

aWa life

Welcome Messages!

October 2023

395

**Cruise Ship from China to
Tokushima**



Gairaigo Galore:
メルヘン

Introducing Mt. Suzugamine



TOPIA

Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

The season of autumn leaves has arrived and it's finally time to say goodbye to those sweaty nights of summer in Tokushima. The time has come to finally do those outdoor activities you have been putting off because of the heat. No more excuses: go and enjoy the many beautiful views that Tokushima has to offer! If you need some inspiration, make sure to check out the article about Mt. Suzugamine from our friends in Kaiyo.

Even if you're not the outdoors type, you can still look forward to Halloween. Enjoy some candy or find the perfect costume!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

awalife@gmail.com

Your editors,
Sydney and Rasmus

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Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!



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Cruise Ship from China to Tokushima

By: Luo Xinxin

On July 18th, China's luxury cruise ship the "China Merchants Eden" departed from Shanghai and then stopped at Nagasaki, Hakata, Hiroshima, Osaka, Shimizu, Nagoya, etc. before arriving at the Tokushima Komatsushima Port on the morning of July 28th. The China Merchants Eden was the first cruise ship from China that Tokushima has accepted in more than 3 years, and Tokushima's mascot character "Sudachi-kun" along with Komatsushima's mascot character "Komapon" came to welcome the ship.



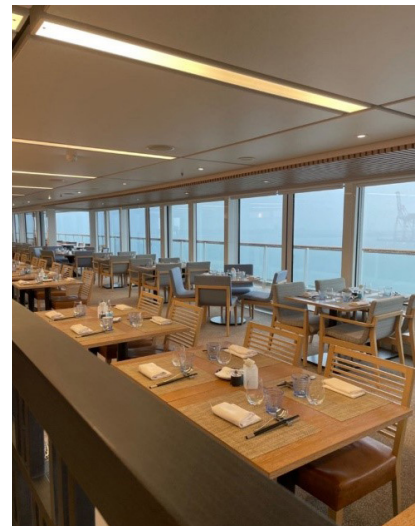
Cruise Ship: China Merchants Eden

This cruise ship is China's first Chinese-registered small-sized luxury cruise ship. The itinerary included not only popular, large cities such as Fukuoka, Osaka, Nagoya, etc., but also lesser-known locations such as Tokushima and Kochi. Passengers were able to get a taste of not only the flourishing large cities, but also the laid-back

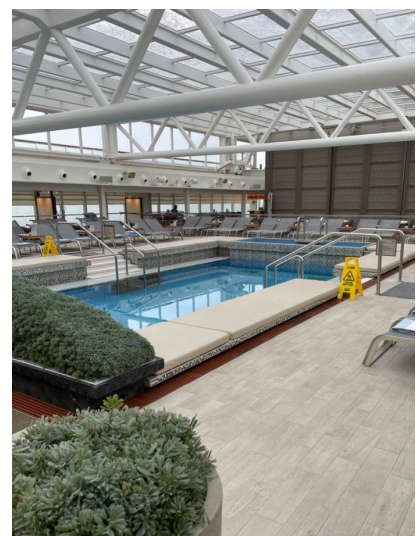
life of smaller locations, making for a trip that was both fulfilling and relaxing.

The cruise ship is approximately 230 meters in length, 28.8 meters in width, 48,000 tons, and can hold up to 930 passengers. There were approximately 650 passengers riding this time. The cruise ship features 465 cabins complete with balconies, and every corner of the ship's interior features a modern Scandinavian style.

On board are 7



A restaurant inside the ship.



Swimming pool inside the ship.

Cruise Ship from China to Tokushima

restaurants with cuisines from around the world, such as China, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Northern Europe. There is also a gym, sauna, outdoor/indoor swimming pools, a theater, movie theater, and more. More than 400 pieces of art are also display. In the cruise industry, this represents the idea of “small yet beautiful”.



Munch artwork inside the ship.



Presenting the captain with a gift.

When the cruise arrived at Komatsushima Port, a welcome ceremony was held inside the ship, and the captain was given a flower bouquet and other gifts from officials of the prefecture and Komatsushima City. Once the welcome ceremony was over, the passengers disembarked from the ship and took photographs with Tokushima’s mascot ‘Sudachi-kun’ and Komatsushima’s mascot ‘Komapon’.

Afterwards, passengers were free to make their own itineraries or to participate in tours offered inside the ship. For most passengers, it was their first time in Tokushima, so they were very interested in sightseeing spots such as the Awa

Odori Kaikan, the Naruto Whirlpools, and Oboke/Koboke Gorge. There were also passengers who were interested in trying Tokushima’s famous foods, such as Awa Beef, Awa Odori Chicken, and local Awa fish dishes. They visited the tourism booth that was set up at the Komatsushima Port to ask their questions.



Booths providing services to passengers at the Komatsushima Port.

From 5 PM an Awa Odori performance was held, and many passengers watched and took pictures and videos. The Awa Odori performers for that day were some of the cream of the crop. After the performance, an instructor showed everyone how to dance the men’s and women’s dance. Finally, the passengers joined the performers to dance the Awa Odori, and the port become extremely lively.



Awa Odori performance at the Komatsushima Port.

Some of the passengers commented about how they were able to get a feel for Tokushima’s

Cruise Ship from China to Tokushima

customs thanks to this cruise. Some were thinking of visiting Tokushima again and participating in the Awa Odori.

After the Awa Odori dance sendoff, the cruise departed from Komatsushima Port at 8 PM on the 28th and made its way towards its next stop – Kochi.



Passengers dancing the Awa Odori.

Welcome Messages!

Rasmus Burgmer, Coordinator for International Relations

Hello everyone, nice to meet you! My name is Rasmus, and I am the new coordinator for international relations (CIR) for Tokushima Prefecture. I am from Berlin in Germany, and I am currently 26 years old. Before coming to Tokushima, I was studying area studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin while working part-time as a translator at a ramen restaurant. During my studies, I was also able to take part in a one-year student exchange programme which sent me to Tokai University in Kanagawa, where I was able to study Japanese intensively. It also allowed me to get first-hand experience in international relations inspiring me to pursue a career in that field.

As the German CIR for the prefecture, my responsibilities lie mainly in strengthening the relations between Germany and Japan. Therefore, I was particularly happy about my placement in Tokushima as the German state called Lower-Saxony has a long-lasting partnership with the prefecture, resulting in lots of interesting exchange projects taking place each year. These projects include a variety of fields, such as sports, education and handcrafts where delegations from Japan and Germany visit each other to exchange knowledge and ideas. I am really looking forward to playing my part in deepening these partnerships during my time here.

Furthermore, I am now also one of the prefectural

advisers and will be working closely with other foreigners living in Tokushima, assisting them with any difficulties that might occur. I am also joining Sydney as an editor for Awa Life, so you will be hearing a lot from me in the future.



When I'm not at work, I would very much like to explore all areas of the prefecture, especially the mountainous regions as I really enjoy hiking. Also, music and all kinds of sports are a big passion of mine, so I am excited to see what Tokushima has to offer in that regard. Life in my hometown is very different to life in Tokushima, and it will take me some time to getting used to, but since everyone I have met here has been really kind and supportive, I am confident that it will feel like home very soon.

I hope that through my work here I can contribute to Tokushima becoming a diverse and welcoming place for residents and visitors from all backgrounds while inspiring people to take part in cultural exchange and positively influence their local communities.

Special thanks to all my wonderful colleagues who have been helping me settle in so effortlessly. Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!

Introducing Mt. Suzugamine

By: Tony Lu

It's fall now in Tokushima Prefecture, and with most of the hot steamy weather out of the way, it's a great time to go hiking! Down south here in Kaiyo, we have Mt. Suzugamine in the southerly Shishikui area. A couple of members of the Global Kaiyo team, including myself, went there last year, and had a great time!



Global Kaiyo Team at Mt. Suzugamine

There's a parking area connected directly to the hiking trail, which is where we parked and started our hike through the forest and up the mountain.

During our hike, we noticed a lot of bowl and tile fragments, and hints of civilization scattered along the trail. That's because there used to be a temple on this mountain, called "Entsuuji", which you can see the ruins of near the peak.



Yakkoso plant growing on tree roots

We also managed to spot Yakkoso, a rare parasitic plant that grows from the roots of trees.

We went during mid-November, which is when they usually grow. Mt. Suzugamine is actually one of the northernmost places that you can find them, and some people come here just to find them!

After about 2 hours of hiking up the steady trail, we made it to the top and were treated to this amazing view! Great, right?



View from Mt. Suzugamine peak

Although I'm not an avid hiker myself, I quite enjoyed seeing the remnants of the temple scattered along the trail. Whether you're into the historical aspect or quirky stuff like Yakkoso, there's something for everyone at Mt. Suzugamine!



Remember to check out Global Kaiyo's page for more great information about Kaiyo!

Tokushima Culture & Reading Corner: 天空の村
 By: Yukari Nagata 名頃かかしの里

のう さぎょう せい だ 農作業に精を出したり、みんなで集まって井戸端会議をしたり・・・。
 おお ひと にぎ 多くの人で賑わっているように見えますが、彼らは「人」ではなく、「かかし」です。
 とくしまけんがしい や な ごろ ちく 徳島県 東 祖谷の名頃地区には、いたるところに 300 体以上のかかし
 があります。この地区の人口約 20 人より、とても多い数です。かか
 しの里は、一人の女性がカラスから畑を守るために、お父さんに似
 たかかしを作ったことがはじまりのようです。今では「かかしの村」
 として有名になり、世界中から観光客が訪ずれるようになりました。
 ひと まちが 間違って、かかしに挨拶をする人も多いようです。皆さんがこ
 こに行く時は間違えないように、たくさんのかかしたちに会うのを
 楽しんでください。



Vocabulary List

てんくう 天空	Sky	い ど ぼたかい ぎ 井戸端会議	Idle Gossip	いたるところ	Everywhere
せ かいじゆう 世界中	Worldwide	まちが 間違う	Make a Mistake	かかし	Scarecrow
のう さぎょう 農作業	Farm Work	さと 里	Village	カラス	Crow
せい だ 精を出す	Work Hard	にぎ 賑わう	To Be Crowded	ゆうめい 有名	Famous

メルヘン Märchen (Fairytale)
 By: Rasmus Burgmer

Gairaigo Galore



I'm sure that you are all familiar with famous fairytales like "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Cinderella", but did you know that these fairytales originated from Germany? The German "Märchen" were in fact stories that have been passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition, until they were collected and written down by the Grimm-Brothers, allowing them to be translated and spread beyond Germany. That is how they eventually got to Japan, where the stories soon became immensely popular. The Grimm Brothers method of collecting fairytales has also been adapted by Japanese folklorists leading to the first collections of Japanese folklore.

Once you know that, it is no surprise that the Japanese word for fairytale "メルヘン" has been adapted from the German language too. Besides メルヘン, there are other Japanese words that translate into fairytale and are maybe even more frequently used. The gairaigo does, however, imply a more fantastical nature, with the expression "メルヘンチック" being used to describe things or people that appear to be out of this world.

Japanese adaptations and interpretations of German "Märchen" tend to get the underlying darkness of the source material much more accurately than most other countries do, which oftentimes turn them into happy, family friendly stories when in fact a lot of them are dark and brutal. So if you ever see the word "メルヘン" in a book store, take a look! You might just find an adaptation that is really accurate to the German original.



コロケーション (Collocations)

Everyone, do you know what collocations (コロケーション) are? Collocations describe words that tend to go together as a set. For example, 「シャツを着る…はく/かぶる」, 「ズボンををはく…着る/かぶる」, 「帽子をかぶる…着る/はく」, and so on. If you only knew the words instead of the set, you would not be able to properly use them, right? Depending on the word, you either have a lot of collocations or just a few. In this month and next month's issues I will introduce you to some!

★ Words that come together as a set with 「仕事」:

1. 毎日、午前10時から午後3時まで仕事をします。Every day I work from 10 AM to 3 PM.
2. あしたは、仕事があるので行けません。I have work tomorrow, so I cannot go.
3. コロナで、1週間、仕事を休みました。I had to take a week off work because I caught COVID.
4. 雑誌で、仕事を探しました。I searched for a job in a magazine.
5. インターネットで 仕事が見つかりました。I found a job on the internet.
6. 面接を受けて、仕事が決まりました。I had an interview and got the job.
7. 息子は、40歳になって初めて仕事に就きました。My son got his first job when he was 40.

★ Words that come together as a set with 「会社」:

1. 8月に、若い社員が会社に入りました。In August, a young employee joined the company.
2. 兄はコンピューターの会社に勤めています。My older brother is working at a computer company.
3. 去年から、徳島の会社で働いています。
I have been working at a company in Tokushima since last year.
4. 40年働いた会社をやめました。I quit the company that I had worked for for 40 years.
5. コロナのせいで、会社がつぶれました。The company went bankrupt because of COVID.
7. 頭が痛くて、会社を休みました。I had a headache, so I took a day off from work.

【Test】 Choose the correct word. (Or the option that fits best.)

1. 夫の会社は子どもが産まれたら、男の人も仕事を (休めます やめます)
2. 先月、会社が (つぶれて 見つかって) 仕事がなくなりました。
3. やっと新しい仕事 (働けます 決まりました)。
4. 今の会社に10年 (働いた 勤めた) が、来月でやめようと思う。
5. 学校で教師の仕事を (しています 働いています)。
6. この仕事に (就いて 勤めて) から、毎日が楽しいです。
7. 4月に新しい会社に (入った 就いた)。



答え: 1. 休めます 2. つぶれて 3. 決まりました 4. 働いた 5. 働いています 6. 就いて 7. 就いた

参考文献: 『日本語コロケーション』 くらしお出版

Events & Memoranda

Ozato Hachiman Shrine Autumn Festival 2023 大里八幡神社秋祭り 2023

In this festival, 2 sekibune which are large portable boat-shaped shrines, and 5 danjiri (portable wooden shrines) are pulled along the road by large groups of people, starting from surrounding neighborhoods in the Kainan and Kaifu areas, and at last, finishing at the Ozato Hachiman Shrine. On the evening before the festival, a fireworks display is set off near the Kaifu River.

When:

October 14th (Sat): Evening Fireworks show

October 15th (Sun): Festival Ceremony

*Event dates and times may change, so please refer to the website for the latest information.

Where: Ozato Matsubara,
Ozato Hachiman Shrine area

Inquiries: Kaiyo Town Tourism Association

TEL: 0884-76-3050

URL: <https://www.kaiyo-kankou.jp/en/event/ozato-hachiman-shrine-autumn-festival-recruiting-woman-danjiri/>

砂煙あげて駆け抜ける勇壮な7台の関船やダンジリ。鉦や太鼓の音に心浮き立つ伝統の秋祭り。前夜には、海部川河川敷で花火大会も行われます。

日時:

10月14日(土) 奉納花火

10月15日(日) 大里八幡神社秋祭り

※開催日時は変更になる場合がございますので、最新情報はホームページでご確認ください。

場所: 海陽町大里松原大里八幡神社周辺

問い合わせ: 海陽町観光協会

TEL: 0884-76-3050

URL: <https://www.kaiyo-kankou.jp/event/event-1039/>

What even is Halloween? ハロウィーンって何?

How much do you really know about Halloween? Come learn about the different ways Halloween is celebrated in America! Practice simple English with locals while enjoying a fun trivia game, pumpkin painting and Halloween crafts.

When: October 27th

Where: TIA: 88 Shukuracho,
1-Chome 770-0855

Fee: 300 Yen

Reservations: By October 20th
(Capacity 20 people)

TEL: 088-622-6066

Email: info@tia81.com

URL: http://www.tia81.com/index_eng.html



みなさん、HALLOWEEN(ハロウィーン)って本当はどんなものか知っていますか?私の母国、アメリカでどのようにハロウィンをお祝いしているかなど、簡単な英語を交えて学びながら、一緒にハロウィーンを楽しみませんか。

日時: 10月27日(金)

午後7時~午後8時30分

場所: 徳島市国際交流協会

徳島市新蔵町1丁目88番地

参加費: 300円

申し込み: 10月20日(金)まで (先着20名)

TEL: 088-622-6066

E-mail: info@tia81.com

URL: http://www.tia81.com/index_eng.html

Events & Memoranda

Bus Tour: Enjoy the Culture of Tokushima 徳島の文化にふれるバスの旅

Let's try out aizome indigo dyeing and watch traditional puppet theater!

Dye your own aizome indigo handkerchief that is yours to take home.

Afterwards, enjoy a 2-hour long ningyo joruri puppet performance commemorating the 10th anniversary of Heiseiza's registration as a UNESCO Future Heritage group. Enjoy the highly technical and unique facial expressions and movements of the puppets. Do your best and practice your Japanese skills as well!

When: November 26th
8:50 AM - 4 PM

Number of Spots: Approximately 30

Food: Please bring your own lunch and drinks.
There are no stores nearby.

Fee: 500 Yen (Paid on day of event)

◆ Applications:

- Apply via email, phone, or Google Forms.
- First-come-first-served basis
- Please include your name, nationality, age as of November 26th, and contact information (phone or email).

TOPIA

Email: coordinator2@topia.ne.jp

Phone: 088-656-3303



Google Forms
Application

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藍染め体験と人形浄瑠璃の観賞をしましょう

藍染めで持って帰れるハンカチを染めます。

その後、平成座ユネスコ未来遺産登録10周年記念公を観賞します。

人形浄瑠璃の観賞は、約2時間です。人形の顔の変化や人形の動きを楽しんでください。また、がんばって日本語も聞いてみましょう！

* 日時：11月26日
8:50～16:00

* 定員：約30人

* 昼ごはん：飲み物・弁当を自分で
持ってきてください。
近くに店はありません。

* 参加費：500円（当日集めます）

◆申し込み

* 電話かメール、GoogleFormsでしてください。

* 先着順です。

* 参加する人の名前・国・11月26日の年齢・連絡先（電話かメールアドレス）が必要です

徳島県国際交流協会

TOPIA

メール：coordinator2@topia.ne.jp

電話：088-656-3303

Counselling Service at TOPIA・トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Japanese, English, Chinese: Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

Vietnamese: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 10:00 - 14:00

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)