

GAZETTE

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



SUMMER IN JAPAN

Have you ever been to Japan in the summer? It's my favorite season because you get to see some of Japan's culture. We have a fun festival called natsu matsuri which has many food stands selling mostly traditional Japanese food. Many people wear a jinbei along with a yukata which is like a kimono, and you can perform Japanese dances.

We've loved going to the natsu matsuri since we were kids. We can reunite with old friends there. We are full of happiness during this time. When I go to the natsu matsuri, I always feel like Japan is my home. Also, if you go to Japan in the summer, you can see some beautiful firework festivals. The quality is amazing. I really want to go to the firework festival in Japan. Natsu matsuri and firework festivals are the best.

By Mao

BRADERIE DE LILLE

In the Middle Ages, in the 12th century, valets were allowed to sell their masters' old objects and clothes once a year. This custom is now superimposed onto the Lille Fair, where both locals and foreigners are free to sell their wares.

Today, the fair – or braderie – covers hundreds of kilometers of sidewalks and can accommodate between 2-3 million people. The braderies take place on the first weekend of September. At this time, the city of Lille is transformed into a huge flea market (“marché aux puces” in French) where different cultures meet. The Lille fair is one of the biggest gatherings in France and the biggest flea market in Europe.



This event is accompanied by a wide range of activities including a half-marathon on Saturday morning, concerts, and a fair with rides. The bradeux (bargain hunters) stroll or browse, eventually stopping for mussels and French fries - the traditional braderie dish. The town's restaurants also challenge each other during the event to see who has the biggest pile of empty mussel shells in front of their shop!

By Eline



METRO IN MOSCOW

I would like to talk about the metro system in my hometown of Moscow. I'm talking specifically about underground transport. The Moscow metro first opened its doors to passengers 90 years ago. Since then, it has been impossible to imagine Moscow without it.

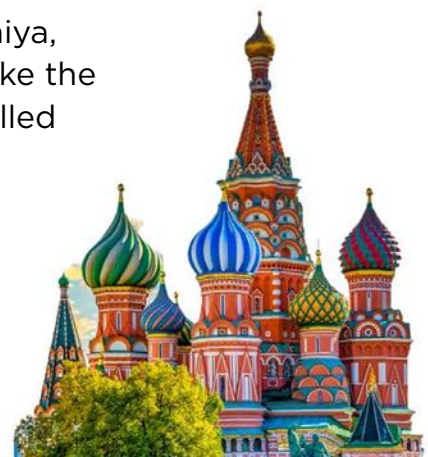
Each metro station was built with a special design, reflecting the spirit and history of the place where it's located. Currently, there are 263 stations. The Moscow metro is 293 miles long, and consists of two rings and a network of intertwining lines.

During the Second World War, the metro served as bomb shelters and saved millions of lives. Now, more than 10 million people use it every day to move around the city. The metro is currently serviced by 70,000 workers daily. Every station and every train has full Wi-Fi. Trains pass every two or three minutes, depending on the time of day. The cost of a ticket is 30 cents - no matter how many stations you pass.

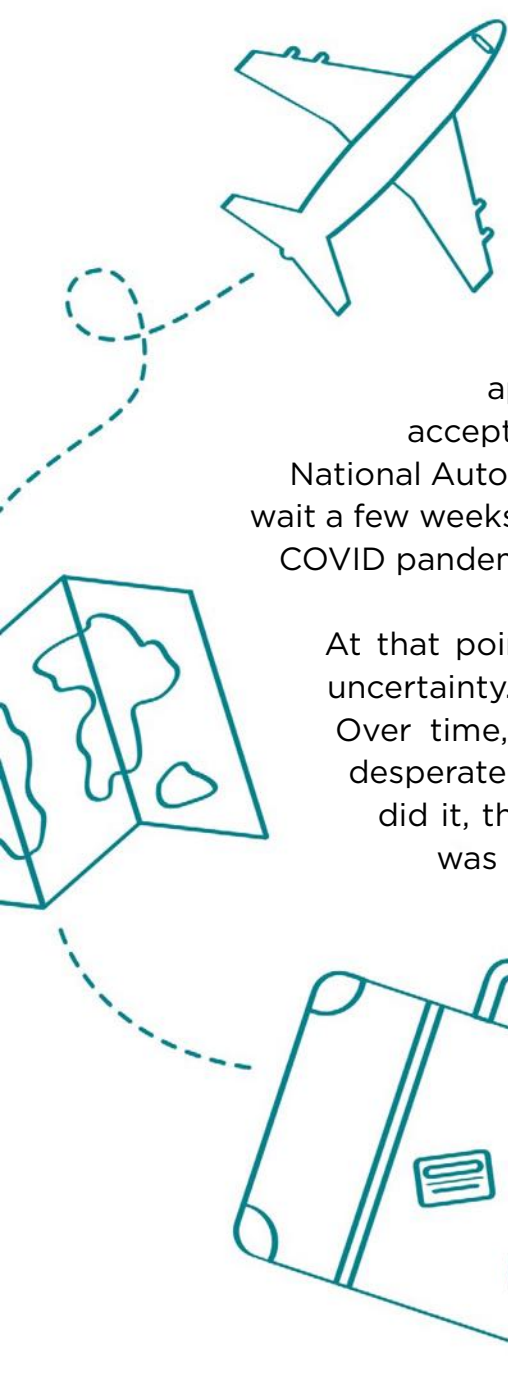
In my opinion, the most beautiful stations are Arbatskaiya, Komsomolskaiya, and Revolution Square. I also really like the metro station in the district where I lived before. It's called Slavic Boulevard.

Take the time to look at the architecture of this unique human creation.

By Konstantin



MEXICO CITY



I've always wanted to live in Mexico City. When I finished my pre-professional studies in 2019, I decided to move there to continue my development as a specialist in something related to dentistry. The adventure started when, at the beginning of 2020, I applied to one of the most prestigious universities. I was accepted to be among their propedeutics students at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). However, I had to wait a few weeks to start because the world was in danger thanks to the COVID pandemic.

At that point, I was far away from my family, alone and living in uncertainty. My levels of stress increased, and I started to feel sick. Over time, I needed an emergency surgical intervention. I was desperate because I could not afford it by myself – and even if I did it, there wasn't anyone who could take care of me. So that was the scenario – me, alone, sick, far away from home, and waiting for a response from UNAM that was obviously going to be, “Everything must stop because of the COVID pandemic.”

I had to qualify for a “humanitarian flight” through the Ecuadorian embassy in Mexico City to go back and be safe. I can remember the feeling of leaving this beautiful country without achieving what I planned. However, now I know that it was the best option for me.

By Domenica



THE SEASON FOR THE BEVERAGE SHOP

Summer - it's the best season to get drinks! Beverage shops are very common in Asia. Finding a beverage shop on every corner is quite commonplace in the cities. They have whatever you want to drink. Boba, of course, is one of the favorites. I always make my own customized drink. Just being average is kind of a bore. Every drink can be customized, like at Starbucks.



Yifang on 6th Street in Koreatown is my favorite beverage shop in L.A. I'd like to recommend it to everyone! The drink called Mango Pomelo Sago with half sugar is so good.



By Maria

SUMMER FESTIVAL

In Japan, we have many summer festivals which start at the beginning of July. They are mostly held in the evening. So we can call them night festivals. There are so many shops - it's like a market. They mostly they sell food. Also, we can enjoy fireworks at night. Everyone likes to go to the summer festivals.

I think, for women, it feels more special to go there because most women will wear a Yukata, which is a traditional Japanese outfit. It's different from a kimono because Kimonos can be worn anytime. A Yukata can only be worn during the summertime. So women only wear it during this season.



By Ui

THE BIGGEST CREMATORIUM IN VARANASSI (A MONOLOGUE)

Character:

Aghimuha, 65 years old
He never had any official
education.
Varanassi, India

Monologue:

Namaste, ma'am.

Do you know that you are lucky? Why? Because this is the city of Varanassi. Only people with good karma can reach this place. That's why, ma'am.

What are you taking pictures of? May I see them? Oh! You have a good eye! These are beautiful photos! But please don't take pictures here. It is forbidden. Don't you know what this place is, ma'am?

Yes, you are right, this is Manikarnika, the biggest crematorium out here. This one is different from the other two in this area, because we do not burn everyone here. We only burn people who died naturally, ma'am.

Do you see these houses? They are all full. People are coming from every part of the country and waiting for death here. Some of them are alone. Some of them are with a family. Everyone wants to feel the touch of the holy flame, ma'am.

We take flesh from the person's shoulder and give it to the fish in the river Ganges. That is the way the cycle of life works. All living things on this earth are connected with each other, ma'am.

Do you know what my name means? The face of fire. What a coincidence. Do you believe in coincidence, ma'am?

Do you know how many people are cremated in a day? One or two hundred people. We are working day and night, ma'am. Time? It only takes three hours to burn a person – three hours and 100 kg of wood. That is for one person.

Sometimes poor people come here and tell me that they don't have money for wood. What should we do in this kind of situation? We offer free rituals for them. Do you want to do something to help them? You can buy this silk scarf, ma'am. If you buy it, the owner of the store will pay into the fund for these poor people.

No, no, I don't want your money. This is not the reason I am talking to you. I just enjoy talking with you because you seem interesting, ma'am.

"Can everyone be involved in the ritual?" What do you mean by that, ma'am? ... Oh. "Can a European person be involved or not?" Of course, ma'am. What is the difference between Europeans and us or Africans? How should we differentiate people because of their nation? We all have the same ancestors, the same father. Maybe the color of our skin is different. But when you cut your finger, everyone's blood is red, ma'am.

By Salome

JUNE 2, THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC DAY

The Italian Republic Day is celebrated on June 2. In 1946, between June 2 and 3, the referendum was held through which Italians - after 35 years under the Savoy Dynasty (20 years of which were a fascist dictatorship that ended during World War II) - chose to make Italy a constitutional Republic, abolishing the monarchy.

That day was also the first time that women had the right to vote. Celebrating that date means remembering an acquisition of citizenship. Half of Italian society rightfully became part of politics and part of public decision-making. This post-war achievement was crucial and long awaited, and women had fought for it for decades.

By Mattia

