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hyogo times

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.....*Inside*.....

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What's on Japan:
October

Hyogo Times Staff

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All JETs in Hyogo are encouraged to send in articles, musings, poetry, prose and any ideas to improve the Hyogo Times for the betterment of the Hyogo JET community. Submit by the 15th of each month to: hyogotimespublications@gmail.com.

Hello!

Message from the Editor

Hello all!

October has arrived and with it far more temperate weather as we inch closer to the spectacular leaf-changes of autumn, one of my favourite seasons. **Did you know Japan has four seasons?** It may not be the first time you've been asked this and it certainly won't be the last! This question, which can at first bemuse the majority of us who come from countries with four of their own seasons, stems from the ingrained sense of Japanese pride in their four seasons. I think it is possibly because a lot of Asian countries simply have wet and dry seasons, but mainly because, in Japan, each of the four has such clearly defined and beautiful features. Westerners may initially scoff at comments about the seasons, thinking they know what autumn leaves are, but just wait until you've experienced a full cycle of the extremes of season Japan has to offer; I dare you not to look forward to the unique qualities of each (yes, even the heat of summer). And if by writing about autumn I inadvertently curse us to an Indian summer, my profuse apologies, please take solace in the fact that my British constitution will seriously suffer from any further prolonging of this darn humidity.

So our first month back has whizzed by in a blur of self-introductions, sports festivals (personal highlight: the Junior Red Cross club carrying a heavily bandaged team member on a stretcher instead of a relay baton) and typhoons. Hopefully we have seen the last of the latter and no one lost too much laundry to the

winds. September's two long weekends were delightful, I spent one of mine in Hong Kong; it was a gourmet dining and shopping bonanza. I couldn't bring myself to write about the food (including the world's cheapest Michelin starred restaurant) without salivating all over the keyboard but I can wholeheartedly recommend the city for the next long weekend you have free.

Not only does October bring us cooler temperatures and fun in the form of Halloween, but also the disruption of mid-term exams, bane to some ALTs, joy to others. So whether, like me, you're stuck at school marking and planning or taking some well-deserved time off, take a break and enjoy what the Hyogo Times has in store for you this month... Kylie's catching us all up on the very topical Australia vs. Japan Whaling case at the ICJ; Cherie's preparing us for winter weather with a **katsudon** recipe, and I've been using you lot as justification for getting nostalgic about my summer holidays in Indonesia, plus much more!

Until November,

Char

Hello x 2!

Message from the PR

Hello Hyogo!

Happy Halloween! OK so I know I'm a bit early, but Halloween will be here before we know it! For me October means all of my sports festivals are over and it's time to start teaching again, including getting ready for my Halloween lessons.

This month there are a lot of fun events happening around Hyogo and other places in Japan. The first event that hopefully many of you will go to is the Hyogo AJET Book Club event on Saturday, October 6th at Cafe Mamounia in Kobe. This will be a fun time to meet and discuss the book **Before I Go to Sleep** by S.J. Watson.

Hyogo AJET will be going rafting along the Yoshino River in Shikoku on the weekend of October 12th. I went last year and it was a great trip that I'll never forget. Those of you going I hope you have a blast!

Have you thought about your Halloween costume yet? There will be various Halloween parties happening throughout Hyogo in October so get ready! The AJET Block 6 Halloween Bash will be on Saturday, November 2nd at Giraffe in Osaka. It'll be a great party that you won't want to miss.

Many other fun events are happening in Hyogo, including the Kobe Biennale. The Kobe Biennale will be held from October 1st to December 1st in various locations in Kobe. There will be several art exhibits during this time so I hope you can check them out! Check out the [website](#) for more information.

Have a great month, and I hope to see you around!

Patricia



カツ丼 Katsudon

On my opinion this is the best Japanese comfort food, and likely to be found in your school's cafeteria as a favourite amongst the students too. Katsu is breaded pork and don means atop rice, the clincher is the steamed egg and sweet sauce topping combination: winning.

Ingredients

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

Serves: 2

- 1 cup of rice
- 2 pork chops (fat trimmed)
- 100g breadcrumbs (パン粉)
- ½ onion (thinly sliced)
- handful of spring onions (thinly sliced)
- 2 eggs (lightly beaten)
- flour for dusting
- salt and pepper
- vegetable oil (enough to cover one surface of pork)

Sauce

- ½ cup of dashi (fish stock) or hot water
- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp sugar

Step one

While the rice is cooking, tenderize the pork and then season with salt, pepper and dust with flour on both sides.

Step two

Dip the pork chops in egg then coat in breadcrumbs.

Step three

Heat vegetable oil and fry pork for approx. 4 minutes on each side, until golden.

Step four

Remove from heat, once cooled, cut into 1 inch pieces. (Katsu done!)

Step five

Mix all the ingredients for the sauce together.

Step six

In a nabe pot (or any pot with a lid), fry the onions until translucent.

Step seven

Add the katsu pieces into the pot and pour the sauce over.

Step eight

Pour the eggs over everything and sprinkle in the spring onions.

Step nine

Put the lid on and cook for 2 minutes, or until the egg is cooked.

Step nine

Dish up over rice.

Now sink under the kotatsu and enjoy in comfort!

Cherie Pham



Testing the Waters

The legality of whaling tried in Australia v Japan



If you are an Australian or

New Zealander living in Japan for any extended period of time, whaling will undoubtedly have arisen as a topic of conversation. It may be sprung on you out of the blue at an enkaï during a course of whale, or initiated by your own actions if you're bored in the staff room and spoiling for a fight. Currently, Australia and Japan are engaged in a similar conversation on an international scale in the International Court of Justice with the case **Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v Japan: New Zealand intervening)**. Emotions aside,* here is a summary of the law and the case as it stands as we await the verdict of the Court.

The Convention

Australia and Japan are both signatories to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (**the Convention**), and members of the International Whaling Commission established under it. The Convention is directed towards providing for the proper conservation of whale stocks and ensuring the orderly development of the whaling industry.

The Convention establishes annual catch limits for members. Since 1986, this has been set at zero, effectively banning commercial whaling. However Japan currently exploits an exemption in the Convention, which allows member states to grant nationals a special permit to kill, take and treat whales for the purposes of scientific research. Japan has issued scientific permits in the Antarctic, specifically, the Japanese Whale Research Program under Special Permit in the Antarctic Phase II (**JARPA II**).

The objectives of JARPA II are defined by Japan as being:

- ① Monitoring of the Antarctic ecosystem;
- ② Modeling competition among whale species and developing future management objectives;
- ③ Elucidation of temporal and spatial changes in stock structure; and
- ④ Improving the management procedure for Antarctic Minke whale stocks.

JARPA II has an annual quota of 850 minke whales, 50 fin whales and 50 humpback whales. Japan's deputy foreign minister, Koji Tsuruoka, has stated that this "comprehensive scientific research program" is conducted due to Japan's desire to "resume commercial whaling, based on science, in a sustainable manner".

The ICJ Case

On 30 May 2010, Australia instituted proceedings before the International Court of Justice (**ICJ**) against the Government of Japan. In its submissions, Australia alleges that, by authorising and implementing JARPA II, Japan is in breach of its international obligations pursuant to the Convention as well as other international obligations for the preservation of marine mammals and the marine environment. In particular, Australia alleges Japan has breached, and will continue to breach, the obligations under the Convention to:

- ① Observe in good faith the zero catch limit in relation to the killing of whales for commercial purposes; and
- ② To act in good faith to refrain from undertaking commercial whaling of humpback and fin whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

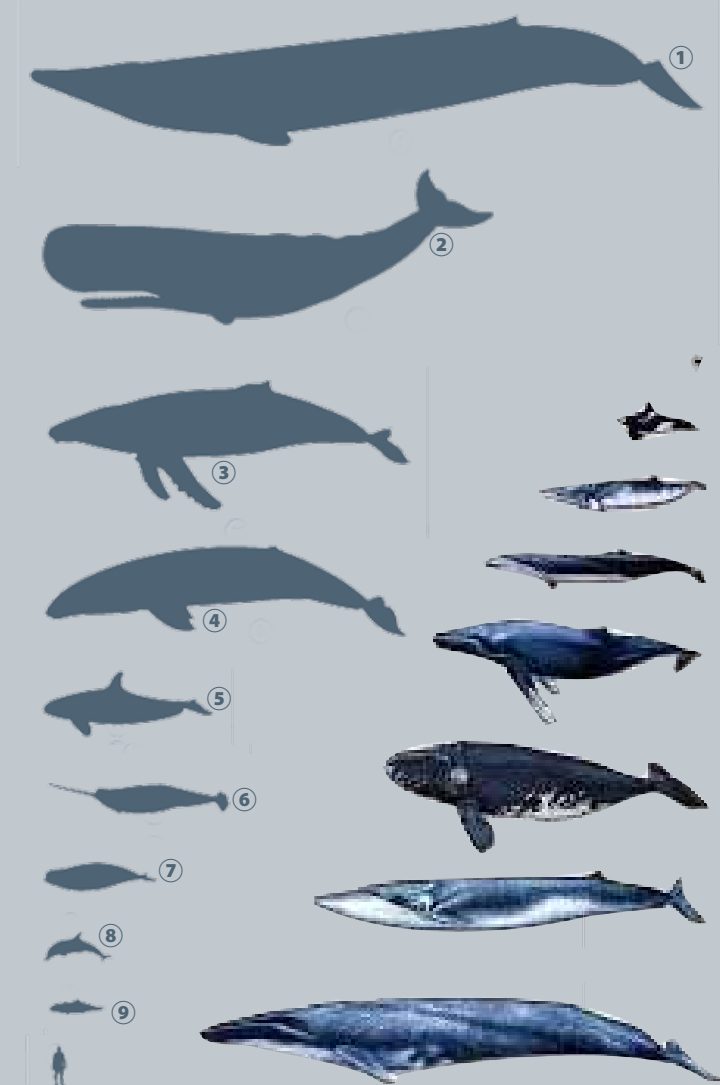
In reply, Japan submitted that the ICJ had no jurisdiction to hear the claims brought by Australia, or, in the alternative, rejected the claims of Australia.

On 20 November 2012, New Zealand filed a Declaration of Intervention and was granted permission to intervene as a non-party by Court Order on 6 February 2013.

The Submissions

The key issue to be decided by the ICJ is whether JARPA II can properly be categorised as "scientific research" within the meaning of the exemption.

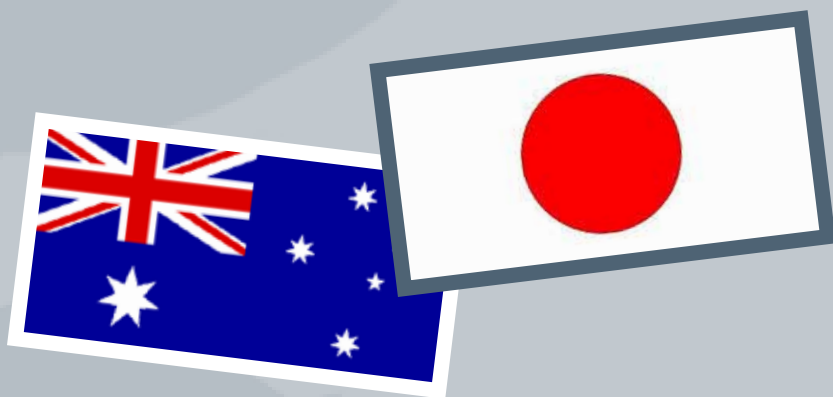
Australia argues that JARPA II is commercial whaling disguised as scientific research, and is not capable of justification under the exemption. JARPA II has "no testable hypothesis, no relation between means and ends, no peer review, no calculation of the need for lethal taking, [and] no endpoint in sight." Having regard to the scale of the programme, "the lack of any demonstrated relevance for the conservation and management of whale stocks, and to the risks presented to targeted species and stocks," JARPA II cannot be justified under the Convention exemption as "science". Australia requests the ICJ adjudge and declare Japan to be in breach of its international obligations, and to require Japan take various steps to cease implementation of JARPA II in violation of international law.



- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| ① Blue whale | ④ Grey whale | ⑦ Beluga whale |
| ② Sperm whale | ⑤ Orca | ⑧ Bottlenose dolphin |
| ③ Humpback whale | ⑥ Narwhal | ⑨ Harbour porpoise |



Feature



...continued

In reply, Japan argues that JARPA II adheres to the Convention exemption, and that the exemption "leaves each state free to decide for itself what should be included within its program of scientific research." Japan states that the purpose of JARPA II is to obtain scientific information to establish whether commercial whaling is sustainable. Accordingly, it argues that the ICJ, as an international court of law, cannot decide between opposing scientific assessments, and that it is not enough for some scientists to disagree with the methodology of the programme for it to be considered unscientific.

The findings?

Public hearings concluded on 16 July 2013. The Court is now deliberating and will deliver a verdict at a future date. At this time a further update will be provided.

An ICJ judgment is binding on member states and there is no right of appeal. Both parties have agreed to be bound by the verdict. However Japan has indicated that an adverse finding may cause it to withdraw from the Commission and the Convention.

*In the interests of full and fair disclosure, the author does not agree with Japanese whaling for allegedly scientific purposes, however accepts that comparable arguments can be raised in relation to similarly unethical and unsustainable practices linked to commercial meat production in Australia and internationally. While this account will therefore be influenced by subjective bias, to the greatest extent possible neutral language has been used to provide as informative and impartial an analysis as possible.

Kylie Pinder

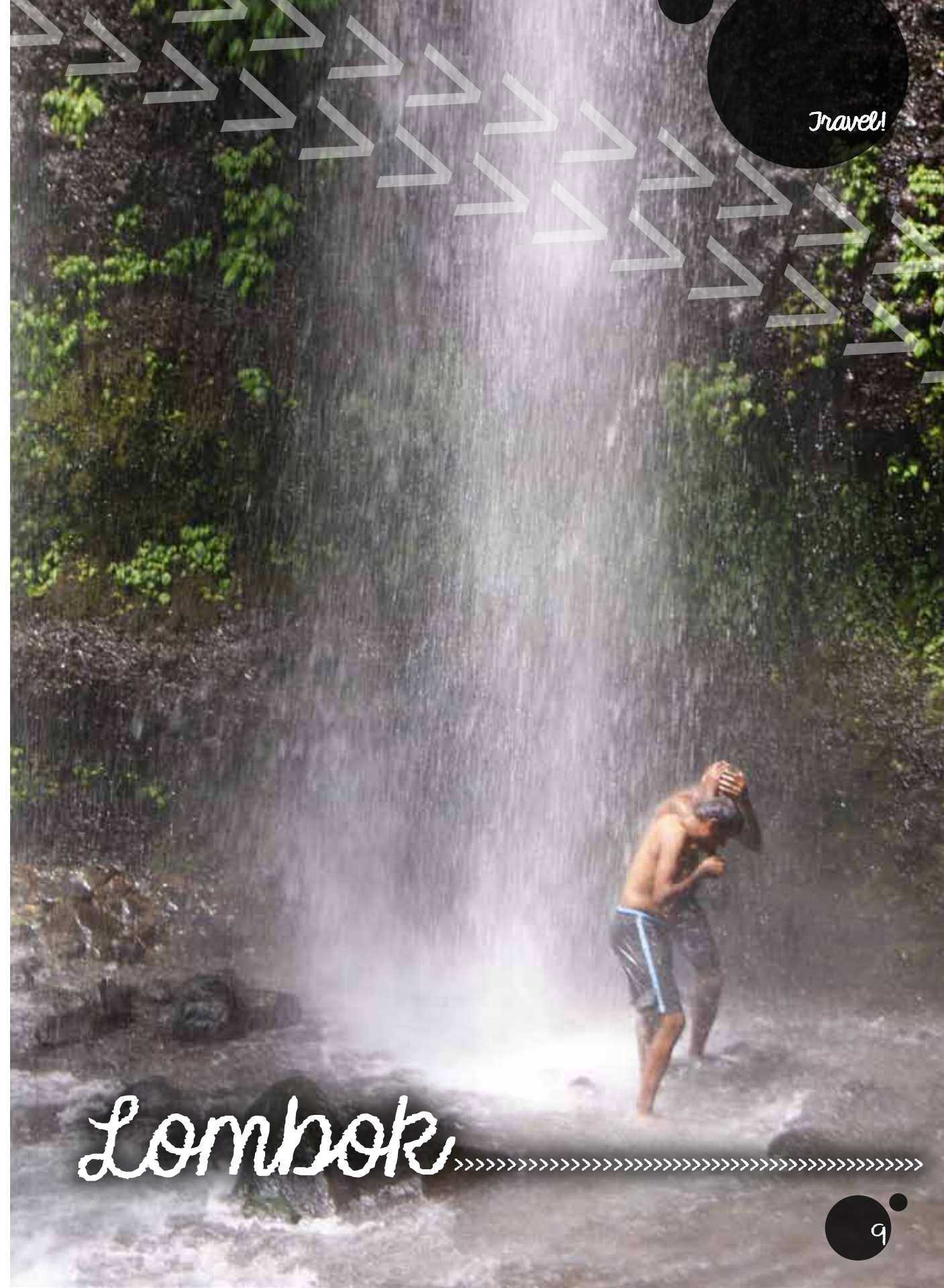
Want to know more?

Have a look [here](#) for official court documents and party arguments.

Do you have an opinion on whaling? [Share it](#) with the author.



Travel!



Lombok

Lombok, Bali's big brother

When it comes to the winter

vacation period, in my mind there are three options: stay in Japan and indulge in champagne powder skiing (did that last year), head home for creature comforts (this year's plan) or jet off somewhere exotic where the idea of needing a kotatsu would make locals guffaw. If you fall into the third category then I've the perfect year-round destination for you...

Indonesia may be best known for the traffic clogged hell of Jakarta and the pounding surf and even wilder nightlife in Bali. However if you want an idyllic destination, just touching the beaten track, where you can experience all the wonders of tourist trap Bali whilst avoiding Jakarta's smog, then **Lombok** is the island for you.

Access to Lombok is via neighbouring Bali; usually by a 2 hour fast boat from the port towns of either Padang Bai or Sanur. Even on a good day this speedy crossing is not for the faint hearted. It is highly recommended to nab a seat inside at the back to limit the effect of the impact as

the boat crashes down into the water from the peak of each wave. Those foolhardy enough to stake a claim to the top deck to sunbathe should go prepared with waterproof poncho and trousers, and hold on tightly to the safety bar, for it is not unknown to be thrown off into the channel! A short flight from Bali to Lombok is a more decadent, and certainly drier, option, although the taxi drive at either end may be equally as hair-raising.

Arriving at the northern coast of Lombok by boat is an experience in itself. Views of the island's volcanic mountains are spectacular; they seem to grow straight out of the sea, covered in an unending forest of palm trees even to the most precipitous of ridges. Brightly coloured fishing boats dot the harbour, and you jump off the boat into warm, clear waters lapping upon the silky sand which disappears just a few metres away into jungle. Onwards, intrepid explorer!

From the harbour in Bangsal the drive to Senggigi is full of hairpin-bends and fantastic ocean vistas. Senggigi is, arguably, the main tourist hub of the island, but when compared with Bali's Kuta it is just a sleepy town with an unusual number of hotels, all set back from the main road in their jungle cum gardens. For beach lovers, Senggigi's long sandy strip is a popular haunt, although hawkers can be very persistent as the number of tourists to prey on is fairly low. If you don't require the multitude of water sports available in Senggigi then grab your snorkel, towel and packed lunch, hire a scooter or driver, and explore secluded coves along the rugged coastline. Experienced surfers will need to head to the tourist-sparse south coast of Lombok for excellent reef surfing.

If you've had your fill of saltwater, a day trip to Rinjani National Park is an absolute must for both the views and the chance to rinse off in a cascading waterfall – the ultimate power shower. Hotels are always more than happy

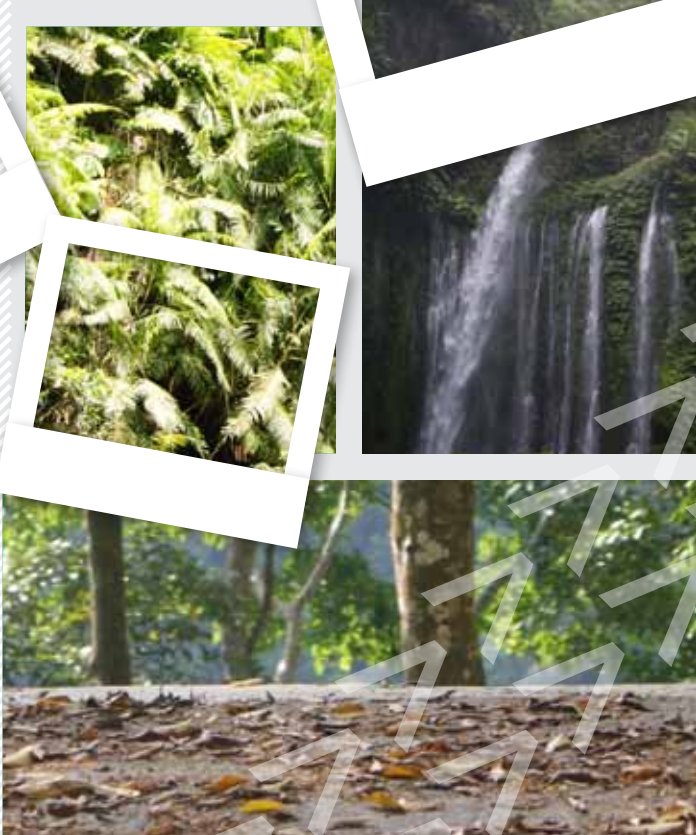
to organize a driver (a brother of a friend) to run you around for a very reasonable price. Climbing the volcano, Mount Rinjani, is a serious undertaking involving a four day trek and a team of porters, but for a taste of the national park's rugged beauty, and to get the heart pumping, then head to Senaru village, just inside the park. From here a stroll and a scramble will take you through majestic jungle, past (and potentially through the tunnel of) an aqueduct, to two beautiful waterfalls. The first waterfall, Sendang Gila, is just a 15 minute meander along man-made paths into the forest. Although a very picturesque waterfall, I really recommend the extra 40 minute trek through the jungle (and at times knee-deep in the river) to the second, Tiu Kelep, where you can strip off for a plunge. Tiu Kelep's waters are renowned for their healing qualities, and for every time you swim behind the main waterfall you become a year younger. Be warned, however, that the force of the spray may actually prevent you from getting close to the cascade

itself. Jungle adventurers must also keep their eyes peeled for the local wildlife; adorable wild monkeys (not like the dangerously tame pick-pockets you find in Ubud, Bali) scamper among the trees, and savvy guides tempt them into photo proximity with any bananas left over from your trek snack-pack. Although I am sure the full trek up Rinjani is spectacular, if you only have a couple of days to explore northern Lombok (or simply want something more relaxing) then this waterfall walk is the perfect way to experience the island's luscious rainforest.

Once you've taken in all the nature you can, visited some of the many craft villages inland and taken plenty of photos in the delightfully untouristy monkey forest (pretty much a road which is just very popular with incredibly cute monkeys), you may think it's time to head back to Bali for a livelier atmosphere, but here you would be wrong. Don't go back to the tacky fluorescent light lined strip of Kuta; instead hop aboard a 20 minute shuttle boat

to the idyllic Gili islands where the days are luxuriously and the nights even longer...

As a Muslim island Lombok has, so far, been little affected by the hordes of Australian sixteen year olds who stumble around Bali's hub Kuta after one too many Smirnoff Ices. But fear not party people: Gili Trawangan is here for you. Whilst neighbouring islets Gili Air and Gili Meno offer zen-like calm and access to some of the best diving in the world, Gili Trawangan boasts not only the same diving access (approx. 15 minutes to all major sites, from reefs to wrecks), but also a buzzing nightlife scene. There are three official 'party nights' a week (each finishing at a different venue) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. However there's also a multitude of bars with music open every night; Sama Sama reggae bar is particularly good for its house band. If you happen to visit in Ramadan, when music has to be shut off at 11pm, it's a little different, but no less fun, with



beach-bar film nights and a nightly silent disco at 'the Irish' to please the hordes. Make no mistake though, Gili T hedonists are seriously committed to their island lifestyle, with many revellers going straight from sunrise cocktails at Surf Bar to a 7am yoga class for a pre-dive detox. If yoga, either post or pre party, appeals to you then try [Gili Yoga](#) for excellent morning and evening classes daily and an unbeatable position opposite the beach.

The Gilis have become a Mecca for diving, boasting incredible water quality and fantastic marine wildlife, as well as the chance to try night dives and use Nitrox. For those who don't yet scuba dive, snorkelling is an excellent alternative, either from the islands' white-sand beaches, or, if you prefer to limit the number of people watching you penguin waddle in your fins, then join a tourist snorkel trip around all the three islands. There are dozens of such tours which take you to five dive sites where you can admire brightly coloured corals, schools of even brighter fish,

and, if you're lucky, giant sea turtles and manta rays.

It can be very easy to get stuck in the Gilis; a two night stopover easily becomes ten, and you're likely to meet seasonnaires from Europe who spend several months (and all their money) in tropical paradise after five months in the snowy Alps. The heavily European crowd ranges from hip families staying in the pricier eco bungalows, to honeymooning couples usually on Gili Meno, to the year round backpacking set clad in appropriately garish trousers from the last South East Asian country they were in. All types of people rub along happily in the Gilis, where time is kept only by the calls to prayer from the mosque.

Although these three tiny isles just off the north coast are destinations in their own right, they are still technically part of Lombok itself and add a touch of glamour and party to the main island's culture, nature and adventure; truly making Lombok the best all-round holiday haven. With lows of 24°C in December,

where better to spend your Christmas than lazing by the turquoise waters of the Gilis, cocktail in hand? You know you want to.

Where to stay

Senggigi

The [Beach Club](#) offers beach bungalows at very reasonable prices, and backpacker rooms for even less. As well as being right on the beach, with beautiful sunset views, you can enjoy an infinity pool in a delightful jungle like garden. They also serve up a mean breakfast.

Gili T

If you are travelling off-peak, take the risk of turning up and finding accommodation on arrival; the island has a huge array of accommodation set back from the beach, ranging from budget to luxury. There are plenty of signs along the main track (there are no real roads as there are motorised vehicles) or people waiting by the boat drop-off to tempt you to their homestays.

Backpackers rave about the prices and atmosphere at [Gili Hostel](#). The island's only hostel has a great rooftop bar and excellent location, but the bathrooms do leave a little to be desired.

Travel

There's a huge number of companies operating transfers between Bali and both Lombok and the Gilis. Unfortunately there have been several accidents on the choppy crossing over the past few years, so fork up for a slightly more expensive company with a good safety record. Check [here](#) for options.

[Perama Tour & Travel](#) organise transfers between the islands as well as lots of tours and trips on both Bali and Lombok. These are particularly good for lone travellers, but if you're travelling in a group I recommend checking out their itineraries and then hiring your

own driver, better for budget and flexibility.

Food

Everything you eat in Lombok will be delicious, but my favourite restaurants in Senggigi were [Square](#) for divine tuna tartare and excellent lamb, and Café Alberto for sunset views and crispy Italian pizzas (conveniently next to The Beach Club).

On Gili T [Kokomo](#) is the most expensive dinner location (but it's all relative) on the island, and rightly so; the service and food are excellent and I can't recommend the seafood platter enough. At the opposite end of the spectrum is the small night market, always teeming with budget travellers seeking out a cheap, cheery and delicious dinner of fresh seafood. Somewhere in the middle in terms of price comes Italian restaurant [Trattoria](#) whose pastas and pizzas


taste like they're straight out of Naples, but the caprese salad and tuna carpaccio just might steal the show.

Charlotte Griffiths



Hyogo AGEJ
Welcome Party


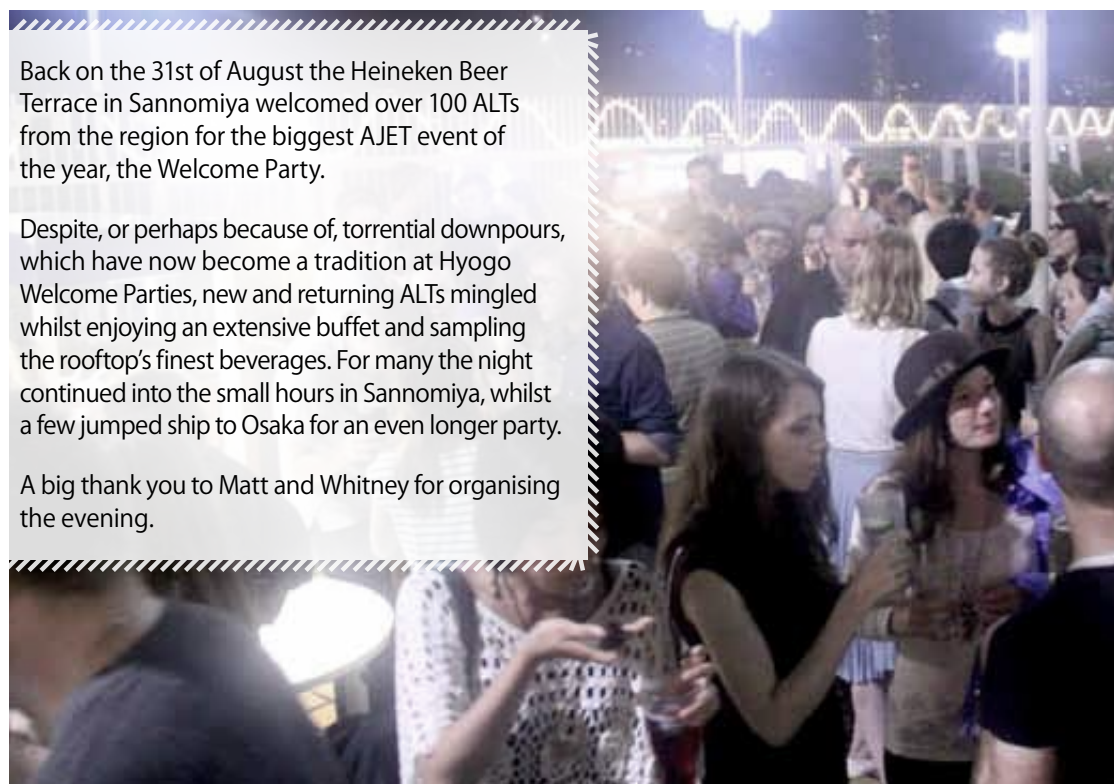
Hyogo AGEJ Welcome Party



Back on the 31st of August the Heineken Beer Terrace in Sannomiya welcomed over 100 ALTs from the region for the biggest AJET event of the year, the Welcome Party.

Despite, or perhaps because of, torrential downpours, which have now become a tradition at Hyogo Welcome Parties, new and returning ALTs mingled whilst enjoying an extensive buffet and sampling the rooftop's finest beverages. For many the night continued into the small hours in Sannomiya, whilst a few jumped ship to Osaka for an even longer party.

A big thank you to Matt and Whitney for organising the evening.



Photos courtesy of Alan Lau.

This article is brought to you through a partnership between the Heart of Japan blog, a project by the Hyogo International Association, and the Hyogo Times.

Sayocho

A Viewpoint of Hyogo's Pastoral Past and Future

Having defeated a renowned swordsman in a decisive battle at the age of 13 in the early Edo Period (somewhere between 1584 and 1645 according to legend), the fame of masterless-samurai, or **rounin**, Musashi Miyamoto continues to draw visitors from far and wide to see his battleground and memorial in Sayocho in far Western Hyogo Prefecture.

Coming to Sayocho for tales of adventure and intrigue, visitors also find other common traits of rural Japanese life, representing small-town Japan in three key ways. First, Sayocho has a rich local history that exemplifies Japan's deep national roots (especially in comparison to newer countries

like the United States, Canada and Australia). Second, similar to numerous rural Japanese towns, Sayocho has goods and foods unique to its particular area. Third, Sayocho has challenges that many small towns in Japan also face: a shrinking population and an arduous recovery from a natural disaster.

Sayocho's historical connection to Musashi Miyamoto is depicted in the world-famous "Book of Five Rings" (peaking in popularity in the West as a "mystical Eastern" approach to business during Japan's period of spectacular economic growth in the 70's and 80s). Miyamoto allegedly wrote the work himself,

making the legend of his deeds a multi-century favorite.

Sayocho pays its respects to Miyamoto all over town: from its rustic train station (with a cutout image panel where you can have your photo taken with your face on his body!) to a memorial stone for his famous battle at the age of 13.

After following in Miyamoto's steps, you might want to try Sayocho's local foods: deer croquette (or shika korokke) and yaki-udonhorumon (thick udon noodles fried with a type of meat you would probably be better off not knowing the specific definition of). Sayocho's deer croquette is a clever (and

delicious!) solution to its deer overpopulation problem which causes environmental issues.

Environmental issues aren't the only kind Sayocho faces. Its population has been steadily declining since the 1950s, with local residents drawn to the city for greater economic opportunities. The current Sayocho is actually a consolidation of smaller towns such as Kozukicho, Nankocho and Mikazukicho. With dwindling populations, budgets and support services, the people voted to merge into Sayocho and pool their resources; a pattern taking place all over Japan.

In addition to issues arising from its shrinking population, Sayocho also has to cope with recovery from a devastating flood in 2009 as a result of a typhoon. Nevertheless, Sayocho maintains its value as a window to the rural face of Japan; an increasingly endangered, yet persevering world.

Joshua Kaplan
Photos courtesy of Hana Na

How To Get There

From Sannomiya
Take the JR Super Hakuto towards Kurayoshi and get off at Sayo Station. (1 hour 12 minutes; ¥4,460)

Or take the JR Tokaido/Sanyo Main Line towards Himeji, getting off at Himeji (39 minutes) >> Take the JR Kishin Line towards Harimashingu (32 minutes) >> Take the JR Kishin Line towards Sayo (29 minutes) >> get off at Sayo station (total of 1 hour 53 minutes and ¥1,890).



Hasedera 長谷寺

Temple 8 of the pilgrimage is

Hasedera, called the Flower Temple, a beautiful site in Nara Prefecture. My own trip to Hasedera was unique along my helter-skelter pilgrimage route: rather than simply wander around taking pictures and reading information off my phone, I actually spent the night in a ryokan in the **monzen machi** (the street leading up to an important pilgrimage site is often lined with shops and inns), then went to the 6:30 am service at the temple itself.

It was a Thursday at 6:30, so I was the only guest at this morning event. Every monk that passed me bowed and said good morning in a way that reminded me of being at school, and how the kids are always told to give a really energetic greeting. I couldn't tell if the guy sitting just next to me explaining stuff was high ranking or just exempt from some of the niceties in order to take care of me, but he was never the first to say good morning. He handed me a book in which was written the text of the prayers and chanting, including in some parts these little notations for how the syllable was held and whether the note went upward or downward or squiggled.

He showed me when the leader would speak and when the assembled monks on the area where I was sitting (and theoretically I too) would respond or be chanting. He explained that the second part would be chanting along to a drum beat from within the temple. Then we had a little extra time, so he told me about the temple building itself, the statue's age and some other features of the place.

The Kannon image of Hasedera is another that is visible to visitors all the time. At ten meters high, it is the largest wooden image in Japan. Hase Kannon is said to grant all wishes, but especially those relating to healing, protection from danger and the bestowal of wealth and social status. In one hand she holds a vase and lotus for mercy, and Jizo's staff in the other, symbolizing her ability to travel at will to any place to help those in need. There are over a hundred sub-temples in Japan with copies of this image, because of its fame for healing.

The chanting was both soothing and fast-paced, although my Japanese was not good enough for me to follow along very well. After the chanting, we did a sort of morning

salutation prayer standing and facing the mountains visible in a few different directions from the main platform. The adjacent mountain is regarded as the divine embodiment of Amaterasu, the Shinto sun goddess, and is worshipped accordingly.

The monks at Hasedera were all very kind and friendly, and the temple itself seemed to present a calm, sweet feel, perhaps because of the prevalence of trees, flowers and neatly kept paths. There are 399 steps leading up to the main hall (**hondo**), with 33 lanterns hanging along the way and flowers planted beside the walk. There is also one large cedar tree said to have been left as a home for squirrels. The temple complex is fairly large, and the main platform outside the hondo was built much like that of Kiyomizu-dera and Engyo-ji, expansive but without nails.

Getting to Hasedera can be a commitment, so if you make the trek, it might be worth it to stay for a little while (my ryokan treated me like royalty). There is also a **bangai** (番外) temple right at the bottom of the hill in the Monzen-machi. There are three bangai temples which you will find in the back of your pilgrim book; I confess

Links

[SacredJapan](#)

[Hasedera website](#)

[Bangai temple's website](#)



to knowing very little about them, and only visited this tiny temple addition when the people at Hasedera informed me about it.

To get to Hasedera, take the Kintetsu Osaka line, get off at the Hasedera stop, and then it is a 15 minute walk.

Happy pilgrim trails!

Lemmon



じゅげむ

The perennial cheapskate in

me will always be happy to find a good deal on the drinks/good food combo. When the same is offered right on my doorstep I can never decide if it's a good thing, or just dangerous for the wallet and waistline. On this occasion I am very much leaning towards the 'good thing' side of the equation.

じゅげむ (Jugemu) is a yakitori-heavy chain of izakayas based in Nishinomiya, in and around Koshien stadium (see map). The blue and yellow flags outside, emblazoned with 甲子園ヒーロー揚げ (Koshien hero-age) make them easy to spot, and indicate that they are firmly based in Hyogo and proud of its most baseball-centric institution. (There's a branch next to the stadium itself and, since they do take-out, useful if you feel the need for chicken on your way to a game. In researching this article, I also discovered there are locations beyond じゅげむ that sell ヒーロー揚げ, click [here](#) for more info).

On this occasion, we were headed to the Mukogawa branch, of particular use to anyone living in Rainbow Town (though others might prefer those slightly closer to Koshien itself). The tiny shop front doesn't lead into a grandiose restaurant spread over a plethora of floors; this is a small place, with two large(ish) tables, a long counter you can eat at and a few tiny tables for two (perfect for dates). It can get busy given how small it is, so reservations would be recommended for larger groups. No longer advertised outside, the previously mentioned food and drink deal is still available. It consists of 3 drinks and a set course of food including salad, ヒーロー揚げ, yakitori and more, all for ¥2,000. Given that a beer alone is ¥450, you are potentially getting a decent selection of food for significantly less than ¥1,000. It's a bargain, and all drinks on the menu are included. You can't get it if you're on your own though, so take at least one friend with you.



Clickable map!

The first offering off the course is the salad. This comes topped with a dome of freshly fried spring roll wrapping which not only looks good, but also adds that extra bit of texture to the refreshing and crisp salad. Depending on the number of people you might get additional salads with different varieties too, but 'dome salad' as I like to call it (or sometimes 'tasty-tasty yum times' salad) seems to be a constant.

Next up is the justifiably pride-inducing chicken wing karaage, and well do they deserve to smile about it. Available in four varieties, the garlic is by far and away my favourite. That said, they all present you with succulent morsels of chicken-y heaven. The wings are prepared in such a way as to almost look like mini fried legs. Whether that's the intent or not, the bone 'handle' created makes for decidedly less greasy fingers than your average 骨付き手羽焼き (chicken wings) I'm not entirely sure if you can choose the flavour on the set, but you'll probably want some more of these

little gems afterwards anyway, so it doesn't really matter.

Yet this remains a yakitori place, and the carefully skewered and grilled meats are fantastic too. One of the truly great things about the ¥2000 set (and, I would argue, sets in general) is that it acts as such a good introduction to what they have on offer. You get some chicken and leek, chicken meatballs, and (I don't doubt a proportion of those reading this will go 'ewwwww' at this point) chicken skin, along with other bits and pieces. By turns juicy and crispy, they act as a welcome starter pack to the world of chicken-on-sticks as done by Japan.

The slightly disappointing last item on the set list is French fries. They aren't bad by any means, but neither are they anything to write home about, so I'll return to the yakitori.

The set complete, it's time to start extra-ordering, which I would really recommend. Everything I have ever eaten here has been perfectly cooked.

Moist chicken oozing with flavour, it can be difficult to stop eating when there are things you have yet to try. For me, I don't think I would ever feel a trip to じゅげむ was complete without having at least one order of shiso-ume yakitori. The sharpness of the ume, the almost metallic shiso and the succulent chicken make for a mouth-wateringly good combination. It's also always fun seeing what non-menu items they have advertised around the bar as well.

I really hope the other branches are as good as this one, and next time you're down Nishinomiya way, why not give one of them a go!

Pro tip

Don't feel the need to finish all the 'set drinks' before starting to order more food. This isn't a time limited operation!

Omni



Tottori Sand Museum



For undulating sand dunes straight

out of Arabian Nights look no further than Japan's least populated prefecture, our very near neighbour, Tottori. That's right, just to our north west you can live out your Ali Baba fantasies, complete with camels and hundreds of other tourists.

The Tottori Sand Dunes are Japan's only dune system, and protected by being part of the various natural and national parks which cover 14% of the prefecture's total land area. When you visit you can try sand boarding, surfing and the freshest of fresh sushi.

But that's not all...

If you thought KIX airport was your gateway to Asia, and Peach's pink aeroplane your chariot you would be sadly mistaken. This year, the Tottori Sand Dunes are a portal direct to the wonders of the East. In an hour you can take a whistle-stop tour from Bali to Singapore, the Philippines and back; admire the majesty of Indian elephants, take in a Chinese shadow puppet show and see



Angkor Watt in all its intricate glory. How? Why at The Sand Museum of course. Now don't scoff at the name and think naively (as I did with no pre-trip research) that this will be a boring education in where sand comes from, or the use of spits to protect beaches from erosion. In fact, don't think of it

as a museum at all; let us call it a sand gallery, for inside this deceptively named building is an incredible selection of jaw-dropping sand sculptures.

The 2013-2014 exhibition is titled "Around the world in sand: South-East Asia" and features the work of 17 award-winning sand sculptors from all over the world. This year's theme was chosen to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ASEAN-Japan Exchange. (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and does a superb job of it, celebrating the splendour of the region's past as well as its impressive modern development.



For more information

Website
[The Sand Museum](http://www.sandmuseum.jp)

Entry
 ¥600 (adults), ¥300 (children)

Open
 9am – 8pm

Charlotte Griffiths

Where are they now?

This month Arjan Tulsi grills

Brenda McKinney-Botman about her life post-Hyogo.

What did you do before JET?

I worked in Corporate as an analyst for Target Corp, of all things. I spent a lot of summers as a camp counsellor at Norwegian Camp too though, which I think helped more than the spread sheets.

When were you in Hyogo and where were you placed?

I was an ALT at Takasago Minami ("Takanan") High School from 2006-2009. Takasago is closer to Himeji, but I lived in Akashi.

What did you do immediately leaving JET?

I moved to Boston about two weeks after returning to the US and started a masters program (M.Ed.) in Education Policy, then spent three years in law school.

Did you suffer any reverse culture shock at all?

Yes, definitely; but it helped that we had an amazing JETAA community in Boston and grad school kept me busy. I'm originally from the Midwest

(middle of the US), so moving to a new area of the US was exotic in a way and felt like a new adventure too.

What have you done since then?

I have just finished my JD degree (law school) and I've mostly been doing "child law" (juvenile justice, child welfare, ed law) and public interest related work for the last few years, either as an intern or student attorney.

What are you doing now?

I am doing a legal internship with the federal government in D.C. through December, before starting a Fulbright and LL.M. degree in February.

Do you want to tell us a little more about the internships you've done?

Internships are basically just an opportunity to build skills and network – in the US, they are unpaid. Over the last few years, I've worked for non-profits, a federal judge, the UN, and for a study abroad office.

How has the experience of living in Japan helped you?

JET is extremely valuable and marketable – but you have to tailor the experience to your story. Many people in my field did TFA (Teach for America) or have teaching experience, and I can relate to them from my classroom time in Japan. JET also provided context for my masters' classes and the time truly "living" abroad helped me establish that I am serious about international opportunities. I also met my husband (a Kiwi JET who worked in Amagasaki) in Japan, so I suppose that's a plus ;-)

What do you miss about Japan?

Definitely the people; my colleagues at school, friends and students! I also really miss the onsen, my running paths (especially during hanami season – I mean WOW), certain foods (like real inarizushi) and having a lot of down-time (even though it didn't seem great then...). I also think we are all really lucky to have lived in an environment that can truly challenge you in many new and different ways (I learned how to get around being essentially illiterate, for example) but feel so magical at the same time. I never

grew tired of the little things like living so near water, or biking past cool stuff like temples.

What is your favourite memory of Hyogo?

Probably going on weekend hikes, and then ending at Arima onsen. School was fun, but I also had a really great time with AJET and some fun nights out in Osaka and around with the friends I made.

Do you have any advice for the new A&J's?

Keep an open mind – you will discover there is so much you don't know that you don't know yet. Also use your resources and other JETs. You can be independent and bring things to the table, but you don't need to recreate the wheel when it comes to lesson plans – share resources, ask for help and don't be shy to put a new spin on tried-and-tested lesson plans. Also ask for advice for travel etc., and get to know both your community and the other JETs.



Believe in your ability to be a great teacher and remember that your students see you as a teacher (even if you're not much older), so play the part. Also, always err on the side of formality if in doubt. I'd also get meishi (business cards) made; just trust me on this one, and look into free Japanese classes. Most towns will offer them for free or very cheap. Finally, remember you live in Japan and GET OUT. Travel! Japan is awesome (so, so beautiful) and you can see most of it for less than you think.

What about advice for A&J's moving home?

Expect culture shock and be prepared for people not really understanding your experience. At the same time, realize that you now have a network of other JET alumni (like me!) and other former-expats (like returned Peace Corps volunteers, for Americans) that totally get it, would love to talk about your time and are here to help you.

Also be confident in yourself and your experience. I actually credit working with kids on JET as a major influence in my legal work; I'd even say it is closely related and foundational in some ways. I think the experience living and working abroad in a different culture also helped me land a gig with UNICEF last year; which is also an example of how important JET can be.

It shocks me when people sell their JET experience short – don't be that person. Just learn how to market JET towards what you want to do and work really hard to get there.

Finally, get involved with your local JET Alumni Association (JETAA) Chapter or write about JET or Japan (maybe for a magazine) if you can; share your experience, you'll appreciate it looking back and others appreciate your insight.

Good luck!

What's
on Japan?

October

The calendar
for Hyogo Times
is designed and
maintained by
Paige Ngo!

Hyogo AJET event

Hanshin

Harima

Kobe

Tamba

Awaji

Tajima

Outside of Hyogo

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

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3

4

5

Last day to register for
the JLPT
<http://www.jlpt.jp/e/>

6



7

8

9

10

11

12



Book Club
Café Mamounia, Kobe @ 1:30 pm

The 2013 Setouchi Triennale International Art Festival (Seto Inland Sea islands, Kagawa)

<http://setouchi-artfest.jp/en/>
(October 5th - November 4th)

Shikoku Rafting Trip

13

Shikoku Rafting Trip

14

Health and
Sports Day

15



16

17

18

19

Nada no Kenka Matsuri (Fighting Festival)
Himeji City (Free)
<http://www.nadamatsuri.jp/>

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Kurama no Hi Matsuri
(Kurama Fire festival)
(Kyoto)

27

28

29

30

31



Halloween

AJET Block 6
Halloween Party
(Bar Giraffe, Osaka)
7 - 9 pm



*"There is no season
when such pleasant and sunny spots
may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant
an effect on the feelings, as now in October."*

Nathaniel Hawthorne