiko Culture Center (OASIS Hiroba 21), as well as Thursday nights at Compal Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Also, lessons are offered in Beppu at the International House (国際交流会館) on Tuesday mornings 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more info, contact: Ms. Miyase 090-8353-2485 (day lessons) Ms. Kato 097-532-5940 (night lessons)

Oita Book Club

Contact Doron at doronklemer@hotmail.com

Charity Poker Night

Contact Doron at doronklemer@hotmail.com

Oita Charity Wine Tasting

Contact Doron at doronklemer@hotmail.com

Stage

March

2 (Sun) 13:30 The 13th Little Concert ICC OH Free 090-4516-5993
 2 (Sun) 18:00 Porno Grafitti ICC GT ¥7,000 092-712-4221
 5 (Wed) 18:30 Oita Prefecture College of Arts and Culture Ensemble Evening ICC OH Free 097-545-8758
 6 (Thu) 19:00 NHK Orchestra ICC GT GS¥6,000 S¥5,000 A¥4,500 B¥4,000 Student ¥2,000 097-533-4004
 7 (Fri) 12:00 and 14:30 Bunraku ICC OH A¥4,000 B¥3,000 097-533-4004
 8 (Sat) 18:00 Okuda Tamio Eight Pia Ono ¥5,900 0974-22-8000
 8 (Sat) 10:00 Little Spring Concert ICC OH Free 097-544-9250
 9 (Sun) 18:30 Gagaga SP Oita T.O.P.S. ¥3,000 092-712-4221
 9 (Sun) 14:00 Women's Choir Rashinu ICC OH Adult ¥1,000 Student ¥500 090-2088-2703
 20 (Thu) 18:00 Utai Bitō Hane Oita T.O.P.S. ¥3,800 092-714-0159
 21 (Fri) 19:00 Martin Helmchen ICC OH Adult ¥3,000 Student ¥1,500 090-8391-8788
 22 (Sat) 19:00 The 33rd Oita Steel Corporation Oita Works Brass Brand Concert ICC GT Adult ¥1,000 Student ¥500 080-6426-2079
 22 (Sat) 18:30 Teiyouzoku Oita T.O.P.S. ¥2,500 097-533-0467
 22 (Sat) 18:00 Uenogaoka High School Performance ICC OH Adult ¥500 Student ¥300 097-543-6249
 23 (Sun) 13:00 Various Sounds ICC OH ¥500 097-541-5450
 23 (Sun) 14:00 Brass Festa in Saiki Saiki Culture Hall ¥500 0972-23-1526
 23 (Sun) 14:00 Kokonoe Community Performance Compal Hall ¥1,500 090-7458-9647
 24 (Mon) 19:00 Squeeze, Ghost Oita T.O.P.S. ¥2,000 097-533-0467
 25 (Tue) 17:00 Chime Festival ICC OH ¥500 097-541-5450
 25 (Tue) 19:00 Merry Oita T.O.P.S. ¥4,200 092-713-6085
 27 (Thu) 13:30 Hofu High and Junior High School Performance ICC OH Free 097-546-2222
 30 (Sun) 10:30 13:30 Jack and the Bean Stalk ICC GT ¥1,000 03-3667-8871
 30 (Sun) 18:00 Kari Yushi 58 Oita T.O.P.S. ¥2,500 092-712-4221

31 (Mon) Martin Helmchen and Francesco Piemontesi ICC OH Adult ¥3,500 Student ¥1,500 090-8391-8788

April

4 (Fri) 19:00 HHR Thrill Lounge Oita T.O.P.S. ¥2,500 092-712-4221
 12 (Sat) 19:00 The Bawdies Oita T.O.P.S. ¥2,000 097-533-0467
 12 (Sat) 19:00 Otsuka Ai ICC GT ¥7,350 092-714-0159
 17 (Thu) 19:00 Jun Sky Walkers Oita T.O.P.S. ¥5,500 092-714-0159
 19 (Sat) 17:30 Lunkhead Tour '08 Oita T.O.P.S. ¥3,000 097-533-0467
 23 (Wed) 19:00 Ingrid Fuzjko 2008 Solo Recital ICC GT GS¥12,000 S¥10,000 A¥8,000 097-592-0584
 24 (Thu) 18:30 Reireisha Bafu ICC OH ¥2,000 097-558-7122

In Later Months

May 4 (Sun) 18:00 Sex Machineguns Oita T.O.P.S. ¥3,900 097-533-0467 (Tickets on Sale March 15th)
 May 10 (Sat) 14:00 Beppu Algerich Music Festival Music Festival to the World ICC OH Adult ¥2,100 Student ¥1,050 0977-27-2299
 May 11 (Sun) 13:00 Kid's Orchestra Performance (Rehearsal) ICC GT Free w/ child 0977-27-2299
 May 11 (Sun) 18:00 Algerich Festival Orchestra Concert ICC GT S¥12,600 A¥10,500 B¥8,400 C¥6,300 0977-27-2299
 May 11 (Sun) 19:00 Flower Companyz Oita T.O.P.S. ¥3,000 097-533-0467
 May 18 (Sun) 18:30 The Privates Oita T.O.P.S. ¥2,500 097-533-0467
 May 21 (Wed) 19:00 Scoobie Do Oita T.O.P.S. ¥3,000 097-533-0467 (Tickets on sale March 29th)
 June 14 (Sat) 16:00 Yuzu B-con Plaza ¥6,500 092-714-0159
 June 19 (Thu) Monte Carlo Philharmonic ICC GT 097-533-4004

Abbreviations

ICC Iichiko Culture Center • GT - Iichiko Grand Theater,
 OH - Iichiko Otonoizumi Hall • Iichiko Space Be - BE
 Tickets on sale already unless stated otherwise

Ticket Offices

Ticket Pia ☎0570-02-9911

Oita Ticket Pia Outlets

Tokiwa Kaikan トキワ会館 ☎097-538-1111

Tokiwa Beppu Store ☎0977-23-1111

Humac Ticket Pal Minaharu ☎097-524-0097

Family Mart Convenience Stores

Lawson Ticket ☎092-847-9999

Oita Lawson Ticket Outlets

Beppu Eto Nankaido ☎0977-22-0827

Daiei Beppu Store ☎0977-23-5191

Daiei Hita Store ☎0973-24-6131

Lawson Convenience Stores

For stages produced by the Iichiko Culture Center (OASIS), tickets are also available at OASIS info desk (F1).

EXHIBITION

Date	Title	Place	Admission	Info
March16(Sun)	Okahan Joka Machi Hina Doll Display	Citizens' Gallery Suikinton		☎0974-63-2200
March 22(Sat)	The 42 nd Oita Art Museum Public Exhibit	Oita Art Museum	Adult ¥300 Student ¥200	☎097-554-5800
March23(Sun)	Oita's Swords	Oita Prefecture Historical Museum	Adult ¥300 Student ¥150	☎0978-37-2100
March 15 (Sat) 23 (Sun)	Machi no Moyo Hiraka Nagisa	ICC Space Be	Free	☎097-533-4004
March31(Mon)	Mosquito Fujinaga Mitaka	Yufuin Eki Art Hall		☎0977-84-4678
April 6 (Sun)	Takeuchi Seiho and Students	Nikaido Art Museum	Adult ¥800 Student ¥500	☎0977-73-1100
April 20 (Sun)	Oita's 20 th Century Modern Art- Japan Style Works, Western Style Works, and many others by Oita's very own.	Oita Art Museum	Adult ¥300 Student ¥200	☎097-554-5800

Oita Art Museum= Oita-shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館
 Nikaido Art Museum=Nikaido Bijutsukan 二階堂美術館
 Oita Prefecture Historical Museum=Oita-kenritsu Rekishi Hakubutsukan 大分県立歴史博物館
 Most Museums and Centers are closed on Monday, or Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday.
 ** Admission - Student refers to Elementary, Junior and Senior High School students, unless otherwise stated.
 University students are usually charged Adult admission.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Date・Time	Festival	Location	Info
Mar.1(Sat) 11:00	Commencement of Yufuin Horse Carriage Rides- This annual event marks the beginning of spring in Yufuin	Yufuin Station, Yufuin City	☎0977-85-4464
Mar. 2 (Sun) 10:00 16:00	The 21 st Oka no Sato Meisui Marathon- Come enjoy the pure waters of Taketa City while getting your exercise. Courses from 3km walking to a full marathon will be offered.	Taketa Culture Hall, Taketa City	☎0974-63-4817
Mar. 2 (Sun) 13:00	Yayoi no Mura Hina Festival- Not only will you be able to enjoy the beautiful dolls of Yayoi, you can make your very own.	Rekishi Taiken-Gakushukan, Kunisaki City	☎0978-72-2677
Mar. 2 (Sun)	The 28 th Hita Oyama Plum Blossom Festival- One of the largest plum blossom festivals in the country, this promises many spectacular eye treats along with great traditional Japanese festival fun.	Oyama-machi, Hita City	☎0973-52-3004
Mar. 9 (Sun)	Kitsuki Joka Machi Hina Doll Viewing- Special festivities will be held on the first and final days.	Joka-machi, Kitsuki City	☎0978-62-3131
Mar. 9 (Sun)	Nakatsu Joka Machi Hina Festival- A procession and Koto concert will be performed on specific days.	Moto-machi, Nakatsu City	☎0979-22-1111
Mar. 16 (Sun)	Okuhan Joka Machi Hina Matsuri- Hina dolls with hundreds of years of history will be on display among other festivities throughout the period.	Joka-machi, Taketa City	☎0974-63-2638
Mar. 16 (Sun) 9:00	The 18 th Innai Ishibashi Marathon- 10K, 5K, 3K, and 2K courses will be available. Elementary age runners and up are encouraged to participate.	Innai-machi, Usa City	☎0978-42-6321
Mar. 16 (Sun) 9:00	The 23 rd Yamabiko River Line Marathon- There will be 10K, 5K, and 3K courses. A participation prize will be included.	Yamaguni-machi, Nakatsu City	☎0979-62-3111
Mar. 16 (Sun) 9:20	The 9 th Hita Tenryo Hina Matsuri Marathon- Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, and 2K courses will be offered. Prizes for the top finishers in the perspective classes will also be given.	Tenryo-machi, Hita City	☎0973-22-8222
Mar. 16 (Sun) 11:30 15:00	Uki uki Flea Market	ICC Atrium Plaza	☎097-538-7411
Mid Mar.	Yoshino Ume Matsuri- Over 450 plum trees promise to make for a plum tree heaven as the trees will be cut, carved, and trimmed into a dragon lying on its back.	Yoshino Shrine, Oita City	☎097-595-1676
Mar. 19 (Wed) 20 (Thu)	Futago Temple Hatsuuma Grand Festival- Festivities and prayers for the birth of children will be performed.	Aki-machi Kunisaki City	☎0978-65-0253
Mar. 20 (Thu) 13:00	Morotayama Temple Taue Festival- Over 180 years of tradition are in this planting festival. Many festivities that offer plenty of entertainment and humor will enliven these prayers for good harvests.	Aki-machi, Kunisaki City	☎0978-67-1116
Mar. 30 (Sun)	Monjusen Temple Festival- Along with other festivities you will be able to drink the special waters of wisdom.	Kunisaki-machi, Kunisaki City	☎0978-74-1400
Mar. 31 (Mon)	Hita Tenryo Hina Festival- Hina dolls came into existence about 1,000 years ago during the Heian period as a toy for the princess.	Hita City	☎0973-23-2036
Apr. 6 (Sun) 11:00	Okajo Sakura Festival- Flea markets, gate ball, and much more will be included in the festival fun. Okajo is also a highly recommended Sakura sight seeing spot.	Joka-machi, Taketa City	☎0974-63-2638
Apr. 6 (Sun)	The 32 nd Usuki Sakura Marathon- 10K, 5K, 3K, and 1K courses along with the prizes for the top finishers, oldest runners, etc.	Usuki City	☎0972-63-1111

MOVIES

Cinema	Movie	Date
Cinema 5 ☎097-536-4512	Once	Mar. 7
	Jesse James	Mar. 21
	4 Minutes	Mar. 8 Mar. 21
	Angel	Mar. 15 Mar. 21
	Eden	Mar. 22 Mar. 28
Cineflex ☎097-548-7878	Brodre	Mar. 29 Mar. 31
	Vitus	Mar. 29 Apr. 4
	American Gangster	Now Showing
	Elizabeth The Golden Age	Now Showing
	Mr.Magorium's Wonder Emporium Evening	Now Showing
	The Golden Compass	Now Showing
	Jumper	Mar. 1
Vantage Point	Mar. 7	
T-Joy ☎097-528-7677 24-hr info line ☎097-528-7678	Enchanted	Mar. 8
	My Blueberry Nights	Mar. 14
	Wild Hogs	Mar. 22
	Mr.Magorium's Wonder Emporium	Now Showing
	Elisabeth: The Golden Age	Now Showing
	The Golden Compass	Now Showing
	Jumper	Mar. 1
Vantage Point	Mar. 7	
	Enchanted	Mar.8
	My Blueberry Nights	Mar. 14
	Le Scaphandre et le Papillon	Mar. 22
		March

Only foreign movies are listed, and there may be changes during the month. Please don't forget to turn off your cell phone and not to talk during the movie!

Admission Standard ¥1,800 Pre-release ¥1,500 Pair ¥2,800
Seniors ¥1,000 Students ¥1,000 1,500

Special Discounts The first day of the month ¥1,000
Lady's Day (Wednesdays) ¥1,000
Men's Day is ¥1,000
(Thursday at Cineflex, Friday at T-Joy)
First Show Everyday ¥1,000 for men (Cinema 5)
Late Night Show (Sun-Fri) ¥1,200 (Cineflex, T-Joy)

"Watch! Listen! Learn! Countries of the World"

• Saturday, March 1, 2008

10:30	Instructor	Tanihara Branca (Mexico)
12:00	Title	Various Things of Mexico
13:00	Instructor	Maria Venneri (Italy)
14:30	Title	The Italy Japan Doesn't Know
15:00	Instructor	Hamabe Chizu (Japan)
16:30	Title	A Groupie's Guide to Kabuki

• Iichiko Culture Center Small Theater B1F (Eizosho Ho-ru)

* Seminar will be in English.

There is a 30 person limit per presentation. Each presentation is 500 yen, but if you reserve your seat by Feb. 28th you can attend all three presentations for 1,000 yen or 2 presentations for 800 yen. You can make a reservation by contacting the Oita International Plaza (c/o Imabeppu) by phone 097-533-4021 or E-mail in@emo.or.jp.

Receiving The Tombo

The Oita International Plaza mails the Tombo, free of charge, to all and any foreigners living in Oita prefecture. Send your name and address to the Oita International Plaza by mail, phone, fax, or E-mail (michael@emo.or.jp).

Making Submissions

Submissions to the Tombo are also welcome and accepted with great appreciation. Send your submissions to the Oita International Plaza by mail, phone, fax, or E-mail (michael@emo.or.jp). As with event information all submissions *must* be received no later than the 15th of the month before publication. However, in the event of a large number of contributions, the editor cannot guarantee that an article will be printed. It is highly recommended to contact the editor near the beginning of each month before making a submission.

Note from the Editor

I hope everyone enjoys this issue and tries some of Oita famous fried chicken. It may not be Kentucky's, but Oita has a very tasty fried chicken. Also on March 1st I would like to invite everyone to come learn about Kabuki with Ms. Hamabe at the "Countries of the World" event. This event will help your goals of learning more about traditional Japan. For more information on this event please see the add on the left hand side of the page.

Mike
michael@emo.or.jp

The Fantastic Adventures of Oita Ben 大分弁講座

Perhaps most may associate March with St. Patrick's Day and Emeralds, but Oita Ben, that benevolent befouler of fowls, has caught diamond fever. After locating a strange map deep within the Rocky Mountains, Oita Ben and his persistent party, Guy Jean and Hyo Jun Go, head for what appears to be the mother lode of that sparkling gem. Turning onto Arapahoe Road from I-25 and then heading a half mile east to Emporia Street, the band of bandits finally reaches the trove. Mound upon mound of shiny crystal goodness, ripe for the picking. But an unexpected barrier awaited their arrival. A special contraption floods the vault with a pool of poisonous tigers swimming in a light citric acid cream every night, Monday thru Friday at eight, Saturday and Sunday at five. It being 4:15 Sunday evening, Oita Ben and company scramble to hoard as many of the precious stones as they can before any one has to find out just what a poison tiger looks likes.

Guy Jean: Forget the small ones, (because) we're out of time!
Hyo Jun Go: ちいさいのはわすれる。じかんがないから!
Oita Ben: ちっちええのわすれる。じかんがねえけん!

Today's lesson (けん): In standard Japanese, the particle 'kara' has two main meanings. First, it expresses causal relationships between two sentences, like 'because' or 'so' in English. The second meaning is denoting a starting point, an origin from which something is moving or progressing, like the English 'from' and 'since.' In Oita dialect, when 'kara' is used in the first definition as a conjunction expressing causal relationships, Oitans will often instead say 'ken.' This substitution is characteristic of Western Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku. Please note however, that the change does not apply to the second definition of 'kara.'

1.息子がグレイビーをこぼしたから(orけん)今年のクリスマスはない。
Because my son spilled the gravy, there's no Christmas this year.

2.息子がグレイビーをこぼした日から(けん not acceptable)クリスマス
を祝(いわ)わなくなった。
We stopped celebrating Christmas from the day my son spilled the
gravy.

Free Foreign Book Giveaway

Every year the kind residents of Oita Prefecture donate their unwanted books to the Oita International Plaza. The Plaza uses as many of these books as possible, but for reasons of space we have to either throw the books away or give them to you. We choose to give them to you, so please come by and pick up some new reading material. The majority of the books are in English, but there are few books in other languages. Details for the book giveaway are as follows:

When: Mar. 1(Sat) ~ 8(Sat)

9:30 ~ 19:00

*The Plaza will be closed on Mar. 2 (Sun).

Where: Oita International Plaza

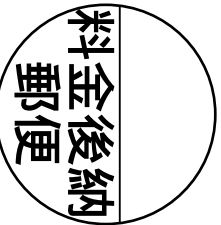
Contact: Oita International Plaza c/o Mike

TEL: 097-533-4021

FAX: 097-533-4052

*There is a five book per person limit)

The Oita International Plaza Multilingual Library has over 1,000 titles in 5 different languages. We are always accepting donations, so bring your unwanted books by anytime.



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THANK YOU!!

A special thanks to all those who co-operated with us for this issue. Your help was very much appreciated.

The Tombo is produced by :

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HOURS: Monday Friday 9:30am 7:00pm
 (closed weekends and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)
 Closed national holidays & Dec 29 - Jan 3

The Oita International Plaza is a 10-minute walk from Oita Station. Walk up Chuo-dori or the parallel arcade until the roofed plaza with the model Portuguese ship and fountain. Turn left and walk to the end of the arcade. The OASIS Hiroba 21 building is across the street and is easily identified by the OASIS Tower. The International Plaza is located on the basement floor, within Space Be.

