

March 2010



Welcome to Out & About! This service is provided by NIC volunteers.

We will highlight the forthcoming March events for you.

Telephone information service is also available. **(052-581-0400)**.

★Cherry Blossoms



Soon cherry trees across Japan will be in bloom with beautiful pink blossoms. Participate in the cherry-blossom viewing by strolling around the parks or in the traditional way, by laying out a big plastic mat on the ground under a tree and drinking sake and eating *bento* lunches. At some locations we can even enjoy a completely different atmosphere of viewing glowing cherry blossoms at night.

➤ **Takaoka** (Higashi-ku, Nagoya)

Cherry blossoms here will bloom 2~3 weeks earlier than Somei Yoshino, the most common flower, during the middle of March.

Directions: Get off at Takaoka Station on the Sakura-dori Subway Line, walk through exit 2, and turn left at the first traffic light. You can't miss it!

➤ **Yamazaki River** (Mizuho-ku, Nagoya)

Lit up until 9:30pm from late of March to the starting of April, with 600 cherry blossom trees

Directions: Get off at Mizuho Kuyakusho Station from the Sakura-dori Subway Line, a 10-minute walk to the east

➤ **Shonai-Ryokuchi Park** (Nishi-ku, Nagoya)

A thousand cherry blossom trees and 150,000 yellow and purple rape blossoms are in full bloom near the pond located southeast in the park.

Directions: Take the Tsurumai Subway Line and get off at Shonai-Ryokuchi-Koen Station exit 2

➤ **Higashiyama Park** (Chikusa-ku, Nagoya)

3,000 cherry blossom trees in all! "Sakura no Kairou" collects 1,000 cherry blossom trees of 100 different kinds all over Japan.

Directions: Get off at Higashiyama-koen Station on the Higashiyama Subway Line, exit 3; its a

three-minute walk

Opening times: 9am to 4:50pm; closed on Mondays.

Admission: ¥500 for adults (free for junior high school students and under)

➤ **Togokusan** (Moriyama-ku Nagoya)

When people feel the end of cherry season, "weeping cherry" is in full bloom. Spring breeze will bring "weeping cherry flowers" to TOGOKUSAN.

Weeping Cherry Festival

When: April 3rd (Sat.) to 12th (Mon.) from 9AM to 4:30PM

Events: Exhibition "Flowers of Fruits", weeping cherries, open market, and street entertainers.

During the period, parking costs 300 Yen per car.

Directions: Take JR Chuo Line or Aichi Kanjo Tetsudo to Kozoji Station and walk 25minutes through south exit, or get on Yutorito Line to Togokubashi (bound for Kozoji), and walk 15minutes.

Admission: Free

⇒ **There are also cherry blossoms in the following parks:**

Nagoya Castle, in Naka-ku, Nagoya: 1,600 trees

Tsuruma Park, in Showa-ku, Nagoya: 1,000 trees

Odaka Ryokuchi Park, in Midori-ku, Nagoya: 1,500 trees

Arakogawa Park, in Minato-ku, Nagoya: 1,000 trees

Sakurabuchi Park, in Shinshiro-shi, Aichi: 2500 trees

Gojo River, in Iwakura-shi, Aichi: 1,600 trees

Oike Park, in Tokai-shi, Aichi: 1,100 trees

Ochiai Park, in Kasugai-shi, Aichi: 1,100 trees

Okazaki Park, in Okazaki-shi, Aichi: 2,000 trees

★ **LINIMO Spring Walking**

Walking courses along the LINIMO railway line are available to enjoy the spring weather! Applications are not needed, and it's completely free, and participants get an original pin-badge!

When & Where:

✓ **February 28th (Sun.)**

LINIMO Tojishiryokan Minami-guchi Station~

Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum (20% off entrance fee)

~ Seto City Digital Research Park Center~Karyu River

✓ **March 6th (Sat.)**

LINIMO Nagakute Kosenjo Station~ Agurin village ~ Linimo train shed (An event will be held inside)

✓ **March 20th (Sat.)**

LINIMO Koen Nishi Station~Morikoro Park (Spring festival will be held)~Aichi Kaisho-no-mori center~Aichi Kanjo Line Yamaguchi Station

✓ **March 28th (Sun.)**

LINIMO Hanamizuki-dori Station ~ Iwasaki Castle Memorial Hall ~ Iwasaki River(famous for cherry blossoms) ~ Toyota Automobile Museum (an entrance fee takes 20 % off)

Time: After getting the map of the walking route, walks begin whenever you want between 9:30am to 11:30am from the ticket gate of each station, and finish by 2:30pm.

Things to bring: Please bring rainwear, cap, drinks, garbage bags, boxed lunches, etc.

☆Flower Dome 2010

Flower Dome is a six-day event featuring 500,000 flowers at Nagoya Dome. There will be flower arranging demonstrations, and lectures on how to grow flowers. There are also flower contests, such as indoor and outdoor floral decoration. This event is sure to bring you the fragrance of early spring.

When: March 12th (Fri.) to 17th (Wed.), 9:30am to 5pm (until 8pm on Saturday, 13th)

Location: Nagoya Dome (Higashi-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: 15 minutes' walk from Ozone Station (JR Chuo Line, Meitetsu Seto Line) or take the Meijo Subway Line to Nagoya Dome-mae-Yada Station and walk five minutes.

Admission: ¥1800 for adults and ¥1200 for junior high and high school students (advance tickets ¥1500 and ¥1000, respectively). Free for elementary school students and under.

☆Himawari Puppet Bazaar

Chubu area based professional puppet theaters, which usually perform all over Japan, gather at Himawari (Sunflower) hall. There will be three programs, two for children and one for adults. Please enjoy the professional puppet world.

When: March 13th (Sat.) 10:30AM for children, 2:00PM for adults
March 14th (Sun) 10:30AM for children

Location: Puppet Theater Himawari (Sunflower) Hall (Naka-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: Take the Meijo or Sakuradori Subway Line to Hisaya-odori Station and from exit 1 walk 5 minutes to the west, or take the Tsurumai or Sakuradori Subway Line to Marunouchi Station and from exit 4 walk 6 minutes to the east.

Admission: For adults, children (three years old and over) advance tickets are ¥2000, tickets sold on the day are ¥2300 for each program. 2 programs tickets are ¥3500 (advance tickets only)

Tel: 052-953-3717

☆Nagoya International Women's Marathon



The International Women's Marathon will be held in Nagoya this spring, and will also be aired on TV. Many promising and invited runners from Japan and other countries will participate.

When: March 14th (Sun.), starts at 12:15PM

Location: the marathon course starts at Mizuho Park Athletic Grounds, then heads to Sakurayama, Imaike, TV Tower, around Nagoya Castle, and back to the grounds. (Mizuho-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: Take the Meijo Subway Line to Mizuho Undojo-Higashi and walk through exit 3 for five minutes, or take the Sakura-dori Subway Line to Mizuho Undojo Nishi and walk through exit 2 for 10 minutes.

★Kinoshita Circus

Make a visit to Kinoshita Circus to enjoy thrill and adventure. You can see a liger show, trapeze act, Clowns, zebras, giraffes, and elephants.

When: March 13th (Sat.) to May 31st (Mon.)

Mondays to Wednesdays, from 11AM and from 1:40PM

Fridays, from 1PM and from 3:40PM

Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, from 10:20AM, 1PM, and 3:40PM.

Location: Shirakawa Park (Naka-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: Take Tsurumai Subway Line to Fushimi Station and walk 6 minutes from exit5.

Admission: ¥2800 for adults, ¥1800 for children (from 3 years old to junior high school students), advance tickets are ¥2500 and ¥1500 respectively.

★Tagata Shrine Honen Matsuri

This is an annual but very unique festival in which the parade is held displaying Ooawasegata (carved wooden penis), symbolizing fertility. In the hope of becoming fertile, a bridegroom is taken to the shrine's goddess. Participants also pray for a rich harvest.

When: March 15th (Mon.) from 10AM

Kenpei Parade 10AM (JA, *Nokyo*) to 11AM (Tagata Shrine)

Mikoshi Parade 2PM (Shinmeisha) to 3:30PM (Tagata Shrine)

Hounou Nagemochi 4PM to 4:30PM (Tagata Shrine)

Location: Tagata Shrine (Komaki-shi, Aichi-ken)

Directions: Take the Meitetsu Line to Inuyama Station and transfer to the Meitetsu Komaki Line to Tagata Jinja-Mae Station. Walk for about 5 minutes.

★Nagoya Shoku Festa 2010

This year, Nagoya Shoku Festa 2010 is held at Fukiage Hall. In this festival, you can learn the importance of health and eating. There will be stalls selling different foods from in and around Nagoya. Taste various foods and become healthy!

When: Saturday, March 20th (Sat.) ~ March 22nd (Mon.) 10AM – 5PM

Location: Fukiage Hall (Chikusa-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: Take Sakura-dori Subway Line to Fukiage Station and walk 5 minutes from exit 5.

Admission: free
Tel:052-962-2084

☆Concert Information

♪ Koba-Ken Special vol.18

Kobayashi Ken-ichiro(Conductor) and Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1" and Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique: *An Episode in the Life of an Artist*".

When: March 18th (Thu.) 6:45PM

Location: Aichi Prefectural Art Theater, The Concert Hall (Higashi-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: Take the Higashiyama or Meijo Subway Line to Sakae and walk three minutes

Admission: ranges from ¥2000 to ¥12000

♪ Toyota Master Players - Wien Grand Concert

"Toyota Master Players, Wien" is an orchestra featuring 30 leading musicians selected from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera Orchestra. Tickets of this concert are priced reasonably to give many people the opportunity to appreciate world-class music performances. The program includes famous opera arias from Verdi and Bizet, and R. Strauss's "Also sprach Zarathustra".

When: April 2nd (Fri.) 6:45PM

Location: Aichi Prefectural Art Theater, The Concert Hall (Higashi-ku, Nagoya)

Directions: Take the Higashiyama or Meijo Subway Line to Sakae and walk three minutes

Admission: ranges from ¥3500 to ¥6500

☆Inuyama Castle Matsuri



Inuyama will hold its annual castle and cherry blossoms festival. The festival is designated as an important intangible cultural heritage. It's a great event that highlights 13 triple-decked floats pulled through the streets, dancing mechanical wind-up doll performances and, of course, the cherry blossoms. At night the floats are decorated with 365 candle-lit lanterns.

When: April 3rd (Sat.) and 4th (Sun.)

Location: Haritsuna Shrine and Inuyama Castle towns (Inuyama-shi)

Directions: Take the Meitetsu Inuyama Line to Inuyama and walk 15 minutes.

★Discount Rail Ticket “Seishun ju-hachi (18) Kippu”

If you’re planning to travel by rail this spring, you might want to buy the “Seishun ju-hachi (18) Kippu” discount rail ticket. You can travel as far as you like in a day with one ticket, which costs ¥2300. You can not use it for Shinkansen and other express trains.

Period of sale: February 20th (Sat.) to March 31st (Wed.)

Period of service: March 1st (Mon.) to April 10th (Sat.)

Fare: ¥11,500 (for a set of five tickets; you can use them by yourself or share them)

Where to buy: All major JR stations

★Vernal Equinox Day

March 21st (Sun.) is a national holiday on account of Vernal Equinox Day. It is a day to celebrate nature and living things and to show respect to our ancestors.

★Tax Deadline

Don’t forget to file your income tax return from February 16th (Tue.) to March 15th (Mon.) at Zeimu-sho (taxation offices). There is an income tax guide for foreign nationals in English at www.nta.go.jp/foreign_language/income07.pdf

You can find more details at

www.nta.go.jp/taxanswer/english/gaikoku.htm

Income Tax Information for foreign nationals in Japan is explained at the site.

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For further details, please call NIC at **052-581-0100**.

Thank you and have a great month!