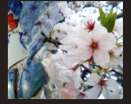




WHAT'S ON IN SAGA

AUGUST 2009



CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, SAGA IS NOT A SLEEPY PREFECTURE. THERE IS PLENTY TO DO (I THINK I HAVE HAD FOUR FREE WEEKENDS IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS). IN ADDITION TO SAGA EVENTS, WE ARE SURROUNDED TO THE NORTH AND EAST BY FUKUOKA PREFECTURE. JETS LIVING IN SOUTHWEST SAGA WILL FIND NAGASAKI PREFECTURE READILY ACCESSIBLE. FROM TOSU CITY, KUMAMOTO CITY IS ONLY ABOUT AN HOUR AWAY. -JESSE

NANAYAMA WATERFALL CLIMB

July 26th (registration closed- Nanayama town, Karatsu City, Saga Prefecture)

JOIN HUNDREDS OF FOREIGNERS AND LOCALS ALIKE AS YOU WALK UP A MOUNTAIN – IN A RIVER. AS EASY OR AS HARD AS YOU WANT IT TO BE. BRING: STURDY, WATERPROOF SHOES (FULLY ENCLOSED WORK MUCH BETTER THAN FLIPFLOPS!) TOO EARLY THIS YEAR FOR NEWBIES, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS NEXT YEAR. A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, THIS SCENIC AND REFRESHING WORKOUT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! SAGAJET INFO: [HTTP://WWW.SAGAJET.COM/FORUMS//VIEWTOPIC.PHP?T=2798](http://www.sagajet.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=2798) (REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE FEE)

SAGA AJET WELCOME PARTY A

Date TBA - usually the weekend after Group A arrives in Saga. (Saga City, Saga Prefecture - TBA)

GET TOGETHER IN SAGA CITY FOR YOUR FIRST ALL-GAIJIN ENKAI! MEET OTHER JETS IN SAGA AND ENJOY WHATEVER AFTERPARTY WE'VE GOT LINED UP (IN THE PAST, KARAOKE, BOWLING, ARCADE GAMES WERE ALL OPTIONS)

OHORI FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

August 1st (Ohori Park, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture)

TAKE THE ORANGE FUKUOKA SUBWAY KUKO LINE TO THE OHORI KOEN STOP (DENOTED WITH A CHERRY BLOSSOM SYMBOL) AROUND SUNDOWN AND ENJOY THE BIGGEST FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN FUKUOKA CITY. 6000 SHOTS OF FIREWORKS AND THOUSANDS OF VISITORS. FIREWORKS ARE SHOT OFF FROM THE CENTRAL ISLAND OF A POND IN OHORI PARK, AND YOU CAN SEE THEM FROM ALL AROUND THE LAKE. (FREE ENTRY)

FUKUOKA NOW FIREWORKS AFTERPARTY

August 1st (La Bohème Qualità restaurant, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture)

OHORI FIREWORKS FESTIVAL FALLS ON A SAT. NIGHT SO CONTINUE PARTYING AT FUKUOKA NOW'S POST-FIREWORKS PARTY AT LA BOHÈME QUALITÀ RESTAURANT! WEAR A YUKATA OR JINBEI (TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SUMMER ATTIRE) AND GET 1 FREE DRINK! BEST DRESSER AWARDS & GAMES. NO YUKATA? NO PROBLEM! EVERYONE WELCOMED! (ENTRY FEE)

SAKAE NO KUNI MATSURI

August 2, from 5 pm. (Saga City, Saga Prefecture)

STREET STALLS, MUSICAL GROUPS, DANCING, FIREWORKS– A GREAT WAY TO KICK OFF YOUR YEAR IN SAGA! YOU CAN EVEN SIGN UP TO BE IN THE PARADE AND LEARN TO DO A SIMPLE FESTIVAL DANCE. FACEBOOK DETAILS AT: [HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENT.PHP?EID=124885466232](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=124885466232) (FREE)

KURUME FIREWORKS

August 5, 6pm - 10pm (arrive earlier for a good seat) (Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture)

THE BIGGEST FIREWORKS FESTIVAL IN WESTERN JAPAN! HANG OUT WITH FELLOW JETS FROM SAGA AND FUKUOKA AS WE WATCH THE FIREWORKS. TO BRING: SOMETHING TO SIT ON (FOLDING CHAIR OR JUST A BLANKET/TARP) YOUR BEVERAGE(S) OF CHOICE, MONEY FOR FESTIVAL FOOD (ABOUT 2500 YEN SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO PIG OUT. MOST ITEMS ARE AROUND 500 YEN / SERVING) FACEBOOK DETAILS AT: [HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENT.PHP?EID=120649561564](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=120649561564) (FREE ENTRY)

SAGA AJET WELCOME PARTY B

August 8th (Hamasaki Town, Karatsu City, Saga Prefecture)

THE SECOND OF OUR WELCOME-TO-SAGA BASHES. THIS ONE IS USUALLY HELD IN THE BEAUTIFUL SEASIDE TOWN OF HAMASAKI. MUSIC, FOOD, FUN IN THE OCEAN. BE SURE TO BRING A SWIMSUIT, TOWEL, AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES (THERE ARE RESTROOMS TO CHANGE IN ON THE SITE).

ISLA DE SALSA

August 8-9 (Momochi Seaside Park, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture)

FAMOUS LATIN MUSIC FESTIVAL HELD EVERY SUMMER IN FUKUOKA. FORMERLY HELD ON AN ISLAND IN FUKUOKA BAY, NOW ON EASILY-ACCESSIBLE MOMOCHI SEASIDE PARK. IT'S POSSIBLE TO CAMP OUT ON THE SITE OVERNIGHT. ADVANCE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE, WITH A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR JETs. SEE: [HTTP://WWW.SAGAJET.COM/FORUMS/VIEWTOPIC.PHP?T=2808](http://www.sagajet.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=2808) (ENTRY FEE)

DISTRICT ORIENTATIONS

Week of August 10-14 - various locations throughout Saga

SPEND THE DAY HANGING OUT WITH YOUR DR (DISTRICT REP) AND GET YOUR PRACTICAL LIVING QUESTIONS ANSWERED— EVERYTHING FROM TRASH SORTING TO TRAINS. ASK YOUR DR FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR JUST WAIT FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

SHORO NAGASHI (OBON FESTIVAL- NAGASAKI CITY, NAGASAKI PREFECTURE)

August 15th

CLIMB ABOARD A SPARKLING WHITE KAMOME TRAIN AND WHISK YOURSELF DOWN TO NAGASAKI CITY FOR THE OBON FESTIVAL. LOCALS MAKE NOISE TO SUMMON THE SPIRITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR AND DIRECT THEM TO THE AFTERLIFE. JUST BE SURE YOU PICK UP EARPLUGS (GET THEM FROM A DRUGSTORE OR CONVENIENCE STORE) AS THE FIRECRACKERS GET LOUD! (FREE ENTRY)

LANGUAGE CLASSES

August 17th - 21st (Jichikaikan behind kencho, Saga City, Saga Prefecture)

MANDATORY FOR ALL NEW JETs (BUT USUALLY EXCEPTIONS FOR CIRs). NOT JUST A WAY TO PICK UP SOME JAPANESE, BUT A WAY TO BOND WITH YOUR FELLOW 2009-2010 SAGA JETs. AFTER YOUR CLASSES, IT WILL BE RARE FOR EVERYONE TO BE IN ONE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME, SO ENJOY GOING OUT FOR DINNER AND POSSIBLY DRINKS AFTER YOUR CLASSES. IF YOU LIVE FAR FROM SAGA CITY, WE CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU TO STAY WITH SOMEONE IN TOWN. (NO COST)

TAKU ENGLISH FESTIVAL

August 24th - Taku City, Saga Prefecture

COME UP TO TAKU CITY IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL SAGA. PLAY GAMES AND COOK FOOD WITH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL KIDS. LOTS OF FUN AND THE CITY MAY EVEN REWARD YOU WITH FREE MEALS! SAGAJET INFO: [HTTP://WWW.SAGAJET.COM/FORUMS/VIEWTOPIC.PHP?T=2816](http://www.sagajet.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=2816) (NO COST)

SAGA ORIENTATION

August 26 - 27th - Saga City, Saga Prefecture

TWO DAYS AT GRAND HAGAKURE HOTEL WHERE YOU CAN ATTEND WORKSHOPS PREPARED BY YOUR DRs ON LOCALLY RELEVANT TOPICS. LESS FORMAL AND MORE FUN THAN TOKYO WORKSHOPS. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MEET EXPERIENCED SAGA JETs AND LEARN ABOUT WORKING AND LIVING IN SAGA. DRESS IS PROFESSIONAL. THERE IS ALSO A WELCOME RECEPTION AT 17:30 FOR JETs AND THEIR SUPERVISORS THE NIGHT OF THE 26TH. (MANDATORY)

DRAGONBOAT RACE

August 30 (register by August 5th-- ask your DR for details) (Kubota Town, Saga City, Saga Prefecture)

THIS COMMUNITY EVENT IS HELD EVERY SUMMER. TEAMS OF 12 PEOPLE ROW BOATS SHAPED LIKE DRAGONS. THE TRADITION COMES FROM CHINA AND THE FESTIVAL BEGINS WITH THE LEGEND OF THE MONK WHO ROWED IN ONE FROM CHINA TO JAPAN. A GOOD, FUN DAY IN THE SUN. (REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE FEE)

AND MORE:

BLUEBERRY PICKING, NIGHT AQUARIUM, CINEMA, FILM FESTIVALS, CONCERTS, ETC. CHECK IT OUT AT FUKUOKA NOW'S ONLINE SITE [HTTP://FUKUOKA-NOW.COM/EN/EVENTS](http://fukuoka-now.com/en/events)

FOR NAGASAKI EVENTS, CHECK OUT THE BRAND NEW LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE, NAGAZASSHI: [HTTP://WWW.NAGAZASSHI.COM/](http://www.nagazasshi.com/)

**Ask your DR or other JETs if you are not sure how to get to a particular place.
We're here to help!**