



Hakata's winter food culture



The chill of winter is just around the corner, so stay warm! In this winter issue, we will introduce Hakata's winter food culture. Hakata is famous for Mizutaki and Motsunabe, as well as Hakata ramen and Hakata zoni.

<Hakata Zoni>

Zoni is an essential dish for the New Year and is eaten all over Japan. In addition, Zoni has its own characteristics depending on the region. A characteristic of Hakata Zoni is that yellowtail is added to the dashi (a type of stock) made with grilled flying fish. The mochi used for Hakata Zoni is a round mochi. Other ingredients are Katsuona (kind of leaf mustard), Kamaboko, taro, carrot, Daikon (Japanese white radish), and Shiitake mushrooms. The ingredients are slightly different in each household, but only Katsuona is an accompaniment. One of the reasons Hakata Zoni has a lot of fish in it is that Hakata is located near the sea, thus it is easy to get fresh seafood.

<Hakata Ramen>

Hakata ramen is typical Fukuoka ramen which has a thick Tonkotsu (pork bone) soup and whitish, thin, straight noodles similar to Somen noodles. The ingredients which are often used in Hakata ramen are green onions, Char-siu pork, bamboo shoots, wood ear mushrooms, and pickled ginger. Fukuoka ramen is referred as "Tonkotsu ramen" (pork bone broth ramen). Also, when you think of Tonkotsu ramen, many people may think of Hakata or Nagahama, but the origin of Tonkotsu ramen is not Hakata or Nagahama, but Kurume in Fukuoka.



<Motsunabe>

Motsunabe was originally made by people on the Korean Peninsula who worked in coal mines, and was also called Horumonnabe. It is said that the word "hormone" (ホルモン) was born from the internal part that would normally be thrown away, that is, "Harumon" ("放るもん" meaning something to give up). Motsunabe is made by simmering offal (variety meats), Chinese chives, and many vegetables in a soy sauce soup. However, nowadays there are various variations such as miso flavor. It is rich in collagen and vitamins, and you can eat a lot of vegetables such as Chinese chives and cabbage, therefore, it is known for its nutritional fortification, and is called "a hot pot that keeps the doctor away".



<Hakata Mizutaki>



Hakata mizutaki was inspired by Chinese and Western cuisine. Mizutaki is a light soup which is a combination of Western consommé and Chinese chicken cooking methods. Ingredients such as chicken and vegetables are simmered and cooked, then dipped in Ponzu soy sauce and eaten.




Photo courtesy: Fukuoka City

Enrollment Procedures for Fukuoka City Elementary and Junior High Schools


Foreign national children can receive education at public elementary and junior high schools the same way as Japanese children can. Children can join elementary school, from the first April after turning 6 years old, for 6 years. After graduating from elementary school, they can enter junior high school for 3 years of education. The school is determined by the Board of Education based on the address on the residence card. Below, is the enrollment procedures for Fukuoka city's elementary and junior high schools. Contact details for enrollment procedures on page 3.

 NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS STARTING 1ST GRADE 	
If you registered as a resident in Fukuoka city by the end of August	
When	What happens / Order of events
Around September	The Board of Education sends a "School Attendance Information Letter" and "Application letter for entering school" to the families with eligible children.
Around October	If your child wishes to enroll in a Fukuoka city elementary school, submit the "Application letter" to the Education Support Division of the Board of Education by the deadline (usually around mid-October) indicated in the "Information Letter". Once submitted you will receive details about a medical check-up for new starts taking place at the school from the Board of Education.
Around November	Medical check-up takes place at school. (Failure to take the Medical check-up at school does not mean that you will not be able to enter the school.)
Late January	"Guidance postcard for entering school" (Nyugaku Tsuchi Shyo) will be sent to you from the Educational Support Section. On the postcard, there is information such as the name of the school you plan to enter, and the date and time of the entrance ceremony.
Mid-January to February	School Orientation is held at each school. You will attend the school meeting about what is needed and what is provided at school.
April	You and your child attend the entrance ceremony with your "Guidance postcard for entering school".

If you registered as a resident in Fukuoka city after September

<p>1. When registering as a resident at the Citizens Section in your ward office, you (parent/guardian) will be asked if you intend for your child to attend a municipal elementary school.</p>	<p>2. If your child wishes to attend school, you are required to fill out an "application form for entering school". Once complete, submit it to the Citizens Section in your ward office.</p>
<p>3. Around January, the Board of Education will send a "Guidance postcard for entering school" to you. (If you register as a resident after January, then your "Guidance postcard for entering school" will be issued at the Citizens Section in your ward office.)</p>	<p>4. In April, attend the entrance ceremony with your "Guidance postcard for entering school"</p> 

NEW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STARTING 1ST GRADE

 <p>1. From mid-January to February, "School Orientation" will be held at each school for parents. Your elementary school will inform you of the orientation schedule.</p>	<p>2. At the end of January, the "Guidance postcard for entering school" will be sent to the families of eligible children. On the postcard, the school you plan to enter, and the date and time of the entrance ceremony are shown.</p> <p>3. Attend the entrance ceremony with your "Guidance postcard for entering school".</p>
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<Eligible students for 2023 enrollment>

Elementary school (new 1st grade) Born April 2nd, 2016 to April 1st, 2017

Junior high school (new 1st grade) Born April 2nd, 2010 to April 1st, 2011



Transfer admission/Changing school in the middle of the academic year (elementary and junior high school)

- When you go through the procedures for transfer (residence registration if transferring from overseas), transfer to public elementary/junior high school will be carried out at the Citizens Section in your ward office where you live.
- After the procedure is completed, a "Transfer Notification Form" (転入学通知書) will be issued to the guardian on the spot.
- Bring the documents you received from your previous school (when transferring from overseas: only if you have them) and the "Transfer Notification Form" and submit them to your new school to complete the enrollment procedures. (Contact your new school in advance to give the school time to prepare to accept any new students.)

Japanese Language Support for Children Project

In Fukuoka city, there is a system for children whose mother tongue is not Japanese who attends Fukuoka city elementary or junior high school. This system is to support them to learn basic Japanese, daily conversation by a specialized instructor for a certain period of time.

Flow for receiving Japanese language support

1. Consult with your elementary or junior high school



2. Receive interview with the Japanese language support center coordinator.



3. Receive Japanese language support or class from a Japanese language teacher/instructor (a few hours per week)

Contact details for enrollment procedures for elementary or junior high school

Educational Support Section in Board of Education Secretariat (教育支援課)
 Address: Chuo-ku Tenjin 1 Chome 8-1 (Fukuoka City Hall)
 Telephone number: 092-711-4636 E-mail: kyoikushien.BES@city.fukuoka.lg.jp

My Number Card



My Number system

My Number (individual number) is a 12-digit number that is unique to each person who has a certificate of residence. You will need it when making an overseas remittance, applying for child allowance, and opening a certain type of bank account.

What is My Number Card (individual number card)?





My Number Card is a card which contains and displays your: My Number (the individual number), name, address, date of birth, gender, and ID photograph.

<What you can do with your My Number Card>

- Obtain official certificates including a certificate of residence or a taxation certificate at convenience stores.
- Use it as an ID card for identity verification.
- Apply online for various administrative procedures such as Covid-19 vaccination certificate, electronic tax return (e-Tax), and immigration application procedures.
- You can use for various private on-line transactions including on-line banking.
- It can also be used to register a public money receiving account and health insurance card.



How to apply for My Number Card

<p>Online </p> <p>Japanese language only at: http://net.kojinbango-card.go.jp/SS_SERVICE_OUT/FA01S001Action.do</p>	<p>At the Fukuoka city My Number Card Temporary Issuance Centre </p> <p>Location: 3rd Floor, Acros Fukuoka, 1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku</p> <p>Opening hours and days: From 12:00 to 20:00 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays From 9:30 to 17:30 on Saturdays and Sundays. Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, National holiday and New Year's holidays (Dec 29 to Jan 3)</p> <p><i>Making appointment in advance is recommended. For further information, check the Fukuoka city website :</i> https://bit.ly/mynaTSC</p> <p>Make appointment by telephone: Fukuoka City My Number Card Reservation 092-722-0650 (Available in English, Chinese and Korean)</p> <p>Make appointment online https://city-fukuoka-mynumbercard.jp/ (in Japanese only)</p>
<p>By post </p> <p>You will receive an application for in the mail.</p>	
<p>At counter at a Local public hall and city hall </p> <p>Staff will attend local facilities such as a Kominkans (public halls) and also on the 1st floor in the Fukuoka City Hall. There they can support you during the My Number Card application process. For further information, please check the website (in Japanese only): https://www.mynumpo-city-fukuoka.jp/#c02</p>	

Renewing your My Number Card and Extending the Expiry date

As a foreign resident, your My Number Card will expire at the same time as your visa/residence card (the period of stay) expires. Those who have renewed their visa and have a new period of stay, also need to update My Number Card before it expires. This is done at your ward office.

If you have applied to renew your visa, but haven't received your new residence card, your My Number Card may expire. In this case, as an exception, you can extend the expiry of your My Number Card for two months. Please take your residence card and your My Number Card to your ward office. Your residence card must be stamped on the back, indicating that you are applying for a visa extension.

If you do not apply for an extension before the expiration date, your My Number Card will expire.

For extension of expiration date of your My Number Card is within the card is valid.

Once you receive your new residence card, it is important to update your My Number card (as stated above) before it expires.

If the card expires, a fee will be charged for reissuance, and it will take about one to two months to be issued. Please note that the electronic certificate function, such as your health insurance card installed on your My Number Card, will automatically be revoked.

Online application for residence application procedures

After March 2022, if you have your My Number Card, foreign nationals can apply for many kinds of residence procedures online.

For further information, please check the Immigration Services Agency website. (in Japanese only)
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/>

Citizen Disaster Prevention Day

Fukuoka City has designated March 20th as "Citizens' Disaster Prevention Day" as a reminder of the experience of the "Fukuoka Prefecture West Offshore Earthquake" that occurred on March 20, 2005, as a way to encourage people to be prepared for disasters on a daily basis. You never know when a disaster will strike. Advance preparation is important to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Be prepared to act appropriately when it happens.



“Fukuoka and me” In this section, we will introduce a foreign national living in Fukuoka.

Interview with Ryu Kihone from South Korea



Q1. Could you please tell us what brought you to Fukuoka and or Japan?

I have been living in Fukuoka ever since I came to Fukuoka as a student at Kyushu University 18 years ago. Fukuoka has an airport in the middle of the city, and I decided to settle down in Fukuoka because it is so close that I could catch an airplane in the morning and arrive at my parents' house in Seoul, South Korea in the afternoon. Compared to other big cities, it's very easy to live in, prices are cheap, and there is natural scenery such as the sea and mountains just a short drive away, so I enjoy leisure time with my family most of the weekends.

Q2. What kind of activities (work, etc.) are you currently doing in Fukuoka?

I am a director of Global Connect Kyushu Co., Ltd. It is a community which has international students and alumni in the Kyushu area, and Japanese people who supports international students. Currently, 340 members from 57 countries are registered as global reporters. They are doing various activities such as dubbing for existing promotional videos of companies, local public relations for foreigners like trial package tours, and tutor activities in international exchanges through requests from companies, universities, organizations etc. in several areas. Also, we are conducting an Internet broadcast called “HonneTalk by Foreigners” and “Japan Kyushu BOSS: I am a Multicultural Counselor” where foreign students interview celebrities who are active in the region. This is also posted on our YouTube channel. So, if you are interested, please subscribe to our channel. [Global Connect Kyushu - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8vYUj1Uj1Uj1Uj1Uj1Uj1Uj1)

Q3. How have you overcome any difficulties or obstacles in your activities or life?

As a foreigner, the barriers to starting a social enterprise in Japan were very thick. However, thanks to a lot of help from people around us, we have expanded the scope of our activities, including the establishment of branches not only in Fukuoka City but also in neighboring municipalities. It was very difficult to find a job and start a business in Japan as a foreigner, but I am very happy that the activities I have experienced and the connections I have made have led to my current activities. In the future, I would like to create more new social businesses by connecting foreign residents, including international students, with the local community.

Q4. What are your thoughts on your current life in Fukuoka?

I love Fukuoka. I have such a strong attachment to Fukuoka that I think of it as my second hometown. The compact size and the charm of a vibrant city that allows me to enjoy both business and leisure life at the same time.

Q5. Could you please tell our readers if you have any more messages?

To all foreigners in Fukuoka, why don't you take this time as an opportunity to help each other, and to start with taking action through online, since the patterns of daily life, work, and private life are changing due to COVID-19? Moreover, there are various types of support available for foreigners in Fukuoka. I think these services such as medical interpretation support for foreigners, human rights consultations, etc. are very useful while living in Japan. Finally, anyone interested in our activities of Global Reporter is always welcome! Please have a look our Facebook: Japan Kyushu Boss, Global Reporter in Japan. Thank you!

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE EVENT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

We will hold an event for Japanese and foreign national parents to bring their children, and easily make Onigiri Bento together.

Date & Time : Saturday, March 11th, 2023 from 10:30 - 13:15

Venue: Airefu Cookery Room at the Health Promotion Support Center

For further details and how to join the event, please visit our website:

<https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/>



Specialized Counseling Services at Fukuoka City International Center (0120-66-1799)

Legal Counseling

January 7th and 18th
February 4th and 15th
March 4th and 15th

1st Saturday 10:30 - 13:30
3rd Wednesday 13:00 - 16:00

Appointment: Required

An interpreter is available upon request

Immigration, Residency, and Nationality

January 8th, February 12th and
March 12th

2nd Sunday 13:00 - 16:00
(Reception until 15:30)

Appointment: Not required

English & Chinese interpreters are available.

Personal (Psychological) Counseling

Monday 9:00 - 17:45
Tuesday 9:00 - 11:45
Thursday 9:00 - 12:45

Appointment: Required
An English speaking professional is available.

Notice of termination of foreign language information newsletter "FCIF"

Until now, our Foundation has published the foreign language information newsletter “FCIF” four times a year. We will inform you that this Winter issue is the last one.

From now on, we will continue to provide useful information to foreign nationals living in Fukuoka through our website and social media, so please check our website. <https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/>