

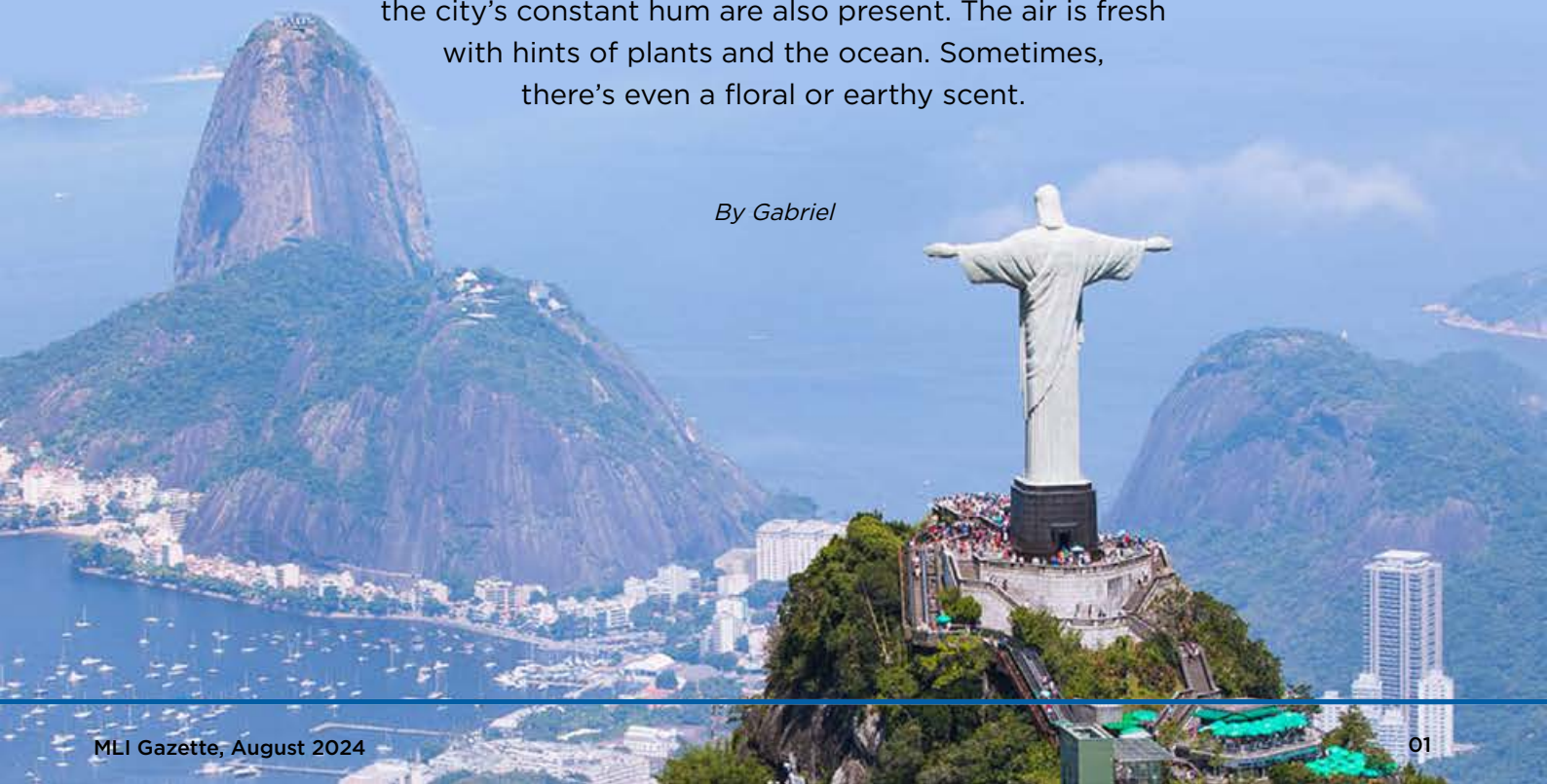
GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d

BRAZIL'S MOST ICONIC LANDMARK

Christ the Redeemer stands tall, with arms wide, overlooking Rio. The gray stone contrasts with the lush green mountains surrounding the monumental sculpture. The stunning view includes the city, Sugarloaf, and Copacabana. To the touch, the statue feels cool and smooth. The base is sturdy and warm from the sun's rays and a refreshing breeze often blows across the site. While there, you can hear tourists, footsteps, and camera clicks. Gusty wind bursts and the city's constant hum are also present. The air is fresh with hints of plants and the ocean. Sometimes, there's even a floral or earthy scent.

By Gabriel



FAIRY CHIMNEYS AND HOT-AIR BALLOONS IN CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia is an area of the city Nevşehir which is located in the middle of Turkey. It has “fairy chimneys” (rock formations) and that’s why it is popular all over the world. Fairy chimneys emerged when the flood flowing from the valley slopes and the wind eroded the tough stones. If you ride in air balloons, you can see a view of these chimneys from above. Another unique aspect of Cappadocia is hot air balloons which people ride in over the landscape. At sunrise, you can see all of the preparations for the balloons before take off. And then when they are aloft, it is an amazing sight! You feel the wind on your skin, you see thousands of air balloons in the sky, and you hear the sound of wild horses. Cappadocia is beautiful in every season. I also love it in winter because the same views convey different feelings and emotions with snow.

By Berfin



EAT CHEESECAKE AND GO GLAMPING IN HYOGO!

I'm going to share with you some places that I would highly recommend when you visit Japan. I actually live in Hyogo which is located in the Kansai area next to Osaka. Hyogo, especially Kobe, which is the capital city of Hyogo, has a beautiful view of buildings. Its appearance looks like a European cityscape and there is a cafe that I would strongly recommend you try named Crea Mfg. Cafe, which is in Motomachi. I actually used to work there as a part time job. The cafe specializes in cheesecake and is popular among younger generations. They provide more than 10 types of cheesecake and some have a really strong taste of cheese like blue cheese or gorgonzola and others have mild flavors. You can choose from so many unique choices and you can smell the delicious aromas of freshly baked cheesecakes wafting through the cafe the moment you enter. Kobe also has fancy shopping malls and fashionable apparel shops. You can find or get some gifts for your friends there. At night time, the sight of the town's twinkling lights and the night scenery at Kobe Port are truly breathtaking. This is my favorite. And when you come to Hyogo, you should go glamping, which is easier than going camping. Glamping is a combination of the words glamorous and camping, this term refers to camping that pursues comfort and luxury. My recommended site is Canyon Camp in Kamiku Midani, which is located in the middle of Hyogo. The best season is September to October because the weather is very comfortable and the temperatures are moderate, not too hot and not too cold. The location is not convenient so you need a car to get there, but it's worth every penny!

By Anna



‘SMELL BAGS,’ SONGBIRDS, KUZUKIRI, MATCHA (AND MORE!) IN GION-SHIJO

My recommendation for sightseeing in Japan is Gion-shijo which is in Kyoto, a very famous city located in the west of Japan. There are many traditional temples and buildings made of trees. Especially in Gion-shijo, you can enjoy traditional Japanese culture. If you visit Gion-shijo, you can experience beautiful nature and the four seasons. In spring, you can see a lot of cherry blossoms, which turn the city a beautiful pink and make the mood dramatic. There are many “smell bag” shops in Kyoto. Japanese people use these bags in drawers to keep insects away from their kimonos and clothes. In front of the smell bag shops, the aroma smells like Japanese incense and I love it! There are many Japanese cafe shops in Gion-shijo. My recommendations are kuzukiri and matcha tea. Kuzukiri is a Japanese dessert that is very soft and pulpy. We eat it with molasses. Kuzukiri is made of arrowroot powder. Matcha, you know, tastes bitter, so the collaboration of sweet and bitter is the best!!! During the tour in Gion-shijo, you can hear bird songs. In Kyoto, there are many birds enjoying their lives. If you get lucky, you can hear a Japanese nightingale’s voice! Sometimes, you can hear the sound of shamisen. Shamisen is a traditional Japanese musical instrument. There are some areas where Maiko are working. Maiko practice the shamisen every day, so the sound can be heard. For that reason, I recommend you go sightseeing in Gion-shijo. You will surely have the best Japanese cultural experience!

By Eri



EXPERIENCE SEA LIFE ON ENOSHIMA ISLAND

I would like to introduce my hometown Enoshima in Kanagawa, Japan. Enoshima is a small island with a beautiful, scenic view of the sea. If you go to Enoshima in the evening, you can see an amazing sunset. The local specialties are whitebait fish, which is a sardine baby called shirasu, and turban shell, which is bitter and chewy and called sazae. The most popular place in Enoshima is the Enoshima Aquarium, where you can touch baby sharks, and surprisingly, they have a rough texture but they don't bite. There is a bridge connecting the island to the mainland. As you walk there, you can enjoy the soothing sound of the waves and the fresh smells of the sea.

By Yuka Matsumoto



EAT WITH THE GODS AT THE TEOTIHUACÁN PYRAMIDS

The Teotihuacan Pyramids in Mexico City are holy—the meaning is “where the gods were created”—and they are very important because they symbolize the artistic, religious, political, and social developments of Mexican culture. They are a set of pyramids aligned perfectly with the Pyramid of the Sun and the largest one seems like an imposing, tall place with perfect architecture that hypnotizes you when you see it. At dawn, you can see the feathered snake reflected in the stone, with different textures and drawings carved on each step. If you touch the walls, they are cold, thick, and strong with different ornamental shapes. When you are there, the ambiance and atmosphere are peaceful, and you can hear echoes in the whispers of the wind and the sound of different birds that live in this mysterious and enigmatic place. If you inhale, you can smell incense in honor of Mother Earth. The best way to enjoy the beautiful view is to take a balloon trip, while snacking on mixiotes, a delicious traditional dish made with maguey leaves, different types of spicy chilies and delicious aromatic herbs giving it a wonderful flavor that makes you feel like you are eating with the gods.

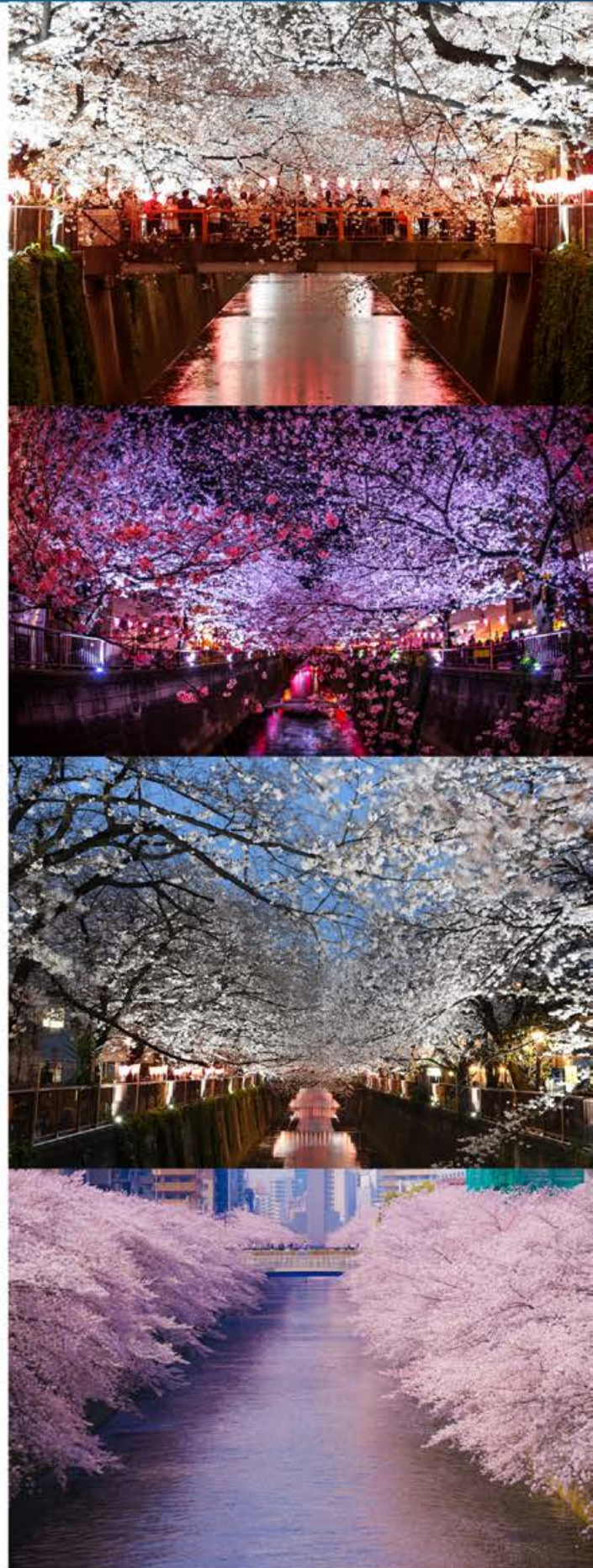


By Paloma

TOKYO'S FAMOUS CHERRY BLOSSOM RIVER

The Meguro River flows through Setagaya-Ku, Meguro-Ku and Shinagawa-Ku to Tokyo Bay. This river runs for about 4 kilometers and is surrounded by about 800 cherry blossom trees along its banks. During spring, from late March to early April, cherry blossoms are in full bloom, changing the scenery from skyscrapers and condominiums to bouquets of stunning pink blooms. Upstream, cherry blossoms arch over the river from the riverbanks on both sides, and the area is crowded with cherry blossom spectators. While the flowers are in bloom, the area is illuminated with lights and dimmed bon-bori (like lanterns). There are also unique stores along the river where people can enjoy shopping. Above all, do not forget that there are a lot of famous and delicious restaurants which serve yakitori, yakiniku, motsunabe, and sushi. There are fragrant aromas emanating from all of the restaurants and you can even enjoy sights of the cherry blossoms while eating. If you visit Tokyo in the spring, this is a must-see!

By Yuka Suwa



THE SALINA CRUZ BOARDWALK IN OAXACA, MEXICO

One of the best sightseeing spots in Mexico is the Malecón Salina Cruz which is located in front of an open sea. The Malecón is a boardwalk that has areas differentiated from each other for specific activities, offering great possibilities for walking, rest, and recreation. The boardwalk is made up of a large open-air area where all kinds of public events are held and is accompanied by support services such as a cafeteria and restaurants where you can enjoy exquisite seafood and fresh drinks. Next to the sports space with multi-use fields, there is a saline water pool and a recreational fountain along with games for children, with pergola areas to lounge and socialize. Go to the Malecón Salina Cruz if you want to see a beautiful sunset with your family or friends.



By Lesli





THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER IN JAPAN, BRAZIL AND TURKEY

The dog days of summer are endured in different ways in diverse countries. In Japan, a representative food is somen, thin cold wheat noodles. We usually eat somen at a cold temperature with mentsuyu, a noodle soup base, which makes us feel cooler during the months of high heat. Though it's a delicious dish, the real reason to eat this is because it has been utilized as a countermeasure against heat stroke during the summer months. In Brazil, people love to go to the beach like Ipanema or Copacabana to play beach sports and drink a delicious Caipirinha, a national cocktail made with sugar, lime, and cachaça, the juice of fermented sugar cane. Additionally, many people enjoy having a good barbecue around the pool. In the summer season, Turkish people enjoy going to the beach to cook and make barbecue, which is called kebab and consists of lamb, beef, or chicken marinated in spices, olive oil, and lime. Also, during the barbecue, people can swim in the Black Sea in the north, the Mediterranean Sea in the south, Sea of Marmar in the northwest, and the Aegean Sea in the west.

By Anna, Gabriel, and Nihal

SCARE YOURSELF COOL IN JAPAN

During the dog days of summer, young Japanese people go to haunted places because they want to be scared. The belief is that fear will make them feel cooler. Moreover, many people eat somen and hiyashi chuka, which is a very popular dish made of chilled ramen noodles. Furthermore, people drink cold beer during the dog days of summer and there are many beer gardens that are open during the months of July and August. We feel refreshed when we cheers each other with our glasses of beer. In addition, Japanese people like to eat kakigori, which is shaved ice and resembles sorbet. Before eating, syrup is poured over the shaved ice.

By Eri and Mimi





ACTIVITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA AND MEXICO

In the summer, a lot of people in Saudi Arabia choose to go to the beach even if they don't have beaches in their particular cities, so they will travel to get tanned and relax. Furthermore, people like to go to shopping malls, which have enclosed areas, and eat dishes at the indoor mall restaurants. Additionally, many people prefer to hang out late into the night, even sometimes until sunrise. We call my city Jeddah "the city that never sleeps," and when you hang out at 1:00 am, you are going to find a lot of people in public places enjoying themselves. In the summer in Mexico, or when it is very hot, people like to go to cool places where there is nature. For example, they go to the mountains or near a volcano with snow. Sometimes they might go to a forest to go camping and climb hills or mountains. Moreover, families often bring food and roast meat. Many Mexicans like to go to the beach because we like to eat fresh seafood, play soccer, and eat tropical fruits and "bolis," which are a super popular food like ice cream. Also, we enjoy dancing and taking photos. We are happy and emotional people so we really enjoy spending time with our families and friends.

By Muath and Lesl