

## Special Interest Articles:

- Do Not Feed the Birds
- A Day in Brazil
- Bridgezilla

## *The Henrys International Travel Newspaper*

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## Worlds Largest Fish



The Osaka Kaiyukan Aquarium is the largest in the world and it will prove itself so with one visit. You start on the eighth story and you journey down into the tanks that hold more than 5 million gallons of water.

The first things that will impress you are the large Aleutian island sea otters that have thick white and brown coats. They are very large for otters and are constantly rolling and flipping around.

Next you see a giant tank full of seals of all different kinds and they can dive over 50 feet down in a 6 story tank. The dolphin tank next to it is the same where they can reach fast

speeds.

Next is the prize of the aquarium which is the biggest tank and hold 2 whale sharks that are over 30 feet long and must weigh more than a truck. The tank has the largest piece of acrylic glass ever made in the world. And it is over a foot thick. As you watch the giants slowly circle the tank which must be the size of a football field. They are not alone as the simulated ocean has manta rays, schools of fish, giant tuna and a bunch of other fish all moving around.

We were lucky enough to be there when they fed the whale sharks the small plankton they eat. A

bucket of plankton is dropped in the water and like a giant suction device the sharks mouth opens and takes in hundreds of gallons of water along with the plankton that it filters out

Down further into the aquarium we saw sea turtles and sunfish along with a tropical reef full of bright and colorful fish. Even further down they have a dark tank full of giant king crab with the males having legs the size of hockey sticks. They are very creeping animals and slowly walk around like aliens.

Finally at the end of the aquarium they have a jellyfish exhibit with about 10 different tanks that contain all kinds from around the world including the deadly man-o-wars.



## Do Not Feed the Birds

While waiting in the port town of Usuki to catch a ferry between two islands in southern Japan we were bored. A sea hawk landed on a light post and I got out the camera and took some shots thinking we were filming some rare bird. We boarded the ferry stowed out luggage and decided to walk to the top deck to look at the view.

When we reached to top deck we could see some more hawks on top of telephone wires. There was a hawk circling overhead and then another hawk circled and I asked if we had anything to eat that we could through out to it. Lisa had a bag of puffy chips sort of like big cheeto's so we grabbed some and threw them across the deck thinking why would a hawk even think of eating a cheese puff. To our surprise hawks flew in

from all directions and started circling like pigeons in a city park.

After 5 minutes we had more than 30 hawks circling at close range, when the first one swooped down and snatched a chip. As if a green light went on they all started diving in like fighter planes grabbing the cheesy puffs and we kept putting out more chips and trying not to laugh.

It must have been quite a sight from the dock as we had a swarm of hawks attacking the boat. They were approaching from all angles and in a civilized fashion took turns on their attacks. Even though they were getting dead chips they still swept in like they were killing a running mouse.

One thing to remember is do not try to through chips above your head to talon laden hawks.



*A hawk swoops down to grab a puffy chip.*



## It's all in the Name

It is still a foreign country with over 1,000 years of culture and history but sometimes you just have



to laugh at the name of a street or a city.

One of the favorite beginnings to cities all across the country is Fuku which brings a whole bunch of fun names. Of course when I ask for directions and say the name I pronounce it like it would sound in the United States but for instance the

name in the picture is actually pronounced "Tah-Kay-She-Tah" which is not as bad as the y way I say it.

But to be fair there are a lot of names in our language and country that they find to be offensive in translation to Japanese.

- Scott

## Gardening to a Whole New Level

Situated down the hill from a castle we visited the famous royal garden in Matsuyama that charged 50 yen to get in, that's 50 cents.

The garden is of the



Chaniwa style which means it has a tea house where ceremonies were held. Unlike gardens in the States the Japanese do gardening as a fine art and are very meticulous

with every detail.

In the center there were square shapes ponds that contained gravel and each at a different depth. Around that were beautiful flower beds and beyond that were koi ponds and small orchards with tea ceremony rooms in between

One thing that also helps in Japan for gardening is the weather never gets to hot or cold and it rains all the time. This combined with 1,000 years of growing and planting and I could have a perfect garden as well.




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*“Everything in the garden is perfectly situated to harmonize with nature.”*

## Fish in the Sun

While staring out the side of a ferry crossing a straight between two islands I snapped this photo of a giant sunfish we passes by. Lucky for me I had the camera ready as I was taking pictures of big jellyfish some with tales over 5 feet long.

Not a very fast swimmer the sunfish was probably over a thousand pounds and made a big swirl as it tried to move away from the boat. The sunfish is a very strange animal and

feeds mostly on jellyfish which we saw hundreds of on the same ferry ride.

I did some research but

could not find any information on if the sunfish is eaten in Japan or it is a junk fish.






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*"The roller coasters at the Brazilian park were old and rusting but they were still worth the risk."*

## A Day in Brazil

Sometime when you travel you come across the unexpected and that was what we found at the Washuzan Highland Brazilian Park.

We were going buy on the train and saw a mountain full of roller coasters so we got off and went to the park. It was about \$25 to get in and there were maybe 10 other guests in the park so we had all the rides to ourselves.

For maddie this was a treat because when you got off the ride you could just get back on and take another ride. For me though I had to question the lack of income means not so much money to properly maintain the rides.

There was a brazilian band and dancers brought

in to entertain the guests and when we walked by their show they grabbed maddie. After they tortured her for 30 minutes of Samba dancing I decided to save her and

pull her out of the low budget show to their disappointment.

I will say with no one there this was the best theme park I have ever been to.



## Bridgezilla

Known as the Pearl Bridge the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge is the longest

suspension bridge in the world. The Bridge spans between the main island

of Japan, Honshu and one of the smaller islands.

The bridge is dual level with vehicle traffic on the top and rail lines below. There are several smaller bridges connecting a chain of 4 islands to cross the shipping lanes between the islands.

The bridge is similar to the bay bridge in San Francisco but it is about twice the size and if you sit and watch about 20 ships pass every hour.




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*"The view out the cab of an express train crossing the bridge."*

