

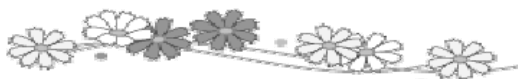
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- EDITOR'S NEWS -



From the end of summer's heat to the beginning of the cold season, autumn is probably the best season in Japan. There are many reasons for this, but especially due to the cool and sunny weather of this season. Thanks to this pleasant weather, it is the season to take advantage of all the beauties that nature gives us.

As there is Hanami (cherry blossom) in spring, the habit in Japan is to admire Momiji (autumnal tints) in autumn, which is possible in the parks in Chiyoda but is better in the outside of Tokyo. Autumn is also the season of moon-viewing party, which is the other great event of this season. Except this customs, this is the season when Japan's nature gives us delicious fruits as the kaki and beautiful flowers. Among these flowers, there is the chrysanthemum that is present throughout Japan and that has many symbolic, including the one related to the emperor. This symbol is visible in the inside of the imperial palace which is located in the Chiyoda ward and whose gardens are partially open to the public, providing various jogging routes.



Autumn offers a lot of national holidays to pay respect to other people and which are good occasions to discover Japanese culture and Japanese cuisine. This is also possible through the many matsuri organized in autumn and it will be a shame not to go to one of them.



Autumn's coolness is also ideal to prepare, as an ant, for the winter. You could have a walk in jimbocho, the Japanese equivalent of the "quartier latin" in Paris, which is known for its number of libraries and its proximity of famous universities. Strolling by, you can find good books for your winter evenings and discover the pleasant atmosphere of this district of Chiyoda City.

But, please not forget that autumn is the typhoons season and that you have to be prepared if any occurs. In that case, please be careful and if possible stay at home



CUSTOMS

Sumo

Sumo is the emblematic sport of Japan and attend to a tournament is a must do. A possibility to attend a game is offer to you in September as a tournament is organized in the Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo (Note that it is the last tournament held in Tokyo this year). Except the game itself, it is a great chance to observe part of the Japanese culture and the great ceremonial of this sport.



Location and time: from September the 13th 2009 (Sun) to September the 27th (Sun). Ryogoku Kokugikan – Tokyo, accessible from Ryogoku Station (1 minute walk from the JR Sobu Line exit or 5 minutes walk from Exit A4 of the Toei Oedo Subway Line). More information on the event website (in English) <http://sumo.goo.ne.jp/eng/>

Zazen 座禅

Stressed by the work, the crisis, the summer heat...why do not try Zazen. Zazen, which means “seated meditation”, is a meditative discipline. The association Friendship Chiyoda will permit you to experience Zazen by visiting one of the Zen temples of Tokyo. In a seated posture, with folded legs and hands and your back straight, you will perform to calm your body and mind, experience insight into the nature of existence and maybe even gain enlightenment (Satori).



Location and time: 2009 September 27 (Sun), from 1:30 pm. Tawaramachi station exit 3 on the Ginza line. As the number of guests is limited, do not hesitate to apply now. There is a 500 yens assurance fee. More information on the event on the association website:

<http://fchiyoda.org/event/20090927/index.html> (in English).

Chrysanthemum

Being a symbol of longevity, power, dignity, and nobility, chrysanthemum is adored by Japanese people. Chrysanthemum are everywhere in Japan. That flower represents the country as the imperial symbol. The throne of the Emperor of Japan is identified as the Chrysanthemum Throne and a Japanese honor awarded by the emperor is called “The Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum”. This flower is also frequently used on administrative documents as Japanese passports. Fall is the Chrysanthemums season, as they come to bloom and Chrysanthemum exhibitions are held throughout the nation, particularly on September the 9th which is known as the chrysanthemum festival day. One of those events is held in Hibiya Park.



CULTURAL AGENDA

Hibiya Park Gardening show 2009

Visitors of this show will enjoy many events such as garden contest, seminars on garden and parks, and concerts. A "flowers and green environment" message to the world is proposed to aim at a lifestyle with a stronger awareness of coexistence with the environment in big cities by demonstrating the effects of greenery and flowers in an urban environment



Time and location: from October the 23rd 2009 (Fri) to November the 1st (Sun). Hibiya park, accessible from Kasumigaseki station (Marunouchi Subway Line, Chiyoda Subway Line), Hibiya station (Hibiya Subway Line) or from Yurakucho (JR) station (8 minutes walk). More information on the event website (in Japanese)

http://www.interaction.co.jp/event/hgs/hgs_02.html

Tokyo jazz 2009

As every year, Tokyo Jazz will allow you to hear Jazz from all around the world. If you like the jazz, don't hesitate to go there. After the first day Gala, theme will change every day at 1 and 7 o'clock and will permit you to discover different artists and styles.



Time and location: from September the 4th 2009 (Fri) to September the 6th (Sun). Tokyo International Forum: Hall A, accessible from Yurakucho Station, Tokyo Station

More information on the event website (in English) http://www.tokyo-jazz.com/index_en.html

MISCELLANEA

Counseling for Foreigners

For strangers needing an advice, the Tokyo International Communication Committee provides various centers which are able to respond to you. There is no such a center in Chiyoda, but the Tokyo metropolis one is really convenient. Open from 9:30 AM to 12:00 AM and from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, this center provides Help in English from Monday to Friday, in Chinese on Tuesday and Friday, and in Korean on Wednesday. You can go there or call then at the 03-5320-7744 (English), 03-5320-7766 (Chinese), 03-5320-7700 (Korean). The Tokyo International Communication Committee publishes also a map of all the available centers in Tokyo. More information on the TICC's website: <http://www.tokyo-icc.jp/english/index.html>

Imperial Palace

Located in Chiyoda City, the Imperial Palace is a 2.3 square kilometers park-like area. Previously in Kyoto, the Imperial residence location moved in 1868, following the Meiji restoration. The Tokyo imperial Palace was built in place of the former residential palace of the Tokugawa shoguns. As Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress reside Imperial Palace, only parts of the park is accessible and this is a convenient place for a walk or jogging. The Nippon Budokan is also located there.



The palace is open to public only twice a year: on the Emperor birthday which is currently December 23rd and on January 2nd for the New Year. In the late 80's, during the Japanese property bubble, the value of the palace grounds were valued as more than the value of all the real estate in the state of California. More information at the Imperial Household Agency website (in English):<http://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/english/guide/koukyo.html>



Autumn national holidays

- September 21st Respect for the Aged Day 敬老の日
It was established in 1966 as a day to respect the elderly and celebrate long life.
- September 23rd Autumn Equinox Day 秋分の日
This national holiday was established in 1948 as a day on which to honor one's ancestors and remember the dead. Graves are visited during the week (Ohigan) of the Equinox Day.
- October 12th Health and Sports Day 体育の日
It was established in 1966 to commemorate the anniversary of the opening ceremony of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and is now a day on which to enjoy sports and cultivate a healthy body.
- November 3rd Culture Day 文化の日
Established in 1948, it is a day for promotion of culture and the love of freedom and peace. On culture day, schools and the government award selected persons for their special, cultural achievements.
- November 23rd Labor Thanksgiving Day 勤労感謝の日
This national holiday was established in 1948 as an occasion for praising labor, celebrating production and giving one another thanks.

