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Fukuoka City International Center 4-1 Tenyamachi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka City
TEL: 092-262-1799 <http://www.fcif.or.jp>

FCIC Office is open on weekdays 8:45~18:00



公益財団法人
福岡よかトピア国際交流財団
Fukuoka City International Foundation

Ride the Local Trains



Did you know that Fukuoka has many local trains that offer a unique experience of the peaceful countryside?

Many of the local trains have special character and the scenery changes from season to season, so why not enjoy a slow, relaxing ride? In this edition we introduce Heisei Chikuho Railway, which began running a luxury restaurant train (“Coto Coto Train”) and information about other local trains.

Why not plan a local train trip in the autumn foliage season?

Heisei Chikuho Railway Lines and Sightseeing

Heisei Chikuho Railway runs three lines—the Ita, Itoda, and Tagawa Lines—which start at Nogata Station and run southward to Tagawa, then east to Yukuhashi Station. There are 36 stations in all, which takes about an hour and a half to travel. In the spring, one can see fields of rapeseed flowers or rows of cherry trees in full bloom. The section that runs from Aka to Sakiyama Stations from the Chikuho to Keichiku areas pass through a mountain valley that offers a pristine view of Japan’s natural beauty. Autumn is the time to see spectacular foliage. Because this valley area is a basin, unlike the city of Fukuoka and the Chikugo area, it gets lots of snow, and a train ride offers a perfect chance to see snowy views in winter.

Close to Akaike Station is the area that is home to Agano-yaki pottery, ceramic ware with a 400-year history and national designation as a traditional craft. At Tagawa-Ita

Station is the site of a former coal pit with two smokestacks that are a symbol of the coal mining that once flourished in Tagawa. These are a registered “heritage of industrial modernization.” The nearby Tagawa Coal Mining Museum houses the Sakubei Yamamoto Collection, a collection of annotated naive art paintings and diaries that has now been added to UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register.

Among the less well-known sightseeing spots are the station building at Yusubaru Station, which has been preserved to retain its appearance from 120 years ago, and has served as the setting for the filming of a movie. Sakiyama is the scenic location of Hayashi Ryuhei Sake Brewery, with its 180-year history making high-grade sake from the underground water of the sacred maintain, Hikosan. Meanwhile, close to Shin-Toyotsu Station one will find the three-story pagoda of Buzen Kokubunji Temple.

The Trains of Heisei Chikuho Railway

On March 21, 2019, Heisei Chikuho Railway launched the Coto Coto Train, a luxury restaurant train that takes a slow, 3 1/2-hour journey from Nogata Station to Yukuhashi Station via Tagawa-Ita Station. The exterior is wine red, and the interior features partitions made using traditional wooden latticework known as Okawa Kumiko. The parquet floor is made with 22,000 pieces of wood, while overhead is a ceiling adorned with stained glass. The design is no less opulent than the Seven Stars luxury cruise train run by JR Kyushu. The cuisine is French fusion prepared from a lavish variety of local ingredients and supervised by Takeshi Fukuyama, Fukuoka-based owner-chef of one of Asia’s top 50 restaurants.

Heisei Chikuho Railway runs one train on a regular schedule. In the mornings and evenings during commuting hours it runs every 30 minutes, while during midday hours and at night it runs once an hour. In between scheduled runs,

the train can be rented out for private affairs. One car has karaoke equipment for a private karaoke party. Along the route are hot spring facilities with which the railway has created a tie-up, making it possible to hop from one hot spring to another on a 1,000-yen all-day ticket known as “Chikumaru Pass” that provides great value.

How to Reach Heisei Chikuho Railway’s Departure Point in the North, Nogata Station

Heisei Chikuho Railway runs from Nogata Station to Yukuhashi Station, a total of 49.2 kilometers. The best way to get to Nogata Station is by the JR Sasaguri Line from Hakata Station. Trains leave from Platforms 7 and 8 at Hakata Station, headed for Nogata Station on the Sasaguri Line. An express train from Hakata Station takes about one hour and the fare is 940 yen. Or you can take a highway bus from Tenjin Bus Terminal to Nogata Station or Tagawa-Ita Station. These fares are 1,130 yen and 1,490 yen, respectively.

Fukuoka Music Month

Fukuoka has lots of music festivals going on in the autumn! Popular annual events fill each weekend. Some live performances are free, so don't miss out on a weekend of music appreciation!

Nakasu Jazz

Sept. 14 (Sat.) – Sept. 15 (Sun.)
Venue: Nakasu area



Music City Tenjin 2019

Sept. 28 (Sat.) – Sept. 29 (Sun.)
Venue: Tenjin Area

ACROS Classic Festa 2019

October 5 (Sat.) – October 6 (Sun.)
<https://www.acros.or.jp/events/10580.html>
Venue: Fukuoka Symphony Hall, ACROS Fukuoka

Rugby World Cup 2019, Japan

September 20 – November 2

The Rugby World Cup is one of the three premier sporting events in the world, and this year it will be held for the first time ever in Japan. It is a great opportunity to see world-class matches that you could rarely see live before.

Matches to be held in Fukuoka
Venue: Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium



September 26 (Thurs.) 4:45 p.m. Italy v Canada

October 2 (Wed.) 4:45 p.m. France v USA

October 12 (Sat.) 7:45 p.m. Ireland v Samoa

September 24~30 is Tuberculosis Prevention Week

In 2017, there were approximately 17,000 new cases of tuberculosis in Japan. The onset of this "modern disease" is recognized even in younger generations. If identified in its early stages, TB can be cured with regular hospital treatments with little effect on patients' daily lifestyles. However, if left untreated, TB may be transmitted to other people around you, and can even lead to death.

Recently, young adults who were born overseas are diagnosed as tuberculosis is increasing in Japan. The symptoms with TB include coughing, phlegm, fever and lethargy, and are similar to symptoms of the common cold. If a cough lasts for longer than two weeks, or if you have any concerns about your symptoms, visit a medical facility as soon as possible for a diagnosis.

* In Fukuoka City, international students temporarily residing in Japan and enrolled at Japanese language institutions (as well as the family members of said students) who do not normally have the opportunity to undergo a

health check, are eligible for a free chest X-ray within their first five years of entering the country.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity!
Appointments are required. See below for details.

September 2nd (Mon) ~30th (Mon)
(Except Sat. Sun. and Holidays)

Hours: 1:30 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

Place: FUKUOKA TUBERCULOSIS
PREVENTION CENTER

Examination Item: Chest Xray

Fee: Free (up to 200 people)



Tasukeainko

Apply: Fukuoka Tuberculosis Prevention Center

Tel: 092-761-5466

Fax: 092-761-5467

Preschool Education and Daycare Free

Japan's preschool education and day care services will be made free starting from October 2019. This applies to the followings:

- Children from the ages of 3 to 5 provided at kindergartens, nursery schools, and similar facilities. /
- Daycare will be made free for households that are exempt from paying municipal taxes and that have infants or children up to the age of 2 and require daycare.

Kindergartens and certified childcare centers
(kindergarten section)

- Fees for all children in 3 to 5 years old programs will be made free of charge.
- The monthly fee limit exemption for the use of kindergartens that have not transitioned to the new system will be 25,700 yen.
- Fees are set at zero by the city for the use of kindergartens in the new system.
- Costs for transportation to and from a kindergarten or center, food costs, event fees, etc., will continue to be borne by the child's parents or guardians, as before.
- Families requiring extended daycare for their children will be exempted up to 11,300 yen per month for the use of

extended daycare programs for 3-year-olds, and up to 16,300 yen for households that are exempt from paying municipal taxes, similarly for 3-year-olds

Nursery schools and certified childcare centers (nursery school section)

- Fees for all children in 3 to 5 years old programs will be made free of charge.
 - Fees for daycare of all children from infant to 2-year-olds from households exempt from municipal taxes will be made free of charge.
 - Parents or guardians will continue to be responsible for covering the costs included in daycare fees (supplementary food) for 3- to 5-year-olds.
- Private Daycare Facilities
- Standard fees for all children in 3- to 5-year-old programs will be made free of charge.
 - Standard fees for daycare of all children from infant to 2-year-olds from households exempt from municipal taxes will be made free of charge.
 - Reference (2018 standard fees)
- Infants: 37,100 yen monthly
1 to 2 years old: 37,000 yen monthly
3 years old: 31,100 yen monthly
4 to 5 years old: 27,600 yen monthly

Dr. Nishiyama's Column Almost Impossible Medical Invention

Upon entering 21st century, many horrible viral diseases threatened the world; SARS, MERS, Korean or Marburg hemorrhagic fever, etc. Fortunately, however, a world-wide outbreak has thus far somehow been prevented thanks to the development of medical techniques, and systematic local and international task forces.

Most of the above diseases are in origin viral infections of local wild animals. Such viruses are somehow infected to humans possibly by genetic mutation, and then became transmissible from human to human. The effective medicine or vaccine have not yet been developed. The gold standard to prevent the outbreak has still been the isolation of the infected persons and personal hygienic consciousness. Nevertheless modern society inevitably needs rapid and long-haul international jet travel; this is an opposite conduct which in turn may possibly increase the risk of the spread of infectious diseases.

Concurrently West African countries were hit by the Ebola Hemorrhagic fever, a similarly fatal viral disease. The countries in the African jungle area are still undeveloped and poor. Furthermore, the countries are war-torn by ethnic conflict. Still, despite those difficulties, they once staunchly the outbreak in 2015, according to the WHO declaration.

Unfortunately, however, the resurgence of Ebola hemorrhagic fever again afflicts the same area with the death toll of 1400 or more. Ebola virus is prevalent in bats or primates in the jungle. Inhabitants eat the inappropriately cooked "bush meat", and seem to be infected. After several days of incubation period, the patients develop fever followed by severe hemorrhagic tendency. The bleeding

occurs in every organ until death. Contact with the body fluids of the infected victim spread the infection with the fatal rate 70%.

The circumstances are a little different from the last time. The trouble is that this time, the control of the outbreak is incredibly difficult, or, to say, almost impossible. The folklore custom to treat the dead family, deep belief to the shaman, and deep distrust to the modern medicine and foreign medical staff; all these block the activity to control the outbreak.

Dedication of the medical staff of WHO, international NPOs, let alone those of local governments has long been somehow maintained. Their facilities were frequently put to fire, and some nurses and physicians were actually killed by ignorant militia or villagers. They are looked upon as an evil just like Ebola disaster itself. Educational campaigns for the inhabitants are far from being implemented. How long can they keep their motivation with self-sacrifice? Giving up means the annihilation of the inhabitants in a wide area, and the world-wide outbreak of Ebola.

The African countries, such as Uganda or Congo are distant for the Japanese in many meanings. Yet, many Asian people are coming in from, or going to such countries. The risk of invasion of Ebola virus is not the fire on the other side. What can we do to eliminate this devastating infectious disease? Is that beyond human wisdom? Still, donation, provision of medical supplies or man power may be even for just a bit some contribution for the residents in urban areas to whom the health education makes sense.



Asian Party

Fukuoka Prize

September 10 – September 13

This year's award winners

Grand Prize

Randolf DAVID; Philippines; Sociology

Academic Prize

Leonard BLUSSE;

Netherlands; Modern History of Asia–Europe Relations

Arts & Culture Prize

SATO Makoto; Japan; Theater

Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival 2019

September 13 – September 19

This year, in addition to the screening of the official films, special screenings will be held on a "regional" theme that introduce films with a unique charm not found in urban culture or that were shot by directors from provincial areas.

The Creators 2019

September 21 – September 22

Venue: Fureai Hiroba on the west side of Fukuoka City Hall

Specialized Counseling

	Legal Counseling	Immigration, Residency, and Nationality	Personal (Psychological) Counseling
	1st Saturday 3rd Wednesday	2nd Sunday of every month	Mon., Tue., Thur.
Dates	September 7th, 18th	September 8th	Monday: 8:45~17:45 Tuesday: 8:45~11:45 Thursday: 8:45~12:45
	October 5th, 16th	October 13th	
Time	Saturday 10:30~13:30 Wednesday 13:00~16:00	13:00~16:00	
Appointment	Required	Not Required (Reception until 15:30)	Required
Language	An interpreter is available upon request.	English & Chinese interpreters are available.	An English speaking professional is available.

Other Local Trains

In March 2019, the Nishi-Nippon Railroad launched “The Rail Kitchen Chikugo.” This train offers seasonal course meals based mainly on local ingredients.

<https://www.railkitchen.jp/>

**Amagi Railway**

The Amagi Railway runs from Kiyama in Saga Prefecture to Amagi. How would you like to see 10 million cosmos flowers in bloom? In mid-to-late October, just get out at Tachiarai Station and go to the flower gardens of the Kirin Beer factory.

<http://www.amatetsu.jp/index.html>

Chikugo Electric Railroad Co., Ltd.

This railway company runs an electric-powered tram from Yahatanishi-ku in Kitakyushu to the city of Nogata, a total of 16 kilometers. A new tram model was introduced in March 2015. The station-to-station distance within Fukuoka Prefecture is 200 meters, the shortest track segment in Japan.

<http://www.chikutetsu.co.jp/>

Hakata Old Town Light-up Walk

October 11 – October 14 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Admission until 8:45 p.m.)

The concept behind the illuminations for 2019 is “Night Museum.” The lighting designer is Miki Matsushita, who is based in Fukuoka and active around the world.

Venues charging admission

Kushida Shrine (main building, Hakata-bei (wall), Shimekake Inari Shrine), Jotenji Temple, Tochoji Temple, Myorakuji Temple, Engakuji Temple, Myotenji Temple, Hongakuji Temple, Ryuguji Temple, Zendoji Temple, Kaigenji Temple

Venues with free admission

Kushida Shrine (Nigiwai Stage), Shoji Temple (main gate), Ichigyoji Temple (main gate), Hakata Sennen-no-Mon Gate, Katsuragi Jizoson, Hakata Machiya Folk Museum, Hakata Traditional Craft and Design Museum

Admission fees

Advance tickets: 1,000 yen

Same-day tickets: 1,500 yen



Photo : Provided by Fukuoka City

Fukuoka City Museum
Special Exhibition : The Exhibition of SAMURAI

The samurai class, which developed in the Heian Period, consolidated military power, set up and ran local and national government, and played a significant role in replacing the nobility and shaping Japanese society over a period of centuries. The pride of this class of warriors that specialized in combat was the suit of armor, while their swords represented the samurai spirit.

The armor and sword that protected samurai warriors, along with other traditional Japanese weapons, rise above being merely “implements of war” to being works of art that define a historical period and reflect the spirit of an age long since passed. They represent an important aspect of Japanese culture and are highly regarded throughout the world. Japan has recently been experiencing two trends—young women are taking a keen interest in history and expressing a passion for swords. This wave of enthusiasm has sparked a growing interest in samurai armor and swords, both in Japan and internationally.

This exhibition brings together under one roof approximately 150 exceptional examples of armor, swords, and samurai implements that cover a 600-year span from the mid-Heian Period (11th century) to the Momoyama Period (early 17th century). Visitors can observe the historical progression of these implements of war and their practical refinement over the centuries.

Features of the Special Exhibition

(1) A historical view of the changes in swords and armor over six centuries

This major exhibition presents a comprehensive overview of samurai swords and armor as they were redesigned and improved over time specifically to be more effective in battle. Visitors can see how the heavy, box-like O-yoroi style and breast protector that emerged early on developed into the

modernized Tosei-gusoku style, and the changes in the swords accompanying that transformation over time.

(2) Sixty percent of items on exhibit are national treasures or important cultural properties. About six in ten of the approximately 150 items on display are nationally designated cultural properties.

(3) Famous treasures from all across Japan

On display are treasures from northern Tohoku to southern Kyushu, on loan from famous shrines, the estates of former daimyo lords, museums and art museums.

(4) The swords and armor of noted shoguns are on display. Included are: Date Masamune, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu and others.

(5) Plenty of swords will stun even sword aficionados

Exhibition Details

Special exhibition: The Exhibition of SAMURAI

Venue: Fukuoka City Museum 2F Special Exhibition Room (3-1-1 Momochihama, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka)

Dates: September 7 (Sat.) – November 4 (Mon.)/51 days

Museum hours: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Admission until 5:00 p.m.)

Closed on Mondays (If Monday falls on a national holiday, closed the next day.)

Official site: <https://samurai2019.jp/> (Japanese only)



銀箔押一の谷形兜黒糸威五枚胴具足