



LIFE IN JAPAN

My Cat Hotel Yugawara & Hakone Ropeway



There is a hotel where you can live with cats for one day. The cat hotel is called まいきゃっと (My cat) in Yugawara. It is an eight minute walk from the train station. I stayed at the cat hotel for one night with other English teachers. You can buy a 'cat rental'. You can bring cats to your room and sleep next to them. We had two cats sleep in our room, Milk and Mary.



This is the entrance of the hotel, it is a very relaxing hotel with lots of nature around the area.



The left picture is Milk sitting on my lap, and the right picture is Mary sitting on the bed in our room.

yen for one hour in the cat café, so it is a very good price. The cats are friendlier in the cat café than in the rooms because the café is their home, so they will want to hug and sit on you. There are 19 cats in total, so you will have many cats to play with. This hotel wants people to learn more about cats. The hotel wants people to know more about owning a cat so they are ready when they buy their own cat. If you love cats, or are thinking about buying a cat, please come visit My Cat Yugawara first!



This is my friend with 4 cats in the cat café. Can you find all of the cats?

If you don't want to sleep with a cat in your hotel room, you can go to the cat café on the first floor of the hotel instead. Cats love to sit on your lap in the cat café! It is only 600

Did you have a fun Spring break? The cherry blossoms bloomed very early this year. My friends and I took pictures with the cherry blossoms at Hayakawa River near Hakone-Yumoto station. There are many trees blooming along the river. It was very beautiful.



The Hakone Ropeway going over the sulfur vents next to Owakudani station.



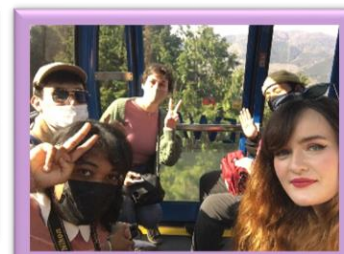
My friends and I in front of a big sakura tree along Hayakawa River in Hakone-Yumoto.

We also took the Hakone ropeway up to Owakudani Station. Have you ever been to Owakudani? It is a train station on top of a volcano. I was so surprised when I saw the sulfur vents coming out of the mountain! The ropeway car is right above the vents.

It smells very strongly of eggs and the ground is green because of the sulfur. It's an amazing view. There are many shops and interesting foods at Owakudani. The most famous food is the black egg. They are cooked in the volcano and the sulfur turns the eggshells completely black. If you eat the black egg, you will live seven years longer.



Owakudani black eggs



Me and other English teachers going up the Hakone Ropeway.

LIFE AROUND THE WORLD

Cinco de Mayo & Songkran Water Festival



Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican holiday. It means "Fifth of May" in Spanish. Many people perform music and traditional dances as a celebration of Mexico's win in the Battle of Puebla.



President Bush with a mariachi band during Cinco de Mayo in America.



Cinco de Mayo dancers in Washington DC.

Soon after the battle, Mexico was freed from France. This holiday is very popular in America. Many people celebrate by listening to Spanish music and drinking Spanish beer.

Every year on April 13th there is a festival in Thailand called "Songkran Water Festival" to celebrate the New Year in the Buddhist calendar. People use water to 'wash away' the old year. This is why the festival's nickname is Water Festival. Many people cleanse with water during this Festival. They also pour water over Buddha statues. People do water fights for fun, and even elephants can join!



People having a water fight with an elephant during the Songkran Festival.

SCOTTISH RECIPE

Scotch Pies

<u>Ingredients</u>	¼ tsp ground nutmeg
½ tsp salt	¼ tsp ground mace
120g lard	5 tbs gravy
360g flour	salt & pepper
1 egg-yolk	600g minced lamb or beef



1. In a bowl, mix the lamb/beef, mace, nutmeg, and gravy together. Season well with salt and pepper. Shape into 4 separate equal balls.
2. To make the pie crust, heat 160ml of water, salt, and lard in a pan.
3. Mix the flour and hot water together in a bowl. Once cooled, knead the dough with extra flour till it's smooth.
4. Shape the dough into pie crusts using a glass jar or pie tray.
5. Fill the pie crusts with meat 2/3 of the way full, then cover with the remaining dough. Cut a thin slit in the top of the pie crust to help air escape.
6. Bake the pies in an oven for 35-40 minutes at 200°C.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

My name is Ashley. I am the ALT at Numazu Ichiritsu High School. I'm from Oregon state in America. My hobbies are fashion, videography, and dancing. I like to explore cute things in Japan with my fashion friends and make videos about our adventures together. I love creative fashion, especially Harajuku fashion. I want to learn about your hobbies, please come talk with me. Thank you for reading, and I look forward to talking with all of you!

