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Fukuoka City International Foundation

## A Day-Trip Departing from Fukuoka!

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Happy New Year! A brand new year is upon us. This winter is also the season for the Winter Olympics, and while it might be tempting to sit in a warm room watching the games, why not get outside and take in the sights? In this issue we will be introducing affordable ticket options for travelling around to a few famous spots.

First up, is *Kita-Kyushu* City in the north of *Fukuoka* Prefecture. It would take roughly an hour by car to get to *Kokura*, the center of *Kita-Kyushu*, but if you go by bullet train (*Shinkansen*) from *Hakata* Station, it only takes around 20 minutes. The bullet train is ordinarily rather expensive, but if you purchase a certain ticket that JR West Japan sells called "*Shinkansen Yoka-Yoka Kippu*", then you can save over 1,000 yen on your train ticket—the roundtrip fare comes

to a total of 3,090 yen. The only downside is that this ticket at this rate can only be used on weekend day-trips, so be sure to keep that in mind.

When you get to *Kokura*, definitely check out the *Kokura* Castle. There's a garden to see in addition to the castle, and on the castle grounds are exhibitions of historical materials and experience areas, and if you go up to the 5th floor you can get a 360-degree view of the whole town from the castle's tower. There is also a chair lift installed in the castle, so the facility is completely accessible to anyone elderly or otherwise disabled. In the Spring they hold a cherry blossom viewing event, and in July the *Kokura Gion Daiko* Festival is held here, making it a very popular spot.

National Holidays  
for January February

January 1 (Mon.) 元旦  
January 8 (Mon.) 成人の日  
February 12 (Mon.) 建国記念日

New Year's Day  
Coming-of-Age Day  
National Foundation Day

Fukuoka City International Center is  
closed from Dec.29 ~ Jan.3.



## FUKUOKA & the WORLD

News and Events Here & There

### Hakozaki Shrine – Tama-Seseri

January 3, 2018

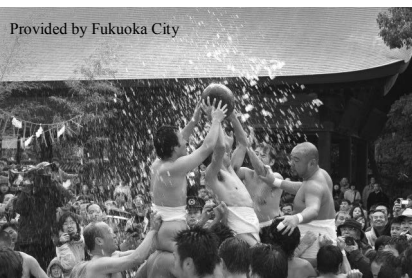
*Tama-Seseri* (which means “ball-taking festival”) is one of Kyushu’s 3 major festivals, and will be held at *Hakozaki Shrine* in Higashi Ward on January 3rd.

*Hakozaki Shrine* is one of 3 major shrines in Japan which deify *Hachiman*, the god of archery and war. A group of roughly 300 men are divided into teams representing “Land” and “Sea”, each praying for a fruitful harvest and a great catch respectively. The teams compete to take a wooden ball, and pass it off to a *Shinto* priest, and whichever does this successfully wins the event.

In the heat of competition, even the frigid cold of January is but a light breeze.

#### Hakozaki Shrine

1-22-1, Hakozaki, Higashi-ku, Fukuoka City



Provided by Fukuoka City

### Uso-Kae and Oni-Sube Rituals at Dazaifu Tenmangu

January 7, 2018

*Uso-Kae* from 18:00 on, *Oni-Sube* later in the evening

The *Uso-Kae* ritual involves obtaining a woodcraft bullfinch (*uso*, in Japanese), exchanging yours with other participants’ *uso*, and praying for fortune in the coming year. This is meant to symbolize turning the lies one told in the previous year into the god *Tenjin*, and turning all the bad things one did into “lies” (also called *uso* in Japanese).

The ritual conducted afterward, the *Oni-Sube*, is a fire festival designed to pray for safety from disasters and good fortune. Around 300 shrine parishioners are assigned into groups, one to exterminate demons known as “*subete*”, and those assigned to protect the demons called “*oni-keigo*” and “*oni-gakari*”. Everyone feels the pressure when face-to-face with the flames.

#### Dazaifu Tenmangu

4-7-1 Saifu, Dazaifu-City, Fukuoka

### Toka-Ebisu Shrine New Year’s Festival

January 8-11, 2018

A festival by the hands of *Hakata* tradesmen, this event takes place at *Toka-Ebisu Shrine*, which is named after “*Ebisu*”, a god of prosperous business and one of the Seven Gods of Fortune. From lotteries that always give a prize to a shrine promenade of *Hakata Kenban* (*Geiko* performers), this is a very lively festival. If you’re thinking of paying a visit to a shrine, you can expect lines that go on for hours at some locations.



Provided by Fukuoka City

#### Toka-Ebisu Shrine

7-1, Higashi-koen, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka City

### The Latest Statistics of Fukuoka City

【Area: 343.39 km<sup>2</sup> (as of Oct. '17)】 【Population (Oct '17) : 1,526,621 (Households: 750,753)】 【Registered Foreigners (Oct. '17) : 35,069】

【Foreign Trade (million ¥, Sept. '17) : Exports - (Hakata Port - 142,054 / Fukuoka International Airport - 119,238), Imports - (Hakata Port - 78,955 / International Airport - 41,453)】

### Many events related to *Setsubun* (Feb. 3rd) are held at Fukuoka City’s local shrines

*Tochoji* (Temple) (2-4 Gokushomachi, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka City)

Access: A one minute walk from the Gion Station

*Tochoji* is the first Buddhist temple founded in Japan by the priest *Kukai*. Every year approximately 30,000 visitors come out for the *Setsubun* festival at *Tochoji*. The evening prior to the main festival they hold a pre-festival as well where cedar sticks are burned (*goma-taki*). Aside from the traditional bean-throwing, oranges, chocolate, and candies are also thrown

*Kushida Shrine* (1-41 Kami-Kawabata-machi, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka City)

*Kushida Shrine*, Hakata’s local guardian deity, is known for its connection with the *Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival*. Every year around this season there are *otafuku* masks placed at the shrines three gates with different expressions. If you cross under the gates with the masks placed on them, it is said that good fortune will befall you.



Provided by Fukuoka City

*Sumiyoshi Shrine* (3-1-51 Sumiyoshi, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka City)

A *Shinto* ritual carried out since the *Heian* Era and said to drive out demons called *Oni-yarai* is carried out here at *Setsubun*. Afterwards *mame-maki* is held once an hour from 10am to 6pm. A raffle will also be held, with a chance to win a ticket for a hotel room! There are also areas specifically for kids, so groups with children are encouraged to come.

### New Years Cuisine

#### Kagami Mochi

*Kagami mochi* is a real setpiece of *Osechi*. Perhaps you’ve seen it at supermarkets? It looks like two round *mochi* stacked on top of each other, with a small orange on top called a “*daidai*”. This is placed in a location where the “*Toshigami*”, or deity which heralds in the new year, is said to be. Generally, this is set up on the December 28th, and removed after the January 11th.



#### Seven Herb Rice Porridge (*Nanakusa-gayu*)

On the morning of January 7, it is a tradition to eat a type of rice porridge (congee/zhou/kayu) with seven different herbs in it. This allows your stomach to rest after eating and drinking a lot over the year-end holidays, and eating it is said to help one live a healthy and peaceful year.



## What is Euthanasia ?

Dr. Nishiyama's Column Vol. 34

To terminate the unbearable agony of serious diseases, or from the fear of losing cognitive ability, one sometimes choose to abandon one's future, namely to die, deploying medical or other procedures. This deliberate killing of a person is called active or voluntary euthanasia, or assisted suicide. On the other hand, refraining to conduct aggressive treatments such as artificial cardiopulmonary supports for those with no hope of recovery is called passive euthanasia. Some people resolutely refuse "meaningless" life support in the hospital, asserting that one should have a right to control his own life. This is the death with dignity.

One rarely thinks of death while in good health. The significance of life will be conceived only when death is coming close to him. There will be a big mental conflict, until one give up the recovery of an important person. Furthermore, just like in cases of organ transplantation, where people sometimes get cornered into unwilling obligation to donate their organs, people will feel obligatory to die, just like others do. That is why euthanasia cannot be discussed easily.

In a legal definition, a patient is still alive as far as his or her heart continues to beat. Sometimes this "only prolonged" survival presents an unimaginable terrible scene with the body completely different from what it used to be. Facing this grim reality, those who had a belief that human life was supreme on the religious or ethical view may alter their

opinions to approve

the euthanasia or death with their own dignity.

Some people appeal the legislation for the support of euthanasia, although it has still been controversial. The ever expanding burden of medical expenses seems to push this tendency. The author personally thinks that the legislation will be difficult, and the realistic solution will be that euthanasia or related conduct should be banned in principle, and each case should later be judged whether it was illegal, immoral or not. What counts is whether the case can be judged as criminal, say homicide, or not.

If a person eagerly asked early "comfortable" death, leaving a "legally effective" document, and his or her family well understand the situation, euthanasia will be all right. If a medical staff deliberately treated patients to death on the basis of his or her own conviction or philosophy, he or she will not be exonerated from the name of murderer.

At present, in the majority of cases, the will of neither the patient himself nor his or her family is noticed or documented in advance. So the hospital cannot help but anyway continue the life-saving procedures for the benefit of nobody. In near future, these cases may well be included into the passive euthanasia group.

Japanese are in general reluctant to discuss the end of a person. In the meanwhile, the medical budget is almost run down, and we can no longer evade from this serious theme.



## Tax Return

In Japan, income tax is based on a self-assessment system. In the final tax return, each taxpayer settles totally the income amount earned for a calendar year and calculates the tax amount to be paid with respect to the total amount of income, and then files his/her income tax return.

## WHO MUST FILE

You are required to file a final tax return, if;

- (1) Your total employment income in 2017 exceeded ¥20,000,000; or
- (2) You received employment income from one source only, and your total amount of various types of income other than employment income and retirement income exceeded ¥200,000; or
- (3) You received employment income from two or more sources, and your employment income (excluding employment income subject to year-end adjustment) and total amount of various types of income other than employment and retirement

income exceeded ¥200,000; or

(4) You received employment income abroad; or

(5) The amount of tax calculated based on your total income of various types less the total amount of the basic exemption and other deductions from income is greater than your tax credit for dividends.

NOTE: For further information, please refer to the website of the National Tax Agency.

Website of the National Tax Agency  
[http://www.nta.go.jp/foreign\\_language/index.htm](http://www.nta.go.jp/foreign_language/index.htm)



## WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

You must file your final tax return with the tax office in the district of your *jusho* (domicile) or *kyosho* (residence) during the period from February 16 (Fri.) to March 15 (Thur.), 2018.

## "Osechi" New Year's Cuisine

Ceremonial foods eaten to celebrate the new year are called "osechi".

*Osechi* food is arranged in sequence of layered boxes, with the intention of "layering" the good fortune you might receive in the coming year. Here are just a few of those most common *osechi* foods, and how they are layered.

Top layer: Auspicious side dishes (*Iwai-zakana*)

Black soybeans, herring roe (*kazunoko*), and dried sardines

Second layer: Dishes to go with *sake* (*Kuchi-tori*)

*Datemaki* omelette, mashed sweet potatoes, red and white fish cake or *kuai*

Third layer: Grilled dishes with a focus on seafood

Amberjack (*buri*), red sea bream (*tai*), prawns

Fourth layer: Stewed/boiled dishes with a focus on vegetables  
 Lotus roots (*renkon*), burdock, sweet potatoes, carrots, *konjac Zoni*

A soup broth with *mochi* rice cakes known as "*zoni*" is also a very important part of *Osechi*. Each region of Japan has their own specialty, and Fukuoka is no exception—in this part of Japan people eat "*Hakata Zoni*".

Characteristics of *Hakata Zoni*

The broth is taken from flying fish, and also has amberjack in the soup. Other ingredients include *katsuona*, fish cakes, sweet potatoes, carrots, *daikon* radish, and shiitake mushrooms.



### Bicycle Insurance

Do you commute to work or school by bicycle? If you do, do you have bicycle insurance? Should you get into a serious accident, there is always a risk that you may be asked to pay a large sum in compensation.

As of October 2017, effort to register for bicycle insurance was made compulsory. As a result, an ordinance designed to encourage safe and appropriate use of bicycles was put into effect in Fukuoka Prefecture to encourage this.

Bicycle insurance costs around 1,000 yen per year.

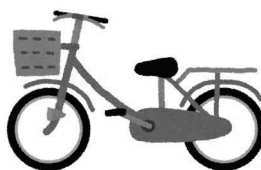
### Ordinance Pertaining to the Promotion of Safe and Appropriate Use of Bicycles

#### Promotion of Safe Use of Bicycles:

- Use of headlights at night
- Prohibition of bicycles with faulty or missing brakes
- Prohibition of driving while under the influence of alcohol
- Helmets for infants, children, and the elderly
- Maintenance and inspection of bicycles

#### Other prohibited actions while operating a bicycle:

- Holding an open umbrella
- Listening to loud music
- Using a mobile phone or smartphone



### To advertise in

# Rainbow

Please contact  
092-262-1799

### Municipal Housing Information

#### ✓ Fukuoka City

Application Period:

Feb. 7 ~ Feb. 16

Inquiry: 092-271-2561



### Japanese Chatting Salon !

The Fukuoka Foreign Student Support Association holds a "Chatting Salon" for foreign students to chat with Japanese people in Japanese. Any foreign students who would like to use the Japanese that they learn in school to speak with Japanese people are welcome. There are many friendly people in Fukuoka waiting to speak to you! If you plan on attending as a group of five persons or more, please call beforehand.

Date : The first and third Thursday of every month.

Time: 14:00~17:00

Place: Fukuoka City International Center

Address: 4-1, Tenyamachi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka City

Fee: Free

Contact: Fukuoka Foreign Student Support Association

Tel: 092-262-1799

Fax: 092-262-2700

<http://attaka-fukuoka.jp>



Floor	Floor Guide		Hours
4F	Int'l Exchange Floor	Conference Room, chatting space, flyer/pamphlet corner	7 Days a week 8 : 45 ~ 21 : 00
1F	Office	FCIF Office, meeting/counseling room, reception counter (for clients, guests, tourists, those seeking counseling), message board, library corner	Weekdays 8 : 45 ~ 18 : 00
1F	Elevator Hall	Flyer/Pamphlet Corner	7 Days a week 8 : 45 ~ 21 : 00

### Specialized Counseling

	Legal Counseling	Immigration, Residency, and Nationality	Personal (Psychological) Counseling
	1st Saturday 3rd Wednesday	2nd Sunday of every month	Mon., Tue., Thur.
Dates	Jan. 6th, 17th	Jan. 14th	Monday: 8:45~17:45 Tuesday: 8:45~11:45 Thursday: 8:45~12:45
	Feb. 3rd, 21st	Feb. 11th	
Time	Saturday 10:30~13:30 Wednesday 13:00~16:00	13:00~16:00	
Appointment	Required	Not Required (Reception until 3:30)	Required
Language	An interpreter is available upon request.	English & Chinese interpreters are available.	An English speaking professional is available.



## Exhibition of the Swords and Armor of the Kuroda Clan

Fukuoka City Museum will be hosting an exhibition of the swords and armor used by or related to the *Kuroda* Clan, a family which ruled over the Fukuoka area during the Edo period (17th to 19th Century CE). By looking at their sometimes-eccentric designs and use of color, you can catch a glimpse of what preferences the samurai of the day had about what they wore. You might even find yourself thinking they're pretty cool. Information about the pieces on show will be displayed as well, including amusing anecdotes, like that a particular helmet was so large and flashy it was shot by a cannon.

Also to be exhibited is a sword which is registered as a National Treasure, known as the *Heshikiri-Hasebe*. It will be on display from January 5 to February 4 (separate admission fee required). The sword is a very popular item, and when it

is exhibited every January fans from both around Japan and overseas come to see it, sometimes creating quite a line at the door. Why not come and check out all there is to offer?

## Swords and Armor of the Kuroda Clan

Organizers: Fukuoka City Museum, Yomiuri Shimbun, NHK Fukuoka

Exhibition Period: January 7, 2018 - February 12, 2018

Venue: Special Exhibition Room B

## Admission

General 500yen, HS Student/Elderly/  
Foreign National 400yen, JHS and  
younger Free

Any visitors with disabilities and/or their  
caretakers are also admitted free of  
charge with presentation of a Physical  
Disability Certificate/Handbook

National Treasure Blade, the Heshikiri-  
Hasebe

Exhibition Period: January 5, 2018 to  
February 4, 2018

Venue: Feature Exhibition Room

## Admission

General 200yen, HS Student 150yen,  
JHS Student and younger Free



## Language Volunteers Wanted!

The Fukuoka City International Foundation is always open to volunteers willing to translate and interpret for various purposes, such as non-profit activities for schools or municipal organizations where translation/interpretation is needed. All languages are welcome. Why not broaden your range of experience with a little volunteer activism, while making use of your language skills?

Here is a sample of the requests we receive:

- Interpretation for entrance ceremony info sessions or counseling at schools
- Translation/interpretation for international resident support events
- Interpretation at international film festivals, sporting events, etc.
- Interpretation in immigration/visa/nationality counseling for foreigners ...and more!

## Eligibility

- Must be over 18 years of age, and live in the Greater Fukuoka Area
- Those with language proficiency suitable for these activities (native level in Japanese, conversational in the relevant foreign language)
- Those who can set aside the necessary time for volunteer work

## How to register

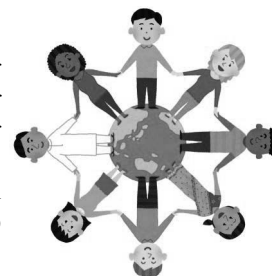
Registration forms are available at the Fukuoka City International Foundation.

Include your contact information, language qualifications, desired activity type (s), and a 3x4cm portrait photo of yourself, and submit it to FCIF.

You will be entered into "Volunteer Activity Insurance" as part of the Japan National Council of Social Welfare, as a precaution for any accidents that may occur in the course of your volunteer work. After you have been entered into the system, you will be sent a registration certificate.

## Compensation

You will not be compensated for translation, interpretation, or anything that is part of your volunteer activities themselves. Transportation costs and the like will be covered by the client of (or group responsible for) each activity.



## For more information:

Fukuoka City International Foundation

092-262-1744

<http://www.rainbowfia.or.jp/citizen/08.html>

Next up is “*Tanga Market*”, a place which hasn’t changed much since the old days. This market, which is known by some as the “Kitchen of *Kita-Kyushu*”, is primarily a market for seafood, while also dealing in vegetables, meats, dried goods, fruit, fish cakes, confectionaries, and other goods spread out among some 120 different shops. There are a number of shops where you can get food to go as well, so there are often many people perusing the shops enjoying the tasty wares. *Kokura* is also said to be the birthplace of *yaki-udon*, so if you have the chance, that’s worth a try as well.



After you’ve had your fill of *Kokura*, just another train ride away is *Mojiko Station*. Here there is a popular sightseeing spot known as “*Mojiko Retro*”, where you can see a number of western-style buildings that were built in the *Meiji* Era, around the turn of the 20th century. At the time, *Mojiko* was a prosperous area known as a key port for international trade, and features this unique architecture for this reason. Nearby is a railroad museum and monument, making it quite a pleasant place to take a stroll around. There are a lot of shops in the area where you can eat some of the famous “*yaki-curry*”, which is a local favorite. Immediately nearby are the *Kanmon Straits*, and you can see the *Kanmon Bridge* which connects *Kyushu* to *Honshu*. Underneath the bridge is an underwater pedestrian tunnel, which is quite rare indeed. If you walk for about 15 minutes, you can reach *Shimonoseki* on the mainland!

**Shinkansen YokaYoka Ticket (JR West Japan)**  
Kokura - Hakata (Round Trip) non reserved seat  
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays only/ Valid for a day  
Fare: 3,090 yen  
Purchase: JR Hakata Station, JR West “*Midorino madoguchi*”

Next is a city in the south of *Fukuoka Prefecture*, a city called *Yanagawa*. There is a ticket sold in the area called the “*Dazaifu-Yanagawa Sightseeing Ticket*” which allows for day-trips between the two cities. From *Fukuoka*, *Yanagawa* is about 49 minutes away on an express train. It is known as a city of water based on the fact that it is built much like Venice, in Italy—a waterway runs through the town. A popular option is to take a small boat downstream through the town, known as “*kawa-kudari*”. The fare for this is 1,600 yen, but this cost is included in the *Dazaifu-Yanagawa* ticket. As the boat wafts down the current you will see the moat that supported the castle town, and comfortably make your way through the area while listening to an explanation or music. Depending on the season you can of course see different plants like cherry blossoms, various greenery, and red autumn leaves, but in winter you can even ride a boat with a *kotatsu* heater on board, ensuring complete warmth throughout your river journey.



After your river ride, it’s time for another local delicacy: there is a dish in *Yanagawa* known as “*Unagi Seiro*”, a kind of steamed eel dish that is originally from the *Fukuoka* area. The steamed eel along with the rice and sauce produce a soft and abundant flavor you may find quite appealing.

Then from February 11 to April 3, there is a doll festival held in *Yanagawa* known as “*Sagemon-meguri*”. The doll festival on March 3, or “*hina-matsuri*”, is known primarily as a girl’s festival, but along with the traditional platform for dolls, in *Yanagawa* in addition to this they have a practice of hanging dolls and balls from the ceiling called “*sagemon*”. During this period from February to April, you can see such ornaments at various spots around the city.

#### Dazaifu • Yamagawa Sightseeing Ticket

Purchase: Nishitetsu Fukuoka Station,  
Yakuin Station  
<http://www.ensen24.jp/global/english/>  
Fare : 2,930 yen



Finally, we’d like to introduce the Takeo Hot Springs, located just over in neighboring *Saga Prefecture*. At *Hakata Station*, you can reach the hot springs in around 70 minutes on an express train with the “*JR Kyushu 2-mai kippu*”. Takeo Hot Springs has over 1,300 years of history, and was quite popular in the Edo Period as a place to stay, and it saw many visitors come to use the hot springs and relax. The entrance to the hot springs was constructed without using a single nail, and has a gate painted in shades of crimson. The hot springs here are said to have great moisturizing properties, are quite clear, and leave a good feeling. As a result, partaking in the bath is said to be good for stress and nerve problems. It has also been called the “Hot Spring of the Beautiful”, so why not give it a try yourself?

After the hot spring bath, we have *Mifuneyama-Rakuen*. On a compound of some 500,000 square meters, it is a massive garden, with a great many changes as the seasons pass. Especially famous are its azalea flowers, and the 200,000 that bloom before the sharp precipice on which the compound sits are stunning to look at.

There’s also the Takeo Shrine nearby, built in 735 CE, which, at its core has a power spot with a camphor tree said to be over 3,000 years old. With a base circumference of 20 meters, and a height of 30 meters, you will almost certainly feel some energy from this sacred and ancient tree. Next to the shrine is the Takeo City Library, which is unique in that it combines the library with a *Tsutaya* bookstore and a Starbucks, so go check that out on your way back.



**JR Kyushu 2Mai Kippu (JR Kyushu)**  
Hakata– Takeo Onsen Express Train reserved seat Round Trip  
(Tokkyu Midori, Tokkyu Houis Ten Bosch)  
Fare: 4,320 yen  
Purchase: JR Hakata Station, JR “*Midorino Madoguchi*”  
<http://www.jrkyushu-kippu.jp/fare/ticket/17>