

An Imported Foods Selection That's Out Of This World



Last year, around the Fourth of July, I found myself experiencing severe chili dog withdrawal symptoms. Since moving here from the U.S. a few years back, I'd tried several times (with varying degrees of success) to use ingredients from my local supermarket over in Beppu to replicate a recipe for the kind of chili dogs commonly found at American baseball parks and cookouts.

I'm by no means an amazing (or arguably even good) cook, but most of my attempts ended up rather "meh," even by my low standards; each one definitely edible, but missing a certain zest. It turns out that not having easy access to barbeque sauce can make it tricky to get the right mix of bitter and sweet needed to really capture the refined essence of the noble chili dog.

Well, as it so happens, there actually is a store (right under our noses, too) that sells imported foods and ingredients. Jupiter (officially "Jupiter Coffee, K.K.") is an imported food chain store which opened a branch last year in the newly-renovated JR Oita Station. This particular branch is the first one in Oita and the closest available within a pretty fair distance – on Kyushu, there are only two other Jupiter stores, located in Fukuoka and Saga.

And while Jupiter is most definitely *not* the only imported foods store in Oita Prefecture, the prime location within the commercial heart of Oita Station makes it extremely hard not to recommend it to homesick foreigners. Being within a train station makes it perfect for picking up dinner ingredients on the way back, or for grabbing a soft drink while waiting for a train; it's become one of my favorite places to hunt for nostalgic comfort foods. However, I've found a surprising majority of my fellow foreigners (particularly those studying at APU) are completely unaware of it – and then they complain that they can't find any Campbell's chicken noodle soup when they're sick – which makes it a borderline civic duty of mine to spread the word.

Despite its somewhat limited floor space, the store's inventory covers a surprising range of culinary products, like various pastas (including noodle shapes relatively rare in Japan, like farfalle and fusilli), sauces, canned goods, soft drinks, liquor, sweets, and comfort foods can all be found on their shelves.

These products largely fill the void between "obvious" products for a Japanese grocery store, and "obvious" products for an American supermarket; taco shells and spice mixes, canned chile con queso and salsas, tortilla chips, assorted Hersey's products, imported coffee beans and tea bags, dried fruits, jarred pickles, bratwurst, and olives, familiar jams and dressings, Canadian maple syrup, and more seasonings than I can count are among the items I know they sell just off the top of my head, though my selective recollection is no doubt representative by my



own American tastes (they're the most reliable place I've found to get my root beer and Doritos fix on short notice). A pretty decent portion of the items for sale originate from outside North America, too. In particular, their wine collection contains quite a few imported Italian and French wines. The store also sells its own line of coffee beans and other various products, like salad dressings, tea blends, nuts, and soup stock.

Manager Keiko Fujita took some time out of her day to talk a little about the store and its promotional plans. "We do get many foreign customers, but yes, we would like to see much more customer awareness. We're actually doing a 50% off campaign on our coffee right now, and we're planning to get a few of our advertisements listed in the newspapers in local train stations, like Beppu and Oita. Eventually, we'd like to work our way up to TV commercials and have even more people know about us."

Jupiter is open every day from 9:30 AM to 9:00 PM.

Hogue William (Intern, Oita International Plaza)

Nishi Oita Deck: My "Peaceful Place"



Humans tend to look for peace in different things. It can be through shopping, travelling, sleeping, eating or even dancing. It depends on the character of the people, their hobbies and their preferences. I am someone who finds comfort in observing the beauty of nature. Being brought up in a country like Nepal that is rich in natural beauty may have contributed in the development of this interest in me. However, as it our human nature to "seek for something that you don't have," my country is landlocked but I have always been fascinated by the ocean more than the beautiful mountains and rivers in my country.

Pursuing my undergraduate studies in an island country like Japan has given me the opportunity to enjoy the ocean that surrounds the country.

I enjoy walking around, taking pictures, reading books or listening to music while looking at the ocean in different coastal areas in Oita. While going to different places, I developed a particular fascination in the Nishi Oita deck that I call my "peaceful place".

Nishi Oita deck is located in the coastal line below the Nishi Oita station in the Ikushi area. It is a 5 minute walk from the port of Oita where most of the ships and boats stop. TOPS Bitts Hall is a popular place that lies in the east end of the stretch of the deck. There are many other small cafes' that surround the area. Unlike the highly populated Tanora beach and Umi Tamago deck that are close by, Nishi Oita deck is very peaceful. Common visitors in the area are dog walkers, runners, fishers, old age couples and children along with their parents.

I enjoy walking around the deck area at noon time from around 5pm to 7pm. One can enjoy the sea breeze along with the view of the sunset behind the mountains of Beppu and Hiji. It is beautiful to see the changing color of the sky and its reflection on the ocean with the changing position of the sun. Additionally, it is relaxing to listen to the sound of the waves with the popping sound of the fishes jumping in the water every now and then. I also enjoy looking at people having a good time while playing with their dogs and children or fishing. Especially, during the weekends, there are a lot of people like me who come to the place to be at peace.

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Besides observing the nature and the people around you, there are many exciting things happening in the deck area. As it is close the Oita port, one can see different ships along with the Sun flower ferry that leaves for Kobe from the port. Sometimes, one can see a wedding photo shoot or even an actual wedding as there is a wedding place in the area. Occasionally, one can listen to the live music being played from the cafes', jamming bars or the popular concerts taking place in the TOPS Bitts Hall. You can also enjoy the atmosphere by lying down in the grass reading a book or listening to your favorite music.

The atmosphere of the place helps me to think and concentrate. I usually go there when I need to plan about something or even to cheer up myself. Studying in a new environment with new people is not easy. Especially, in a country like Japan where the cultural values are so strong, it is hard for international people to adjust. However, finding a place where I can feel at peace has helped in my personal development and has motivated me to embrace the challenges that come on my way.

--- Poudyal Ritu (Intern, Oita International Plaza)

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Cost	Contact #
Oct. 7 th – Nov. 29 th	OPAM Collection Exhibition Vol. IV – “With French Works”	Oita Prefectural Art Museum	¥300	☎ 097-533-4500
Oct. 8 th – Dec. 4 th	Alphonse Mucha Exhibition	Oita City Art Museum	¥1200	☎ 097-554-5800
Oct. 21 st – Nov. 27 th	Kingdom of Buddha – Sculptures of Buddha in Oita	Oita City History Museum	¥200	☎ 097-549-0880
Dec. 2 nd – Jan 22 nd	Dutch Modern Design – Rietveld / Bruna / ADO – Playful Design and Life Art	Oita Prefectural art Museum	¥1000	☎ 097-533-4500
Dec. 2 nd – Jan. 31 st	OPAM Collection Exhibition Vol. V “Life Poetry Seen in the Collection”	Oita Prefectural Art Museum	¥300	☎ 097-533-4500

Most Museums and Centres are closed on Monday, or Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday. Student admissions vary, highest cost shown



STAGE & MUSIC EVENTS

Date	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
Oct. 1 st Oct. 2 nd	18:30 13:30	Die Fledermaus	iichiko Grand Theatre	Prices vary	☎ 080-2736-5108
Oct. 12 th	13:00 17:00	Shochiku Kabuki – iichiko presents Oita Performance	iichiko Grand Theatre	Prices vary	☎ 097-533-4004
Oct. 28 th	19:00	namie amuro LIVE STYLE 2016-2017	iichiko Grand Theatre	¥9,400	☎ 092-714-0159
Oct. 30 th	18:00	KODA KUMI LIVE TOUR 2016 ~ Best Single Collection	iichiko Grand Theatre	¥8,400	☎ 092-714-0159
Nov. 19 th	14:00	Music and Pictures Concerning Satei – 150 th Anniversary or Erik Satei's Birth	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥3000	☎ 097-533-4004
Nov. 23 rd	14:00	Soprano and Guitar Duet Concert	Patria Hita	¥1000	☎ 0973-25-5000
Nov. 27 th	17:30	Shoko Sawada Live Tour	Cantaloop II	¥4500 +drink	☎ 097-548-5363
Dec. 12 th	13:30	One Coin Relay Concert Vol. 4 – Soprano	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥500	☎ 097-533-4004

**Ticket prices range from student to most expensive general admission. Prices shown otherwise indicate price for purchase on the day of the event, they may be cheaper if purchased in advance. “+drink” prices require the additional purchase of a drink. Times shown indicate start times, doors usually open 30 minutes beforehand.

VENUES

Cantaloop II=3-2-30 Miyako-Machi
Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City

iichiko Grand Theatre= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City
iichiko Otonoizumi=Oasis Tower 1F Oita City

Patria Hita= 1-8-11 Sanbonmatsu, Hita City

Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
~Oct. 11 th	Wear Yukata Kimono and Walk Beppu Event - Experience wearing Yukata. Held on every Fri - Sun, and Holidays (Fee ¥3,000. If you would prefer other days, please contact).	Beppu City JR Beppu Station	☎ 0977-22-1686
~Nov. 20 th	Oita Agricultural Park's Autumn Harvest Festival - Experience fruit picking (11:00-, numbered tickets 9:30-) and harvesting fresh vegetables (13:30-).	Kitsuki City Oita Agricultural Park	☎ 0977-28-7111
~Dec. 11 th	KUNISAKI ODAYAKA HAKU Events -A variety of workshops, events, and more to be held throughout Kunisaki City (inquire for more details).	Kunisaki City Various Locations	☎ 0978-72-5168
Oct. 1 st ~ Nov. 30 th	18th Oita Art Culture Festival 2016 - A variety of exhibitions, performances, workshops and more to be held throughout Oita Prefecture.	Oita Prefecture Various Locations	☎ 097-536-0522
Oct. 2 nd ~ Dec. 25 th	MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Pont in Beppu Film Concert- held every Sunday, 11 am – 12am	Beppu City Shiiki Argerich's House	☎ 0977-27-2299
Oct. 9 th	29th Beppu Yukemuri Health Walk Rally/Marathon- This event will take place at lake Shidaka and Lake Kagurame in Beppu (inquire for more details)	Beppu City Lake Shidaka	☎ 0977-21-6162
Oct. 9 th ~Oct. 30 th	Sanko Cosmos Garden - 15 million cosmoses are in bloom, approx. 16ha of the foot of Hachimenzan mountain. Places change every year; this year Haruguchi, Naritsune district will transform into a pink and white carpet. Shuttle bus service (free of charge) from JR Nakatsu Station on Sundays.	Nakatsu City Sanko Area	☎ 0979-43-2050
Oct. 10 th	42nd Beef Eating and Screaming Contest - Yes, you read it right! Come eat beef raised in Yufuin and scream to your heart's content, or just enjoy watching others do so (held at Namiyanagi no bokujoyou)	Yufu City Yufuin-cho Kawakami	☎ 0977-85-4464
Oct. 15 th Nov. 19 th Dec. 17 th	Kimono Appreciation Day - A monthly event where visitors can try on rental kimonos, have their photos taken, and receive discounts at nearby facilities if they are wearing kimono.	Kitsuki City Jouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Oct. 15 th ~16 th	Beppu Agriculture and Forestry Festival - An event promoting local goods at Beppu Park. Here you can enjoy local products, wood working and workshops.	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 097-506-3544
Oct. 16 th	11th Road of Xavier Walking Festival - Walking event to explore the road which Christian Missionary Francisco Xavier walked in 1551 to go to Bungo-Funai via Yamaguchi.	Hiji Town Hiji Town CommunityCenter	☎ 0977-73-3158
Oct. 16 th	32nd Oita Dialect Uncovered! Speech Contest - A comedic contest for linguistic contortionists at Chuo Community Center. Come along to test out your Oita-ben comprehension (reservations necessary)	Bungo Takada Chuo Kominkan	☎ 0978-22-3100
Oct. 22 nd ~23 rd	Beppu Fisheries Festival - This event aims to local seafood produce. Held at Kamegawa Port, here you can enjoy lots of local cuisine.	Beppu City Kamegawa Port	☎ 097-532-6611
Nov. 3 rd	27th Shonai Kagura Festival - In conjunction with the 35 th Shonai Town 'Furusato' festival. There will be kagura performances from a number of groups, and specialty goods for sale.	Yufu City Shonai-Machi	☎ 097-582-1111
Nov. 5 th ~6 th	Beppu Dance Festa 2016 - This contest will showcase talented dancers competing for the grand prize (to be held in Beppu Park in conjunction with another local produce promotional event) 13:00-16:00	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 0977-24-2828
Nov. 5 th ~6 th	20th Usuki Takeyoi festival - Over this weekend, approximately 20,000 bamboo shoots are lit up with candles all over the city.	Usuki City Nioza	☎ 0972-63-1111
Nov. 11 th ~13 th	Sennen Akari - Festival of lights in Hita City. Bamboo shoots will be lit up with candles throughout town, and there will be concerts, food stalls, and more!	Hita City Mameda-Machi	☎ 0973-23-3111
Nov. 12 nd ~13 th	Hita Tenryo Festival- This festival works to recreate Edo period Japan with a samurai parade and various acts of local performing arts around Tsuki-kuma Park.	Hita City Mameda-Machi	☎ 0973-23-3111
Nov. 12 nd ~13 th	Ono River Battle Festival – This is performed by cavalry, archers, and more with the theme of the “Battle of Hetsugigawara” which happened 423 years ago between the Otomo allied forces and the Shimazu army	Oita City Dainan-Ohashi bridge Hetsugihon-Machi	☎ 097-597-1264
Nov. 18 th ~20 th	Taketa Chikuraku Bamboo Light Festival - Over the three days 20,000 bamboo lanterns will be lit across Jyouka-Machi, and visitors can enjoy live music performances, and taste local delicacies at food stalls.	Taketa City Jyouka-Machi	☎ 0974-63-2638
Nov. 19 th	Mt. Takasaki Free entrance day	Oita City Mt. Takasaki	☎ 097-532-5010
Dec. 3 rd	Shimekazari and New Year's decorations making workshop - Experience making Japanese New Year's decorations. Participation fee is ¥500, reservations necessary.	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 0973-73-0001
Dec. 10 th	Wadako (Japanese traditional kite) making workshop - Experience making Wadako. Participation fee is ¥220 (Incl. admission fee), reservations necessary.	Oita City History Museum	☎ 097-549-0880
Dec. 23 rd ~24 th	Beppu Christmas hanabi fantasia- approximately 10,000 fireworks are to be fired into the clear winter sky to create huge original displays, accompanying a performance of Christmas songs sung by 1000 people.	Beppu City Spa Beach	☎ 0977-24-2828
Dec. 31 st	Usa Shrine New Year's Eve festival- this is the final festival to round off the year. Visitors visit Usa Shrine to pray for things such as good health and good fortune.	Usa Cit Usa Shriney	☎ 0978-37-0001

What's Going On?

From the Plaza

International Understanding Talk

"The Land of Tulips and Windmills – The Netherlands"

To coincide with OPAM's planned "Dutch Modern Design – Rietveld / Bruna / ADO" exhibition, the Plaza will be holding an event where you can learn about the history and culture of the Netherlands while enjoying cheese and wine.

Date/Time: **December 2nd (Friday), 18:00 to 20:00**

Place: **iichiko Culture Center, BF1, Small Screening Hall**

Lecturer: **Pyke van Zon (Coordinator for International Relations, Mima City, Tokushima Prefecture)**

Participation Fee: **¥500**

●Participants must book beforehand. Please contact the plaza. Telephone 097-533-4021 or e-mail Ms. Ohata: ohhata@emo.or.jp

Free Legal Consultations for International Residents

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations for foreign residents on the *third Wednesday of every month*.

●When: **October 19th, November 16th, December 21st**

●Time: **13:00-16:00**

●Consultant: **Sei Ito (Administrative Solicitor)**

●Venue: **Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)**

Free Consultations in Chinese

The Oita International Plaza is holding free consultations in Chinese *every Thursday*.

●When: **Every Thursday**

●Time: **10:00-13:00**

●Consultant: **Wenyu Kodama**

●Venue: **Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)**

Free Consultations in Tagalog

The Oita International Plaza is holding free consultations in Tagalog.

●When: **October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd**

●Time: **13:00-16:00**

●Consultant: **Rhodora Yoshitake (President of the Oita Philippines Friendship Association)**

●Venue: **Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)**

Free Consultations Regarding Immigration, Residency, and Citizenship

The Oita International Plaza is holding free consultations regarding immigration, residency, and citizenship on the *first Sunday of each month*.

●When: **October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th**

●Time: **13:00-16:00**

●Languages available: **Japanese and English**

●Interpretation into **languages other than Japanese** and English may be available with a reservation (there are no guarantees). The reservation must be made **2 days prior to the consultation day**.

●Venue: **Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)**

Japanese Lessons

Himawari Japanese Volunteers

Support for people learning Japanese in order to help them enjoy their lives in Oita, now at three different locations.

Wasada Public Hall Wed. 10:00-11:30

Meiji Akeno Public Hall Wed. 14:00-15:30

Tsurusaki Public Hall Sat. 10:00-11:30

For more information contact Ms. Fukata TEL: 097-527-2614

E-MAIL: nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp

Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

Beppu City Hall offers free Japanese lessons every Monday from 14:00-15:30. For more information contact Mr. Kii in the Beppu International Affairs Division

TEL: 0977-21-6133 E-MAIL: int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp

Sakura Japanese Class

Come study Japanese with friendly volunteers and teachers in a pleasant atmosphere. Sakura Japanese Class is held every Monday from 10:15-12:00 at the Oita University International House in Nishiki-Machi, Oita City. Classes are free of charge. For more information call Ms. Ohashi CELL: 090-7866-2486

AIUEO Japanese Lessons

Volunteers offer free Japanese lessons on Tuesday and Friday from 10:20-11:50 at I-NESS near Oasis Tower as well as Thursday nights at Compal Hall from 18:30-20:30. Lessons are also offered in Beppu at the Beppu Foreign Tourist Information Office on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-12:00. For more information contact:

Ms. Miyase CELL: 090-8353-2485 (day lessons)

Ms. Kato TEL: 097-532-5940 (night lessons)

Community Classes and Events

Happy Talk

Come practice speaking Japanese with other learners and native speakers. Reservations not required, just show up on the day.

Please bring your own drink if you like. Participation is FREE. For more details and information on when Happy Talk is held, please visit the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HappyTalkOita>



Happy Holidays!



As readers of the TOMBO will probably be aware, people in Japan hold *bounenkai* (“forgetting the year parties”) at the end of each year. Oita Prefecture has truly had an eventful year. Understandably, many people in the prefecture hope to put tragedies that occurred this year such as the Kumamoto and Oita Earthquakes behind them. I hope that people in Oita were also able to make many happy memories this year and are looking forward to 2017. I would like to thank readers of the TOMBO, and I hope to continue to make the TOMBO a more informative and interesting newsletter. I would also like to wish all our readers happy holidays and a happy new year!

--- With warm regards from the editor.

おおいた国際交流プラザ

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THANK YOU !!

A special thanks to all those who co-operated with us for this issue. Your help was very much appreciated.

THE TOMBO is produced by:

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HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:30am-7:00pm

(closed weekends and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)

Closed national holidays & Dec 29th - Jan 3rd

The International Plaza is located on the basement floor of OASIS Hiroba 21 (iichiko Culture Center).

