

The Odawara
Survival Guide

For newly arrived foreign teachers

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Forward

This brief guide is designed to help you prepare for your move to Japan and give you an overview of Odawara city and the surrounding area so that you can get acclimated once you arrive. It is undoubtedly incomplete and perhaps inaccurate in places. It has been assembled and condensed from a number of sources, but the mistakes are my own. In particular, I have drawn heavily from similar guides produced by LIOJ, NTT, and the Sagami-Hara board of education. Please note that there is not a lot of JET-specific information included here. It is assumed that you will have an avalanche of information coming in from CLAIR and AJET that is related to the JET program if you are a participant. You will also find that there is a disproportionate emphasis on American matters. This is due to the large number of former AETs (Assistant English Teachers) in Odawara who have been American.

I, and all of the present AETs, wish you the very best of luck and hope that your time in Japan is as rewarding as it has been for us.

Alexander Halavais
May 1995

Odawara

Odawara city is located near the southernmost border of Kanagawa prefecture. Kanagawa is home to a metropolis (Yokohama), Japan's tallest building (Landmark Tower), and a past national capital (Kamakura). Odawara is roughly 80 kilometers south-west of Tokyo. While Kanagawa is in one of the most populated prefectures of Japan, Odawara is sandwiched between the urban sprawl to the east and natural beauty to the west. Odawara, known for its castle, is also referred to in many tourist guides as "the gateway to Hakone." Hakone and Atami, both to the south of Odawara are the oldest resort areas in Japan; Atami is on the coast, a little over a half hour by train, and Hakone is in the nearby mountains. We are also at the base of the Izu peninsula, one of the most beautiful areas of Japan. Odawara's most important products are film (Fuji's main factory is located here), cosmetics (Kanebo), and fish paste (*kamaboko*). We also produce prune extract (Miki), computer products (Hitachi), and handmade wood products.

The climate in Odawara is perhaps among the most temperate in Japan, but that is not saying much. The winters drop below freezing and the summer temperatures soar. While winter and summer can be uncomfortable, spring and autumn are beautiful, if short. We are also blessed with a rainy season (*tsuyu*) in early summer and a typhoon season in August.

The Job

A Short History of IU in Odawara

In the beginning there was the Language Institute of Japan (LIOJ). Seven years ago LIOJ in conjunction with the Odawara Board of Education instituted the International Understanding Program in Odawara's junior high schools, beginning with Kaminomiya in 1988. LIOJ is no longer involved at the junior high school level and below. LIOJ created a "Team Teaching Manual," a collection of lessons for AETs (Assistant English Teachers) and JTEs (Japanese Teachers of English) to use in their team taught classes. This manual is revised annually (in March) and can be used as a basis for planning lessons. Teachers usually follow this guide very loosely and it is not in any way designed to be authoritative.

In August of 1992, the Odawara City BoE hired their first Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) participant. Since then, there have been a total of seven AETs that have worked for the city. There are no immediate plans to increase the number of AETs in the city from the present four. 1995 sees the introduction of an exchange program with New South Wales, Australia. The Odawara AETs, past and present, are as follows:

	AET's Name	Home City
1992-1994	William Duff	Los Angeles, USA
1992-1994	Blake Ambrust	Chula Vista, USA
1993-1995	Alexander Halavais	San Diego, USA
1993-1994	Liz Courtenay	Sydney, Australia
1994-1995	Jamie Halavais	San Diego, USA
1994-1995	John Wilkinson	Washington DC, USA
1994-1995	Ileana Mandigo	Chula Vista, USA

The Objectives of the Odawara IU Program

The IU program, as originally described by the LIOJ, was to have five general types of goals:

- **Inter-cultural Goals**

To increase the "internationalization" of Odawara's students. To teach about Japan's role in a world community and the benefits and responsibilities of being world citizens. To point out both differences and similarities between Japanese and foreign cultures and to encourage an acceptance of cultural differences.

This is becoming more and more necessary every year as Japan's role on the global stage becomes stronger. Over the past few years, there have been a number of exchange programs with Chula Vista, California, Norman, Oklahoma, and Australia (through the Tokimeki School program). Students have also found pen-pals and exchanged videos with students from other parts of the world. We should continue to give our students as much first-hand exposure to people from other countries as possible. We should also encourage them, through activities and lessons, to think about how the events in the world affect them.

- **Communicative Goals**

Originally, LIOJ wanted to take a path that diverged from the teaching style mandated by the Ministry of Education for the JET program. In particular, the IU program stressed that (a) the lessons would be communication-based rather than text-based and (b) IU classes would be taught and planned entirely in English.

The first of these goals has been met with some success. The latter of the two is, unfortunately, falling rapidly by the wayside.

- **Behavioral Goals**

Learning to work within the confines of a culture foreign to one's own requires a student to cross a cultural gap. While information and practice can help to facilitate this, it is the student alone who must make the decisions required to better understand other cultures. The program should instill a sense of self-worth and self-reliance that is not often not stressed or valued as highly in Japanese culture, but is often required to understand and participate in other cultures. The behavior exhibited between the JTE and the AET can be a positive role model.

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In a lecture to JETs in the summer of 1994 a Kyoto University lecturer who also worked as a suicide counselor at his university noted that the single biggest effect the AET may have in junior high schools is to increase the feelings of self-worth of (especially) girls at this age. Our encouragement may be the only praise some of them get in their younger years in a society that still strongly favors the male.

Overall, this is perhaps the most difficult goal, but also the most important and rewarding.

- **Linguistic Goals**

Although these are not primarily English lessons, the lessons will be conducted entirely in English and there must be some correlation between the lessons and the language structures the students must use.

Over the last few years, there has been a great deal of discussion regarding this goal. To many teachers, it seems that the classes have boiled down to nothing more than English conversation (*ei-kaiwa*) classes, and that International Understanding has been forgotten. On the other side of the fence are the teachers who feel that English education was short-changed in the original formulation of goals and that a strong communicative ability in English is a vital first step in internationalization.

- **Professional-Development Goals**

Both the JTE and AET have strengths that should be utilized in the classroom. Both teachers should take advantage of the opportunity to learn from one another and to learn team-teaching techniques that might be used in other situations.

This objective was formulated when LIOJ planned to use only their own teachers. Often these teachers had a good deal of professional training and experience before coming to Japan. Of the past AETs, only one has been a professional teacher for any length of time. All of the others had some experience teaching before coming to Japan or in Japan, but did not consider themselves professional teachers. However, every teacher had studied a foreign language for some time and had experienced different ways of language learning first hand.

The differences in experience have helped professional development a great deal. Overall, the level of English ability exhibited by the Japanese teachers - particularly of communicative English ability - has increased significantly since the inception of the program. I am sure it will continue to increase. Moreover, the teaching styles of JTEs who have been involved in the IU program for some time have become more versatile and innovative. All of the previous AETs have also reported that they have learned much that will be of value to them in their professions.

These five goals, to a greater or lesser extent, are as important today as they were seven years ago. We should try to relate our lessons to these goals and keep them in mind when we plan and teach. Note that the JET program may have a different set of goals. These goals and much of the information provided by the Ministry of Education and other agencies involved in the JET program can be effectively applied to the IU program, but it should be remembered that the IU program was created with a set of objectives far more ambitious than those established by the JET program. In order to facilitate the continued success of the program JETs should bear in mind that they are working primarily for the city, rather than for the national government.

The Scope of the IU Program

Odawara's four AETs each visit three of the twelve junior high schools in Odawara on a regular basis. For the most part, they teach first grade, but many teach second and third graders as well. Beginning in 1994, AETs visited a number of elementary schools and all of Odawara's public kindergartens. The future of elementary school and kindergarten visits is not yet clear. In 1995, a program to attract volunteer teachers to the kindergarten and elementary schools was initiated. The involvement of the city AETs will be at least in part determined by the degree of success of this program

The Responsibilities of the AET

The AET's responsibilities are as follows:

- **Team-teaching classes and planning lessons**

AETs teach from 15-20 classes each week and typically spend one or two days at each of their schools each week. Most of the AET's time at work is spent teaching. While in most schools AETs teach only first graders (US 7th graders), in some schools they teach all three grades.

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- **Planning classes and creating teaching materials**

Because the IU program has no specific text-book, AETs must, with the help of JTEs and other Japanese teachers, create lesson plans and teaching materials that help to meet the objectives of the IU program.

On average, teachers have at least two periods free each day. One of these periods is referred to as "triangle time" (for the symbol some schools use on their schedules). During this designated period before classes each day, the teachers can discuss what they will be doing in the upcoming classes and prepare lesson materials. This is a hold-over from when the program began. When LIOJ VTs or "Visiting Teachers" were going to Odawara schools, they often did not personally know the JTEs and did not have an ongoing professional relationship. Because of this, some specific time was needed to allow the teachers to get to know one another. Now the time is used in different ways. At some schools, all of the English teachers meet (regardless of who is teaching the class) and discuss the lesson and make teaching materials together. At others, the time is spent chatting and doing one-point English and Japanese lessons. At still others, triangle time is not used at all. Unfortunately, in this last case, preparation time goes from too much, to none at all. To ensure that triangle time is spent effectively, AETs should confirm with their teachers which periods are triangle times and when the meeting will begin and end. Some teachers have taken this a step further and have a standard agenda for triangle time.

Some time should also be devoted to filling in evaluations. This can be done individually, but it is better to do it as a group so that the comments can be discussed.

- **School Projects and Club Activities**

AETs spend part of their time at school directing school projects. What form this takes is almost entirely up to the AET. You may want to start or help continue a pen-pal program, help students to prepare an internationally-oriented presentation for the school cultural festival, print a school newsletter in English, help students from other cultures or students recently returned from abroad fit into the system, or coach English speech contest entrants. You may also wish to become involved in some of the after-school club activities. At some schools there is an English Speaking Society (ESS) that meets after school. Participation in these clubs, however, is strictly voluntary on the part of the AET.

- **Teacher Education (JTE)**

During the year, AETs have two city-wide English seminars. These seminars are about three hours long and are held at the city hall. The primary responsibility for planning and organizing these seminars rests with the four AETs. The purpose of these seminars is two-fold: to disseminate information regarding teaching techniques and to improve the teacher's English ability. In the past, one or the other of these have been emphasized, and there has been some discussion of devoting one seminar to each, though this has never been tried.

In addition, small seminars can be set up at the schools to teach English to the English teachers or to the staff in general. Ask around to see if there is interest.

- **Teacher Education (AET)**

The JETs and private AETs have different opportunities to attend conferences and seminars. In the past, CLAIR has allowed private AETs to attend JET conferences, but as of 1995, that policy has changed. As a result, there has been some discussion regarding the possibility of city hall providing funds for the private teachers to attend JALT (Japan Association of Language Teachers) conferences. A decision has yet to be reached.

JETs attend a three or four-day language class in Yokohama during August. Non-JETs may also be invited to participate. JETs must also attend two prefectural meetings during August. In November, the Mid-Year Block Seminar is held. This is a three-day conference in one of the prefectures belonging to the Eastern Kanto block. The 1993 Mid-Year Block Conference was held in Chiba city, the 1994 conference was held in Kofu. If a JET decides to renew, he or she attends the Renewer's Conference in Kobe.

- **Publications**

This involves the printing of a monthly newsletter called *Godzilla*, and revising and printing the *Team Teaching Manual* and the other odds and ends (like this booklet) each year. *Godzilla* is printed monthly. At present one of the AETs is the editor. In the past, it has been a group effort with each of the AETs taking over each month. Look over previous *Godzillas* to get an idea of the contents. At present, the IU supervisor (Mr. Koizumi) translates most of the newsletter into Japanese. Copies should be distributed to every Junior High School, grade school, and kindergarten in Odawara. There are a number of people who now receive the newsletter on request, and an electronic version is made available on the WWW. Recently, *Odawara Information* has requested excerpts as have a few other newsletters in Japan.

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The *Team Teaching Manual* must be revised and reprinted in time for the first term in April.

- **Judging the Odawara English Speech Competition**

Once yearly, the four AETs act as judges for the Odawara Speech Contest. First and second graders that participate have the opportunity to continue to prefectural and national competitions, but must wait until the following year to do so.

- **City Hall Related Items**

AETs are often asked to perform other tasks related to "internationalization" and to English. In particular, we have been asked to correct or write letters and speeches for the mayor and other workers at the city hall, help the tourism department with the wording on city signs and promotional materials, help with visiting foreigners, and prepare groups of teachers and others who are going abroad.

Work Hours and Holidays

AETs must spend from 9:00 until 3:45 from Tuesday until Friday visiting schools. On Monday mornings, they are expected to visit schools and Monday afternoons are spent at city hall. During the city hall meetings, the AETs discuss and prepare lesson plans and materials, assemble *Godzilla*, plan for teachers conferences, and help the BoE and other sections in the city hall with issues involving international communications, sister city relations, English education, and the "internationalization" of the city. AETs do not, for the most part, teach on weekends. When a teacher is required to attend an event on a weekend (Sports Day, Cultural Day, or Parent's Day, for example) he or she is given an alternate holiday. AETs are encouraged but not required to stay after school to participate in club activities. They are also encouraged to help teachers improve their Japanese outside of school hours.

Each teacher is given twelve paid holidays (*nenkyu*) to be taken at a time deemed mutually convenient by the teacher, the city hall, and the schools. In general, you should get the permission of the schools involved and then your city hall supervisor a month in advance of your holidays. In addition, each teacher is allowed seven summer holidays, falling after the end of the first semester and before the start of the second. Be aware that you will probably be given these when you first arrive without ever realizing it. You have two unpacking and two packing days.

Please note that sick days are only official if they are certified by a doctor. This rule has been bent in the past, but keep in mind that this is the party line. You may take a maximum of 3 months of paid sick leave, but every day of this must be certified as necessary by a doctor. A certain specified amount of time off is given in the event of the death of a close relative. Though the policies may appear to be very strict, in practice they are often much more flexible.

As a city hall employee, you are not required to work on national holidays. The city hall is also closed on January second and third. Please note that though your schools may have a day off, unless it is a city hall holiday, you are required to come into city hall. Here is a list of all national holidays:

January 1	New Year's Day
January 15	Coming of Age Day
February 11	National Foundation Day
March 20	Spring Equinox
April 29	Greenery Day
May 3	Constitution Day
May 4	Why not?
May 5	Children's Day
September 15	Respect for the Aged Day
September 23	Autumn Equinox
October 10	Health and Sports Day
November 3	Culture Day
November 23	Labor Day
December 23	Emperor's Birthday

* Note that if a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is taken instead.

Japanese Junior High Schools

Japan's educational system is based on the 6-3-3 grade structure borrowed from the US during the Allied occupation. Students must pass a test to enter high school and, therefore, little importance is placed on grades. It is virtually impossible to fail a grade or a class - students are held back only in very extreme cases. The structure and content of the high school and university exams determine the curriculum. Students are not (officially) stratified in any way within the grades. You will have learning disabled students in the same class as English-fluent "returnees." A large number of students attend a *juku*, or cram school. The high school tests divide students and place them at different level schools.

The year is divided into three terms (Spring, Winter, and Autumn), the first starting in April. Students go to school for a half day two or three Saturdays each month, but often spend weekends, holidays, and each school day until five or six doing club activities. Club activities are heavily centered on sports - baseball, softball, "soft" tennis, badminton, volleyball, basketball, soccer, kendo, judo, swimming, etc. - but also include homemaking, tea ceremony, fine art, cultivation, science, and, in some cases, an English Speaking Society.

Students remain in the same classroom for most classes. Teachers go to different classrooms for each class. Students are also responsible for collecting homework, finding out what materials will be required for each class, serving school lunch, and keeping the school clean.

Life of a Team-Taught Lesson

There is no such thing as an "average" lesson. Schools differ greatly. Here is how it *could* happen: You team-teach six first-grade classes with three JTEs. At the beginning of the month, you discuss the coming month's classes and put together a schedule, so you already know the subject of the lesson and perhaps the class from the Manual that you will base your lesson on. The week before teaching the lesson, you go over the plan to see what changes you want to make, what materials are required, and who will make them. The morning you will be teaching the lesson, you meet once again, and go over the class, making sure everyone knows their roles. After teaching the last class, the teachers get together and complete the class evaluations. The AET brings these evaluations and any new teaching materials and hand-outs to the city hall on the following Monday and files them appropriately.

This is perhaps a perfect example of how a lesson is planned and executed. That is not to say that it is non-existent. In fact, at schools where they are comfortable with team teaching and where the teachers are familiar with one another, this is just how it happens. But you will often be faced with a much different scenario. You will come to school without having discussed the lesson at all. You will find that there is no "triangle time" and the teachers are busy with an assembly in the morning, so you will put together a lesson. The JTEs see the lesson plan for the first time three minutes before the class begins and are unable to participate in teaching the class. In a worse case scenario, the teacher will refuse to teach the class you have planned and instead want to do it without a plan. This is much more difficult with a team-taught class than with a class taught by a single teacher and should be avoided.

Norms of Dress and Behavior

You will note that there is no official dress code for the teachers. Some wear suit suits, some wear sweat suits. At the city hall, either a uniform or jacket and tie are required of all employees. City hall has requested that we wear a jacket and tie to our schools as well. Dress more formally than you should for the first month or two and then use your own discretion. For large ceremonies where the parents are likely to be participating (especially the school-entrance and graduation ceremonies) men should wear a dark or black suit and women should dress in formal business attire (also preferably black). Remember that as with most things, you are not likely to get any feedback until things have gone way too far.

There are two things that will make life easier for you in Japan. The first and most important is to smile. The smile can mean any range of things to Japanese: from "Gee, I'm happy" to "No way, forget it." But for now, just use your generic, I'm-not-at-all-dangerous, enjoying-myself-fully, glad-to-be-in-your-presence smile. Smile as often as possible. Even if you speak fluent Japanese, people will not understand you unless you smile. *Try to be genki* or "exuberant/excited/bubbly".

Secondly, and tied to the above: always, *always be polite*. To start, assume that it is always required. If you are being too polite (it does happen on rare occasions) someone will tell you. If you are not being polite enough, no one will say a word (to your face). *Try to roll with the punches*. Don't let things

upset you too much. Japanese sometimes do things differently. That's probably one reason you are here. Finally, and this is very important, no matter how little Japanese you speak, *always greet your co-workers*.

No matter how much Japanese you already know, one of the best ways to improve *ningen-kankei* ("interpersonal relations") is to study more. Polite conversation is the glue that holds the office together and the more you try to speak Japanese with your co-workers, the more comfortable your work-place will become and the more rewarding your job will be.

Possible Difficulties

We do not want to dwell on the negative here, but we will discuss some basic difficulties the present and past AETs have had in the hope of preparing you for them should you encounter similar problems.

The first problem that may present itself as soon as you begin teaching classes is that of discipline. You may find that some classes are noisy and not paying attention. There are two reasons for this. The first involves the nature of the class. Most of the other classes in which the students are involved do not include pair- or group-work. Students may look upon our classes as a time for games at the beginning and therefore not take them seriously. The second is a cultural difference. Teachers will often continue to teach with a good deal of ambient noise. Students sometimes hold lengthy discussions through a class without any interruption by the teachers. Students are never asked to leave the class, in our experience. In extreme cases, students have broken windows and attacked other students and teachers.

This can be a very difficult problem to tackle. LIOJ required that JTEs prepare the students before the AETs arrival. The JTEs were to explain the importance of the IU classes, explain the reasons for pair- and group-work, and explain what behavior was expected. If there was a problem with a student or a few students once class began, the teachers would sanction the student and both teachers would meet with the student immediately after class. If the student's behavior failed to improve, the teachers would meet with the home room teacher, other teachers, or the principal. If there is a problem with an entire class, it is much more difficult. If it is only one class, you may want to meet together with the homeroom teacher and discuss the problem. If the problem is with all the classes, ask to observe a regular English class or another class. If the students behave badly in other classes as well, you may not be able to do much.

Another problem may arise concerning personality conflicts with other teachers. Some JTEs do not want to work with AETs and are resentful of our presence, some are embarrassed about their English ability, some are indeed very shy (though this is used as an excuse by many Japanese) and will open up with time and patience, and some are simply difficult people to work with. It may not be obvious when someone falls into this last category because office harmony is a priority. But if you watch carefully or take a teacher you trust aside, you may find that this teacher is rude to everyone, not just you. For the other categories, you may consider reading *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. It is perhaps more suited to Japan than to the American environment it was written for.

The unfortunate fact is that sexual harassment is considered a joke in all but the most extreme cases and even sometimes in those cases. There is nowhere near the same level of education or awareness in Japanese organizations as you may find at home. The overwhelming attitude still seems to be that the only reason a woman is working is to find a husband. This attitude is not as prevalent in the schools (because married women tend to continue working) but it still will be obvious, maybe uncomfortably so if you are a young, unmarried woman.

If you feel you are being harassed, follow the chain of command. If you have a co-worker at the office you can confide in, talk to them about it first. Because of the way offices are physically organized in Japan, it is likely that others in the office have seen what is going on. They simply may not find it offensive in the same way you do. If this is the case, you should confront the person and explain that his (or her) behavior is not acceptable in your home country and not acceptable to you. If you continue to experience the behavior, talk to the principal at the school and then to your supervisor at city hall. If none of this seems to affect the behavior, you have further recourse through CLAIR if you are a JET.

In some ways you have a lot of power when compared to regular employees. Your co-workers, your principal, even your city hall supervisor have no power over your promotions because you are not promoted. Furthermore, they have invested enough money in salary and support that they consider you as a resource, and whenever possible want to keep you happy. You are, after all is said and done, an outsider. Given all this, if you are unhappy with your work situation, make sure your superiors understands this and I am sure they will do all in their power to remedy the situation.

Salary and Other Money Matters

The salary of the AETs is determined by CLAIR. The present salary level is the equivalent of a teacher who has been working for about ten years. Your salary (less half the Health Insurance Premium) will be deposited into your account on the 18th of every month or the first preceding work day if the 18th is a holiday. At present, the net amount transferred is about ¥266,000.

You will be reimbursed for your travel to and from schools via train and bus. Keep a good record of when you use public transport to your schools. You will not need a receipt. You will be asked to fill out an expense report at the end of each month. You are paid a standard rate determined by the city hall. This rate may or may not have some correlation to the amount you actually paid for your trip. When traveling outside of the city, you will usually be given your transportation expenses and daily allowance before you leave.

City hall provides an apartment, basic furniture, and a bicycle for your use. You are responsible for utilities and upkeep.

The city hall will provide transport back to the point from which you left your home country if you fulfill your contract and do not enter into contract with another company in Japan. Most other cities provide equivalent funds, but Odawara city does not.

Renewing

AETs sign one year contracts, renewed at the discretion of both parties. JETs are limited to three years. A preliminary, non-binding renewal decision is requested in late November. A final decision by March. This can be extended if there are circumstances beyond the control of the AET.

Before You Leave

What to Bring

There is an old saying about packing for a trip: bring half as much stuff as you think you will need and twice as much money. For Japan, this should be changed to twice as much money and twice as much stuff. You should split your packing into piles - things to come with you and things to be sent by sea mail. Sea mail costs a little more than \$2/pound from the US and takes from 3 to 12 weeks. Be sure to fill out the "Unaccompanied Baggage Form" (*bessooihin-shinkokusho*) when you are on your flight and hand it in at customs. If you don't, you may find that your packages are stuck in customs for some time.

Clothes. If you are a JET, you've already been told to pack business attire, etc., for the Tokyo orientation in a separate bag. Keep in mind that for the month after you arrive, you may be spending a great deal of time in business clothes. You will also be experiencing the high temperatures and 101% humidity of the Japanese summer. If you have a tropical weight suit, bring it. Cotton shirts are also a very good idea.

After that, at the very least, a dark suit is necessary for formal occasions. You will be expected to wear at least a tie (for men, of course) year round and a sports jacket will stand you in good stead.

Clothing here is often very expensive, of low quality, and cut for the Japanese body, and there is a dearth of large sizes. So - bring what you like. Also, bring any catalogues you might want to buy from during the year.

You can buy ladies shoes to about US size 8 and men's to about a size 9 or 10 in Japan. You may want to bring with you rubber soled "indoor shoes". These are shoes that you have never worn outside (or that appear never to have been worn outside). They can be dress shoes, sneakers, or some other slip-on shoes, but they should be comfortable enough to be standing, walking, and running in all day. Optimally, you could bring three pairs (one for each school) or you can carry a single pair from school to school. Don't worry about being stylish or matching. Pretty much anything goes. You are certain to see teachers in suits and sneakers even on special days at school.

Remember, this is Japan: bring a raincoat and waterproof shoes/boots if you can.

Bring running/sports shoes and attire. At the very least, you might need them for Sports Days at your schools and you may want them for participating in club activities or for your own recreation. Be forewarned - polyester is the norm for sports clothing here. Also keep in mind that you do not have a clothes dryer at your apartment, so if you plan on sweating, you might want to bring extra. If you plan to be working out at a gym, you should bring a second pair of new (or convincingly never-been-worn-outdoors newish) sports shoes as well.

Winters get fairly cold by California standards (down to 0 celsius). Bring a warm jacket, gloves, thick socks, and sweaters for teaching in. The classrooms are not heated.

Gifts. This seems to be a worry common to those coming to Japan. Anything you bring will be appreciated, but bear in mind that you will have plenty of chances to give gifts during the year, so do not worry too much. You might want to bring something representative of your home for your supervisors.

Teaching Materials. If you have ESL teaching experience, you will want to bring textbooks and teaching materials. If you have a video camera, you may want to shoot a short film of your community, the sights, your home and family. You should also bring photos or slides of family and home. Because we have a tight (this year a non-existent) budget for teaching supplies, bring whatever you can. If you like, you may also want to bring small prizes of some sort for the students.

Books and Music. A few tapes and a walkman are a good idea. If you like to read, ship books at the printed matter rate - it is cheaper than buying them here. You may also want to get a magazine subscription sent here. If you really like to read, and plan to ship more than 15 pounds of books (not as much as it seems) you can send an international mail bag and end up spending about \$1/pound.

Medicines, toiletries, etc. Newly arrived foreigners are often susceptible to colds, flu, and other sickness because of the weather, stress, and lack of resistance to local germs. You might find it beneficial to bring medicine you are used to. Customs can be fussy about this. You are not supposed to

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bring in more than a 2 months supply of medication. For prescription medicine, you must have a note from your doctor, a copy of the actual prescription, your name clearly marked on a sealed bottle, and this does not guarantee that they will let it in. Some drugs you may just want to try to carry with you. Though you can get the Pill here, it is expensive and only high dose varieties are available. Stupid advice - don't bring recreational drugs with you. You may not be hanged, but you will some years in a prison cell. All illegal drugs in any amount are treated equally harshly here.

Bring cosmetics. You may not be able to find the same colors here and if you prefer a particular brand you may end up paying an outrageous sum. If you have a favorite toothpaste, shampoo, or deodorant, ship a supply from home.

If you wear contacts or glasses, bring a spare pair and a prescription. It will save a lot of trouble during the year. You might have trouble finding contact solutions here (especially for gas-permeable) and should bring a supply with you. You can try shipping them, but if they decide to search your package, your solutions will be emptied and contaminated.

Electronic Goods. Coals to Newcastle? Not exactly. Many come here and within weeks are making a pilgrimage to Akihabara only to find they could have bought it cheaper at home. Especially in the States, stereo equipment, video equipment, and cameras can be found cheaper. House current is at 100V, 50Hz in our area. Stuff on the American system will be pretty much OK. Music synthesizers may play off-key. There is a persistent rumor that the difference in power sources will wear on (or out) appliances over time, supported by NTT Labs. Our answering machine has some problems, but that might have something to do with our stepping on it a number of times. If you are particularly worried, you can by power converters before you come or up in Akihabara.

Money. It is difficult to estimate how much you will need. Your first paycheck will be on 18 August. That means that you will have to live for a little less than a month in one of the most expensive places on earth. A comfortable amount would be about 80,000 yen.

Etc. Camera, travel guides, camping equipment, favorite recipes. Everything here is more expensive than in your home country - except daikon. If you absolutely have to have something once you get here, you can probably buy it or have it shipped, but it might be worth the extra weight to bring it with you when you come.

Bring 2-4 passport-sized photos with you for your gaijin card and other stuff once you get here. Also make a photocopy of your passport, credit cards, etc. in case they are stolen/lost.

What to do

There are a number of things you can do to prepare for the move to Japan. Here is a list of some of the basics:

Send stuff. It's never too early to send via surface mail. If you have packages, send them to the city hall (Odawara Board of Education, Ogikubo 300, Odawara, Kanagawa, 250 Japan). Given that packages have taken months to arrive here, send as early as you can. The more you send, the less you will have to worry about carrying with you.

Contact your predecessor with questions. He or she will be able to tell you a little more about what to expect. Since you will probably be moving into your predecessor's apartment, discuss the possibility of purchasing furniture and amenities from them. You might also want to talk to one of the AETs that is staying on for another year, if there are any.

Inform your family, friends and creditors of your new address.

Taxes. If you are coming from America, you won't have to pay, but you will have to file. See the *Odawara A2Z Guide*. Get tax forms from the IRS or arrange to have them sent to you here in Japan.

International Driver's License. They are available at your local AAA office in America for \$12. Also make sure your regular license won't expire while you're abroad.

Study Japanese. It is best to get as much formalized study of the language done before your arrive in Japan as possible. Once here, you will be using it a lot, but may not have as much time to study things like grammar. You should have at the very least a firm grasp of greetings and polite phrases. Memorizing katakana is a very worthwhile pursuit. If you are coming with little Japanese, try to sit in on a class at your local university or arrange to trade language tutoring with a Japanese person.

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Read. See the reading list.

Assemble realia. Try to put together some small things to show the kids. Pictures of your family and friends, your home, your town, your junior high school (if it's nearby), menus, money, and other small things.

Study teaching technique. JET requires no teaching experience or education. If you do not have a lot of time in the teaching-end of the classroom, you might want to read over some basic texts and such at the library. It might be well worth your time.

Make contacts with teachers. This ties in with both of the above two suggestions. If you get a chance to photograph a junior high, talk to the teachers and tell them what you will be doing. You may even be able to arrange to make some sort of cultural exchange in the future.

Send in an absentee ballot registration. If you plan to vote while in Japan, you need to register absentee.

Find out about residency. If you are planning to go to graduate school at a state school in your home state, find out what the residency requirements are.

Flight Miles. Either Odawara or CLAIR will be contacting you regarding your flight information. Call the airline and join the flight miles program. Even if you regularly fly on another airline, one-way to Japan clocks up a lot of miles. And if you are a JET, you will be flying business class, which counts for bonus miles on most airlines.

The Self-Introduction (*Jiko-shokai*)

You will be giving a short introductory speech at least a couple dozen times once you arrive here. In particular, you will be introducing yourself at each of the twelve schools, many of the sections in city hall, and at more length to the students and teachers at each of your three schools. One of the best things you can do to minimize stress in your first few days is to have the Japanese part of the speech memorized before you get here. Here is a generic example:

Mina-sama, hajimemashite.	Everyone, how do you do?
Watashi wa _____ to moshimasu.	My name is _____.
Country no City kara kimashita.	I am from...
Shichigatsu (Hachigatsu) ni nihon ni kimashita.	I came to Japan in July (August).
Watashi no shumi wa _____ desu.	My hobby is _____.
_____ ga suki desu.	I like _____.
Mina-sama to issho ni oshigoto dekiru koto kooei ni omoimasu. Ooku no katagata to oshiriai ni nareru koto o tanoshimi ni shite orimasu.	I am proud to be able to work with you. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.
Doozo yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.	Nice to meet you.

When You Arrive

Arrival

If you are a JET, you will be spending the first few days in Japan at Tokyo orientation. Otherwise, a representative of Odawara city will meet you at Narita airport and escort you down to Odawara. You will spend your first few days getting used to the area, taking care of necessary odds and ends, and getting over your jet-lag. Please note that you may be using your summer holidays during this period, though you may not be told.

The Apartment

The AETs will be living within a ten minute walk of city hall. The units are furnished with the bare necessities and the telephone and utilities should already be hooked up. You may be able to arrange the purchase of additional furniture and household goods from your predecessor.

In the first week or so, you should visit your neighbors and introduce yourself. The traditional gifts are a small hand towel and/or soba noodles (soba has a double meaning, "buckwheat noodles" and "near"). The neighbors in at least three of the apartments have already been exposed to foreigners (AETs), so they will not be too shocked to see you.

To make a collect call to the US through the AT&T operator, dial 0039111. Here is an example of dialing a US number using ITJ:

0041	-	1	-	(715) 555-1212
ITJ access number		Country Code (US)		Number

The First Few Weeks

Here is a list of the things you will probably be doing in your first few weeks in Japan:

Gaijin card. Or *gaikokujin toroku shomeisho*. As a foreign resident in Japan, you must register with the local government and carry the green registration card with you wherever you go. Bring two passport sized photos with you when you go to register at the city hall. They will give you a date on which you can come and pick up your gaijin card.

Hanko. In Japan, the personal seal, or *hanko*, is used in place of a signature. You will have to order a hanko made before you can get a bank account. The cost is roughly ¥2000 and your supervisor can arrange to have it delivered to the city hall.

Business Cards. You will have limited need of business cards, but if you want them, they can be ordered. English/Japanese double-sided cards will set you back about ¥6000 for the first hundred.

Bank account. Once the *hanko* is delivered to you at city hall, you can go to Tri-Bank Sagami to open a regular account. They will deliver your cash card to you at home usually within the week. If you are not at home when they come, they will leave a notice. Bring this notice to the bank and they will give you your card.

Zengyo meetings (JETs). The new JETs will be going to Zengyo for a prefectural orientation in the first week or two. They will have a second meeting a few weeks later either in Zengyo or in Yokohama to provide a chance to meet the renewers.

Yokohama Language School. The city pays for new JETs to attend a four-day language workshop in Yokohama a week or two after they arrive. It provides a good chance to put that final shine on your language skills and get to know other JETs. It also does wonders for cabin fever.

School introductions. You will go by city car to each of the schools with your city hall supervisor and perhaps the section boss as well to see each of your schools and meet the principals and the teachers.

Find route to schools. At some point you should also try biking or riding the train/bus to each of your schools so that you will know for certain how to get there on the first day.

Odawara A2Z

Alcohol

Alcohol is available everywhere. The nearest beer machine is near the Monkey House (see "Bicycles") and closes at 11 p.m. For discount booze, try **My Mart** or **Lucky**, both due south of the apartments about half-way to the beach. Every once in a while **Tozan Market** will sell imported beer at a good discount.

For wine, the basement of **Shizawa** sometimes gets in some interesting selections but has a fluctuating stock. **Kinokuniya** markets (see *Supermarkets*) tend to have a very satisfactory selection. Alternatively, there are a number of smaller shops with eclectic wine sections.

If you want to find out about Japanese sake (*nihonshu*) try the **Nihonshu Center** (03-3575-0656) in Ginza. Here you can sample a number of different brands. In Kyoto, you can tour the **Gekeikan Sake Factory**, though it is not nearly as interesting as the **Kirin Beer Village**, near Yokohama.

The number for **Alcoholics Anonymous** is 03-3971-1471.

See *Bars*.

Amusement Parks

Odakyu Family Land. This is the closest amusement park - over in Gotemba. They have skating rinks in the winter and a number of good roller coasters, including a new triple-loop hanging roller coaster called "Gambit" that opened in May of 1995, located in their "Thrill Valley" (which, due to the ambiguities of katakana, can also be read "Surreal Valley"). To get there you can either take an Odakyu bus from Hakone-Yumoto or take the Gotemba line from Matsuda to Gotemba station and from there take the free shuttle bus to Family Land. Park admission ¥1400, with another ¥200-¥700 for each ride. Open 9-5. 0550-83-1616.

Tokyo Disneyland. It isn't really in Tokyo any more than Narita Airport is. If you are going up, keep in mind that it is not very different from California Disneyland, just more crowded and more expensive. If you decide to try anyway, talk to a local travel agent and see if you can arrange a transportation package to and from. It may take longer by bus, but it will probably be more comfortable and far less expensive. A one-day passport costs ¥4800 (¥2300 for kids). 0473-52-0001.

Wild Blue Yokohama. A frequent class trip for your middle schoolers, this is a huge indoor water-park with beach, wave machine and all the rest. 10 minutes by bus from Tsurumi Station (Toyoko Tohoku line). Admission is from ¥3200 to ¥3900 for adults depending on the season. 0455-11-2323.

Yomiuri Land. An amusement park up near Tokyo with a number of exciting coasters and thrill rides. Its newest attraction, "White Canyon" is a monstrous wooden roller coaster. 10 minutes by bus from Yomiuri Land Mae Station (Odakyu line). A one day pass for adults is ¥4800.

0449-66-1111.

Sea Paradise. The unlikely amalgamation of amusement park and aquarium with a branch up in Yokohama and at a couple of other locations. Get off at Hachikeito(?) Station (Toyoko Kyuko Kanazawa line). Admission ¥2500. 0457-88-8888.

Fujikyu Highland. This is another amusement park with a Fuji-san view (like Family Land) but is a little further away. Very big on the thrill rides. At Fujikyu Highland Mae Station (Fuji Kyuko line). Park admission is ¥1800 or pay ¥4800 for a day pass. ☎0555-24-6888.

Antiques

For the best one-stop shopping for (fairly) traditional Japanese goods, try the **Oriental Bazaar** (☎03-3400-3933) on Omote-Sando down from Harajuku Station (Yamanote-line). If you go there on the 1st or 4th Sunday of the month, you can also check out the antique market at the Togo shrine, down from La Forêt. There is also an antique market in the basement of the Hanae Mori Building over by Omotesando-dori and Aoyama-dori. In Roppongi, you will find **Kurofune** (☎03-3479-1552), which sells furniture and other stuff. There are a number of small antique shops in the Kanda district of Tokyo, as well. Perhaps the best place for antique shopping is the **Komingu Kotto-Ichi** a multistory antique mall in Ikebukuro, housing 35 different dealers. Head right from the east exit of Ikebukuro station and go south on Meiji-dori for about ten minutes. Five times yearly, the mall hosts a gala bazaar at Heiwajima on the Haneda Monorail line, with over two hundred dealers in attendance.

For kimono, you can try both the Oriental Bazaar, and nearby **Chicago**, near the intersection of Meiji-dori and Omotesando-dori. **Japan Sword** (☎03-3401-1677), near the Toanomom station, is the most well-known shop in Tokyo for knives of all sizes.

Here are some well-known antique and flea markets in Tokyo:

- 1st Sunday (of the month) - Togo Shrine Market, Harajuku; and Araiyakushi Market, near the Araiyakushi-mae station (Seibu Shinjuku line)
- 2nd Sunday - Nogi Shrine Market, near Roppongi; Hanazono Shrine Market, Shinjuku; and Fussa Market, Fussa City
- 3rd Sunday - Hanazono Shrine Market, Shinjuku
- 4th Thursday & Friday - On the steps of the Roi Building, Roppongi
- 4th Sunday - Togo Shrine Market, Harajuku
- Irregular Sundays - Yoyogi park

Baking Supplies

There is a shop called **Bonjour** near NAK and Shizawa that sells baking supplies and equipment.

Banking

Soon after you arrive in Japan, you will need to set up an account with **Tri-bank Sagami**. Your salary will be automatically deposited into this account on the eighteenth of each month. When the eighteenth falls on a holiday, the pay will be transferred on the first preceding working day. Your Tri-bank account will be a regular account with a cash card. Personal checking accounts are very rare and many of your bills and such can be paid by automatic or specific bank transfer. It will take about a week for the bank to make your cash card, after which they will try to deliver it to your apartment.

You may want to keep an account open in your home country. Often paying for something ordered from America, for taxes, and the like, can be much easier by US check. It can also be a good way to retain residency (for school). If you are having bills (school loans, etc.) sent from home, keep in mind that Japanese addresses sometimes have trouble fitting on the billing companies' computers. Make sure that they do not omit vital information in the address.

Credit Cards. Though a number of larger shops and restaurants accept major credit cards, they are not used as extensively here as they might be in your home country. Also note that

your Visa or Mastercard may not be accepted if it is not from a Japanese bank or one well known in Japan. Expect to use mostly cash. **American Express** can be reached at 0120-020120.

International Money Orders. At some point you will want to send money home. There are several ways to do this, including bank wire-transfers and sending travelers' checks, but the cheapest and most efficient method we have found for sending sizable chunks of money home is using international postal money orders. There are only two drawbacks to the money orders. First, you will need to send them to a person who can then cash and deposit them for you - though if you have a friendly bank back at home they may be willing to directly deposit the money orders. And second, you have to get to the Central Post Office in downtown Odawara on a weekday before three o'clock.

The process is easy. Go to the "banking" side of the post office (the side further away from the station) and tell the clerk you want a *gaikoku yubin kawase*. The clerk will ask for what country and in what amount. You can specify the currency and the post office tends to have decent exchange rates. You will need to fill out a form and then you will be given the voucher, or vouchers if you are sending more than ¥70,000. You will need to fill these out with your name and address as well as the name and address of the payee. You can then have the post office send the vouchers or send them yourself via registered, insured mail.

ATMs. ATMs can be used to withdraw or deposit cash, and in some cases to transfer money between accounts. If you open a Dai-ichi Kangyo account, you will find that some of their ATMs can speak English. Be careful - "Cashing Corners" often found at or near department stores usually only work with credit cards, not cash cards. Keep in mind that most of the ATMs keep near banking hours. The hours for the ATM outside of the city hospital (and across the street from Yaomasa) are as follows: weekdays, 9:00 - 18:00; Saturday, 9:00 - 13:00; Sunday, 9:00 - 17:00.

To take money from a Tri-bank ATM: (1) Push the withdrawal button on the touch screen. This button has the "pull" kanji on it (the same one you see on doors) that looks like a bow with an arrow resting parallel to it. (2) Insert your cash card. (3) Type in your secret code (PIN). (4) Type in the amount desired (using the "man"-10,000 or "sen"-1,000 kanji and ending your input with the yen kanji that vaguely resembles the swinging half-doors in a western saloon, or an "enter" key). (5) Take your card, your receipt, and your money.

Travelers' Checks. If you are traveling abroad, you may want to buy US dollar travelers' checks. As there are forgeries now and again, it is best to carry two types of checks when you go abroad. You can get checks at Sumitomo and at Dai-Ichi Kangyo, but they may take 24 hours to prepare. For while-you-wait checks, go to **Taiyo Bank** in downtown Odawara. They issue Bank of America checks in US dollars. The charge is 1% of the value of the checks. Better yet, the **post office** sells American Express and other leading brands of travelers checks for the same price. You can also get checks at the **American Express** offices in Ginza or Shinjuku.

See also Bills

Bars

John Festa's. Festa's is the biggest "western" bar in Odawara. The drinks are overpriced, there is a small seating charge, the food is passable, and the atmosphere is a lot like that of a blander bar in the US, but with a heck of a lot more seventeen year-olds. Despite all that, it is the de facto hang-out for foreigners living in Odawara.

East Place Lenovans. Near the Joto-koko-mae bus stop on Route 1. The pizza is popular, but the remote location makes this one difficult. Open 6 p.m. to 2 am. %34-5356.

Sometime's Funky Street Cafe. Passes itself off as a restaurant of sorts and actually has a very extensive menu, but the food can get a bit too funky. Great atmosphere

overrun with palms and strange memorabilia. Good prices on drinks, though they recently stopped carrying Red Stripe Beer (bug them about it enough and they might deign to start ordering it again). One of the most popular places among the AETs and not only due to proximity. Don't expect to meet a lot of foreigners here. It's located between 500 Rakan and Anabe stations, closer to Anabe. %35-4879.

Tidbit. This restaurant/bar is located on route 1, up from Orion-za and Manaka Hospital. It has just been remodeled and should be fairly easy to find. The food is, in most cases, not great, and it is a bit expensive, but nice for a change of pace.

Cafe Ten. Between NAK and the castle, this is a very small blues bar owned by the brother of one of the J.H.S. teachers. Infrequent live bands. Very laid back atmosphere. Not the sort of place for a noisy get-together.

Amataro (*see Restaurants*) is a good restaurant for quaffing a few beers. They have neat communal sitting areas and seem to be a popular spot among young office workers. In the *Game Fantasia* building.

Edokko. At the end of higashi-dori, Edokko is a long-standing drinking place, and something of a landmark to long-time residents. It is a step above the three-stool, one-booth drinking establishments prevalent in Odawara, but not a big step.

See also Alcohol.

Batting Cages

On the far side of the Iizumi-bashi bridge, you will find batting cages. There, you can bat.

Billiards

There is a pool hall called the **Blue Line** on the far side of Iizumi-bashi bridge on route 255.

Bills

Eventually, all or most of your bills can be set up to be paid automatically. But until this happens, you will need to pay some bills in person either at the bank or at 7-11. Most of the bills must be paid at the bank, but those with a bar code can be paid at a convenience store. At the bank (Tri-Bank), take a form with the burnt-orange strip on the top and fill out your name and phone number. Take this form with your bill and some cash to the desk and then sit down and wait for your name to be called. When it is called, you will receive your receipt and your change.

Biking

The city hall provides the four AETs with bicycles. Always lock your bike - they are often stolen. Be sure not to park in no-parking areas. Park your bike inside the corral at Ashigara station or it might be moved. If there is no room, park it down the street in the auxiliary lot. If you do happen to park illegally at some point (oh, no, not me!) and you find your bicycle is somehow missing, you should try the bicycle jail at Kozu station before assuming that it is gone forever.

You can sum up the Japanese biking experience in one word - dangerous. You will be riding fairly often, so follow some basic safety measures. Leave in plenty of time - you can then take your time and sometimes choose a safer route. Make sure your bicycle is in good repair: that the brakes are working and the tires are fully inflated. Finally, if at all possible, do not ride in the rain or when the roads are wet. Not only is it more difficult to control the bike, it seems that the drivers are much less careful.

For repairs, you can go to any bike shop. Nearest to the apartments is the **Monkey House**. The owner works at one of the schools. I don't think he really likes working on bicycles (he works on Honda Monkeys), but is generally a friendly guy.

If you are serious about biking, it would be a very good idea to bring your bike with you to Japan. Bicycles are very expensive and it is difficult to get large sizes. The bikes provided by city hall are small and no good for distances. If you do bring a bike, a mountain bike or one with a very sturdy frame would be best. Road surfaces are not very good and the ability to do a little curb hopping will come in handy. There are a couple of tour books available for biking Japan at any large English-language book shop. The Izu peninsula is one of the most popular places for biking (if you don't mind some monster hills), and there is also a path along the beach for Oiso up (if you don't mind a lot of crowds).

Book Shops

As far bookstores go, there are a couple in downtown Odawara with small English sections: **Libros** (on the top floor of Epo) and **Iseiji** (across from Video People Jack). Here are some other places that offer English titles:

The Bookworm. The bookworm is a large mail-order paperback exchange run out of Tokyo. To get an introductory packet, send your name, address, and ¥250, to *The Bookworm, 550-8 Kaitori, Tamashi, Tokyo 206*. You can also browse in person. The shop is near the Nagayama station (Keio New and Odakyu Tama Lines). Closed Sundays and Mondays. Call for directions. %0423-71-2141.

Good Day Books. Also a well established used-book shop. *Midorigaoka 3-1-7, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152, %03-3717-0848*.

Dragon's Egg. Like the Bookworm above, this is a Tokyo used book store that ships. You can get their list of current offerings in the text archive on Twics (*see "Computer Networking"*). If you have a specific book in mind, talk to them at 03-3393-3344 or fax them at 03-3393-3344.

Kinokuniya. Probably the best-known foreign book store in Japan. In Shinjuku - east side of the station. %03-3354-0131.

Yurindo. Doesn't have nearly the selection of Kinokuniya, but is a lot nicer for browsing. Located in Landmark Plaza at Sakuragi-cho station (Yokohama-line).

UCI Bookstore. If you have access to the Internet, get in touch with this college book store at their WWW site or e-mail them at <books@uci.edu>. They have an extensive selection in stock and can get you anything else. They are trying to make a name for themselves by giving a more personal degree of service. They also charge only their costs for shipping and will ship any way you want.

The English Resource (%0427-44-8898, fax:0427-44-8897), in Sagami-hara, carries English teaching materials. They are bi-lingual and very helpful. Call them for directions.

The Kanda-district in Tokyo (around Jimbocho station) offers the best used and rare book shopping. In particular, try **Kitazawa**(%03-3263-0011). They have an excellent collection of rare foreign-language books on the second floor, and though their prices are quite high, they have an interesting stock.

Bowling

There is a bowling alley on the top floor of **NAK** and one in the "bowling pin building" in Odawara.

Bread

Bread buying is an art in Japan. There are a number of very good bread and cake shops in Odawara. In the basement of Shizawa is **Donq**. Get there early for their "double," a big and tasty bread that pops out of the oven at 10:30 and 3:30 daily. Call to reserve one if you can't make it until later. In the basement of Epo, you will find **Pompadour** (23-8053), a well-known chain. They also have good French bread. **Little Mermaid**, down the way from Game Fantasia, has different kinds of whole wheat and grain breads, including Roman Meal. A little way down Higashi-dori is **Mori-ya**, a well known local shop for bread and Japanese specialties. Finally, there is the **Fujiya** hotel bakery up in Hakone-Yumoto. Some consider their bread to be the best around, but again you would be well advised to make reservations.

Bugs

Mosquitoes will be your most fearsome enemy. They seem to be able to get into almost any enclosure and yet I have never seen mosquito netting on sale in the stores. If you don't mind it (and in the dead of summer you won't) one of the best ways to protect yourself is to aim an electric fan directly at your body while you sleep. Unfortunately, we've been plagued by mosquitoes as late as December. There are other ways of protecting yourself. Coils are bad for your respiratory system as well as smelling very bad. Nothing beats a good can of bug repellent. There is also an electric mosquito-scarer-awayer that is a safer version of the mosquito coil, on sale at 7-11.

Next come cockroaches. The best advice is to keep food and grease closed off. But this alone won't get rid of them. They like the oils put off by humans too - a good reason to shake out your futon every day (also see tatami lice, below). We have seen cockroaches the size of small mice. We've been assured that these are much smaller than their South and Central American cousins, but this is little consolation. There are poison pellets you can leave around for them to munch and poison sprays as well and these work at varying levels of efficiency. But in an apartment building, they can always escape next door. Best advice: they don't bite or spread disease, they are afraid of you and afraid of light, smoosh the ones you see and don't expect 100% elimination.

Finally, though we haven't had any real difficulties with them, there are small lice that sometimes live in the tatami (straw floor coverings) and hatch in the summer. The best protection is to vacuum the tatami regularly and beat your futons. There are also chemical treatments designed to kill the eggs.

Busses

On most regular Odawara busses, you pay when you get off according to the distance you have traveled. When you get on the bus, take a ticket from the dispenser unless you are at the starting point of the route (usually a train station) in which case no ticket will be offered. The number on the ticket will match a number on the electronic price board at the front of the bus. When you get off, put the ticket and the exact change in the receptacle. If you do not have exact change, there is a change machine at the front of the bus. If you use the bus frequently, you can also buy a card that works like a phone card. Slip it through one way when you get on, the other when you get off. You can often buy a card on the bus. If not, ask the driver where you can buy one.

There are also overnight busses to Kyoto, Osaka, and Hiroshima leaving from Yokohama, Machida, and Hon-Atsugi. Call **Kawachu Express Busses** at 0463-21-1212 for more information.

Churches

There are a number of Catholic and Protestant churches in Odawara. You may want to contact the **Odawara Christian Center** (%34-2796) on the west (*shinkansen*) side of Odawara station.

Depending on the faith, you will probably be able to find a group in the area, if not a place of worship. The best advice is to ask your church for help in contacting someone in Japan before you leave home.

City Hall

On Mondays and school holidays you will be working at city hall, on the fifth floor, purple wing, schools education section (*gakou-kyouiku-ka*). There is a cafeteria on the seventh floor as well as a sundries shop and a barber. The printing room is on the fourth floor.

Cleaning

You may find that you are having a constant battle keeping your apartment clean. In particular, because of the weather, mold seems to attack everywhere. You may also be unfamiliar with the design of the apartment (wall and floor coverings, for example). The following are some basic hints to help you out:

Tatami rooms. The most important thing to do is vacuum often. The tatami can be wiped down with a slightly damp cloth. If something spills, absorb as much of the liquid as possible and let them air out.

Toilet and Bathrooms. Definitely the most difficult area to keep clean. Try to leave the windows open if there are any. If the mold gets too bad, you can use bleach. There are a few anti-mold cleaners available as well.

Kitchen. Clean the ventilation fan often as grease seems to accumulate easily (especially if you are cooking a lot of Japanese dishes.)

Clothing

Problems of finding fit, quality and price have been discussed elsewhere. Forty-nine percent of Japanese women say they have difficulty finding their size, so don't feel bad. Still, there are a number of shopping opportunities in Odawara and even more as you get further towards Tokyo and Yokohama. If you feel you must buy clothes in Japan, look around Odawara. Try the department stores first to see how much things *can* cost and then try to find a "deal" at one of the smaller shops in town. If you want to try to find a bargain, Tokyo is your best bet (although a bargain may cease to be a bargain once the train-fare is included) - especially if you can get a long-term resident as a guide.

If you are feeling extremely rich, go to any of the Tokyo department stores, to **Barney's** in Yokohama, or to **Brooks Brothers** in Aoyama. **Isetan** (%03-3225-2514, in English), in Shinjuku, offers an "I-card" membership to foreigners that allows them to get a first shot at the department store's January and July designer clearance sales (with, for example, *Commes des Garçons* and *Issey Miyake*). Many designers have boutiques in the Aoyama district. For something unusual, or interesting window shopping at least, hit Harajuku, especially **La Forêt** (%03-3475-0411) and Shibuya, especially **Parco 1, 2, & 3** (%03-3464-5111) and **Seed** (%03-3498-2221). Finally, there is a consignment shop for Japanese fashions, near Ebisu station, called **Garret**.

You might also consider shopping via mail-order. **Eddie Bauer**, **L.L. Bean**, **Land's End**, **Saks Fifth Avenue**, **REI** and many other chains and department stores have

catalogs. Be careful, those companies with Japanese affiliates (most notably L.L. Bean) have different catalogs for Japanese consumption. It might be worthwhile to have the clothes sent to someone in the US and then forwarded to you.

Finally, one of the best ways to shop is while vacationing in other parts of Asia. Clothes can be made to order or copied cheaply. Leather goods are also inexpensive - especially in Korea. If you plan on doing some serious shopping, you may very well be able to save the price of your trip. Ever wonder why Japanese tourists seem to be constantly shopping?

Community Chest

At some point one of your neighbors will come asking for your part for the community fund (*kyoudoubokin*). Don't worry, everyone must pay it. There is a possibility that they will be too nervous to ask you.

Computers

The foreign teachers have two portable Toshiba **Rupo** word processors at their disposal. These are not the easiest to use, but better than nothing. Make sure you have at least one extra disk when you are using them; the disks fill up very quickly. The manuals for the Rupos are in the desks at city hall along with a one page command guide in English. Be careful when you use the thermal printer; items printed tend to disappear from the paper after several months.

The section next door to ours (education research dept.) has a Windows machine with a laser printer. As of yet, we have not had to use it, but in the future we may. The lesson book, past Godzillas, and this guide are all saved in Windows Word 3.0 format, PK zipped on 3.5" disks. Most files transfer easily from US MS-DOS to Japanese MS-DOS, and gradually MS-DOS and Windows machines are gaining popularity. There are also a number of Apples around.

Your best bet is to bring a computer with you. This is only a viable option really with laptops and (possibly) Macintoshes. Best not to plan on buying stuff here, and if you end up wanting to, it is a good idea to buy used (through the classified ads in the Yomiuri or other newspaper) or order from the States. If you are bent on buying equipment here, or if you need printer cartridges, try **Nojima Electric**, (%73-4831) located on the second floor of the center outside Daiyuzan station and well south of Kamonomiya station. They have a good selection in stock and the best prices in town.

Computer Networking

The "Internet" is a big catch-word lately in Japan; very popular in the press. This is odd, because there are very few people that are indeed on-line. If you only want e-mail and you don't mind connecting at 2400 baud and a very slow response time, try **Niftyserve**. It's not all bad. You can connect through a local number and the costs are comparatively low (about ¥10/ minute plus phone charges).

If you want telnet, WWW, and ftp support, you should sign up to **TWICS**. For ¥5000 a month (¥4000 for JETs), you get 20 hours of access time at up to 14.4K baud and a PPP connection. Unfortunately, you need to pay for phone charges to Tokyo or sign up to a network called Tympas (for extra money and a restriction to 2400 baud) and monthly telephone charges can easily outstrip the costs of the service. To get more information, call (via modem) 03-3351-8244. A new service, called the **Information Access Center**, opened up in October of 1994. They are a free BBS located in Tokyo and offer Internet e-mail. For more information, contact (voice) 03-5561-0416, (fax) 03-5561-0417, or (modem 8-N-1) 03-3582-6047. In fact, if you sign up for a callback service, you might find it cheaper to call a server in the US. **The Well** offers accounts that can be accessed through Niftiserve or called directly. The Well is one of the oldest servers around and has, in my experience, very personal and professional service.

Note that **America On-Line** recently established a telephone access point in the Tokyo area and Tymnet should be opening up a local access node.

Once you are on-line, make sure you sign up to **JET-L**, the listserv for JETs and former JETs. Send a note with "subscribe" in the body to "majordomo@misc.twics.com".

Concerts

A few classical concerts by world-class performers make it south to Odawara or Hakone now and again. Often these are members of orchestras playing Tokyo. A number of local musicians hold recitals during the year at the **Shimin Kaikan** downtown between the post office and the Orion-za.

Most pop or rock concerts and performances are held in Tokyo or Yokohama. As of late, Tokyo has been getting a lot more shows by alternative bands. These shows, though expensive, are often in packed clubs and other smaller venues. The big names (Madonna, Phil Collins, etc.) often make Japan the first shows of their world tours.

You can get tickets for big Tokyo concerts on the ground floor of Shizawa and at some convenience stores.

Crime

There is no crime in the Odawara area "to speak of." In particular, you will not hear of the number of bicycles stolen or of sexual assault in the area. Four of the seven AETs who have worked for the city have had things stolen or been assaulted. Thefts should be reported to the police as soon as possible. Women may find themselves groped on trains or followed and harassed on the street. Most forms of assault (e.g., groping) are, strictly speaking, illegal. However, society takes a tolerant view of this sort of behavior, especially when the perpetrator is drunk.

All this said, Japan remains a very safe place to live - almost certainly safer than your home country. In order to keep yourself safe, follow the same precautions you would at home or when traveling. Lock your door when you leave and when you are at home, be aware when you are walking alone, and know where your local police boxes are.

Day Trips

Of course, if you get the chance, it would be worthwhile traveling up to Hokkaido or down to Okinawa. But what about the weekend? Here is a list of possible destinations.

Tokyo. We are really very close to Tokyo - an international city where Odawara is certainly not. This in and of itself is enough of a reason to visit. There are entire guidebooks devoted to Tokyo, so I will not go into too much here. It is enough to note that you should, at some point, get to Harajuku on a Sunday and take a walk in some of the older neighborhoods of Tokyo (those that survived the quake and the bombings). Don't expect to be able to see much in one day. In our personal experience, Tokyo can be very energy-draining, so take your time and see it over a number of visits.

Yokohama. Certainly not a center of tourism, nonetheless Yokohama has a lot to offer for the one-day visitor. There is certainly a lot to see: Landmark tower, the tallest building in Japan, and Landmark Plaza, the closest thing to a mall anywhere near us; Motomachi; Chinatown; the parks; the foreigners' cemetery; a number of small museums; and Sea Paradise. It is worthwhile to take the Sea Bass (or Sea Bus, depending on the translation) from Yokohama station to Yamashita Park and walk back through Motomachi at least once. Yokohama is a city ripe for exploration - it might take some time, but there are some real finds here.

Hakone. We are lucky enough to be near to one of the most popular and historic resort destinations in the country. Without fail, those living in eastern Kanagawa will mention how

close to nature we live. It may not seem this is true until you make the short trip up to Hakone. Pick your time well. The most popular times to visit are in the fall, to see the colorful foliage, and in summer, to escape the heat. Get the "free pass" - it's definitely worth it. If you want to spend a few days, watch for a sale package from the **Fujiya** (this hotel, one of the oldest western-style resorts in Japan, has been frequented by many famous Japanese, by royalty, and by important foreign visitors), and some of the other resort hotels. And don't miss the Open-Air Museum (*See "Museums"*).

Atami. A popular sea-side resort, it's worth a day trip. Just wander around and look about or plan an expensive "onsen" weekend. About twenty-five minutes south on the JR Tokaido line or take the *Shinkansen*.

Manazuru. Again, this is only a day or half-day trip. Many of the schools have a hike out to the end of Manazuru peninsula.

Izu Peninsula. This is more of a weekend trip. Go hiking, camping, or biking. Be sure to see Dogashima, on the far end of the peninsula.

Mt. Fuji. You can see it from Hakone - all that is left is to climb it. It is a fairly grueling adventure, not so much because of the climb itself, which is only difficult toward the top, but because of the tradition of climbing it in the dark (to see the sunrise). Also, a number of people climbing in front of and behind you can be distracting. Estimates of how long the climb takes vary greatly from person to person and from starting point to starting point. If you do go up, take the opportunity to come down the sand slides (*sunabashiri*). If possible, wear high-topped hiking boots or shoes for this way down. You can run down the mountain in two yard bounds and it is pretty close to flying. There is little likelihood of becoming injured this way as the sand and pebbles cushion a fall and it gets you down the mountain pretty quick. It also gets you very dirty. If you go, be sure to bring water, munchies, and warm clothes. The mountain is "open" for only a few months for good reason. Even if it is baking in Odawara, it can be freezing at the peak.

Department Stores

There are seven major department stores in Odawara: Epo, Vivre, Nagasakiya, Vierge, Marui, NAK, and Shizawa. **Epo** is actually an eclectic collection of different shops and boutiques. **Vivre** is the newest store, and the top floor is dedicated to kids. **Shizawa** is part of the Seibu chain and contains fairly expensive designer boutiques and is popular with the older crowd. **NAK** has an unusual selection, including a crafts/yardage department and an interesting stationary section on the top floor. It also has a branch across the street for more expensive fashion and a number of restaurants and a bowling alley on the top floors. **Marui** (0101) and **Vierge** offer the standard fare. Marui has a second housewares and furniture store.

Many of the items you can find at department stores can be found for less at discount shops. However, there are interesting finds here and there.

Doctors

Dr. Manaka at **Manaka Hospital** (%23-3111) has lived in America and speaks good English. You can find the hospital on Route 1 on the far side of the castle.

Dr. Kuwata is a gynecologist located recommended by LIOJ teachers. His office is on route one between the Manaka Hospital and the Hayakawa bridge. Go down the side street next to Tidbit, walk one block, and look for a white two-story building on the left. If you would prefer a woman gynecologist, **Dr. Makabe** (%03-3402-0654) has many foreign patients, speaks good English and is fairly nice. Unfortunately, she is located in Roppongi. The Pill is available from both doctors.

Finally, there is the **Shiroyama Acupuncture Clinic** (%35-6409). Toshi Miura has studied acupuncture and massage in the US and Japan. His clinic offers acupuncture treatment, and massage, as well as yoga and shiatsu classes. See the LIOJ Guide (in the orientation file) for more information.

Do-it-yourself

The first place to try for a do-it-yourself project is **Beaver-Tozan d.y.i.** There are two in the Odawara area. One is near Tomizu station (Odakyu line) and the other is near the Hakone-Itabashi Station (Odakyu line). Depending on what you are looking for, you might also want to try **Daikuma Discount Store**. When all else fails, you can go to **Tokyu Hands** in Yokohama or Machida. Keep in mind, if you are planning on building something rather than buying it, it may very well cost many times what the manufactured item would cost.

Driver's License

You are forbidden in your contract from driving a motorized vehicle to and from work. Moreover, the Board of Education has strongly advised us not to purchase a car or motorcycle - though this advice has been duly ignored by at least one previous AET. Buying a car can be an ordeal in Japan, and actually driving it can be more of one. A motorcycle is marginally easier. It is often far more convenient, cheaper, and safer to go places by train.

All that said, here are the facts: if you want to drive a car, scooter, or motorcycle in Japan, you must be in possession of an international driver's permit and a valid foreign driver's license. You must also have remained in the country from which the license was issued for at least three months after it was issued. This combination is only valid for the first year of residence. After that, you must get a Japanese driver's license. If you think you will be driving, get a copy of **Rules of the Road** from the *Japan Automobile Federation, Shiba Koen 3-5-8, Minato-ku, Tokyo* (%03-3436-2811).

In order to get a Japanese driver's license, you must bring a valid license from your home country, a copy of your license with a translation provided by your country's embassy or the JAF, your Alien Registration Card, your passport, and a photograph (3cm x 2.5cm) to the local testing center where you will be required to take a written and road test. To get to the testing center take the Odakyu line to Ebina, switch to the Sotetsu line and get off at the Futamatagawa Street station, the eighth stop from Ebina. Exit to the north, take a bus bound for the *Unten Shikenjo* from the #3 bus stop. Go to window #10 on the second floor of building #2. The center is open weekdays 8:30-3:00 and Saturday 8:30-11:00. Call the center for more information.

Earthquakes

Yes, I know it may be a surprise, but we do have earthquakes in Japan. Moreover, Odawara is located on the fault that caused the Great Kanto Quake. We are overdue for the next "big one." They already have a name for it: "The Great Western Kanagawa Earthquake of 199X." The last two earthquakes have been seventy years apart and the one before that was late by one year. The pattern goes back at least seven quakes. The best thing to do is be prepared. If you are at school or work, follow the teachers to evacuate for the earthquake. Note that Sakawa and Hakuo are both in danger of tidal waves (*tsunami*). To prepare for an earthquake at home, follow these guidelines:

First, keep the gas turned off on your appliances and know how to turn off the gas for your apartment. You should also know where your fire extinguisher is.

Second, make an earthquake kit. At the very least, this should include a flashlight, water, and some canned food, and a bag of supplies if the need to evacuate arises.

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Third, know where your evacuation sight is. For the Kuno area, this is the Japan Tobacco playing fields out on the other side of the bypass.

During an earthquake, get in a solid doorway or under something solid. Open a door as soon as the quake begins; structural damage can make them unopenable.

Don't panic. You're sure to experience at least one quake while you are here in Japan. You might actually find them exciting.

Et Cetera

For anything not mentioned anywhere else in this chapter, go to **Tokyu Hands** in Yokohama, Machida, Shibuya (%03-5489-5111), or Ikebukuro. They have most things you would ever need, many things you never knew you needed, and some things you will never need.

A good network of friends cannot be overestimated. Your teachers and friends can help you find those impossible-to-find things.

Fast Food

There are two **McDonald's** and two **Kentucky Fried Chickens** within biking distance of the apartment. They offer roughly what you'd expect. There are also a few **MOS Burgers** (MOS stands for "Mountains, Ocean, Sunshine", not the slimy green stuff, in case you were wondering). Most of the junior high students rate the three shops something like KFC, MOS, Mac.

There is a new **Denny's** near city hall on the far side of MOS. Little on the menu will be familiar, but they have one of the only refillable coffees in town. No doubt one of the first places you will want to locate is Baskin-Robbins **31 Flavors** right outside Odawara station. **Mister Donuts** has decent honey-dipped donuts, and waxy chocolate donuts and the other refillable coffee. There is also a **Dairy Queen** near Kamonomiya station, but I don't know much about it.

Outside of Odawara, you can find **Wendy's** (at, for example, Landmark Plaza), **Burger King** (at Shin-Yokohama) and **Arby's** (try Shibuya for one).

See also "Pizza".

Facsimile

The fax number at city hall is 32-7855. Ask before you send a fax outside of the city. Each school also has a fax machine.

You can send a private fax from some convenience stores and from the NTT office in downtown Odawara. Pay faxes can now be found in some supermarkets and train stations.

Film and Developing

Film can be developed almost anywhere - convenience stores, supermarkets, even city hall. Usually, all they will require is your name and phone number. There is a one-hour photo shop near city hall.

Fish

Fresh fish is available at **Uokuni** across from Dai-ichi Kangyo bank in downtown Odawara. For even fresher fish, the fish market is open to the public at the Hayakawa harbor on certain Sundays. There are also shops in the harbor area that serve fish straight off the boat.

Furniture and Household Goods

There are a number of places for furniture in Odawara. If you don't mind a lot of expense, you can go to **Marui Home**, right near the station. This is better for window shopping than for actual purchases. The first place you should try for just about anything for the home is **Daikuma** discount store - the K-mart of Japan. Their prices really are quite good, even more so on sales. Head over the Iizumi-bashi bridge and hang a right at KFC. It will be about a half-kilometer down on your left. Closed Tuesdays. Also check the huge furniture store across from Daikuma.

The best second-hand store in town is **BX**. Walk down the street from Daikuma under the Shinkansen tracks and you will see it on the right.

For futons and cheap, self-assemble furniture, try **Topos** in Fujisawa or in Machida. For cheap VCRs and electronics, try **Nojima** on the second floor of the center outside of Daikuma station or head out to Akihabara in Tokyo.

For a lot more interesting finds, try **Seibu Loft** or **Tokyu Hands** in Shibuya.

Futons

Unless you decide to buy a bed for your time here in Japan, you will probably be sleeping on a futon. It is a matter of taste, some people love them and some people hate them. You should put the futon out to air on sunny days. The sun and heat kills the little critters that like to breed in the futons. Beat them with a stick or something to get rid of the dust and the dead critters (yuk). You can get the futon dry cleaned if need be and you will need to have it dry cleaned when you leave.

If you need to purchase a futon, try Daikuma or Topos.

Gambling

Gambling is available in two legal and semi-legal formats: pachinko and bicycle racing. The **New Light** pachinko parlor is the new one in town and has a prize shop that looks more like the Metropolitan Museum of Art gift shop. It's located near John Festa's. Note that with most pachinko parlors you must go around back to collect (illegal) cash winnings. Contrary to popular belief, not everyone plays pachinko for money, but most do. Some people are actually professional players and make a living out of playing pachinko. If you plan on playing for money, make your first trip with someone who is familiar with the process. Recently, the legislature has been debating licensing pachinko parlors to allow customers to play for cash winnings in order to chase organized crime from the business.

During the weeks that the bike races are on, the crime rate goes up and the city brings in a good portion of their annual budget. Just look for the posters and the unsavory characters downtown, and make sure you lock your bike.

Finally, mahjong is a very popular way to gamble with friends, although those friends are sometimes members of organized crime. If you are a good mahjong player, though, you should have little trouble finding a group to play with.

Game Rooms

Game Fantasia is the best known game room (*gemusen*) in town. It is easy to find, The third basement has a few pinball machines and the discount (¥50) games. Nearer to the apartments is the **Say Taito** game room in the "Silver Ball" pachinko palace on Route 255 on the near side of Iizumi-bashi Bridge. The newest and closest game room is in the **Super G View** pachinko parlor across from Japan Tobacco.

Garbage

Garbage goes out at both the "Hamano" buildings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The recyclable garbage is picked up once a month by the Monkey House. There are separate bins for aluminum, glass, and cans.

Hunting the *sodai-gomi* is an art in Japan. Everything from working stereos and CD players to antiques have been found by JETs and AETs in the trash. People have even found working mopeds and (in one case) \$40,000 in cash. Garbage hunting is still not a socially popular activity and it would be best to find someone to show you the ropes before you get too serious about it. Also, you may not want to let your friends and family at home know that you are digging through the trash to decorate. They might worry.

Gas

Your water heater(s) and stove are gas and you may have other gas appliances as well. Be sure to keep the cut-offs cut off when not in use. This will save you from being toasted crispy after an earthquake and keep you from leaving gas appliances on accidentally.

Gifts

Up near Kazamatsuri Station (two stops from Odawara on the Odakyu Hakone-Yumoto line), you will find **Odawara Suzuhiro** (%2231-91). Further along in Hakone, try the **Hatake no Chaya** (%0460-5-7090). There is also a shop across from Fujisawa station. Finally, you can find interesting souvenirs and such up at the **Oriental Bazaar**. Or around the **Asakusa Kannon Temple**.

Hair

The barber on the seventh floor at **city hall** also has cut some of the foreign teachers' hair, but you will need to make your intentions clear in Japanese and that might not even do the trick. Be sure to make a reservation. Finally, **Hiroshi Beauty Clinic**, on the third floor near McDonald's downtown claims they can cut foreign hair.

No matter what you do with your hair, you will be thought of as beautiful/strange, and you (probably) won't be having any job interviews. This has led past AETs to cut each other's or their own hair or, in one case, shave it all off.

Hang Gliding

There is a licensed gliding area in Hadano where you can learn to hang glide. You should be able to find someone to give you lessons, though I strongly recommend being fairly fluent in Japanese before trying.

Hiking / Camping

Odawara borders on a quasi-national forest nested between the Hakone and Tanzawa mountains and offers ample opportunity for short and long hikes. In particular, the Izu peninsula is well known for its natural beauty. For information on hiking in Kanagawa, pick up the pamphlet entitled "Hiking Guide" published by the Odakyu group and available at many of the stations along the line. There are also several books published on the subject.

There are a few choices for camping equipment. The best choice is to bring it with you from home or borrow it from someone. The next best choice is to rent. If you want to buy, there is

a sports store called **Arcus** out on route 255 towards Skylark. For more selection try **ICI Sports**. **Oshman's** has a small selection and **L.L. Bean** has expensive hiking boots (*see "Sports Equipment"*). You might also want to try **Rent-all** (%22-7080) near Jack's downtown.

For more information, contact **Friends of the Earth** (%03-770-6308, *Shinwa Building 501, 9-17 Sakuragaoka, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150*), who organize hiking groups. You may also want to contact the **International Adventure Club** (*c/o Y. Nakano, 1-27-7 Kohinata, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112*). They organize hiking, camping, skiing, and other outings. ¥4000/year for a subscription to their newsletter.

History

Odawara has an interesting history that starts (for certain) during the Yayoi Period (200 B.C. - 200 A.D.). The tomb of a ruler of this period is on the Kuno Hill behind the apartments. The first Odawara Castle was built in the twelfth century by the Kobayakawa clan. The Omori clan took over from 1416.

Soun Hojo from the Izu peninsula, attacked Odawara Castle and overthrew the Omori clan in 1495 and governed for five generations (hence the name of the festival) or 95 years. However, in 1590 after a 100 day battle Hideyoshi Toyotomi and his force of 150,000 succeeded in taking the city. During the Tokugawa shogunate, Odawara became increasingly important as a stopover along the Tokaido road for the entourages of the *daimyo* who had to travel up from the south.

The Tokaido railway, which started running in 1920 gave the city a further boost. Decades ago, Odawara and nearby Hakone became the most popular spot for honeymooners (hence, the "Romance Car"). However, with the advent of mass international travel, Odawara has lost some of its romantic appeal.

Homesickness

During your first weeks or longer, you will probably be pretty elated about being here, then the reality sets in. Many people also go through a slump around Christmas because of the timing, the holiday season, and the weather, and another slump around April. If you stay in Japan for a second year and stay here over the summer, expect another slump. There are a number of things you can do to get through these periods.

1. **Exercise.** This is probably the very best thing you can do, even if you aren't the athletic type. Go out for a walk or for a bike ride. It will give you a chance to find out what's around your apartment and will make you feel a whole lot better.

2. **Anti-Japanese behavior.** Go eat a hamburger, make some tacos, go to Tony Roma's, rent a video, go to a movie, get together with other foreigners and act like tourists or go to a bar where a lot of foreigners hang out, speak English, and in general pretend that you are not living in Japan. You can, for the most part, set how much immersion you want to experience. If you are going for full immersion, you can make only Japanese friends, not watch foreign TV, and do as the Japanese do. But if this is too much for you, Odawara is urban enough that you can make your lifestyle in Japan not all that different from your lifestyle at home with a little effort and a lot of money.

3. **Phone home.** You may note that many of the people who said they would write didn't. Just take a deep breath, try to forget about the expense for a while, and phone them.

4. **Go away.** Take a vacation. You don't have to be a tough guy and not take your time off. It is fairly cheap to fly to Malaysia, cheaper to stay there, and a world apart from Japan. When you return, you may find that Japan is more like home than you thought.

5. **Go home.** If you are very homesick, plan a trip home. The expense may not seem justified after only six months, but many people head home for Christmas. If it will make you happier for the next six months, do it. Also remember this feeling when the time comes to decide about renewing. If you are dying to go home at the end of the year, do you really think your feelings will change that much in a second year?

Horseback Riding

The closest place to take riding lessons is the **Joba Club Crane** (%0463-87-6610). There you can take a three month course (one lesson per week) and get your "riding license" that will allow you to rent horses in Japan. The cost is around ¥60,000. About 10 minutes by bus from Shibusawa Station (Odakyu line). There are a few private clubs in Hadano. Out on Izu, there are the **Amagi Horse Village** (%0558-36-8819), and the **Izu Shimoda Joba Club** (%0558-62-2919).

Immigration

City Hall will take care of your visa when you first come to Japan. If you decide to renew your contract, they will provide you with the documents required to renew.

If you plan to leave the country, you *must* get a reentry visa before leaving. If you do not have a reentry visa, you will not be allowed back into the country. The process is painless if annoying. You must go to the immigration office in Yokohama and apply for either the multiple (¥6000) or single (¥3000) reentry visa. Getting the visa will take less than an hour on a good day. The Yokohama immigration office is open from 9-5 (with an hour lunch break at noon) on weekdays and on Saturday from 9 until noon.

For Immigration information, call the **Yokohama Immigration Office** (%0456-81-6801) or the **Immigration Info Service** in lots-o-languages (%03-3213-8523).

Immunizations

You can get prescriptions for many preventative immunizations (e.g. prophylactic malarial drugs) at **Manaka Hospital** (%23-3111), but be prepared to pay more than ¥4000 just to have the doctor write the prescription and be prepared to tell the doctor what specific drug you want. Unfortunately, local doctors seem to be fairly ill-informed regarding immunization for international travel. To find out what the dangers are for the country you are visiting, check in a recent guidebook or call the embassy (you are registered, aren't you?) To find out what drug you need, either talk to your doctor at home, or call **The American Pharmacy** (%03-3271-4034) in Ginza. Note that immunizations are not covered by the health plan. You can also get some immunizations at the **Immunization Office** (*Nihon Kenneki Eiseikyokai*, %0456-71-7041) in Yokohama. For information regarding specific countries, call your embassy or the Tokyo Quarantine Office - but don't expect too much from either of them.

Insurance

You are covered by the **Japanese National Health Insurance Program**. When you go to a clinic or the hospital, you must present your health card (*kokumin kenko hoken hihoken shasho*). This system covers 90% of non-preventative health costs and medication.

JETs are also covered by the **Yasuda Health and Travel Insurance**. This policy covers you in case of an accident abroad, and will cover only the 10% not covered by your other policy while you are in Japan if you are injured in an accident.

Japanese Language Study

Unfortunately, we are just far enough away from Tokyo that finding a Japanese class can be difficult. Mr. Hatsusegawa ("Hatch", at Tachibana J.H.S.) helps to organize a rather informal gathering of foreign Japanese language students and native speakers every Wednesday night. They ask for ¥100 each class. If you are looking for something more organized, **Hiratsuka city** offers beginning classes twice weekly beginning in September. The class is free except for a textbook fee. Have someone call 0463-23-1111 ext. 597 in Japanese for more information.

There are a number of very popular and very good places to take Japanese in Yokohama, but once the commute is put into the equation, it can become very difficult. You might want to talk to the **Kanagawa International Association** (%0456-71-7070) or the **Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education** (%03-5386-0080). They may be able to put you in touch with a tutor in our area or let you know about classes. Check the *Japan Times* for listings regarding both government sponsored and private Japanese courses. If you feel that a private tutor is the best way to go, ask around. You may be able to find someone willing to trade Japanese lessons for English lessons.

If you are interested in a correspondence course, contact the **Kumon Institute of Education** (%0120-49-4625) offers courses for beginning and intermediate-level students. Course fee is ¥9,000 for each month. For those who have passed level two of the Japanese Proficiency Exam, the **Asahi Culture Center** (%03-3344-2527) offers a different arrangement. They give you a topic each month on which to write and then correct your essay. The cost is ¥16,270 for six months.

Depending on your level of Japanese, a subscription to the *Nihongo Journal* might be helpful. A subscription is ¥7,440 per year for the magazine only (a tape is also available). Pick up a copy at an English-language bookstore to see if it is suited to your needs.

Finally, each year the **Japanese Proficiency Exam** (*Nihongo Noryoku Shiken*) is offered at four different levels. The most basic level (4) requires a knowledge of basic everyday conversation, both hiragana and katakana and some kanji, and a very basic vocabulary, while the most advanced level (I) is required if you want to enter a Japanese University. It is perhaps the only universally recognized gauge of Japanese ability. Application materials become available in major bookstores nationwide (Libros on the top floor of Epo, for example) on 15 August. You must apply for the test by 16 September. The cost for the application packet is ¥450 and for the test itself is about ¥4000 or so. The nearest testing centers are in Tokyo. For more information (in Japanese, of course), dial 03-5454-5215.

Finally, JETs should note that the CLAIR-sponsored **Japanese Correspondence Course** is not available to Odawara-city AETs because (a) city hall doesn't want to pay for half of it, (b) the prefectural BoE won't allow prefectural-level AETs to take it and therefore city-level AETs shouldn't, and (c) the city pays for you to attend the Japanese orientation classes in Yokohama and feels that this is enough. Unfortunately, you may not take the class without the blessing of the city hall even if you are willing to pay for it on your own.

Jogging

There is a rubber indoor 230 m track at the **Minami Ashigara Sports Center** (*see Sports/Fitness Centers*) which costs ¥100 per use. There is also the **City Track** with a rubber running surface near Jonan J.H.S. In order to use this track, you must get a pass (*rikujo kyoogijo shiyo*) from city hall. The pass costs ¥1000 and is good for a year.

Karaoke

In a recent study, the Ministry of Education determined that karaoke was the most important and most broadly recognized element of Japanese culture both in Japan and abroad. It is becoming incredibly popular all over Asia.

Karaoke is a great way to improve your Japanese. But if you want to experience karaoke in English, then there are a few places worth trying. If you go to **Messe**, on the second floor of the Game Fantasia building, you can ask for one of their smaller karaoke boxes with English titles. Make sure you ask for one with a lot of English songs, not just "a few" (which means "My Way" and "Heartbreak Hotel"). This place gets stuffed on the weekends, so get there early or call and reserve a room. There is a branch of the same place over McDonald's. Also try **Bianca**, a bar in Odawara with a number of English songs. Near city hall is **New Star** with quite a few songs as well. The closest place to the "Hamano" apartments is **Music World**, but this seems to be mostly a hangout for high school and older couples who want to be in a small box to "sing."

Kerosene

Kerosene is sold by the nearby **Shell Gas Station** (across from the Japan Tobacco factory). If you are consistent in your consumption, you might also want to look into getting it delivered. Please note that if you are getting headaches or nausea, you should see if it isn't the fumes from the gas heater. Although electric heaters cost quite a bit more to run, they may be easier to live with.

Keys

You may want to get a copy of your apartment keys made. This can be done at many of the department stores. If you lose your keys, city hall has a copy. If you want your locks changed, it must be done at your own expense, and city hall will require you to provide them with a copy of the key.

Laundry

You are provided with a washer/spinner in your apartment. You will have to drip dry your clothes. Women are well advised not to leave underwear out on the ground floor as it is likely to be spirited away by one of the many gentlemen with an acquisitive urge toward undergarments. Last year, police raided the house of a man that had collected over eight thousand pairs. Also, take care not to leave your clothes out when there is a chance of high winds or rain. Yes, one of the current foreign teachers in Odawara (we won't say who) left his clothes drying outside while he was out of town for the day. A typhoon delivered a couple of pairs of very nice trousers to someone somewhere in Asia.

There is also a coin-op laundry out near 7-11. The washers are ¥300 a load, and the dryers are ¥100 every seven minutes.

There is a dry cleaner near Ashigara station.

Libraries

Odawara has a very nice new library. It is located near the Kamonomiya Station. They have a subscription to a couple of English-language news magazines and a good selection of music.

The prefectural library is in Yokohama. Also in Yokohama is the **Kanagawa International Association Library** (%0456-71-7070) on the ninth floor of the Sangyo-Boeki Center. Recently the JET Japanese language classes have been held here as well. The building is next-door to the Silk Center. They have a non-Japanese collection (mostly English) of about six thousand volumes. The library is open until six on weekdays, five on Saturdays.

There are a number of other public libraries at varying distances from Odawara.

Lost and Found

For items lost in Odawara, talk to city hall or the main police station. For items lost on a JR train bound for Tokyo (they all get there sooner or later) call lost and found at 03-3213-1880, or in English, call 03-3423-0111.

Love Hotels

One of the high points of Japanese culture, by some accounts. Of course, the center of love hotels is the well known "pink hill" in Shibuya. This is where you will find the gaudy castle-esque monuments. It is said that the Fantasy Castle at Tokyo Disneyland was changed from its original California model so that it did not resemble too closely the love hotels in Shibuya.

The love hotels closer to us in Kanagawa tend to be a bit more subtle. In fact you might have difficulty identifying them without these helpful clues: (a) the rates are usually posted outside - both for staying and for a "rest" of two hours; and (b) the car wash type hangings to prevent people from seeing what cars are in the parking lot.

Magazines

To get the latest info on what's going on in Tokyo either pick up a copy of *PIA* (in Japanese) or *Tokyo Journal* or call (03-3204-1106) for subscription information. There are a number of other English-language magazines published in Tokyo. You should be able to find them at an English book shop (e.g. Yurindo).

Also check out the **World Magazine Gallery** (03-3545-7227) in Ginza. They have a large number of magazines from around the world that you can copy or read in their coffee shop. Call for details or look in the orientation materials for a map.

See also Japanese Language Study, Libraries, Books.

Mail

There are a number of options when sending international mail. They fall roughly into the categories below:

Letters. *Shojou.* Letters and documents may weigh up to 2 kg. An aerogramme can be bought at post offices and can be sent anywhere in the world by air for ¥90. Letters can be sent air mail, surface mail, or discounted air (SAL). For airmail letters write "Airmail" or "Par avion" in the upper left corner, for SAL write "SAL". A standard airmail letter to the US or Australia should be affixed with ¥110 in postage for the first 10 g, ¥80 for each 10 g after. SAL costs ¥180 for up to 100 g. and additional ¥100 for each additional 100g.

Postcards. *Kokusia yubin hagaki.* ¥70 for airmail anywhere in the world.

Printed Matter. *Insatsubutsu.* A discounted rate (¥80 for the first 20 g, ¥40 for each 20 g after) for Christmas cards, copied documents, and catalogs. Write "Imprimé" or "Printed Matter" in the upper left corner and hand it in unsealed.

Mail Bag. For shipping your library home. First 5 kg is ¥8000, ¥1600 for each additional kg.

Small Packet. *Kogata housoubutsu.* Upper limit of 1 kg or 500 g depending on the destination. ¥200 for the first 80 g, ¥40 for each additional 20 g. Write "Petit paquet" or "Small Packet" in the upper left corner. Must attach a customs declaration. Send letters separately to avoid sending the entire thing at letter rate.

Parcel Post. *Kozutsumi.* For parcels up to 20 kg (to most destinations). Special labels are available at the post office. A 10 kg package shipped surface rate would cost ¥6750. Rates are as follows to the US and Australia:

	Up to 500 g (Up to 1 kg)	Each add. 500 g up to 5 kg	Each add. 500 g up to 10 kg	Each add. 1 kg up to 20 kg
Air	¥2500	+850	+750	+950
Surface	(¥1800)	+225	+225	+350

EMS. Allows a letter or document to be tracked on its trip around the globe. ¥1300 for up to 300 g. Note that for heavier documents (over 150 g) This is actually cheaper than standard mail. Prices increase for heavier documents.

Letters can be sent via registered (*kakitome*) for ¥410 or insured (*hokentskui*) for a base of ¥460. Inquire at the post office. There are a few other items with regards to the post office:

Non-delivery Notice. *Fuzai hatatsu tsuuchi.* When you are not at home and get a package (which seems to be a most common occurrence), you must go to the Central Odawara Post Office with this form. You will be required to show picture ID. If the package is heavy, you can have it delivered to a neighbor or sent to the Kuno post office. Have someone help you fill out the back of the notice or see the brochure in the orientation file at city hall.

Forwarding. *Tensou.* The Post Office will forward international letters to you when you return home, but not domestic mail.

For more information, call the International Mail Section at the Yokohama Port Post Office at 0452-12-3935.

See also Facsimile, Banking

Martial Arts

Japan is, of course, home to a large number of different martial arts. It is fairly easy to find a school for the major Japanese arts; namely, judo, aikido, kendo, karate, and kyudo (archery). You may have to look a little harder to find dojos for (at least in Japan) the more esoteric arts; jujutsu, aiki-jujutsu, iaido, kenjutsu, and ninjutsu are fairly difficult to find. Non-Japanese martial arts are also difficult, though it is possible to find some Chinese arts with a little looking, more often you will find Japanese equivalents (Nippon Shorinji Kempo, for example). Tae kwon do is not nearly as popular as it is in other parts of the world, perhaps because of the widespread dislike of Koreans, the largest foreign group in Japan. Finally, boxing (and "fitness boxing") is currently becoming very popular, and while I do not know of any boxing facilities within Odawara, I am sure that it would not be too difficult to find them now or in the near future.

For those widely available arts noted above, try one of the sports centers or ask your teachers. Also note that for karate, there is a wide range of different styles ranging from kata-centered to full-contact; shop around for the style best suited to your interests.

Movie Theaters

Major US releases seem to come out about six months later in Japan than they do in the States. The **Orion-za** movie theater shows foreign films on three screens. Movies are ¥1700, but you can often get a double feature. You can also bring food and beverages into the theater with you. You'll see billboards for Orion-za all over, but the posters outside of the Daiyuzan exit at Odawara Station also post the times.

There are two other theaters in Odawara. The one across from Epo shows mostly cartoons and Godzilla flicks. The nearest theaters outside of Odawara that show foreign films are the **Warner Brothers Theater** in Ebina (Odakyu-line) and the **Odeon-za** (%0466-23-

2780) in Fujisawa - both about 40-45 minutes away. The year-old Warner theater has a ladies night each Wednesday - ladies (and women in general) get in for ¥1000.

Museums

The **Hakone Open Air Museum** (%0460-2-1161) is a must-see. They have an excellent collection of sculpture and a number of paintings, all in a beautiful park setting. The admission is ¥1500, and the museum opens at nine each morning and closes at four or five depending on the season. The longest walk through the park is listed at ninety minutes, but it is more likely that you will spend several hours wandering about. Get off on Chokokuno-mori (Hakone-Tozan line) - about a forty minute ride from Odawara.

The **MOA Art Museum** (%0557-84-2511) is a large collection of woodblock prints, ceramics, lacquerware, and artwork from the collection of Mokichi Okada, leader of the Church of World Messianity (one of the many "new" religions in Japan). Closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission ¥1500.

Also in Atami is the **Atami Hihohan** (%0557-83-5572) museum, a collection of the erotic, the odd, and the silly. Get off at Atami station (Tokaido-line), less than a half hour trip from Odawara, and walk toward the far side of the harbor where you can see the Atami castle and the ropeway.

In Hakone-machi is the **Porsche Museum** (%0460-4-6055), one of the most important collections of street and racing Porsche automobiles outside of the factory museum, but admission is steep.

The **Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History** (%21-1515) opened in 1995. Certainly worth a couple of hours of diversion, especially if you like rocks and bugs. Get off at Iriuda Station (Hakone-Tozan line) and walk a short distance. Admission is ¥500.

The **Odawara Literature Museum** will interest the serious student of Japanese literature, but a second draw is the turn-of-the-century Spanish style house where it is located. A number of prominent literary figures spent time in this house. It is located on the far side of the castle - beyond route 1. Admission ¥200.

The **Odawara Flower Garden** is nothing to write home about, but a good place to head for a long walk and a picnic. If you would rather ride, get off at Iidaoka (Daiyuzan-line) and walk (about 20 min.) or take the bus (bound for Suwahara, get off at the last stop) to the top of the hill. Admission ¥200.

The **Ninomiya Sontoku Memorial Hall** (*Sontoku Kinenkan*) is a small museum devoted to the Japanese version of Abe Lincoln. You will see statues of Sontoku (reading with a pack of sticks on his back) at many of the schools. The museum tells his life story through displays and videos and includes a pair of his *zori*, some of his writing, and a small library. The English speech contest has been held here in the past. The hall is located just north of Tomizu station (Odakyu-line). Adult Admission ¥200.

The **Tokyo National Museum** (*Tokyo Kokuritsu Hakubutsukan*, %03-3822-1111) contains the worlds largest collection of Japanese art, including ukioe, kimono, swords, and sculpture. The large collection is rotated frequently. It is about a seven minute walk from Ueno station (Yamanote-line). Admission ¥400.

The **National Museum of Western Art** (*Kokuritsu Seiyō Bijutsukan*, %03-3272-8600) has a decent collection of French impressionists and a large collection of sculpture by Rodin. Admission ¥400.

In Yokohama, at Yokohama Sogo, you will find the **Hiraki Ukioe Museum**, which displays a collection of woodblock prints. Admission ¥500.

The **National Science Museum** (*Kokuritsu Kagaku Hakubutsukan*, %03-3822-0111) has a collection of stuff. Also located in Ueno park. Admission ¥400.

The **Crafts Gallery** (*Bijutsukan kogeikan*, %03-3211-7781), located near Takebashi station in Tokyo, houses laquerware, ceramics, textiles, bamboo works, and dolls, on a rotating basis. Admission ¥400-700, depending on what is currently being exhibited.

The **Daimyo Clock Museum** (*Daimyo Tokei Hakubutsukan*, %03-3821-6913) is also located near Takebashi station. The small museum displays about fifty clocks from the Edo era. The clocks displayed are changed annually. Admission ¥400-700.

The **Tokyo Metropolitan Edo-Tokyo Museum** (%03-3626-8000) is a *huge* museum devoted to the history and culture of Tokyo. A three-minute walk from Ryogoku station (JR Sobu line). Admission ¥500, plus a ¥3000 deposit for a cordless English-language headset.

Fukugawa Edo Shiriyokan (%03-3630-8625) is a recreation of Edo-era Edo (Tokyo). It is about a ten minute walk from Nezu station in Tokyo and closed during the summer. Admission ¥300.

In the same vein is the **Shitamachi Museum** (*Shitamachi Fuzoku Shiriyokan*, %03-3823-7451). It recreates life in the poorer sections of Tokyo before the Great Kanto Quake. Near Ueno station. Admission ¥200.

Finally, for a view of rural village life, try **Nihon Minka-en** (%0449-22-2181) in Kawasaki. They have moved more than twenty structures from other parts of rural Japan for your perusal. Closed Mondays, admission ¥100.

The **Taikokan** (%03-3842-5622) displays *taiko* (drums) from around the world. It is a one minute walk from Ryogoku station (JR Sobu- in Tokyo. Admission ¥300.

The **Sword Museum** (*Token Hakubutsukan*, %03-3379-1386) has some of its collection of 6000 swords on display. Near Sangubashi station (Odakyu-line). Admission ¥515.

The **Paper Museum** (*Kami no Hatsubutsukan*, %03-3911-3545) houses paper and paper-making paraphernalia. It is at the south exit of Oji station. Admission ¥200.

TEPCO Electric Energy Museum (%03-3477-1191) is a must-see for those fascinated by electricity and how it is made. Near the tracks to the south of Shibuya station. Free.

Many of the department stores in Tokyo and (sometimes) Yokohama have excellent exhibitions. In the last year, there have been exhibitions of David Hockney, Ansel Adams, Klee, and Margritte, among others.

Music

In Odawara, the best place to buy CDs is the top floor of Epo. If you wait, they have pretty good sales. Billboard top 100 CDs were recently on sale for ¥1600. You can also get import CDs for a decent price at **Tower Records** on Motomachi in Yokohama. When you buy CDs make sure they are the import version, the Japanese release is a bit more expensive to cover the translation of the lyrics or something. The best deal is if you have Internet access. Telnet to **cdconnection.com**. Even with shipping, their CDs will cost less than buying the same here.

If you don't want to buy, you can rent CDs at a number of locations. To start, try the shop on the second floor over Video People Jack.

See also Concerts.

Newspapers

There are a few English-language newspapers in Japan. *The Japan Times* (%03-3453-4350) is probably the best, but is also the most expensive. The *Daily Yomiuri* (%0120-43-1159, fax: 03-3216-8808) is not a bad paper, at least as far as keeping you up to date on the larger issues, and is a lot more reasonable at ¥2600/month. *Asahi Evening News* is another option. If you don't want to subscribe to any of these papers right away, rest assured that you will

be visited by salesmen sooner or later. The *Asian Wall Street Journal* is available by subscription and other major papers are available at large foreign book stores. If you need to see a recent issue of a smaller paper, check the newspaper section of the **National Diet Library**. It carries over eighty US papers and can get you copies of previous issues.

Onsen (Hot Springs)

Our area is well known for onsen (hot spring baths) and in particular *rotembura* or outdoor baths. In Hakone-Yumoto, you will find **Tenzan** (%0460-5-7446), an outdoor bath and indoor restaurant. Soak and then eat *teppanyaki*, or "do-it-yourself cooked stuff on an iron plate." Take a taxi from Hakone-Yumoto, bring a towel and soap. They are open from 10:00 am to 11:30 pm. Also in Hakone-Yumoto, **Kobo-no-Yu** (%0460-5-7667) and **Kappa Tengoku** (%0460-5-6121) are popular for short (and inexpensive) soaks on the way through. Remember your towel and soap.

Pizza

Little by little the pizza revolution is conquering Japan. In May of 1995, **Pizza Hut** (%38-2220) officially arrived in Odawara - a quantum leap forward for pizza lovers. Two other pizza places deliver to the apartment - **Pizza La** (%32-4300) and **Pizza You** (%32-0809) - but they do not come recommended.

Certainly, there is pizza at **Capricciosa**, and at **Itari-tei**, in some form at least, but if you are desperate eat pizza out, go to Chigasaki for the nearest **Shakey's**. Head straight out of the station. Walk a block or so and look to the left. Greasy but passable. Other alternatives are **Lenovans** (*see Bars*), or the **Witt House** (*See Restaurants*). Otherwise, there's always Tokyo...

Restaurants - Downtown Odawara

There are a lot of restaurants in Odawara. Here are just a few:

Capricciosa. By far the most popular restaurant among the foreign teachers in Odawara. Very friendly atmosphere, great food and lots of it. Try the rice balls, the carbonara, and the garlic and tomato pasta, but come prepared to eat a lot. Some items available for takeout. Closes at three and opens again at six in the evening for supper on weekdays. Across from John Festa's with flags out front. %23-7557.

Kamashi. On Higashi-dori. You will see the second floor window that says "Yakitori Kamameshi" and that is exactly what the place serves. Yakitori is tasty chicken bits and kamameshi is rice with stuff in it. This place is packed on Friday nights and can take some time (more than a half hour from when you order to when you first see food) as the kamameshi is steamed for each person. Closed Tuesdays. %22-0839.

Nakagawa. Good for a quick bite when "Maku" just doesn't sound that good. Standard *tei-shoku*, curry, spaghetti, and good gyoza. On the main road leading from the station on the right side before the Tri-Bank office.

Amataro. A great place if you want to drink beer and eat a lot of small dishes. Amataro can get quite crowded on Friday and Saturday nights. Good food and big beers, plus a point-and-order picture menu. Not cheap, but not ridiculously expensive.

Itari-tei. Walk from Orion-za away from the castle. Do not turn at the corner that heads toward the station, but continue on about a block. It will be on the far side of the street. Very popular with many of the JTEs. Often crowded, OK food. Some of the pizza is good. 11:30 am - 11:00 pm (1 am on Saturday). %22-6065.

Hamazushi. Across from Orion-za. Said to be very good, if a little on the pricey side. %22-4577.

Tagai Hanten. You will see this restaurant on the fifth floor next to 0101 just outside of Odawara station. Decent (by Japanese standards) Chinese. Quite good for parties (they have a back room available by reservation). 11:00 am - 9:30 pm. Closed on Wednesdays. %22-1871.

Restaurants - Around Odawara

Hagiya. Down the street from city hall. Owners are big sumo fans - this shows in the decor. Friendly service, good food. Standard *tei-shoku* (set meal) fare. Slightly above average prices (lunch around ¥1000 - same as Denny's) . %34-6978.

7th floor. Or the city hall cafeteria. OK food, OK prices, very crowded at lunch.

Tomoe. Just outside the city hall's rear entrance. Soba (buckwheat noodle) shop. Closed Saturday. %32-1818.

Heartland. Pricey and hard to get to without a car, but good food and a great view. Right over the Atsugi Bypass facing city hall - you can see it from the apartments.

Red Lobster. Not recommended for lobster or, for that matter, any of their more expensive dishes, but it has a great lunch salad bar breaking the mold (in both senses of the word) of most Japanese salad bars. Decent clam chowder, too. Near the outlet of the Sakawa-gawa river on the Sakawa J.H.S. (not the Hakuo J.H.S.) side.

Monte. Just outside of Kayama station, it is easily identifiable by the roma-ji sign hanging upside-down. Tasty and friendly *okonomiyaki* joint.

Sometime. *See Bars.*

East Place Lenovans. *See Bars.*

Restaurants - Further Afield

Witt House. An odd little restaurant built in the corner of a Nissan dealership from glass and railroad ties and decorated with clocks. They have a selection of pasta, pizza, pilaf, and salads. A bit out of the way on the road leading from Ninomiya to Hadano.

Soshu. Across the street from Witt House (above). Reportedly good for steaks, hamburger steaks, and other meaty dishes.

Tony Roma's. There is one in Yokohama and several in Tokyo, but the closest is probably the one just outside the station at the end of the Odakyu Enoshima-line. Very tasty. %0466-22-7337.

Old Spaghetti Factory. There is a branch of this popular US restaurant chain near Sagami Hara, on the border of Kanagawa. Call them to ask for better directions or hope you hit a cab driver in the know. %0427-41-5110.

In Roppongi, you can find the **Hard Rock Cafe**, or for the tastiest burger in town, **Johnny Rocket's**. There is an **El Torito** restaurant in Aoyama. Walk from the Oriental Bazaar and cross Aoyama-boulevard. Walk another block and it will be on your right.

Scholarships

There are ¥500,000 scholarships available for JET participants who wish to enter the **University of Hawaii's** Japan-focused Master of Business Administration (JEMBA). There

are also half-tuition scholarships for JETs available at the **Monterey Institute**, in Monterey, California. Contact these institutions for more information.

Shoes

There are a number of places to find shoes of all sorts in Japan - if you have feet that are no larger than about 27.5 cm. If you do happen to have the curse of the large foot, you might try looking at **Washington Shoes** in Ginza (03-572-5911) and Shinjuku or **Ten** in Shinjuku for a selection of dress shoes. **Hikari Club** (0458-44-2343), up near Yokohama, carries a hodgepodge of athletic shoes - a lot of Nike and some other odds and ends - in sizes up to 32 cm. To get to the Hikari Club, exit Kamioka station and turn left. Walk past the bus stops and on about two blocks. It will be on your left.

As with clothes, shop when you travel.

Sightseeing in Odawara

Though the guidebooks refer to Odawara as the "Gateway to Hakone" if they mention it at all, there are a number of historical sights within the city. The first, and most obvious, is **Odawara Castle**. The castle was destroyed by the Great Kanto Earthquake and rebuilt in 1963 using "modern ferro-concrete construction." It pales in comparison to the great Japanese castles, but there is a decent view from the top and it's worth a visit. Don't expect it to take all day.

At the end of the Daiyuzan line, you can take a bus or walk to **Daiyuzan Temple**. It is impressive enough, and made all the more so by the towering trees around it. It is a popular place for the New Year's temple visit (*hatsumode*) but worth a look during the warmer season as well. As long as you are in the area, take a bus out to **Yuhi-no-take**, a nice little waterfall.

Very close to the apartments is **Go-hyaku Rakan (Five Hundred Disciples of Buddha) Temple**, built in the 16th century. It is listed as one of the major tourist sights of Odawara, though we've never seen one there.

Skiing

Strangely enough, lift tickets and ski rentals are not as expensive in Japan as you might first expect. In many cases, they are on a par with those in California. While there is no guarantee that you will be able to rent boots in sizes above a 27.5cm, you can find up to 30cm (sometimes 31cm) at most large ski resorts. It's best to call ahead, or have someone call ahead for you, just to be on the safe side.

The bad news is the expense of getting to and staying at ski resorts. Travel expenses can be rough, but if you plan on anything more than a day trip, you will be met with the normal level of expenses for Japanese hotels and food.

The most revered ski resort is probably **Zao**, though closer skiing in Nagano is available. Since the economic bubble burst, prices on package tours to Hokkaido have been diving. Package tours including ski rentals, lift passes, hotel, some meals, onsen, and transportation (airfare and bus from airport), now cost less than a round-trip ticket to Sapporo cost a couple years ago.

If you are just going as a caprice, you may want to try **Fuji Tenjin-yama** (0555-85-2000), which is quite close.

Your best bet is to either ask someone who is an experienced skier or head to 7-11 and pick up one of the dozens of resort guides. Watch your desk at school for fliers detailing deals from the travel agencies. As a final note, it is best to put together a group of people to bring prices down and AJET sponsored an inexpensive trip to Hokkaido this year (1995).

Sports/Fitness Centers

You have a myriad of options around Odawara varying greatly in cost and convenience. The most obvious is the **Odawara Sports Kaikan** on the other side of the castle from the station. The center has a small weight room and a number of martial arts classes for different styles (judo, aikido, kendo, a couple of styles of karate). To use the weight room, you must first take an orientation class. Inquire at the front desk.

Overall, the best place is **Minami Ashigara Sports Center** (%72-1171). The center is about ten minutes from Johoku J.H.S. and about thirty minutes from the apartment by bike. You can also follow the sign and walk ten minutes from Wadagahara station (Daiyuzan-line). It's hard to miss. It has an indoor running track and swimming pool available for a negligible fee (¥300 for swimming, ¥100 for running). It also has a much nicer weight room (¥100) than its downtown Odawara counterpart. As with the Odawara sports center, you must attend an orientation before using the weight room. The classes are held once each month. They are limited to forty people each month and fill quickly. It is a good idea to get there when registration opens on the first of each month.

There are two public outdoor pools on the beach open during the summer and almost all the schools have pools.

If you are very serious about working out and feel you need the "extras", you may want to join a private health club. There are a number in the Odawara area: at Daidoh plaza, near Kamonomiya station, and just north of Hotaruda station, for example. Prices can be prohibitive. Daidoh Sports Center advertises a discount rate of ¥100,000/year when paid in advance. Prices become marginally better as you get further towards Hiratsuka, but how often will you work out if it means commuting forty-five minutes each way?

Sports Equipment

There is a shop called **Kubota** in downtown Odawara, next to McDonald's with a modest selection. Closest to the apartment is a shop on route 255 called **Arcus** that carries fishing and camping gear. There are also **Oshman's Sporting Goods** stores in Machida and in Harajuku (%03-3478-4888). You might also try **Tokyu Hands** in Machida or Yokohama. Finally, there is **ICI** (%03-3209-5547). Exit the Shin-Okubo Station (Yamanote-line) and turn right. ICI is a couple of blocks down on the left and especially good for camping gear.

Sumo

Sumo is broadcast live on channel 3 during tournaments and if you want to skip all the mid-bout pomp and the lower-ranked rikishi, tune into *Sumo Digest* on channel 10 at 11:20 p.m. Sumo has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity as of late, so tickets to see grand sumo live are very expensive - especially for the tournaments held in Tokyo. You can call the **Kokugikan** (%03-3623-5111), but usually good tickets are only available from someone with "connections", although you can get some seats by waiting in line very early on the morning of a tournament. There are also sometimes tournaments among the children at some festivals and it would probably be fairly easy to see a college level tournament.

Supermarkets

The nearest supermarket is **Yaomasa** - across the street from the City Hospital. They have a decent selection and decent prices. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and they are closed on Tuesdays. If you need a market on a Tuesday, you can bike up the hill a little to **Saen Foods**, though this market isn't so nice, and it might be worthwhile to go into town. **7-11** is also

a viable alternative. The prices are not much more than those at the market and it carries some items not available at Yaomasa.

You can find many foreign foods downtown at the **Tozan Supermarket** and in the basement of **Vivre**. For foreign candy and snacks, hit the top floor of **NAK**, or **Maruta Joy** across from Baskin-Robbins. For a more extensive selection of foreign foods, you will either need to go to **Kinokuniya** in Kamakura (on the E-no-den side of the station) or in Aoyama (%03-3400-0022), to **Union** on Motomachi in Yokohama, or to **National Azabu** (%03-3442-3181) near the Hiroo station (Hibiya-line) in Tokyo. Some of these stores will deliver your purchases - inquire. If you have a certain item that you can't live without, try the **Foreign Buyers Club** (%078-857-9001, fax. -9005). It costs ¥1000 to join and you must order most items by the case (e.g., 24 cans of Spaghetti-O's will cost you ¥177/can), but the prices are quite reasonable and they deliver to your door. They also carry vitamins and other non-food items and this year have started selling meats, cheeses and other cold stuff.

Taxes

The US has a tax treaty with Japan. You owe no taxes for the first two years. Though you need not pay taxes on your earnings, you must file. As a foreign filer, you get an automatic two month extension. Your first year abroad you must file a further extension so that you can prove that you will remain in Japan for a calendar year. Be careful if you return home not to spend more than about a month. Any more than this and you cannot declare your "tax home" to be Japan and you will invalidate your foreign exemption. When you request your tax forms, ask for publication 776, the overseas tax package; "Publication 54 - *Tax Guide for US Citizens and Residents Abroad*"; and form 2350, for the extension. For more information, or publications, contact:

United States Embassy, IRS
10-5 Akasaka, 1-chome
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107
Tel: 03-3224-5466
Fax: 03-3224-5274

Note that last year this office ran out of forms and had to order them from the States, don't wait until the last minute (like everyone else). You need not file state income taxes unless you had income in that state during the year, have a residence in that state, or wish to retain residency.

Americans will have to begin paying taxes when they enter their third year. As no Odawara AETs have gotten this far, we really don't have any details.

Our Australian contingent had difficulties last year. You will probably have to pay taxes on your Japanese earnings to Australia. That being the case, make sure that you do not pay taxes to the Japanese government. Find out what you should be paying from the Australian embassy or tax authorities. Do not rely on city hall to get all the information for you.

Taxis

Taxis may seem expensive when you first get here, but after a while you realize that they are not so bad when used properly, especially when used in a group or when you have a lot of stuff. Keep in mind that taxi drivers tend to have cursory knowledge of the areas they serve, so be ready with directions on how to get where you are going or an exact address so that the driver can look it up on a map or ask someone on the street. Red lights mean the taxi is available, green means it is taken or off duty. Yellow lights (not as common) mean that they are reserved or otherwise unavailable. Even if a taxi is "available" it may not stop if waved down. This is especially true on Friday and Saturday nights, in certain areas where much of the clientele tend to

be drunk (although this isn't a problem if you call for a cab), and, sometimes, because you are foreign.

There are taxi stands on both sides of the station. If you are taking a taxi from the station to the apartment, it is cheaper to leave from the Shinkansen side of the station. There are two stands, one for larger and one for smaller cabs. The smaller cabs can squeeze in four people with no bags and cost less than the larger ones. It costs a bit less than ¥1000 to get to the apartment from Odawara station by taxi. You can call 22-4155 for a cab in Odawara.

Telephone

As for public phones, color indicates use. Gradually, we are seeing more and more of the gray international and ISDN phones. These take ¥10 and ¥100 coins and can call anywhere. Here is a guide to the other types of phones:

Red or Pink: Local or inter-city calls. Up to six ¥10 coins.

Yellow: Same as above, but hold ten coins.

Blue: Same as above, but some take ¥100 coins.

Green: By far the most common type now, these are the same as above, but take phone cards as well. Some are actually international phones. These can be identified by a gray plate on the front.

Phone cards can be bought almost anywhere: convenience stores, kiosks, vending machines.

International calls can be completed by any of a number of carriers. The major carriers have been engaged in a pricing war as of late, but **ITJ** (0041) seems to have the lowest rates consistently.

Another option is callback services. Using these services, you call a number in the US, let it ring, and hang up. The computer on the other end then calls you back from the US and prompts you to enter the telephone number desired. You pay for the call from the States rather than from Japan. Costs can be cut by 50-80% depending on the time of day. Drawbacks: you need a credit card, a touch-tone phone, and you need to be able to waste a bit more time in connecting your calls. But for most, it is worth the time. One such call-back service is **World-Link** (%03-5750-3262), but there may be other, better systems available.

Television

There are eight stations available as follows:

1	NHK (General)	6 TBS
3	NHK (Educational)	8 Fuji
4	NTV	10 Asahi
5	TVK (42)	12 TV Tokyo

Every once in a while, there is a show on in bilingual. In order to receive the second audio channel, you must have either a bilingual TV (the one provided by city hall is not), a bilingual VCR, a bilingual capable radio, or a bilingual converter box. The latter two devices are no longer easy to find, and may not even be built any more because most new VCRs and TVs have a built-in converter.

After you have been in your apartment for a while, you will be visited by the **NHK** man. He will want your money. Theoretically, you must pay NHK if you have a television. However, if you do not watch the TV, you have a fairly good case for not paying the fee. Of the former and present foreign teachers in Odawara, less than half have paid the NHK fee. However, NHK collectors are notorious for being persistent and quite rude.

There are several satellite TV stations as well - two run by NHK and one private. The private station is called **Wowow** and runs foreign movies and television shows. It is, however, very expensive, and requires a substantial capital investment in equipment and start-up fees. Cable is very slowly becoming available, but it is hooked up to each house individually (i.e., there is no grid) and is extremely expensive.

Tennis

There are outdoor courts at the **Minami Ashigara Sports Center** (*see Sports/Fitness Centers*) and at **Ino-no-mura** (?) in Shin-Matsuda city residents can use the courts (some of them lit) for free. Call the **Odawara Indoor Tennis & Golf School** at 24-1530 for tennis lessons and 34-0864 for golf. Tennis lessons cost around ¥20,000 a month plus a ¥5,000 sign-up charge. Contact the school for schedules and more information.

At junior high schools, students play "soft" tennis. This is tennis played with soft rubber balls and slightly different racquets. Apparently it was decided that regular tennis balls are far too dangerous, though the boys still play hard baseball.

Theater

Tokyo is a major city and there is a theater scene of sorts. As far as western theater is concerned, many tours and musicals end up in Tokyo. For example, the Royal Shakespeare Company has put up productions in Tokyo (at the Globe) for eight years running, and "Cats" and "Phantom" have had long runs. Several organizations of expatriate theater groups also put on plays now and again. Many large ballet companies also include Tokyo in their tours. Try the ticket office at Shizawa for information.

Yugawara High School has gained some renown with their drama program. Odawara has a group of amateur actors, some of whom work at city hall. They are, however, definitely amateurs.

There are many opportunities for seeing traditional Japanese theater as well. For kabuki, you can buy a ticket for one act (probably a good length if you have not seen kabuki before) the day of the performance at the **Kabuki-za** in Tokyo (03-3341-3131). As for noh, there is a performance at the **National Theater** in late April each year that is geared for foreigners and includes a short lecture on the form and an English program - call 03-5990-9999 for tickets or you can get them at the box office. Japanese puppet theater, or **bunraku**, has enjoyed a history as long as any of the other Japanese arts. Bunraku is also performed at the National Theater. There is also a bunraku troupe in the Odawara area with very, very long history.

You may also be interested in seeing a **butoh** performance while you are in Japan. It is ironic while this modern dramatic form is more popular outside of Japan, it is still performed most often within Japan and by Japanese. There are several performances each year. Check the arts page or theater listings in any of the major newspapers, or for a more complete listing, see the *Tokyo Journal* or *Tokyo Time Out*.

Trains

Four train lines run into Odawara station: Odakyu, Daiyuzan, JR Tokaido, and *Shinkansen* (bullet train). Buy a ticket at the vending machine for a regular ticket or from the "Green Window" for JR or Odakyu office for Odakyu. You can buy eleven tickets for the price of ten (*kaisuken*) or a pass (*teikiken*) at the window (*madoguchi*). To get a pass from Ashigara to Odawara station, fill out the application at the station in Odawara and bring it to the Odakyu office.

Here is a basic vocabulary to help you out at the ticket window:

ticket	<i>kippu</i>
one way	<i>katamichi</i>
round trip	<i>ofuku, shuyuken</i>
express	<i>tokkyu</i>

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limited express	<i>kyuko</i>
rapid	<i>kaisoku</i>
local	<i>kaku eki densha</i>
reserved seat	<i>shiteiseki</i>
next train	<i>tsugi no densha</i>

Note that the express train (*tokkyu*) trains on the Odakyu line are called *Romance Cars*. Most *kyuko* trains do not stop at Ashigara station, but the *kyuko* trains with a red dot stop at every station (including Ashigara) before Shin-Matsuda. On the JR Tokaido line the Rapid (*kaisoku*) "Acty" costs the same as a regular train and gets you up to Yokohama in about forty-five minutes.

There are a number of different ways to get to **Tokyo**. You can take a regular express to Shinjuku for ¥750 (about an hour and fifty minutes), a Romance Car to Shinjuku for ¥1450 (about an hour and twenty minutes), the JR Tokaido line to Tokyo for ¥1470 (about an hour and a half), or the Shinkansen to Tokyo for about ¥3000 (about forty minutes).

Just a quick note. Be careful when coming home from Tokyo or Yokohama. Many trains on the Odakyu line split at Sagami-Ono, the rear end of the train heading to Enoshima, the front to Odawara. The same kind of thing happens on the Tokaido-line, with half the train turning around and heading the other way at some stations (notably Kozu). Best bet is to just ride in the front cars, and if a lot of people seem to be leaving at a particular station and moving to the front of the train, move fast.

There are also a number of ways to get to and from **Narita Airport**. The quickest way is to take the Shinkansen from Odawara to Tokyo and the NEX the rest of the way. This takes just over an hour and a half, depending on how long you must spend in Tokyo and costs just over ¥6000, one way. This is actually quite economical compared to some of the other options, but if you take the "Airport Narita" from Tokyo rather than the NEX, it ads about 25 minutes and saves about ¥1700. Next is the Romance Car/NEX which takes about two hours and twenty minutes and costs about ¥4600. Taking the express to Yokohama and then the NEX ends up costing more than either of above and isn't any quicker, but you can take a regular train to Yokohama (¥930, about 1 hour), and then the "Airport Narita" (¥1850, about two hours). Finally, there are regular trains all the way or in some combination with the "Skyliner", the cheapest option until you factor in the hassles of scheduling and standing. In any case except the last, you should make reservations or buy tickets well in advance (up to one month in advance) of your flight. Both the NEX and the Shinkansen fill up very quickly. You can either reserve the return at the same time or not as you like. If you miss an NEX from the airport (if your flight comes in late, it takes longer than you expected to clear customs, etc.) you can use your ticket for standing on a later NEX, but we've never had any trouble just getting tickets on the next NEX after we arrived.

During periods that students are on break, you can buy a special **discount ticket** called the *Seishun Ju-Hachi Kippu*. You usually must buy them five at a time for a very low fixed price (less than ¥3000). Each of the tickets allow unlimited travel during a twenty-four hour period. The only drawback is that you may only ride regular trains. If you leave from Odawara station just after midnight, you can arrive in Hiroshima almost twenty-four hours later.

There are also the misleadingly-named "**Free-Kippu**". These are available for the Izu Peninsula, Kamakura-Enoshima, and Yokohama (etc.) and allow you unlimited travel in the area for one day. During the holiday seasons, there will be a special stand set up in Odawara station to sell the Hakone Free-Pass, but you can buy them other times at the ticket counter. There are also Free-Kippu available for areas outside Kanagawa - ask at the green JR window.

Finally, a quick note on the **Japan Rail Pass**. Only those that have a tourist visa may make use of this pass, and it is only available overseas. If you have someone coming to visit you and they plan on seeing a lot of Japan, this probably makes sense. Keep in mind, however, that if you are traveling together, they will naturally want to take the faster mode of transportation and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have otherwise. Note that they must exchange their voucher for the pass and this can only be done at a major station. It's best to

exchange it at the airport train terminal, but if they forget or can not do this, they can exchange it at the Yokohama station.

For any **JR-East related questions**, call 03-3423-0111. For **Timetables**, see page][, ask for a small timetable at any particular station, or buy a timetable book at any kiosk.

Travel

There are a number of travel agents up in Tokyo that offer discount tickets. **Number 1** (%03-3200-8871) advertises the most, and has been around for a while, but in our experience they are not so reliable. Try **Just** (%03-3362-3441, talk to Ms. Nakayama) or **A'cross** (%03-3340-6741). These agents offer broken up tour tickets and the tickets cannot be changed or canceled without a substantial charge. They usually send you a voucher that you must exchange for a ticket at the airport. Be sure to arrive at the airport well in advance of your departure time.

For domestic travel, check out the fliers that are constantly distributed by travel agents at the schools. Package tours are often very reasonable. Also see the section on trains for information about the *Seishun 18 Kippu*.

Video Rental

The closest video rental shop is **Look Video**, near 500 Rakan station. The cost is ¥310 each night and they tend to get the big releases. Downtown, **Video People Jack's** has an excellent selection, but weekend rates are ¥510 per night. If you watch a lot of TV in your home country, arrange for someone to send you tapes. The video system is the same in America and Japan, tapes recorded on other systems can be converted.

Water Sports

For sailing, best bet is to make rich friends, but baring that you might want to check with the **Odakyu Enoshima Sailing Club** (%0466-24-4011). There are also other places around Enoshima that rent small sailboats, wind surfing equipment, and jet skis. You may want to contact the **Atami Marina** (%0557-68-2316) or in Kamakura, the **Aphrodia Wind Surfing Club** (%0467-24-9432).

Zoos

The **Odawara Park Zoo** is located in Castle Park at the foot of the Odawara Castle. You can see a number of bears, a lion, a bunch of monkeys, some interesting birds, and our elephant. The elephant is mean (killed a zoo-keeper a year or two back), the lion lethargic, and the bears psychotic. The cages are far too small. If you want to see monkeys, there are a number of places locally where you can glimpse them in the wild.

The **Ueno Zoo** is much more like a real zoo, but still nothing to write home about. They do have a few pandas. The cages are on the small side, but a recent initiative has relocated species to zoos where they are most likely to have proper facilities.

Don't forget **Sea Paradise** in Yokohama (*see Amusement Parks*). See seals and ride roller coasters -what else could you want? Except perhaps the "world's tallest aquarium", the **International Aquarium** located in Sunshine 60, Ikebukuro.

Metric Conv. & Clothing Sizes

Temperature

$$F^{\circ} = (C^{\circ} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32$$

$$C^{\circ} = \frac{5}{9} (F^{\circ} - 32)$$

Length

$$1 \text{ inch} = 2.54 \text{ cm}$$

$$1 \text{ cm} = 0.394 \text{ in}$$

$$1 \text{ foot} = 0.305 \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ m} = 39.37 \text{ in}$$

$$1 \text{ mile} = 1.609 \text{ km}$$

$$1 \text{ km} = 0.621 \text{ mile}$$

Weight

$$1 \text{ oz} = 28.35 \text{ g}$$

$$1 \text{ g} = 0.035 \text{ oz}$$

$$1 \text{ lb} = 453.6 \text{ g}$$

$$1 \text{ kg} = 2.2 \text{ lb}$$

Volume

$$1 \text{ US gallon} = 3.78 \text{ l}$$

$$1 \text{ liter} = 0.265 \text{ US gallon}$$

Men's shirts

US, UK	14.5	15	15.5	16	16.5	17	17.5
Japan	37	38	39	40	41	42	43

Men's suits

US, UK	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
AU, NZ	93	97	102	107	112	117	122
Japan	S	M	-	L	-	LL	-

Men's shoes

US, CN	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8
AU, NZ	6	6.5	-	7	7.5	8	8.5
France	-	-	41	42	42	43	44
Germ.	40	40	41	42	43	44	44
UK	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5
Japan	24.5	25	25.5	26	26.5	27	27.5

Women's dresses

US, CN	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
AU, NZ	12	14	16	18	20	22	-
FR, Ger	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
UK	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
Japan	7	9	11	13	15	-	-

Women's blouses

AU, NZ	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
UK	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
Japan	7	9	11	13	15	-	-

Women's hosiery

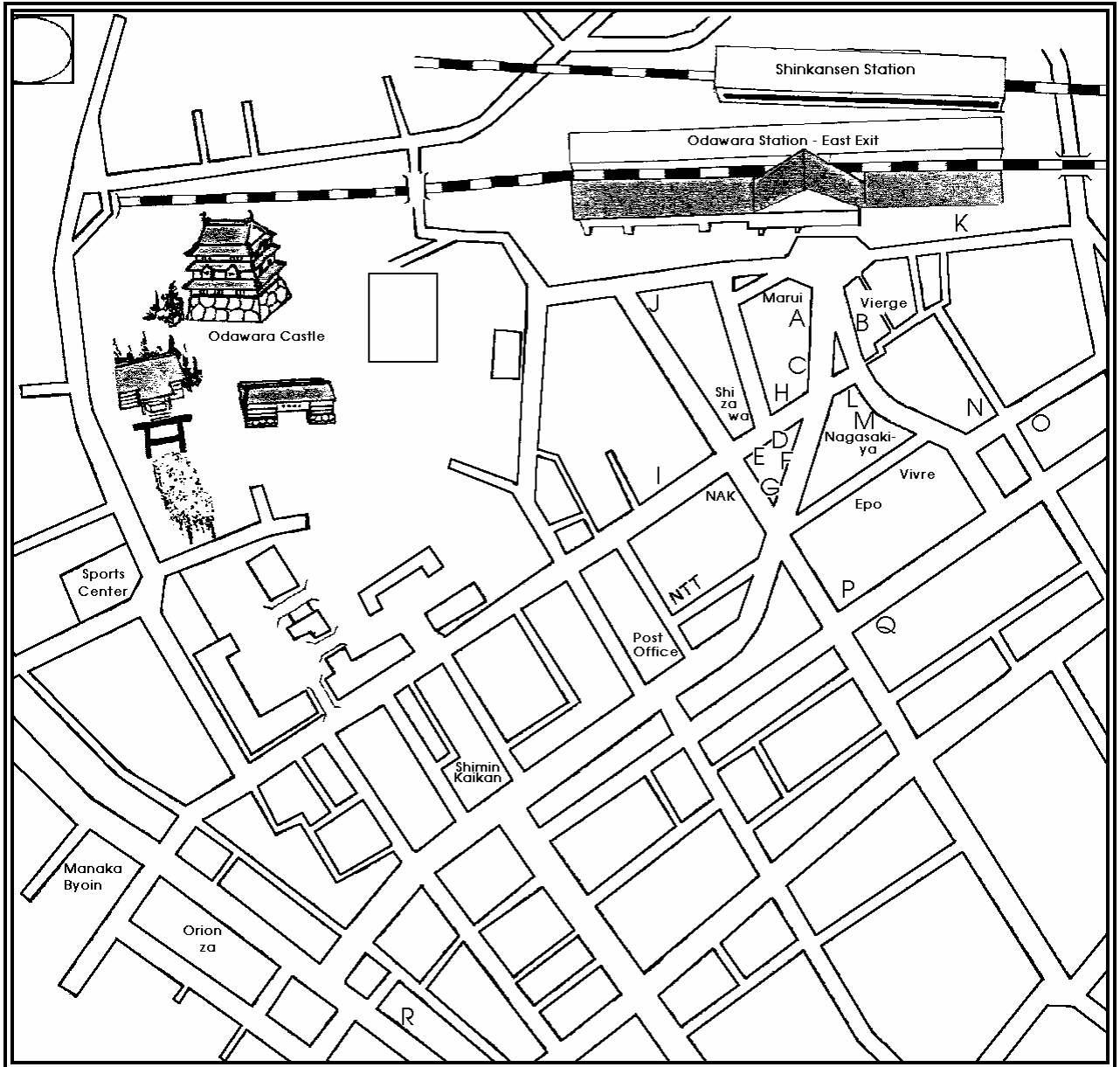
FR, Ger	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
UK, US	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	11
Japan	20.25	21.50	22.75	24	25.25	26.50	-

Women's shoes

AU	-	-	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5
FR, Ger	35	35	36	37	38	38	39
UK, NZ	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5
US, CN	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8
Japan	22	-	23	-	24	-	25

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Restaurants/ Bars

- Amataro (M)
- Cafe 10 (I)
- Capricciosa (O)
- Itari-tei (R)
- John Festa's (N)
- Kamashi (K)
- KFC (C)
- McDonalds (E)
- Mister Donuts (J)
- MOS Burger (G,)
- Nakagawa (F)
- 31 Flavors (A)

Other Food

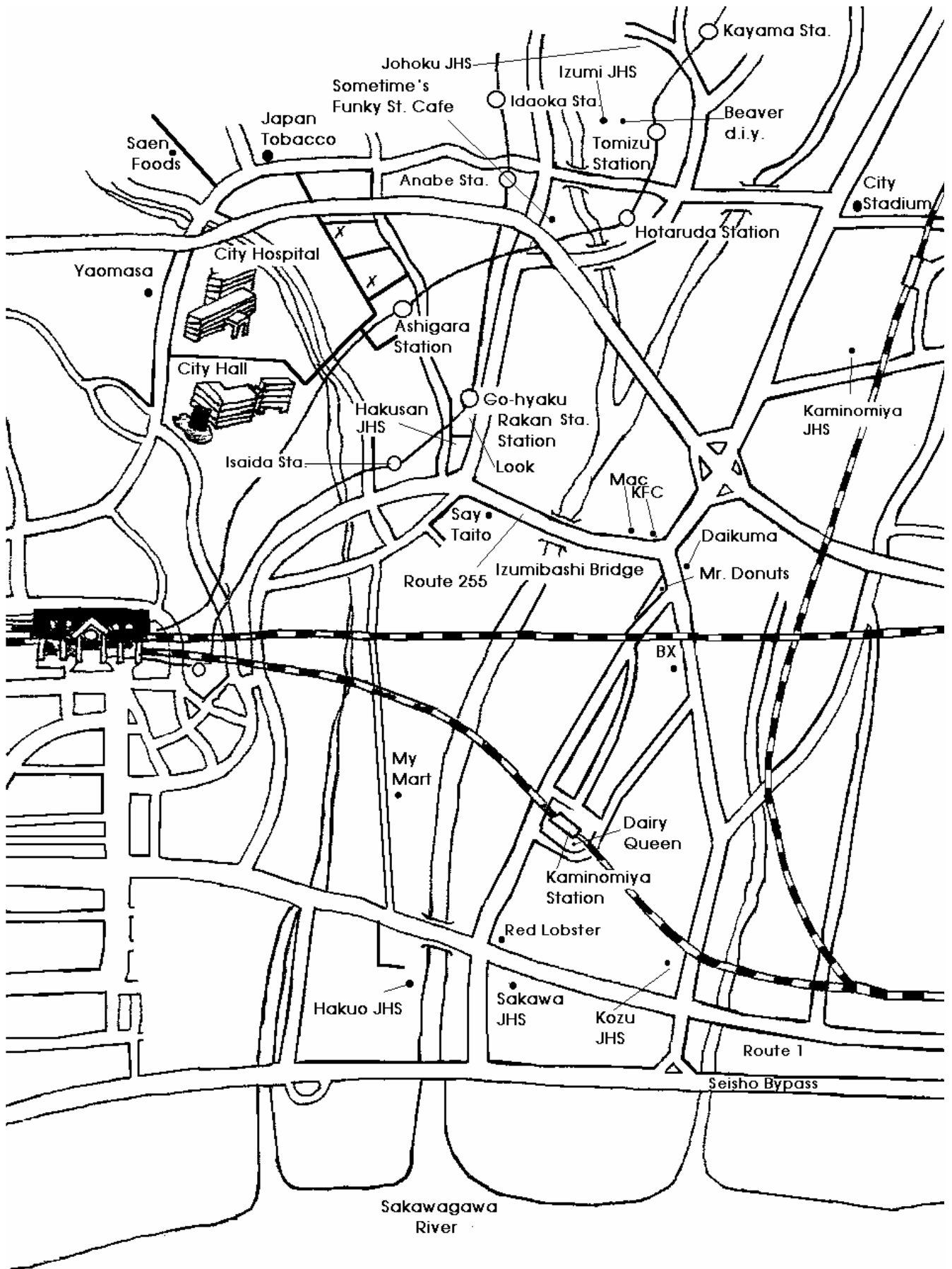
- Little Mermaid Bakery (L)
- Maruta Joy (B)
- Tozan Market (H)

Miscellaneous

- Game Fantasia (M)
- Iseji Book Store (Q)
- Messe Karaoke (D,M)
- Video People Jack (P)

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Frequently Asked Questions

I hate (insert your least favorite) school. Isn't there any way I can load this school off on another AET?

Well, not really. We have found that some AETs work better with some schools. In other words, it is absolutely possible that you will hate the same schools your predecessor loved. This is as good a reason as any to switch schools. Moreover, periodically changing schools would give the students a chance to be exposed to teachers with different cultural and language backgrounds and with different teaching styles.

However, at the scheduling meeting for the 95-96 school year, the possibility of changing schools each quarter was discussed and dismissed. The teachers preferred the present system of keeping teachers at the same schools indefinitely because they thought it would be too much trouble to assimilate new teachers. You may be able to change this with consensus among the AETs and a conscious effort at consensus building among the influential English teachers at each school.

Ms. X can't speak English, is a boring teacher, and is rude to me. Can I strangle her in her sleep?

Well, not really. For one thing, murderers tend to confess their crimes within a fortnight and you would cause the police all sorts of consternation by allowing a crime to remain unsolved.

Even if you don't get along personally, it doesn't mean you cannot teach together. This may require that you simply hand the dominant role over to the Japanese teacher and hope for the best. If this results in your being left in a corner for the period, this happens consistently, and no amount of negotiation with the teacher in question helps, mention it to your supervisor and/or covertly try to get the principal or vice-principal to sit in on a lesson. This might make matters a little more survivable or far worse.

If the offending teacher is not an English teacher, you should ascertain whether or not he/she is rude to everyone. Rude people are often (in our experience) described as "shy." In other words, not saying good morning to you, not making polite conversation, sitting at your desk and ignoring your requests to move, or blowing smoke in your face (really) are signs that someone is "shy." At the very least, if you realize that the person is universally disliked by the office, you might not feel personally offended.

If the person seems evasive toward you and you alone, you can probably conclude (if you showered that morning and are not physically repulsive) that this is due to the fact that you are a foreigner. There are two things you should do in this case. First, practice your Japanese. Second, read *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie. The book is very applicable to living in Japanese society.

Man, I've had this cold all winter. Do I have mononucleosis?

Well, not really. Before you decide that you have some dread disease, be assured that all of the AETs have had a recurring cold during their first winter in Japan. This is probably because they were being exposed (and there is no better place for this than a school) to germs their body hadn't met before. In our experience, the second year is much, much better. Ask your teachers about cold remedies, and if you are really sick, just stay home. There is no reason to make yourself and everyone else miserable. Also, save going to the doctor unless you are very sick.

Japan has no secret cure for the common cold but you will be prescribed a whole host of drugs to treat the symptoms. (Doctors in Japan make most of their living by distributing drugs.)

Do AETs in other cities get treated like this?

Well, not really. For one thing, JETs working for the prefecture do not get their housing paid for. There are JETs and private AETs that get better treatment (sent home for summer vacation, given a house and car to use, teach three classes a week, etc.), but the vast majority have it worse. You may find that, locally, the prefectural JETs get more holidays and that enigmatic "study leave." This is an effort to make up for the fact that they have to blow a lot of dough on housing each year. As a side note, several AETs that have been working for other cities have applied for jobs at ours, so it must be attractive to somebody.

How the heck did this person get to be an English teacher? Is his Dad the mayor?

Well, not really. If he is an average teacher he has studied English for as many as ten years, has been abroad, but not for any significant length of time, became a junior high school teacher because he did not go to a four year university, did not pass the test to become a high school teacher, or because he wanted the freedom associated with teaching at the junior high level. There is a possibility that he didn't want to become a teacher at all and studied English literature in translation at university. There is a good possibility that the only professional training he has received has been a few weeks of assistant teaching dictated by the Ministry of Education, that he must teach within narrowly defined limits, and that he has had little chance for professional development or continuing education. While some of our teachers have influential friends, none are directly related to the mayor to the best of my knowledge.

Everyone is making it sound like if I don't stay on for another year, the whole program will fall apart. Will it?

Well, not really. If you do stay on it will save city hall a bundle on airline tickets and other odds and ends, and it is much nicer (usually) to work with a known quantity, but this is an exchange program not a career. Don't worry too much about your supervisor's / teachers' ability to continue working after you leave. The decision depends much more on your own aims and feelings.

I'm really homesick and I really don't feel like my work here means anything, but the money is good. Should I stay on another year so I can buy a really cool car?

Well, not really. I will not go as far as CLAIR does and say that money should not be a factor in your decision. If you have come to Japan just out of university, you are probably making more money (and saving more money) than you would in most other (legal) jobs. The money you are making can be used to fund future education, future travel, future really cool cars or whatever. It is certainly a factor. But keep in mind that the program in and of itself doesn't really get you anywhere. You have to look at what else you will get out of the program if you stay on another year. Have you met the objectives you had for coming here? Are you any more likely to meet them by the end of next year? Do you have new objectives? While the money is not an insignificant factor, it should definitely not be the deciding factor.

What are some good reasons for staying here for another year?

- You like the lifestyle and your friends here.
- You are learning a lot about the people, the language, and yourself and feel you will continue learning.
- You feel like you are making a real difference in the students' lives and making a serious impact on education in the city.
- You are thinking about living the rest of your life in Japan and want to try another year to make sure you really like it.

What are some good reasons for not renewing your contract?

- You are planning on embarking on/ returning to your career and realize that time is passing in the "real" world.
- You feel as if you have experienced Japanese culture to a large extent and would like to learn about culture in another country.
- You want to enter graduate school here or at home.
- You like the money and the country, but not the hours or the job. You are ready to move to a job in the private sector.
- You are homesick and ready to go home and to return to Japan in the future some time. You don't want to "burn out" on Japan.
- You don't like the way Japanese people act or think.
- You can't stand your co-workers / supervisor.

Hey, if this job is so cool, why aren't more people staying on for the full three years?

The reason for this differs from person to person. The basic reason is that the job does not grow with the person. After a year or two, the situations you found challenging may be boring and you may feel ready for new challenges. However, the program is not designed to change to fit the teacher. It is designed to continually bring in fresh blood.

More specifically, people are usually returning to something that they left behind. So far, this has meant entering graduate school or returning to practice medicine.

Hey, if I renew will I get a raise?

Well, not really. After two years, Americans will find their monthly pay has increased. This is only to cover the Japanese taxes they will have to start paying. Otherwise, expect your salary to be dictated by CLAIR (regardless of whether or not you are a JET) and not be increased in the foreseeable future.

We need more time at the schools. Any chance we will get more AETs?

Well, not really. The number of schools we visit are about average (or a little above) for cities in Kanagawa. There is little likelihood that budget for new AETs will be freed up in the future. The vague possibility has been mentioned in passing, but not with any seriousness. There has also been talk of a volunteer program, but it is still in the planning stages.

Gosh darnit, I've been teaching for eighty-eight years. Why do I have to share my classroom and breathing space with Miss "I-don't-know-English-from-a-shopping-bag"?

Short answer: the unions won't allow you to teach alone. Shorter answer: who knows? A large part of your job is helping to further educate English teachers. The idea behind the JET program is that it is far cheaper to bring one foreigner to a few schools than to send all those teachers abroad for a year. Whether or not team teaching is an efficient way to teach a language is open to debate, but it does force English teachers to meet and work with foreigners.

While you may be able to teach classes alone on an informal basis, do not expect it to become a regular thing. Believe it or not, the Japanese teachers have some good ideas, and it feels really good when they are taken in by the pioneering spirit and offer some of these ideas for consideration, rather than becoming less and less involved in your class.

What about that computer room? Do we ever use it?

Well, not really. Most of the schools have a very nice computer room and it goes virtually unused with the exception of a couple of schools. With some initiative you may be able to convince your teachers to make better use of the computers and software they have as long as it does not require further money or time.

What am I supposed to do when I'm not teaching?

You must, of course, plan for lessons. But depending on how much time you take to write new lessons and prepare lesson materials, you may be left with a great deal of time. The rest of the time can be used as you best see fit. You may want to pretend you are doing a film documentary on Japanese education, and learn as much as possible about it by talking to teachers and principals (or, if you have a video camera with you, you might want to actually make a documentary). You can observe other classes, talk to teachers and administrators, and try to understand what makes the educational system in Japan tick. Don't miss the opportunity to play with the kids at the afternoon recess and work with them during school cleaning. Alternatively, you can study and practice Japanese. Keep in mind that the JET program was designed to benefit you, the participant, as well as the schools. You are allowed time to pursue academic and personal goals related to Japan but not necessarily related to teaching English.

Is there someone who can tell me about the history and the aims of the international understanding program?

Well, not really. You can talk to Fumiko Higuchi who was the program coordinator for many years. Alternatively, you can talk with Mr. Hatsusegawa (who is now teaching at Tachibana) or with Ms. Nakagawa (who is now teaching at Hakusan). They were all involved in the program from its inception. Finally, you may want to consult the overview of the program that was written by LIOJ sometime near its beginning, or talk with some of the teachers that were working in the schools before we arrived on the scene.

I am really depressed. What should I do?

Start by reading the section on homesickness in *Odawara A2Z*. and in the selections regarding culture shock in the reading list. From there, try not to stay that way. If you have taken steps to get over it and they haven't worked, call TELL (Tokyo English Life Line) or a CLAIR councilor, or someone and get help.

I keep hearing about this twice yearly bonus. Will that be put directly in our account?

Well, not really. The AETs do not get paid a bonus, but we are paid a very fair amount (the equivalent of someone who has been teaching in Japan for a decade). While Odawara city employees are paid one of the largest bonuses of any city, do not expect to receive one.

What's the deal with the pension fund?

In November of 1994, the Diet promulgated a law that guaranteed a partial refund of the payments foreigners had made into the pension system if they were living in Japan when the law was passed. How this will affect newcomers is uncertain. It would be best to ask your supervisor about the situation as well as those previous AETs that have returned to their home countries.

Are all these drinking parties absolutely necessary?

Well, not really. But you might find that they make your everyday life a lot easier. Many Japanese people seem to be worried and under a lot of self-imposed stress. Alcohol is very much a social lubricant here, and you may find that during these *enkais* you can feel much more a part of the group. Don't be disappointed if this attitude doesn't last. It can take a long time indeed (and sometimes a lot of alcohol consumed) before you can hope to be on good relations with your school. If offered, try not to pass up very many *enkais* - especially in the first few months.

But I really don't like to drink a lot. What should I do?

It can be difficult to stop once you get started. Best advice is: if you don't enjoy drinking, don't drink from the very start. The traditional advice is to mention some vague medical reason. If this is the path you take, you should never drink in the presence of your teachers. Things may be a little easier if you are a woman. More and more it seems there is juice or tea available at *enkais* - probably because of more awareness about drunk driving. Anyway, it is possible to avoid drinking if you are willing to fight for it and are consistent in your protests.

Heck, I like a good beer, but the smoking is driving me crazy. Are these guys allowed to smoke anywhere they want?

Well, not really. Teachers are not supposed to be smoking in the staff room or in front of the students. This is strictly enforced in some schools and not at all enforced in others. The city hall started a general ban on smoking in April, except for designated times and places. (Now if they could just get a thermostat that works.) While most Japanese will agree that a lot of smoke can be annoying, there isn't any widespread information regarding second-hand smoke, and there is a strong push for smokers' rights. It is ironic that the tobacco companies that have had such a hard time (until recently) in the US are greeted with open arms here. You are likely to see cigarette ads pretty much everywhere. And unlike the US, cigarette use is not declining.

Why is everyone always treating me like a child? [stomp, stomp]

Don't take it personally. Everyone in Japan is treated like a child to a greater or lesser extent. At the beginning of your stay, when you really can't do even the most basic things, you may feel a bit like a child. Roll with it. It is one of the charms of living in Japan. It can become very comfortable.

The doctors at the local Kafka-esque hospital have just told me that I have a fever originating in my bowels and so they will have to remove my shin bone. Do they just give medical licenses to people on the street?

Well, not really. But you might notice that many people with money go abroad for any serious medical care. Part of the discomfort with local doctors may stem from a language barrier. A further difficulty certainly comes from a cultural gap. Japanese doctors are sometimes very uncomfortable around foreigners. This discomfort is not assuaged by the peculiarly foreign habit of asking questions and expecting clear answers. You should expect vague responses here as in other areas of Japanese society. The doctor-patient relationship is more one of teacher-student in Japan and you are expected to listen and follow directions and nothing more.

Can I date my students?

Well, not really. The incidence of high school teachers dating and even marrying former students is surprisingly high, but that doesn't apply to you. The question is in this section because it is asked in all seriousness at least once each year at the mid-block JET meeting, making you wonder how they decide who to let on the program.

I just got offered this awesome job that pays ¥20,000 for two hours of work on Wednesday night. Can I take it?

Well, not really. If you open up your contract, you will note that along with participating in political movements, you are not allowed to accept work for profit. Yes, I know the every other JET in Kanagawa with the exception of one or two have jobs on the side, but no one in Odawara would ever think of doing anything like that. Of the previous AETs in Odawara, not a single one has admitted to taking outside work. An official at the Kanagawa BoE once noted that you are not allowed to work, but if you do, make it teaching. Selling jewelry on the street would be a definite no-no, as would allowing your clothes to succumb to extreme entropy at one of the clubs across from the Shimin Kaikan. If you feel comfortable discussing this with your supervisor, do so. Just remember that you should always be available to give 100% to your primary job and discretion is the better part of valor.

My supervisor wants to know exactly where I'm going for vacation. What about my privacy? Is it really any of his/her business?

Well, not really. Most Japanese still see traveling away from safe and cozy Japan as a dangerous and exotic thing to do, despite the numbers that go overseas every year. This is even more true if you are not traveling as part of a tour. Keep in mind that the information is required not only out of a sense of nosiness, but also because your employers feel responsible for you. You should do your best to provide at least a sketch of an itinerary if it is requested. There is no need to change the way you travel, but let them know where you will be and when you plan to be there. You can always change your plans. Besides, if you are captured by revolutionary Komodo dragons, you may be glad someone knows your travel plans.

***Godzilla.* Does anyone actually sit down and read the whole thing?**

Well, not really. Over the last few months, the readership has grown considerably. At a couple of the schools it is distributed to each teacher. Actually, the translation is surprisingly widely read though you wouldn't know it from the feedback. Look at the old Godzillas (if you dare) and at some of the issues from 1995, and you will see some improvement . The newsletter can be made far more interesting and enticing. Think distribution, think mass appeal. Good luck.

Festivals

The following is a short list of festivals in the Odawara area and Kangawa in general. Please note that this list may be out of date in some cases. It is best to check before you make the trek.

1 January	Hatsumode	Daiyuzan Temple, Odawara
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At the turning of the new year, when everyone in America is either curled up on the couch watching TV or kissing someone, you have the opportunity to be standing in the freezing cold waiting to get in the first payer of the year. Daiyuzan is THE place to do it here and not something to be missed. Get yourself invited or head out to the end of the Daiyuzan line and follow the crowds.

1 January	Cold-Weather Swim Festival	Takada Bridge, Sagami-hara
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At 12:30 pm swimming archers shoot at a target on a boat.

1 January	Well-wishing	Imperial Palace
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This is one of two days you can enter the courtyard of the palace grounds. Get there early in the morning.

2nd week in January	Dezome Shiki	Sakuragicho station, Yokohama
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Demonstration of fire control and rescue techniques, special acrobatic performances on tall bamboo ladders.

14 January	Sagicho	Oiso - on the beach
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Large bonfires and riceball roasting, mini-shrines dragged to the ocean and smashed.

23 January	O-jizo-san	Itabashi
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The first lighting of candles for dead ancestors. It is said that you will see somebody who looks like one of your ancestors in the crowd. Not a festival, per se, but a time for visiting the temple. There are booths selling merchandise and food. Stop by the Itabashi Woodshop booth for deals on lacquerware seconds. Held also on 23 August.

28 January	Fire Walking	Manpuku-ji, Nakazato
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One of two tempting chances to test your foot flammability factor.

2nd Sunday in February	Plum Blossom Festival	Sogo Plum Orchard, Odawara
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This is the official start of the plum blossom viewing season. Check out the castle and go to a viewing party. Also, there is usually a horseback target shoot in the castle grounds. You may want to go to Sankei-en garden in Yokohama for folk dancing, tea ceremonies, exhibitions, and other events for the 2 week period.

17 February	100 Buddhist Prayers	Yamakita
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Starting at 11am hot sake is served, teams of men pull a 9 meter rosary, shishimai lion dance, traditional dance performances.

Late March	Spring Festival	Shonan-Enoshima
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7 April	Miss Odawara Contest	Chuo Kominkan Hall, Odawara
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Early April	Sakura Festival	Kinugasa, Yokosuka-line
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Parade with Heian era samurai and events at Kinugasa-jinja shrine.

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Early April	Sakura Festival	Atsugi Iiyama
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Head to Hon-Atsugi, take bus from stop #4 headed to Kami-Iiyama, Miyagase, or Susugaya, get off at Iiyama Kannon-mae stop. The park is lit by 1000 paper lanterns until 10pm. "White Dragon" drum performances Sunday.

Early April	Cherry Blossom Viewing	Odawara
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There are several famous spots for seeing the sakura. The castle is one. Another is the money printing office out near Sakawa J.H.S.

2nd weekend in April	Phallus-Fitting Festival	Kawasaki Danshi
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For fanatic fans of famous phallus fests. Fantastic flea market on Sunday, parade at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. At Kawasaki Daishi station (Kawasaki Daishi-line). *Kanamara Matsuri/ Jibeta Matsuri*.

2nd,3rd Sundays in April	Kamakura Festival	Hachimangu-shrine
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Many shrines and temples have their festivals on these two Sundays. Crowded, get there early, esp. for horseback archery on 3rd Sunday.

Mid-April Sunday	River Festival	Chigasaki
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Parade and fair starts at 10am.

22 April	Spring Festival	Isehara
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Take bus #56, off at Godo. Bazaar and parade.

Early May	Yokohama Port Festival	Near Yamashita Koen Park
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Parade of dancers, musicians, floats, and performers.

3 May	Yokohama Port Festival	Yokohama
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Includes an international masquerade parade.

3-5 May	Big Kite Festival	Sagami-hara
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Take Odakyu-line to Sobudia-mae, take bus #7 for Yotsuya, get off at Jinji-mae. Big kites (*Odako*).

3-5 May	5 Generations of Hogo Festival	Odawara
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At the Castle a famous battle is re-enacted. In the past a number of foreigners have marched in the parade in traditional samurai garb. One of the biggest events in Odawara and certainly worth a look. If you are quick enough and stubborn enough, try to grab a seat on the second floor of McDonald's.

16-18 May	Black Ships Festival	Shimoda, Izu
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A re-creation of the landing of Perry's "Black Ships".

28 May	Soga Brothers Umbrella Roast	Jozen-ji temple, Shimosoga, Odawara
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Tea ceremony, memorial service, umbrella burning, enka, parade, boys' sumo. Uncrowded, traditional festival. Be there at noon.

20 June	Fireworks	Yokohama
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The second biggest of Japan's big fireworks displays.

2-7 July	Weaver Festival	Hiratsuka
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Go on a weekend. Tanabata festival decorations, parades, stalls.

Early July	Emperor Festival	Enoshima Island
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Omikoshi carried into water, other events. Closest Sunday to 14 July.

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15 July	Beach Festival	Chigasaki
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Any bus from stop #1. Starts 6am. Forty o-mikoshi are taken to the ocean.

19 July	Takaku-jinja Mifune Festival	Oiso
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From 7am. Ask the tourist office for more info on the parade.

22-23 July	Daimonji Burning	Atagawa, Izu
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A race to set aflame a structure 50 meters out to sea.

25 July	Fireworks	Fujisawa
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27-28 July	Kibune Festival	Manazuru
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Bus from stop #3,4 to Myano-mae. Decorated boats, parade, fireworks.

31 July	Lake Festival	Ashinoko, Hakone
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1000 lanterns floated on lake, followed by fireworks.

Late July - Early August	Summer Festival	Odawara
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2 August	Shrine-gate Burning	Ashinoko, Hakone
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Followed by fireworks.

7-9 August	Bombori Festival	Hachimangu Shrine, Kamakura
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No fireworks. Shinto ceremony, concert, haiku writing, traditional dance, insect listening, tea ceremony, koto. Check schedule beforehand.

10 August	Fireworks	Kamakura
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If you see only one fireworks display this year make it this one. They detonate some of the fireworks under the water off-shore. Get there early and as close to the ocean as you can without getting soaked. Just follow the tens of thousands of people to the beach. Buy your return ticket when you get there.

15 August	Fireworks	Odawara
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Not bad for a small town. Watch from the banks of the Sakawa river. Stay off the bridges, they clear them before the fireworks start.

15-16 August	Mito no Oshoro Nagashi	Kosho-ji Temple, Misakiguchi
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A boat of straw is made and carried out to sea. You can stay in the temple overnight if you make reservations ahead of time. (0468) 82-1111 ext. 413, in Japanese.

16 August	Big Kanji Burning	Hakone
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Wouldn't we all like to burn some kanji now and again?

Late August	Jubilation (Kanko) Festival	Matsuda
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Closest Sunday to 26 August. Ayu fishing by hand, sumo, traditional music and dance, parade, fireworks. Starting at noon.

14 September	Osan-no-miya	North Exit Kannai Station, Yokohama
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Big mikoshi carried through street.

23 August	O-jizo-san	Itabashi
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See description in January.

4th weekend in September	Tobacco Festival	Hadano, Odakyu-line
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Well-known festival with parade and fireworks.

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Late September	Open Air Noh Drama	Odawara Castle
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During this period, there are a number of Noh festivals in Kanagawa. Reservations are required at all and tickets can be a bit pricey.

November	Cock Fair	Isezaki-Chojamachi
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During the days of the cock. On the Yokohama subway line. Infamous, off-beat festival. Buy a decorated lucky rake.

3 November	Duke (<i>Daimyo</i>) Parade	Hakone-Yumoto
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Costume parade begins at 11am.

Early November	Fish Festival	Odawara
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15 November	7-5-3 Festival	Any Shrine
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Go to see the children of the above ages in cool traditional clothes.

17 November	Daruma Fair	Iizumi-Kannon
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Go buy your daruma for the year. Go across the Iizumi-bashi bridge and hang an immediate left. It is the oldest such festival in the Kanto area.

6 December	Fire walking	Akiba Ryokaku-in Temple, Itabashi
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One of two chances to test your sole during the year.

Reading List

Ruth Benedict, *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*

Deborah Fallows, "Japanese Women", *National Geographic*, April 1990, pp. 52-67, 74-83.

Paul Hunt, *Hiking in Japan (An adventurers guide to mountain trails)*, (Kodansha) ISBN 0-87011-893-5.

Japan, A Bilingual Atlas, (Kodansha International) ISBN 4-7700-1536-4

Living In Tokyo (published by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government)

Living for Less in Tokyo and Liking It, (Ask Kodansha, Ltd.), compiled by the staff of the Japan Hotline, 1991

Tae Moriyama, *Weekend Adventures Outside Tokyo* (Shufunotomo) ISBN 4-07-975049-8.

Nippon, The Land and It's People (Gakuseisha Publishing Co.Ltd., 1988) ISBN 4-311-70002-4

Peter Tasker, *Inside Japan*, (Penguin) ISBN 0-14-011796-2

Karel van Wolferen, *The Enigma of Japanese Power*

Gary Walters, *Day Walks Near Tokyo*, (Kodansha) ISBN 0-87011-888-9.

Your Daily Life in Tokyo - A Manual for Foreign Residents, (The Japan Times, 1987) ISBN 4-7890-0367-1

Train Schedules

Ashigara - Odawara Bound - Weekday

5:46	7:40	9:52	12:34	15:16	18:04	20:12	22:48
5:56	7:48	10:05	12:46	15:32	18:22	20:28	23:06
6:04	8:03	10:18	13:05	15:46	18:34	20:42	23:19
6:09	8:10	10:32	13:16	16:04	18:42	20:59	23:33
6:22	8:19	10:50	13:34	16:16	18:52	21:12	23:48
6:34	8:24	11:09	13:46	16:34	19:04	21:22	0:05
6:48	8:38	11:32	14:05	16:46	19:14	21:42	0:23
7:00	8:50	11:36	14:16	17:04	19:28	21:59	0:40
7:08	9:07	11:47	14:34	17:16	19:42	22:09	1:08
7:16	9:18	11:56	14:46	17:34	19:57	22:18	
7:32	9:32	12:16	15:02	17:49	20:03	22:36	

Ashigara - Odawara Bound - Weekend & Holiday

5:46	8:17	10:19	12:35	15:16	17:45	20:24	22:36
5:57	8:26	10:35	12:47	15:32	18:05	20:33	22:52
6:15	8:34	10:46	13:04	15:47	18:16	20:47	23:06
6:32	8:37	11:06	13:17	16:05	18:33	20:57	23:22
6:48	8:49	11:17	13:35	16:14	18:47	21:08	23:34
7:03	8:56	11:32	13:47	16:22	19:04	21:24	23:45
7:09	9:06	11:46	14:01	16:35	19:15	21:37	0:02
7:20	9:17	11:53	14:17	16:45	19:33	21:52	0:25
7:32	9:36	12:03	14:35	17:05	19:45	22:06	0:39
7:48	9:47	12:13	14:45	17:15	20:04	22:13	1:08
8:04	10:06	12:22	15:02	17:35	20:17	22:22	

Odawara - JR Northbound

3:32	7:06*	8:57	11:22	13:32	16:01	18:12*	20:40
4:30	7:10	9:10	11:36	13:42*	16:11	18:17	20:46
4:57	7:15*	<i>9:10</i>	11:41*	13:44	<i>16:20</i>	<i>18:23</i>	20:55
5:32*	7:21	9:18	11:47*	13:57	16:22	18:28	21:04
5:45	7:26*	9:27	11:50	14:03	16:36	18:35	21:20
5:57	7:29	9:32	11:58*	14:15	16:41*	18:45	21:31
6:04	7:33	9:41	12:02	<i>14:19</i>	16:55	18:52*	21:45
6:14*	7:41*	9:43	12:11	14:28	<i>16:59</i>	18:55	<i>21:50</i>
6:17	7:45	<i>9:56</i>	<i>12:19</i>	14:38*	17:08	19:01	22:01
6:21*	7:50	9:58	12:21	14:44	17:12*	19:16	22:14
6:29	7:57	<i>10:10</i>	12:35	14:49	17:22	19:26	22:29
6:37	8:00*	10:16	12:40*	14:59	17:29	19:35	22:39
6:47	8:07	10:32	12:45	15:08	17:41*	19:38*	22:57
6:51	8:15	10:41	12:53	15:21*	17:44*	<i>19:51</i>	23:08
6:58	8:31	10:51*	13:06	15:22	17:45	19:55	
7:00*	8:38	10:59	<i>13:19</i>	<i>15:26</i>	<i>17:50</i>	20:10	
7:02	8:47	11:10	13:22	15:45	18:03	20:21	

* Indicates an express (*kyuko*) train - extra charge.

Italics note a "Rapid Acty" Semi-express train - no extra charge.

NEX & Airport Narita

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O-funa	Yoko-hama	Shin-juku	Tokyo	Airport Term 2	Air-port	Yoko-hama	Shin-juku	Tokyo	Airport Term 2	Air-port
-	-	-	5:02*	6:27	6:29	12:35*	-	13:06*	14:34	14:36
-	-	6:07	6:30	7:26	7:33	13:30	13:42	14:03	14:53	14:56
-	5:40*	-	6:11*	7:33	7:35	14:00	14:12	14:33	15:24	15:27
-	6:28	-	7:00	7:56	7:58	-	-	14:05*	15:34	15:36
-	-	7:07	7:30	8:28	8:31	14:30	14:42	15:30	15:55	15:58
-	-	-	7:09*	8:37	8:31	15:00	15:12	15:33	16:26	16:28
7:07	7:26	-	8:00	8:55	8:58	14:37*	-	15:09*	16:35	16:38
-	-	8:07	8:30	9:25	9:27	15:30	15:42	16:03	16:54	16:57
-	7:36*	-	8:09*	9:36	9:38	-	16:12	16:33	17:26	17:28
8:07	8:25	-	9:00	9:56	9:59	15:39*	-	16:11*	17:38	17:41
-	-	-	9:14*	10:36	10:38	16:31	-	17:03	17:54	17:56
-	9:30	9:40	10:03	10:56	10:59	-	17:12	17:33	18:24	18:27
-	9:40*	-	10:12*	11:32	11:34	16:33*	-	17:05*	18:37	18:39
-	10:30	10:42	11:03	11:56	11:58	17:32	-	18:03	18:55	18:57
-	10:36*	-	11:08*	12:30	12:32	-	18:12	18:33	19:28	19:31
-	11:30	11:42	12:03	12:56	12:59	-	-	18:09*	19:43	19:45
-	11:37*	-	12:08*	13:33	13:36	18:32	-	19:03	19:57	19:59
-	12:30	12:42	13:03	13:54	13:56	-	-	19:10*	20:39	20:41
-	-	12:38**	-	14:09	14:12	19:30	19:42	20:03	20:57	20:59
-	13:00	13:12	13:33	14:24	14:26	19:40*	-	20:11	21:36	21:38

* "Airport Narita" trains. More stops. From Yokohama ¥1850, Tokyo ¥1260.

** "Wing Azusa" train. More stops. Ask clerk for info.

All others are NEX. Fare from Ofuna ¥4410, Yokohama ¥4100, Shinjuku ¥3050, Tokyo ¥2890.

Airport Terminal 1: Air France, Alitalia, American, British Airways, CAI, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Korean Air, Luftansa, Northwest, SAS, Singapore, Swissair, United, Varig, Virgin Atlantic. All others, terminal 2.

Shinkansen - Bound for Tokyo (* Hikari)

6.45	9.41	13.09	16.58	20.09
7.20	10.09	13.41	17.09	20.28*
7.34	10.28*	14.09	17.41	20.41
7.44	10.41	14.41	17.58	21.09
7.55	10.58	14.58	18.09	2141
8.06	11.09	15.09	18.41	2220
8.15	11.41	15.41	18.58	2233*
8.35	11.58	15.58	19.09	2258
8.58	12.09	16.09	19.41	
9.19	12.41	16.41	19.58	

Telephone List

Emergency - Fire, Ambulance	119
Emergency - Police	110
Directory Assistance (Japanese)	104
City Hall (IU Supervisor's desk)	33-1684, (fax) 32-7855
NTT English Info Yokohama(M-F,9-5)	0453-22-1010
NTT English Info Tokyo	03-3201-1010
TeleTourist (Recorded Tourist Info)	03-3505-2911
TELL (Tokyo English Life Line)	03-5481-4347
Japan Hotline	03-3586-0110
Foreign Residents' Advisory Center	03-5320-7744
Tourist Info Center - Tokyo	03-3502-1461
JR English Info	03-3423-0111
US Embassy	03-3224-5000
UK Embassy	03-3265-5511
Australian Embassy	03-5232-4111
Immigration	03-3580-4111
Chiyo J.H.S.	42-1640
Haksan J.H.S.	34-9295
Hakuo J.H.S.	34-1736, (fax) 32-7584
Izumi J.H.S.	36-3440, (fax) 36-1981
Johnan J.H.S.	22-0274
Johoku J.H.S.	36-9518, (fax) -2293
Kaminomomiya J.H.S.	47-3361
Kataura J.H.S.	29-0134
Kozu J.H.S.	47-9148
Sakawa J.H.S.	47-3344
Shiroyama J.H.S.	34-0209
Tachibana J.H.S.	43-0250, (fax) -4504
JET Line	03-3591-5489
CLAIR (JET dept.)	03-3591-5968
MoE ALT Supervisor	03-3593-6263
AJET Peer Support Group (PSG)	0257-22-1225

* When calling to Japan from abroad, strip the first 0 off of the number, dial 081 + the area code and the number in Japan. Those numbers that do not include an area code are in Odawara (0465).