My Town YOKOHAMA



Teruhiko Iwasawa
Chief Accountant, Control & Finance Dept.
BYOK,Yokohama

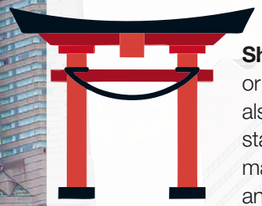
The **Shin-yokohama** district, where **BYOK** is located, is only 10 minutes from Central Yokohama and 30 minutes from Central Tokyo. Three train lines stop here, including the Shinkansen Bullet Train, providing excellent access to various parts of Japan, including Kyoto, Fukuoka, and more.



Japan has **four seasons**: spring, summer, autumn, and winter, and the variety of nature gives us a completely different impression with each season. A cherry blossom in spring and yellow leaves in autumn are part of **Japan's charm**, but summer and winter seasons also offer different joy and fun.

In Japan, **"meishi"**, or business cards, are an important tool. Any business relationship in Japan is initiated with "meishi" and a bow. There is a **proper etiquette** for exchanging business cards. For example, cards must be given and received with two hands. If you plan on a business trip while in Japan, make sure to follow the proper etiquette, and **never forget to bring your own "meishi"**.





Many Japanese people visit **Shinto Shrines** and **Buddhist temples**, to pray or to admire these national treasures. They also collect red ink stamps in a special stamp book as proof of visiting. In Japan, many "power spots" are found within ancient temples and shrines or nature.



Minato Mirai 21 is a seaside urban area in central Yokohama with a modern business district. It is a major tourist site with many shops, restaurants, and a lot of entertainment. It has also many high-rises, including the **Landmark Tower,** Japan's second-tallest building. You can enjoy a 360-degree city view and Mt. Fuji from its observation deck.



Besides **"Konnichiwa"** (Hello) and **"Arigatou"** (Thank you), **"Kanpai"** (cheers, let's make a toast)" is another handy word.

The riverside in front of the BYOK office is a hidden gem. It is beautiful during the **cherry blossom season**, and the area fills with locals. The BYOK staff enjoy lunchtime picnics under the blooming trees.



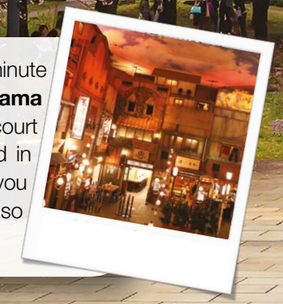


I suggest traveling through **rural Japan**. Head out of famous big cities and you will find well-preserved monuments, temples, shrines, and markets against a backdrop of picturesque rustic scenery.



Japan is a cash-based society. In 2017, only 20 percent of payments were cashless. People in Japan have a high confidence in cash because there is always a risk of some sort of natural disaster, and cash is important when an event occurs.

Similar to English pubs and Spanish tapas bars, Japanese **"Izakaya"** are a place to enjoy a reasonably priced home-style meal and drinks in a casual atmosphere.



My favorite food is ramen. Just a 15-minute walk from the office is the "**Shin-yokohama Ramen Museum**". It has a unique food court with nine ramen shops, each specialized in regional variations of dishes. Not only can you enjoy a lip-smacking ramen, you can also learn about its history.

"Ramen" is a noodle soup dish. It originated in China, but is now one of Japan's most popular dishes. You can find over **30,000 ramen shops** in Japan. Some are featured in the Michelin Guide.





As a ramen lover, I recommend a visit to the **Cup Noodles Museum** in Yokohama too. The fun and interactive museum was opened by the Nisshin Food Company, whose founder invented instant ramen noodles in 1958. The museum shows the **history of instant ramen** noodles, and you can make your own ramen by hand or design your own cup noodle packaging with your favorite toppings.

International Stadium Yokohama, also known as Nissan Stadium, is Japan's largest stadium. It served as the centerpiece of the FIFA 2002 World Cup and hosted the final match between Brazil and Germany. The stadium will host the opening and final matches of the **2019 Rugby World Cup**, and football matches at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**.

