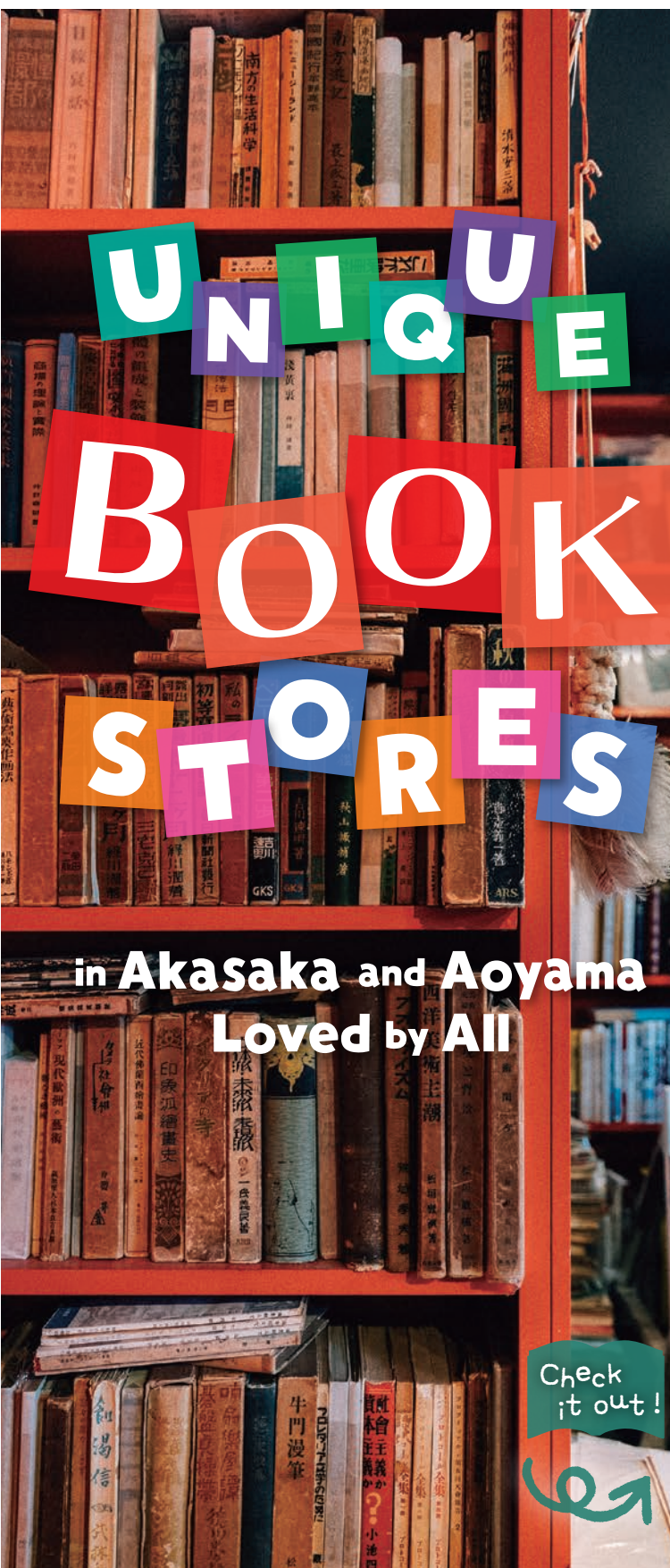




MY TOWN  
**AKASAKA** 赤坂  
**AOYAMA** 青山



in Akasaka and Aoyama  
Loved by All

Check it out!

in the Akasaka Aoyama Region

We have been visiting the various embassies located in the Akasaka and Aoyama area to interview them about the unique aspects of their country, including the history, culture, and tourism.

**Vol.10** Canada

We visited the Embassy of Canada to Japan to interview Matt Fraser, Counselor and Public Affairs Director of the Embassy of Canada to Japan.

**Vol.09** United States of America

We visited the U.S. Embassy in Japan to interview Carolyn Glassman, Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Japan.

**Vol.08** Georgia

We visited the Embassy of Georgia in Japan to interview Archil Machavariani, Minister-Counselor and Charge d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Georgia to Japan.

**Vol.07** Federated States of Micronesia

We visited the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Japan.

Photo: John Fritz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federated States of Micronesia to Japan.

Introducing people who are actively involved in the community!

# Community Activities

**vol.21** Aoyama 1-chome Neighborhood Association, Disaster Prevention Officer  
**SUGANUMA Yutaka**

**vol.23** Akasaka 7-chome Neighborhood Association, Vice Chairman and Disaster Prevention Officer  
**YAMAMOTO Harumichi**

The Aoyama 1-chome Neighborhood Association works together with the Aoyama Nanichi Business Association to host numerous events throughout the year in the Minami Aoyama commercial district in order to create a more vibrant community.

The Akasaka 7-chome Neighborhood Association puts effort into disaster prevention activities in order to prepare for the disasters that could happen at any time and to develop connections between neighbors under normal conditions.

**Tell us about your specific activities.**

When I became the Disaster Prevention Officer, I obtained disaster prevention expert qualifications to deepen my understanding of disaster prevention. I leverage the knowledge I gained through obtaining those qualifications to encourage neighborhood residents to keep disaster prevention supplies and install devices to prevent furniture from overturning (during earthquakes), while also improving the contents of the Neighborhood Association's disaster prevention warehouse. I also host Disaster Prevention Committee meetings two or three times per year where I speak with disaster prevention committee members and neighborhood residents on the importance of disaster prevention and carry out disaster prevention drills in an aim to improve disaster prevention awareness and knowledge of disasters. I also proactively work to spread the word, such as by preparing posters, to encourage as many people as possible to participate in the Minato City Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drill held every year in November.

**What do you have to say to the readers?**

There is no telling when a disaster may occur. Together, let's prepare for those disasters and work on disaster prevention together.

Furthermore, building face to face relationships is important for disaster prevention in the community. If you see me in the community, feel free to speak with me at any time.

Many people from the Aoyama 1-chome Neighborhood Association participated in the disaster prevention drills.

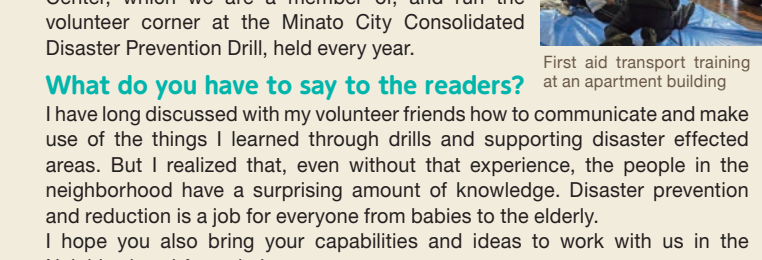
**Tell us about your specific activities.**

We work to communicate the value of connections between people through disaster prevention activities.

The population of the Akasaka and Aoyama area is aging, and there are many apartment buildings as well. Given this environment, it can be difficult to develop relationships between neighbors in the community. Therefore I believe it is the role of myself and the neighborhood to create opportunities for neighbors to develop the loose relationships under normal conditions require during disasters. Specifically, the Neighborhood Association established a Disaster Prevention Welfare Network in cooperation with Commissioned Child Welfare Volunteers and with consideration for those requiring assistance, and we carry out activities including introducing good community disaster prevention examples, exchanging information, and autonomous drills. We also support the formation and drills of disaster prevention organizations of apartment building management associations. We also work with the near-by three neighborhood association and the Rengo Tokyo Volunteer Support Center, which we are a member of, and run the volunteer corner at the Minato City Consolidated Disaster Prevention Drill, held every year.

**What do you have to say to the readers?**

I have long discussed with my volunteer friends how to communicate and make use of the things I learned through drills and supporting disaster effected areas. But I realized that, even without that experience, the people in the neighborhood have a surprising amount of knowledge. Disaster prevention and reduction is a job for everyone from babies to the elderly. I hope you also bring your capabilities and ideas to work with us in the Neighborhood Association.



**vol.22** Akasaka Hikawa Shrine Youth Parishioner Group, Director  
**SAKITANI Ryota**

The Akasaka Hikawa Shrine Youth Parishioner Group was established roughly two years as a subordinate organization to the Akasaka Hikawa Festival Executive Committee. We primarily provide support for the Mikoshi (portable shrine) procession as part of the Akasaka Hikawa Festival held in September.

**vol.24** Seinan Elementary School Brass Band Blue Heart Outside Instructor, Accountant for the Aoyama Division Community  
**KATSUYAMA Yasuko**

The Seinan Elementary School Brass Band Blue Heart is an activity to offer the children of the Seinan Elementary School with an opportunity to experience the enjoyment of music and grow through band activities. I also proactively participate in volunteer activities and community activities as well.

**Tell us about your specific activities.**

Our main purpose is to support the procession of the Mikoshi portable shrine on the day of the Akasaka Hikawa Festival. When the volunteer porters carry the Mikoshi portable shrine, their efforts alone are not enough to keep the shrine moving straight forward safely. It is necessary to obtain the help of the security personnel and others to provide accurate instructions from around the Mikoshi to ensure the procession is carried out safely. The Youth Parishioner Group take the lead in this tasks, which requires a certain amount of physical strength. Of course, we start regular meetings from early on to prepare so that the activities on the day go smoothly. The Youth Group members discuss the division of roles and rules to adopt through trial and error.

**What do you have to say to the readers?**

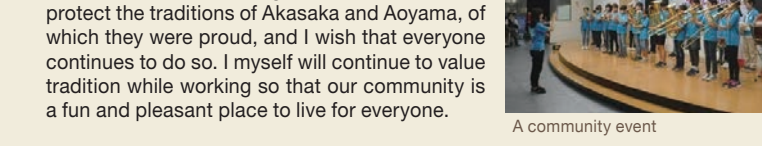
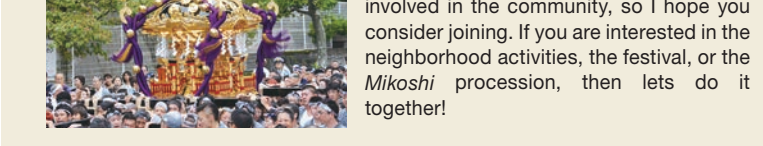
The festival is a great opportunity to get involved in the community, so I hope you consider joining. If you are interested in the neighborhood activities, the festival, or the Mikoshi procession, then lets do it together!

**Tell us about your specific activities.**

Students in their fourth through sixth year at the Seinan Elementary School participate, and we rehearse every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:45 to 8:15. We practice daily for community events, such as the Aoyama Festival and Minato City resident gatherings such as Exercise for a Brighter Future, and school occasions such as the Undokai, or school sports event, and we also practice challenging songs. I myself support practicing for each instrumental part and children who missed a previous practice, and I work hard so that everyone can enjoy themselves. I also actively teach the children manners and courtesy, such as how to take care of the instruments.

**What do you have to say to the readers?**

I believe that the Akasaka and Aoyama area is the best town in Japan. That's because previous members of the community and neighborhood associations and local government worked to protect the traditions of Akasaka and Aoyama, of which they were proud, and I wish that everyone continues to do so. I myself will continue to value tradition while working so that our community is a fun and pleasant place to live for everyone.

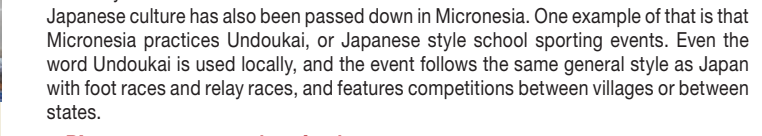
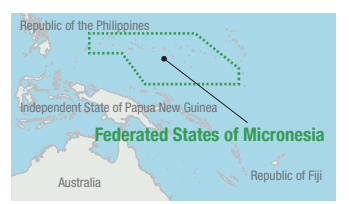


# A Visit to the Embassies

**A country with rich culture and historical heritage**

**History**  
Micronesia became known to Europe in 1525 when Portuguese explorers discovered Yap island and Ulithi atoll. After being governed by Spain and then Germany, the Federated States of Micronesia became occupied by Japan from 1914 during the First World War. Under the delegation of the League of Nations in 1920, Japan continued to govern Micronesia until the end of the Second World War in 1945. Micronesia then came under the governance of the United States following the war, but a Compact of Free Association was enacted in 1986, achieving independence for the Federated States of Micronesia. The country has long historical bonds with Japan, and since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1988, Micronesia and Japan have maintained a relationship of friendship. The first President of the Federated States of Micronesia was in fact the first ethnic Japanese person in the world to serve as president, and is said to have been instrumental in establishing diplomatic relations with Japan. Even today, Micronesia is a close friend of Japan where one in five citizens are ethnic Japanese who are active as leaders in politics and the economy.

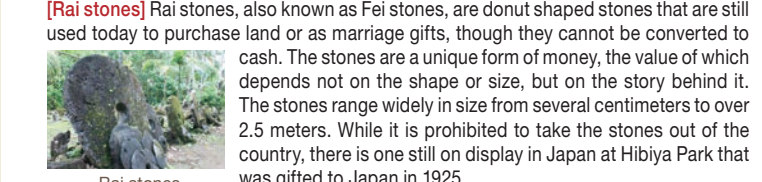
Japanese culture has also been passed down in Micronesia. One example of that is that Micronesia practices Undoukai, or Japanese style school sporting events. Even the word Undoukai is used locally, and the event follows the same general style as Japan with foot races and relay races, and features competitions between villages or between states.



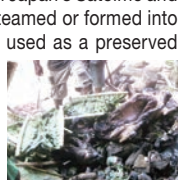
**Places to go or see (tourism)**  
The Federated States of Micronesia is an island country comprised of 607 islands and atolls. These are subsequently divided into the four states of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. [Nan Madol] Nan Madol is an ancient archeological site registered as a World Heritage located to the east of Pohnpei island comprised of 92 artificial islands formed by stacks of basalt. The site, one of the largest cities on the sea found in the world, was said to have been built over a period of between 500 and 1,000 years, and there remain many mysteries regarding who built it and how it was built.



[Rai stones] Rai stones, also known as Fei stones, are donut shaped stones that are still used today to purchase land or as marriage gifts, though they cannot be converted to cash. The stones are a unique form of money, the value of which depends not on the shape or size, but on the story behind it. The stones range widely in size from several centimeters to over 2.5 meters. While it is prohibited to take the stones out of the country, there is one still on display in Japan at Hibiya Park that was gifted to Japan in 1925.



**What to eat or drink (food culture)**  
[Breadfruit] Breadfruit is one of the main foods of the country, and can be eaten in numerous ways including grilling, steaming, frying, and forming into cakes. It is consumed as the staple food in all four states. [Taro] The taro is a root vegetable that is similar too but larger than Japan's Satoimo and is consumed as a staple food like the breadfruit. It is generally steamed or formed into cakes for consumption. Cakes made from the taro can also be used as a preserved food.



[Umu cooking] Umu cooking is a traditional cooking style in which heated stones are placed on the ground, and breadfruit, taro, meat (usually pork), and fish are placed on the rocks. The food is then covered with large leaves and the food steamed in this way. This style of preparation is used for special occasions on the islands of Yap and Pohnpei. [Coconut] Coconut is one of the main food ingredients in the country. Coconut is valued for a variety of dishes, particularly in the form of coconut milk. The coconut tree also plays an important role in the daily lives of the people. For example, there is a custom to plant a coconut tree near the home when a child is born, and the coconut is also emblazoned on the national medal. Coconut, the fruit of the tree, is used not only as food but also to produce a wide range of products including hair oil and medicine.

See the website for more information Search for the Federated States of Micronesia <http://fsmemb.or.jp/>



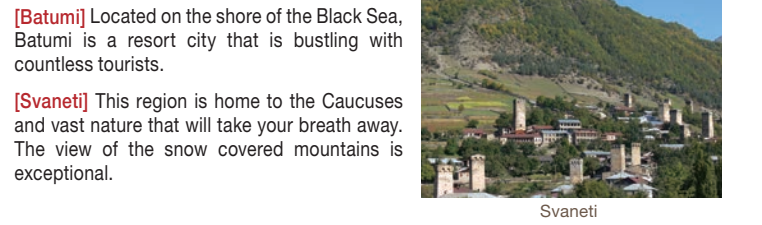
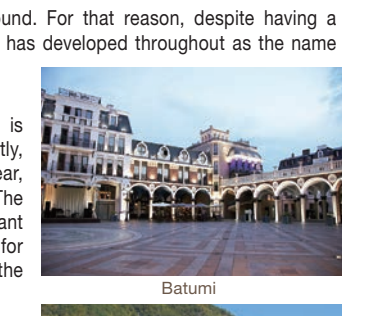
**A country with abundant nature and rich, appealing culture.**

**History**  
Georgia is an ancient country with over 3,000 years of history. Located between the countries of Europe and the Russian Federation, the country's culture developed through influence from the cultures surrounding it. Accordingly, Georgia is said to be a crossroads of civilizations due to its geographical location and historic background. For that reason, despite having a smaller area than Hokkaido, diverse culture has developed throughout as the name implies.

**Places to go or see (tourism)**  
The number of tourists who visit Georgia is increasing every year to the point that currently, approximately 80 million tourists visit each year, or roughly twice the country's population. The reason for this interest is Georgia's abundant nature, which includes great beaches for swimming and skiing or enjoying nature in the mountains.

[Batumi] Located on the shore of the Black Sea, Batumi is a resort city that is bustling with countless tourists.

[Svaneti] This region is home to the Caucasus and vast nature that will take your breath away. The view of the snow covered mountains is exceptional.

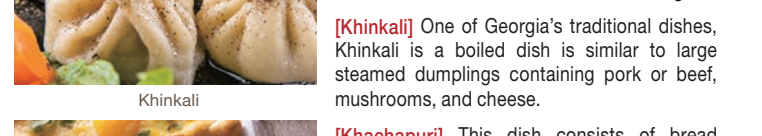


**What to eat or drink (food culture)**  
Blessed with rich nature and abundant foods, Georgia enjoys a diverse food culture across its different regions. Here we introduce several of those traditional foods and drinks of Georgia.

[Khinkali] One of Georgia's traditional dishes, Khinkali is a boiled dish is similar to large steamed dumplings containing pork or beef, mushrooms, and cheese.

[Khachapuri] This dish consists of bread wrapped around an ample amount of cheese and grilled on both sides. Cheese is eaten very often in Georgia, and there are many dishes other than Khachapuri in which it is used.

[Wine] Wine originated in Georgia, where it is still valued as a special drink. In some regions, wine is even made at home wineries and enjoyed for celebrations and other special occasions.



**Music**  
Georgian music is famed for polyphony. The form consists of multiple parts sung in harmony, and typically consists of at least seven singers. The polyphonic singing of Georgia was registered as a world Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2001.

**Notice from the Embassy**

The Embassy of Georgia to Japan hosts regular events and seminars to communicate the culture and appeal of Georgia to as many people as possible. Please view the website and Facebook page for more information.

website

facebook

**A vast country with diverse culture.**

**Country overview**  
The United States of America (US) is comprised of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 48 contiguous states, not including Alaska and Hawaii, spread over 4,500 kilometers and four different time zones. The distance from the east to west coasts is so vast that it requires at least five days, making the US one of the world's largest countries. The US is also home to many immigrants and known for the diverse culture which has developed in each region.

**Places to go or see (tourism)**  
Here we will introduce some of the popular autumn destinations and events from among the countless tourist destinations in the US. [Viewing the autumn leaves] The North East of the country, and the New England area in particular, feature beautiful autumn foliage in the fall. One can see large leaf maple trees that are unlike those found in Japan, and one recommended way of viewing the colors is by car. Apple picking is another family activity one can enjoy in the same region during the fall.

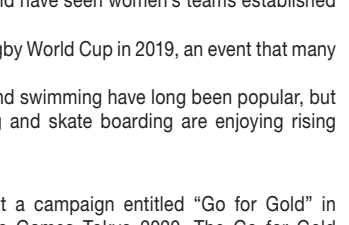
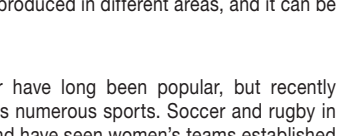
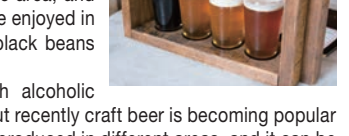
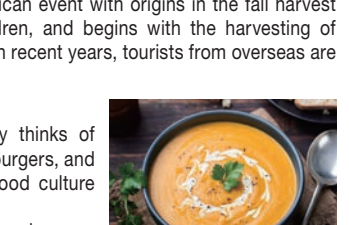
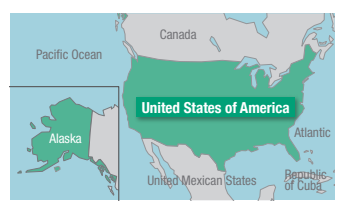
[Halloween] Halloween is a traditional American event with origins in the fall harvest festival. It is particularly popular with children, and begins with the harvesting of pumpkins used in the Halloween festivities. In recent years, tourists from overseas are increasingly participating in the holiday.

**What to eat or drink (food culture)**  
When one thinks of America one typically thinks of popular foods such as pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers, and fries, but there is actually a very diverse food culture across the different regions. [Mountainous regions] Colder mountainous regions are known for pumpkin and apple production. These are often used in home cooking for such dishes as soups and apple pie. [The south] The southern part of the US is home to food culture that originated with immigrants to the area, and various dishes that originated in Africa can be enjoyed in the region. Commonly used crops include black beans and corn.

[North west] America is famous for such alcoholic beverages as whiskey, bourbon, and wine, but recently craft beer is becoming popular in the north west. Many different brands are produced in different areas, and it can be fun to try several and compare.

**Sports**  
Team sports such as baseball and soccer have long been popular, but recently women's teams have been on the rise across numerous sports. Soccer and rugby in particular have been growing in popularity and have seen women's teams established in various regions. The popularity of rugby also rose with the Rugby World Cup in 2019, an event that many people looked forward to. Competitive sports such as track and field and swimming have long been popular, but relatively new sports such as rock climbing and skate boarding are enjoying rising popularity among youth.

**Initiatives at the embassy**  
The U.S. Embassy in Japan is carrying out a campaign entitled "Go for Gold" in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. The Go for Gold campaign involves visiting primarily elementary and middle schools in the city to offer students an opportunity to learn more about America. The visits are often carried out by diplomats, but occasionally also include Olympic athletes to offer the children with valuable experiences. The embassy will continue to work hard to strengthen the ties of friendship between Japan and the US.



The embassy provides information via social networking. Be sure to follow us.

@usembassytokyo

facebook.com/usembassytokyo

instagram.com/usembassytokyo

youtube.com/usembassytokyo

**A country with diverse culture and a rich educational environment.**

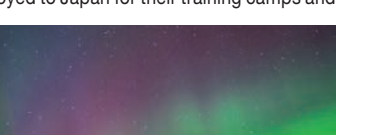
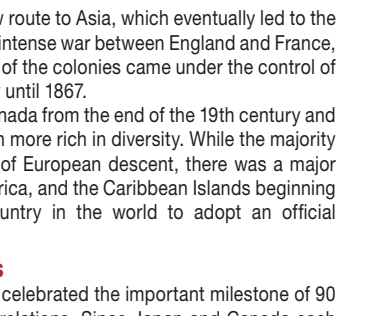
**History**  
For thousands of years, Canada has been home to the Aboriginal peoples and their ancestors. The generally accepted theory is that the Aboriginal peoples crossed over the Bering land bridge from Siberia to Alaska. Then in the 16th century, explorers from England and France began sailing along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean in search of a new route to Asia, which eventually led to the colonization of the Americas. Finally, after an intense war between England and France, the Treaty of Paris concluded in 1763, and all of the colonies came under the control of England. Canada remained an English colony until 1867. Then, the many immigrants who arrived in Canada from the end of the 19th century and onward made an already diverse society even more rich in diversity. While the majority of immigrants to Canada before WWII were of European descent, there was a major increase in immigrants from Asia, South America, and the Caribbean Islands beginning in 1945, and Canada became the first country in the world to adopt an official Multiculturalism Policy in 1971.

**90 Years of Japan-Canada Relations**  
From 2018 through 2019, Japan and Canada celebrated the important milestone of 90 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Since Japan and Canada each opened embassies in the other country, in 1928 for Japan and 1929 for Canada, the two countries have enjoyed prosperous relations based on the shared values of human rights, democracy, respect for the rule of law, open cities, and a commitment to sustainable development. The friendly relations that both countries have maintained and deepened to date have led to connections between people in numerous domains, including education, culture, and academic exchange. In the realm of sports, Canada participated in the 2019 Rugby World Cup, and there are great expectations for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. Teams in numerous competitive areas are already deployed to Japan for their training camps and enjoying vibrant exchange with the local residents. In this way, Japan and Canada have matured and grown refined over their 90 year history of diplomatic exchange to build a comprehensive and mutually beneficial relationship.

**Places to go or see (tourism)**  
[Aurora viewing] The Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, is an aurora that fills the night sky with a breathtaking curtain of colorful undulating light, but it is in fact very difficult to reliably see it. The recommended place to view it is in the Northern Territories. (Destination Canada <https://jp-keepexploring.canada.travel/>)

**Exchange studies in Canada**  
As a safe, multicultural society, Canada is the ideal place for studying abroad. Canada provides high quality education through educational policy rooted in experience-based learning and the latest R&D and innovation. Furthermore, students can study both English and French, the two official languages of Canada, in order to acquire skills that will allow them to contribute anywhere in the world. An exchange studies corner is available at the E.H. Norman Library of the Embassy of Canada to Japan where school pamphlets are available for you to take with you. EduCanada Fairs for studying abroad are held at the embassy in both the spring and fall, so we look forward to seeing you there. (EduCanada website <http://www.canada-yugaku-fair.com/>)

**Website of the Embassy of Canada to Japan**  
<http://www.japan.gc.ca/>  
Links to the embassy's social network presence and the Culture Canada email newsletter are available from the site.





## Sanyodo Shoten

A venerable book store in Aoyama loved by readers for 128 years.

That notable mural that stands out on the Omotesando intersection decorates the wall of a venerable book store, Sanyodo Shoten, that has been in operation for 128 years. It has watched over the people and history of Aoyama under the proprietorship of a single family. Proprietor TOYAMA Hideko says, "I'm glad I run a book store because of the connections with people that it leads to." She explains that she is still surprised by the connections made because of Sanyodo. Examples include a customer in their 80s who stopped by on the way home from a local community alumni meeting, and when she assisted a customer who came to research their ancestors who had operated a hospital nearby, only to learn it was the hospital where Toyama's aunt was born.

Among those connections are the illustrators ANZAI Mizumaru and WADA Makoto. In fact, you may be surprised to know that WADA Makoto designed the current book cover used at Sanyodo. Sanyodo lives on filled with the recollections and memories of the many who have browsed its shelves. At the end of the interview, Toyama smiled and explained that "I have been helped and encouraged by many people. Both Mizumaru and Wada, with whom I became acquainted, originally came here as customers. I have no idea what form our business may take in the future, but I hope to always be doing business centered around books."



The design on this sponge wipe, the first original novelty item sold by Sanyodo, was designed by YAMAZAKI Sugio.

The careful lines and warmth of this book cover are typical of WADA Makoto's work.



If you could only take one book with you to an uninhabited island, what would it be?  
**'The Kojien Dictionary'**



TOYAMA Hideko with MANNŌ Ryo, 5th generation proprietor.

**Sanyodo Shoten**  
3-5-22 Kita-aoyama ☎ 03-3401-1309  
Monday to Friday 11:00-19:00, Saturday 11:00-17:00 (irregular holidays) ☎ Sundays and public holidays ☎ A 30-second walk from Exit A3 of Omotesando Sta. on the Tokyo Metro ☎ Close to Omotesando Sta.  
<http://sanyodo-shoten.co.jp/>

The gallery hosts numerous book related exhibits and events, so be sure to check the website regularly.

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius

## Nichigetudo

Perhaps "archives" is more apt a description for this place than "used book store".

Fluttering banners mark the location of Nichigetudo, found on the second floor of an apartment building along Miyuki-dori just off the Omotesando intersection and across the street from the Nezu Museum. Climbing the stairs to the second floor, visitors are greeted with an entirely red interior. What sort of book store is this?

The shop's description explains that the store "focuses on books and other paper materials bound and issued between the late 19th century and the 1960s, with a focus on the arts, art design, and urban modernism, the history of Japanese-European cultural exchange, and influential relationships (particularly Japan and France) and representational cultural studies published between the 1910s and 1930s."

On this day, proprietor Sato showed me the unique Shimachō, one of her favorites. The book features scraps collected from farming apparel at the time woven into its cover. She says one can sense the fun and joy of the daily lives of the people. Accordingly, as a used bookstore, Nichigetudo does not only carry used books, it also carries numerous documents and items that could not be offered anywhere else. "This whole trend of decluttering is arrogant!", says Sato. Those of you intent on decluttering your own home, consider making a visit to Nichigetudo first. You never know which of your unwanted possessions may turn out to be a treasure.

Countless stacks of used books and documents are crammed into the corners.



This retro-style sticker is stuck on the red bag if you purchase a book.

**Used Books - Nichigetudo**  
6-1-6-205 Minami-aoyama ☎ 03-3400-0327 ☎ 12:00-20:00 Business day; Tuesday/Thursday/Monday/Wednesday/Friday ☎ Sundays ☎ A 7-minute walk from Exit A5 of Omotesando Sta. on the Tokyo Metro ☎ A 2-minute walk from Seinan Elementary School  
<http://www.nichigetudo.com/>

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius

## Crayon House

A store famed for children's books that is fun for adults as well.



Plants, well-tended by the staff, help you let go of daily tensions.

Crayon House was established on Omotesando 43 years ago, when the area was still a quiet one. The staff here select the books in their collection according to a theme of books that everyone can enjoy across ages and generations, from children to adults, and that will continue to be read. The space offers a close up look at the forefront of owner and author OCHIAI Keiko throughout seems to project her unique style.

The Children's Book School is an event held every month at this children's book specialty store to serve as a bridge between readers and writers. The event features lectures by picture book and children's book authors. The shop also offers an opportunity for learning about many other subjects from 9:00 AM on one Saturday every month at the "Morning Class to Learn About Nuclear Power Plants and Energy". Their philosophy that "things happen not when you say 'this is how things must be', but when you gently and lithely express what you think about it" makes you want to get up and stretch and take a deep breath.

Everyone had a favorite picture book as a child, and perhaps there are moments even as an adult when you'd like to take a look at it again. The storefront is surrounded by well maintained flowers so that visitors can pause and return to a state of inner peace before entering. On your next day off, why not come find that nostalgic picture book from your childhood, or perhaps discover something new?



There is also space for you to read them at your leisure.

**Crayon House, Tokyo branch**  
3-8-15 Kita-aoyama ☎ 03-3406-6308  
Monday to Friday 11:00-19:00, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays 10:30-19:00  
☎ Open year round (except year end/ New Year)  
☎ A 5-minute walk from Exit A1 of Omotesando Sta. on the Tokyo Metro  
☎ A 5-minute walk from Omotesando Sta.  
<http://www.crayonhouse.co.jp/>

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius

## Library of Tourism Culture

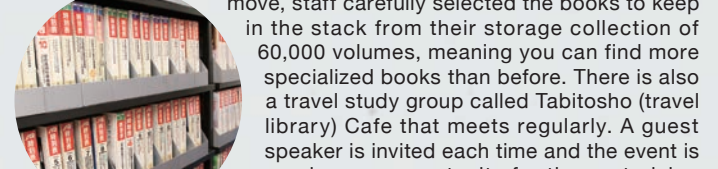
A relaxing, warm space where you can delve into the world of travel books.



You'll feel like you've already traveled!

This library is located in a corner of the office district in Minami-aoyama. The unique library is geared towards not only local residents, but also those planning to travel and those studying tourism. Given the word "Tourism" in the name, the library carries a huge number of publications about travel which are often hard to find elsewhere, including airline inflight magazines, train schedules, famous travel guides, and local magazines from throughout Japan. Their oldest time schedule apparently dates from 1872. Their collection of guidebooks from throughout Japan and the world also includes back issues, offering you the chance to access a wide range of travel information, including information from a short while ago. This library was in fact originally located in Tokyo Station. It was renewed and moved to Aoyama in 2016 based on a concept of a library useful for travel, research, and the travel industry. Tourism research covers a wide range of studies including geography, ethnography, and civil engineering. During the move, staff carefully selected the books to keep in the stack from their storage collection of 60,000 volumes, meaning you can find more specialized books than before. There is also a travel study group called Tabitoshō (travel library) Cafe that meets regularly. A guest speaker is invited each time and the event is used as an opportunity for those studying tourism to network. This wonderful library offers you a relaxed atmosphere where you can deeply immerse yourself in the world of travel.

Their complete collection of back issues of time tables and guidebooks is impressive!



If you could only take one book with you to an uninhabited island, what would it be?  
**'Forgotten Japanese'** by MIYAMOTO Tsuneichi The author traveled throughout Japan to learn about daily life and culture in each region from the locals. The book paints a picture in your mind with the written words and forces you to consider how you define Japan.



An original tote bag printed with the Crayon House mascot.

**Japan Travel Bureau Foundation Library of Tourism Culture**  
Japan Travel Bureau Foundation Building, 2-7-29 Minami-aoyama ☎ 03-5770-8380  
Monday to Friday 10:30-17:00  
☎ Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, Every fourth Wednesday of the month, New Year holidays ☎ A 3-minute walk from Exit 5 of Aoyama-itchōme Sta. on the Tokyo Metro/ Toei Oedo Line ☎ A 2-minute walk from Aoyama 2-chōme Crossing  
<https://www.jtb.or.jp/library/>

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius

## Futago no Lion-do Shoten (Twin Lions Bookshop)

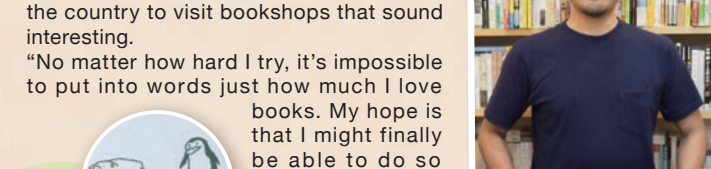
With a Well-Travelled Bookworm Owner

Overwhelmed by his love of books, proprietor TAKEDA Shinya first started the Futago no Lion-do used bookstore online in his second year of high school. After obtaining a used dealer license, building his website, and several years of steady online sales, he managed to increase his business enough to establish a real offline shop in Hakusan, Bunkyo City, Tokyo in 2013. Says Takeda, "I determined to establish a bookstore that would last 100 years." He then began a process of trial and error to figure out what he could do to ensure his favorite books and the bookshop would last that much time. Then, in 2015, he found an ideal store space in 6-chōme of Akasaka, Minato City, Tokyo where he now runs his shop.

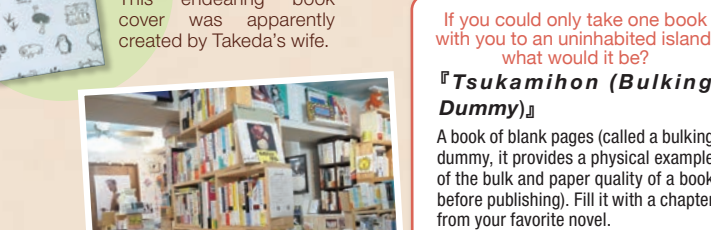
One notable feature of Futago no Lion is the way the books are categorized. Rather than cataloging the books under the normal scheme with categories such as literature, social sciences, business, and philosophy, he has experts in various fields select the books and then displays them along with works by those experts. The diverse collection of experts includes not only authors and editors, but also critics, lyricists, announcers, and university professors. Thus Takeda chose to you to interact directly with art while also learning about the worldview that informs it.

run a bookstore selling books by experts with their names as categories. To do so, he has apparently even gone so far as to attend events by some of those experts and approached them out of the blue to request them to select the books. He also doesn't mind traveling throughout the country to visit bookshops that sound interesting.

"No matter how hard I try, it's impossible to put into words just how much I love books. My hope is that I might finally be able to do so after managing this bookstore for 100 years."



Proprietor TAKEDA Shinya also actively publishes works inhouse and hosts reading events.



The renovated shelves and flooring strongly support the hopes of the proprietor and book selectors.

**Futago no Lion-do Shoten (Twin Lions Bookshop)**  
6-5-21 Akasaka ☎ 050-5276-8698  
Wednesday to Saturday 15:00-21:00  
☎ Sunday irregular  
☎ A 4-minute walk from Exit 6 of Akasaka Sta. on the Tokyo Metro  
☎ A 3-minute walk from Akasaka 5-chōme Police Box  
<https://liondo.jp/>

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius

## Books and Modern + Blue Sheep Gallery

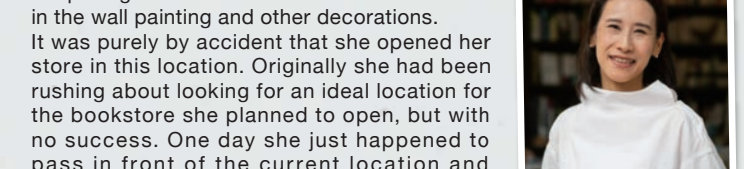


A rich, condense world of art!

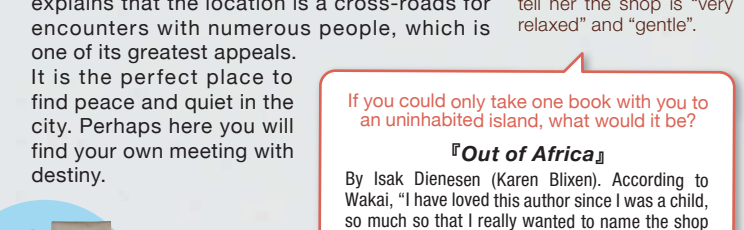
Hidden in a quiet spot along Akasaka Dori not far from Nogizaka Station is a bookstore that will surely make you stop in surprise for its incongruity. While small, this bookshop is full of appeal. The store includes a gallery and features books arrayed in order so that rather than simply seeing the art in the gallery, you can also learn about the artist's philosophy and the times they lived in. Thus it is in fact a rather large bookstore in scope that allows you to interact directly with art while also learning about the worldview that informs it.

Wakai, the proprietor, is a former editor and a great lover of books. Everything about the shop, which she manages alone, is created by her own hand. She even designed the large bookshelves which seem to serve as the shop's sign. One can also see her artistic side in the wall painting and other decorations. It was purely by accident that she opened her store in this location. Originally she had been rushing about looking for an ideal location for the bookstore she planned to open, but with no success. One day she just happened to pass in front of the current location and thought what a good spot it would be. It was when she took the same route a second time that she noticed a "For Rent" sign in the window and she found her destiny. Wakai explains that the location is a cross-roads for encounters with numerous people, which is one of its greatest appeals.

It is the perfect place to find peace and quiet in the city. Perhaps here you will find your own meeting with destiny.



Despite the fact that she is extremely busy all the time, her customers often tell her the shop is "very relaxed" and "gentle".



The coffee beans are roasted especially for Wakai.

**Books and Modern + Blue Sheep Gallery**  
201 Palais Nogizaka, 9-5-26 Akasaka ☎ 03-6804-1046  
Tuesday to Saturday 12:00-19:00  
☎ Sundays, Mondays (Subject to change)  
☎ A 2-minute walk from Exit 2 of Nogizaka Sta. on the Tokyo Metro  
☎ A 4-minute walk from Nogi Park  
<https://booksandmodern.com/>

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius

## Kinsho-do

A bookstore that has watched over Akasaka since the Meiji period.

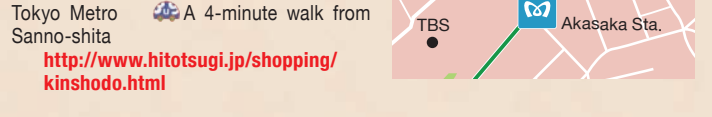
Located on Hitsugui-dori, Kinsho-do is a bookstore that has done business in Akasaka since 1910. The first generation proprietor was a great fan of so-called Bromides, a type of celebrity photo sold to fans printed on bromide paper, so when they moved from Kagawa Prefecture to Tokyo, they opened their shop in Akasaka, a place home to many Geisha. Adjacent to the TBS television offices and close to the Prime Minister's residence, the shop carries many books on media and politics. The shop is also managed in a manner that is very considerate of their clientele. For example, current and past owners have always been careful to observe which customers purchase which types of books, and to then arrange the books for sale with that in mind. Sometimes it is perhaps worthwhile to seek the book right for you at an old-school bookstore rather than depending on the Internet.

They're happy to order books for you if you can't find what you're looking for.

The endearing, retro-style book cover likely hasn't changed since the shop originally opened.

If you could only take one book with you to an uninhabited island, what would it be?  
**'Kamuyi Isaji Torimono Yowa (Tales of Isaji the Hairdresser)'** By UEZA Mari. Hairdresser Isaji's dream is to open his own shop and start a household with his Geisha lover. Isaji works hard at his job to realize that dream, but also serves as an errand boy for constable at the magistrate's office, and the story focuses on his efforts to solve various incidents in that capacity.

**Kinsho-do**  
Kinsho-do Bldg. 5-1-3 Akasaka ☎ 03-3585-0031  
Monday to Friday 10:00-22:00, Saturday 10:00-19:00  
☎ Sundays and public holidays  
☎ A 2-minute walk from Exit 1 of Akasaka Sta. on the Tokyo Metro or A 5-minute walk from Exit 10 of Akasaka-mitsuke Sta. on the Tokyo Metro ☎ A 4-minute walk from Sanno-shita  
<http://www.hitotsugi.jp/shopping/kinshodo.html>



By Isak Diensen (Karen Blixen). According to Wakai, "I have loved this author since I was a child, so much so that I really wanted to name the shop 'Diensen', but my family stopped me because they said 'nobody would understand.' The book is of course available in the shop.

**'Out of Africa'** By Isak Diensen (Karen Blixen). According to Wakai, "I have loved this author since I was a child, so much so that I really wanted to name the shop 'Diensen', but my family stopped me because they said 'nobody would understand.' The book is of course available in the shop.

**BOOK TRUCK** The wandering bookstore,  
There's no telling where you'll find this gypsy caravan of a bookshop. One day it will be at a temple festival, or in front of a local cafe in the countryside on another, or perhaps even right in the middle of a zoo. Hearing the rumors, we've come to a local market to find a corner with books arrayed on shelves. Indeed, this certainly appears to be a bookshop. Proprietor MITA Shuhei formerly worked at major bookstore chains and interior decoration shops before going independent to start his own bookstore. Wishing to create a bookstore where you could find books unavailable at the big chains, and realizing there were already plenty of unique bookshops in Tokyo, he came up with the idea of running a book booth at outdoor events, which led to the idea for the mobile bookstore. But at the back of his mind, he also had a fun recollection of a mobile library he once encountered. Mita modified a truck to open his Book Truck mobile bookstore in 2012.

Countless books squeezed inside the truck.  
See here for upcoming locations. ▶  
<https://www.facebook.com/Booktruck/>

## Bookshop TOTO

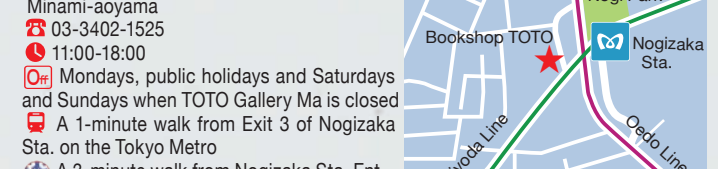
The joy of the hunt and the joy of discovery! Architecture and design bookstore



The walls of the magazine library are covered neatly with magazines.

Bookshop TOTO, operated by TOTO Publishing, was first established as the museum shop of TOTO Gallery Ma, located on the 3rd floor, in 1995. Today it is an inviting bookshop that specializes in architecture and design. In addition to the domestic and international books on architecture, interior design, and general design carefully selected by the staff, the shop also well known for its Magazine Library where anyone can browse current and back issues of architectural and interior design magazines from throughout Japan and the world. Even those not involved in architecture themselves are sure to find a book or magazine they like if they visit.

**Bookshop TOTO**  
TOTO Nogizaka Bldg. 2F 1-24-3 Minami-aoyama ☎ 03-3402-1525  
Monday, public holidays and Saturdays and Sundays when TOTO Gallery Ma is closed  
☎ A 1-minute walk from Exit 3 of Nogizaka Sta. on the Tokyo Metro  
☎ A 3-minute walk from Nogizaka Sta. Ent.  
<https://jp.toto.com/bookshoptoto/>



Book Truck proprietor MITA Shuhei.

If you could only take one book with you to an uninhabited island, what would it be?  
**'Kokugo Jiten (Japanese Dictionary)'**

One advantage of the mobile bookstore is that people who do not normally go to bookstores can encounter it. You too might discover a new world if you make a visit.

See here for upcoming locations. ▶  
<https://www.facebook.com/Booktruck/>

Location Phone Open Closed Subway Chibius