

tokyo

weekender

FEBRUARY 2012

Japan's premier English language magazine

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HOKKAIDO

JAPAN'S POWDER PARADISE

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

TWELVE DATE TIPS FOR 2012
VALENTINE'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

EDUCATION SPECIAL

CAN JAPAN EMBRACE THE 4 F'S?
A PIONEERING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

AGENDA

All The Biggest Live
Shows this Month

INTERVIEW

Weekender Q&A with
German Ambassador

PLUS!

WIN Great Prizes with
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IN THIS ISSUE: The Latest APAC news from the Asia Daily Wire, People Parties & Places, Hit the Ice in Tokyo and much more...



A VISION OF THE FUTURE ANA'S NEW BOEING 787 DREAMLINER

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ON PISTE IN HOKKAIDO

Weekender heads north to Hokkaido's winter wonderland.



VALENTINE'S DAY

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Velours

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A World of its Own

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General Manager Asi Rinestine

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Editor Stephen Parker
Sales Executive Nobu (Nick) Nakazawa
Art Director Liam Ramshaw
Media Consultants Mary Rudow
Matthew Hernon

Contributing Editors Bill Hersey
Annamarie Sasagawa

Editorial Associates Vivian Morelli
Ayako Fujiwara

IT Manager Nick Adams
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Finance & Admin Vika Maslyuk
Web Development Amit Raj Baral
DBA Iryna Sundutova
Telemarketing Olivier Queneutte

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Newly launched **Asia Daily Wire** is your go-to place for all the latest news from across the Asia Pacific region. Covering business, culture, entertainment, sports and breaking news, Asia Daily Wire is updated round the clock in real time and picks and chooses the best headlines from sources across Asia—doing all the hard work for you. Here is a roundup of some of the most interesting headlines of the past month...

Japan posts first annual trade deficit since 1980

Japan reported its first annual trade deficit since 1980 as it imported expensive energy to offset shortfalls caused by the devastating tsunami and manufacturers shifted production overseas to avoid the damage inflicted by the strong yen.

Don't panic just yet Tokyo - Analysts agree that Japan still recovered better than expected last year.

Flu Spreading In Japan, Doubling Number Of Cases Per Hospital

An influenza epidemic is spreading in Japan, doubling the number of cases per hospital, according to data compiled through Tuesday by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.

First victim was already claimed by the nasty virus here at Weekender, even though he is the most hygiene conscious among us - O-Daiji ni Nick!

Japan to release Australian anti-whaling protesters

SYDNEY -- Three Australian anti-whaling protesters detained after boarding a Japanese vessel in the Indian Ocean will be released to an Australian customs ship in a high-seas transfer and will not face any charges, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said on Jan. 10.

Weekender welcomes the move - it's about time Japan scrapped the old habit which has alienated it from most of the world.

Consumer Appliance Shipments Log 1st Fall In 10 Yrs

Domestic shipments of consumer appliances fell for the first time in a decade in 2011, sliding 27.8% on the year to 2.81 trillion yen, the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association reported Tuesday.

It looks like everyone has finally switched their TV to digital.

Foreign Visitors To Japan Drop Record 27.8% In '11

The number of foreigners who visited Japan in 2011 shrank a record 27.8% on the year to 6.21 million, the Japan National Tourism Organization reported Friday.

Global media hype 1, Japan 0

NTT DoCoMo No. 1 in cellphone subscriptions

NTT DoCoMo Inc. overtook Softbank Mobile Corp. in December as the largest Japanese mobile phone operator in terms of net growth in subscriptions.

SoftBank had the iPhone and iPad advantage- but we guess bad customer service and poor reception cost them the lead.

Foreign Ministry hires interpreters for media

Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba starts providing simultaneous interpretation in English at his weekly news conferences to

provide the international community with more information about Japan's diplomatic activities.

At this rate, we might even see foreigners in Japanese politics one day soon!

Darvish, Texas agree to \$60-million, 6-year deadline deal

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Japan's best pitcher Yu Darvish and major league team the Texas Rangers agreed before the Jan. 18 deadline to a \$60 million (about 4.6 billion yen), six-year contract.

But will his dad be allowed in to the U.S. to watch the games?

Japan Aims To Attract 9mn Foreign Tourists In 2012

Japan's tourism minister Takeshi Maeda said Tuesday that the government aims to attract over 9 million foreign visitors to Japan in 2012, exceeding the past record of 8,611,000 in 2010.

And Hitachi aims to sell another one million finger print readers to the immigration bureau!

Japan to reduce oil imports from Iran in line with U.S. sanctions

Japan's finance minister pledged after talks with U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Jan. 12 to steadily reduce oil imports from Iran in support of U.S. sanctions on Tehran over its disputed nuclear program.

No oil, no nuclear power - looks like we are heading for a hot summer!

 Asia Daily Wire

For all the big news of 2012 updated live,
visit: www.asiadailywire.com



GERMAN AMBASSADOR Q&A

After the 3.11 earthquake Germany was one of the most active countries in the international aid effort. Tokyo Weekender sat down with Volker Stanzel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Japan to discuss his embassy's plans for 2012 and the continuing 150th anniversary celebrations of Germany-Japan diplomatic relations.

Last year when people were fleeing Japan, did you ever consider leaving the country?

No. Not at all. And we never recommended German people to leave Japan either. We suggested Germans in the Tohoku area and parts of Kanto move to Western Japan, which is also what the embassy did. We relocated to our consulate in Osaka for three weeks.

Tell us about your personal experience on March 11, 2011?

On March 11, I was at the embassy [in Hiroo], I have been dealing with Japan for a while and people have been discussing the 'big one' since the 1970s but it was a obviously still a very big shock when the earthquake happened.

How did you communicate with the German community here?

We have a telephone system set up to call the German institutions here in Tokyo, for example the Chamber of Commerce and the German schools. Obviously for a while the phones didn't work, so we used our email list to contact people—mainly focusing on Germans living in Tohoku. After the phones started working again we got bombarded with emails and calls. We had a team sitting at the computers to deal with the requests and then we used our homepage to communicate further. We also brought in a nuclear expert very early on for advice and he helped us interpret the facts from the Japanese side.

How has the disaster changed your embassy's role in Japan?

Our role in Japan hasn't changed but our work has, in that we need to channel German support, not just financially, to Tohoku and to keep observing what's happening in Fukushima. We realized early on that it is not financial aid Japan needed most urgently, it might have been bringing in experts with particular knowledge. If we can figure out what help is needed and where, then the embassy can really help.

What do you think about the way the German media covered the nuclear incident in Fukushima?

The reaction of the German media can be explained by the experience of Chernobyl. There are regions in southern Germany where even today, you cannot eat wild mushrooms or meat from wild pigs because there is still radiation in the ground. People in Germany understandably, are still extremely sensitive, so when the news reports came in the automatic reaction was— 'my god, another Chernobyl,' so that affected the style of reporting for a long time.

Did Fukushima affect the German government's decision to phase out all nuclear power plants by 2022?

We had a law in place since 2001 in Germany that was based on a compromise with energy utility companies. It was agreed then, that all German nuclear power stations could operate

no longer than 2030. What happened after 3.11 is that we decided to speed up the process by eight years. Chancellor Merkel said this is directly because of Fukushima. Not because of the scale of the incident, it is a very different type of situation to Chernobyl for example, but it is based on the realization that even with perfect technology there is still a risk. If a country like Japan cannot avoid problems, then it is very hard to imagine that any other country could.

Can you tell us a little about the current status of the German community in Tokyo today?

As far as the business community, it seems that many companies who haven't looked at Japan for many years are now starting to focus their attention more on Japan. Today, the German chamber of commerce has more members than a year ago but if you look at people who represent these companies it's mainly expats without kids. In the German schools we have fewer children than before too. But it is still difficult to say exact numbers, as we don't require citizens to register with the embassy.

Are you concerned at all about food safety after 3.11?

No. We still have our nuclear expert here and we constantly keep in touch with our French and British colleagues—and we put all the data on our website. Those who left Tokyo for Western Japan or returned home to Germany acted rationally but once you realize there is no danger, there is no reason to stay away from Japan, or panic about food. When people in Germany ask us 'is Japan safe?', we always answer positively.

Looking forward to the rest of 2012, what are your main plans at the German embassy?

First of all, we will support Tohoku as long as necessary. Secondly, we will conclude our 150-year anniversary activities (started in 2010). We had activities planned up until October 2011 but after the catastrophe, most of our plans were cancelled. We decided to continue after 2011, and we have events planned well until March 2012. So far, we have had over 800 events in Japan.



For more information about Germany/ Japan events, please visit: www.tokyo.diplo.de

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Love is in the Air!

Feeling a little overwhelmed or uncomfortable by all the unnecessary pressure that comes along with Valentine's Day? Draw some inspiration from these fun, fuss-free date ideas around Tokyo, for a simple yet tasteful (and thoughtful) celebration... with a significant other, friends, family or by yourself! Text by Vivian Morelli.



1. Enjoy some home cooking

My (not-so) secret homemade pizza recipe never fails to impress and is quite simple with no oven required: make your own dough by mixing a cup of warm water with a pinch of salt and one teaspoon of yeast, honey and olive oil. Add four cups of flour and let it rise before shaping into a pie. Top with tomato sauce, fresh basil, grilled eggplant, cheese, and bake on the stove top on low heat, covering the pan with a lid. Enjoy, and trust an Italian girl!

2. Head out to a baking class

Make your own Valentine's treats from scratch by attending a baking class, a leisurely learning experience to share. Daikanyama's sweet shop Matsunosuke offers a baking class for traditional American and English cakes. The class is conducted in English, and you can take the finished product home (if you can wait that long!). Tel: 03-5728-3868.

www.matsunosukepie.com

3. Stimulate your senses at an exhibition

Fashionistas and photography lovers alike will revel in Irving Penn and Issey Miyake's Visual Dialogue, which focuses on the collaborative work of the renowned Japanese designer and a legendary photographer. Until April 8, Open Mon & Wed-Sun, 11am-8pm, closed Tue.

Tel: 03-3475-2121. www.2121designsight.jp.

4. Bond over a live show

Bonding over music is probably the utmost romantic experience, in my book at least. For February, I highly recommend checking out Brooklyn band; The Pains of Being Pure at Heart for an upbeat emo-softcore sound, or how about indie-chillwave group Neon Indian for some electronic beats to dance to. **The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Feb. 17, Club Quattro, Shibuya/ Neon Indian, Feb. 21, Unit, Daikanyama.**

5. Enjoy a night at the ballet

For a pre-Valentine's outing, treat yourself or surprise your date to a recital of Russian gracefulness and movement by The Bolshoi Ballet & The Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra. Spartacus, Raymonda and Swan Lake, until Feb. 9, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan. Tel: 03-5774-3040. www.japanarts.co.jp

6. Explore the animal kingdom

Share your time with furry critters and overload on cuteness at Ueno Zoo, which features a giant panda and a tiger forest. If it gets too cold, escape to the Tokyo Sea Life Park to catch a glimpse of penguins, auks and puffins, as well as watching bluefin tuna freely swim in the giant donut-shaped tank.

Oh, to be a fish! Ueno Zoo,

Tel: 03-3828-5171 (Tokyo Sea Life Park)

Tel: 03-3869-5152. (Tokyo Zoo)

7. Walk in an old Edo garden

Situated in quiet Komagome/Sugamo, Rikugien Garden is one of the most beautiful Japanese gardens in the Tokyo area. Wander around its manicured grounds for a romantic stroll in old Tokyo, and end the visit at the teahouse to sip on some green tea and sample traditional sweets. Rikugien Garden, seven minutes walk from Komagome station (JR Yamanote Line). Open 9am-5pm.

Tel: 03-3941-2222.

8. Enjoy some healthy sushi

Feast on one of Japan's traditional fare for a simple yet elegant meal. Try Ichikan sushi in Daikanyama, for the highest quality of ingredients and skilled preparation, and to share the trivia that a scene from the iconic *Lost in Translation* was filmed there.

Tel: 03-3464-5559.

9. Burn off some calories

On Valentine's Day, why not do something physical? Of course my first suggestion would be to go hiking, which is ideal in February's crisp weather. Dress warmly, share some hot cocoa or a flask of something stronger along the way, burn some calories and breathe some fresh air away from the city noise. Try Mount Takao and neighbouring Mount Jinba, or check www.tokyoactive.com for more listings on day hikes.

10. Try a spicy night in K-town

Sample a variety of spicy dishes and grilled meats in the casual setting of a Korean BBQ, for an interesting cross-cultural experience within the city. I highly suggest accompanying your meal with copious amounts of the Korean spirit; *soju*, then ambling around this lively area for a dose of our neighbour's pop culture and paraphernalia. **Shin-Okubo station is on the JR Yamanote line.**

11. An alternative date spot

Stray away from tacky decorations and love ballads and opt instead for something with an edge, such as *Tatemichiya*, a small izakaya owned by a punk music aficionado: dine on grilled meats and deep-fried takoyaki, whilst listening to the blaring guitars of the Sex Pistols and the Ramones in this Daikanyama based punk-rock izakaya. *Tatemichiya*.

Tel: 03-5459-3431

12. Splash out at one of Tokyo's finest restaurants

Check out Weekender's selection of bars and restaurants over the next few pages. Why not splash out a little and make this Valentine's Day a night to remember?



TokyoWeekender.com

Remember to check out the Tokyo Weekender website to view our comprehensive guide to Valentine's Day.

The Spirit of Valentine's

If you're in need of some help in setting the right mood for your big Valentine's date, then help is at hand. The Tokyo Weekender's resident mixologist has teamed up with Grand Marnier to create the perfect Valentine's Day cocktail. In this flavourful orange-chocolate cocktail, cocoa is combined with Grand Marnier's delectable notes of orange, toffee, and marzipan. The selected cognacs used in the blend bring depth and complexity to the cocktail, enhancing the flavours and aroma. Just follow these simple step-by-step instructions and your date is guaranteed to go off with a bang.

1. Pour 350ml of semi skimmed milk into a pan and simmer gently.
2. Add 1 tablespoon of quality organic cocoa, 1/2 a tablespoon of icing sugar, 1/4 tablespoon of cornflour, a pinch of salt and a pinch of cinnamon. Stir gently over a low heat.
3. Add 30g of grated dark chocolate and whisk into the milk mixture until completely melted.
4. Add 70-90ml of Grand Marnier into the mix and stir well.
5. Serve in a mug and garnish with a sliver of orange peel.



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TABLE FOR TWO

VALENTINE'S DINING SPECIAL

Tokyo is a treasure trove of fine restaurants but making a decision on where to dine out can be a challenge, especially for an evening as special as Valentine's night. Relax, and let Tokyo Weekender guide you before the big night. All the restaurants featured here offer something special, from jaw-dropping night views of the Tokyo metropolis, to the finest imported steaks and of course, copious amounts of champagne and fine wines. Many of these restaurants are located in some of the city's finest hotels. Why not make a night of and extend your evening into the next day? If you are feeling guilty after all those chocolates and alcohol, why spend an hour or two on the ice at the Tokyo Midtown ice rink (see page 20). Happy Valentine's Day!



SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, TOKYO

Twelve couples will experience one of the most luxurious evenings ever when the Shangri-La hosts its exclusive Love at Shangri-la dinner at 'The Pavilion' on Level

27. This special dinner, priced at ¥50,000 per couple starts from the minute you step in the hotel. The formally dressed service staff will escort you and your loved one from the hotel entrance to The Pavilion. The Pavilion will be decorated with the theme of red and white with candles and flower arrangements produced by Nicolai Bergmann. This romantic and unforgettable dinner is complete with a six-course meal, including champagnes and fine wines selected by the hotel's sommelier. In addition, as a memento of the event, roses will be given to ladies, and BVLGARI amenities will be presented to gentlemen as a gift on your way out. With a location as special as this, why not stay the night and enjoy the stunning surroundings of the hotel the next day too.

For More Information:

Date: 14 February 2012

Doors open: 19:30, 20:00 start

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo Level 27 'The Pavilion'

Call: 03-6739-7888

Address: Marunouchi Trust Tower Main, 1-8-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku,



NEW YORK GRILL - AT THE PARK HYATT HOTEL

In a city acclaimed for exceptional dining, Park Hyatt Tokyo's five restaurants have earned a truly outstanding reputation, offering an array of choices to suit every taste and occasion. Panoramic views of the Tokyo skyline and Mount Fuji enhance the dining experience at each of these restaurants which are some of the city's most sought-after tables. Dramatically perched on the 52nd floor of Park Hyatt Tokyo is the dynamic New York Grill, with floor-to-ceiling glass windows offering breathtaking views of Tokyo. The contemporary and sophisticated interior features four substantial paintings of New York scenes by Italian artist Valerio Adami and a wine cellar housing over

1,600 bottles of wines. This Valentine's holiday, enjoy the finest in Champagnes, Louis Roederer's Cristal, the jewel of the House, first created in 1876 for Tsar Alexander II of Russia, with a refined yet romantic dinner at Tokyo's two favourite restaurants. With breathtaking views of the Tokyo skyline, enjoy Champagne at its finest with a glass of Cristal paired with a sumptuous 5-course menu created by Chef de Cuisine, Stefan Resch.

For More Information:

Call: 03-5323-3458

Address: Park Hyatt Tokyo, 3-7-1-2 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-1055
(Booking recommended)



KIWI VALENTINE'S AT WAKANUI

The interior of Wakanui is simple but elegant; with splendid wood flooring, dark wood furniture and dim lighting. The atmosphere is relaxed, engendering communication. The signature dishes served that evening included Grilled Beef Bone-in Rib Eye; chargrilled lamb chops; Fillet of Grass fed Heifer and Canterbury Lamb Frenched Rack (with meat from lamb under 6 months old), all tender and succulent, grilled to perfection. Homemade desserts included Hokey Pokey ice cream and Pavlova. "Japanese people, in general, shun mutton and lamb meat; they don't like the strong, slightly gamey taste. But we at Anzco are changing all that," said Makoto Kinjo, president of Anzco Foods in Japan. "You might say Wakanui's aim is to correct that prejudice. The high quality New Zealand beef and lamb we serve here have been aged to perfection in our on site aging room and chargrilled over the 'Binchotan' coal from Kishu. The meat is like nothing you've ever tasted." Wakanui also imports original selections of wines from boutique wineries in addition to a range of famous New Zealand wines.

For More Information:

Call: 03-3568-3466

Address: B1, 2-23-24 Higashi-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044



RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE

Founded in New Orleans by Ruth Fertel in 1965, Ruth's Chris Steak House is the world's premier upscale steakhouse, with more than 120 locations worldwide. Ruth's Chris is best known for its award-winning steaks and specializes in broiling custom-aged premium American and Japanese beef in its trademark 1800-degree oven to lock in natural flavor and tenderness. In addition to prime grade beef, the New Orleans-inspired menu includes a range of fresh seafood, other meat entrees, seasonal specialties, fresh-cooked vegetables and potatoes, as well as delicate homemade desserts. Ruth's Chris offers an extensive wine collection of American, Australian and European wines, which completes the dining experience.

For More Information:

Call: 03-3501-0822

Address: 3-2-6 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Club Building 101, Tokyo, 100-0013

PETER - AT THE PENINSULA

A discreet private lift from the Lobby leads to Peter, Tokyo's hippest restaurant and bar with breathtaking city views through floor-to-ceiling windows. Experience the latest in avant-garde design with intriguing interactive entertainment technology that gives a feeling of being on stage against a moving backdrop. Innovative internationally inspired cuisine by Chef Patrice Martineau appeals as much to the sophisticated palate of Tokyo's gourmets and visitors alike. Adjacent to Peter, Tokyo's hippest restaurant is Peter: The Bar, providing the ideal place to enjoy signature cocktails, premium Champagnes, cigars and creative comfort cuisine.

For More Information:

Call: 03-6270-2763

Address: The Peninsula Tokyo, 1-8-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda, Tokyo 100-0006



GORDON RAMSAY AT CONRAD TOKYO

The Michelin-starred Gordon Ramsay at Conrad Tokyo offers stunning city views from floor-to-ceiling windows on the 28th floor of this skyscraper hotel. Choose from an inventive menu created by the globally-renowned chef while gazing across the city's glittering skyscrapers. Gordon Ramsay at Conrad Tokyo has collaborated with the "Flower Valentine Promotion Committee", with a special "Dozen Roses" package created especially for Valentine's Day this year. Along with Gordon Ramsay's trademark modern cuisine, couples get to enjoy a special dinner with the gift of a dozen roses, each of which has its own special message of love.

Menu: Dozen roses, ¥15,000

Dozen roses select, ¥25,000

Dinner: 17:30-21:00

Period: 2/10-14

For More Information: www.gordonramsay.jp

Call: 03-6388-8745

Address: 1-9-1 Higashi-Shinbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo






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HIT THE ICE

TOKYO MIDTOWN'S **DINERS CLUB**
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Fancy doing something both fun and athletic this Valentine's day? Head to Tokyo Midtown in Roppongi for your final chance at a spot of ice-skating. The vast Diners Club Ice Rink is one of the largest in Japan and is affordable for all couples, at only ¥1,000 per person for adults (if you want to bring the kids, it's just ¥500, plus skate rental of ¥500).

For 2012 the rink is also offering a special program where skaters can book the whole ice rink for one hour of private skating (for just ¥30,000 plus skate hire). An ideal location for impressing that special someone, as you will be the only people on the ice!

Surrounded by stunning illuminations and located next to Tokyo Midtown mall, the Diners Club Ice Rink makes for a perfect post-shopping or pre-dinner activity right in the center of town. *Don't miss it!*

The Diners Club Ice Rink is open until Feb 29.

Open from 12noon until 10pm.



GET YOUR
SKATES ON IN
CENTRAL
TOKYO!



DINERS CLUB ICE RINK

Location: Tokyo Midtown, Roppongi.

Open: Until February 29.

Skating cost: ¥1,000 for adults, ¥500 for children (plus ¥500 skate hire).

www.imgjapan.com/rink/



Diners Club
INTERNATIONAL

Ice Rink
in Tokyo Midtown

ダイナースクラブ アイスリンク in 東京ミッドタウン

Where nature inspires.



Hanazono Niseko is located in
the southwest corner of Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido,
850km north of Japan's capital city, Tokyo.
Niseko is the second snowiest resort on the globe,
boasting 16m of annual snowfall.
The snow is dry, deep and provides
some of the most exhilarating
powder skiing and snowboarding
experiences anywhere in the world.

hanazononiseko.com



Niseko's largest
equipment hire
- 3 great locations



Japan's no.1
international
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Niseko's finest
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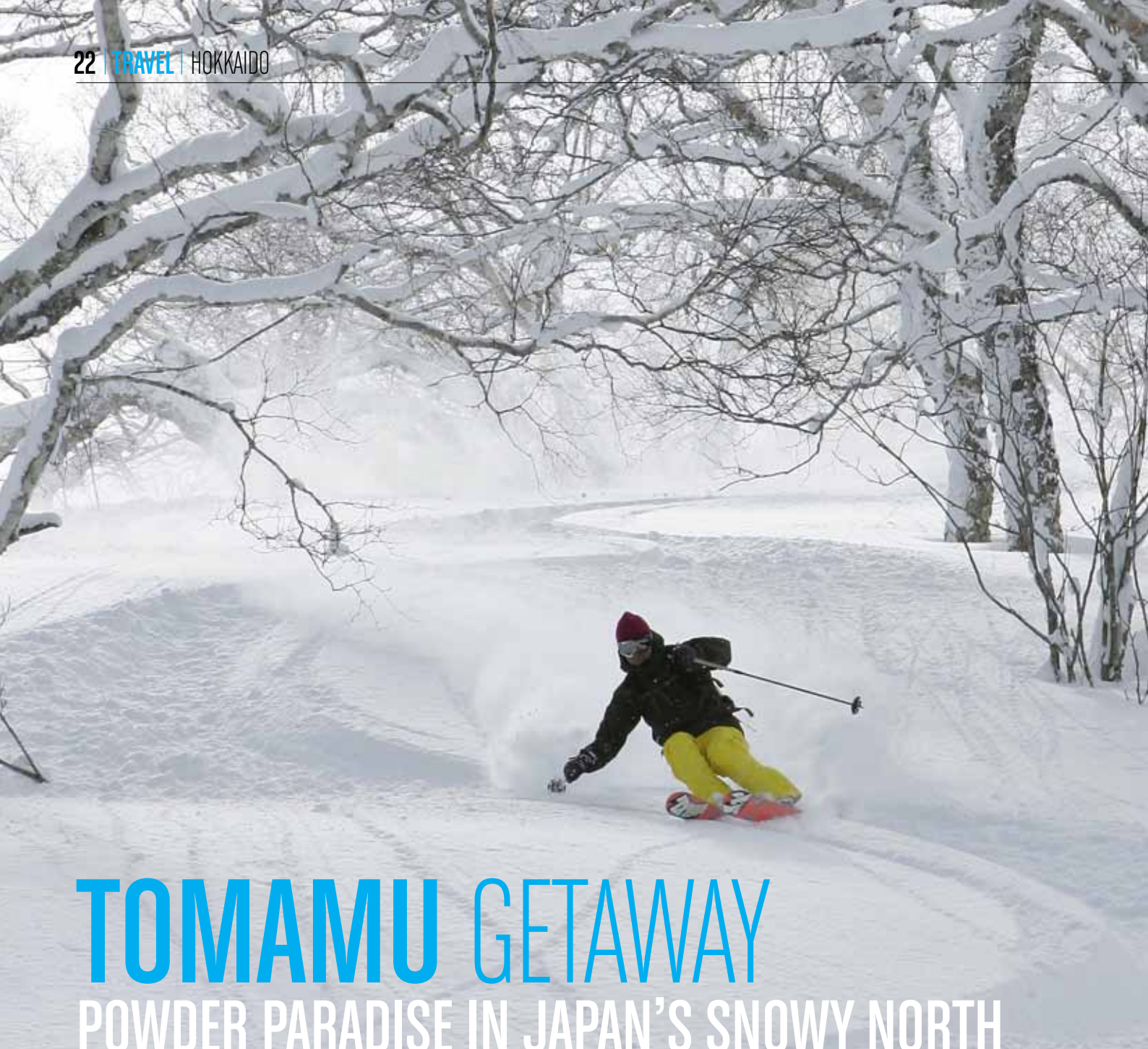
Gear for
the elements
- 3 great locations



New for this season!
prime ski-in
ski-out location



For the best Niseko
accommodation
packages



TOMAMU GETAWAY

POWDER PARADISE IN JAPAN'S SNOWY NORTH

If you're bored of Kyoto and Kamakura and have had your fill of the city, savvy Tokyoites should look north for a memorable break this winter.

For a quality vacation this time of year, it really doesn't get much better than Hokkaido. While Nagano and Niigata can claim the most accessible and cheapest routes to the slopes from Tokyo, the resorts of Japan's northern island are a cut above when it comes to skiing and snowboarding. Weekender traveled to Hoshino Resort Tomamu to explore one of Hokkaido's best hotels.

POWDER HEAVEN

For experienced skiers and boarders the quality of powder in Tomamu cannot be beaten. It is not an exaggeration to say that the mountains in this part of Hokkaido offer some of the best snow in the world. In the year 2000 temperatures in parts of the island reached a record breaking low of -30°C, (so

pack warm clothes!) though the average temperatures this winter have hovered around -10°C. Nowhere in Japan, or anywhere in Asia for that matter, gets better powder coverage than Hokkaido. It's little wonder so many tourists travel to the region each year.

GETTING THERE

Traveling to Japan's northern island from Tokyo is a cinch, especially with the opening of Haneda airport's runway D and improved rail links. With a little bit of forward planning you can be on the piste in just a couple of hours. Flying to Hokkaido couldn't be simpler; no passports are required—even for foreigners (although it is wise to carry some sort of photo ID). The brisk check-in is a strange feeling for those used to the hassle of jetting long haul and the only downside is the lack of duty free shops—but that is more than made up for by the sheer efficiency of the service. Japan's largest airline, ANA, fly from Haneda to New Chitose Airport, several

times a day, taking just 90 minutes and if you book in advance there are numerous cheap deals available.

On landing in Hokkaido, you instantly see why so many skiers and snowboarders make the annual pilgrimage. The refreshing frozen air is a welcome break from life in the city and the mounds of snow covering every flat surface further hint at the fresh powder awaiting in the resorts. The snow covered countryside could easily pass for a different continent, though with the trademark politeness from the locals, you are still clearly in Japan.

TRAVEL IN HOKKAIDO

Trains in Hokkaido don't run as frequently as in Tokyo, so it is essential to plan in advance. Station staff can assist in buying tickets and route-planning—and it is advised to check before you board a train as one slip-up on the confusing rail network can set you back

Bilingual instructors offer ski and snowboard lessons for beginners and kids.



More than skiing: Why not enjoy a ride on a snow mobile or banana boat?



several hours, translating to lost time on the slopes (as our man discovered). Hoshino Resort Tomamu runs buses straight to the airport, which although slower than the train, gets you to your destination without worrying about schedules or missing your stop.

TOMAMU, A LANDMARK LOCATION

Of Hokkaido's many resorts, one of the most striking is Hoshino Resort Tomamu. The vast complex of hotel towers, spas, ski lifts and golf courses (open during summer) is one of the most luxurious ways to enjoy Hokkaido. The Hoshino Resort is a hotel complex so large, it could almost be its own city. Divided between four hotels, guests can literally ski-in and ski-out from the hotel door. Food at the complex is top notch and the all-you-can-eat HAL buffet restaurant is an indulgent way to pack on the post-ski calories and protein. The hotel lobby also offers free tea and coffee which is a simple gesture that is much welcomed after spending time in the near-arctic conditions outside.

ACTIVITIES

Après ski activities at Hoshino Resort Tomamu include the incredibly fun ice-shoeing (recommended!), banana boat riding and motor-heads will love the snowmobiling. Families will appreciate the bath house at Tomamu, a steel and glass cathedral-like structure, that houses, according to staff, the 'largest wave pool in Japan', perfect for

the kids. The steaming water of the pool and surrounding *onsen* and Jacuzzis is impossible to turn away. We dread to think of the heating bills but it is far too much fun to turn down. For those wanting to splash out a little more, the suites of the Hoshino Resort include a full size Jacuzzi and sauna in the room. A perfect addition to the hotel and very welcome, after a long day exploring the numerous slopes and off-piste areas.



“Tomamu is a unique adventure and offered views of a side of Japan most expats miss”

MORE THAN SKIING

Surprisingly summer is the busiest season in this part of Hokkaido, guests wanting to escape the sweltering heat of Kanto will find serene green golf courses and an unusual attraction dubbed the 'cloud sea', a natural cloud phenomenon that, when viewed from the mountain tops resembles the ocean. Weddings are another reason this resort is popular and Tadao Ando, one of Japan's most esteemed architects, even designed the hotel's wedding chapel, a striking minimalist concrete and glass structure (called 'Chapel on the water') with vast picture windows looking out on a shallow lake, which although frozen looks incredible this time of year.



HOSHINO RESORT TOMAMU

ANA flies to Hokkaido daily. For more information visit the ANA website: www.ana.co.jp

The snow lasts until the end of April, for up to date snow reports and general information on Tomamu visit the official website: www.snowtomamu.jp/winter/en/

Despite the bruises and muscle ache, the journey to Tomamu is a unique adventure and offered views of a side of Japan most expats miss. I for one can't wait to return to Japan's powder heaven and with snow season lasting another few months, there are still plenty of chances.

NISEKO

HOKKAIDO'S MOST POPULAR RESORT

There is no feeling quite like flying down a frozen mountain with the wind in your face and February is the perfect time of year to make the most of Japan's unique geography and head to the hills for a bit of fun on the piste. If you are planning a trip to Hokkaido be sure to consider Niseko, one of the most popular resort towns with expats. The immensely popular Mount Annupuri is home to four ski resorts, each owned and operated by a different company together dubbed "Niseko United". This wealth of opportunity for boarders and skiers is the main reason so many people travel to the resort each year, that and the near-Siberian temperatures and the deep and fluffy powder. The largest of the resorts, Grand Hirafu (or just Hirafu for short) is the most popular place to ski, with runs suitable for all, from beginners an children to the hardcore professional. This may be your last chance to ski in 2012, so what are you waiting for?

Equipment hire:

Ace Rental: 0-136-21-5253

Kogen Ski Center: 0-136-22-0109

Grand Hirafu Rental Shop: 0-136-22-0109

Prices from ¥5,900 per day. See online for further details.

Lift passes:

Electronic passes are available for each resort or the whole mountain and differ in price depending on season and length of use.

Whole mountain:

	Adults	Kids	Seniors
8 Hours	¥5,200	¥2,900	¥3,700
1 Day	¥5,900	¥3,300	¥4,400
2 Days	¥10,700	¥5,800	¥7,900
3 Days	¥15,800	¥8,600	¥11,800

Info: Niseko Village and Niseko United lift tickets and season passes are available at the base of the Niseko Gondola and at the Niseko Village Ski Center.

Buses and trains:

Hokkaido Resort Liner: 011-219-4411

www.access-n.jp/winter/english/

Chuo Buses: 011-231-0500

Donan buses: 0123-46-5701

JR Hokkaido: www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global

Airport Info:

New Chitose Airport

Call: 0-123-23-0111

www.new-chitose-airport.jp/language/english

More information:

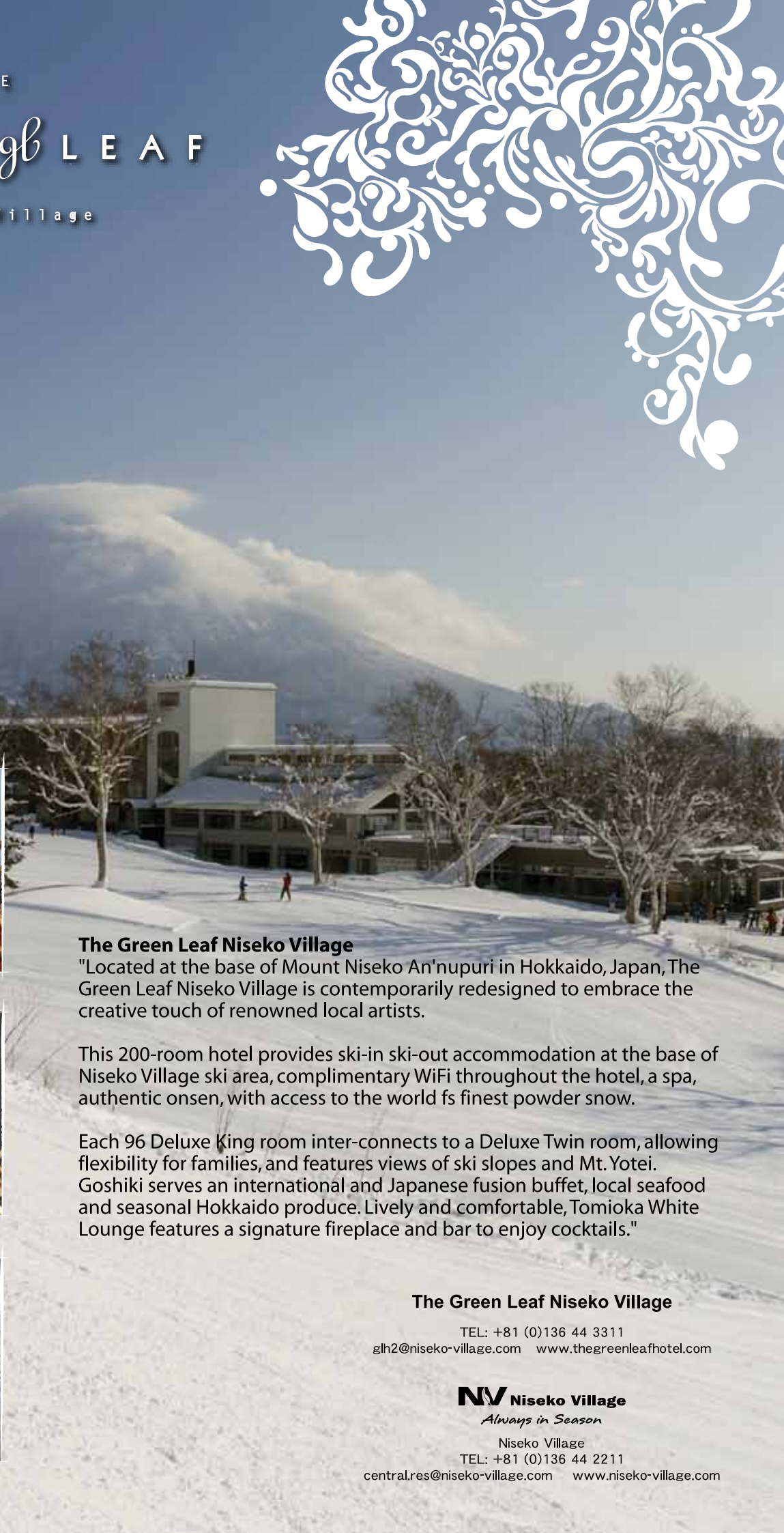
Niseko Promotion Board

0081 (0) 136 21 2551

www.nisekotourism.com

THE
GREEN *gl* LEAF

Niseko Village



The Green Leaf Niseko Village

"Located at the base of Mount Niseko An'nupuri in Hokkaido, Japan, The Green Leaf Niseko Village is contemporarily redesigned to embrace the creative touch of renowned local artists.

This 200-room hotel provides ski-in ski-out accommodation at the base of Niseko Village ski area, complimentary WiFi throughout the hotel, a spa, authentic onsen, with access to the world's finest powder snow.

Each 96 Deluxe King room inter-connects to a Deluxe Twin room, allowing flexibility for families, and features views of ski slopes and Mt. Yotei. Goshiki serves an international and Japanese fusion buffet, local seafood and seasonal Hokkaido produce. Lively and comfortable, Tomioka White Lounge features a signature fireplace and bar to enjoy cocktails."

The Green Leaf Niseko Village

TEL: +81 (0)136 44 3311
glh2@niseko-village.com www.thegreenleafhotel.com

NV Niseko Village
Always in Season

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Hilton Niseko Village

Always in Season



Hilton Niseko Village showcases the best nature can offer in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. There's something for everyone: from families looking for an active holiday, to those seeking a rejuvenating nature retreat. Whether for business or leisure, guests are sure to have an unforgettable experience enveloped in Hilton's legendary approach to hospitality.

For your leisure / activities

Set at the foot of the Niseko Annupuri Mountain, Hilton Niseko Village is the perfect base from which to enjoy a huge variety of outdoor activities. Ski on powdery slopes during winter, or challenge a colleague to a round of golf in the summer. This ski-in, ski-out hotel boasts a variety of restaurants and bars, an award-winning spa, natural onsen hot springs, 24-hour fitness room, and offers the premium mountain resort experience.

Niseko Village One Day Ski Pass Package

From ¥19,000 per room per night

Stay in a Hilton Room including daily breakfast and one day Niseko Village ski pass

Discover Snow Package

From ¥32,000 per room per night

Stay in a Hilton Room including daily breakfast and one day Niseko Village ski pass, ski wear and ski or snowboard rentals and ski lesson

For more information and reservation, please call Hilton Niseko Village +81 (0)136 44 1115 or email reservation.niseko@hilton.com



Hilton Niseko Village
Higashiyama-onsen, Niseko-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido, 048-1592 Japan
TEL: +81-(0)136-44-1111 niseko.hilton.com hiltonnisekovillage.jp

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HOTEL MONTEREY EDELHOF



Edelhof Sapporo

The hotel is designed to evoke the luxury of late 19th Century Vienna, with the name Edelhof meaning “Manor House” in German. The hotel is built on the site of the former Hokkaido Regional Forestry Office, and to this day there are many reminders of the site’s history such as the big leafy trees in the hotel grounds, helping to create the ambience of a traditional Manor House garden. We hope our guests will feel part of the story of classical Vienna during their stay.



Hotel Monterey Edelhof Sapporo
Nishi 1-1, Kita 2 Jyo, Chuo-ku,
Sapporo, Hokkaido, 060-0002, Japan
PHONE +81-11-242-7111

<http://www.hotelmonterey.co.jp/en/htl/edelhof/>

Enjoy incredible views of Sapporo from the men's Sky Resort Spa

JR TOWER HOTEL NIKKO SAPPORO

The JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo, is a celestial resort directly connected to JR Sapporo Station and the highest building in Hokkaido at 173 meters above ground. While offering the convenience of being directly connected to the station, JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo provides guests with a heavenly stay where you will feel blissfully relaxed.



GUEST ROOMS

Guests can enjoy breathtaking views from the guest rooms located on the 23rd to 34th floors, over 100 meters above ground. Enveloped by spectacular views that unfold outside, guests can enjoy a wonderful vista, day or night.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The 35th floor is home to unique restaurants and bars where you can savor a plethora of delicious Hokkaido food. Enjoy the “New Wave” while relishing seasonal landscapes at the “Mikuni Sapporo”, “Sky J”, “Tancho”, and “Serena”, restaurants.

Mikuni Sapporo—a French restaurant produced by renowned Hokkaido chef Kiyomi Mikuni. Savor the luxury of creative French “cuisine naturelle”, which makes the most of Hokkaido’s delectable seasonal produce.

Sky J is always in pursuit of new tastes using seasonal food, from Hokkaido. Come

and enjoy new Western dishes along with a spectacular night views of Sapporo city.

Tancho offers new Japanese dishes that defy the term “Japanese”. Tancho sticks to local ingredients and locally produced drinks and ensures that you will have a superb time.

Serena a modern European style coffee shop and restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner in a bright and airy setting.

From Japanese, to French and classic western cuisine, guests at JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo can enjoy the finest local produce Hokkaido is famed for in a variety of settings.

SKY RESORT SPA

Imagine a sky oasis basked in sunlight at both dawn and dusk. A place where you can lose your sense of time in total relaxation.

Sky Resort Spa “Pulau Bulan” (the island of the moon) offers a refreshing space for all guests (18 years and older). The spa employs natural hot spring water that began flowing from an underground source below Sapporo Station’s southern entrance in the year 2000.

The entire 22nd floor is given to state-of-the-art spa facilities, including natural hot springs, air bubble baths and saunas.

“Imagine a sky oasis basked in sunlight at dawn and dusk”

AQUA ZONE

The ladies only spa offers numerous relaxation facilities, including “Carnia Isle”, a massage bath where you can appreciate the locally sourced natural hot springs and a “Thermarium Sauna” with its aromatic scents.

REFRESH ZONE

The Aqua Zone boasts natural hot springs, as well as saunas with breathtakingly beautiful views of Sapporo. While the Refresh Zone hosts a lounge and cafe offering drinks and snacks. Or, why not pamper yourself and refresh your body, with foot massages and exfoliating peel massages.

GETTING THERE:



Location: 5, Nishi 2, Kita 5, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-0005 (inside JR Tower)

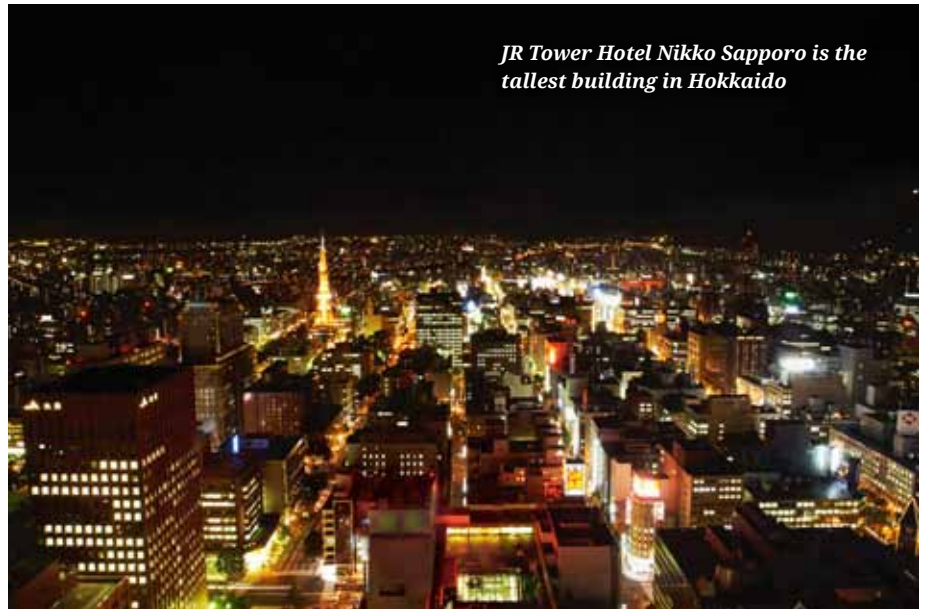
Subway: Subway Nanboku Line; next to JR Sapporo Station. Subway Toho Line; next to JR Sapporo Station

Train: Just 36 minutes by JR rapid train from JR Shin-Chitose Airport Station; next to JR Sapporo Station (East Ticket Gate).

80 minutes by JR rapid train from JR Asahikawa Station; next to JR Sapporo Station (East Ticket Gate).

32 minutes by JR rapid train from JR Otaru Station; next to JR Sapporo Station (East Ticket Gate).

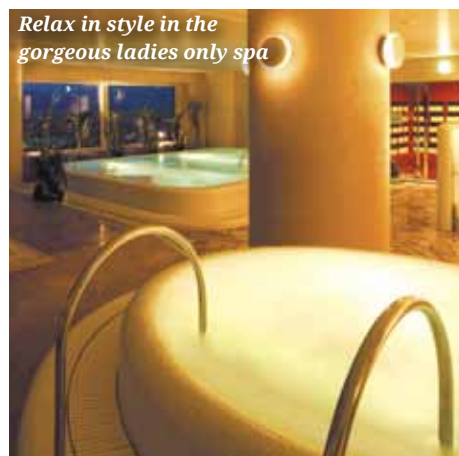
Car: If your traveling by car, parking is available at the East parking tower.



JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo is the tallest building in Hokkaido



Relax in style in the gorgeous ladies only spa



JR HOKKAIDO HOTELS
JR tower hotel nikko sapporo
 nikko hotels international

For more information please visit the official JR Hotel website
www.jrhotelgroup.com/eng

ANA GOES SOCIAL



ANA celebrates the maiden flight of the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner, discover more about ANA on Facebook and Twitter!



ANA fans should check out ANA's Global Facebook page, where you can communicate with other ANA aficionados from around the world! Facebook users will find fun videos, original pictures of aircraft and scenery, ANA staff introductions, as well as Facebook exclusive campaigns and other super-saving deals.

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NISEKO SKI PACKAGE	(3DAYS/2NIGHTS)	2/26~3/29	¥41,800~
TOMAMU SKI PACKAGE	(3DAYS/2NIGHTS)	2/6~2/29	¥40,500~

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EDUCATION
SPECIAL

THE FOUR F'S

CAN JAPAN EMBRACE DIGITAL SKILLS EDUCATION?

Japan's experiment with "yutori kyoiku", a more intuitive approach to learning less concentrated on rote learning, has collapsed and we are back to the 3R's (reading, writing and arithmetic). Regardless of direction change in Japan, the challenge for learning continues and it seems rote memorization of data will be the "buggy whip" for this century. However, it doesn't need to be this way.

The "Four F's" of digital education will revolve around the finding, filtering, finessing and figuring of information.

The "Finding" of information is now predominately completed through on-line sites—usually identified through search engines. So far so good but actually a bit tricky in practice because your search may produce 13,000 pages of data on this subject! The problem is "Finding" now means "finding everything".

The random selection of information sought by algorithms sometimes feels not that different to when I wandered around the stacks of the Griffith University library, happening upon a tome of great erudition and application, all by chance.

The next big challenge is that we have to make some decisions about the value of what we have found; this is the "Filtering" process. Tricky as well, because we have to make some judgments about subjects, of which, in reality we may know very little.

This is where the "Finessing" comes in, we have to use our intuition to separate out the relevant from the "discard now". We have to plunge into what the programmer of the algorithm has decided we should read first and then build some knowledge base, upon which to make some decisions.

.....

"We have to make some judgments about subjects, of which, in reality we may know very little."

.....

Who is currently teaching this part of the process? Finally having worked out what is worth keeping, well great—but how do we use it?

This is the "Figuring" process, of application of information. That is, the linking of data

pieces to each other to reinforce an existing point, or to draw a new inference about a particular subject. This stage is no different to what we had before the internet made access to everything, everywhere, possible immediately.

Twitter and Google Search remind me of drinking from the fire hose; there is such an overwhelming amount of information being highlighted. Facebook to some degree has a filter built in that delivers the experiences of people you know and trust. Specialist blogs may perform the same role, if the writer is an authority on that subject.

Back to the future—is "learning" keeping up with the "digital fire hose"? Rote memorization is a long way off the pace. What is available to deliver the "Four F's" Digital Skills that we all increasingly need to be productive? Scanning the horizon, I don't see anything happening here in Japan to address the future. By the way, that is where we are all going to be spending our time! This sounds more like an opportunity than an apocalypse for educators who get it.

.....

Dr. Greg Story is President of Dale Carnegie Training, which has gone from the inkwell to the iPad over it's last 100 years.



AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Tokyo Weekender spoke with Lin Kobayashi, Executive Director of International School of Asia, Karuizawa (ISAK) to hear her views about international schooling in Japan and to find out a little more about ISAK, the first fully residential international school in Japan.

What is ISAK?

ISAK will be an international boarding high school for grades 10-12 located in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture. The school will be the first international school in Japan that is fully residential, and if all goes according to plan, it will be the first high school accredited by the Japanese government that offers all classes in English and requires completion of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme for graduation.

What is unique about ISAK?

Although diversity is already part of the international school experience in Japan, the residential element of ISAK and a substantial financial aid program will allow us to bring together students from truly diverse backgrounds to live and study together. All of the participants in our 2011 summer school were amazed by the national, ethnic, socio-economic and religious diversity among their peers. Based on my own experience, I firmly

believe that the interaction between students outside the classroom is one of the most valuable aspects of international schooling. We also believe that no other school offers our blend of leadership skill training, design education and focus on the Asia Pacific region. We had great success with a pilot version of this curriculum at our summer school, and we are excited to see the growth of students who experience the full three-year curriculum.

Could you explain a bit more about the summer school?

ISAK Summer School, held in late July in Karuizawa, gives junior high students from around the world the opportunity to experience a condensed version of our full-year program. Last year we had students from ten countries taking classes from drama to international negotiation, in addition to sports and outdoor activities. The leadership workshops, a hands-down favorite among participants, proved to be particularly eye-opening for many students, which further strengthens my belief that the Asian region needs more schools dedicated to fostering leadership training and an interest in service. We are looking forward to offering the program again this summer, and hope to attract many engaged and curious young people who enjoy challenges and are eager to contribute their ideas and energy to our group.

What would you like to say to students considering their options for high school?

Believe in yourself! Follow your heart, find what you are passionate about and be willing to take risks. When I started school in Canada, I finally discovered the joys of studying a subject that I love, but I also want to see young people developing their talents and skills unrelated to academics. My hope is that today's students can develop into compassionate leaders and innovative thinkers in whatever field they choose to pursue. I encourage motivated students who want top-level academics combined with an emphasis on leadership and service to consider ISAK for their high school education.



For more information about International School of Asia, Karuizawa or the ISAK Summer School 2012, please visit their official website.

Info: <http://isak.jp/en/>
 Email: programs@isak.jp



AI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Guiding and Helping Children to Become Independent.

The school focuses on the development of the uniqueness and individuality of each child, providing an enriching environment, with international diversity among the faculty and students. Founded in 1986, Ai International School has expanded its educational programs from toddler to kindergarten children. The focus is placed on guiding and helping children to become independent and appreciate the uniqueness and value of other individuals. Through education in English, children will gain an understanding of communication skills and interact with people from different cultures. Close communication between parents and teachers will ensure a safe and healthy education for each child. Our system and programs are very flexible to meet with the students and their families' requirements.

Address: 5-4-4, Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan 108-0073
 Tel: 03-3769-3372
 Info: info@aiinternationalschool.com



TOKYO CENTRAL JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Relax & Enjoy Learning Japanese

Just a joyous skip from Tokyo's metropolitan centers of Shinjuku and Harajuku, Tokyo Central Japanese Language School is set among greenery and stately architecture just by Yoyogi station. The school is a melting point of different cultures and nationalities and students have always referred to the eye-opening experience of meeting and mingling with such a varied community. There are also daily opportunities for cultural exchange with students enrolled in the Japanese Language Teacher Training Course. The range of study options cover daily intensive classes, short-term courses and private lessons—and curricula are designed to match a variety of needs. Companies, schools and homes can also request teachers to travel to give classes. Apply now for the TCJ Business Japanese Course, specifically designed for students seeking employment in Japan or requiring Japanese in a work environment. Enrollment is available whenever suits you best. TCJ welcomes all students, irrespective of age or nationality. Trial lesson and the level check are free.

Address: 4-30-3 Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051
 Tel: 03-5411-3331
 Info: www.tcj-nihongo.com/en/



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A Family That Learns Together, Grows Together

International Secondary School (ISS) is a non-profit, grades 5-12, co-educational school providing a customized international education for exceptional, diverse and at-risk students.

ISS has a history of success in working with and supporting students whose challenges have limited their experiences and achievement in other schools.

One of our strengths at ISS is our ability to develop individualized programs that caters to each student while providing small classes, highly trained teachers and a warm, family-like environment. ISS gives every student the respect, support and encouragement necessary to grow and succeed.

Address: 4-17-26 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073
 Tel: 03-5730-1331
 Info: www.isstokyo.com



AOBA

Learning Opportunities That Appropriately Challenge Every Student

Founded in 1976, A-JIS is a pre-kindergarten through grade 12, coeducational school for internationally minded families residing in Tokyo. We are a non-sectarian school, welcoming and respecting families of all nationalities and religions. Our experienced faculty endeavors to utilize best pedagogical practices based on current research to provide students with a wide variety of opportunities for success. We provide a comprehensive curriculum, addressing all academic areas, including: English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, Japanese language classes, music, fine arts, physical education and technology/computers.

A-JIS is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). A-JIS is also a member of the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) and the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS).

Contact: Neal Dilk (Head of School)
 Tel: 03-3335-6620
 Info: www.aobajapan.jp



KAIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Smaller classes, focusing on student-based learning

KAIS International School believes that small is beautiful. The unique American school, serving international students from grades 6-12, is located in Meguro, and focuses on student-based learning and nurturing motivated leaders. The "boutique" international school is small by design, and limits class sizes to twelve students. With 40 students coming from 17 different countries, KAIS's diverse student body adds to a high energy, creative and inspired school that feels like an extended family. At KAIS, students undertake rigorous academic and creative classes, which prepare KAIS students for higher education at elite international universities. The dedication and extensive experience of the teachers, in addition to the diversity and leadership of the students influences the high standard of education at KAIS International School.

Address: 2-7-16 Kami-Osaki, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0021
 Tel: 03-5421-0127
 Info: www.kaischool.com



NISHIMACHI

Pioneer in Promoting Multicultural Education in Japan Est. 1949

Nishimachi International School is a private, non-sectarian, coeducational K-9 day school founded in 1949 to educate students from around the world and Japan.

Nishimachi's educational philosophy is rooted in a spirit of internationalism and humanism that allows children to learn in a supportive, stimulating, and caring environment. The tradition has been to provide children with an education in English and one period of daily Japanese that seeks to develop international perspective and understanding.

The school's mission is to educate students to be communicators, thinkers, and motivated lifelong learners who thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world.

Address: 2-14-7 Moto Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0046 Japan
 Tel: 03-3451-5520
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AMERICAN APPAREL ON THE UP IN 2012

Although the year 2011 may hold difficult memories for many of us, one place that has some good memories is **American Apparel Japan**. The five stores (with their best bilingual staff in flagship stores Shibuya and Osaka) were able to make a complete turn around last year in part to the dedication and hard work of their loyal employees.

For those not familiar with the brand, American Apparel is a vertically integrated manufacturer, distributor and retailer of fashion basics with all of their design, production and distribution facilities located in downtown Los Angeles. Their factory staff are probably the best paid in the world, earning 12 dollars or so an hour, compared to the hourly 40 cents or so that their counterparts in rival companies receive in Chinese factories. Starting with wholesale t-shirts, the brand range grew to enter the retail market and is primarily a range of casual clothes for men and women. American Apparel is a strong advocate of immigration into the U.S. and many of its factory staff are migrants.

With a lot of hard work American Apparel Japan was able to reconstruct its brand image, shift its target market and achieve an increase in sales pushing them into the black, even though the world's economy was down overall last year. Sales in Japan gained momentum from the beginning of 2011 and by the end of the year retail sales showed an increase of 49 percent while online sales shot up by 64 percent. The company continues to expect further growth in the coming new year.



Shibuya Flagship Store

2011 saw ladies chiffon skirts and blouses soar to popularity along with growing sales in their denim line. October and November saw a leap in corduroy skirts sales and the men's denim line is also gathering momentum. Having replaced their previous 80s pop style with a 50s-60s classic line up, the concept behind it is simply "It works".

With their flagship store in Cat Street, Shibuya, Weekender recommends that you go to visit and check out their classic and vintage look wares including the popular "Tokyo Girls Collection", corduroys and their new denim line. If you are not brave enough to face the cold, you can always shop online at store.americanapparel.net or for those of you who have escaped Japan's coldest time of the year, maybe try one of their 249 retail stores located in 20 countries around the world.

NEW WARDROBE, NEW YOU!

MENS



Unisex Fisherman's Pullover: ¥7,500

WOMENS



Chiffon Oversized Button-Up shirt: ¥6,200

KIDS



Kids Shawl Collar Sweater: ¥4,600

MENS
DENIM

Regular Fit 100: ¥9,000

WOMENS
DENIM

Dark Wash High-Waist Jean: ¥8,550

DENIM

American Apparel Jeans have a classic style and wash unlike anything else that's been on the market for the last 15 years. The "High-Waist Jeans" are made from 100% cotton, 14 oz. denim. A heavyweight, non-stretch jean you can wear and wear to get that perfect, broken-in fit and feel. Hitting just above the belly button, these jeans will suck you in and smooth you out. They should fit nice and tight upon first wear and will loosen up after just a few hours, then return to their original size when washed. Order a size down for a snug fit, or to get a more relaxed feel order the same size as your waist measurement.

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Reversible Leather Belt: ¥5,100

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American Apparel®

For more info visit: www.americanapparel.co.jp
Or drop by one of American Apparel's Tokyo stores in Shibuya, Daikanyama or Jiyugaoka.



PEOPLE, PARTIES, PLACES

TOKYO'S LONGEST RUNNING SOCIETY PAGE, WITH BILL HERSEY

It took me a while to decide, but I finally chose to spend the long holidays over both Christmas and the New Year right here in Tokyo. I was sure I would probably get bored somewhere along the way but I'm happy to report that I was so busy, that it just never happened. First, there was an endless amount of interesting people-packed parties for the holidays at the New Lex. In addition to our regular customers there were so many old time friends back in Tokyo and from all over the world. We had some great get-togethers.

One of my highlights for the New Year was seeing violin virtuoso Ryu Goto back in Japan, he spends most of his time in the Big Apple where he's a regular performer at Carnegie Hall. He played a few concerts at the Suntory Hall while he was here in Tokyo and one of the best Christmas presents I got this year was an autographed copy of his latest album Paganiniana (Out now!). Ryu's sister Midori is also one of Japan's top violinists and recently earned a black belt in karate. From what I hear, that's very unusual for someone who's hands and fingers are so important in their profession.

I'd like to say a big and well deserved kudos to Filipina pop singer Charito, as well as local talented singers and the staff of the Franciscan Chapel Center for their beautiful standing-room only Christmas concert. The show featured all the well known Christmas carols and popular holiday music and was truly excellent in every way.

Still on music, I woke up one early afternoon after an all-nighter working, turned on my TV and watched one of my all time favorite musicals, West Side Story. I've seen this show about twelve times in about six languages in theaters all over the world. I've also had the privilege of getting to know and become friends with many of the super talented act of both the stage and screen productions. These include Chita Rivera who played Anita in the original Broadway

show and Rita Moreno, a fun wild lady who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Anita in the film. I also hung out with George Chakiris who played Anita's lover Bernardo in the film when he was in Tokyo and Hector Mercado in NYC and LA where he recreated the role.

When the composer of the masterpiece Leonard Bernstein visited Tokyo, the then U.S. ambassador Mike Mansfield and his wife Maureen set up an afternoon reception in his honour. Unfortunately after all their work Bernstein didn't turn up! Oh well, that's showbiz! There will be performances of West Side Story at the Tokyu Theater Orb in July and August this year.

I was sitting on my waterbed on New Year's Day afternoon sorting out photos when the first earthquake of 2012 in Japan hit. A few friends told me a few things broke in their homes. Thank God, it wasn't all that bad but have to admit it was unexpected and a little scary. It's wishful thinking, but let's hope that's the last one for a while.

Before moving on to our city's busy social scene I'd like to thank several friends that include Ron and Maria Anderson, Jane Scolinos, Grace Saito, Jane Yonamine, Daniele Yoshikoshi, Banjiro and Hisako Uemura and Mitsuo and Lilo Maruyama for helping me with the costs of postage on eight of those huge *balikbayan* boxes packed with clothes, toys and so much more I send to needy families in the Philippines on special occasions. It's just ¥9,000 to Manila and ¥10,000 to rural areas. The shipping company pick the boxes up at my home and they're delivered directly to the families and institutions in the Philippines in about a week. I still have cash for postage and have three half-full boxes in my garage to send. I'd appreciate just about anything in good condition (clothes, toys, household appliances, and especially kids shoes). If you can help call me at 090-3200-6767 and we'll figure out where I can pick them up. Believe me, you'll be helping make a lot of good people happy.



Actor Hide with Thriller dancers.



Hennessy's Ewan Matsuki keeps busy.



Marlon Jackson, his brother Jackie and dancer Travis.



American Apparel's PR man George Inaki (center) with one of the many dance groups.

American Apparel Party



Vice minister of foreign affairs Kazuyuki Hamada
Zimbabwe Amb. Stuart Harold Comberbach, his wife Bicky and
the host Algerian Amb. Sid Ali Ketrاندji.

Algerian National Day



Lilo Maruyama, Abeer Al-Muslahi (Oman) Maali Siam (Palestine)
her son Amir, the hostess Amal Ketrاندji and Jamilah Al-Otaibi.



Sana Ketrاندji and Hala Al-Otaibi.

In and Around



Outgoing Uruguayan amb. Ana Maria Estevez
Colombian Amb, Patricia Cardenas, Lilo Maruyama.



Bill Viola is his wife, Kira Perov and Amb.
and Susan Roos.



Roberta Ireton, Zac Efron and Warner Brother's
Bill Ireton.



JICA president Sadako Ogata, her husband Shijiro and Junko Watanabe.



Paramount Pictures president/GM Japan Ichiro Okazaki his wife Carol, U.S. Ambassador John V. Roos, Hara museum's Junko Watanabe.

U.S. Embassy Art Exhibition



Fuji Media Holdings Inc. chairman CEO Hisashi Hieda and Fuji Communications Teruko Secor.



Gifted American shakuhachi player Bruce Huebner.



Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and Mrs Seiichiro Kono.



Meredith Cardenas, Panama Amb. Jorge Kosmas Sifaki, his wife Ilena.



Takako Shimazu (sister of the Emperor) Colombian Pres. Juan Manuel Santos, his wife Maria, Amb. Cardenas, Hisanaga Shimazu.

Colombian President Visits Tokyo



Philippines Amb. Manuel Lopez his wife Maria Teresa and Kyoko Spector.



Daniela Cardenas, Bill, Colombian Pres. Juan Manuel Santos, Amb. Cardenas.

The Roos's awesome Sunday art exhibition at the U.S. embassy

It was really a VIP crowd and believe me, everyone fortunate enough to be there that day had nothing but rave reviews for the "Ties over time" event. The unique exhibition featured art works by sixteen Japanese and American artists with links to both countries. The evening also honored life-long achievements of the American laureate of the 23rd Praemium Imperiale, Bill Viola. As I said it was a real classy crowd with so many chairmen, CEOs, presidents and leaders in art, theater and film, all meeting and mixing and thoroughly enjoying sharing the very special evening. The buffet featured both American and Japanese favorites and the live music by American *Shakuhachi* player Bruce Huebner couldn't have been better. Kudos to the hosts U.S. ambassador John Roos, his wife Susan and the many people who helped get it all together.

Glittering Algerian national day reception

It was a special and people packed evening as well at the fantastic Arabic designed residence of Algerian ambassador Sid Ali Ketrاندji and his wife Amal. The occasion was to celebrate Algeria's 57th national day and it was an Arabian nights mood with many of the guests in national dress. I heard several people say Amal looked like an Arabian princess which she really did: What a beautiful dress! The lavish buffet was set up in several rooms and with the Arabic arches, marble and tile floors and bubbling fountains, it was really exotic and as I said very Arabian Nights.

The Tsamadoss introduce Greek film celebs

It was a really cool evening at the home of Greek ambassador Nikolaos Tsamadoss and his wife Yasmine when they invited friends to meet a film delegation from Greece. These included noted director Menelao Karamaghiolis and Greek-Albanian actor Alban Ukaj. They along with others working in Greek cinema were here to promote the film J.A.C.E. I really enjoyed getting to know the people at the party, the club and a special screening of the film. It was very well done and a bit heavy, dealing with dark themes of murder, abuse, human organ traffic, fear and male prostitution. One of the highlights of the evening was having philanthropist Jane Scolinos there. She, as you can see by the photo below is looking good.

Zac Efron here for Warner Brothers

Young actor Zac Efron took time out of his busy schedule and flew to Tokyo to do a day of promotion for Warner Brothers hit flick, *New Year's Eve*. Zac, who's a superstar here in Japan, drew a big crowd of fans at the premiere and gave a great press conference. *New Year's Eve* is a very uplifting film—something people here needed after 2011. He's currently working on *The Lucky One*, another film for Warner Brothers.

Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos whirlwind tour of Japan

Colombian ambassador Patricia Cardenas and Luis Genaro Munoz of Colombia's National Federation of Coffee Growers hosted a well attended reception at the Imperial hotel for Colombian president Santos, during his three day official visit to Japan. Guests were a powerful mix of Japanese government officials, diplomats and business leaders

from both the Japanese and expat communities. The president's wife Maria Clemencia as well as a delegation of business men from Colombia were also special guests that evening. As expected, the visit was very busy; there was a meeting of the president and Senorita Santos with the imperial couple and meetings with Japanese politicians that resulted in a bilateral investment treaty and economic partnership agreement. I had the privilege of meeting and talking with president Santos himself and it was easy to see why this personable leader is so popular. He, by the way, is just one and a half years into his four year term and has already done so many good things for Colombia and its people. From Japan, the busy president and his delegation flew to South Korea for meetings with government officials there.

American Apparel's glittering Michael Jackson charity concert after party

I am happy to report that the two Michael Jackson memorial charity concerts—that starred three of his brothers Marlon, Tito and Jackie—were a huge success here in Tokyo. Special guests that participated in the sold out shows included the wild and wonderful Macy Gray, Japan's Ai, super dancer Travis Payne from Los Angeles and dozens of Japanese dancers, including Kento, AKA "Japan's Michael Jackson".

The party which didn't start until midnight was held in the Shangri-La hotel and the grand ballroom as well as all the adjoining event spaces (the VIP room, Hennessey bar, Sony MJ dance games space) were filled to capacity with so many of our city's beautiful people. Macy did her thing on the big stage in the ballroom (wow!) and the different dance groups stayed busy doing their versions of Michael's hits including all the classics like *Billy Jean* and *Thriller*. Hennessey's Ewan Matsuki, who I know from his occasional work at the New Lex, kept the drinks flowing. He's a good guy and a really talented bar tender. I also enjoyed relaxing in what I named the 'jungle room', it was full of lush green plants and trees and there were several girls with great figures, in animal-print tights, moving in and out of the jungle area and making sure everyone had a drink and food.

I had an early morning meeting that day so had to leave the party about 3:30 a.m. even though it was really still happening. I did have a couple of hours coffee break a week later with American Apparel's PR man George Inaki, he's an interesting mix of Japanese and Filipino and that adds up to a lot of creativity and energy. He told me about a few of the brand's events to look forward to this year: in April, American Apparel will participate in the gay pride festival, in June they'll throw a big pool party promoting chiffon fashion and in September the fashion brand will celebrate their seventh anniversary of doing business in Japan.

Finally, a late but sincere happy New Year, with all the holidays, it seems I'm even more behind than usual. My apologies on this. I would also like to also wish all my Chinese friends a happy New Year and I hope that the Year of the Dragon is a good one for everyone!



SPONSORED CONTENT



Greek Embassy's Jane Scolinos Alban, Eleni Nakamura, with actor Kevis Pachos



Greek Amb. Nikolaos Tsamadoss, his wife Yasmine, Greek-Albanian actor Alban Ukaj, with actor Kevis Pachos



Alban Ukaj, Greek Amb. Nikolaos Tsamadoss Volkswagen President and CEO Gerry Dorizos

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ARIPARIS

GIVE THE GIFT OF BEAUTIFUL SKIN THIS VALENTINE'S



Men of Tokyo; if you receive chocolates this Valentine's day, why not break with Japanese conventions and return the gesture to your loved one with a gift they will cherish.

ARIPARIS skincare, founded by entrepreneur Asia Maeda is made to a secret formula here in Japan and is already causing a stir in the fashion hubs of Tokyo and Hong Kong. Available in both serum and cream, ARIPARIS contains four key ingredients proven to reduce the signs of ageing; gold, silver, amber and placenta.

Sold entirely by word of mouth and never doing any promotion (until now), ARIPARIS is a unique cosmetics company that is growing fast. "I really want to empower women and make them happy," says Maeda. "When you look your best, you really feel your best."

Maeda understands the power a small change can have on a persons' well-being. After the March 11 tragedy, Maeda headed north to earthquake damaged areas and handed out boxes of cosmetics to families who had lost

everything. "It was only a small effort on my part but I saw a positive reaction in the people I met. It's amazing what a small gift can do to cheer people up," she says.

Back in Tokyo Maeda is continuing on her quest to empower women with live seminars and classes offering tips on every aspect of well being. "If Japan is to thrive, Japanese women need to take the lead," she explains. "If women are independent and free, then they can find their own way, start their own business, or choose their own husband," she says. Selling cosmetics may be an unusual way to help women, but Maeda is clearly passionate about her cause:

"I want to make a good women's community, it's my mission to tell Japanese women that there is a different way to live. I want to spread my message like I spread my beauty product; by word of mouth."

ARIPARIS skin serum and skin cream is available to purchase by appointment only:

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Email: ariparisinfo@gmail.com

WIN AN ARIPARIS SKINCARE SET



Tokyo Weekender has teamed up with ARIPARIS to offer 20 lucky readers the chance to win a set of ARIPARIS skin serum and skin cream worth over ¥30,000. To enter please fill out the readers survey found at the back of this issue. *Good luck and happy Valentine's Day!!*

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Weekender 2012 Readers' Survey

Every year The Weekender does a readers' survey to find out who you are and what you want out of a Tokyo publication. We appreciate your loyalty and your taking the time to answer our questions, so we are offering a bunch of great prizes to a few lucky respondents. We aim to make The Weekender the kind of publication that you want to read regularly by offering the kind of content and commercial offers that you need to enjoy a lively city like ours. Any and all insights you have will help us do our jobs better! You can also enter online at www.tokyoweekender.com

1. How often do you read The Weekender?

- Every issue
- Once a month
- Irregularly
- Never

2. On average, how many people read your copy of Weekender?

- Just me
- One or two others
- More than two others

3. How often do you visit the Weekender website each month?

- Never
- 1-5 times
- 5-10 times
- more than 10 times

4. Why do you pick up The Weekender? (select all appropriate answers)

- Habit -- I have been reading it forever
- To pass the time in cafes/bars
- The events listings to see what is on
- For the features articles and writing
- Bill Hersey's Parties, Peoples & Places
- For the family section
- Boredom -- just because it's there
- Other Please specify _____

5. What kind of stories are you more or less interested in reading in The Weekender?

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| More
Same
Less | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Expat life in Japan
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Japanese culture
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Japanese culture
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Doing business in Japan
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese politics
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> International relations in Asia
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion pieces
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Families in Tokyo
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment options in Japan
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting on Japanese celebrities
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Social scene reporting
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Travel in Japan
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Travel in Asia
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Fitness
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Fashion |
|----------------------|--|

6. Please tell us where you would like to see Weekender distributed in the future (name of establishment) _____

7. Are you...

- Male Female

8. Where are you from?

9. How old are you?

- 12-18 18-25 26-35 36-45
- 46-55 56-65 Over 65

10. Are you...

- Single
- Married without children
- Married with children

11. Do you live in a

- Furnished Apartment
- Unfurnished Apartment
- House
- Guesthouse

12. What is your housing situation?

- I pay the rent for my apartment/house
- My company pays the rent for my apartment/house
- My company gives me a housing allowance for my apartment/house
- I own my apartment/house

13. How long do you plan to stay in Japan?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- Over 10 years
- Not Sure

14. What is your position?

- CEO/CFO/other C-level Executive
- Corporate Employee
- Professional (accountant/lawyer, etc.)
- Teacher/Trainer
- Service Sector Employee
- Business Owner
- Self-employed/Freelancer
- Student (Major _____)
- Unemployed
- Homemaker
- Other (Please specify _____)

15. What is the monthly income in your household?

- Less than ¥250,000
- ¥250,000 - ¥500,000
- ¥500,000-¥1 million
- ¥1-2 million
- ¥2-4 million
- ¥4-6 million
- More than ¥6 million
- Rather Not Say
- Rather Not Say but in the top half of your scale above

16. Are you a member of a

- Sports/Health club/gym (Please Specify _____)
- Social club (_____)
- A networking group (_____)
- A biz organization (_____)
- A charity (_____)

17. Do you have pets?

- Dog(s) - How many? (_____)
- Cat(s) - How many? (_____)
- Other pet(s) (_____)

18. How much "disposable income" do you spend every month?

- ¥10,000-¥40,000
- ¥50,000-¥100,000
- ¥100,000-¥200,000
- ¥200,000-¥300,000
- More than ¥300,000

19. What kinds of luxury items will you spend big money on? (Select appropriate answers.)

- Cars
- Holidays
- Watches
- Furniture
- Fashion items, jewelry and clothes
- Artworks
- Education/personal improvement
- Others (Please specify _____)

20. How many times a month do you do the following?

	0	1	2	4	8+
Eat out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to the movies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel within Japan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exercise/go to the gym	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to Opera/classical concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to rock/Pop/jazz concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to a museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend a sporting event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to a bar/club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go hiking / outdoor activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rent DVDs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take photos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior design/decorating my home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enjoy spa treatments/visit onsen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take classes about Japanese culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports (Please Specify _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (Please Specify _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A selection of readers will win these prizes for participating:

Two tickets to Vietnam with a two nights stay at the New World Saigon Hotel Plus!

Dinner for two at Gordon Ramsay at the Conrad Hilton, New York Grill at Park Hyatt and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse.



To be eligible for the Weekender 2012 Reader Survey prize drawing, fill out your contact details and submit your answers. If you have been chosen to win a prize, you will be contacted by The Weekender by the end of March 2012.

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REVIEW: THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

Making a movie from a book is always a risky proposition. Translating a movie from a foreign book is even more of a challenge. Director David Fincher, however, manages to keep the essence of the Stieg Larsson's original best-selling

Swedish novel in this soon-to-be-released thriller. Thankfully, this, the first in a trilogy known as the 'Millenium series' stays true to the original. Daniel Craig plays a disgraced journalist tasked with writing the biography of one of Sweden's most successful industrialists, a man who's sister disappeared

in mysterious circumstances decades before. All is not as it seems though, as Craig's new assignment unfolds and every new clue leads to a dead end. With the help of an troubled private investigator, played by the brilliant Rooney Mara, Craig uncovers more than he bargains for in this brilliant and twisted tale of secrets, lies and murder set against the frozen backdrop of northern Europe. Sadly, Sony just announced it isn't going to use Fincher for the second film in the series which is due for release next year. The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo is not for the faint of heart and features scenes of sex and violence, but this landmark thriller is a cut above the usual glossy trash produced by Hollywood.

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo opens in Japan on February 10.

TOM HANKS SANDRA BULLOCK

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 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS MENGENS BASED ON THE NOVEL BY JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CELIA COSTAS MARK ROYBAL NORA SKINNER
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EVANESCENCE - ALBUM RELEASE

Evanescence's third album is self titled for a reason: 15 years after formation, the multi-platinum band has made the most collaborative, united album of its career. And it rocks! "Coming back together is such a beautiful and happy thing," co-founder and lead singer Amy Lee says of making 'Evanescence' the group's first album since 2006's 'The Open Door'. "This record is so geared for live shows," Lee says. "We were thinking about playing live the whole time

we were writing it." Catch Evanescence live in Japan in Zepp venues in Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo and at Yokohama Pacifico. "This moment right now between us and the fans, it feels like a celebration, a homecoming, a family reunion," Lee says. "We're so happy to be back."

Open: 18:00 / Start 19:00
Tickets: ¥6,500 / ¥7,000
www.evanescence.com



JUDAS PRIEST: BUDOKAN

On the road for four decades, Judas Priest land in Japan in February for a string of live shows as part of their 'Epitaph - Final world tour', in Fukuoka, Yokohama, Kobe, Hiroshima, Aichi and finally a gig at the landmark Budokan right here in Tokyo. According to Judas Priest, the band will play "With all guns blazing and amps cranked to eleven... [and] will be giving all their fans one last chance to witness the ultimate metal experience that is JUDAS PRIEST!"

Open: 18:00 / Start 19:00 • **Tickets:** ¥9,500
<http://judaspriest.com/tour>

AGENDA

THE WEEKENDER'S GUIDE TO
 ESSENTIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH



THE RAPTURE: LIQUIDROOM

New York based the Rapture are heading to Japan this month to promote their acclaimed EP, In the Grace of Your Love. You'll know the band for their song 'Echoes' which featured in the movie Superbad and cult TV show Misfits. The Rapture are playing gigs at Umeda Akaso, in Osaka before two shows in Tokyo at Liquidroom and Duo Music exchange.

Open: 18:00 / Start 19:00 • **Tickets:** ¥6,000
www.therapturemusic.com



ENTER SHIKARI: LIQUIDROOM

It's hard to position British "post-hardcore" band Enter Shikari as their brand of metal, electro and drum and bass inspired music sounds like, well, Enter Shikari! The new album "A Flash flood of Colour" was well received by the music press and fans alike. Bring your ear plugs when they invade Liquid Room later in the month and book your tickets in advance, the band is only playing one gig in Tokyo before flying to Brisbane and Sydney.

Open: 18:00 / Start 19:00 • **Tickets:** ¥5,500
www.entershikari.com

2/17

2012 MAPLE LEAF TOHOKU-SUPPORT GALA

A special event organized by the CCCJ

MAPLE LEAF TOHOKU-SUPPORT GALA

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan ("CCCJ") is hosting a special Maple Leaf Tohoku-Support Gala at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, in Roppongi. The Gala marks the launch of the Canada-Tohoku Partnership, supporting the revitalization of the disaster-hit region. The Tohoku-Support Gala will feature a performance from Cirque du Soleil's KOOZA! and will be attended by distinguished guests including H.I.H. Princess Takamado, the Canadian Ambassador to Japan and significant members of the Tohoku business community. It will also feature both highlights of the outstanding disaster-relief projects undertaken by CCCJ members to date, and announcement of new initiatives, and ways the public can get involved—through fundraising, business partnerships and cooperative initiatives with the people of the Tohoku region.

For tickets, e-mail: events@cccj.or.jp or fax to 03-5775-9507.
Seating is limited and readers are encouraged to act quickly to guarantee your place. Business dress required.

2/4

LEE BUL FROM ME, BELONGS TO YOU ONLY

4 February –
27 May, 2012
MORI ART MUSEUM
1-2F ROPPONGI HILLS MORI TOWER

LEE BUL: FROM ME, TO THE MORI

Since debuting in the international art scene in the early 1990s, Korean artist Lee Bul has established herself as one of Asia's leading artists. In the beginning, Lee worked with integrations of performance and soft sculpture. Later, her works developed into sculptural depictions of "monsters" and "cyborgs." More recently, Lee's insights into human desire, our connection with the universe and utopian ideals have expanded to take on a kind of architectural scale, culminating in her "Mon Grand Récit" series. This is the first full-scale survey exhibition of Lee Bul's practice, covering over 20 years of her career from her early works through to the present. Instead of being chronological, the exhibition will attempt to present the various series, which all developed in parallel, in a way that will make apparent their essential meanings and philosophical connotations as well as their geopolitical and historical contexts. After the exhibition at Mori, it is planned to tour internationally including North America and South Korea.

Dates: 4 February - 27 May • **Tickets:** ¥1,500

Venue: Mori Art Museum
www.mori.art.museum

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LADIES: ¥3,000(3Drinks)

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Eddie Bauer has succeeded our founder's belief of "creating by myself, and trying on by myself".



It was 1920 when Eddie Bauer, our founder, opened his first shop in Seattle. Only 25 dollars money, knowledge and experiences which he learned from outdoor sports and his reputation as top salesman were all of what he owned at that time. He came up with various ideas again and again. Accordingly, he achieved the innovative results such as developing the first down Jacket patented in America and badminton shuttlecock which remains the standard for the sport today. First of all, there were few items which could satisfied him in the market, therefore, it was his belief that what satisfied him was the products "created by myself, and tried on by myself". This belief enabled him to created the "Skyliner", the first down jacket in America, which was recorded on Outdoor history.

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Our Guarantee

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Eddie Bauer

Heritage of Eddie Bauer

- 1920 Eddie Bauer opened Tennis Shop in Seattle, Washington.
- 1934 He developed and patented a regulation badminton shuttlecock in the U.S.A. and Canada.
- 1936 He created the first down jacket in North America, which he would patent in 1940. (Patented No. 119122)
- 1942 He established Expedition outfitter division and launched the company's mail-order for selling goose-down garments and goose down-insulated sleeping bags.
- 1945 Published the first mail-order catalog for Expedition outfitter.
- 1953 The American Team attempted the first ascent of K2 with being supported by Eddie Bauer's products.
- 1957 Eddie outfitted the team of American Scientists who are the first to winter in Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year.
- 1963 Eddie outfitted the team that makes the first American ascent of Everest. Eddie Bauer's special products and market products such as wear, sleeping bags and tents showed their great power.
- 1966 Eddie outfitted the Antarctic expedition party of America.
- 1980 Eddie outfitted all members of Dhaulagiri female expedition party.
- 2010 90 years' anniversary since the company founded.



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