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August & September 2011





Santa Monica International Elementary School

Grand Opening This Coming September



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August 2011 Issue 5



Vacation in Okinawa Why Go Abroad?

We're bigger and better this month, with even more pages! We've got restaurant reviews from Cactus Eatrip, Hearth Cafe & oHacorté as well as a report from Gold Hall in Kin Town. Additionally, we've got some ideas on how to spend your vacation in Okinawa.

We're also introducing some new regular features. "Tips & Tricks" which will include features on living in Japan, also fun and news from around Japan in "Weird & Wonderful". Finally we went to get our nails done at Mai Space in Okinawa City.

As usual you can also view the magazine online at: www.totalokinawa.com

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TOTALLYSMART



What is Totally Smart?

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This is the new SMART way to read a magazine. Use your mobile phone to scan the QR Code on relevant pages and jump straight to a customized mobile phone page with all the information on that business. Directions, opening hours, telephone number and more right in your hand. Great for out and about!

Most Japanese phones have a QR reader or check out the iPhone app store or the Andoid Market.

Restaurant Review

Hearth Cafe

Popular cafe and restaurant with two locations in Chatan.

earth cafe originally started on Hamahiga island but has since moved and grown to two locations in Chatan. The Sunabe location is popular with locals and surfers and offers favourites such as the California Sufer's Bowl, Loco-Moco Hearth Style and their famous desserts. The Hearth toast, a towering



sumptuous dessert of berries, cream, ice cream and honey or syrup toast cannot be beat. Just make sure you leave some room!



The second location is near Araha beach in the popular area of Hamby. Wheras Sunabe is a more relaxed cafe style, "2nd Floor" has more of a restaurant feel. They've successfully transferred the relaxed island vibe with comfortable chairs and low tables into a restaurant setting with a more formal menu.

They feature items like Acqua Pazza (today's fresh

fish steamed and roasted in soup) as well as steak and Okinawan pork. They also have a selection of pasta dishes that frequently change as well as pizza and salads.

Don't worry, they still have the amazing desserts! So if you like Sunabe's style food but fancy a change, Hearth 2nd Floor makes a great choice.

Sunabe - Open 10:00 - 23:00 (W/end from 07:00)

2nd Floor - Open 18:00 - 01:00

Sunabe - Tel: 098-926-0622 3-177 Miyagi, Chatan-Cho 2nd Floor - Tel: 098-989-3210 2F, 1-12-11, Chatan, Chatan-Cho Dollars OK. English & Japanese OK. Take Out OK.













Hamby Map



www.hearth-cafe.com Sunabe 10am - 11pm (Weekends from 7am) 2nd Floor 6pm - 1am Take Out Available







to

Restaurant Review

oHacorté

A hidden gem serving amazing fresh fruit tarts in Urasoe.



Opened in 2009 specializing in fresh fruit tarts.
Over 50 years ago, the area where the shop is located used to be a military housing area, but now, new cafes, bakeries, and other shops have opened up. It's the kind of place that just by walking in and seeing the bright colors of the many tarts in the display cakes, puts a smile on your face!

All of the tarts are freshly prepared every morning

using fresh fruit. They

also take their time to double bake the tart cases to ensure you get a crispy pastry, not made soggy by the fillings. Most of the customers tend to take out, but there is a small cottage in the garden, where you can sit, eat and relax away from the world.

The tarts were as delicious as they looked, fresh with perfectly cooked pastry and not too sweet. Prices are around 400-500 yen for most tarts with coffee or tea





They also have a sawmill in the back of the shop making wooden crafts like coasters and cutting boards, so you can pick up some delicious tarts to go and the board to cut them on!

2-17-1 #18 Minatogawa, Urasoe city

Tel: 098-875-2129 Closed Tuesdays Open 11:30 - 19:00

Dollars & Credit cards OK



www.ohacorte.com







Google Map

Nehsite (Jananese)







Coming Up...

Mihama Soul Fest

3 Divas sing the Chicago Blues right here in Okinawa

If you're missing great blues and soul music, then there's a treat coming up in September that you just can't miss.

The Mihama Soul Fest kicks off on September 22nd for 4 nights and features THREE amazing blues and soul divas; Deitra Farr, Grana Louise and Zora Young backed up by their award winning blues band. They'll be performing right in the heart of Chatan at the Mihama Media Station from 6pm each day.

Each night is planned to end with a jam session where local artists can come on stage and jam with the divas!

Tickets are on sale now. Advance tickets are available for just 5,500 yen (on the door will be 6,500 yen) Be quick if you want to snap up an advance ticket as they're only available at discount until August 15th.

You can reserve and pay for your ticket online by visiting: http://mihamasoulfest.eventbrite. com or if you're viewing this online by clicking here.

It promises to be an amazing four days of Chicago Blues with some of the cities top award winning vocalists. There's not many world class concerts in Okinawa, but this promises to be one of them - don't miss out!







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2011

Weird and Wenderful Japan

Overseas Ambitions?

* Japan has established a self defence base in Africa costing 4.7 billion yen. It's used for SDF anti piracy activities. A necessary effort but we can't help thinking "Self Defence Force" is not quite such an accurate name anymore!

Why Join the Military?

* Fuji TV aired a special in July on why people join the US military. Apparently it's for four main reasons, help with college tuition, easier immigration, free travel and according to Fuji TV.... free cosmetic surgery. Hmm.. don't remember ever seeing that on a recruitment poster!

Singles

*The number of single households in Japan has increased to 31.2%, an increase of 10% since the last census in 2005, with the number of couple and child households dropping. Not a good sign for rapidly aging Japan.

Snakes on Trains

* A bullet train was forced to make an unscheduled stop after a Honduran milk snake was found getting comfortable on-board. Unfortunately the snake didn't have a ticket so the train was stopped while the police



were called to remove the snake. "Everybody strap in, we're about to open some ***F&#& windows". Makes a great excuse for being late for work!

Creepy

* Hot on the news of single households increasing and after the development of the creepy kiss transmission device, those same wacky scientists have devevloped the sense-roid, a device for giving yourself a hug. There's vain then there's people who buy this! Yes you can love yourself TOO much.

Politics

* The recently re-elected bastion of fair and balanced views Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara has stated that he thinks Japan needs nuclear weapons, a military regime and also conscription. That'll make things better won't it....

Play While You Pee

* A new urinal made by Sega and installed in Tokyo bars ranks the duration and speed of urination. Ok we can't resist...now you truly can get into a p**sing contest as it ranks you against previous visitors to the urinal. Now if only they could invent a game to make sure the toilet seat goes down everyone would be happy!

Immigration

* There's reports the Japanese government are working on a points based system to make it easier for skilled foreign workers to come to Japan. They are also discussing reducing the 10 year requirement for permanent residency down to 5 years and introducing 5 year visas.

to Vacation in Okinawa

Vacation In Okinawa

Make the most of Okinawa. Have your very own 'staycation' right here in Okinawa.

Too busy or too expensive to get away? Save the money on a flight and enjoy a vacation right here in Okinawa. Okinawa's got world class resorts, great cars to rent and plenty of restaurants and places to visit. Turn off the phone and disappear to your very own resort paradise right here in Okinawa. We've got some great ideas & places on how to staycation in Okinawa!

1

Book A Great Rental Car

Tired of the same old car or want to get the roof down? Why not book a luxury car for a few days? What about a Hummer, Porsche or BMW Z4, you can rent all these great cars right here in Okinawa. There's plenty of selection and shops close to the airport. "Direx" http://direx-rent.com/okinawa provide amazing rental cars as well as a limousine service.

2

Resort Luxury

Okinawa has too many luxury resorts to mention but there's something for every budget. Rather than flying off to a resort, save the airfare and in a short drive you'll be relaxing by the pool. In the South of the island there's the **Southern Beach Hotel Resort** close to Itoman. A new resort hotel with everything you could want including five interlinked pools. Perfect for sipping cocktails under an umbrella. http://tiny.cc/okisouthern



Realive Tellelan Cherrity Event

Ishikawa Dome August 27th 11 Bands with Murasaki Closing More Info - www.ecolivejapan.com



Vacation in Olinawa



In the center of the island check out Seaside Hotel The Beach. Perfect for escaping right in the center of Chatan, close to the seawall. The new building has luxurious rooms and there's a hot tub on the roof with amazing views at affordable prices.

http://tiny.cc/seasidebeach

Finally, our top luxury pick is the Busena Terrace near Nago. If you really want to spoil yourself then you're sure to find it here. Includes amazing rooms, private beach, underwater observatory and several great restaurants. http://tiny.cc/busena



Beach & Sightseeing

After you've tired of sitting on your private beach at your hotel get away from the more developed center of the island and check out more isolated natural areas of Okinawa. Hamahiga Island is great for some peace and guiet and is also close to Ikei and Miyagi islands. http://tiny.cc/hamahiga

Alternatively why not visit the Motobu area of Okinawa. You can be a tourist at the Churaumi Aquarium and Ocean Expo Park then either drive over the bridge to Sesoko Island or take the 15 minute ferry to Minna-jima island.

aside Holel The Beach

No vacation is complete without enjoying food you wouldn't normally eat at home.

A great way to treat yourself is to check out the lunchtime buffets at most of the resort hotels. Hotels such as the Busena, Marriott and Alivila amongst others offer a taste of luxury at affordable prices at lunch and you don't need to be a quest!

www.ultragraphicjapan.com contact@ultragraphicjapan.com





Japan Tips & Tricks



Marriage

If you're thinking about getting married in Japan, then here's what you need to know.

Paperwork

Before you can get married in Japan as a foreigner then you need a sworn affadavit of competency to marry. This is normally obtained from your country's embassy or consulate. If you're in the military then you need to go through military channels to obtain the certificate.

What's Legal?

You may think, like back home, you go have the fancy ceremony, then that's it you're married. Nope.

The ceremony in Japan, whether you chose a Western or Japanese style occasion means nothing legally. Until you submit a "Notification of Marriage" at city hall you're not legally married. So in theory, you could get married in just a few minutes at the city office. Not very romantic though!

Age

The legal age to get married in Japan is 18 years old for men and 16 years old for women, though if you're under 20 years old you need parental permission. After divorce though, a woman must wait 6 months to remarry in case she may be pregnant. Though if she happens to be divorcing and re-marrying the same man, then that can be done in the same day! It probably wouldn't make the city office too happy though!

Japanese & Foreign Marriage

One of the big criticisms about mixed marriage in Japan is that foreigners are not fully recognised on the family register. As it's such an important document and literally contains the identity of a family it's come in for increasing attack in recent years for not being reformed. Whether foreign or Japanese, most parents chose to get married due to the father of a child born outside marriage not being legallly recognised.

Am I Legally Married?

Most countries including the US, recognise that a foreign legal and valid marriage, which includes Japan of course, is also valid in the US.

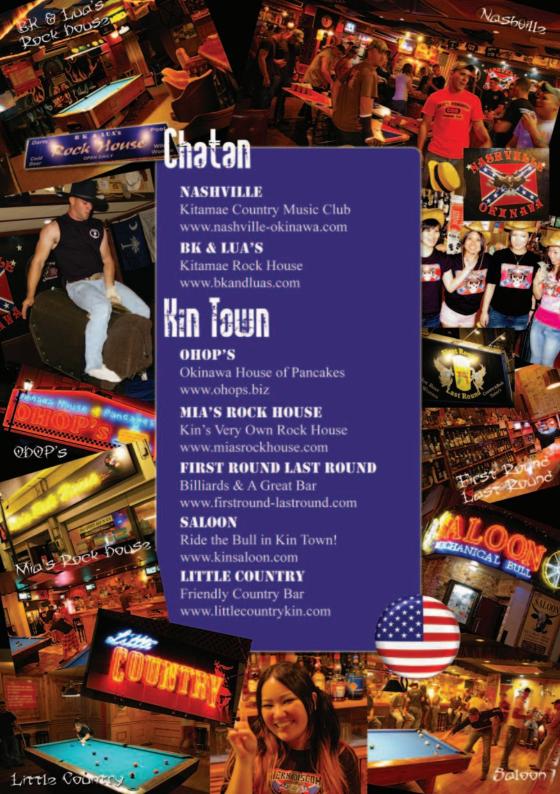
Divorce

In recent years terms like "Narita Divorce" and "Kansai Divorce" have become common with couples going off on honeymoon then divorcing as soon as they get back! Much like marriage, if both parties agree, then divorce can be accomplished quickly by simply filing the paperwork.

However, if one party doesn't agree then it's off to adjudication then if that fails, district court. The problem is that even at district court there still has to be an overwhelming reason for divorce to be approved against one person's wishes.

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Mai Space

Only a small part of your body, but a manicure can make a big change to your mood.

hen you visit Mai Space on BC Street that's exactly the feeling you'll walk away with, pure delight. Mai Fujikawa, the nail designer at the salon specializes in creating exactly the nail design you desire. Paying close attention to what the customer wants, Mai makes your nails into a work of art. The designs are very fine and dramatic, with her influences from an early age being crafts and calligraphy. All of her designs are unique and can't be found anywhere else.

Mai explained about one customer that summed up why nail art is important to her. The customer couldn't wear accessories due to a metal allergy. She visited

Mai to do her nails and now has a beautiful set of artwork on her fingers that are like jewellery to her. Mai explained that they were the single most memorable words to her as a nail designer.

One you've visited Mai and seen that she doesn't just paint nails but designs them, you won't want to go anywhere else. Mai also does eyelash extensions, so you can get both

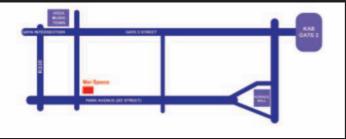
your nails and eyes done at the same time.

Full sets start from 4000 yen



Located on Park Avenue (BC street) in Okinawa city 3rd floor above the post office on Park Avenue 098-938-1213 9:00 open Mondays closed Yen & Credit cards are accepted

www.mai-space.org





Gold Hall - Kin Town

Cave, Bonsai Garden & Cafe

It might sound strange, but in Kin Town you can find a cafe, bonsai garden and caves. The caves and bonsai garden are laid out as a numbered tour with 13 sections in all. Passing through the cafe, you go down the stairs passing numerous artefacts and Okinawan ornaments collected by the father of taco rice and his family Mr. Shozo Gibo over 40 years.

Passing down the stairs you soon arrive at the limestone cave. One minute you're in a cafe and

the next in a cave! You pass through the cave with stalactites hanging from the ceiling then out into the gardens.





The gardens have been carefully laid out with waterfalls and statues and in some places views out to the ocean.

The last stop is the bonsai garden. The bonsai are arranged in three greenhouses. All kinds of trees are displayed in miniature showing the care and attention necessary to grow these delicate, beautiful plants.

After a walk through the cave and gardens, then you have to eat in the cafe.

Gold Hall is famous for their taco rice. In fact it's a good reason to visit anyway even if you don't want to see the gardens and cave. It's all reasonably priced as well with prices ranging from ¥500 - ¥900. If you're not a fan of taco rice then they also serve sandwiches and desserts.

Gold Hall is located in Kin Town close to Camp Hansen.

4272-1 Kin Kin-town Okinawa

Tel: 098-968-3546

Hours: 9:00am-8:00pm (365 Days)

Admission fee for Cave & Bonsai Garden:

Adult ¥800, Child ¥500

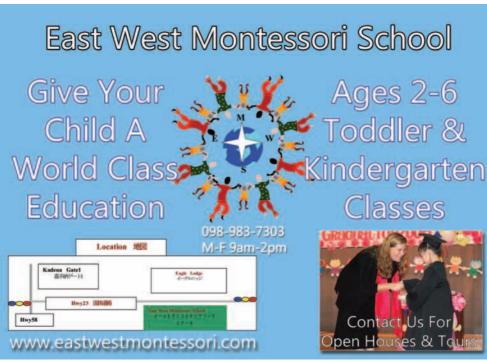
(Free for the Preschool children)

NO Credit cards Dollars OK

Man: http://tipy.cc/goldhall

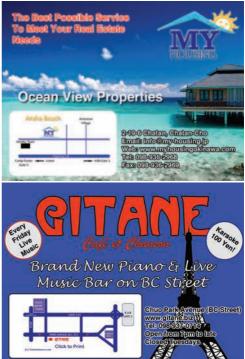
















Restaurant Review



Cactus Eatrip

Freshly baked bagels with natural yeast in a relaxed, creative atmosphere.

Cactus is a rather unique restaurant, not only can you enjoy fresh bagels but also relax in a colorful, casual place with unusual furniture, artwork and antiques, even trees in the middle of the table!

They serve their bagels in two different ways. You can have a full sandwich with more than ten different fillings including various meats, fish and salads then combine that with a flavoured bagel. We had the basil



tomato bagel with sun dried tomato and garlic herbs. It fit perfectly with our filling of salad and herby cream cheese. You can have a sandwich set for just 880 yen which includes soup and a drink.

Alternatively if you're not feeling so hungy, why not have a bagel with a spread. They've got some amazing flavoured cream cheeses including maple, blueberry, oreo, rum raisin and many more! You can make it into a set for just 650 yen including a drink. Did we mention they've also got great coffee? It's one of those places that you wish you'd found earlier. If you're missing really good fresh bagels in the morning combined with great coffee then it's a great choice. They also serve alcohol so you can kick back

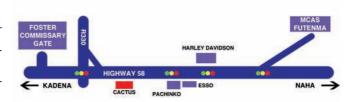


later on in the day with a cold beer and bagel. They're located just after Camp Foster on the right hand side heading towards Naha.

3-3-7 Oyama, Ginowan city
Tel: 098-890-6601
Closed Wednesdays Open 11:00 - 21:00
Summer time business hours 9:00 - 17:00
Take out only OK. Dollars OK

www.okinawabagel.com





Coupons















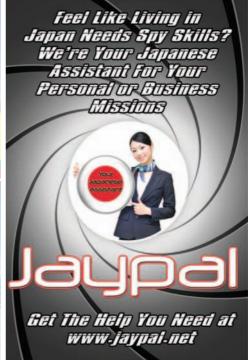
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