

The Attractions and Problems of the Osaka Expo

By Kai Sasaki

Osaka World Expo 2025 opened on April 13 and will end on October 13. This is the second time Osaka has hosted a World Expo. The first time was in 1972. However, there have been some concerns about construction deadlines and costs.

There were three basic problems with the Osaka Expo. First, the construction cost of the Type X Pavilion was too expensive.

According to the Turner & Townsend Construction Price List, it cost more to build than a resort hotel or a luxury car showroom, and twice as much as a general hospital in Tokyo.

One Expo official accused the organizers of trying to squeeze money out of countries wanting to participate rather than help them.

The second problem was poor communication between construction companies and participating countries. International participants were astounded by the inefficiency of Japan's bureaucracy.

"It takes three or four months to get a construction permit," said Dietmar Kaustitz, founder of project management company SPI. "We really need a way to speed it up."

The third problem was rising expenses. The government claimed that "security" was the reason for the additional costs, citing attacks on former Prime Minister Abe. What does all this have to do with the Expo?

Five hundred days before it was scheduled to open, costs nearly doubled, spilling over into the hands of every Japanese taxpayer.

Other problems abounded, including a lack of hotel rooms for participants, a shortage of staff for the Expo, and difficulties with transportation to Yumeshima.

Despite all of the problems, the Expo opened on time as planned and has many interesting attractions.



The first thing you can experience at the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025 is the Future Technology Experience Zone. At the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025, you can actually experience transportation methods of the near future.

One vehicle that is attracting a lot of attention is the flying car. It is a vehicle that can take off and land vertically and is expected to be a new means of transportation.

You can also tour the world's pavilions. Approximately 150 countries and 25 international organizations are participating, and each country's pavilion introduces the latest technology and culture. There are also many authentic high-quality shows and performances.

The water and air spectacle show Blue and Night Rainbow Parade is a spectacular light show that takes place above the Expo Hall, the main facility of the Expo site. Cutting-edge technology and digital art are combined to welcome visitors into a fantastical world of water and light.

The admission fee is 6,000 yen and you can experience cutting-edge technology from all over the world for a day. You should definitely go there if you have the chance.

Forest Fires Increasing Around the World

By Kiseki Inagawa

Forest fires have occurred all over Japan recently, as well as in the U.S.

A forest fire occurred on Mt. Kinkou between Okayama and Tamano in Okayama Prefecture. The fire burned about 600 hectares.

In February 2024, a large-scale forest fire occurred in Chile, and many houses and lives were lost. The fire was found to be caused by arson.

On January 7, 2025, a forest fire that broke out in Los Angeles, USA, burned thousands of buildings.

It was one of the top three largest forest fires in the history of California, and damage spread because of the high temperatures and dry and strong winds which all occurred at the same time.

These forest fires were thought to be due to dry weather and strong winds. The damage caused by forest fires is spreading not only in Japan but also around the world.

The causes of many of these forest fires happen naturally. However, some forest fires are caused by human activities. The remaining 37 percent occurred naturally.

The World Weather Attribution group

analyzed a fire in Canada and reported that the probability of forest fires is increasing due to global warming.

Forests play a vital role in absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, but when forest fires occur, the stored carbon is released.

Also, if the underground permafrost is uncovered, it can release methane gas.

This means forest fires can make global warming worse.

To reduce forest fires caused by human activity, it is important for each person to cultivate an awareness of disaster prevention and understand the significance of forests for the health of the world's ecology.

A Japanese Player in the NBA

By Kou Sato



Yuki Kawamura is from Yanai City, Yamaguchi Prefecture. He was active in basketball nationwide in both elementary and junior high school.

He entered Fukuoka Daiichi High School and won two consecutive national championships.

He signed two contracts to play in the Japanese B-League at the age of 18, making him the youngest player in the history of the league.

After playing for the B-League, he went to the United States to challenge the NBA.

Kawamura is currently a player with a two-way contract with the Memphis Hustle of the NBA G-League.

Currently, several Japanese players play in the NBA, but

he is very short, at 1.68 m (5 ft 6 in).

Despite this handicap, his performance in the G-League has been outstanding.

Kawamura has improved so much that he seems like a different person in just one season.

The distance between Japan's three-point line and the NBA's three-point line is different, so he couldn't shoot easily at first.

However, in the second half of the season, he was able to adjust, and he showed his great adaptability.

He wasn't able to sign a contract with the NBA this season, but he left a good impression, so we can look forward to his future performance.

Manchester United's Poor Performance

By Seita Ishida

Manchester United is the most famous football club in the U.K. They are the team with the most wins, finishing in the top ranks every year and almost always competing for the championship.

However, in recent years they have significantly underperformed. What is the cause of their declining performance?

First, a major factor is the change of manager mid-season. Due to the previous manager Erik ten Hag's poor performance this season, the front office replaced him with Ruben Amorim midway through the season.

In football, changing a manager in the middle of a season is a very risky choice. This is because the tactics and how players are used are often completely different depending on the manager.

It takes time to understand the manager's tactics and also time to instill the manager's ideal style of football into the team.

Therefore, they don't have much time to practice during the season and may go into the games in a confused state. This means they can't perform to their full potential.

Second, Manchester United currently does not have a dominant forward. In the past, they have had dominant forwards such as Wayne Rooney and Cristian Ronaldo, but their current top striker is only 22 years old.

Manchester United's forwards are said to be the best in the world because many fans expect goals and if they don't score, a lot of criticism goes to the players. So perhaps a young player is not yet strong enough to withstand that pressure.

This is why Manchester United have performed so badly this season. If they find a solution, there should be a major improvement at the end of the season.

Fishing for King Salmon in Canada

By Hayato Terada

Fishing in Japan is popular among many people.

Rainbow trout, in particular, are sought after during the fishing season from September to November.



Fishing in Canada is similar to fishing everywhere, and the lakes in Vancouver, Canada are especially good for fishing for king salmon.

In Canada, the king salmon fishing season runs from September to October.

However, in Canada you need to get a fishing license.

It's free for Canadians under 16, but it's \$25 for those 16 and over.

I went fishing in Vancouver with about ten of my Japanese friends and my Canadian homestay friend from August to September.

I only caught a few fish, but I returned them to the river after catching them.

Actually, I don't eat fish often, so I always release the fish after I catch it.

We mostly ate at restaurants, but we slept in tents.

If you are a fishing enthusiast, you should try fishing in Canada sometime. It's worth the price of the airfare.



The Charm of Okinawa

By Natsuki Kondou

Okinawa was once an independent nation called the Ryukyu Kingdom. The Ryukyu Dynasty lasted about 450 years from 1429 until 1879 when the feudal domains were abolished, and prefectures were established and in 1879, Okinawa became Okinawa prefecture.

Okinawa was later under American rule from 1945 to 1972. During that time, cars were generally left-hand-drive and driven on the right side of the road.

On May 15, 1972, Okinawa was returned to Japan. Its land area is 2,281



square kilometers and it's the fourth smallest prefecture in Japan and includes the southernmost inhabited area of Japan

Since it came under American rule after the war, the area around Kokusai Dori (Kokusai Street), located in the center of Naha city, has an American atmosphere with many hamburger restaurants like A&W, steakhouses, and stores that sell aloha shirts.

There are many places you should visit when sightseeing in Okinawa, but some of the most representative ones are Kokusai Street in Naha, Shuri Park, Churaumi Aquarium, Ao no Doukutsu

(Blue Cave), and Kouri Island, which is especially recommended.

Typical Okinawan dishes include Goya Chanpuru, Okinawa soba, Raftae, and Jimami Tofu.

There are also many other dishes that can be enjoyed with ingredients and cooking methods unique to Okinawa, such as taco rice, somen chanpuru, and tofuyo.

Okinawa is a prefecture with a long history. Miyako Island is nearby, and you can do things like scuba diving and try Okinawa's unique local cuisine and alcohol, so if you've never been there it would be worth the trip.



Traditional Japan: *The Aomori Nebuta Festival*

By Kousuke Sakamoto



The Aomori Nebuta Festival is held every year from August 2 to 7 in downtown Aomori.

This festival, which celebrates the summer season in the Tohoku region, attracts about 3 million visitors every year.

The highlight of the festival are the giant Nebuta floats, which are decorated with motifs of Samurai warriors and historical figures.

Local craftsmen spend a year handcrafting these colorful floats, which are then paraded through the streets at night.

The Haneto dancers are another attraction of the festival.

Tourists can also participate in this dance, which involves bouncing around in colorful costumes, by registering in advance.

The participants' call of "rassera, rassera" is also a distinctive feature of the festival.



Nebuta House Wa Rasse, located within walking distance from Aomori Station, is a tourist facility that showcases the history and charm of the Nebuta Festival in all its glory.

Visitors can see the colorful Nebuta floats throughout the

year there.

In addition to Nebuta, Aomori has many other festivals, sightseeing spots, and delicious food.

If you have never been to Aomori, you should go there at least once if you have the chance.

Let's Enjoy Kyoto!

By Karin Takahashi

Japan has a long history, traditional culture, and food culture.

Because of this, Kyoto is a popular tourist destination for foreigners.

This article will go into detail about the reasons why Kyoto is so popular for its sightseeing spots and its culture.

There are several reasons why Kyoto is so popular with



tourists.

First, there are many temples and shrines in Kyoto.

For example, Kinkaku-ji, Ginkaku-ji, Fushimi Inari Taisha, and Kiyomizu Temple, to name only a few, can be found there.

Second, there are many places in Kyoto where you can experience Japanese culture.

For example, one of Japan's best festivals is the Kyoto Gion Matsuri, one of three greatest festivals in Japan.

The Gion Matsuri is an event at Yasaka Shrine in Kyoto, which is held for a month from July 1 to July 31.

Third, Kyoto's food culture is popular. At Nishiki Market, you can enjoy seafood, pickles, meat, Japanese sweets, and many other Kyoto delicacies.

Originally opened as a fish market during the Edo Period (1603-1868), this lively market has served as a popular shopping district among locals for centuries.

Kyoto is famous for its traditional local cuisine such as yuba, nishin soba, and obanzai.

Yuba is a traditional regional specialty that has been eaten in Kyoto since ancient times.

It is basically tofu skin that forms on the surface of boiled soy milk.

Obanzai is traditional home cooking usually prepared with vegetables and seafood that have been produced in Kyoto.

There are many other attractions in Kyoto that make it a popular destination. At Ninenzaka, an ancient stone-paved pedestrian road, there is a Star-



bucks where you can enjoy your coffee on tatami mats.

Also, the bamboo forest path is a popular tourist spot.

Why not come and experience both the old and new atmosphere of Kyoto for yourself?

All About Saunas

By Yoshito Suzuki

A sauna is a place where you enter a high-temperature room, warm up your body, sweat, and feel refreshed.



The basic flow of using a sauna is to sweat, enter a cold bath, and then relax your body, repeating this process three to five times.

The good thing about saunas is that they help relieve fatigue, have beauty benefits, and also improve your immune system.

Saunas can also eliminate toxins from your body, improve your metabolism, and help you stay healthy if you go to a sauna once a week.

However, there are some things you should be careful about when entering a sauna, such as avoiding it if you are not feeling well, staying quiet in the sauna room, and wiping off any water droplets from your body before entering. Also, never force yourself to enter.

The first sauna in Japan was a Finnish-style sauna built on the coast of Nemuro in Hokkaido.

It became popular in Japan with the introduction of a public sauna at Tokyo Onsen in Ginza, which opened in 1951.

Recently, in addition to hot springs with saunas, it has become possible to just enjoy private saunas.

There are private saunas in several places in Hokkaido, and it seems that people are just enjoying the sauna without taking a bath.

Saunas improve blood circulation and are great for maintaining good health, so everyone should try going to a sauna.

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