

wish times

December 2018

Special Feature:
Illuminations

WISH 祭

Winter Fashion Snap

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Nakano: Through the Seasons

WISH Festival

By:
Serena Kung

During this month, November, our WISH residents along with the RA's have created a huge event called WISH 祭, hosted in our dorm and sponsored by Kirin Beverage Company. Inspired by the idea of creating a "school festival", WISH 祭 is based on three main components: charity, unite, and dispatch.



The event supporters and RA's started to prepare for this event around June. It took around 4 months of hard work and dedication to make this event a fun and successful day. The event supporters said it was challenging to create and start this event, since this year was the first time for the dorm to host the WISH 祭. However, after the event ended, we could all see that the event was a huge success. From Natsuka, 4th floor RA and the leader of this whole event, described:

"I think WISH festival is the biggest event ever in WISH, because the planning team consisted of about 30 people, 70 people were involved in WISH festival as staffs and totally 530 people came and enjoyed WISH festival. WISH festival project started when a resident came up with the idea in this April. Although we had a lot of difficulty in planning the new event, we got really happy that WISH festival was successful!"



From brilliant ideas of the residents, there were many different activities in the festival, such as having a Music Festival, world food corner, mini-game area, performance of Rakugo, WISH talk, and Global Cafe.





In details, the WISH Music Festival was a popular with performance from talented residents and the circle called Glee Club, to show their passion and love for music. At the world food corner, there were food from different countries: Korea's yangnyeom chicken, Taiwan's tapioca tea, and Shanghai's shengjianbao. At the mini-game area, there were games such as fishing snacks game and bean bag throwing. At the WISH talk, there were WISH residents who wanted to share their experience to others. At the Global Cafe, there were residents from around 6-8 different countries, and they tried to explain their culture and customs to those living in the Nakano community. Lastly, one of WISH's residents performed Rakugo to let more people understand this Japanese verbal entertainment.

While I was walking around the fair, I saw a lot of people who lives outside of WISH, particularly parents with young children. You could see the smile and laughter going around from the kids to the elderlies. A lot of families living in the Nakano community are very curious on the life of Waseda students and WISH itself. Hence, it was a good way to communicate and share information with everyone. The kids especially loved the "Waseda Warriors". You might have seen these characters walking around the fair. It's because one of the students is in the circle called "怪獣どめ", and had the thought of bringing these characters to the fair. This one-day event brought new memories to not only new and old residents but also, to those living outside of WISH.



To those who came and helped out for this event, thank you!
Hopefully there would be a WISH 祭 again next year!

Special Feature: Illuminations

By: Miyu Sakari

Hi everyone! Speaking of big events in December, it would have to be Christmas, wouldn't it?! The streets have also become so lively! Did you know, in Tokyo there are many wonderful illuminations that rival those found in Europe? Take a look at these beautiful illuminations!

Roppongi Hills

Roppongi 6-10-1, Minatoku, Tokyo

[Train] Tokyo Metro Roppongi Station (it's extremely close)

2018.11.5 (Mon) ~ 12.25 (Tue) 17:00~23:00

This illumination was inspired by the 2 Disney movies, "Frozen" and "Rapunzel". You can enjoy the combination of an illumination coordinated with music.



Midtown Christmas 2018

Akabane 9-7-1, Minato-ku, Tokyo

[Train] Subway Roppongi Station (directly connected) or Nogizaka Station (3 min walk)

2018.11.13(Tue) ~ 12.25 (Tue) 11:00~24:00

The theme is "The birth, luminescence, explosion of stars". With an outer space-like ambience, you can feel the greatness of the universe through this illumination.



Caretta Shimiodome

Higashi Shimbashi 1-8-2, Minato-ku, Tokyo

[Train]

Tokyo Metro Shimbashi Station
(5 min walk)

White and blue glittering lights surround the Keyakizaka. Please enjoy the fantastic winter lights!



Hibiya Garden Terrace
 Hibiya 4-20, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
 [Train]JR Hibiya Station (5 min walk)
 2018.11.3 ~ 2019.1.14
 11:00~24:00

This was designed by a French interior designer. It is almost like looking at the glow of chandeliers.

Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse
 Shinminato 1-1, Yokohama City, Kanagawa
 [Train]Minatomirai Station (12 min walk)
 2018.11.23(Fri) ~ 12.25(Tue) 11:00~23:00

It would suffice to say, this is set in Yokohama. What can be better than a Dutch Christmas Market at the Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse?



The locations listed above are relatively close to WISH, and easily accessible by train. On top of that, all these illuminations can be viewed for free, so it's definitely a win for us university students! Please go and enjoy winter with not only WISH residents, but also everyone else!

WISH Winter Fashion Snaps

+Winter Tips

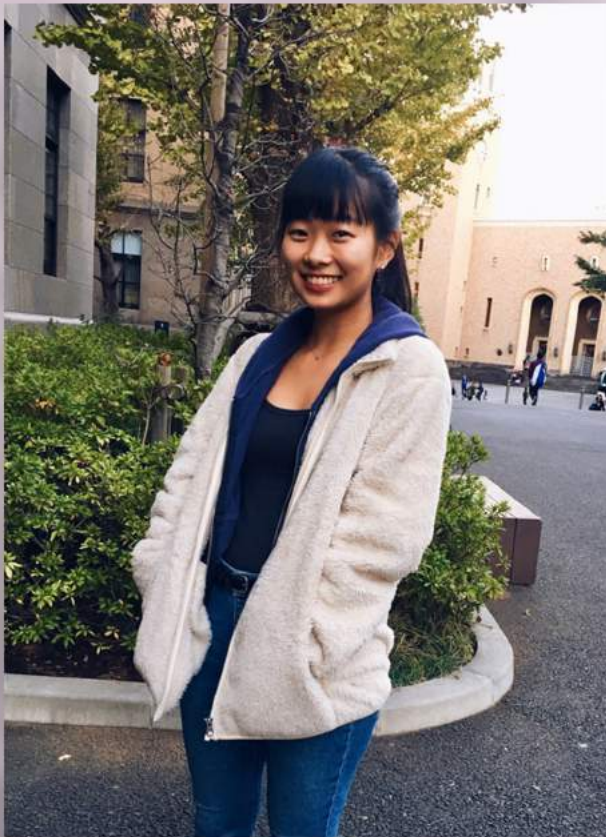
By: Lily Toda

Cold? Don't know how to dress or where to find the best winter pieces in Japan? Read on to get the best winter tips from these fashionable WISH residents!

Eri Taniyama

School of Social Sciences
1st year
8th floor resident

Eri is one of my closest friends, and I decided to contact her for this article because I always see her wearing cute, warm clothes at school!



On campus after class, rocking her trademark fuzzy jacket!

What is your favorite fashion piece to stay warm during the fall/winter months?

My fuzzy jacket from Uniqlo or a Down jacket!

Recommendations for stores to find stylish winter coats and sweaters?

Bershka, GU and Zara

Do you prefer online shopping, shopping at retail stores, or going to thrift stores (or all)?

I'd go shopping like in person but if I have to choose I prefer going to thrift stores because my friends like buying from there! Hmm I prefer stores over online shopping because I can see clothes and actually try them on.

Best winter comfort food?

Onabe/hotpot !

Best winter beverage to warm up?

Corn soup haha

How do you stay warm in your room?

I wear fuzzy sweats.



What is your favorite fashion piece to stay warm during the fall/winter months?

I like to wrap a cardigan/sweater around my neck like I did today, or wear a scarf. Actually, I'm always wearing scarves because my philosophy professor looked really cool wearing them haha. And I always try to wear two layers in case it is cold.

Recommendations for stores to find stylish winter coats and sweaters?

Go to furugiya (thrift stores) in Harajuku because when you want something like coats, you want it for a long time and clothing pieces sold at thrift stores is durable and good quality because it is on resale. I think the furugiya style is more timeless as well and not just a one-season trend.

I guess you partly answered the question already from the previous question, but do you prefer online shopping, shopping at retail stores, or going to thrift stores (or all)?

Yea, definitely thrift stores and never online shopping for clothes.

Best winter food?

Taiyaki. Even though it is eaten all seasons, I think there's something appealing about buying hot food from street vendors when it is cold out.

Best winter beverage to warm up?

The Hot Lemon drink from Family Mart because it is especially good for sickness.

How do you stay warm in your room?

I Don't turn on the heater or anything in the room. In the morning, I might go for a run to instantly warm up. I actually usually do cold showers to wake me up, instead of trying to warm up though. I also do own some indoor pjs to stay warm at night.

Favorite winter activity?

I actually like going to bookstores more during this time because I see more family members enjoying themselves there. Looking at the illuminations is good too.

What do you personally plan on doing this winter holiday?

I'm going back to France to see my grandfather for 10 days and coming back to study I guess, haha.

Vivien Lecomte

School of Political Science and Economics

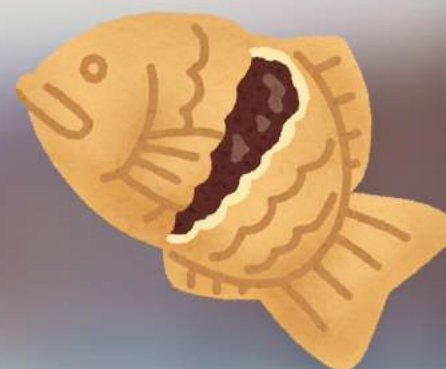
3rd year

6th floor RA)

Vivien is my senpai who always has this French flair and dresses effortlessly well-put together on campus, so I decided to interview him for his advice and tips for this winter!



In front of WISH, on his way to school, looking stylish (& hydrated with his water bottle!!)



SI: Ikebana By: Elaine Chiu

When most people think of flowers and beauty, autumn and winter are the most unlikely of connections that come to mind. However, that did not discourage the teachers from the Ichiyo School of Ikebana as they came to deliver a lecture and hands on experience of “ikebana” on November 17. Ikebana is the traditional art of flower arrangement, and “through placing seasonal flowers and leaves in beautiful containers, Japanese people can appreciate the seasons”.



This art form started more than a thousand years ago, where Japanese people put cherry blossoms in containers and offered flower arrangements to Buddha, starting the foundation of an important part of Japanese culture. The Ichiyo School of Ikebana was established in 1937 by headmistress Ichiyo Kasuya and has been passed down to the current third headmaster Akihiro Kasuya. An interesting note is that all the instructors of the school are personally named by the headmaster, and their names are those of beautiful flowers and plants.

The Ichiyo School pursues a style of flower arranging that harmonizes with the various spaces in our living environment, and it strives to explore every possible location in daily surroundings for placing flowers. This is shown through a very thorough demonstration by the teachers, who explained a step-by-step process to putting the perfect ikebana arrangement.



Since ikebana is considered a “traditional” Japanese art form, I was stuck with the preconception that the flowers used were of Japanese (or at the very least, Asian) origins, yet the teachers struck down this stereotype by starting the demonstration with vibrant red roses. While we were also taught the four most popular basic forms: upright, slanting, flat, and hanging form, I gradually realized that the emotion and thoughts inside a person was what really influenced the outcome of the arrangement.

All of the participants were provided with the exact same specimen of flowers, and yet every single finished product reflected completely different mindsets of each creator: some were bold and wild; others were more controlled and dainty. As current headmaster Akihiro Kasuya says, “A flower’s expression changes with different environments and depending on each expression, the surrounding atmosphere also changes. I would like more and more to involve myself in that”, and that perhaps is the true essence of the art of ikebana.

Nakano: Through the Seasons

By: Renuka Kulkarni

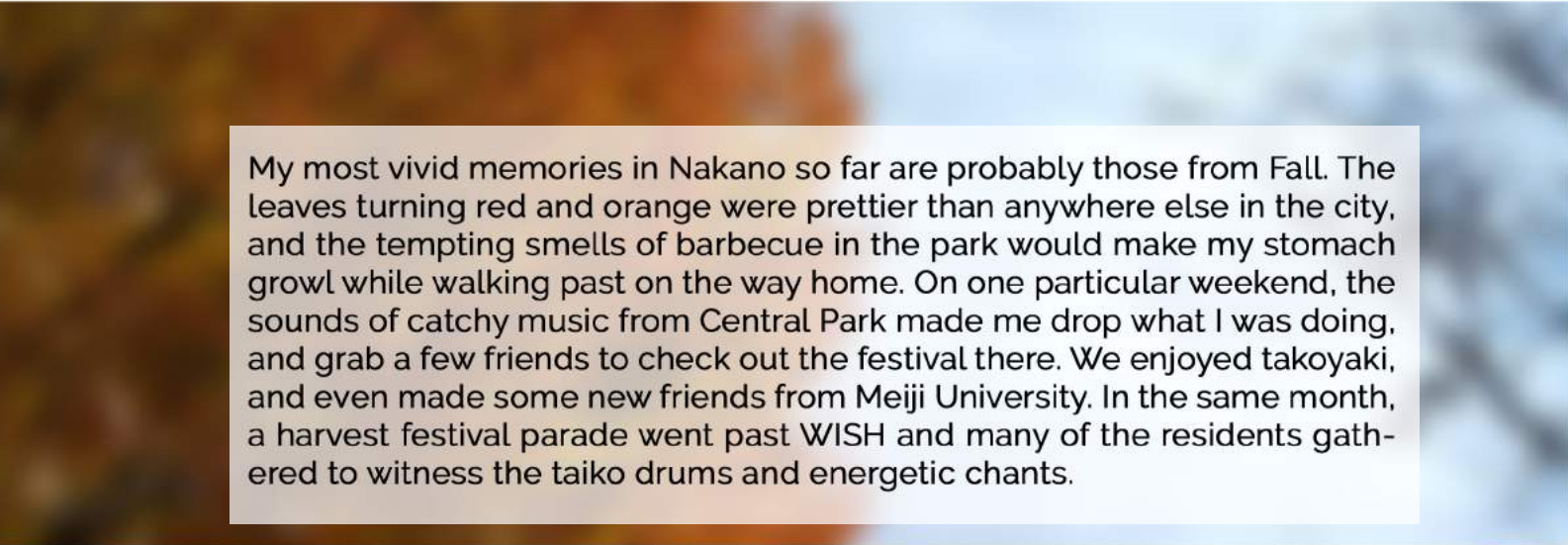
As someone who comes from a country where the scenery changes very little over the seasons, I was frankly astonished as I noticed the many changes the Japanese landscape undergoes over the year. Spending most of my time in and around Nakano, I've come to realise that the changes are even more pronounced here.

Take spring for instance. The sakura trees are in full bloom and you can enjoy them right here walking along Nakano-dori, without having to go all the way to Shinjuku-gyoen. Clear skies and lazy afternoons during Golden Week spent just lounging around Nakano Central Park are things that I'm sure most of us can relate to. On especially clear days, you can even get a beautiful view of Mt. Fuji from some of the upper floors of WISH!

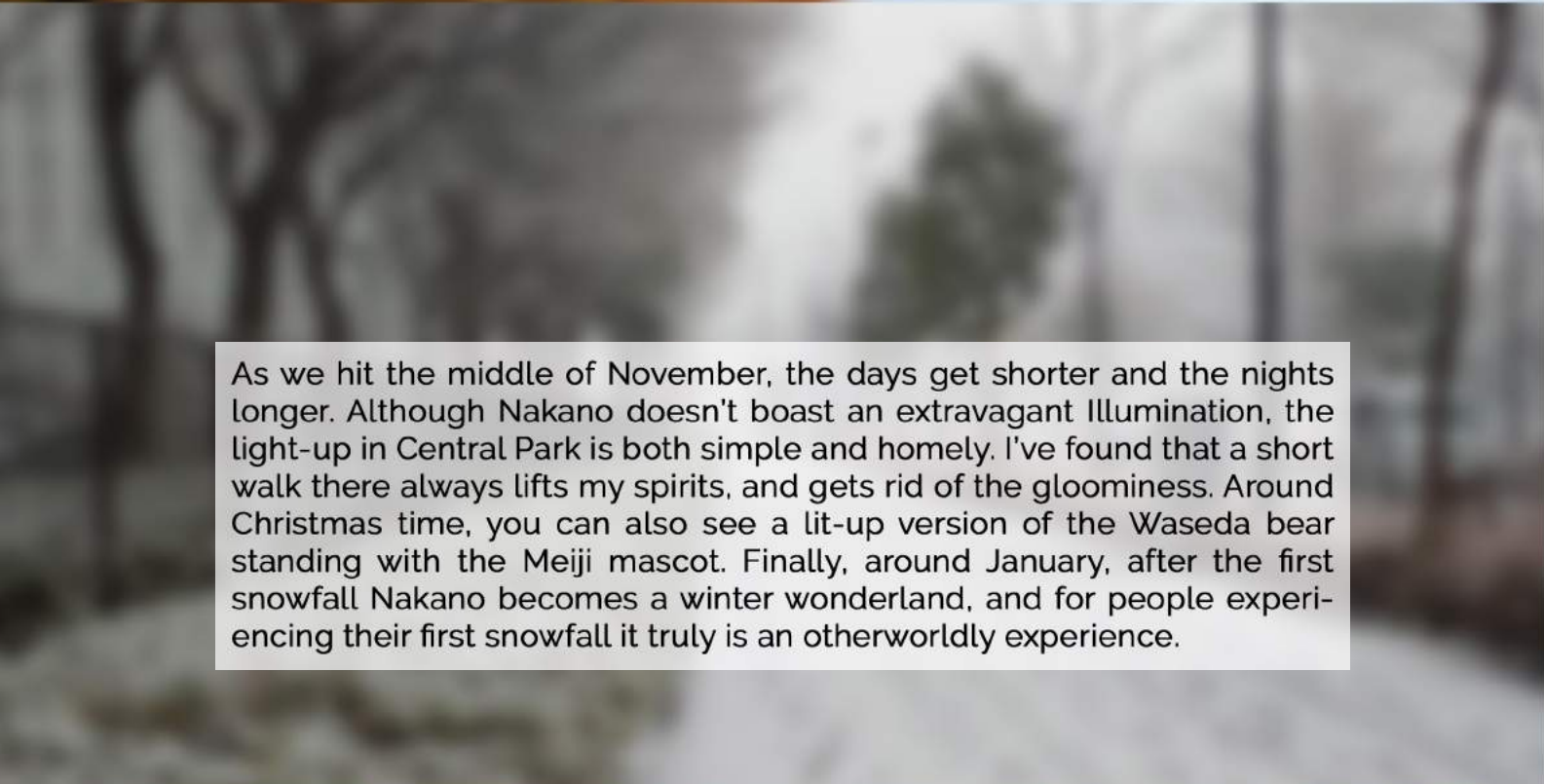


As we head deeper into the semester, tensions rise along with the temperatures, and spring gives way to summer. The sweltering heat doesn't deter the weekend picnickers in Central Park, however, as they spread their mats and fan themselves while watching their kids splashing around in the pond. It's an urge I'm sure many of us have had while passing the park on the way to the station; to just dump our bags and worries and jump into the cool water. Nakano also boasts a wide array of summer festivals, both cultural and food-related. This year, for instance, Nakano had a ramen festival in June, and we got to taste some of the best and varied flavours you could possibly imagine!

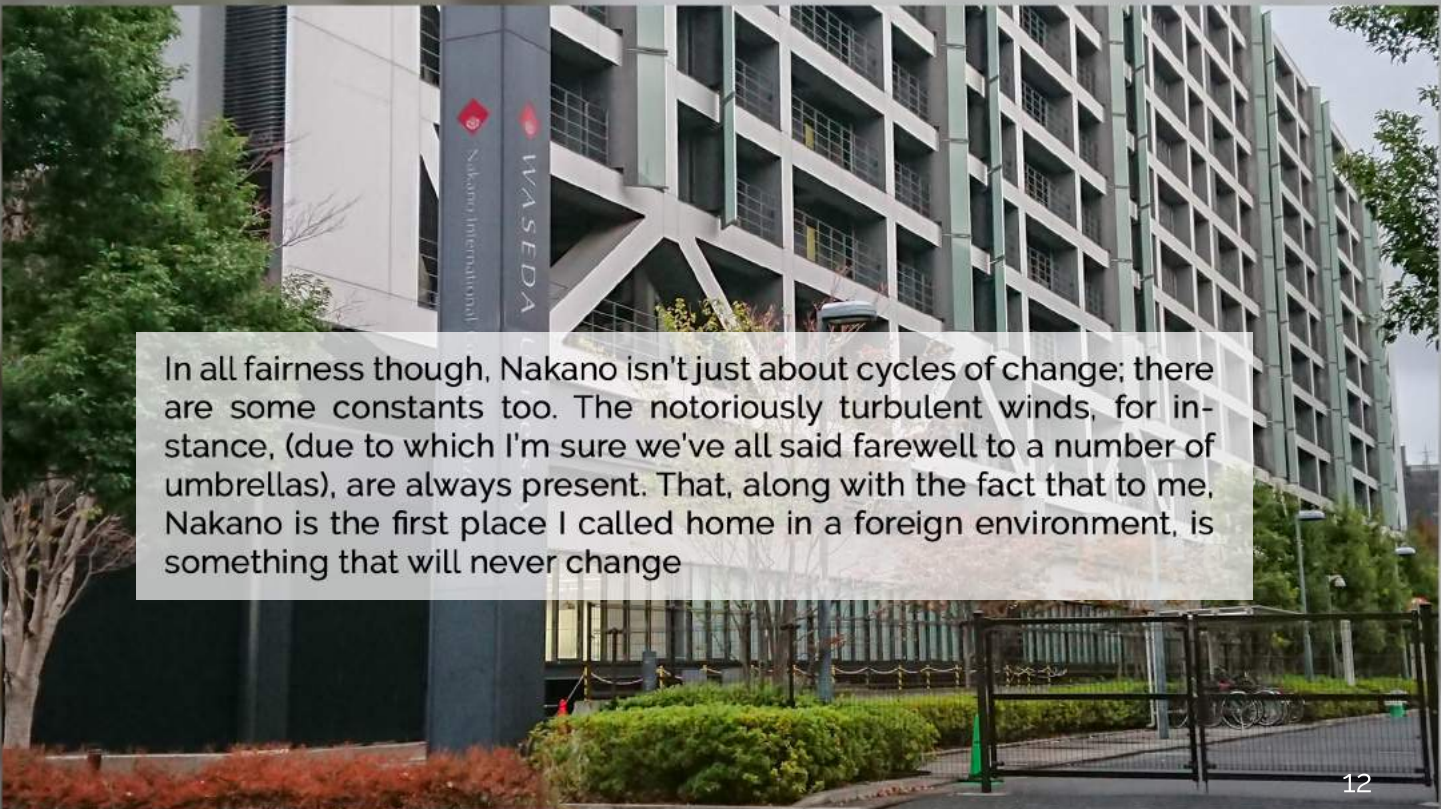




My most vivid memories in Nakano so far are probably those from Fall. The leaves turning red and orange were prettier than anywhere else in the city, and the tempting smells of barbecue in the park would make my stomach growl while walking past on the way home. On one particular weekend, the sounds of catchy music from Central Park made me drop what I was doing, and grab a few friends to check out the festival there. We enjoyed takoyaki, and even made some new friends from Meiji University. In the same month, a harvest festival parade went past WISH and many of the residents gathered to witness the taiko drums and energetic chants.



As we hit the middle of November, the days get shorter and the nights longer. Although Nakano doesn't boast an extravagant Illumination, the light-up in Central Park is both simple and homely. I've found that a short walk there always lifts my spirits, and gets rid of the gloominess. Around Christmas time, you can also see a lit-up version of the Waseda bear standing with the Meiji mascot. Finally, around January, after the first snowfall Nakano becomes a winter wonderland, and for people experiencing their first snowfall it truly is an otherworldly experience.



In all fairness though, Nakano isn't just about cycles of change; there are some constants too. The notoriously turbulent winds, for instance, (due to which I'm sure we've all said farewell to a number of umbrellas), are always present. That, along with the fact that to me, Nakano is the first place I called home in a foreign environment, is something that will never change

Christmas Songs around The World

By: Sayaka Takemura

The Christmas season is right around the corner. Time for Christmas songs to start playing in stores, restaurants, and cafes! Christmas is widely celebrated around the world. Did you know that more than 160 countries celebrate Christmas? Each country celebrates it in different ways, and some even have their own Christmas songs. This article will introduce you famous christmas songs in five countries: USA, South America, Australia, Japan, and also the author's favorite christmas song!

1. USA

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town

Everyone has heard "cus Santa Claus is comin', to toooown~!" verse at least once in their lives. Yep, it's the classic Christmas song created in 1934 by John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie. Since its' release, it has become the classic Christmas song that gets played everywhere in America. This song is not only popular in America, but also around the world. This one gets played a lot here in Tokyo too!

All I want for Christmas is You

The other song that's really popular is "All I want for Christmas is You" written by the famous American pop star Mariah Carey. This new, upbeat song was released in 1994 and will surely lift your Christmas spirit up!



2. South America

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad is in Spanish, which is why this song is very popular in most Spanish-speaking countries. The chorus is "Feliz Navidad, próspero año y felicidad" meaning "Merry Christmas, a prosperous year and happiness". The unique thing about this one is that it only has 20 words in the entire song! It's very quick and easy to remember the entire lyrics, so why don't you try listening to this one if you haven't done so.

3. Australia Last Christmas

Unlike anywhere else, December is summer in Australia! So, even though they don't get white Christmas, Australians celebrate their Christmas by dipping in the beach under the sun. In this country without "White Christmas", the most popular Christmas song seem to be "Last Christmas" by Wham!



4. Japan Christmas Eve

Christmas in Japan is celebrated as a festive, not a religious holiday. Although most Christmas songs played in Japan are the ones famous from USA, there are also Japanese Christmas songs that are really popular. One of them is "Christmas Eve" by Tatsuro Yamashita. Released in 1983, it became famous after it became the CM song for JR Train lines.

The First Noel

A musical score for the song "The First Noel". It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, clear font, with lyrics in Japanese below it. The score is presented in a clean, minimalist style.

5. Author's favorite

The First Noel

Noel is an Early Modern English synonym of "Christmas". Unlike the other upbeat songs on this list, this one is very calming and relaxing. It brings joy and peace.