

GAZETTE

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

THE 2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS



PARIS 2024



The 2024 Summer Olympics took place in Paris from July 26 to August 11. They marked the third time Paris hosted the Olympics, having previously done so in 1900 and 1924. The Paris games were notable for their emphasis on sustainability and urban integration. Events were held at various iconic locations around the city, including the Seine River and historic sites such as the Champs-Élysées. The opening and closing ceremonies took place at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, just outside Paris.

The games featured 32 sports, including traditional Olympic sports and new additions such as breakdancing. This edition of the Olympics aimed to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Paris while promoting a vision of an inclusive and environmentally conscious event.

By Eline

LOOKING FOR AN AUTHENTIC JAPANESE RESTAURANT IN LOS ANGELES?



I am from Japan. Japanese food is something I enjoy very much, but where can you find authentic Japanese food in another country?

Sure, there are a lot of Japanese restaurants here but the taste is different. However, I have found some restaurants that very much resemble the authentic taste of real Japanese restaurants. Let me introduce them to you.

The first restaurant is called “Sugar Fish”. It’s a sushi restaurant. I’ve only tried it to go, but I felt the food was fresh. They have a box style that has sashimi, cut rolls, nigiri (sushi), and edamame. Sashimi is cut fish with no rice. We dump it into soy sauce with wasabi. This is the normal style. Cut rolls are like cutting hand rolls.

Another one is “Tsujiya”. It’s a ramen restaurant. When I moved to LA, I was surprised because I didn’t know that Tsujiya was here. It is ramen but a little bit different in style compared to regular ramen. You can eat it by dipping the noodles in the soup.

Of course the price is not cute...but the taste is amazing. I really want you all to try these restaurants! Just trust me! Try them! Also please share with me if you find some good restaurants here!

By Rise



YOUNG PEOPLE'S FASHION IN TOKYO AND LOS ANGELES

I feel that there is a clear difference between the fashion of young people in Tokyo and Los Angeles. Tokyo catches the latest trends and incorporates them into their own fashion, while Los Angeles continues to establish and maintain its own style. Of course, these are all related to various factors such as differences in climate and culture. Also, it is not that one is better than the other - each has its merits.

Both young people in Tokyo and Los Angeles incorporate trendy colors into their fashion every year. This is because each brand and store distributes trendy colors on the Internet and displays them in their stores. However, there are big differences between the two. Tokyo buys new clothes, shoes, and accessories every year to keep up with trends and maintain their individuality. They wear a different type of outfit every year. On the other hand, young people in Los Angeles tend to establish their favorite style and continue their favorite style for years rather than buying new clothes to match the trends.

Also, young people in Tokyo seldomly expose their skin. This is because they have been taught by adults that exposing their skin is not good. Japanese people also tend to be concerned about what others think. However, young people in Los Angeles often show off a surprising amount of skin. Even though I'm a woman, it makes my heart race. I am not used to seeing so many people show so much of their skin. In Los Angeles, people express themselves without worrying about what others think. In this way, the fashion of young people in Tokyo is about catching and challenging, while the fashion of young people in Los Angeles is about establishing and defending.

Finally, what I found interesting is that when young people from Tokyo come to Los Angeles, they tend to wear the same relaxed style as the locals; T-shirts, leggings, and sneakers. Whereas when young people from Los Angeles go to Tokyo, they don't wear Tokyo-style fashion and they do not compromise their own style. I'm sure that these two characteristics will continue to be passed down from now on.

By Masako





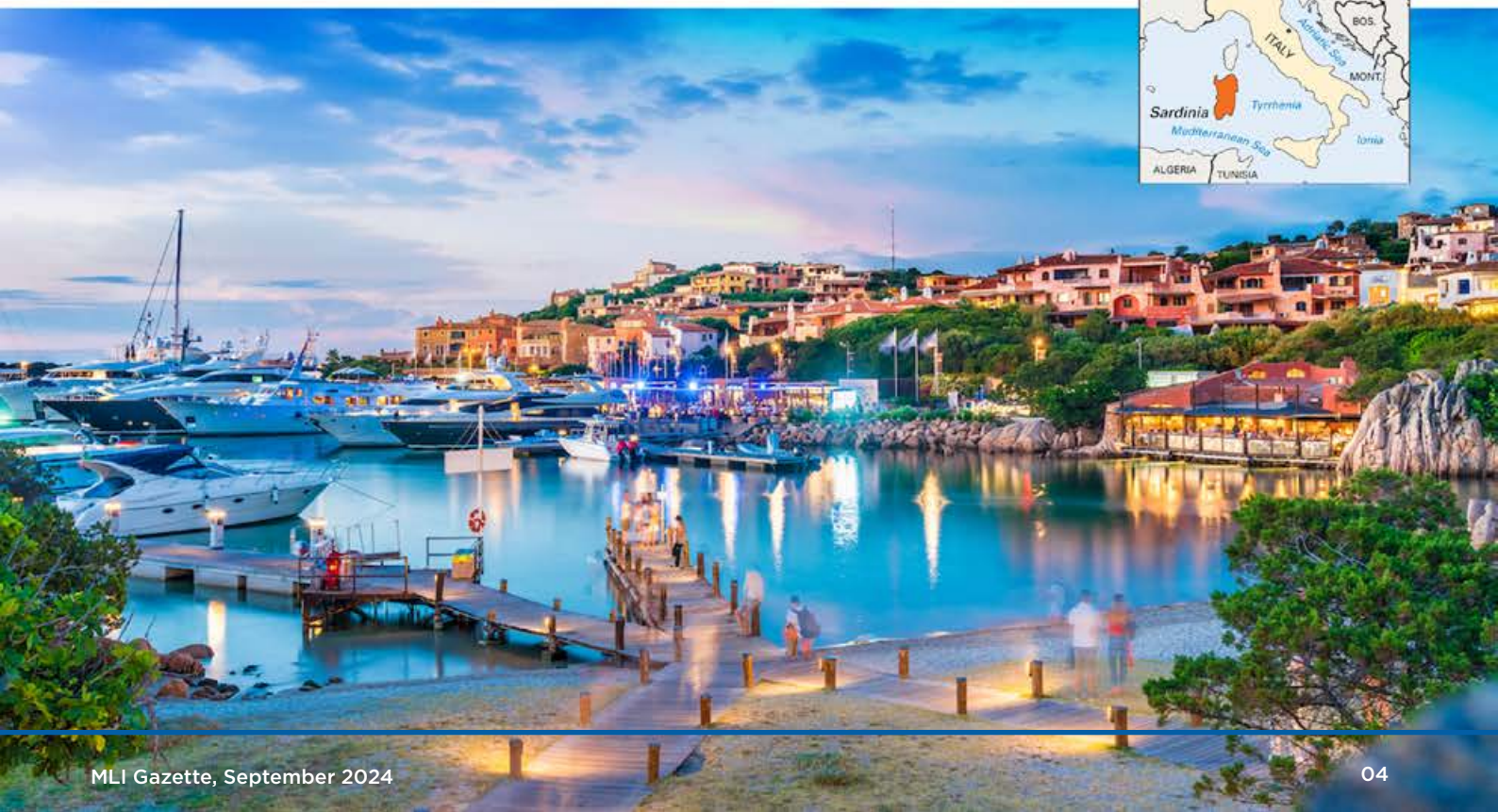
SARDINIA

MY ISLAND IN ITALY

Sardinia is the second-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, and one of the 20 regions in Italy. I was born in Cagliari, the main city on the island, right next to the sea. Sardinia is famous for its breathtaking coastline with large beaches of fine sand - white sand on most of the island's east side, and gold sand on most of the west. There is also a special beach with pink sand called the Pink Beach. However, access for tourists is restricted because they keep trying to steal the sand and risk destroying this little paradise.

Sardinia is famous not only for its beaches but also for its savage nature, and for the enigmatic Nuragic civilization - the original people of the island. They inhabited Sardinia for centuries before the Roman invasion and left mysterious ruins called Nuraghi. These towers are connected to each other and were used for an unknown purpose. Some people suggest that Sardinia could be the lost island of Atlantis, but that's just a legend!

By Lisa



JAPANESE MOVIES

What is your favorite movie? I love Japanese movies. So what is the charm of Japanese movies? Animation techniques? The coolness of samurai? That's not all. I'll tell you about Japanese movies. When asked these questions, many people probably think of animation techniques. In fact, the No.1 grossing movie in Japan is "Demon Slayer: Kintetsu no Yaiba" and eight of the top 10 movies in Japan are animation movies.

Also, samurai sometimes appear in Japanese movies. They are very cool and a great part of Japanese culture. However, that's not all. I'll tell you about the following three Japanese movies:

Rashomon: the beginning of the international expansion of Japanese movies

Spirited Away: about Ghibli movies

We Made a Beautiful Bouquet: modern Japanese movies

1. Rashomon

Rashomon is a movie that was released in 1950 by director Akira Kurosawa. This movie conveys a message about what trust is through one murder case. It is not only excellent in content, but also in technique. He created beautiful contrast using techniques such as pointing the camera directly at the sun, which was taboo at that time. Due to these wonderful qualities, Rashomon has been praised around the world. It got the Academy Honorary Award and the Golden Lion (the highest prize given to a movie at the Venice Film Festival). Surprisingly, however, Akira Kurosawa didn't attend either Academy Awards or Venice Film Festival and a passing tourist received the prize instead. Akira Kurosawa didn't even know it was being considered, because at that time Japan had no interest in Japanese movies going international. This movie made Japanese people realize that Japanese movies could expand internationally. This marked a major turning point for Japanese movies.



2. Spirited Away

Spirited Away is a movie that was released in 2001 by director Hayao Miyazaki. It is a story about a 10-year-old girl named Chihiro who is separated from her parents and works hard to survive on her own. This is one of the most popular Ghibli movies. Ghibli movies are animation movies produced by Studio Ghibli and are loved by many people. Ghibli means “Hot wind blowing in the Sahara desert” in Italian, and was named after Hayao Miyazaki’s desire to create a hot wind in the world of Japanese animation. As he hoped, Ghibli created a hot wind. I can’t fully describe the charm of Ghibli movies here! It is just...fantastic! The appearance of Ghibli movies was a major event in the world of Japanese movies. Personally, I think the music in Ghibli movies is inspiring. I want you to listen to Ghibli music.



3. We Made a Beautiful Bouquet

We Made a Beautiful Bouquet is a movie that was released in 2021 by director Nobuhiro Doi. The script for this movie was written by Yuji Sakamoto. He is one of the most famous Japanese screenwriters of our time. My favorite script of his is “There are people everywhere who don’t want to be just like everyone else.” I admire the characters he portrays. The characters are not special or unusual.

This movie is about a man and a woman who fall in love, start their relationship, and then break-up. This process is described in the title using the word “beautiful bouquet”.



They had similar hobbies and behaviors, such as using movie tickets as bookmarks. When they realized this, they both smiled at each other without saying a word. How romantic! After I finished watching this movie, I started using movie tickets as bookmarks. His words always have a great influence on me. However, the movie has only been released in six Asian countries. I hope more people will know about this movie.

After reading this far, have you discovered something new about Japanese movies? I’ve talked about three Japanese movies, but there are many other wonderful movies from Japan. If you’re interested in Japanese movies because of this article, please do your own research about Japanese movies and talk about them with me!

By Rinka

GREAT UKRAINIANS FROM HISTORY



Ukraine is a country with a rich history and cultural heritage, offering many fascinating aspects for foreigners to explore. Today, I want to introduce you to some great, well-known Ukrainians throughout the world.

Remember the Christmas song, “Carol of the Bells”? It’s one of the world’s most iconic Christmas songs, and it has its roots in Ukraine. Based on the ancient folk melody “Schedryk,” which predates Christianity, the music was composed by Ukrainian genius Mykola Leontovych.

This song, initially a springtime folk tune, was first introduced internationally in 1910 and became a powerful symbol of Ukrainian culture and resilience. The English adaptation, “Carol of the Bells,” emerged in 1936 and has since become a global Christmas favorite – though its origin was not for the winter season.



Then there is George Kistyakivsky, a Ukrainian physicist and one of the developers of nuclear weapons.

Born in Boyarka, in the Kyiv region, he fled to Germany at the age of 20 to escape the Bolsheviks. In Berlin, he obtained a degree in physics. After moving to the United States, Kistyakivsky became a professor at Harvard University. He joined the project to develop nuclear explosives, working on the firing mechanism for plutonium detonation, which was called the Kistyakivsky trigger. After a successful test in the American desert, he joined the international committee for nuclear disarmament, realizing his mistake in contributing to the creation of weapons of mass destruction.



He became an opponent of the U.S. government, resigned from all his positions, and continued teaching at Harvard. In his last interview, he emphasized that he was a Ukrainian, not a Russian, jokingly comparing it to calling a Scotsman an Englishman. In his hometown of Boyarka, a street was named after the Kistyakivsky family.

By Kateryna

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEXICO AND JAPAN

How many countries have you visited in your life? Most people who love to travel say they can discover new things and get to know a new side of themselves while traveling. In this article, we will explain some interesting differences between two countries — Mexico (located in North America) and Japan (located in East Asia). It will help you plan your next exciting trip.

Food:

Mexican food is rich and diverse, featuring staples like tacos, sopes, huaraches and tamales. Traditional dishes often use ingredients such as corn, beans, chili peppers, and avocados.

Japanese food is based on the idea of respecting nature and is based on lightly seasoned dishes that bring out the natural flavors of the ingredients. Traditional Japanese dishes are characterized by cooking methods such as making soup with a common base such as seaweed, fish or soybean, simmering, steaming, and grilling. The main ingredients are white rice, fish, and vegetables (eg. sushi, bento, miso soup).

Customs:

In Mexico, the “Quinceañera” is a significant cultural celebration marking a girl’s fifteenth birthday. It symbolizes her transition from childhood to womanhood and often includes a religious ceremony, a formal party, and traditional customs like the waltz and the changing of shoes.

In Japan, “Seijinshiki” is a traditional Japanese ceremony that celebrates 20 year old people! They are usually held on the national holiday and are held by the local government. On this day, young people who have just turned 20 years old appear in long-sleeved kimonos and suits, and enter a new stage as adults. The ceremony includes many activities such as lectures, commemorative photos, and attractions. Recently, Japan has changed the adult age to 18 years old. This celebration continues to recognize when young people become adults.

Music:

Mexican music is diverse, encompassing genres like Mariachi, Banda, Norteño, and Ranchera. Mariachi, with its lively rhythms and stringed instruments, is especially iconic, often featuring traditional songs that are both festive and expressive of Mexican culture and heritage. Japanese music is called “J-POP” and includes a variety of genres such as rock and idol songs. This style emphasizes the singing voice and lyrics rather than rhythm. It usually has a set format of intro, A melody, B melody, and chorus, with the chorus being the most exciting part.

How did you feel about the differences between Mexico and Japan? We can find interesting differences between these two countries, and it makes us realize that there are many differences in the world. Learning about other countries also helps us discover and understand the uniqueness of our own country and ourselves. We hope this article will help you share the joy of exploring other countries and make your life better.

By Kaho and Katherine

THE FOOD OF ECUADOR

I've been in Los Angeles for almost two years, and I can say that there is nothing I miss more than the food from my country. The ingredients to prepare Ecuadorian food are so easy to find in stores, so I thought Los Angeles would have Ecuadorian restaurants just like it has food from many other countries. However, I could not find anything. Could it be because not many Ecuadorians live here in L.A.?

All Ecuadorian food is based on rice and plantains. Seafood is also typically consumed where I come from - Guayaquil, a big city near the coast. I've tried multiple times to prepare typical recipes from my city. I even used some of the exact same ingredients, but the taste is different. I thought it was because I needed a specific spice that I couldn't find here. When my mom came to visit, she showed me it was because of the way I was trying to prepare it. I still think there's nothing better than the typical food prepared in my country. I hope I can go back soon, or at least have my mom come again to prepare some of my favorite dishes!

By Domenica



JAPANESE

THE DIFFERENT ALPHABETS, THE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Learning Japanese is not only about learning the language, but it's also an enjoyable journey into various aspects of Japan. The Japanese language has many interesting aspects. One of them is that there are three types of characters: Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana. Hiragana is used to express Japanese grammar, while Katakana is used to write words from foreign countries or special words. A single Kanji character can express a variety of meanings. For example, the Kanji character 日 has many meanings including "hi" (day, sun) and "nichi" (date).

The Japanese language also has a special language called "Keigo." Using Keigo is a way to show respect to the person you are speaking to. For example, in the same act of eating, one says 召し上がる (meshiagaru) to a superior, and 頂く (itadaku) to oneself in a humble manner. This distinction in language usage is not often seen in other languages.

By Riana



SUMMER IN RUSSIA

Today, I would like to dispel the myth that it's always cold in Russia. For example, in Moscow, my hometown, it's pretty hot right now. In the heart of summer, Moscow basks in the warm weather. The average temperature at this time is around 25 degrees Celsius (77 Fahrenheit).

It doesn't seem like much when the ocean is nearby and cool winds bring in freshness, but near Moscow, there is no ocean or sea or even a large lake. In a big city, it is extremely difficult to catch at least one breath of cool wind. When the heat comes to Moscow, you feel like you're in a frying pan. In summer, a lively atmosphere envelopes the city. If you want to visit Moscow, then summer is the best time for warm weather lovers.

By Konstantine

