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December 2010 Issue 1

The Christmas Issue Jingle Bells on the Rock!

Welcome to the very first issue of the Totalokinawa.com magazine. We'll be publishing an issue once every 2 months and aim to bring you REAL reviews of local restaurants, beauty salons, places to go and more. We'll also be featuring YOUR reviews. Just submit them online at Totalokinawa.com and they could end up in print here. We've got a round up of the latest jobs from Okinawajob.com as well as coupons and also Totalokinawa.com TV. Apart from **totallysmart** content you can also view the interactive version of this magazine online, featuring video & much more at www.totalokinawa.com

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to

Restaurants

Chubby's BBQ

Friendly, family service and their own home made BBQ sauce make this a great choice for BBQ in Okinawa.

There's only one thing - don't go if you're not hungry, the portions are huge! One of their set menus will leave you well and truly fit to burst!

They regularly have special menus - we tried the season special which started with soup & salad, then a generous portion of bbq ribs and chicken arrived and that was accompanied by rice or bread as well as french fries. To top it off there was even dessert!



Compared to an all you can eat restaurant which are popular in Okinawa it was good value. ¥1780 for more than enough to feel full. They also have a-la-carte options such as a BBQ chicken sandwich if you're not feeling quite so hungry.

At lunch time there's bento boxes. It's a great choice if you're thinking of hitting the drive thru at lunch time.

Go straight out the other side and get a fresh bento

instead. If you've got an event coming up or just feel like BBQ without actually having to ... umm BBQ, then they do take out as well and can cater for large parties or groups. We definitely recommend Chubby's not only for their good value sets but also the friendly family service you just don't get in a restaurant chain.

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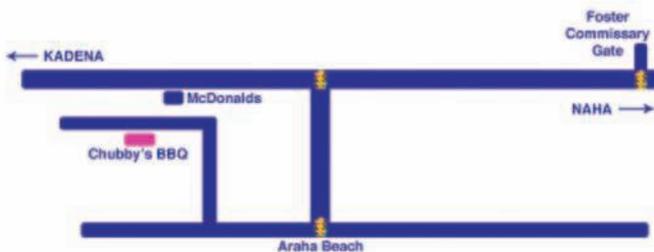


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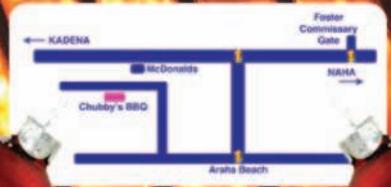
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'Tis the season – to go diving!

Wait before putting your wetsuit away, now is a great time to go diving!

As the weather cools and the north winds start to blow many divers on Okinawa start to pack up their dive gear and put things away until the warm southern winds of spring grace our shores again. But wait putting your gear up for the winter will cause you to miss some of the best diving Okinawa and the southern islands of Japan have to offer.

As the weather cools in Okinawa the sea surrounding the island comes even more alive. Winter is the start of the humpback whale season in Okinawa and the Keramas. Starting in late December humpback whales will converge on the crystal clear waters surrounding Okinawa to mate, give birth and frolic in the waves. These amazing creatures can be seen on numerous whale watching tours or while diving the Keramas or contact Reef Encounters for the only snorkeling and kayaking with whale tours on Okinawa.

Whales are not the only groups to converge on Okinawa - starting in January in Yonaguni its "Hammer time" as massive schools of hammerhead sharks converge on this western most point of Japan. Diving with schools numbering up into the hundreds of 12 to 15 foot sharks is an experience of a lifetime and Japan is one of the few places in the world where it can be done.

As the tourist scene wains in Okinawa shore dive sites become less crowded and more accessible. As the divers leave the critters float back in. During the winter the number and variety of macro animals for photo bugs to capture that perfect shot of are located close to shore and waiting to pose for you.

Also larger pelagic creatures including mantas, whale sharks and even killer whales appear in the waters in the Keramas and other small islands in Okinawa. So as the weather cools, get that gear serviced, dig out that 5 mm wetsuit with hood and go Get Wet!

Open 7 days a week from 9am - 6pm Boat departs daily at 9am

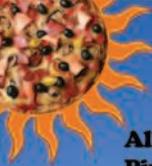
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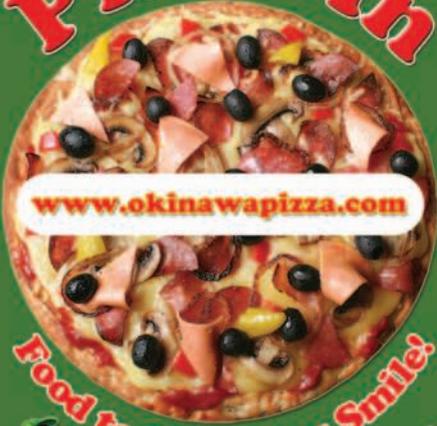


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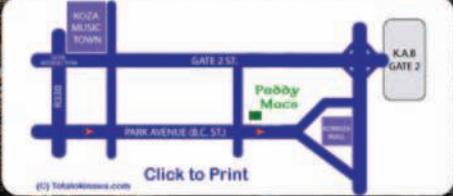






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Jingle bells on the rock!
We check out what to eat, see
and do in Okinawa this holiday
season.



Food

As you might guess for a non-Christian country, Japan isn't as crazy about Christmas as others but if there's one thing that says Japanese Xmas food, it's cake. Other countries have stollen or rich fruit cake, Japan traditionally has a cream sponge with fruit, normally strawberries. It's normally eaten on Christmas Eve after maybe going out for dinner. You'll see them especially in convenience stores and pre-ordering for this popular Christmas treat is often necessary.



Need another excuse
to eat fried chicken,
then Christmas is it!
If you fancy some
KFC instead of turkey
at Christmas then
you'd better reserve

in advance and yes we're serious. KFC is synonymous with Christmas dinner in Japan with queues around the block. It's said to stem from the 1970s when expats in Tokyo mentioned while in a store that fried chicken was the next best thing to turkey which couldn't be found in Japan. KFC saw an opportunity and marketing took over.

Celebrate

Some countries treat the 25th December as being the day for big celebration and others celebrate on the evening of the 24th.

Japanese often see the evening of 24th December as a romantic celebration with dinner out, proposals and of course cake. Many children do get excited at the thought of "St Claus" arriving at their bedside overnight. Once the celebrations are over, it's a traditional time of year to clean home and business and various items are displayed to hope for good fortune in the New Year, such as bamboo rakes and decorative palm trees at entrances.

Go Out

Don't want to sit at home - then head on out for Christmas food or fun. Okinawa may not have the wide variety of Christmas events as back home but there are places to go and things to see.

If you are looking to celebrate on Christmas Eve why not check out the Brazilian Christmas party at Bovino's. They're doing an all you can eat dinner with a special Brazilian Christmas menu. It also includes all you can drink soft drinks, beer and wine as well as a glass of sparkling wine and children free under 12 years all for just ¥5000! For a taste of a snowy winter in Okinawa, the closest you are likely to get is the Christmas fantasy at Okinawa Zoo Park.

Taking place from December 23rd to 28th, they've got three laser shows every day, a snow show with a Japanese style igloo or "Kamakura" as well as fireworks and much more! Tickets are available in advance with a ¥300 discount off the ¥2000 door price for adults or there's a ¥200 discount off the door price of ¥1200 for children's tickets purchased in advance. More information at www.xmas-fantasy.com

New Year is a much more significant time for most Japanese. Even the busiest salary man takes time off to visit Shinto shrines or Buddhist temples within the first couple of days of New Year. There is a large temple and shrine just outside Foster's Legion Gate at the intersection of Highways 330 and 81. The whole area comes alive at the New Year, with various stalls outside selling food lining Highway 330 and many hundreds if not thousands of people visiting the temple there. The road gets very busy so if you want to visit it's advisable to walk. Enjoy your Okinawan Christmas!

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See Map on Page 11



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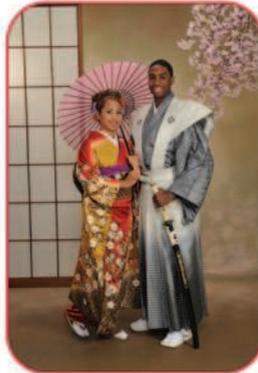
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Ambrosia

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First off, if you're particular about massage then Ambrosia offers a range of body treatments starting from a reasonable ¥3150. They only use high grade aromatherapy oils. We liked that you can add a foot treatment to any other massage for just ¥1050. Even better if you're a first time customer is the 10% discount on aromatherapy massages and body treatments.

They also offer permanent makeup. They have fully trained staff who can advise and offer permanent makeup. Never suffer from blurring again! They also offer a 3 month guarantee with free touch ups and a low price on touch ups from 3 months to 2 years. Take a look at our coupon page for a ¥3000 discount on permanent makeup at Ambrosia.

Next up is rejuvenation facials. This is not your normal facial experience! They have a variety of different facial treatments but we tried their signature rejuvenation experience. It starts off with an enzyme peel, followed by a massage then a carbon dioxide pack. Originally developed as a medical treatment, the carbon dioxide pack provides an instant improvement to skin condition and also can help with wrinkles, acne and skin firmness. It's not to be missed as it's on offer for just ¥7560 compared to the regular price of ¥12,600

They're located just behind Highway 58 opposite the Toyota garage.

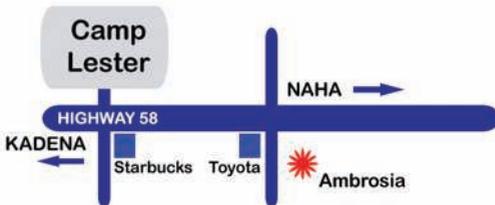
Closed - Mondays & Every 4th Sunday

Open - From 11.00am - 8.00pm

Tel - 098-989-3620 Dollars, Yen & Cards OK English & Japanese OK



www.okinawabeautysalon.com



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to

Get Out!



Round1

Want something to do on a rainy day, we checked out the Round1 complex in Ginowan. Fun for all ages.

They've got four main areas to enjoy. First up is **bowling**. Located on the 3rd floor, it's a separate price to the other facilities, with prices ranging from ¥350 - ¥580 depending on the day

and time. Like all of Round1's prices there are discounts available if you buy one of their memberships.

Next up is **Spo-cha**, which is how they refer to all the sporting activities filling most of the building. You buy a wristband which is good for either 90 minutes, with extensions available, or 3 hours and that gives you access to all the sporting activities, except bowling and darts. They've got roller skating, mini soccer, billiards, archery, tennis, badminton, basketball, mini golf, ping pong, batting cages and more! They've also got a separate enclosed section for smaller kids with climbing frames, ball pools and more. You can relax in one of the massage chairs while the kids play safely. We recommend you go with the 3 hour option if you think you might stay more than 90 minutes, as going over the 90 minutes will cost you an additional ¥400 for a 30 minute extension which makes the 3 hour cost (¥1700 per adult) the same as a 90 Minute (¥1300) plus an extension. Child prices range from ¥900 to ¥1500 depending on age and time you select. Again a membership card, for ¥500, good for one year gives you discounts.

If you're into arcade games, they've got a massive selection of the latest games available on floors 1 and 2. These are all pay per play and not included in the Spo-cha system above.

Though there are a few arcade machines in the Spo-cha area which are included.

Finally, they've also got **darts** and **karaoke**. There really is something for everyone whether it's a family outing or a couple out for some fun.

They're pretty much open 24 hours with closing at 6am, then reopening at 8, 9 or 10am for holidays, weekend and Mon-Fri respectively. Check out our mobile site for directions.

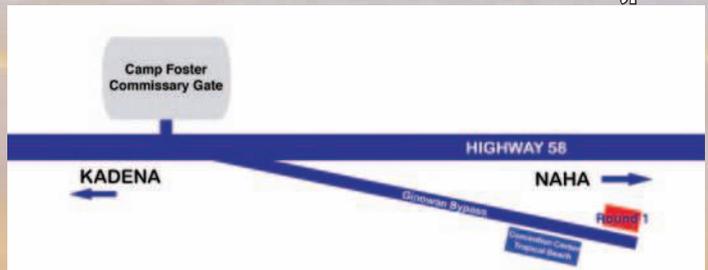
www.round1.co.jp



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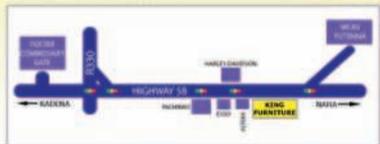
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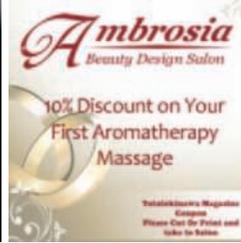
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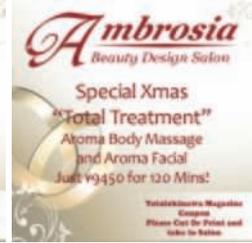
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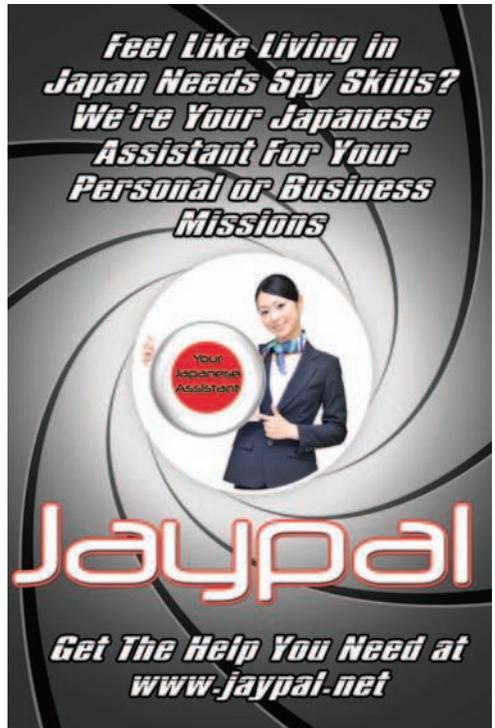
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