

# THE PEACH



# COBBLER



Vol. 3, Issue 1, April 2026



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# Editor's Note

Hello all! Thank you for your continued

support of the monthly Okajet Newsletter!

We'd like to welcome our new OkaJET 2026-

2027 board! For the next year, these will be

the folks you wanna talk to regarding

anything with our events or AJET community.

This also brings us into the new school year,

and have some fun getting to know your new

teachers and students!

President

Vice President

Secretary



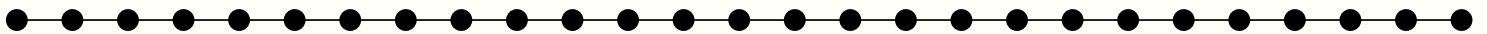
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Media Officer



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Alexa Davis



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OkajET 2026-  
2027  
Board  
Members &  
Officers

Media Officer



Lewis Spencer

# Pocketbook Travel Guide

Travel snippets for your weekends  
Local Hanami Spots!



羅生門さくら公園



新見 - Niimi



Open 24 hours

## Rashoumonsakura Park

This spot was recommend by Maya and includes everything you could want for a hanami spot! Rashoumonsakura Park has 10 types of sakura that bloom all the way through April. The park includes trails, cave structures and rock formations that you can explore as well! This one has been added to my personal bucket list and would be perfect to visit in late April if you haven't had your sakura fill by then. It would also be a good excuse to go see your good friends the Niimi JETs.



太陽の広場



笠岡 - Kasaoka



Open 8 am - 6 pm

## Taiyo no Hiroba

This spot was recommended by Evan! Taiyo no Hiroba is a local park in Kasaoka along the river. With lots of wide-open space take a peaceful walk through the Sakura tunnel, followed by an afternoon or evening of picnicking. If you're inner child needs satisfying you can play on the playground! It looks like the park also offers several other flower fields you can check out throughout the year as well.

## Tsuyama Castle



All of us JETs in the Tsuyama area are very excited to share this one. Tsuyama Castle / Kakuzan Park lights up for two weeks at the end of March / beginning of April for its hanami festival. Voted as one of Japan's top 100 hanami spots, and a quick 1:15 / 1:30 from Okayama Station, we highly recommend a trip up! The castle is within walking distance from Tsuyama station and during the festival period open all the way until 10 p.m. The park has approximately 1000 sakura trees on its grounds to marvel at, and each tier of the grounds is completely opened up for picknicking.

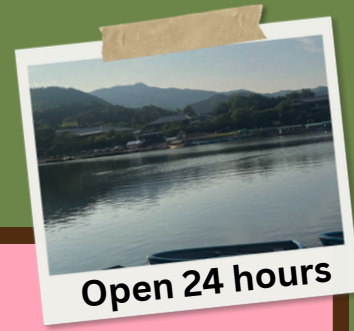


## Ivy Square

This one was recommended by James! Ivy Square in Kurashiki is located east of the Bikan Historical District river walk area and offers a sakura viewing just a bit away from the hustle and bustle. Grab a drink to go and explore the sakura dotted streets lined with interesting architecture for a quiet afternoon out.



## Arashiyama Park



This spot was recommend by Elena and, while sharing the same name as Kyoto's Arashiyama, is located right in Yakage! This park is between a river and a mountain, providing several different views to admire. The river has a bridge for far out viewing and possibly even some rowboats for rent. If that's true head out on the river and enjoy the sakura from there! If you're in the mood for a short hike then head to the top of the mountain to see the blooms from a bird's eye view.

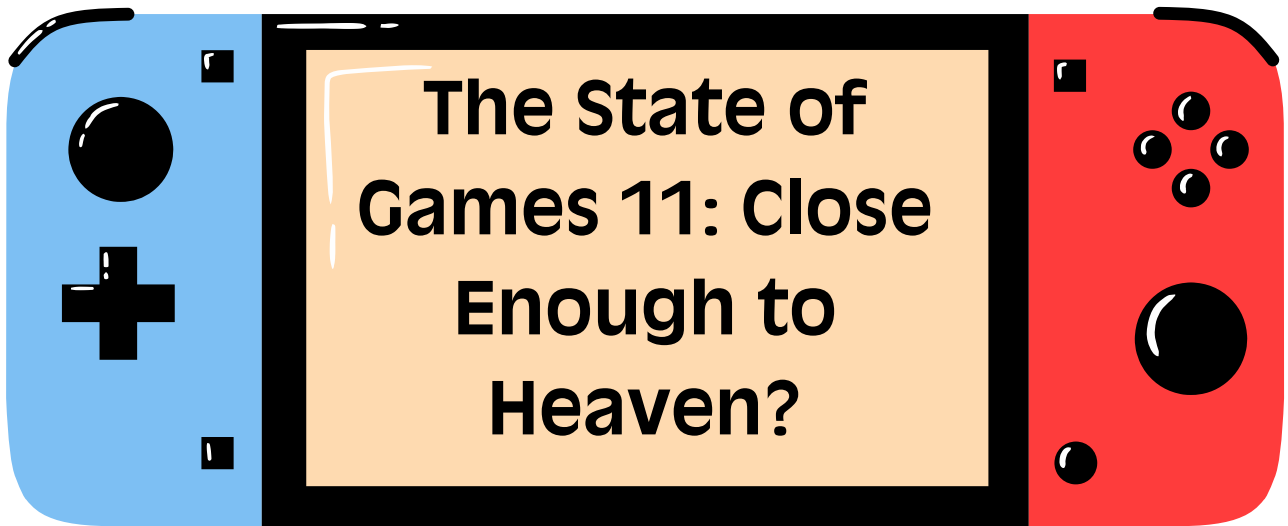


## Ibaratsutsumi Sakurabashi Park

Another shoutout from Maya! I love that the sakura line Japan's rivers. It's just a view that brings me a lot of happiness, and this park is no exception. The river walk seems to be a good length and the colors set against the green of the mountains makes this location feel cozy and inviting. Plus, I'm loving the hot pink lanterns for an evening stroll, and the bridge for a view of both banks at once.

Thanks for reading Pocketbook Travel Guide - a little guide of places across Japan worth sharing. See ya next time!

- Alexa Davis



Wherever you happen to look, no doubt you'll see some sort of advertisement for the upcoming Super Mario Galaxy movie. Illumination's charming first in the series exceeded many's expectations, providing a lighthearted, fun adventure that obviously many people in their thirties took far too seriously as a hit job against the 'established franchise lore.'



We've been spoiled, quite literally, with some of the reveals Nintendo has unleashed to the public, the biggest of which possibly being Fox McCloud, played by Glen Powell. This is extremely good news for fans of Star Fox, I'll go into that a bit more later...



From the trailers we know the fabled ROB is involved as well as a sneaky cameo from a few Pikmin. I don't mean to set off any alarm bells, but anyone going all in on a Super Smash Bros. movie may soon be winning big.



Look, I am excited to watch this as I love the Galaxy games and Mario as a whole, but what the actual fuck is going to happen in this movie? There are like 500 characters and Miyamoto has gone on record stating it'll be nonstop action.



Don't get me wrong, my arse will be firmly planted in an Aeon Cinema seat... Three weeks after everyone in the west has already seen it. I guess that's something to do with Illumination's exclusivity rights or shoring up the Japanese vocal localisation, but everyone in Japan is going to know what happens if they so much as think about going online after April 1st.

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Moving on to the major Switch news, infamous leaker NateTheHate speculates nothing less than a summer haul and a grandstand finish for 2026. I'll catch you up:

A full first party general Nintendo Direct, as expected, will happen in June.



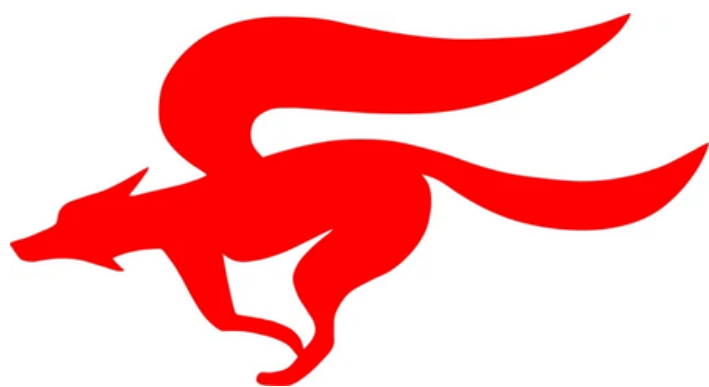
Fire Emblem Fortune's Weave will likely get a late summer release.

Splatoon Raiders should arrive in early autumn/fall (fucking Americans...)



Nintendo Switch Sports: Nintendo Switch 2 Edition is coming fairly soon, and yes, that is the real title. This naming convention has truly gone too far.

But as mentioned before, Fox McCloud's sudden arrival on the big screen has to have a reason behind it, surely? Donkey Kong had a redesign implemented for the last movie, which loosely advertised Bananza, a smash(ing) hit. Well, apparently a brand new Star Fox game will release on Switch 2 this year, and I could not be more delighted.



I think it's safe to say the series has had its ups and downs, with some highs like the original, Star Fox 64, and Star Fox Assault, then the almost bedrock low of Star Fox Zero and arguably to a lesser extent, Star Fox Adventures, though that game certainly has its fans.

A fresh take could truly revive the series in a way it deserves, and let's be real, I wanna hear the Star Wolf theme in big 2026. If you haven't, listen to the GameCube version of that song from Star Fox Assault. It's nothing less than sax sex.

However in these days of remakes and remasters being all the rage, there's one game plenty have been calling out for... To be remade again... For like the eighth time...

I'm kidding, it's the Zelda 40th Anniversary year, so a full remake of Ocarina of Time is heavily rumoured to be Nintendo's big holiday release this year. We all knew it had to be something big, as the next Pokemon won't arrive until early 2027. Whispers also indicate that the new 3D Mario isn't coming this year either, so this must be what's causing the 'hold up' so to speak.



Whilst some, including me, thought a dual release of The Wind Waker and Twilight Princess was inevitable, it appears a classic will make a triumphant return, offering the chance for many to experience it for the very first time, and even someone as cynical as me can appreciate that, as long as it doesn't cost seventy fucking dollars. 13

Now let's head on over to Sony and see what...

Ah.

Water is wet, grass is green, the PlayStation 5's price has gone up yet again.



I'm no investor but my decision to buy a PS5 as soon as I landed in Japan and still had real money in my pocket instead of yee yee ass Monopoly bumfuck yen continues to prove lucrative.

The global memory shortage due to greedy corporations sinking the GDP of small countries into AI has affected every industry, and Sony once again has taken the decision to up the price of possibly the least deserving console ever to get one.

I'm not a part of the 'PS5 has no games' crowd, far from it, titles like Astro Bot, Ghost of Tsushima/Yotei, the Spider-Man games, God of War Ragnarok etc. provided more than enough to justify buying one, until now.

The PS5 Pro's RRP has risen to nine hundred dollars.

**NINE. HUNDRED. FUCKING. DOLLARS.**

That's without a disk drive, a game, PS+ membership. If Sony could get away with selling you the concept of owning a system, you'd still have to sell an organ to get it.

We're all old enough to remember when consoles used to reduce in price as the years went by, satisfied either by it then becoming more affordable, or in the knowledge that something bigger and better would eventually be on the way and the value was adjusting accordingly.

The PS5 is over 5 years old, with rumours floating around that the PS6 will at least be revealed by year's end. Who in their right mind is going to buy a base model (with disk drive) for six hundred and fifty USD.

I'm telling you, as someone WITH the system, who actively ENJOYS the games, it is STILL not worth it. Invest your money somewhere else.

Oh, and I know a lot of you reading are thinking about picking up a Switch 2 as well. They aren't safe either, I'd do it now if you're serious. Japanese only models may remain at a more reasonable price, but Multi-Language Systems will most likely hike hard.

That is all from me this month however, coming up on an entire year of doing these articles, boy are we all getting old fast. Next month, bar any Earth-shattering reveals, I'll try to change things up a bit with some new ideas. If there is anything you'd like to see included, please let me know! Take care as always!

**GAME  
OVER**

Written by



**@lewischissio**

# Pocketbook Travel Guide

Travel snippets for your weekends

Yamaguchi Delights

With Golden Week fast approaching I wanted to highlight a Yamaguchi roadtrip a friend and I took back in December that would be perfect for our upcoming days off. We drove this trip, but it is doable by public transport without being horribly time consuming. At the end I have made a map and recommendations on how to traverse this trip using just public transportation. Take a look!



Akiyoshidai Quasi  
National Park



Located in western Yamaguchi it is a beautifully green plateau landscape dotted with recesses in the ground, lots of rocks and that sense of peace only Studio Ghibli characters seem to have. The wide and windswept area is covered in long grass that flows in the breeze, and various rocks scattered across the landscape that gives similar vibes to the field in Spirited Away (but without the spirits and even more rocks!). The trails are beautiful and easy to walk through, and for all the bike lovers out there you can rent a bike to cycle through the scenery. There are bus stops located at a couple different points so you can explore the whole park. There is also a drive through safari experience, camping, star gazing, cafes, caves, museums and more! Check out their website to plan your trip!



秋芳洞



Akiyoshido Cave



秋芳洞



Open 8:30 - 5:30

Akiyoshido Cave

Due to the geology of the park there are also 3 cave systems you can explore as well! We walked through Akiyoshido Cave, which was beautifully lit up with illumination lights and calming music. The cave sits about 100m underground and you can access it from 3 total entrances. The walk from one end to the other was about 1k and at the far end was a beautiful wooden bridge right next to a waterfall that poured out of the cave. The rest of the park / caves are accessible via walk or by bus.



Motonosumi Shrine



Open sunrise - sunset



元乃隅神社



Motonosumi

This shrine is relatively new, and sits along the seaside of northern Yamaguchi. The red tori gate tunnel down to the waterfront stuns against the black rock and grass landscape, which give classic Japanese seaside beauty and charm. This spot is perfect for a seaside picnic, a shrine visit and beautiful pictures. I also wouldn't recommend sleeping on the ride up there. The rolling hills and coastal roads are perched higher above the ocean, which creates for some immaculate views. This spot is only accessible by taxi if you aren't driving, but personally still well worth the trouble.



青海島 海上アルプス



Trail Head



Open 24 hours



## Omijima Sea Alps

Next is 青海島 海上アルプス on Omi island just north of Nagato. This nature preserve provides crazy scenic seaside trails (2 km in total) and a boat ride you can sign up. These trails can be steep but are beginner friendly with good footing and paths. The lookouts double as beautiful spots to snack. We walked the trails on a sunny morning and breathed in the seaside air. Growing up in Michigan this kind of coastline isn't something we have so I had a very deep appreciation for that coastline. Plus! At one of the entrances there was a very friendly orange kitty looking for some pets.



Despite popular belief Yamaguchi is traversable by public transportation if you plan well! You can shinkansen to and from Yamaguchi, then use public transportation from there. My recommendation is to plan for at least a 3 day trip, and to really enjoy being by the sea.

### Day 1

- Arrive in Yamaguchi
- Akiyoshido Cave / National Park

### Day 2

- Ojishima Sea Alps (morning)
- Motonosumi Shrine (afternoon)

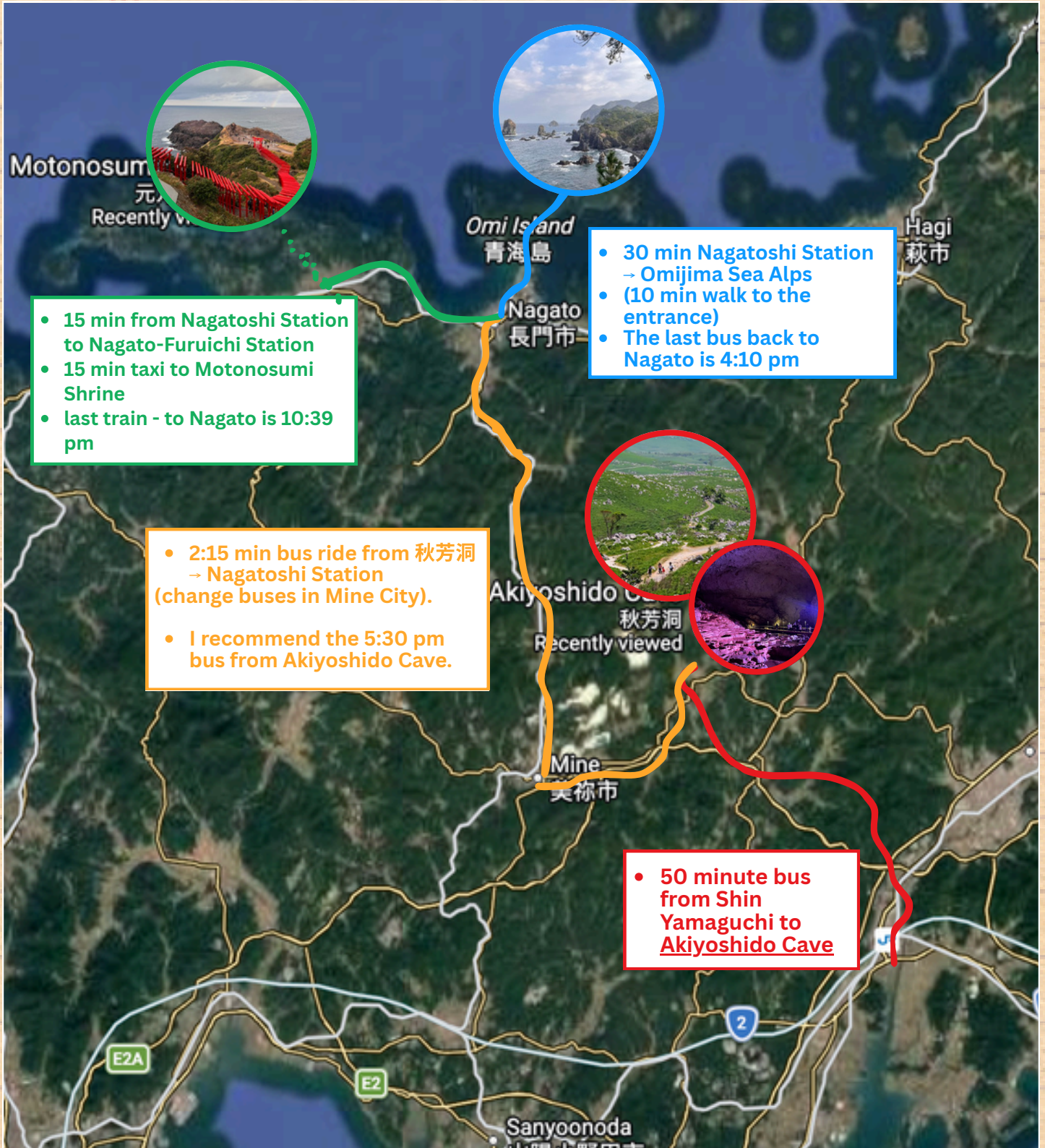
### Day 3

- Direct bus from Nagato to Shin Yamaguchi
- Shin Yamaguchi to Okayama station

Of course driving always gives more freedom than public transport, but don't skip out on these locations just because of that! I hope you all enjoyed reading and you make it out to these totally rad places!



# But I Can't Drive! Map





Thanks for reading Pocketbook Travel Guide - a little guide of places across Japan worth sharing. See ya next time!  
- Alexa Davis



# HANAMI + SATURDAY SOCIAL

## DETAILED INFORMATION

 **Sakura Carnival by the Asahi river\***

 **Saturday, April 4th, 11:00 - 15:00,  
Come and go as you please**

\*Exact location to be posted on the Instagram day of!  
Please contact Instagram if lost

Food and drink stalls are available, but BYOB is also  
encouraged (as well as some to share!)

**\*\*\*IN CASE OF RAIN**

We will update our instagram  
with the plan early Saturday  
morning



# Calling all Translators: Bit Summit Indie Game Convention

Through our wonderful OkaJET community, we have been made aware of an event in Kyoto requiring volunteer English<-->Japanese translators.

The BitSummit Indie game convention will be held from May 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, and they are looking for some volunteer translators to help out. The event runs from 10:00 to 5:00 pm each day.

Volunteers would be required to help out at the check in desk, as well as periodically roam the floor and help out with anyone needing translations at the booths, or helping translate for any game developers.

Please check out the website for more information about the event -----> <https://bitsummit.org/en/>

Any volunteers would get free entrance to the event, but are responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

If this event is of interest, please use this form to sign up! -----> [BitSummit Sign Up](#)

If you have any questions, please fill them out in the “other” section and someone will contact you! 22

# Events in Okayama

## 笠岡さくら祭2026

### Kasaoka Sakura Festival 2026

Date: Sunday, April 5th

Location: Kasaoka Station Shopping Street

Time: 10:00 - 14:00

Admission: Free

More Info: [日本語](#)



## 嘉美心酒造 春の大蔵祭り

### Kamishin Sake Brewery Spring Grand Festival

Date: Sat & Sun, April 11th & 12th

Location: Kamishin Sake Brewery

Time: 9:00 - 15:00

Admission: Free, but purchases subject to cost

More Info: [日本語](#)



## 海棠まつり

### Flowering Crabapple Festival

Date: Sunday, April 12th

Location: Kichijoji Temple, Yakage town

Time: 10:00 - 14:00

Admission: Free

More Info: [日本語](#)



# 杜の街グレース THE MARKET... Mori no Machi Grace THE MARKET



Date: Sat & Sun, April 18th & 19th  
 Location: Mori no Machi Plaza  
 Time: Sat - 11:00 - 21:00 Sun - 11:00 - 19:00  
 Admission: Free (purchases subject to cost)

More info: [日本語](#)

# 燦然 新酒祭り 2026春 Brilliant New Sake Festival 2026 Spring

Date: Sat & Sun, April 18th and 19th  
 Location: Kikuchi Sake Brewery, Kurashiki City  
 Time: 10:00 - 15:00  
 Admission: Free (food and drink costs will apply)

More info: [日本語](#)



# 古着LOVEフェスティバルin奉還町 Vintage Clothing LOVE Festival in Hokancho



Date: Sat & Sun, April 18th & 19th  
 Location: Hokancho Shopping Street, Okayama City  
 Time: 10:00 - 17:00  
 Admission: Free

More Info: [日本語](#)

## 第35回吉備高原都市さんさん祭り

## The 35th Kibi Highlands City Sansan Festival

Date: Sunday, April 19th

Location: Kibi-Chuo Town SanSan Square

Time: 10:00 - 15:00

Admission: Free

More Info: [日本語](#)



## 第参回 早島菟蚤市

## The 3rd Hayashima Flea Market

Date: Sunday, April 19th

Location: Hayashima Town Hall

Time: 9:00 - 15:00

Admission: Free (purchases subject to cost)

More Info: [日本語](#)



## 柿内美緒オカリーナリサイタル2026

## Mio Kakiuchi Ocarina Recital 2026

Date: Saturday, April 25th

Location: Okayama Prefectural Museum of Art, Okayama City

Time: Doors open 13:00, performance 13:30 - 15:30

Admission: 3000 yen per person (students are free with ID)

More Info: [日本語](#)





# 北長瀬朝市 Kitanagase Morning Market

Date: Sunday, April 26th  
 Location: Kitanagase Mirai Fureai Park  
 Time: 7:30 - 12:30  
 Admission: Free (purchase costs apply)

More info: [日本語](#)

# 吉備中央マルシェ Kibi-Chuo Marche

Date: Sunday, March 29th  
 Location: Kibi-Chuo SanSan Square  
 Time: 10:00 - 14:00  
 Admission: Free (food and drink costs apply)

More info: [日本語](#)



# International Meetup Party 「せかつく」



Date: Saturdays, April 4th and May 2nd  
 Location: Matador (Bar in Okayama City)  
 Time: 20:00 - 22:00  
 Admission: \*Men ~ ¥4000  
               \*Women ~ ¥3500

More info: [Insta](#)

All you can drink and buffet style food included. Sign up via Insta^^

## KenKen Puzzle

# March Answer Key

<sup>+31</sup> 5	7	<sup>x840</sup> 3	8	6	<sup>x192</sup> 2	4	<sup>x162</sup> 9	1
9	4	7	5	<sup>+9</sup> 2	1	3	8	6
6	9	5	1	7	<sup>-4</sup> 4	8	2	3
<sup>x1800</sup> 1	5	8	<sup>+12</sup> 2	3	7	9	<sup>+14</sup> 6	4
<sup>+19</sup> 2	8	9	6	<sup>-1</sup> 4	3	5	1	7
3	6	<sup>x24</sup> 1	4	5	<sup>+25</sup> 9	2	<sup>x56</sup> 7	8
<sup>x672</sup> 8	3	4	9	<sup>-5</sup> 1	6	<sup>x42</sup> 7	<sup>+24</sup> 5	2
4	1	2	7	<sup>+13</sup> 8	5	6	3	9
7	<sup>+17</sup> 2	6	3	<sup>-1</sup> 9	8	1	4	5

Fill in all the squares from 1 to 9 without repeating in any row or column. The numbers used in the operation (addition, subtraction etc.) must combine to yield the target number for that cage.

Numbers in a cage may repeat as long as they are not in the same row or column. Operations follow standard mathematical rules, and in cages with more than one cell, the operation must be performed within that cage.

## いないのは？

ねらい：家族の漢字をおぼえる

わたしの家は、六人家ぞくです。

わたしには三人のきょうだいがいます。

日つきをよんで、わたしの家ぞくではない人をあててください。

日つきに出でてこないのはだれかな？



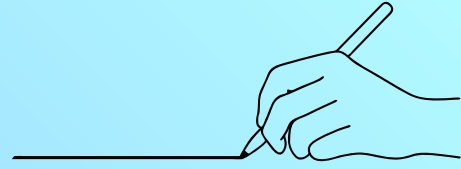
**1** かん字を書いて日つきをかんせいさせましょう。

日 曜 日	土 曜 日	金 曜 日	木 曜 日	水 曜 日	火 曜 日	月 曜 日
魚	父	兄	友	弟	母	姉
やのお兄さんが、さいふをとどけてくれた。	と、公園に行った。	が、虫をつかまえた。	だちの妹と、あそんだ。	が、校でいどころんだ。	が、ドーナツを作った。	が、道でさいふをおとした。

**2** ひらがなをかん字になおして、わたしの家ぞくではない人を丸でかこみましょう。

おとうと	いもうと	あに	あね	はは	ちち
弟	妹	兄	姉	母	父





# Calling all writers!!!!

**May's Theme: Cafes/Restaurants in Okayama**  
Tell us about a cafe or restaurant you enjoyed  
in Okayama! 500 word count max. with  
pictures (if any)



Please submit to:

[newsletter@okayama-ajet.com](mailto:newsletter@okayama-ajet.com)

Any submissions must be made by the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Saturday of the month.

# Want to be part of the Newsletter?

We are always looking for new talent and help at the newsletter, so if you have a writers itch you want to scratch, or have some ideas for the newsletter look, please contact us at our email!

[newsletter@okayama-ajet.com](mailto:newsletter@okayama-ajet.com)



Additionally, if you have any suggestions or feedback for our newsletter, please fill out the form below!

**Newsletter Feedback/Suggestion  
Form**



**See you next issue!**