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Jan., Apr., Jul., and Oct. issue

Naka Ward promotes the Naka Ward Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Action Plan to help non-Japanese residents build ties in the local community. This newsletter is published by Naka Ward in English and Chinese to provide foreign nationals with useful information on topics such as municipal administration, social programs and rules for everyday living.

Naka Ward Town News
English Chinese



Discover Naka Ward

Get to know about where you live, and find fun, interesting and favorite things to do!



Aerial photo provided by the Yokohama City Fire Bureau Air Corps

The History of Naka Ward

- Some 400 years ago, the area around Kannai Station used to be ocean.
- In 1859, the opening of the Port of Yokohama brought great changes to the area.
- The City of Yokohama was founded in 1889. At the time, it consisted of Kannai and the immediate area around it.
- Naka Ward was established in 1927, when the city adopted a ward system.

Naka Ward is full of interesting history as the starting point for Yokohama.

The international flavor of Naka Ward is strongly related to its history since the opening of the port.

Site of Where the Treaty of Kanagawa Was Signed

▼ This Tamakusu-no-ki tree has watched over the port since its opening.



▼ Monument



The Treaty of Kanagawa was signed in 1854 at a location near the Yokohama Archives of History (see p. 2). The treaty opened up Japan to the world after a long period of self-imposed isolation.

With the opening of the Port of Yokohama in 1859, a foreign settlement, a Japanese town, wharfs, etc. were established. Yamate has Western-style buildings that preserve the appearance of the foreign settlement.



Berrick Hall

▲ Built in 1930 as residence for a British trader

Gas Lamps

▶ Replicas of the original gas lamps that lined Bashamichi St.



The opening of the port meant that Yokohama was often the site of many "first-in-Japan" things and experiences.



Western-style haircuts

▲ A monument to cropped hair, or *zangiri*, in Yamashita Park commemorating the introduction of Western-style haircuts to Japan

Naka Ward Topics

Ward Flower Tulip

Selected for the 70th anniversary (1997) of the ward system



Some 120,000 tulips bloom in Yokohama Park from the end of March.

Ward Mascot Swingy

Created for the 80th anniversary (2007) of the ward system

Swingy is a seagull that was born and bred at Osanbashi Pier.

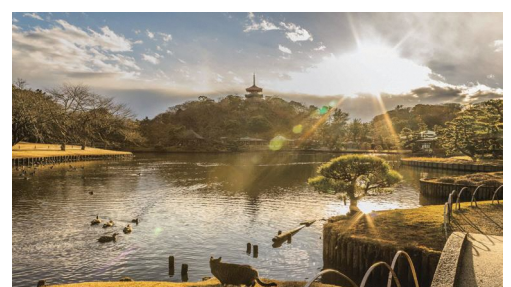


You'll often find him at gatherings large and small, since he loves to attend them!

Discover and Communicate the Ward's Charms

Naka Ward Photo Contest 2021

Gold Prize: "Sankeien and a Cat"



Also scheduled for FY 2022. Why not submit a photo?

International town, Naka Ward

! The ward has been home to many foreign nationals since the opening of the Port of Yokohama. Today, foreign residents make up about 10% of its population.

Numbers and Percentages of Foreign Residents (Top 3 wards)

Rank		No. of Foreign Residents	Total Population	Ratio
1	Naka Ward	15,430	150,175	10.3%
2	Tsurumi Ward	13,398	295,377	4.5%
3	Minami Ward	10,393	197,273	5.3%
	Yokohama City	98,893	3,768,902	2.6%

Source: Portal Site of City Statistics

Note: Population of foreign residents as of the end of January 2022 and total population as of February 1, 2022.

Of the 18 Yokohama wards, Naka Ward has the highest number of foreign residents.

China has the largest percentage of foreign residents.

In recent years, the number of Vietnamese and Nepalese has grown.



Foreign Residents by Country and Region (Top 10 compared to 2017)

Rank	Country/Region	No. of Foreign Residents		Change
		end of Jan. 2022	end of Jan. 2017	
1	China	8,541	9,048	▲ 6%
2	Korea	1,936	2,138	▲ 9%
3	Taiwan	739	737	0%
4	Philippines	714	700	2%
5	Vietnam	615	360	71%
6	US	544	554	▲ 2%
7	Thailand	314	315	0%
8	India	233	270	▲ 14%
9	Nepal	227	174	30%
10	UK	166	211	▲ 21%

Source: Portal Site of City Statistics

Participating in local activities while also raising children!

— Angela from Australia told us about her life here and what she likes about Naka Ward.

I arrived in Japan eight years ago, and I've been busy raising my children. I joined Japanese classes at Naka International Lounge, and that led to things like exhibiting at the Naka Ward Multi-Cultural Festival, recording disaster-related announcements in English for the radio, and other activities in Naka Ward.

Right now, I'm teaching English at a Community Care Plaza (see p. 4) to a group of local people. I have a teacher's license back in Australia, so I find it rewarding to be able to help others with their learning.

My children are still young, so sometimes I get tired and lonely because of less social interaction. But going out into the local community makes me motivated so I can enjoy my life here even more.

This town is clean and comfortable, and I feel safe raising my children here. It's also good that there are various interesting places like Chinatown and Sakuragicho areas where I can enjoy myself.

I'll try to find things I can in the local community while cherishing my time with my family.



! Events are also international

* Event Name (Dates, Main Venue)

- Chinese New Year Festival in Yokohama Chinatown (Chinese New Year's Day, Chinatown)
- The Yokohama Parade (Yokohama International Costume Parade) (May 3, Yamashita Park-Isezakicho)
- World Triathlon Championship Series YOKOHAMA 2022 (May 14-15, Yamashita Park vicinity)
- Naka Ward Multi-Cultural Festival (held each fall)
- World Festa Yokohama (October, Yamashita Park)



▲ Naka Ward Multi-Cultural Festival, a place for cultural exchange

There are other events from various countries and regions around the world such as Ireland, Africa, France, Germany, and India!

Note: The above are regular events but are subject to cancellation or change according to the situation at the time. Please confirm in advance of attending.

When you want to learn more about Naka Ward history...

■ Maps in Foreign Languages

Yokohama Historic Monuments in Naka Ward: A Guide Map

Visit the monuments on the map to learn about the beginnings of Naka Ward and the history behind the opening of Yokohama Port.



Yamate Western-style Buildings Map

A convenient map for strolling around the greenery-lined streets and historic Western-style buildings.



■ Yokohama Archives of History

View documents, photos, *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints and other items that illuminate Yokohama's history.



Third Shots for COVID-19 Are Now Underway

Those who have been vaccinated twice for COVID-19 will receive a notice for a third (booster) vaccination. Those who wish to get the booster should make a reservation via the dedicated reservation website or the LINE app, etc. Please check the Yokohama City website for the latest information, as it is updated regularly.

▶ If you haven't gotten your first or second vaccination yet

You will not be sent a notice for a booster. If you would like to receive the vaccine, you will need to request a voucher reissue. Please phone the call center to arrange for a reissue.

< Yokohama COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center

Inquiries: 0120-045-070

Reservations: 0120-045-112

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

(every day including weekends and holidays)

Supported languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Spanish, Portuguese >

Applications for Municipal or Prefectural Public Housing

The City of Yokohama and Kanagawa Prefecture offer public housing with relatively low-cost rents. During application periods, a guide/application package (in Japanese) is available at the information desk on the first floor of the Naka Ward Office. The guide outlines information about the housing, application requirements, etc.

• Municipal housing

April 13 (Wed)–22 (Fri) Tel: 045-451-7777

• Prefectural housing

Mid-May to early June Tel: 045-201-3673

[Kanagawa Housing Support Center]

Can provide consultations in 10 languages, including English, Chinese, and easy Japanese, regarding housing and daily life in Japan.

Address: 2F, Yokohama YMCA,

1-7 Tokiwa-cho, Naka-ku

Tel: 045-228-1752

Hours: Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

For National Health Insurance (NHI) Members

▶ Coupons for *tokutei kenshin* (special health checkups) are now being mailed out sequentially.

These health checkup coupons and medical questionnaires are sent to NHI members between the ages of 40 and 74 for early detection of lifestyle diseases. The checkups are free. We encourage you to have a checkup early. A list (in Japanese) of medical institutions where you can take the checkup will also be enclosed. Make an appointment by contacting the desired medical institution yourself. To find out if any of the listed institutions can provide service in your language, please consult with Naka International Lounge (Tel: 045-210-0667).

▶ FY 2022 notification of NHI premiums to be sent out mid-June

NHI members will be sent their National Health Insurance premium determination notice for the fiscal year (April–March). The premiums are paid in 10 installments, with payment slips are mailed out in June, July, October and January. Please pay by the due date on each slip.

< *Hoken Nenkin* (Insurance and Pension) Division, Naka Ward Office, Tel: 045-224-8315 >

Submit Your Child Allowance *Genkyo-todoke* (Status Report) by June 30 (Persons subject of investigation only)

If you do not submit the report, you may not be able to receive the allowance from June onward, so please make sure to submit it. The needed

application (in Japanese) will be sent out by post in early June.

< *Kodomo Katei Shien* (Children and Families Support) Division, Naka Ward Office, Tel: 045-224-8198 >

To All Dog Owners

Dog owners are required by law to register their dog once in its lifetime, to vaccinate the dog annually for rabies and to notify the municipality of that vaccination.

▶ Registration

Register your dog within 30 days of getting it (for puppies, within 30 days from its 91st day of life). The registration fee is 3,000 yen per dog. A 鑑札 (registration tag) will be issued upon registration. If you move to a new municipality, the tag will be needed for registration procedures there, so please do not lose it.

▶ Rabies vaccination

Vaccinations are available at veterinary clinics. The veterinarian will issue a 狂犬病予防注射済証明書 (rabies vaccination certificate) upon vaccination. Bring the certificate to the ward office to be issued a rabies tag, which costs 550 yen per dog.

(Some clinics can issue both the registration tag and the rabies tag together.)

▶ When walking your dog

- Always keep your dog on a leash in public, even in parks.
- Clean up after your dog. Take your dog's poop with you and do not forget to wash away pee with water.

< *Seikatsu Eisei* (Environmental Sanitation) Division, Naka Ward Office, Tel: 045-224-8339 >

Good to Know!
About Japanese Culture

Ume Shigoto (Japanese apricot preparation)



Every June, Japanese apricots are lined up on store shelves, and even ordinary households may do Japanese apricot preparation, which is making items like *umeboshi* (pickled ume), ume wine and ume syrup. Pickled ume are ready in some weeks while ume wine takes three months or more, but the finished products can be stored for an extended period.

Ume contains citric acid, which is effective in relieving fatigue and also has an appetite-promoting effect, making it ideal for surviving Japan's hot and humid summers, which tend to suppress one's appetite. Japanese apricot preparation takes a little time and effort, but what you make yourself tastes exceptionally delicious!

International Service Staff
Naka Ward Office, Counter 22 (2nd floor)
English 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

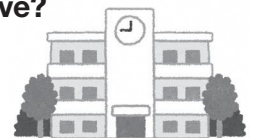
International Service Staff provide assistance with matters such as guidance on Naka Ward Office activities, interpretation at various ward office counters and support for filling out certificate applications. Stop by if you would like assistance.

Help Me Know
Q&A



I'd like to enroll my child in school. What options do I have?

→ Your child can enroll in a Japanese public school even if they are not Japanese or cannot speak the language. You can also consider a private school, international school or a school for special education needs as necessary. Discuss with your child what kind of environment is best and consider various options!



Public Schools

The elementary and junior high school your child attends is usually based on where you live. Since Naka Ward has so many foreign residents, many schools have international classes to help foreign students acclimate to learning in Japan once they arrive to join their parents. It is important to note that high schools in Japan have entrance exams, but there are a number of prefectural high schools that have a special admission program for foreign residents.

Private Schools

An advantage of private schools is that you are not restricted in choosing a school in your district of residence. Consider private schools that combine junior high and high school or when a more detailed level of instruction is preferred. Some schools also have a special exam for returnees from overseas when they meet certain conditions. You have to take an entrance exam for either junior high school or high school.

International Schools

There are four international schools in Naka Ward. Many of the students have overseas ties, and the language used depends on the school. Class content and the curriculum progression is quite different from regular Japanese schools. For more details, please inquire with the individual school.



Enjoy Great-looking Photos



Go for a Visit

Perfect for people looking to take photogenic photos! There are a lot of fabulous photo spots in Naka Ward beyond Osanbashi Pier and Yamashita Park. Here are some places that will have people asking, "Where did you take this photo?" Please also remember to take the necessary steps for infection prevention!



♥ Angel Wings

↑ MARINE & WALK Yokohama
Photogenicity ★★★
Popularity ★★★

Angel wings are an SNS staple. In fact, this is the location of Japan's first official shoot for angel wings! How would you take a photo here? It's a popular spot, so consideration of others is a must here. MARINE & WALK Yokohama also has many other SNS photo spots.



♥ Seagull Harp

↑ Aka-Renga Park
Photogenicity ★★★
Popularity ★☆☆

Did you know that Aka-Renga Park also has public art? This piece references the port environment of Yokohama. For an even better shot, aim to take your photo when a ship is berthed at Osanbashi Pier! The Minatomirai District alone has more than 60 pieces of public art.

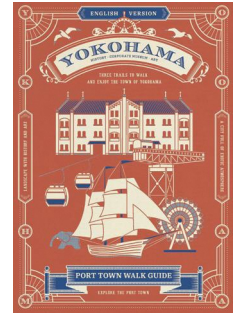


♥ Periko

♥ An English version of YOKOHAMA PORT TOWN WALK GUIDE is being gradually distributed

In addition to listing great photo spots, the booklet/guidebook is packed with lots of information about the history, etc. of the port area. Want to know if Yokohama originated the Japanese classic dish, ketchup-based spaghetti Napolitan? Find the answer here. →

Periko is an elephant object only as large as a medium-sized dog. Visit Zou-no-hana Park to take a trick art photo with Periko!



Thoughts of a Foreign Resident Life and Culture in Japan

Life at a Japanese Elementary School



When I first moved to Naka Ward, I had a lot of worries. One of them was about my daughter's elementary school. What is the atmosphere there like? Would my daughter do well there? These and other questions filled my head as she started attending the school.

Once she started, I found that her school was very globalized. Many of her classmates came from different countries like China, the Philippines, Korea, Brazil, Vietnam, France and the Netherlands, and they seemed well-adjusted to school life in Japan. The school also provides meticulous care with an international class for students with overseas ties, where Japanese is taught and full support is provided to help students quickly get used to school and life in Japan with an attending teacher to explain the lesson content. In the upper grades of elementary school, students who

speaking two languages or more naturally transition to helping their homeroom teacher. My daughter graduated from elementary school this year, was happy to take this supporting role for four years from the third to sixth grades. Sometimes her classmates would ask her, "How do you say this in Chinese?" and they would be very happy to know a new word.

After school, my daughter's favorite thing to do was play in the neighborhood park. She played with other children of the same age and seemed to enjoy it very much. It's all thanks to her school that she had so much fun and enjoy and fulfilling school life. I am deeply grateful to the school.

(Naka International Lounge Chinese Language Staff)

For Your Use! Facilities That Everyone Can Use



Community Care Plazas



Community Care Plazas are facilities unique to Yokohama City that provide a variety of welfare and health services for the community, including the elderly, children and people with disabilities. There are six such plazas in Naka Ward, with welfare and health events, free consultations by health and welfare specialists, and various services that meet the needs of the community, such as day services for the elderly and services to support people with disabilities.



We are always looking for locations to distribute *Naka Ward Town News*. If you have many foreign visitors to your shop, clinic, organization, etc. and would like to make this newsletter available to them, please contact us at 045-224-8123 to arrange delivery.

The next issue will be published on October 1.