

27.01.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | Great Britain in our neighbourhood

A Real Taste of Britain in Yokohama: A UK-themed Walking Course Guide (Kannai – Motomachi Edition)



The City of Yokohama is set to host the pre-Games preparation camp of the British Olympic and Paralympic teams for the Tokyo 2020 Games. Take a quick look back through history, though, and you will soon discover how the relationship between Yokohama and the United Kingdom goes back much further, to the end of the Edo period (mid-19th century), around the time when the Port of Yokohama first opened up.

So why not take this opportunity to find out about the history of interaction between the United Kingdom and Japan while enjoying a stroll through the streets of Yokohama. In this guide, the GOGB Column Editing Department introduces a recommended walking course that will give you a real taste of Britain in Yokohama, featuring a route beginning in Kannai and ending Motomachi.

Nihon Odori Street



Our walking tour starts from Nihon Odori Street in the Kannai area. This area sustained heavy damage during a major fire which broke out in 1866, including not only Japanese residential areas but also foreign settlements. As such, urgent steps were taken to redevelop the area, such as putting in place modern street plans and coming up with measures to prevent fires. Japan's first ever Western-style roads were constructed here as part of this work, designed by Richard Henry Brunton, a British designer who also designed Yokohama Park. You can find a bust of Brunton on a corner of this street.



The tiles embedded into the street also give a sense of Yokohama's history from around the time of the port's opening.

This street, which leads to the Port of Yokohama and is lined with buildings including Kanagawa Prefectural Government's Office, Yokohama Archives of History, and Yokohama District Court and Yokohama Summary Court, offers picturesque scenery all year round, including rows of beautiful ginkgo trees in autumn and stunning illuminations in winter. The street is broad and spacious, steeped with an atmosphere reminiscent of a British movie.



Address: Nihon Odori Street, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

Nearest station: 1 min. walk from Nihon-Odori Station on the Minato Mirai Line / 15 min. walk from JR Kannai Station

Yokohama Archives of History



Yokohama Archives of History consists of two buildings: a new building facing Kaigan-dori Street, and a small old building surrounded by a courtyard. The old building was originally constructed to house the British Consulate General. This building was designed by the British government and all of the materials used in its construction were brought all the way from the UK. As such, both the exterior and interior give the appearance of a quintessential British building. The museum features easy to understand displays on the history of the Port of Yokohama, charting its growth as a port town through the use of photos, contemporary newspaper cuttings, models etc., making it a fun place for even children to come and learn. There is a camphor tree in the courtyard, a symbol of the Yokohama Archives of History.



One cannot help but feel a sense of awe at how this dignified tree has been standing in the same place since the Edo period, witnessing the course of Yokohama's history from the opening of the port to the present day.

3 Nihon Odori Street, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045 (201) 2100

Opening hours: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Closed: Mondays (the following day in the event Monday falls on a national holiday),
end of year New Year holiday season, other days

Nearest station: 2 min. walk from Nihon-Odori Station Exit 3 on the Minato Mirai Line /
15 min. walk from JR Kannai Station

URL : <http://www.kaikou.city.yokohama.jp/index.htm>

Café: Au jardin de Perry



Au jardin de Perry, a café located on a corner of Yokohama Archives of History, is housed in a building that was once used as guardhouse for the former British Consulate General. The café faces Kaiko Hiroba Park, a square commemorating the opening of the Port of Yokohama.



This was also the place where the Convention of Kanagawa was signed, a peace treaty reached between Japan and the US in 1854, and is the perfect place to sit back and unwind with a cup of tea in a historical setting.

Yokohama Archives of History, 3 Nihon Odori Street, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045-662-8345

Opening hours: (Tue. – Fri.) 8:00 am – 5:00 pm;

(weekends and national holidays) 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Closed: Mondays, end of year New Year holiday season, other days

Silk Center (Silk Museum)



Following the opening of the Port of Yokohama in 1859, many foreign merchants came to the port area to set up shop.

The Silk Center is located at the former site of the Yokohama branch of Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited, a major British conglomerate that was involved in the silk trade at the time of the port's opening.





The Silk Museum opened in 1959 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Yokohama. In addition to learning about the history of silk, which contributed to Yokohama's development as a port city, you can also enjoy workshops, searching for silk items in the museum shop, and other fun events.



The museum also boasts stunning views of the port, another reason why it has been included on this recommended walking itinerary.

Silk Center 2nd floor, 1 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045-641-0841

Opening hours: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm (final entry: 4:30 pm)

Nearest station: 2 min. walk from Nihon-Odori Station Exit 3 on the Minato Mirai Line /
15 min. walk from JR Kannai Station

URL: <http://www.silkcenter-kbkk.jp/museum/>

NYK Hikawa Maru (Yamashita Park)



Walk alongside the port from the Silk Center and you will find Yamashita Park. This park was created as a part of a reconstruction project following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, using the rubble left by the earthquake for landfill.

The Hikawa Maru, an ocean liner floating in the port alongside Yamashita Park, was once nicknamed "The Queen of the North Pacific," and is now permanently berthed alongside Yamashita Park.

The Hikawa Maru was built in 1930 for use on a regular liner route between Yokohama and Seattle. Prior to the breakout of the Pacific War, the ship's famous passengers included English comedian Charlie Chaplin, and Prince Chichibu and his wife, who were returning to Japan after having attended King George VI's coronation in the UK.

The Hikawa Maru, now decommissioned, has been preserved as an Important Cultural Property, a floating museum which retains the glory of its heyday. Visitors can look around the ship's interior and gaze over the port steeped in an opulent atmosphere of sea voyages from days gone by.

Yamashita Park. Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045-641-4362

Nearest station: 3 min. walk from Motomachi-Chukagai Station Exit 4 on the Minato Mirai Line
/ 15 min. walk from JR Negishi Line Ishikawacho Station or Kannai Station

URL : <https://hikawamaru.nyk.com/>

British House Yokohama



If you carry on past Yamashita Park and keeping walking in the direction of Motomachi, you will arrive at British House Yokohama, located adjacent to Harbor View Park. This house is the former British consular residence, where the British consul general lived with his family.



The nameplate with royal insignia beside the front gate and copperplate beside the front entrance testify to the building's long and prestigious background. Also, the small gate to the left of the front gate served as an entrance for servants, giving insights into the history of Britain's class society. From the moment you enter, you will feel as if you have stepped back in time to a bygone Britain, with the building's chalk white walls, furniture and interior décor hearkening back to life in those days.

115-3 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045-623-7812

Nearest station: 8 min. walk from Motomachi-Chukagai Station on the Minato Mirai Line

URL : <http://www.hama-midorinokyokai.or.jp/yamate-seiyoukan/british-house/>

Yokohama Christ Church on the Bluff



Yokohama Christ Church on the Bluff is a church belonging to the Anglican Church in Japan, which shares many of the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Built from oya tuff stone, this church is a landmark of the Yamate area of Yokohama, an imposing building constructed in the style of a Norman church from medieval Britain.

The current building is actually the third church building. The second building, which was constructed at the current location, was destroyed during the Great Kanto Earthquake. A temporary building was set up in the aftermath of the earthquake until construction of the third building was complete. This impressive building lends the surrounding area a profound air, giving a sense of history and the ongoing faith of those who have continued to come here to worship over the years.

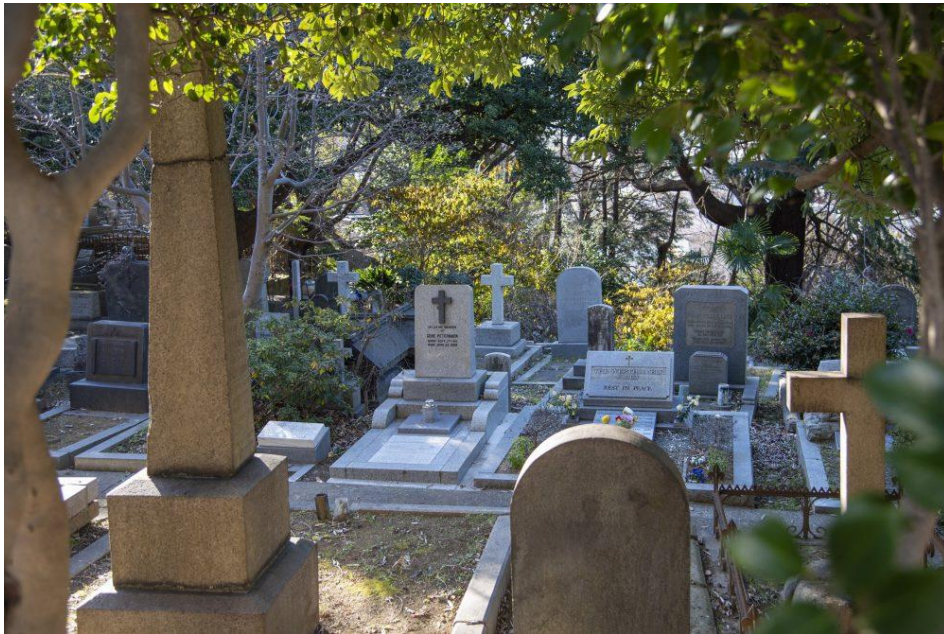
235 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045-264-8156

Nearest station: 7 min. walk from Motomachi-Chukagai Station on the Minato Mirai Line

URL: <http://anglican.jp/app-def/S-102/yamate/>

The Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery



Many foreign nationals who passed away while in Japan are buried here in this cemetery, including many people from the United Kingdom, such as soldiers who died during the First World War on the way to battlefields from Japan. The Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery Museum is located next to the cemetery.



In addition to providing an overview of history from the end of the Edo period (mid-19th century), this museum uses explanatory panels and photographs to introduce the lives of some of the people buried here, including British engineers and other notable people who contributed to Japan's modernization during the Meiji period. For museum lovers, the Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery Museum is certainly worth a visit.



96 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

Museum opening times: 10 am – 5 pm

Closed: Mondays

Nearest station: 3 min. walk from Motomachi-Chukagai Station on the Minato Mirai Line

URL : <http://www.yfgc-japan.com/index.html>

Yokohama Motomachi Shopping Street



Walk down the slope from the Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery in the direction of Motomachi-Chukagai Station, and you will find Yokohama Motomachi Shopping Street. During the days when Yokohama was first opening up as a port, this shopping street developed through the appearance of shops aimed at foreigners at a location linking foreign settlements in Yamashita-cho and the Yamate area.

Unusual for the time, shops here formed sister partnerships with shopping streets in other countries to enable direct imports from famous stores overseas. Sister partnerships with London's Strand and five other shopping streets in 1967 have served to promote further growth in this area of town. With rows of stores selling everything from fine pottery to antique import goods, just browsing through the huge range of products on offer here will put you in the mood for shopping. Benches are located throughout the shopping street, providing the perfect place to stop for a rest with views over town.

Nearest station: 0 min. walk from Motomachi-Chukagai Station on the Minato Mirai Line

Uchiki Pan



The last point of call on this walking course is Uchiki Pan, a long-standing bakery that has been in Motomachi Shopping Street since 1888.

This bakery is particularly well known for its English style bread, which it has been baking for over a century since its foundation.



This bakery also provides a range of other kinds of bread, including French bread, donuts, anpan sweet red bean buns, and others. So what better way to remember your stroll through Yokohama's streets than with some freshly baked bread for breakfast the next morning?

1-50 Motomachi, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

TEL: 045-641-1161

Nearest station: 2 min. walk from Motomachi-Chukagai Station on the Minato Mirai Line

Closed: Mondays

So, how did you enjoy this UK-themed Walking Course Guide?

This walking course really gives a great sense of just how many historical connections there are between the United Kingdom and the City of Yokohama, which is set to host the pre-Games preparation camp of the British Olympic and Paralympic teams for the Tokyo 2020 Games, from the end of the Edo period when the Port of Yokohama first opened up to modernization during the Meiji period and beyond. We hope you take this opportunity to enjoy not only history but also the many sights of cosmopolitan Yokohama.

Text: Mie Hirao, GOGB column writer

Photography: Osamu Sueyoshi, GOGB cameraman

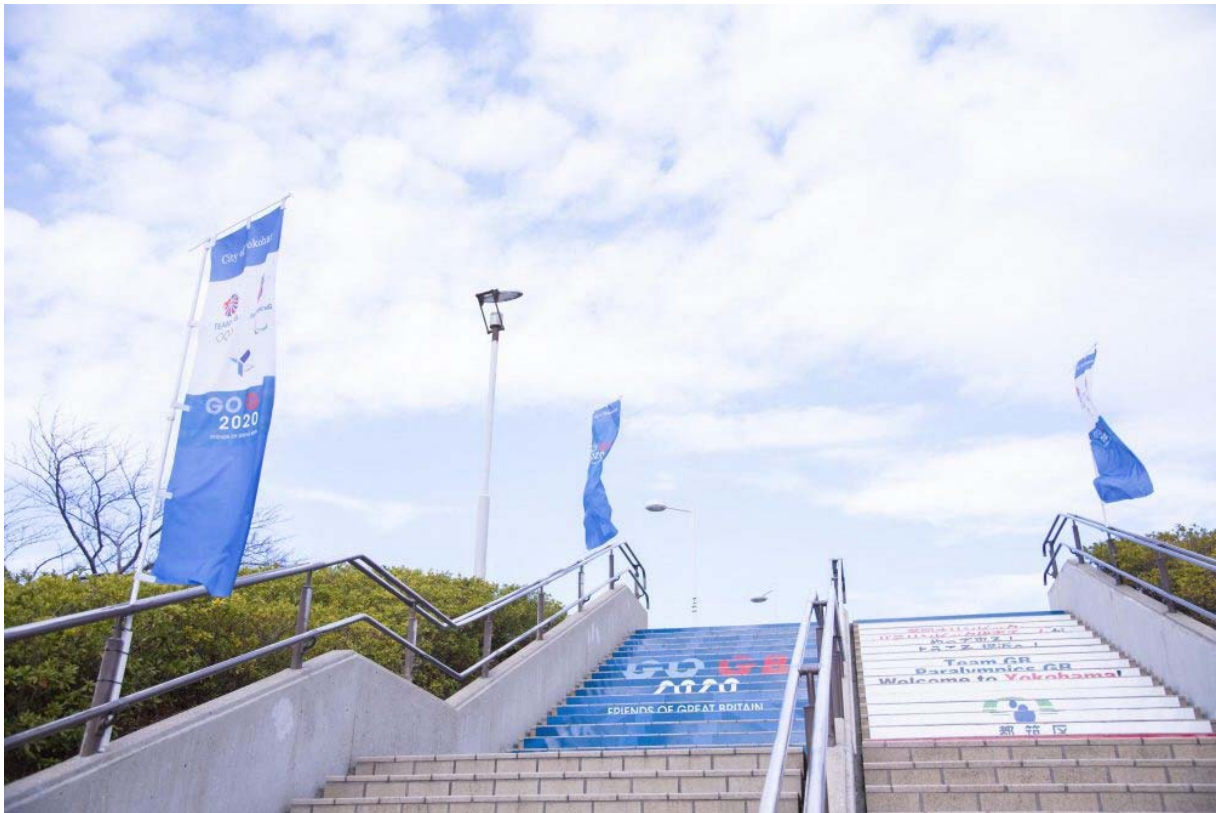
10.06.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | Pre-Games camps reports

Exploring the Secrets behind an International-level Swimming Pool! What kind of Place is Yokohama International Swimming Pool?



Yokohama International Swimming Pool is due to be used as a facility for the pre-Games preparation camps of the British Olympic and Paralympic teams for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

An internationally approved swimming pool, it has played host to a number of major international tournaments, such as the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships, in which top swimmers like Ian Thorpe and Kosuke Kitajima participated.



Yokohama International Swimming Pool is located in close proximity to Kita-Yamata Station on the Yokohama Municipal Subway Green Line. The large steps leading up to the pool have been decorated with messages and banner flags proclaiming, “GO GB 2020”, which are sure to make you feel more and more welcoming with every step!

For this issue, we spoke with Ms. Hiromi Abe, a manager at Konami Sports Co., Ltd., the designated manager of Yokohama International Swimming Pool, about the features of this facility and their preparedness for hosting the British teams.

As both a much-loved facility in the local community and an internationally approved swimming

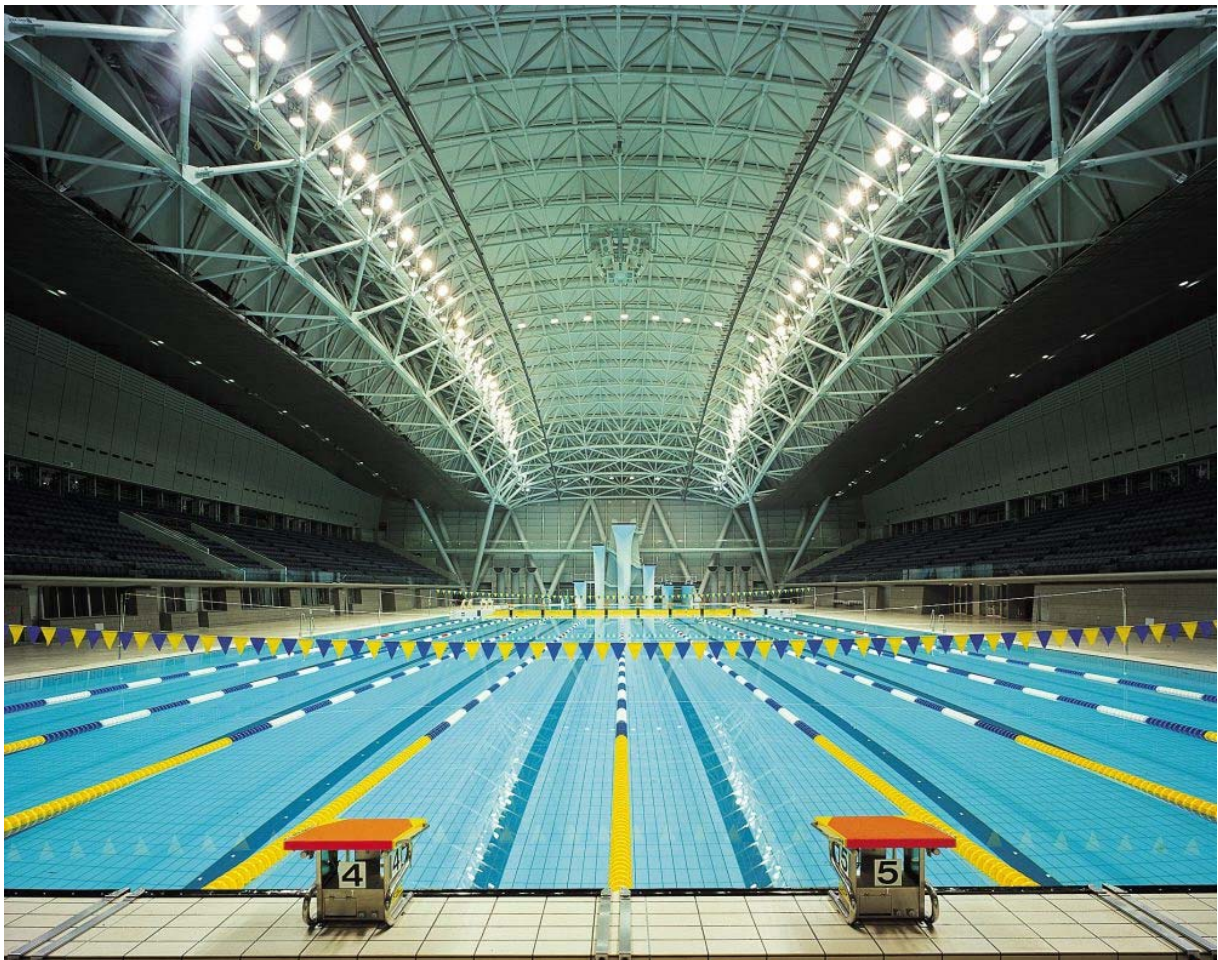


Ms. Abe

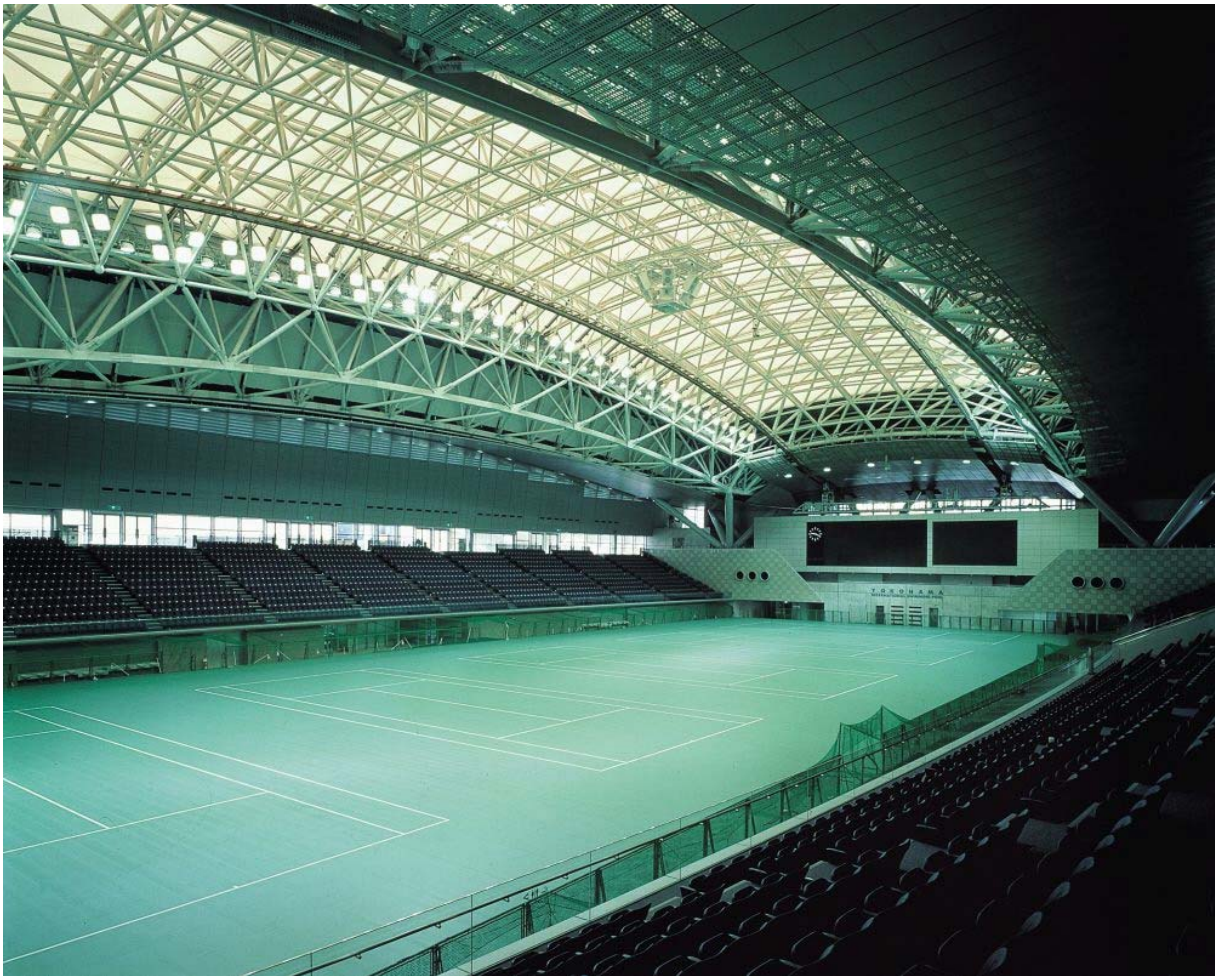
Yokohama International Swimming Pool functions as both a sports facility used by members of the public and a sports stadium which plays host to major domestic and international tournaments in its capacity as an internationally approved swimming pool. As manager, it is my duty along with around 100 members of staff to deal with visitors and manage safety at the pool on a day-to-day basis, as well as to prepare for and administer major tournaments at such times these are held.

There are many familiar faces who come to use our facilities regularly, and we always make sure to greet everyone with courtesy and ask how they are doing in terms of their physical condition.

Main Pool during the summer season, Sports Floor during the winter season



The Main Pool, an internationally approved 50 m swimming pool with approximately 4,000 spectator seats running along both sides.



The Main Pool changes aspect during the winter season, becoming the Sports Floor. It is also known widely as the home arena of the Yokohama B-Corsairs, a professional basketball team based in Yokohama.

Ms. Abe

The Main Arena of Yokohama International Swimming Pool is extremely unusual in that it is used as the Main Pool during the summer season (from May until September) and as the Sports Arena during the winter season (from November until March). There is a transition period of around a month, as we need to gradually drain the pool to convert it into a floor.



The Sub Pool, one of the nation's biggest internationally approved 50 m swimming pools, can be used all year round.

The existence of professional staff who help organise tournaments from behind the scenes

—What kinds of things do you pay particular attention to as an internationally approved swimming pool?

Ms. Abe

The water in our swimming pools is like a living creature. The water's condition changes daily, even hourly. Needless to say, as an internationally approved swimming pool, it is vital that we constantly maintain the water in a good condition, and leaks or machinery defects are something we cannot afford to let happen. We have 20 members of staff constantly monitoring the room temperature, water quality, water temperature, water depth, etc. of the pools. In fact, it is very difficult to increase the water temperature of pools, so water temperature checks also need to be performed during the night. In addition, pool users will notice a bigger temperature difference if the difference between room temperature and water temperature is severe, which is why controlling the air conditioning is another important job.



Professional staff members work in the Control Room around the clock.



Staff members carry out water quality tests every hour to maintain a safe water quality level.

All of our members of staff work hard to administer and maintain Yokohama International Swimming Pool as a safe and secure sports facility.

We are preparing to welcome the British teams in a variety of different ways.



Gym with a view of trees, available for use by beginners and professionals alike.

—As a facility, what kinds of preparations do you intend to put in place to welcome the British teams?

Ms. Abe

We need to put in place the special preparations for the British teams and elite athletes, which is why we are making efforts with the British teams to ensure to meet their requirements. During the year 2018, we renewed our starting blocks and lane ropes for competitive swimming events. And we are sure the improvements would make the facility better-equipped and more attractive also for local users.

In January this year, we conducted an anti-terrorism drill at Yokohama International Swimming Pool, in which around 150 people participated, including representatives from such organizations as Yokohama International Swimming Pool, Tsuzuki Police Station, Tsuzuki Ward Office, Tsuzuki Fire Corps, and Tsuzuki Fire Department. All related organizations are cooperating in taking all possible measures to ensure safety.

In addition, in the Entrance Hall, we are endeavoring to foster a welcoming atmosphere for the British teams through a panel display on the UK and a countdown display for the Tokyo 2020 Games.



Panel display giving people the chance to find out more about the British teams.

The Tsuzuki Junior Times published an article on the Japan Para Swimming Championships, which were held at Yokohama International Swimming Pool.



“Tsuzuki Junior Times (TJ) Issue 10”, a newspaper featuring articles by young reporters in the Tsuzuki area.

<http://junior.minicity-plus.jp/category/tjtimes/>

Message for the British teams



Our cheerful staff members are ready to welcome you with a smile.

Ms. Abe

We staff members will do everything we can to help everyone in the British teams to get used to and adjust to their new environment in Japan as soon as possible. In the spirit of “omotenashi”, we hope to be able to provide the kind of fastidious hospitality that Japan is renowned for. The preparation camps are a great opportunity for more people to find out about the attractions of Yokohama and Yokohama International Swimming Pool. We would like to share this rare opportunity with all citizens of Yokohama.

Editor's Notes

The pre-Games preparation camp of the British Olympic team for the Tokyo 2020 Games at Yokohama International Swimming Pool is scheduled to begin in early July 2020. In addition, the pre-Games preparation camp of the British aquatics team has now also been set for the same month. Therefore, it is not long now until Yokohama International Swimming Pool opens its doors for the first time to the British teams.

We wish to lend our full support as citizens of Yokohama to allow the British teams to train in comfort, under the slogan of “GO GB 2020”.

Text: Kimiko Nishikawa, GOGB column writer

Photography: Osamu Sueyoshi, GOGB cameraman

19.09.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps?

GB Teams Athletes | Team GB · ParalympicsGB | Pre-Games camps reports

Visit the Japan Para Swimming Championships at Yokohama International Swimming Pool and learn about para swimming!



Between 21 (Sat) and 23 (Mon, national holiday) September, the Yokohama International Swimming Pool, which will host the Team GB's Tokyo 2020 pre-Games preparation camp, will stage the 2019 Japan Para Swimming Championships, an event commemorating His Majesty The Emperor's Accession to the Throne this year. Last year, some 41 competitors from eight countries around the world joined Japanese swimmers in a championship that is gaining more and more attention as an international competition.

Thus, with the 2020 pre-Games camp getting closer, it is time to put the spotlight on the championships as a taster of what will come in the Paralympics, and, likewise, introduce some of the top GB swimmers who are expected to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Basic Knowledge for More Enjoyment of the Japan Para Swimming Championships

The Japan Para Swimming Championships is the pinnacle event for domestic para swimming. It has been running since 1991 as a competition to ready top competitors for the Paralympics and World Championships. The records set at the championships are officially recognized internationally, one of the few events thus recognized in Japan. Apart from the Japanese swimmers, the 2018 championships attracted 41 swimmers from GB, USA, Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Spain, Australia and New Zealand, truly making it an international event.



※以下の部分、英語記事なし

(ジャパンパラ水泳競技大会 2018 で英国代表チームが来日し、横浜市の子供たちと交流をしました)

昨年のジャパンパラの様子はコチラから

https://gogb2020.jp/columns/junior_reports_201810/

The Championships basically abide by FINA rules, with FINA rules also applying to pool regulations and stroke types (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly), while gender-specific swimmers are classed by impairment types/severities to compete in an order that has competitors of approximately the same ability competing against each other. Impairment types are prefixed with a letter (“S,” “SB” or “SM”) and numbered to indicate sport class, with physical impairments ranging from 1 to 10, visual disabilities from 11 to 13, intellectual disability at 14 and hearing disability at 15 (there are also classes for swimmers with lesser impairments), with numbers increasing from low ones for severe activity limitation to high ones for lesser activity limitation. Moreover, the race strokes are denoted with “S” for freestyle, backstroke and butterfly, “SB” for breaststroke and “SM” for individual medley – for example, “SB1” stands for the class for the most severe activity limitation of physically impaired swimmers.

Still further, as much as possible, the championships are managed in accordance with general swimming competition rules, with special rules also employed in unavoidable situations due to the nature of a swimmer's activity limitation. For example, for swimmers who find it difficult to use starting blocks, an in-water start is permitted, while tapping poles can be used by coaches to let visually impaired swimmers know that they are about to reach the pool wall for a turn or to finish a race.

These classifications and rules are the same as those for Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Swimming, which means the Japan Para Swimming Championships is a great opportunity for seeing and learning about all aspects of para swimming before the Paralympics.

The appeal of seeing personalized strokes to master activity limitation



It is not only the classifications and rules to be learned at the Japan Para Swimming Championships, you can also enjoy the live atmosphere of para swimming races, discovering the effort, ingenuity and skill that swimmers adopt to overcome activity limitations in order to be competitive enough to win by split-second times.

The type of impairment and the severity vary, so the optimum swimming style varies with the swimmer. For example, a swimmer with only one leg and one arm and a hemiplegic swimmer are going to have completely different propulsion and floating issues, which will make swimming in a straight line complicated, so such swimmers go through a trial-and-error learning curve to find the best way to swim and swim quickly based on the general swimming style for the stroke they are competing in.

Hence, even in a race of the same stroke, the styles will be very personalized. Thus, watching para swimming as pure sport has great appeal because the spectator can wonder at the amount of practice and effort that has gone into mastering a stroke as well as wonder at why a particular style has been chosen. So, come and watch the "drama" behind the times recorded in para swimming.

GB para swimmer stars who could well be at Tokyo 2020

The swimming competition is one of the stellar events of the Paralympics, being an official event from the first Paralympics in Rome in 1960.

And, along with the USA, China and Ukraine, etc., Team GB is one of the strong Paralympics nations, picking up a total of 16 gold medals (Women: 10, Men: 6) at the Rio Paralympics 2016.

Now let us introduce you to some of the key swimmers with illustrious careers who are likely to be making a splash at Tokyo 2020.

● Bethany Firth



A GB female representative who picked up three golds (100m backstroke S14, 200m freestyle S14, 200m individual medley SM14) and one silver (100m breaststroke SB14) at the Rio Paralympics. Among these successes, Bethany notched up a new world record in the 100m backstroke S14, showing overwhelming domination in the class.

● Stephanie Millward



Born in 1981, this female GB para swimming legend is a veteran competitor, grabbing two golds (100m backstroke S8, 4 x 100m medley), one silver (200m individual medley SM8) and two bronzes (100m freestyle S8, 400m freestyle S8) at the Rio Paralympics.

● Toni Shaw



Although born in 2003 and just 16 years old, Toni won the 400m freestyle S9 at the 2018 European Championships, claiming the No. 1 ranking in the world at the time, marking this female swimmer out for greater things. And, at the Japan Para Swimming Championships last year, she blasted her way to a win in the 400m freestyle S9 race, leading the second-place swimmer by more than seven seconds.

● Reece Dunn



Already, in 2019, this 24-year old male swimmer has set two new world records (100m freestyle S14, 200m freestyle S14), showing that he really is on the rise. All eyes will be on him to see what kind of performance he turns in at the Japan Para Swimming Championships in preparation for Tokyo 2020.

The Japan Para Swimming Championships promises to be packed with top-class swimmers. And, although their places are not cemented for Tokyo 2020, if they are picked, you can be sure that they will be in the mix for gold!

Why not come and join us at the Japan Para Swimming Championships to support GB swimmers who are likely to be at Tokyo 2020!

GOGB column writer: Takashi Sugisaki

15.11.2019 Get involved in supporting the GB Teams | Great Britain in our neighbourhood

Come and Enjoy a British Pub – a Very British Socializing Spot – in Yokohama



Yokohama is going to host British national team for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics games. Indeed, Yokohama was one of the first places to adopt British culture back in the 19th century when the city's port was opened to foreign trade, and, even today, there are still hallmarks of British culture to be found strongly rooted in the streets of the city.

Here, with the aim of getting to know Britain better, I would like to introduce one of the uniquely British cultures, the “pub”.

To do that, I spoke with Clive Poole and Kae Doshin, the publican and chef of “Full Monty”, a British pub they have been running in Yokohama for the last 15 years, about their thoughts on GO GB 2020.

On that note, why don't we take a look at an authentic British pub to get an idea about British culture?

The pub – a social arena indispensable to the British.

The pub is something that has developed in Britain with a special twist on the public bar. When one mentions the UK, the “pub” is always in the conversation. Even in films, there are often scenes featuring pubs. The ambience of a pub says a lot about the daily lives of British people, but what does the “pub” really mean as a place to the British?

Looking back in history, the formal name for a pub is a “public house”, literally “pub” means “house”. So, what started with the custom of the British inviting people into their homes to socialize became an external affair, with bars jointly run in places such as inns, shops and cricket clubs, evolving into the “pubs” known today.

Thus, the pub is the starting point for revealing how the British like to communicate – namely, drinking and talking convivially in the good company of dear friends.



(Clive Poole)

Pubs are where we British people gather to socialize. As a nation, the British enjoy meeting people and sharing a drink over a chat. So, after work or on the weekend, families will say, ‘Let’s go to the pub!’ and head off to the local. And, it doesn’t matter what the occasion, as the great thing about pubs is how really easy they are to drop into.”

(Kae Doshin)

"Groups are welcome, of course, but so are individuals. Customers enjoy the banter of whoever is in the pub in whatever situation. Yet, that doesn't mean that socializing is a forced agenda. One of the charms of pubs is the comfortable sense of distance between customers. Indeed, among our customers, there are individuals who will quietly spend their time drinking on their own from opening to closing time.

Thus, each in his or her own way is free to do as they please, which means the pub is an invaluable place for British people to relax in. I'd say that the pub is a unique bit of culture that doesn't exist in Japan, don't you think?"

In recent years, smoking has been banned in British pubs, paving the way for a growing number of kids' friendly pubs in the UK, it seems, which is similar to the kids' spaces and kids' menus starting to be offered in dining bars in Japan.

Let's enjoy some "Cider", the flavor and aroma of Britain, in the setting of a British pub!

I was quick off the mark to ask Clive and Kae about what things are on the menu of an authentic British pub!

First off, drinks. Well, if we're talking about British pub drinks, then they've got to be beers and ciders. Straight off, I have to note that cider is not something we associate with Japanese bars, which doubtless makes it an exotic drink for us Japanese. Cider is "apple juice alcohol". Incidentally, in France, it's known as "cidre".

(Kae Doshin)

Ciders are not only made in the UK but also in various other countries, such as France, Spain and Germany. But, in the UK, special varieties of apple are grown for cider, and some ciders are made in accordance with ancient methods. If you get a chance to go to a British pub, do try the cider, as it comes from a deeply intriguing culture."



Full Monty carries 70 types of cider – an array that speaks of an authentic pub and evidently draws customers from many, many miles away. Most brands come in 500ml bottles, each poured into a glass for your enjoyment.

Beers come in units of “pints” or “half pints”. These are the measures you order in! (BTW: 1 pint = approximately 568ml).

Next is the cuisine. And, of course, the archetypal “soul foods” for British people have to be “fish-and-chips”, “meat pies” and “roast dinners”.



“Meat Pie”

Stewed meat et al baked in a pie. And, at Full Monty, everything – from the pie pastry onward – is made by hand.



Lamb Steaks & Mash with Homemade Gravy"

The gravy – an essential in British cooking – is made from stewed beef bones, cooked slowly in the oven for 5 hours.



"Fish-and-chips"

A mouth-watering delight of whitefish coated in batter made from flour and beer.

"Just like we have a culture of bonito (katsuo) and seaweed (konbu) in Japan," says Kae, "so the British feel at home when they smell gravy. The aroma of gravy at dinnertime in the streets of Britain is a unique one. Likewise, at the Full Monty, many of our customers are British who are looking for the flavor of home!"

Things to know about the Full Monty that will make things even more of a delight include the need to order food and drinks at the bar, and pay when you get your order. The pub also employs a unique house rule for groups, where individual members of a group take turns to buy a "round of drinks" for the group.

Cider and the flavors and aromas of Britain, along with encounters and conversations are the true pleasures of a British pub. So, why not stretch your legs and step into the Full Monty, to delight in the true flavors or a real British pub?

Thinking of the connection between the UK and Yokohama, I want to broadcast British culture, anew!

Finally, I asked Kae and Clive about their thoughts on GO GB 2020.



(Clive Poole)

When Japan opened up to commerce with the world, Yokohama was the first to adopt British culture, giving the city a strong British connection. And, as the city will be hosting Team GB during the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, I want to broadcast British culture, anew!

I personally like football and rugby, so it would be great to create opportunities to introduce British culture to my customers while we enjoy some sport on screen at the Full Monty.”



(Kae Doshin)

I want to take this opportunity to remind people of the wonderful food culture Britain has. It is rarely acknowledged, but popular dishes, such as sandwiches and roast beef, originated in the UK. British culture exists everywhere in Yokohama. Yet, it is so woven into our daily lives that we cannot see it!

Thus, we are planning some events to bring British culture into focus again, so that we can pass on even more of the delights of British culture to the many people who come to watch the Olympics and Paralympics or visit Yokohama for sightseeing.”

This time round, I have introduced the British pub, an essential part of any conversation about the British.

Pub life is not well known in Japan, but step across the threshold, and you will find a warm British-style community, where even strangers delight in easy-going chitchat. So, why not take this opportunity to experience the delights of a British pub?

Interviews: Mari Matsumura, GOGB column writer

Photos: Yoshikata Yamamoto , GOGB column photographers

15.02.2021 What's the Pre-Games camps? | Great Britain in our neighbourhood

Why not visit the City's "English Garden" to experience the natural beauty of flowering plants!



Yokohama will host the preparation camps of the British Olympic and Paralympic teams. What is more, with the opening of the Yokohama port in the final years of the Edo period (1853-1868), Yokohama was quick to embrace British culture. With that in mind, we would like to use this article to present the Yokohama English Garden, a spot where you can enjoy British culture. Our guide was Satoshi Kuroda, a gardener at Yokohama English Garden. He introduced us to the various seasonal plants in the garden, which is home to 2,000 plant species and vistas bulging with more than 2,200 roses. He also showed us the appeal of seasonal differences to be seen with each visit and taught us about the British culture that shaped that appeal.

The thrill of an English Garden is the enjoyment of natural beauty found in flowering plants

The essence of English Gardens is the “enjoyment of natural beauty”, which stems back to the first English-style gardens of the 18th and 19th centuries. With the real thrill of an English Garden being the illusion that the garden has somehow been lifted directly out of a natural setting, affording a sense of raw wild potency seen in the beauty of flowering plants. Differing from the geometric designs of Italian and French style gardens, the views in English Gardens offer a sense of depth in a left-right asymmetric setting, somehow hinting at a beauty similar to that seen in segments of a Japanese garden.



(Satoshi Kuroda)

“The crux of an English Garden involves mixed planting in a natural setting. Although manmade, the delight is derived by creating a natural vista by arranging a blend of various plants. Nevertheless, having got that natural look, it does not mean that the garden can be left to grow wild. What is required is the knowledge of each plant’s characteristics, and the planning skills to plant each one at the right time and in the right location.

The point here is that the gardener needs to have the knowledge to choose which plants work in which environments. Just because the aimed for effect is an English Garden, that does not mean that you have to use British plants, you should dare to use the plants that you like.”

Japan's involvement in British gardening culture

British gardening culture changed greatly in the 18th and 19th centuries thanks to the many plants brought back to Britain by plant hunters, who roamed the world to augment the small number of plants that grow naturally in Britain. Back then, plant hunters from the countries of northern Europe, including Britain, travelled to Asia, Africa and Latin America and gathered prized plants, with, it is said, hydrangeas, wild chrysanthemums and others taken back from Japan.

On the back of this plant boost, the Horticultural Society of London was established by plant-loving Londoners, and gardening culture flourished.





Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796-1866) took the lacecap hydrangea (native to Japan) back to Holland, where, it is said, work progressed to increase the varieties. Back then, Siebold named the Japanese lacecap hydrangea “Hydrangea otakusa”, with Otakusa being the pet name of his Japanese wife. And, hydrangeas can be enjoyed in the Yokohama English Garden in June.

Through the 90s and 00s, British gardening culture became immensely popular in Japan, with English roses – noted for their slender stems and a soft impression – from the famous rose nursery of David Austin becoming extremely popular.

And, even though these are hard to come by nowadays, the Yokohama English Garden has several collections of David Austin’s roses.

What’s there to enjoy in the Yokohama English Garden from autumn 2020 to spring 2021?

At the Yokohama English Garden, where the keynote is the rose, which also happens to be Yokohama’s symbolic flower, the four seasons sees an array of flowering plants take a proud bow as they step into bloom, including over 30 species of cherry trees in spring and some 300 species of hydrangeas in early summer. Therefore, we asked Satoshi Kuroda about what we should look out for in the period between autumn 2020 and spring 2021.

(Satoshi Kuroda)

“The species of plants at the Yokohama English Garden are many and varied. From the middle of October to the end of November, autumn roses are the blooms that catch the eye. While there are other roses in their prime in both spring and summer, autumn roses offer excellent colors and fragrances, with the expansive spread of the blooms making them especially attractive to the eye. What is more, the blooms on this year’s roses are bigger than usual. The gradual lowering of temperature in autumn means that rose petals slowly unfurl to a greater size. And, the deep, burgundy color are due to that gradual blooming process.”



Rows of splendid roses with blooms the size of a clenched fist – wow, so many roses steeped in delightful fragrances, the aroma of damask that is so redolent of a rose, as well as others with fruity fragrances and more!

“Spring, in early to mid-May is a great time to view roses. And, the star attraction in Yokohama English Garden is our 50-meter long rose tunnel, with roses in full bloom in mid-May. The rich scents of the rose-filled tunnel make even the simplest of walks through a heady, fragrance-filled experience. Early to mid-May is a precious period as we work to get the roses in the tunnel and nearby environs to bloom in unison. We gardeners closely observe minute changes, such as temperature, humidity and amount of sunlight, employing our green fingers to ensure that all the roses come into bloom in this period – so, this is the time when show what we are made of. Hence, we truly hope that as many people as possible will come and visit the garden to enjoy the vistas of beautiful roses in bloom.”



This time round, we took a look at our English Garden, which originated from British gardening culture.

With a shared love of natural beauty, doubtless the British and Japanese are close in terms of sensitivity.

Christmas decorations will be on show from 24 November at the Yokohama English Garden. The double enjoyment of seasonal festive decorations and garden vistas is yet another appealing reason to visit – so, why not come and enjoy Yokohama English Garden!

Yokohama English Garden Website

<https://www.y-eg.jp/>

GO GB column writer: Mari Uematsu

Photos provided by Yokohama English Garden