

The Gaijin* Fan in Japan

by Allen Baum & Donya White
photographs by Allen Baum

Our fondness of Japan began with a woodblock print of a small temple flanked by enormous trees. Upon investigation, it turned out to be a shrine in Nikko, Japan. One thing led to another, and we eventually found ourselves in that forest. There's a lot to see and enjoy in Japan.

What follows is our view of what a first time visitor to Japan should know and the highlights and interesting tidbits about what you might want to look for, see, and do. There are a lot of good guidebooks for Japan; and you'll see a lot of recommendations in common.

You'll also notice a lot of references to shopping – this is a very personal account!

Language

Japanese writing uses three alphabets: Kanji, the Chinese-based characters; Hiragana, a phonetic alphabet; and Katakana, another phonetic alphabet for foreign words. Hiragana and Katakana aren't too hard to learn; Kanji can be. Luckily, over the years English signage has become more common, as have English speakers. Being a tourist in Japan has become increasingly easy for non-Japanese speakers.

Eating

One of our favorite activities in Japan is eating. Japanese restaurants are no longer terribly rare in the U.S., but you'll see only a fraction of Japanese cuisine in them. It's not hard to pay \$100 per person in a good restaurant – but you can also find \$10 meals as well. Noodle restaurants are one of the best deals, easy to find and hard not to like. You'll find lots of sushi restaurants, including robaata (conveyor belt) style. A style uncommon outside Japan is okonomiyaki, sometimes called Japanese pizza. They are more akin to an omelet, and you get to pick what goes in it. Izakaya are what might be called Japanese tapas. You'll find lots of unusual dishes that you won't see in most other restaurants, outside of Japan. Oden restaurants have huge boiling kettles of fish cakes, boiled eggs, daikon radish, konnyaku (yam cakes) and other odds and ends. The menus won't be in English, but you can often just point to something and they'll fish it out. A lot of these restaurants have menus in Japanese only. Sometimes they'll be profusely illustrated (especially in izakaya). If not, ask if they have an English menu (Eigo no menu ari-mas ka?) – point to what someone else is

having – drag your waitperson out and point if it's a restaurant with plastic models, – close your eyes, point to something on the menu and pray – question the waitperson, and hope for English.

We've used all of these approaches, usually with good results (though knowing that “bone chicken” had chicken didn't prepare us for fried chicken cartilage). There are Japanese food/menu guides that can help navigate your way through a menu; the one we recommend is “A Dictionary of Japanese Food” by Richard Hosking, (Tuttle Books), which rarely missed a dish (even fairly obscure ones) that we were looking for, and includes the Japanese characters for all.

If you get stuck trying to find a restaurant, one sure bet is the top floor of the ubiquitous depaato's (“department” stores). You'll find several restaurants, all with plastic food models you can point to.

Make sure you get there before the store closes (usually before 7pm)! If you're on a tight budget, heading to the bottom floor of the depaato will bring you to the food hall, and you can get an unbelievable selection of prepared foods to bring back to your room; they start reducing prices before the store closes.

In the morning, you can also select from an amazing variety of Bento (box lunches) for later. Finally, if you're desperate, but not desperate enough for the increasingly ubiquitous McDonalds/ Kentucky Fried squid/etc., an interesting local chain is Mos Burger, known for its veggie burger on rice flour buns. Or, try their scallop burger!

Your hotel room rate may include breakfast. If not, you'll have a huge selection of coffee shops, donut shops, and bakeries with buns filled with all sorts of things you never thought of putting in bread before. These are especially popular around train stations.

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Bidding Committee for Worldcon Nippon

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*foreign

Shopping

It's customary for Japanese who are traveling to bring gifts to whomever they are visiting, or returning to. Major train stations are very well supplied with stalls selling local delicacies – usually sweets – which will be unrecognizable by most tourists. Depaato (Department) stores will be found almost everywhere in Japan. Typically they will be near, or on top of, a train station. Their layout is fairly standard: restaurants at the top, food hall(s) at the bottom, everything else in between.

The food halls are something that should be experienced. They have individual stalls with a huge assortment of prepared foods, including sushi, tempura, pickles, and many other unidentifiable edibles. There will inevitably be a section, or an entire floor, dedicated to gift foods, as in the train stations. Samples may be available in both of these. The rest of the store will be familiar to anyone who has been to an American department store, often down to the brand names. You'll find some departments that you won't find elsewhere, e.g. a kimono section, where you'll see some of the most beautiful fabrics you've ever come across. More important to tourists, there may be a "Japanese gifts" section, with handicrafts. The largest stores may also have an exhibition or sale floor. Exhibitions can be quite interesting; they're often regional handicrafts or foods, and interested foreigners will usually be offered samples of the food.

The largest concentration of shopping is around train stations, including depaatos and sprawling underground malls that extend blocks in every direction packed with small shops. You'll find many "shopping streets" – areas where the streets have been roofed over and turned into pedestrian shopping malls full of small shops. Finally,

check out the flea markets. There are weekly markets in Tokyo and Kyoto. The tourist office will have schedules. These markets seem to be primarily antiques and the like – a decent place to pick up an old kimono. Rummage sales at the YMCA are surprisingly good.

If you're just looking for coffee, you'll find coffee shops expensive; space is expensive, and you're really paying for just the seat. However, you can always get coffee out of a vending machine, hot or cold. Or, you can get tea, soft drinks like Pepsi or Pocari Sweat, Coke or Calpis, umbrellas, eggs, rice, toys, batteries, cameras, film, beer, whiskey, or pornography. It will be hard to find someplace in Japan that is more than a short walk from a vending machine.

Getting Around

It would be unusual to want to fly around Japan, because the train service is fast, frequent, and on time. In and around the cities, buses

run most everywhere you'd want to go. On most buses, grab a ticket from the dispenser on your way in. When you get off, a lighted board above the driver displays the fare from the number on your ticket.

If you're going to be doing a lot of intercity travel, getting a Japan Rail Pass is the way to go. Available only in the US, the pass allows unlimited travel on Japan Rail trains (and buses and subways) for 1, 2, or 3 weeks – and this includes getting reserved seats on Shinkansen bullet trains. Be warned that the Shinkansen are very prompt, and typically stop at a station for only 50 seconds – make sure you're ready with your luggage getting on and getting off! The JR pass will work for a couple of the Tokyo subway lines (Yamanote, the most useful), but by no means all, and won't on the many private railway lines. Subways will often not have maps in English. The fare depends on the distance traveled. Unlike NYC or London, there are



You may vote by mail: ballot enclosed

various subway lines, each separately owned. Luckily the fare machines will sell tickets to destinations even when several lines are used. The fare machines often have an English language mode.

Sleeping

It's getting much easier to find rooms in Japan over the internet. Hotels you find on the web won't be the cheapest, but they'll certainly be the easiest to deal with. Other choices are Minshuku, Pensions, and Ryokan. Some of these are B&Bs, some are simply small hotels, and some can be very, very upscale traditional Japanese Inns. When breakfast and dinner is avail-

able, it can be expensive. However, you won't be able to find a meal in a restaurant at that price that would compare to the food you'll get at your Ryokan. If you're really adventurous, you could also try a capsule or love hotel (see any Japanese guidebook for details).

The tourist offices that you'll find at most major train stations usually can make reservations at places that are used to foreigners for you. We've also had good luck using the Minshuku Center in Tokyo (www.minshuku.co.jp/english/e-index.html), the Japanese Inn Group (www.jpinn.com), and the Welcome Inns (www.itcj.or.jp/indexwel.html).

www.coo.ne.jp/english/ is a new addition that we're just trying out. Our experience is that the Lonely Planet guide is the best guidebook for those that want to travel on the cheap. Guidebooks target particular kinds of tourists, so you should skim a few to find one that fits your style of travel.

Weather

Japan in late August/early September should be familiar to anyone living on the American east coast – humid and very warm.

Sightseeing

Nippon in 2007 will be in Yokohama. The convention center is built on the edge of the water, fairly convenient to a major indoor shopping mall and transportation. You can get there from the JR train station via a water taxi. Note that the Shinkansen train station is separate and not terribly close by – don't get confused. We found the hokey-sounding, but quite fun, interesting (and tasty) Ramen museum to be worth a visit. The curry museum is another oddity that might be worth a visit (garam-masala ice cream, anyone?) Finally, another short water taxi ride from the con will bring you close to Chinatown, which is packed with restaurants (many are dim-sum) with menus that are just a bit different than you're probably used to. The black goma (sesame) buns are wonderful.

Around Yokohama – Tokyo

Yokohama is virtually a suburb of Tokyo. Tokyo is vast. The sights (and shopping) that you might find interesting are: **Harajuku** – a shopping arcade where you'll find the latest trends in fashion for Japanese teenagers. Everything from punk hairdos to nurse's outfits and leather. **Ginza** – you can spend a long time and a lot of money here. All the big names you've heard of





Must See Elsewhere – Nikko, Kyoto and Nara

If you have a bit more time, these are the three cities that we would put on the top of our “must see” list.

Further Afield: Nikko

A long day trip from Tokyo will bring you to Nikko, the temples complex that was the subject of the woodblock print that originally piqued our interest in Japan. This is the home of some of the most elaborate wood-carved shrines and temple you’ll find in Japan. Home of the original three wise-monkey carvings and the well-known sleeping cat carving. The story behind these temples is that the grandson of the first shogun (military ruler) decided to honor his grandfather by building this enormous temple complex – to be paid for by his daimyos (noblemen). One of them couldn’t afford to build a temple, so instead planted 10,000 cryptomeria, Japanese cypress. Four hundred years later, those trees are very, very impressive.

Further Afield: Kyoto

A 3 hour bullet train ride from Tokyo will bring you to Kyoto, a

(Burberry, Gucci, and now even Apple Computer are there). There’s a great toy store at one end, where you can get your fix of Japanese games, cards, and Grateful Dead dancing bears (!). They have large vending machines outside so you can spend money even when the store is closed. **Akihabara** – this is where to buy everything and anything electronic. **Kappabashi** – this is the restaurant supply district. **Asakusa** – This famous temple has been the subject of many woodblock prints. It’s best known for its enormous paper lanterns. The street leading up to the temple is full of stalls selling souvenirs (religious and otherwise) snacks, gifts and gift foods – very typical of larger temples. We’ve found the area literally underneath the (elevated) subway lines south of Ueno station a great place for wandering and bargain shopping, and finding lots of small restaurants, too.

Around Yokohama – Kamakura

On the other side of Yokohama from Tokyo, Kamakura is best known for Daibutsu, the world’s largest bronze Buddha. However, that’s the least of what you can find

in temples in and around the city. Our favorite is the Zeniarai Benten Shrine, also known as the money laundering shrine – and you need to take this name quite literally. It’s built into a grotto in the side of a hill. A pleasant hiking trail leads to it, past fantastic statues of demons. If you’re an anime fan, there is a Totoro store just outside the main train station.



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former imperial capital, and so full of priceless cultural treasures that it was spared from bombing by the allies during WW2. It is ringed by stunning temples, and three detached imperial palaces that are masterpieces of Japanese architecture and gardening. It is also one of the easiest of Japanese cities to navigate, laid out in a grid, with a comprehensible bus and subway system. There is so much to see in Kyoto that it is hard to decide where to start. Going counterclockwise around central Kyoto from the train station, you'll encounter these on the east side.

- Sanjusang (33) temple has an incredible array of wooden carvings.
- Kyoto National Museum is just across the street.
- Kiyomizu temple, the street leading to the temple is worth the price of admission- Kiyomizumichi, leading to Sannen-zaka and Ninen-zaka, are small streets leading north from Kiyomizu packed with small shops selling handicrafts. Just follow all the other tourists (mostly Japanese). This is followed closely by
- Maruyama Park, Chion-in and Shoren-in temples – From there, you can go straight on under the enormous orange Torii (gate) of the Heian Shrine, or head east to a complex of more than half a dozen shrines and temples with some wonderful gardens. If you continue along the eastern edge of the hills, you'll eventually

come to the philosophers' walk, a very pleasant stroll along a stream, lined with coffee shops and tourist traps, some of which sell very nice artwork. We'd recommend starting at the top and working your way downhill after visiting yet more temples at the top, especially the following temples:

Ginkaku-ji, the Silver Pavilion, is one of the top attractions in Kyoto for its outstanding gardening, architecture, and raked-sand gardens.

All this is in a total of about 6 miles and that's not all of the east side!

A bit further north of all this is the Shugaku-in detached imperial palace, which has some of the finest gardens and grounds in Japan. To get tour reservation, however, you need to apply in person with your passport to the Kyoto Imperial Palace ticket office in the center of Kyoto, where spaces are reserved for foreigners. It may take a couple of days to get a spot on a tour, so head there as soon as you arrive in Kyoto. You can also make reservations for the palace there, or for the Katsura Rikyu, another detached imperial palace on the western edge of Kyoto, with another style of Japanese garden well worth a visit.

Along the northern edge of the city, from east to west, are:

- Daitoku-ji, a Zen Buddhist complex with 24 sub-temples. It is best known for its rock gardens;

- Kinkaku-ji, the golden pavilion, set beside a beautiful landscaped park and lake;
- Ninna-ji, further on, with its pagoda and cherry orchard, and finally;
- Myoshin-ji, another Zen complex with 40 temples.
- Going south from there along the western edge is the Katsura palace, and Saiho-ji, the "moss temple". This one requires reservations by mail and when you arrive you are put to work copying Lotus Sutras before being admitted to the gardens.

South of the train station is Fushimi-inari Taisha, a complex of 30,000 inari (fox) shrines spread along miles of heavily forested mountainous paths, covered with thousands of torii.

- Directly north of the station, along the center spine of Kyoto, you'll find Nijo castle slightly west, with its squeaking "nightingale" floors that inhibit sneaky ninjas, – and a ninja residence with secret staircases, doors, and other devices for sneaky ninjas.

Yet further north is the imperial palace grounds. In the center east you'll find major shopping districts, including the covered Nishiki-koji food market, many major department stores, and a warren of covered alleys with hundreds of shops of all types. It's a wonderful place to wander, and you'll occasionally be surprised to come

across a small shrine in the middle of the bustling shopping district.

A bit further east is Gion (near Maruyama park), the entertainment district. It isn't unusual to see white-faced geisha-in-training hurrying along there. You'll also see warrens of tiny, and occasionally seedy, private restaurants and bars. This is the area where we get the most frustrated, because there is so much going on that we know we're missing by not understanding or reading Japanese.

It's difficult not to rave about Kyoto – we've been many times, we've seen all of the above – and there are large areas of the city we haven't even begun to touch.

Further Afield: Nara

About an hour east of Kyoto, Nara is another former imperial capital, but much smaller and less overwhelming. The major sites can be covered by foot, in a day if you

hurry – but we would advise against that.

Starting in the center of Nara is Sarusawa-ike, a pond filled with koi and turtles sunning themselves.

Towering over this is Kofuku-ji, an imposing pagoda. Continuing east you'll enter Nara-koen, a park filled with temples, stone lanterns, and hundred of deer looking for handouts – which are supplied from vending machines by tourists and vendors. No deer goes hungry in Nara.

At the north side of the park is the Todai-ji Daibutsu, an enormous fifty foot sitting statue of Buddha, flanked by huge, ferocious guardian statues, with carved tree trunks for legs, all housed in the world's largest wooden building – this is a must see.

Just to the north side of the entrance are two Japanese gardens, which, in a tiny space, encompass much of what is important in a Japanese garden.

Just to the south of the pond is a covered shopping arcade. Nearby are some interesting restaurants that serve local specialties that are well worth trying. Continuing south brings you to Naramachi, old Nara. Many of the buildings have been there hundreds of years. It is now a neighborhood with many antique and crafts shops, galleries, and small museums.

Everything Else

There is a lot more to Japan than shopping and temples. For example, there are onsens (hot springs) everywhere, hot sand-baths, parks, hiking, beaches, castles, steaming volcanoes and monkeys. If you meet Japanese fans and get them to show you around, you'll find yourself looking through their eyes. There are a lot of different experiences in Japan for Gaijins, if you give it a chance.



You may vote by mail: ballot enclosed

Not Lost in Translation

by Vince Dochetry

The Nippon 2007 Worldcon will be an exciting and event-filled convention, designed to appeal to fans from all over the world. It will have the familiar parts of a Worldcon: multiple SF & Fantasy programming streams, guests, Hugo Awards, masquerade, dealers room, art show and exhibits, all with an emphasis on participation. We will be welcoming not only many Worldcon regulars, but also many first-timers, as well. What makes us unique is that this will be the first time Worldcon will have been held in Japan. The combination of Japanese innovation and Worldcon traditions promises to make this a Worldcon that will be truly unforgettable.

Your Japanese Worldcon experience will start as soon as you step off the plane at Narita Airport, where you will board the shinkansen, the bullet train that will whisk you to Yokohama. The sail-shaped Yokohama Grand Inter-Continental hotel rises next to the convention center, making it easy to pick out from a distance. The convention center itself is very high-tech and includes architectural features that will fascinate you as you wander around. The city of Yokohama will also beckon to you, with its mix of modern buildings, traditional attractions, shops and restaurants, all of which are accessible by efficient public transportation.

A really neat aspect is that the Worldcon will be combined with the Japan National SF Convention. This is not a first for Worldcon, as several have incorporated their regional or national conventions, such as Intersection and ConAdian. Your Worldcon member-

ship will include membership in the Japan National Convention, as well. One of the most treasured features of the Japanese national is the masquerade, so the combination with Worldcon masquerade should result in a spectacular event! The Japanese national typically attracts 1500-2000 members; I would expect that Nippon 2007 would have about 3500-4500 members in total.

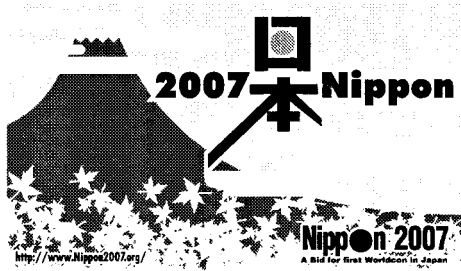
In keeping with the fact that this is both a Worldcon and a national convention, programme items will be held either in English or Japanese, with simultaneous translation provided for major events. Traditional Worldcon events will be in English. For instance, the Hugo Awards will be run in English with translation into Japanese. The Seiun Awards, normally given at the Japanese National Convention, will be held in Japanese, with English translation.

Not only will this be the first time the Worldcon is held in Japan, but it will also be the first time most regular Worldcon attendees travel to Japan.

Many fans will no doubt take the opportunity to explore the intriguing country of Japan in addition to attending the Worldcon. We will send out as much information as possible to help you make your visit memorable. We will also have a US office that will handle non-Japanese membership administration, including production and distribution of the English language versions of the Progress Reports.

I look forward to seeing you in Yokohama in 2007. Until then – sayonara!





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Nippon 2007

A Bid for first Worldcon in Japan

Progress Report
ver.0.4 (English)
June 2004

Thank you very much for your support
私たちをサポートしてくれてありがとう。

Thank you very much for your support. We've been working to bring Worldcon to Japan since Chicon 2000. One of the major milestones of our effort is the site selection at Noreascon 4. Please vote for Japan at Noreascon 4, every vote counts! We hope to see you all in Japan in 2007



私たちをサポートしてくれてありがとう。
私たちはCHICON 2000から、日本にワールドコンを呼ぶべく活動してきました。
この活動の大きな区切りの一つは来年のNoreascon4でのサイトセレクションです。私たちはサイトセレクションで開催を勝ち取って、日本でワールドコンを開きたいと思っています。
皆さん、ぜひNoreascon4で日本に投票して下さい。皆様の投票が大きな力となります。
そして2007年、日本で皆様にお目にかかりましょう。

65th World Science Fiction Convention – 2007 Site Selection Ballot

Everyone who votes will become a supporting member of the selected 65th Worldcon

Rules (Please read carefully):

1. To be eligible to vote, you must be a living, natural person and either an attending or supporting member of Noreascon 4. Ballots cast for memberships held by non-natural persons, such as "Guest of" memberships, clubs, toys, etc., may only be voted as No Preference.
2. If you are not a member of Noreascon 4 and wish to vote by mail, you may become a supporting or attending member by filling out the form on the reverse side of this ballot and sending a separate check for the appropriate fee made out to "Noreascon 4." You may, if you prefer, charge your Noreascon 4 membership to Visa or MasterCard. Do not mail cash.
3. You must include the Site Selection Advance Supporting Membership (Voting) fee of US \$40. This payment automatically makes you a supporting member of the 2007 Worldcon. Make checks payable to "65th Worldcon." You may, if you wish, charge your Site Selection fee to Visa or MasterCard. Do not mail cash.
4. You may cast your ballot by mail or in person at Noreascon 4. Mail your ballot to the Site Selection Administrator at the address listed opposite. Electronic (email) ballots will not be accepted. **The deadline for receipt of mail-in ballots is August 10, 2004.** Voting at the convention will end at 6 PM EDT on Saturday, September 4, 2004.
5. Voting: Site Selection ballots are tallied by preferential balloting procedures. The winner is the first bid to receive a majority of those ballots expressing a preference. This means that you should indicate your favorite selection with a "1," your next favorite with a "2," and so on. If you mark an "X" with no other marks, that will count as a "1" for that bid and no other preferences.
6. After filling out both sides of the ballot, fold the ballot along the dashed line below then tape the fold shut at the solid line, in order to conceal your vote from casual viewing prior to the ballot count.
7. Include your name and address on your ballot. **You must sign your ballot.** In addition to being used to validate the ballot, we will provide the voter's name and address to the winning bid, so that they know who their members are.

For the full details of the rules, see Article 4 of the WSFS Constitution. If you have any questions regarding this ballot or the application of Article 4 to the selection of the 65th Worldcon, please contact the Site Selection Administrator, Patrick Molloy, at the address below:

Noreascon 4
2007 Worldcon Site Selection
PO Box 1010
Framingham, MA 01701 USA

Email: siteselect07@noreascon.org

FOLD BOTTOM SECTION BELOW ON DOTTED LINE, THEN TAPE CLOSED AT SOLID LINE

Columbus in 2007

Thursday, August 30 – Monday, September 3
Committee: Kim Williams (Chair), Larry Smith (Vice Chair), Janet Lohr (Treasurer), M. David Brim, Phread, Sally Kobee, Bill & Gretchen Roper, Ray & Barb Van Tilburg, Bob & PJ Beese, Dale Mazzola, Nick & Linda Winks, Trace Hagemann, Rick Waterson, Lisa Garrison-Ragsdale, Matthew Ragsdale, Adrienne Foster, Kathy Hamilton
Facilities: Greater Columbus Convention Center, Hyatt Regency Columbus, Crowne Plaza Columbus Downtown, Drury Inns & Suites Columbus Convention Center, Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Columbus, Red Roof Inn Columbus Downtown.
Web Site: www.bidcolumbus.org

Nippon2007

Thursday, August 30 – Monday, September 3
Committee: Hiroaki Inoue (Chair), Shigeru Hayashida (Vice Chair), Masaharu Imaoka, Kaku Masubuchi, Susumu Sakurai, Kohichiro Noda (Auditor and Advisor), Shouichi Hachiya, Kentarou Ikoma, Seiichi Shirato, Andrew A Adams (UK agent), Vincent Docherty (European agent), Peggy Rae Sapienza (North American agent).
Facilities: PACIFICO YOKOHAMA (Convention Center), InterContinental The Grand Yokohama Hotel, The Pan Pacific Hotel Yokohama, Yokohama Royal Park Hotel.
Web Site: www.Nippon2007.org

FOLD HERE

No Preference

Equivalent to an abstention or blank ballot, a vote for No Preference means that, when it becomes your highest remaining choice, you don't care which bid wins. We will not count any of your choices numbered after this choice.

Write-in

In order to win, a Write-in bid must file the required paperwork with Noreascon 4 before the close of voting.

None of the Above

A vote for None of the Above indicates that you are opposed to all of the bids. If None of the Above wins, the WSFS Business Meeting at Noreascon 4 will select the site.

65th World Science Fiction Convention – 2007 Site Selection Ballot

Voter Identification (please print or type clearly)

Name	
Address	
Address 2 nd line	
City	State/Province
Country	ZIP/Postal Code
e-mail address (optional)	
Signature – Unsigned ballots will be considered “No Preference” if otherwise valid	

Advance Supporting Membership/Voting Fee (select only one)

- I enclose a check, money order, or traveler’s check for US \$40 made out to “65th Worldcon” as my Site Selection Advance Supporting Membership (Voting Fee) for the 65th Worldcon.
- I authorize Noreascon 4 / NESFA to charge US \$40 to my credit card (details in the next column) as my Site Selection Advance Supporting Membership (Voting Fee) for the 65th Worldcon.

Eligibility to Vote (select only one)

You must be an attending or supporting member of Noreascon to vote.

- I am a member of Noreascon 4. My membership number (if known) is _____
(Your membership number may be found on the mailing labels of our pre-convention publications. Do not use your Hugo Voting PIN. You may still vote even if you do not know your membership number.)
- I am not a member of Noreascon 4. In order to be eligible to vote I am purchasing a supporting or attending membership in Noreascon 4 (see details in the opposite column).

Credit Card Details (please print or type):

___ Visa ___ MasterCard	
Name as it appears on the card	
Card Number	
Expiration Date	Cardholder Billing Zip/Postal Code
Cardholder Signature	Date

Credit card charges will be in US Dollars and will appear as “New England Science Fiction Association”

Noreascon 4 Membership (if required)

Select type of membership desired:

- I wish to purchase a supporting membership in Noreascon 4 for US \$35.
- I wish to purchase an attending membership in Noreascon 4 for US \$180.
(This choice available until July 31, 2004 only. After that date, please join at the door and vote at the convention.)

Select payment method:

- I enclose a check, money order, or traveler’s check payable to “Noreascon 4.”
- I authorize Noreascon 4 / NESFA to charge my credit card for the amount indicated above.

Polling will close at 6:00 PM EDT on Saturday, September 4, 2004. We must receive mail in ballots by August 10, 2004. You may authorize someone else to deliver your ballot to the convention for you.

Mailing Instructions:

1. Mark your vote on the other side of this sheet. Fill in this side.
2. Fold the bottom edge of the ballot up to the line with this side out, and tape or staple closed.
3. Mail the ballot and payment to the Site Selection Administrator at the address listed on the reverse side of this sheet. Electronic (email) ballots will not be accepted.

THIS SECTION FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Received by Mailroom: _____
Date Received by Administrator: _____

We encourage you to distribute copies of this ballot; however, you must reproduce it verbatim, including the voting instructions, with no additional material other than the name below of the person, organization, or publication responsible for the reproduction.

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Nippon 2007

The first Japanese Worldcon bid



2007 Worldcon Site Selection Ballot
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