

Reading and Talking

Christmas cake from Kyoto

Do you want a special Christmas cake? This year, Rihga Royal Hotel Kyoto has Christmas cakes in “juubako,” lacquer boxes. The juubako cakes are called Eraberu Omotase Christmas (えらべる おもたせ/You Choose the Gift Christmas). There are three different boxes. The “Decoration” (でこれ～しょん) box has a strawberry shortcake. The “Pop” (ぽっぷ) and “Elegant” (えれがんと) boxes both have 15 small cakes and desserts. One box costs 4,860 yen, or 8,640 yen for two, or 10,800 yen for all three. Order before December 17th at <<https://bit.ly/2GXaKP5>>.

(86 words)

Do you want to order Eraberu Omotase Christmas cakes?

↳Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--Do you want to get all three boxes? / Do you usually buy a Christmas cake? / Did you have a Christmas party last year?)

↳No, I don't. (--What do you think about the prices? / Have you ever ordered a Christmas cake at a convenience store? / Do you eat chicken to celebrate Christmas?)

What kind of cake or dessert do you usually buy for yourself?

↳I usually buy [strawberry shortcake / chocolate cake / Mont Blanc chestnut-cream / cheesecake / chiffon cake / mille-feuille / fruit cake / tiramisu / XXX] (--When did you last buy it? / At which cake shop do you usually buy cakes? / Can you eat more than three pieces of cake at once?)

Can you bake cakes and cookies?

↳Yes, I can. (--What have you baked recently? / Where did you learn to do it? / Is it easy for you to make a cheesecake?)

↳No, I can't. (--Is there a cake shop near your house? / Can you make pancakes? / Have you ever made custard pudding?)

(16 October, 2020)

More Information

Christmas cake from Kyoto

It's October, and with it come pre-order announcements for Christmas cake and New Year food at convenience and other stores. You realize with a start that the end of the year is fast approaching.

This year, if you're looking for something different and a bit special for your Christmas cake, here's one idea. Rihga Royal Hotel Kyoto is making cakes for Christmas, and it is packing them in "juubako," the shallow, lacquered, square, tiered boxes that are used to serve New Year food. The juubako cakes are called Eraberu Omotase Christmas (えらべる おもたせ/You Choose the Gift Christmas).

There are three different boxes, each topped with Christmas ornaments. "Decoration" (でこれ~しよん) is a strawberry shortcake, while "Pop" (ぽっぷ) and "Elegant" (えれがんと) each have a selection of 15 bite-sized cakes and desserts. You can order individual boxes (¥4,860 each), mix and match two boxes (¥8,640) or order all three (¥10,800). Your box/boxes are delivered in a "furoshiki" traditional wrapping cloth. There are 100 of each box available for pre-order until December 17, or until they sell out, at <<https://bit.ly/2GXaKP5>>.

(177 words)

(16 October, 2020)

Reading and Talking

ANA's A380 Flying Honu

The Airbus A380 is the largest passenger airplane in the world. ANA has two A380s that fly from Narita to Honolulu, Hawaii. The A380s are painted like giant sea turtles, so they are nicknamed Flying Honu (sea turtle in Hawaiian). Because of Covid-19, ANA's Flying Honu are not flying to Hawaii now, so ANA used its Flying Honu for a 90-minute, Narita-to-Narita, Hawaii-themed sightseeing flight in August. Lots of people wanted to join, so ANA did it again in September. Now a three-hour Flying Honu sightseeing flight is planned for November.

(98 words)

Do you want to go on a Flying Honu “yuuran hikou” sightseeing flight?

↳ Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--Did you know about the Flying Honu sightseeing flights? / Do you want to buy a first-class seat? / Have you ever been to Narita Airport?)

↳ No, I don't. (--Have you ever been to Hawaii? / Have you ever been on a sightseeing boat? / When did you last go somewhere by airplane?)

What is the most beautiful beach that you have ever been to?

↳ [XXX] is the most beautiful beach that I have ever been to. (--When did you go there? / Who did you go with? / What did you do at the beach? / Was it a white-sand beach? / Did you see the sunset there?)

↳ Nowhere special. (--Did you go to the beach this summer? / Have you ever helped to clean up a beach?)

Did you go somewhere this summer?

↳ Yes, I did. (--Where did you go? / How did you go there? / How long did you go for? / Are you going to travel somewhere this autumn?)

↳ No, I didn't. (--Do you think it's safe to travel somewhere now? / Do you want to travel somewhere next summer?)

(16 October, 2020)

More Information

ANA's A380 Flying Honu

The Airbus A380 is currently the largest and most expensive passenger airplane in the world. Airbus has so far sold 242 A380s around the world. ANA has two of them for its Narita to Honolulu, Hawaii route. They are painted to look like giant sea turtles, which is why they are nicknamed Flying Honu (sea turtle in Hawaiian). However, ANA's giant A380s have been grounded since March this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

International aviation regulations say that if a jet doesn't fly for 90 consecutive days, it must undergo thorough—and costly—maintenance. To avoid this expense, ANA announced in June that its Flying Honu would make Narita to Narita flights without passengers. Two families then contacted ANA to ask if they could be on those flights to nowhere. In response, ANA decided to arrange a 90-minute sightseeing round-trip for August.

Applications were 150 times the number of available seats, and 334 very lucky passengers—about 60% of normal capacity because of social distancing—were chosen by lottery. The flight featured Hawaiian-themed drinks and entertainment. ANA repeated the event in September.

A third flight, this time for three hours, is planned for November. Prices range from ¥28,000 (economy aisle seat) to ¥68,000 (first class). Unfortunately, the deadline for application has passed, but you can find more details at

<<https://ana.ms/3lUOyUV>>.

(227 words)

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