

ht

7.15



.....inside.....

Homeward Bound

Preview: Summer Festivals

Travel: Hiroshima & Taipei

ht

July Features

5 Homeward Bound

7 JET Life: Where Are You Going?

2 Hello! Message from the Editor

3 Hello! Message from the PR

4 Kicchiri: Somen Noodle Salad

9 Travel: Hiroshima

11 Travel: Taipei

13 Everything I Learned: 5 Albums

15 The Refuge: The Durants XII

17 Preview: Summer Festivals

19 Prefecture Spotlight: Saga

21 JET Life: Until It's Experienced

23 Calendar

Hyogo Times Staff

Editor: Sean Mulvihill

Online: Dana Warren

Designer: Erika Horwege

PR: Chris Goodman

Cover: Sean Mulvihill

Backpage: Erika Horwege

Contributors: Penny Fox, Chris Goodman, Erika Horwege, Sean Mulvihill, Brittany Teodorski, Helen Yuan

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

Message from the Editor:

hello!

Sayonara, fellow JETs; this is my final message as editor for the Hyogo Times. I'm leaving on that "JET" plane (that's just punny) and know exactly when I'll be home again. After a two year absence from the States, it's hard to hide my excitement, but obviously there is an underlining sadness to leaving Japan as well. It's been an incredible two years to say the least and I've had a great time as contributor then editor for this publication. I'll try to limit the preachy and sappy stuff this month, and stick with straightforward goodbyes and thank yous.

Thank you to the two other editors, Dana and Erika, who both did tremendous work behind the scenes and are the main reasons why Hyogo Times passes as a publication in any meaningful sense of the word. Thank you to all those people who have contributed their time in submitting articles, whether you were consistent throughout the year or just a one-timer, I appreciate all the help that's been given. Scott and Louie, a big arigatou for all the beers we've consumed over the past two years. Not sure if I have more memories from Japan or beers consumed while in Japan, especially given the fact that more of one ultimately leads to less of the other. Gracias to anyone else whose ever made my stay here the positive experience that it has been, though if you're not a JET I guess you really wouldn't have a reason to be reading this, but thank you anyway.

I want to wish the best of luck to all those who are staying in Japan and those who are continuing the work with JET, especially to Brittany Teodorski who will be taking over as captain of this ship we call Hyogo Times. I know she'll do a fantastic job keeping this publication going. I feel like I've clearly gone over my time limit and the music is blasting to get me off the stage. Although I walk away without a little golden man named Oscar, I have much more to take home with me.

As for this issue, it's largely dedicated to what I've been doing for the past two paragraphs. Louie explains why **going home** may not be what we want, but for different reasons then we might imagine. Find out **where** ten of your fellow JETs are off to. Read two travel reviews from **Erika** and **Brittany**, and enjoy the latter bring her series "The Durants" to an exciting **conclusion**. You'll also find the usual sections (including my last **album recommendations**!) and a glimpse of **Saga Prefecture** by JET alum Penny Fox. Moving on is never easy, but the unknown should always be taken head-on. As a friend once said, "The hardest part of moving out, is I remember moving in."

Sean Mulvihill



hello!

Message from the Prefectural Representative

A Super big "Howdy-do" and "Ya-ho" to all from your friendly neighbourhood Hyogo AJET helper-type guy, ME!!!

As we welcome the month of July with open arms, we also welcome some very important events and dates that are recognized by many from our international community hot-pot that is Hyogo AJET. Do any of these ring a bell with you: Canada Day, Independence Day (July fourth in the U.S., not the movie), Bastille Day (La Fete nationale)? If not then that is ok! That is what Google is for! They are just a few of the many more great days to come, but I would just like to focus a little on what the month of July might mean for some Hyogoin's. "Hyogoin's" you say? Allow me to explain.

I use the term to loosely refer to our co-workers, our friends, our family – those that have touched us and who have been touched on this special journey that they took part in, the JET program. July is a time where those that have come to the end of their journey in Hyogo... are "goin".

Being on JET for me has been a life changing experience to say the least. I have met all manner of JETs during my time here in this wonderful place called Japan. I have met those that came for adventure. I have met those that came for a career. I have met those that came for family and loved ones and I have also met those that just came to party. Some flourished while others struggled. Some will look back and think of this as the time of their lives.

To those of you who have given of yourself and participated above and beyond what may have been expected of you and helped improve the image of JET and in turn native English speaking ALTs, we thank you!

To many of you who are returning, you have been a part of Japan while you have served on JET, and Japan will continue to be a part of you for years to come. You might find that you take your shoes off when entering homes, or you sit down to dinner and start looking for a wet towel with which to wipe your hands, or you may even say "Bikurishta!" if someone jumps out and scares the heeby-jeebys out of you. Whatever may happen, your experiences here have changed you.

We hope that you continue to grow and prosper, and your experience here has a positive influence on your future experiences to come. We wish you every possible success should you return to your home country or stay in Japan and continue here. Whatever your future holds, JET is a part of you and you are a part of us. JET Alumni organisations exist so reach out and share with your fellow returnees the ups, downs, and all out experience of your time a JET... Who says it is actually over hey?

So fare-thee-well fellow Hyogoin's!!! To infinity and back again!!! (or something like that but I didn't want to get sued by anyone)

Your friendly neighbourhood Hyogo AJET helper-type guy,

Chris Goodman.



Somen Noodle Salad

kicchiri kitchen

Summer in Japan makes me think of fireflies, green rice paddies as far as the eye can see, yukata, fireworks, wind-chimes, beer gardens and of course somen. Somen noodles are extremely thin wheat noodles that are sold dried and often eaten in summer in Japan. They are also eaten in the cooler months in a warm soup dish called nyumen but summer is when they shine. You will probably see displays of them in the supermarket, on TV commercials and images of it everywhere, often of the noodles on a glass plate with a perfect green momiji leaf next to it.

To me, chilled somen noodles dipped in mentsuyu – a light dipping sauce made from dashi, sugar and soy sauce – is the quintessential summer dish. On its own, its nutritional value is questionable but in the heat of summer it is refreshing and sometimes all I can stomach. Of course just eating cold noodles in sauce all summer can't do, so mix it up with this simple Japanese-style noodle salad. Somen noodles are mixed with tuna, mayonnaise, cucumber and onion in a dish that reminds me of the pasta salads I often made at home in summer.

I can't believe it's nearly been a whole year since I began writing these monthly articles. Time seems to just fly by here in Japan. This is my last article as I will be finishing up on JET this July and heading back home to Australia in August. I hope you enjoyed reading the recipes each month and tried some of them out.

I think that although a lot of people love eating Japanese food, they think it's hard to make and have no idea where to start. Whilst that may be true of the elaborate kaiseki meals, Japanese home cooking is actually quite simple and with a few basic ingredients – soy sauce, mirin, rice wine, sugar, dashi, and miso – you're pretty much set.

I know a lot of JETs miss food and ingredients from their home country which is completely understandable –

I always crave Australian tasty cheddar cheese – but I know that when I go home I'll miss so many things here, too. I hope you make the most of amazing seasonal ingredients available here, you can always eat the other stuff when you go back home. I hope I managed to inspire some of you to try your hand at Japanese cooking. Thank you, goodbye and happy experimenting!

Helen Yuan



Method

One Bring a small pot of water to the boil. Add the noodles & cook until al dente (around 2 minutes). Rinse under cold water & drain well.

Two Meanwhile, cut the onion into thin slices & soak in cold water for 5-10 minutes. Drain & squeeze to remove excess water.

Three Cut the cucumber into thin slices & season with a bit of salt. Leave for 5-10 minutes & squeeze to remove excess water.

Four Drain the tuna.

Five Mix the noodles, tuna, onion, cucumber and mayonnaise in a large bowl and season with salt, pepper, & soy sauce to taste.

Tips & Tricks

>> Somen noodles cook incredibly fast so keep an eye on them. Mix them around with some chopsticks when they're cooking to prevent the noodles from sticking together.

>> Substitute the canned tuna with ham if you prefer.

>> When making pasta salads I often add diced celery or capsicum (bell peppers). I imagine they would work well in this recipe as well.

Ingredients

Serves 1-2

Prep & Cooking time: 20 minutes

- >> 100g somen noodles
- >> 1 small can of canned tuna (around 90g)
- >> ¼ medium onion
- >> 1 cucumber
- >> 4 tbsp. mayonnaise
- >> salt & pepper
- >> a dash of soy sauce

Homeward Bound: When Being Home Isn't Where You Want to Be

In German, it's called "Fernweh" (lit: far away pain). It's the sense of wanting to be anywhere but where you actually are. Think of it as inverted homesickness. Though the ragged poverty of the English language prevents us from expressing this emotion, we have all certainly experienced it. That slight sinking feeling; knots in the stomach – a stinging shpilke in the gederem. As many of us prepare to leave JET in the coming month, we find ourselves wading into a pool of mixed emotions about where we're headed. Joy in knowing you will soon be reunited with family, friends, pets, (and burritos), washed over by bitter pangs of sadness from the banal uncertainty that accompanies leaving. Will I find a job? (Eventually) Will I crave sushi everyday? (Naturally) Will I ever see the people I met here again? (Hopefully) What if...? It's all part of the macabre reality of being an expat – repatriating. After all, you are literally trading in your current reality for a previous one, as if it were a Toyota. This is when you start to think that you'd rather be anywhere but "home."

Eventually, everyone has to go back. The nomads, the wanderers – they can truly never lay claim to some ethereal yurt in the sky; calling the entire planet Earth "home." The human constructs of citizenship and national identity – ironically – sometimes limit to our sense of belonging. Your time in Japan has undoubtedly shaped you in many ways – some noticeable, some not. As you return home, you may feel uncertain about your sense of belonging. Now, you are not

"pause," might give you a severe case of the blues. Experts often label this as "reverse culture shock", but I think "fernweh" is apropos. In those moments when no one is relatable and there's the faintest tinge that everything, yet absolutely nothing, feels right, you'll wish you could be anywhere but where you are.

You'll be fine, though. I'm sure, somewhere, someone has crafted a beautiful 12-step program to the "Repatriation Blues" (and it's probably sold nine copies), but the real true remedy to that intense sense of dis-belonging is just pure patience (and a few bottles of wine). Your family and friends will, more than likely, be unable to relate to your experience. Sure, they'll sit a spell for a few of your musings, but when you truly feel overwhelmed, reach out to your fellow JET returnees. They're going through the same thing. Don't let anyone fool you with "I'm fine." (We spent years trying to banish this from our Japanese classrooms!) Contact your local JETAA chapter, pick up a new hobby,

and also talk with your friends and family – they may not be able to understand your experience, but you can help them better understand that something like JET has changed you in many ways. For someone who hasn't had the privilege of international exchange, the idea that you become uncertain of your cultural identity, and may even resent home may be a

foreign concept. They may not understand that you want to take all the good stuff of both cultures and blend it together. That feeling of wanting the best of both cultures is a great opportunity, though.

Now that you are armed with your JET experience, it's time to craft yourself into a human pastiche of all things Japan and your home culture. Take a bento and chopsticks to your future board meetings, change your entire wardrobe on a specific day irrespective of the weather, tell your employees, "Sorry for leaving early," even when it's midnight. Eat more fish, consume more tea (the health benefits are immense!), and learn to cope with a bad situation with an audible and disruptive "しょうがない!" followed by a demure "excuse me!" Fernweh, like our experience, is only temporary. However, your memories are not. Now, go forth, tack into the wind, and internationalize the ぐ*!t out of the world (and yourself).

Louie Bertenshaw



fully American, Canadian, Australian, so on. Yet, you are not fully Japanese. So what are you? You become suspended somewhere in-between and this is a totally terrifying space. If there's one thing worse than being too many things, it's the feeling of being nothing. So, this space and time where you must figure yourself out, resuming where you pressed

Where Are They Going?

It's that time again (as you have surely figured out by now from all the other articles in this month's issue) to say goodbye to those who have called Japan home for the past few years. Find out what's in store for some JETs leaving and make sure to make a list of the memories and advice you find interesting or useful to make your own JET experience just as memorable.

1. What's next for you?
2. Stand out memory from JET
3. Any advice/ regrets/ yearbook style quote/ last words to new JETs?

Sean Mulvihill (2 years)

1. Still stuck in that terrifying, yet thrilling search for what I want to do long-term professionally, I will be moving to Austin, Texas and returning to Americorps (and its stomach-churning stipend) for my third year of service. I'll be leaving education, for now, and work with Keep Austin Housed and Goodwill Central Texas providing employment services to residents of the city. Besides the new employment, I'll probably drown myself in the incredible music scene there as well, scraping any money I can find to go to Fun Fun Fun Festival, Austin City Limits, and South by Southwest.

2. No one thing stands out, rather the overall feeling of meeting and talking to great and sincere people day in and day out will stay with me.

3. JET has an enormous learning curve with most participants struggling with the language, culture, or classroom. I'd put my focus on the last, though by no means ignore the others, simply because your school is where you will probably spend most of your time and you want to enjoy being there. Read up on classroom management, lesson planning, and relationship building with students and coworkers. The language and culture will follow, but being a good teacher will make the overall experience easier.

7 << Hyogo Times >> July



Erika Horwege (2 years)

1. Visiting my parents and applying for jobs, then hopefully moving to Seattle!

2. There are so many to choose from, but some of my favorites were watching the snow fall on the mountains while sitting in an outdoor onsen in the winter, enkai and takoyaki parties with the English teachers, visiting Myanmar, seeing students get super excited about English, and participating in Hanayu Matsuri (a town-wide tug-of-war to determine if the coming year will be good for agriculture or commerce).

3. Try anything once. Say yes to everything. Step out of your comfort zone. Take one picture every day for a year. Throw yourself into your work - you definitely get out what you put in! Travel, explore, and simply wander...have fun!

Alex Barrett (2 years)

1. I'm going to continue pursuing a career in English language education. I just got hired as a contractor for the U.S. Department of State to teach at a university in Uzbekistan; really looking forward to it.



2. When my kocho sensei was walking into the bathroom as I was walking out and he shouted, "excellent!" Dude became obsessed with that word ever since he asked how I was doing one morning and I told him I was excellent.



Also all the amazing students I've befriended. They've really made my JET experience something I'll treasure for a lifetime.

3. I saw a sign in a café in Hiroshima that said **SPEAK YOUR OWN ENGLISH** and I think that's the most important thing to keep in mind as a language teacher. Your English is your English, and it will be different from everyone else's, so keep an open mind in the language classroom.

Anastasia Windeler (3 years)

1. I'll be working at a tourist information center in Kinosaki Onsen. So if you ever come up, stop by and say hi.

2. My best memory is taking a two week vacation to live in Kyoto and explore the city on my own.

3. "If we wait until we are ready, we will be waiting for the rest of our lives."

Helen Yuan (3 years)

1. I'm not really sure yet but I'm going to move home for a bit, settle in then look for a job and hopefully move back to Sydney. Taking Ikebana lessons in Japan has furthered my love of flowers, whilst teaching primary school children has made me reconsider becoming a teacher so we'll see what happens!

2. During a summer road trip in Shikoku some friends and I went camping in Kochi off the Shimanto coast. At night we "borrowed" some rubber rings and went stargazing while floating in the beautiful warm water. Along with the countless shooting stars we saw, the sea was full of twinkling blue lights from some

kind of bioluminescent organism - I like to think of them as sea fireflies- and when the waves crashed or you moved in the water there would be this stunning blue shimmer. We completely lost track of time and stayed for hours. Even at the time it felt like a wonderful, magical dream.

3. Make a list of things - festivals, places, experiences - you want to do and research them. Some are very time specific and require very advance bookings for e.g. accommodation in Sapporo for the Snow Festival or tickets for the sumo tournaments. On the other hand some of my best memories were completely unplanned such as the night swim mentioned above so I guess be organized, but flexible and open to new opportunities too!

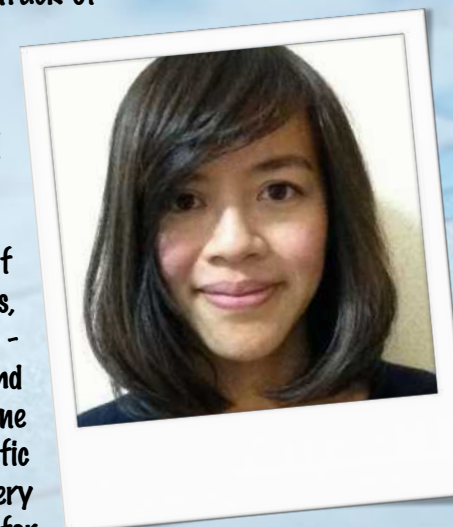
Claire Bronchuk (2 years)

1. Teaching English in Thailand!!! I'll move to Thailand after finishing up in Japan this August. Hopefully, I'll be teaching in Chiang Mai or Bangkok.

2. School-related: When my favorite (not that I have favorites) third year student gave me a hug after graduation ceremony!

Japan-related: Sitting in an outdoor onsen surrounded by snow-covered fir trees with a view of the mountains in Sapporo as a light snowfall drifted down.

3. Say yes to everything. Spend money. Travel. This part of your life will fly by so quickly, it's your responsibility to enjoy it!



Lorna Petty (2 years)

1. Currently, I'm not certain exactly what I will do next. I am planning to apply for the British civil service and potentially the FCO in September. I am also considering further study, in line with my geeky childhood dream of being an academic (hey, not everyone can be princesses...). It will probably be a case of 'let's see what sticks', like most things in life! My only certain plans are taking the JLPT when I return, catching up with friends and family... and eating a lot of cheese!

2. The memories which stand out for me are perhaps not the most obvious initially. I ended up starting rock-climbing in Japan of all things (England only has pathetic wee mole-hills) with a group of British and American JETs. JETs multi-national make-up introduced me to lots of hobbies I would have never considered in the UK. In terms of travel, hiking the mist-wreathed forests of Yakushima, hearing nothing but mossy-silence and our own footfalls felt like truly entering another, ancient world. Also, whilst on JET I became involved with Stonewall Japan; I had a lot of fun getting to know the nook-like gay bars in Osaka, furtive women's nights in bars and of course the rainbow fabulousness of Tokyo and Osaka pride! Lastly, some of my best memories are of teaching;

the triumph of reading my kids' horror stories after the JTE assured me they couldn't write creatively; seeing the students' confidence after a lot of hard work in debate classes; an impromptu third-year re-enactment of Chicken Run; and of course, the inadvertent hilarity ('sensei, what is France...?').

3. A lot of ALTs worry about 'fitting in' in Japan and change or conceal aspects of them at the office. In Stonewall, I got a lot of questions specifically from LGBT JETs but it applies to everyone. My advice is relax and be yourself; respect the ability of Japanese people to empathize with you as much as people at home and if you are comfortable with yourself, everyone else probably will be too. Finally, as a teacher remember the golden rule: keep calm and act like that was supposed to happen...!



Louie Bertenshaw (2 years)

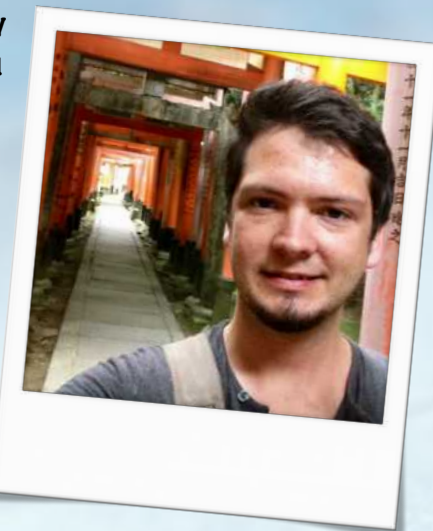
1. I'm moving to Austria! I'm joining a teaching sponsored by the US's Fulbright program and the Austrian government. I will work at a Gymnasium -- a public, college-prep high school. The teaching experience will certainly be different and I'm excited about the new challenge, but, I'm probably mostly excited to put my German degree to practical use.

2. There are too many to count. Thankfully, the good memories outshine the bad ones. Overall, I think JET as a whole is a standout memory. I had the opportunity to travel to so many bucket-list places, begin my teaching career, and meet indelible people. It will always be a vividly memorable part of my life.

3. My JET Will:

To Hyogo: I leave you your awful weather and can say I never want to experience anything like the Summer of 2013 again! To Scott: I leave all my techotche and schnickschnack to you, along with my ICOCA cards (I know you'll lose them) and the nomihoudais. To Sarah: SB diner, Kushikatsu, and all the "fond" memories of Monopoly Deal. To Sandy: Ice cream! To all the rest: Deb.

To all the new baby JETs: Welcome! Congratulations, you've survived the application from hell and are on your way to this wonderfully humid island. A few words of wisdom: get out of your comfort zone and embarrass yourself; those moments make for the best stories, bring some levity to your life, and are always the best learning experiences. Do eat and drink (or play and love, I don't give a \$***), and own every bit of your JET experience. This is a once in a lifetime chance and you really are part of the 1% who has the privilege, means, and bravery to package up your life and begin anew in a totally new place. Above all, you'll be fine. Cheers.



Ryan Hertel (3 years)

1. I will be returning to the US and trying to find employment at a company with a product and passion that I can relate to. In both my time pre-JET and in Japan, I have developed a diverse skill-set that qualifies me for many office positions, and I hope to bring my hard work and passion somewhere I can believe in. I believe strongly in developing myself as well as the community around me in order to foster a truly progressive environment. It is with the income generated by those pursuits that I can, once and for all, track down and capture or destroy the seven-foot, humanoid beast known colloquially as "Bigfoot." With every spare minute and every unallocated breath, I will track the monster through the wilds, through the mountains, and through the deserts if I must. There will be no rest until he sleeps in a big, hairy grave.

2. In JET, I've truly enjoyed all of the opportunities I've had to enjoy live music throughout Japan. It is hard to pick one show, as they all had their memorable moments. The indie rock show featuring Caino, Sorami biyori, and Valve Fiction at Output in Naha, Okinawa brought me back to college. The Mix Box show at Queblick in Fukuoka introduced me to the "mentai-core" style of Zarigani and the Kyushu metal of Black-Stats. Superdeluxe in Tokyo brought out my tolerance for noise with one of Merzbow's rare trap-set shows. What they all had in common was the raucous roar from the stage that brought back the memories of being charged by a not incapacitated by-my-tranq-darts, larger than imagined Bigfoot going straight for my throat. With each show, my ingrained need to locate the beast grew. They solidified my mission to show the world what they already know but choose to ignore as "delusional." Bigfoot must die.

3. Do what you care about. It won't be easy, but you'll be happier for it. They say the new generation will have, on average, 4 careers in their lifetime, compared to the previous generations' 1 or 2. Keep working and taking risks until you find what you love. The old cliché



of "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life," holds true. It holds true like the firm grip of furry, baseball glove sized hands constricting your throat accompanied by the jet black stare of your would be assassin, a stare that you can feel in your bones. No matter what we must all pursue our dream of destroying Bigfoot before he kills everyone we love and care about. Don't let your life be an "I told you so" moment as your entrails are pulled from your writhing body. Find Bigfoot. Destroy Bigfoot.

Sydney Shirogama (2 years)

1. I'm heading back to California to begin an occupational therapy program at San Jose State University.

2. When I first moved to Japan, I started lightly jogging around my tiny town in the morning. Shortly after, I received this message from a neighbor: "Hi Sydney! By the way, are you running? My friend says to me that 'I sometimes see a nice foreigner running around my place, please introduce her to me. He is a nice ojisan, he is a jogger, too. If you are OK would you have a supper together?'"

I told myself I would say "yes" as much as possible when living in Japan, so I agreed to meet with him. It turns out the guy is a 68 year old marathon runner. He showed me a hidden track near my apartment where his inspiring old man marathoner friends like to run. He takes me out to eat every so often, and I just ran my first half marathon with him. People in Japan are so kind. I'll definitely remember these "only in Japan" moments.

3. It's going to be really awkward and really awesome. I've always figured that I'm not going to make great memories by sitting in apartment, so I try to explore my neighborhood as much as possible.

You're going to get so much advice, but don't let it overwhelm you because only you know what you "should" do. Have fun!



Compiled by
Sean Mulvihill

Hiroshima: A Balancing Act

8:15 AM. At this time on August 6th, 1945, the city of Hiroshima became the first to be devastated by a nuclear weapon. The ones who were instantly vaporized were lucky in that they did not have to suffer the effects of radiation poisoning. After Japan surrendered, reconstruction began. Now, the only visible remnant of Little Boy's devastation is the Genbaku Dome in the Peace Park. Otherwise, you'd be hard-pressed to find evidence. Chugoku's largest city is quite pleasant, even upon a third visit.

Getting There and Around

There are several options for travel to Hiroshima. On this most recent trip, we took the shinkansen. Though expensive, it is far more convenient than flying (take 年休 to travel two hours the opposite direction? No thanks) and both more convenient and more comfortable than night buses (which also deposit you into the city well before anything interesting is open).

Once in Hiroshima, you can get around using the trams and buses. There are day and two-day passes available which offer unlimited travel. There is also a ferry which takes you to Miyajima (a must-see) included. Another ferry is available from the Peace Park, but it's absurdly expensive in comparison, and doesn't appear to save a lot of time.



Where to Stay

On the cheaper and more distant front, there is K's House Hiroshima (just make sure you get your own key, or don't separate from your travel buddies if they only give you one). Otherwise, there are several Toyoko Inns around the city, including one on Heiwa Dori, which is quite close to the Peace Memorial Museum and Park.

What to Do

The Peace Memorial Museum and Park are the primary attractions in Hiroshima City. Currently, the museum is undergoing renovations until 2018, but it is still well worth the visit. Careful not to blow your budget, though. Admission comes at the exorbitant price of 50円. On the park grounds is the A-Bomb Dome, which was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996, and is a haunting reminder of the destructive power of nuclear weapons. Another one of my favorites is the statue of Sadako. She folded 1000 paper cranes in an attempt to cure her cancer. The exhibits are very moving and are an important piece of history to encounter.

On the less depressing front, Hiroshima style okonomiyaki is wonderful and you'll surely find a

stall worthy of your patronage in Okonomimura. A bit farther from the central area is Ren Ren Okonomiyaki, which has a cheeseburger version. The highest rated restaurant, Gattsuri-An, is a bit of trek (not recommendable in heavy rain sans umbrella and waterproof shoes), but the seafood is delicious and the staff accommodating despite how busy it seems to always be. Be mindful that if you order the cook-it-yourself shrimp, it comes out still alive. I found this quite heart-wrenching, so buyer beware.

For bars, I'd recommend Koba, Mac, and Dumb! Records. Mac has tons of CDs lining the walls and if you ask nicely, they'll play a song for you. People also tend to dance while there, so if that's your thing, it's more fun and less nausea inducing than your standard dance club. Dumb! Records and Koba are located quite close to each other. The former is also a record label, CD store, and has a pop punk theme, whereas the latter is a metal bar. A good time can be had at and by all (or at least many).

Any good trip to Hiroshima includes a ferry ride to Miyajima. There, you can see deer outside of Nara (no senbei, though, so they won't surround you to steal your soul and snacks), the floating torii, Itsukushima (one of Japan's top three sights!), and use a ropeway and your legs to reach the peak of Mt. Misen. If you're into oysters, Miyajima is well known for them. Kakiya is heralded as the best restaurant on the island. You can even



order their secret kaki teishoku if you want to feel special. The momiji manju are always delicious. I'm partial to the chocolate filled ones.

Last Minute Points

- >> The Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art is worth a look.
- >> Don't you dare speak of Osaka-style okonomiyaki. Don't even think of it.
- >> Hiroshima Castle isn't very exciting, especially if you've already visited Himeji Castle.
- >> People love the Carps, Hiroshima's baseball team. There are many goods plastered with their mascot.

Hiroshima makes for a fun weekend trip. It can be slightly longer and more expensive using the shinkansen, or rather affordable with the night bus. While the Peace Museum is heavy, there are plenty of fun things to balance out your trip.

Brittany Teodorski

background by
Erika Horwege



Taipei: A Tasty Retreat for Culture Vultures

Whether for a last minute summer getaway or the upcoming "Silver Week" in September, Taiwan's capital city, Taipei, is a spectacular destination for those looking to travel outside of Japan. With a rich history including European, Chinese, and Japanese settlement, visitors can experience a unique blend of culture and some fantastic cultural sites.

Where to Stay

Homey Hostel is centrally located and affordably priced with a spacious common room, sufficient toilets and showers, and friendly staff teeming with great recommendations - I absolutely recommend staying here.

What to Do

Jiufen - Famous for the picturesque tea house that inspired Hayao Miyazaki's design for the bathhouse in *Spirited Away*, this mountain town is a great day trip out of Taipei. Wander through the shops and alleys, enjoy the scenery and atmosphere, and don't miss the freshly caught fried squid (absolutely mouthwatering) or traditional tea overlooking the countryside.

Museums - Taipei is home to many museums and memorials worth visiting. My group visited the 2-28 Peace Park and Museum, the Taipei Contemporary Museum of Art, the National Taiwan Museum, the Chiang-Kai Shek Memorial Hall (the

changing of the guards on the hour is well worth a watch, especially if you have seen changing of the guard ceremonies in other countries), and the National Palace

Museum, which is home to an absolutely stunning collection of Chinese art and historical objects (thanks to Chiang Kai-Shek, who ordered the collection shipped from the Palace Museum in Beijing to Taiwan during the Chinese civil war).

Taipei 101 - I'm normally not too keen on viewing cityscapes from tall towers, but the view of Taipei at night from

the Taipei 101 tower was pretty special. Take advantage of the coupon book that accompanies the ticket to try a mango beer float or phenomenal soy cinnamon caramel ice cream. Don't miss checking out the damper, a steel pendulum designed to offset strong winds, and Damper Baby, the tower's cute mascot.

Where to Eat

Head to one of Taipei's many night markets to try cheap local favorites. Watch what the locals are eating and check for cleanliness/hygiene, but don't be afraid to dive in and eat some unusual dishes! Try stinky tofu (just to say you ate it), oyster omelet, and fresh fruit juice. For the less adventurous (or those reeling from a poor food choice), stick to beef noodles:

cheap, filling, delicious, and ubiquitous. I enjoyed the Shilin market, but ask your hostel for staff recommendations.

For shits and giggles (pun intended), check out Modern Toilet. This toilet themed restaurant offers surprisingly delicious food amongst bathroom decor - patrons either sit in a giant toilet bowl booth or on individual toilets, and food is served in toilet and urinal shaped bowls.

For a refreshing afternoon snack, head to Snow King Ice Cream for some rather unusual flavor choices. My group chose plum wine, curry, and Taiwan Beer, but you could also try a more traditional fruit ice cream, sample pig's feet flavor, or choose from the 73 options.

Tips & Tricks

>> Get a metro card - you can buy one in a ticket machine on the MRT, top up as needed, and get a refund before you return. This made our travel very easy. Be warned - eating and drinking inside the subway stations is not allowed, and those who violate this heavily enforced rule face a hefty fine.

>> Taipei nightlife is tricky, bordering on nonexistent. Finding a bar or patio restaurant with cheap alcohol is easy enough, but finding a club proved more difficult. Many are only open on certain days and at odd times, so check online or with your hostel before heading out. If you go right at opening (for the one we



found, 11PM), you might even get in for free with an all-you-can-drink pass (sorry, boys - this seemed like a girls only offer). For something more laid back, check out the restaurants in the Red House Theater, Taipei's unofficial gay district and home to excellent drink deals.

>> Your Japanese will come in handy! Many locals speak Japanese as a second language.

Erika Horwege

For more ideas on what to do in Taiwan, check out former ALT Cherie Pham's [Hyogo Times article](#) on Taipei.



Five Albums You Should Listen to this Month

Find your new summer hits before the sweltering season arrives and lucky for you 4 of the 5 albums have been out since last month, making them very easy to get your hands on.

Before The World Was Big by Girlpool - 2 June 2015

Wichita Recordings has now become a personal favorite since I've realized they produced both Waxahatchee's Ivy Tripp (recommended earlier this year) and Girlpool's Before The World Was Big. The debut album from Los Angeles natives, Cleo Tucker (Guitar) and Harmony Tividad (Bass), though simple is extremely relatable and screams with energy that starts as a slow simmer, but finishes with an overflowing boil. The songs often tackle that moment when the illusions we've fostered for much of our life come up against the hard wall of reality. At only ten songs and each rarely reaching three minutes in length, the album lends itself to multiple replays and singalongs.

Feels Like by Bully - 23 June 2015

I was always taught to keep my cards close to my

chest and never show my entire hand, but with this month's recommendations it couldn't be helped. Whether it's Megan James from Purity Ring, Simbi Ajikawo as Little Simz, Tahliah DebreTT Barnett as FKA Twigs, Amelia Meath from Sylvan Esso, or any number of the other female vocalists, an overwhelming number of women are bringing new and unique talent to their respective genres on a scale not matched by their male counterparts. This goes for my second recommendation this month and another debut album. Whereas the abovementioned Girlpool often brings their listeners into their arms through slow build ups, Feels Like from Bully goes with the in your face approach, backing down at times as if to assess the damage before starting up again. However like Girlpool, Bully keeps it short and the album's songs are best for those who need a quick pick me up from the daily grind. Listen to "Milkman" or their single "Trying" for a small, but representative taste.

Coming Home by Leon Bridges - 23 June 2015

At a time when we find ourselves surrounded by pop, rap, and rock stars and their big budget exploits, one might

stop to think whether there's a place in today's musical environment for soul and its characteristic simplicity. Leon Bridges's Coming Home reveals that answer to be an unequivocal yes and makes the person who even thought of asking look like a damn fool. Much like the previously mentioned recommendations this is a debut album, with only ten songs at about three minutes each, but that's about where Coming Home's similarities end with the albums by Bully and Girlpool. Bridges sugary voice will make even the casual listener swoon and eyes flutter as he takes you back to a simpler time and washes every worry from your mind.

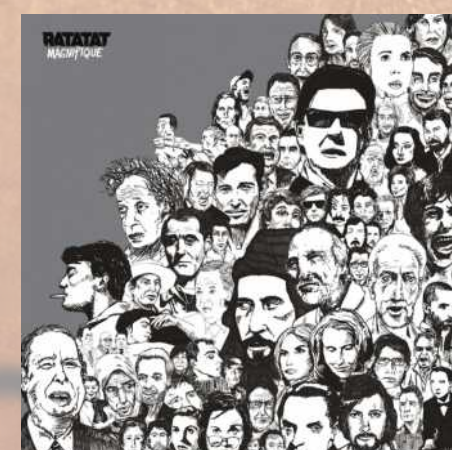
Magnifique by Ratatat - 17 July 2015

After five years Mike Shroud and Evan Mast, the duo known as Ratatat return with their fifth album Magnifique. Their singles "Cream On Chrome," which was first performed at this year's Coachella and "Abrasive" don't seem to promise anything extremely new, but if you're a fan that's not necessarily a bad thing. The lightness of these songs, if not all their songs, with their tinge of 70s and 80s beats makes it nearly impossible for any listener to stay still.

Payola by Desaparecidos - 23 June 2015

Maybe one of the hardest working and busiest vocalists with numerous group and solo projects, Conor Oberst once again forms Desaparecidos after a thirteen year break. For those who enjoyed the first album Read Music / Speak Spanish, Payola keeps it fast and politically-oriented. You won't find much of the slower and sadder tones that are often present in Bright Eyes or his solo work, instead there is frustration emanating from both Oberst's raw vocals and those of supporting vocalist and bass guitarist Landon Hedges. Tackling racial or income inequality, government spying, the continuous failings of modern capitalism, and many of the other issues we find ourselves becoming increasingly disillusioned with, Desaparecidos offers a focused sophomore album that speaks clearly to its audience.

Sean Mulvihill



Miss Something? This is the 12th and final installment of *The Durants*. Catch up on [part 11](#) or start from the beginning on the [Hyogo Times website](#).

XII.

As she glided over the countryside, all Bionca could see was the carcasses of trees strewn about. Some of these had been caused by herself and her compatriots. However, many beyond their wooden tunnel were dying into the ground upon which they once stood strong. Behind her, she could already feel the lava spurting into the air. "Faster," she muttered to herself. There wasn't much time to find and deliver her mother from harm. She coughed as she contorted her body, willing the glider to pick up speed.

Gaia flinched as the cowl was ripped from her head. Blinking against the fluorescent lightning, she found herself in the room of her nightmares. Medical instruments glinted upon a nearby table. Dr. Paget had turned away from his specimen to fiddle with them, humming aimlessly to himself.

"Ah ah ah," the doctor warned as Gaia inched toward the door. He turned back to her, holding a scalpel delicately in his hand. "There is so much more to learn about your race. Young Brion interrupted us so rudely all those years ago." Despite wearing a surgical mask, it was obvious his crooked grin was back.

"You're sick. You can't treat people this way!"

"My dear, you know I can. Everyone must serve their purpose. My patients' sacrifices serve all of humanity. Without my work, Taesh could not have progressed as rapidly as it did." He took a step toward the woman, light glinting in his eye. "Your death will be for the benefit of all, my dear."

Adrenaline flooding her systems, Gaia crouched before springing onto the doctor. Momentarily stunned, he stumbled and dropped his blade. As he whipped around,

The Durants

Gaia flung into the tray holding the rest of his tools. A cacophony filled the room for a second as they all clattered to the ground. She blindly grabbed the closest object then charged Dr. Paget with a primal shriek. He caught her wrist as she made to plunge the forceps into his eye socket. At the same time, he stabbed scissors into her thigh, eliciting a scream of fury as she fell. She kicked his throat with her good leg after twisting wildly. He sputtered, then pinned her to the ground.

"I didn't want to have to do this, my dear," he growled. He was aiming the forceps at her. "But you must be made to cooperate." His free hand wrapped around her neck and applied an increasing amount of pressure. Gaia's hand searched frantically for something, anything, to defend herself with. Meeting metal, her fingers wrapped around it before driving it through the doctor's temple. He blinked, stunned. His grip loosened. The image was grotesque, but he quickly continued his assault.

Squeezing her eyes shut and thinking of her husband and daughter, Gaia again groped for another weapon before seizing the scalpel. This time, she sliced through his jugular. He gasped desperately then fell backwards. She clambered up and pulled the scissors out of her thigh, looking back at the wheezing doctor still with the scalpel embedded in his head.

She spit on his face before running toward the exit, hoping to find the tunnels.

"Gaia!" Bionca shouted into the city below her. She was running out of time. "Gaia, where are you?!" She circled back around and continued to cough. "Mother! Please come out." Losing hope, she surfaced. "Mom. Mommy, please."

Not knowing what else to do, she ran to her grandparents' old home, begging for her mother to be there. Upon reaching the door, she stood dumbfounded before remembering the code Mina had given her years ago. Gingerly, she removed the weathered announcement of her father's funeral and typed the numbers on its back into the keypad. The wall melted before her.

She flinched as something flew at her face, stopping just short. "Bionca?" Her mother's voice washed over her ears, together with relief.

"Mom!" She hugged her fiercely. Tears began blurring her vision and she hiccupped violently. "I'm so happy I found you."

Gaia stroked her daughter's back. "Shh, shh. Me too." She smiled against Bionca's hair, inhaling deeply.

The queen jerked away. "We need to go." Her wet eyes widened in alarm. "The city center will be destroyed any minute now. We need to get to high ground." Her mother nodded and they set off through the tunnels.

Upon surfacing, they were struck by a wave of heat. Bionca swore under her breath and pulled Gaia toward the slums. "Bee, I don't think there's enough time to get there," she murmured.

Bionca looked back, her splotted face tear-stained. "I'm not giving up. I'm not letting you die here." Her jaw clenched. "I have to save you." The pair began sprinting, though the steady incline slowed them down. The climb up the slum walls was arduous and both lost their footing in their haste. Behind them, the lava's advance force had arrived. Soon, there would be flames engulfing the city center and all there who had failed to flee would perish.

The daughter reached the top of the wall first. Below her, Gaia's boot slipped and if not for quick reflexes, she would have plummeted. Bionca held her precariously, tears and sweat dripping onto her mother's face. Gritting her teeth, she heaved Gaia up. Her balance began to fail her, so she quickly threw the glider onto her mother's back and pushed her over the edge, into the slums. Panic-stricken, Gaia looked behind her to see her only child mouth "I love you" before falling on the other side of the wall.

"No!" She struggled to turn around, but the glider seemed to have its own agenda. "BIONCA! NO!" Her voice cracked and felt raw. Hysterically, she screamed her daughter's name over and over, willing her to have held on to the edge of the wall. In her heart, though, she knew the truth. Her family was gone. All that was left of them were her memories.

She collapsed in the middle of a ring of people still crying. "Gaia?" Drake's deep voice resonated in her ears. "Where's Queen Bee? She's not..." He pulled her into an

embrace.

"My daughter, my baby..." Gaia choked on her sobs. Immediately, the atmosphere in the circled group darkened. As if to rub salt in the wound, the message Bionca recorded began playing. With a somber face and in a serious, yet strangely sweet, voice she began addressing the Taeshans.

"My fellow humans," it began. "For the past several generations, we have been subdued. Our minds, our bodies, and our spirits have been overtaken by the Volarchy. We were fed lies, sent to the guilds to toil, and restricted in our movements." Mina looked at her twin in pity. She took a few hesitant steps toward her, then hugged her for the first time since they were children. Unused to human touch, Mina was unsure of what to do, but Gaia leaned into her sister, leaking various fluids onto her chest.

"We were not free. Our lives were not our own. But now, we have started upon our path to autonomy. The Volarchy has been crippled by our actions. Now is our time to act. We will find the truth. We will find passion to fuel our work. We will explore and discover new horizons."

Gaia thought of Brion Durant and of Dr. Devon Carlton. She even thought of Rakowsky and Katie Paget. So many deaths had led her daughter down this path. Now with her own, she had driven her mother to continue her work. Gaia vowed to not let her daughter's sacrifice for her own safety be in vain. She would honor her lost loved ones by enacting Bionca's vision of a world where people could have sovereignty over their own destiny.

"Our way forward is fraught with difficulties, disagreements, and, as always, more disasters. Today, we used such a disaster to deliver you from tyranny. You deserve to know the truth. Together, I know we can create a new world. We are now our own masters. We are free to follow our own paths. We are free to be who we are."

Brittany Teodoroski

What's A Fire Flower? A Festival-Filled Summer

Mark your calendar and fill it up with these incredible opportunities to travel Hyogo and its neighboring prefectures.

July 14, Nachi-no-Hi Matsuri in Wakayama

A festival where 12 enormous fire torches are lit at the base of Nachi Waterfall. The torches welcome the god Kumano back to the Grand Shrine located there. Held at a waterfall in mountains surrounded by trees this festival offers a unique natural experience.



Nachi no Hi Matsuri
by Jennifer Murawski

July 25, Tenjin Matsuri, Osaka

Though actually starting on July 24, the main events for this festival occur on the second day, July 25. Similar to Gion Matsuri in that there is a parade through Osaka starting at Tenmangu Shrine, Tenjin stands out due to the water procession that follows the one on land.



Tenjin Matsuri
by Isaac Bordas

Japan for matchmaking and longevity. Perfect for summer love.

August 8, Biwako Hanabi Matsuri, Shiga

Though similar to the other firework festivals throughout the summer, this one gives you the additional bonus of visiting beautiful Lake Biwa.



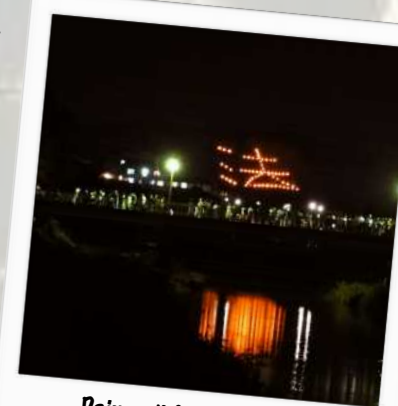
Biwako Fireworks Festival
by Jose Cruz

to fill those concerned with the spirits of the deceased. This joy results in dancing, which is why numerous Obon odori festivals exist today. Dance to your heart's content while you watch the celebration at this year's festival in Meriken Park

Supposedly one of the best in Japan, though I've learned by now that most prefectures like to boast about things that can't be measured and are extremely subjective.

August 16, Daimonji Gozan Okuribi, Kyoto

If there was one chance for Japan to blare Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start The Fire" over a speaker system during a festival this would be it. Occurring at the end of Obon, giants fires are lit on the mountains surrounding Kyoto to send the spirits of the deceased on their way. There are five large characters set ablaze in total and although each has their own specific best viewing spot, you can get a panoramic view of 4 of the 5 fires from Funaokayama Park.



Daimonji Gozan Okuribi
by sprklg

Aug. 15 -16, Tamba-Sasayama Dekansho Festival, Tamba

If you're tired of always sticking around Kobe for



Tamba-Sasayama Dekansho Festival
by Yoshikazu Kato

summer festivals, but want to stay in Hyogo head over to Tamba this summer. With their unique Obon odori you can enjoy a familiar scene in a new environment.

Sean Mulvihill

July 17, Gion Matsuri, Kyoto

Probably the most well-known festival in the Kansai region, if not Japan, it includes enormous and impressively decorated floats known as yama and hoko. These floats are then pulled by group of volunteers and painstakingly turned using wooden slats at corners. Although the floats can be viewed throughout the month of July the biggest parade is on July 17 with a smaller procession on July 24.



Kobe Samba Festa
by Jose Cruz

Late July, Samba Festa, Kobe

Apparently Kobe is the home of Samba in Japan, who knew. Catch enthusiasts of this music and dance, originating from Brazil walk the streets of Sannomiya.

Early August, Minato Firework Festival, Kobe

Head out to Kobe Harborland for an evening full of fireworks and delicious finger foods. Get there early and grab a spot before it gets too crowded.

August 3 -5, Taga Taisha Lantern Festival, Shiga

Not only will you be able to catch a wonderful display of lanterns at Taga Taisha Shrine, but it's also known in



Taga Taisha Lantern Festival
by osanpo

August 16, Kobe Seaside Bon Dance, Meriken Park

With a spirits release from this realm at the end of Obon, joy is said



Kobe Obon Odori
by imissdaisydog



Gion Matsuri
by Sean Mulvihill



Minato Firework Festival
by Javi Sevillano

Far From the Same: Saga-ken

My name is Penny Fox and I'm originally from Sydney, Australia, although I'm not sure now which to call my 'hometown,' since I spent the full 5 years on JET (2009 - 2014). I actually had 2 placements - one for the first 3 years, where I taught at a total of 10 schools (3 x JHS + 7 x ES) on a rotational basis throughout the year. My second placement (granted an intra-prefectural transfer when my BOE ran out of money and cancelled my JET position) was in a neighbouring city where I had one base JHS, 2 x ES and 2 kindergartens that I visited periodically.



Like most people, my placement was not in a city or prefecture I had listed as a preference on the application form. However, I knew that one of the points of the JET Programme was being seriously interested in Japan to the extent that it wouldn't matter where you were placed in the country, and that fitted me to a tee. I had requested a rural placement though, so I could get a feel for 'real life' in Japan, and in that sense Saga was perfect. I believe that large cities are largely the same all over the world, and I didn't want to come to Japan (from Sydney) to spend time in just another city; I was there to live like a Japanese person and experience the 'true' Japan, as I saw it.

What was your favorite memory while in your prefecture?

My best memories probably revolve around the people I met during my stay. Since Saga is very rural, there is not a lot to do, so it was the people around me who made my time memorable. Obviously over 5 years there were many highlights, but some include regularly receiving bags of fresh fruit or vegetables that neighbours had kindly left at my doorstep; spending time in my favourite izakaya, where I got to know the master and other locals from my town really well; seeing snow for the first time ever; the smell of onions during harvest time (my second town was famous for onions; the smell started out as a 'stench' in my first year but soon became more like an 'aroma' to me that I now miss); helping a student get to the finals of the prefectural speech competition; and of course thousands of other special moments I shared with the many kids I taught.

Is there a "best" time to visit your prefecture?

Yes - in the first week of November, because that's when all the action happens in Saga. (see below)

What are your "Must Do's" for visiting JETs?

1. The annual Saga International Hot-air Balloon

Fiesta - a festival in early November when hot-air balloon teams from all over the world descend on Saga for a week of racing and other events. A true sight to behold.

In 2016 Saga will also host the 22nd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship (2016.10.27 - 11.7), so this would be a great time to visit.

2. The Karatsu Kunchi festival, which is also held at the same time as the balloons each year - around the beginning of November. Large floats representing the various districts of the city are pulled through narrow streets with much chanting, music and general revelry.

3. Ureshino onsen, which is said to be in Japan's top 3 'beautifying' onsen waters; the town is also famous for tea and as with most onsen villages, boasts countless places to stay, bath-houses, and also has a couple of free outdoor footbaths.

4. The Yoshinogari Historical Park where visitors to Saga can enjoy an educational stroll through Japan's second largest discovery of Yayoi period ruins. Today most of the structures are replicas, but you can still see original burial pots in situ.

5. Yobuko (part of Karatsu city) where you can eat live squid.

6. There are 2 waterfalls on Japan's top 100 list; Mikaeri-no-taki is especially beautiful during June, when the whole gorge area is lined with hydrangeas.

What do you feel is unique to your prefecture, something JETs can't find anywhere else?

Aside from the Balloon Fiesta, if you are near Saga in late May/early June, try to get involved in the Gatalympics. It's a day of 'olympic-style' events in the mud



flats of the Ariake Sea and is something completely unique. It's pretty entertaining as a spectator too, but actually getting in the thick mud and trying your hand against hundreds of other competitors is not to be missed. Whether it be running/crawling through the mud and over an obstacle course, pushing others off a platform in the sumo contest, riding a bike along a narrow wooden board suspended on the mud, or throwing globs of mud into a high basket, this is one event you will never forget.

Anything else you want to add?

Saga is probably best known as a city/prefecture that people pass through on their way to Nagasaki, but it is a charming rural place with plenty to do. Next time you're passing through, why not take a break and experience the old, slow lifestyle of agricultural Japan. The Saga JET community is also a highly socially active one, so if you need an extra excuse, why not visit www.sagajet.com and join in one of the many events they have coming up.

Penny Fox

Why did you apply for the JET program or come to teach in Japan?

I had a long history with Japan, starting with holiday trips with my parents (my father did a lot of business in Japan), as well as a short stint on exchange in high school. I studied Japanese for a total of 8 years, and had always wanted to live in the country for an extended period; the JET Programme seemed the most logical way to do that. I also love kids and had some experience in teaching-related fields, so once I got my Graduate Diploma of Education, I finally applied and was accepted.

How did you end up in your prefecture? Was it a preference of yours?

Laugh, cry, use acronyms like SMH, WTF, LOL, and FML all while reading these JET experiences.

Welcome to the Monkey House

So it's official if you change the rules of kings cup/box head and add candy and tokens to the mix ...it becomes a pretty badass English game! And here I was thinking it would never be a useful skill - Ashlie O.

Japanese teacher (talking about English Enkai this Friday): "Japanese people speak more English when we are drunk because we have more confidence. Friday is a good chance! We can record the final exam when we get drunk! Hmm. We should drink before class...the students should too." - Erika H.

That sort of awkward moment when you realize that you might have accidentally terrorized a student into doing his bookwork (instead of letting him stare at the air). Hard to say if that's a win or not... - Joy S.

I taught my students texting English, but one boy decided options were too limited and made up his own: YNK, MGK, & MTK (you're nice koala; most great koala; most total koala). - EH

Draft 5 Complete *slams head on desk* - Maia M.

When a 3年生 yells, "pen is" down the hall and you have to fight the urge to correct the pronunciation. - Sean M.

Me: I can't believe how reluctant (boy student) and (girl student) were to work with each other.

JTE: It's not so unusual. You know it's a pretty recent thing for girls to go to school. It use to be only boys who received an education.

Me: Really? How recent?

JTE: The start of the Meiji Era.

Me: Oh...You mean 1868... - SM.



'Tis the Season

It's back to 'Emma you're so red', 'Emma why are you so red, are you ok?', 'AH! RED! VERY RED FACE!'. Summers in Japan when schools refuse to use the air con - Emma C.

Woke up to a scary roaring sound. No big deal, it's only THE SKY FALLING. Crazy monsoon alarm clock. - EC

Idyllic Mayhem

The whiteboard at the front of the JHS staff room today says: "NO 残業 DAY!" I'm really glad that the school is finally telling the teachers to go home at a reasonable time at least one day of the year. I'm taking it to heart and leaving at lunchtime! - Rachel S.

Nothing like coming home to an ice cold bottle of jungleman calorie off after a hard days work. - Scott P.

Being an adult means that it's ok for me to just go home and go to bed after work, right? - Zadio O.

Apparently, it only took three years for a teacher to build up the courage to ask if my name is spelled with an R or an L. - Ronaldo Ginsberg

Even my English speaking friends don't understand me.... 'faff', 'hench' and 'palava' are all part of my secret language (with no Brits around). - EC

Those days when you go to the admin office to take a video and get given a full hula set (two actually) just because. - AO

It Was No Dream

Australian Friends - I had a cherry ripe and it changed my life... What else are you hiding from me?! - MM

'Miss Emma, your clothes are very unusual. They suit your personality'

Me: '...Thank youuu...?'

'I am trying to compliment you without flattering you'

Me: '.....Ok.....' - EC

As I was walking home with a student, her mother stopped to pick her up and she was so excited to meet me! She said that her daughter is always talking about me happily.

It feels amazing that I could make such an impression on students that they tell their families stories of me. It's kinda sad that



I'll probably never do anything like this again in my life. Maybe I really should be a teacher... - Caitlin C.

Compiled by Sean Mulvihill



>> "Crucial Vocabulary" comic by Mary Cagle
>> "Never Boring" comic by Grace Buchele Mineta
>> "Japanese Hot Spring Etiquette" comic by Evangeline Neo

If you have any quotes, comments, or situations you think represent JET life, please feel free to send them to

hyogotimespublications@gmail.com and share them with us all.



July+August

Outside Hyogo	Awaji	Hanshin	Kobe
AJET Events	Tajima	Tamba	Harima

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
13	14	15 Sentosai (Wishing Health) Ako Antique Market	16	17	18	19 The 2015 Paris Festival (Kyoto)
20	21 To-ji Temple Market (Kyoto)	22	23	24 Manto Fire Festivall	25 Minatogawa Craft Market	26
27	28	29	30	31 Sennichi Mairi (Kyoto)	1	2
				Awaji Island Festival		
				Gundam World 2015 (Osaka)		
3	4 Furusato Firework Festivall	5	6	7	8	9
Himeji Castle Festival					Port of Kobe Firework Festival	
Gundam World 2015 (Osaka)						
10	11	12	13	14	15 Ako Antique Market Firework Fantasy (Osaka)	16 Lantern Fest. (Arashiyama) Daimonji Gozan Okuribi (Kyoto)
					Tamba Sasayama Dekansho Festival	
Gundam World 2015 (Osaka)						

