

Notes:

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2. Dates and functions are subject to change without notice.
3. Events marked with are the major events.
4. Dates of events marked with are the same every year.
5. Japanese explanations appearing at the bottom of each entry give the names of the event and the nearest railway station in Japanese. Point to this Japanese when you need help from a Japanese passerby.

Note: The Internet Website of the Japan National Tourist Organization is available at <<http://www.jnto.go.jp/>>.

Note: For further information, please call Tourist Information Center, Tokyo of the Japan National Tourist Organization (Tel: 03-3201-3331).

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

A. Tokyo 東京

Apr5 ~ May6

Bunkyo Tsutsuji Matsuri (Azalea Festival) at Nezu Shrine, Bunkyo-ku. *Nodate* (open-air tea ceremony) will be held every Sat. and Sun. during the festival period. *Gongen-Taiko* (Japanese drum beating) will be performed from 12 noon on Apr. 27, 29, May 3, 4 and 5. The performance of *Koto* (Japanese harp with 13 strings) is scheduled. Admission for Azalea Garden is ¥200.

Access : Subway Chiyoda Line to Nezu Sta.

文京区 根津神社
「文京つつじまつり」

最寄駅: 千代田線根津駅

Apr20 ~ May6

Fuji Matsuri (Wisteria Festival) at Kameido Tenjin (or Tenmangu) Shrine, Koto-ku. The performances of Japanese musical instruments by children are scheduled: *Taiko* (Japanese drum beating) from 10 am to 4 pm on Apr. 20; *Ohayashi* (festive music) from 9 am to 4 pm on Apr. 27 and 29; *Koto* (Japanese harp with 13 strings) and *Shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) from 1 pm to 2 pm on Apr. 29. Many other events are scheduled during the festival period.

Access : JR Sobu Line to Kameido Sta., and then walk 15 min.

江東区 亀戸天神社(天満宮)
「藤まつり」

最寄駅: JR総武線亀戸駅より徒歩15分

Apr25 ~ May6

Ueki Ichi (Potted Plant Fair) in the compound of Ikegami Honmonji Temple, Ota-ku. About 50 open-air stalls will be set up from around 9 am to 6 pm daily during the fair period.

Access : (1)Tokyu Ikegami Line to Ikegami Sta., and then walk 10 min.
(2)Subway Toei Asakusa Line to Nishi-Magome Sta., and then walk 10 min.

大田区池上 池上本門寺
「植木市」

最寄駅: (1) 東急池上線池上駅より徒歩10分
(2) 都営浅草線西馬込駅より徒歩10分

Apr29 ~ May3

Annual Meiji Shrine Spring Festival at Meiji Shrine, Shibuya-ku. Major events are as follows: *Bugaku* (ancient court dance with music) at 11 am on Apr. 29, *Noh* (classical masked drama) & *Kyogen* (*Noh* farce) at 11:30 am and *Satsuma-Biwa* (traditional Japanese local mandolin) at 3:30 pm on May 2, *Hogaku* (Japanese classical music) & *Hobu* (Japanese dance) at 11:45 am, *Sankyoku* (three traditional Japanese musical instruments: Koto, Shakuhachi & Shamisen) at 2:30 pm and *Kyudo Taikai* (Japanese-style archery meet) at 9 am on May 3.

Access : (1) JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku Sta.
(2) Subway Chiyoda Line to Meiji-Jingumae Sta.

Note : *Koto*: Japanese harp
Shakuhachi: bamboo flute
Shamisen: banjo-like instrument

渋谷区 明治神宮
「明治神宮春の大祭」

最寄駅: (1) JR山手線原宿駅
(2) 千代田線明治神宮前駅

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in **May 2008**

May2 & May3

Ome Taisai Festival, Ome, on the outskirts of Tokyo, features a parade of twelve decorated floats drawn along the city's main streets from 12 noon to 7:30 pm on the 2nd and from 9 am to 7:30 pm on the 3rd. When the parade arrives at Ome Sta., the festival reaches its climax on the 3rd.

Access : JR Ome Line to Ome Sta.

青梅市 住吉神社
「青梅大祭」

最寄駅: JR青梅線青梅駅

May2 ~ May5

Annual Festival of Teppozu Inari Shrine, Chuo-ku. A parade of *Horen* (palanquin) will start from the Shrine at around 8:30 am and return to the Shrine at around 4 pm on the 3rd. Japanese dances are demonstrated at Kaguraden from 10 am to 6 pm on the 4th. *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) owned by the Shrine will parade around the Shrine from 9 am to 6 pm on the 5th.

Access : Subway Hibiya Line or JR Keiyo Line to Hatchobori Sta.

中央区湊1-6-7 鉄砲洲稲荷
「鉄砲洲稲荷神社例大祭」

最寄駅: 日比谷線又はJR京葉線八丁堀駅

May3 ~ May5

Heiwajima Antique Fair is held at Tokyo Ryutsu Center, Ota-ku, from 10 am to 6 pm (5 pm on the 5th) daily. About 250 dealers will participate in the annual bargain-hunting event. The similar event is also scheduled for June (20 - 22), Sep. (19-22) and Dec. (19-21) this year.

Access : 10 min. by Tokyo Monorail Line originating at Hamamatsucho Sta. to Ryutsu Center Sta.

太田区平和島6-1-1 東京流通センター
「全国古民具骨董祭り」

最寄駅: 浜松町駅より東京モノレールで10分、流通センター駅

May3 ~ May5

Horse Show is annually held at Baji Koen (park), Setagaya-ku. Some equestrian events, such as pony performances, a Western show, a ride on ponies (on a first-come, first-served basis) as well as horse races are scheduled from 9 am to around 4:30 pm daily during the show period.

Access : (1)Tokyu Den'en Toshi Line to Sakura-Shinmachi Sta., and then walk 15 min.

(2)10-20 min. by bus for Seijo-Gakuen or Chofu-eki Minami-guchi from Shibuya Sta., and then get off at Nodai-mae Bus Stop.

世田谷区上用賀2 馬事公苑
「ホースショー」

最寄駅: (1) 東急田園都市線桜新町駅より徒歩15分
(2) 渋谷駅より成城学園行又は調布駅南口行バスで10-20分、農大前下車

May3 ~ May5

Kurayami Matsuri (Black Night Festival) at Okunitama Shrine in Fuchu on the outskirts of Tokyo. *Komakurabe* (demonstration of horseback riding) will be held from 8 pm (lasting for about 10 minutes) on the 3rd. 18 *Dashi* (float) will parade around the Shrine from 6 pm to 9 pm on the 4th. The highlight of the festival can be seen on the 5th. Eight *Mikoshi* (portable shrines), some weighing as much as a ton, will leave the precincts of the Shrine at 6 pm, making their way to *Otabisho* (portable shrine storage) and will arrive there at around 9 pm.

Access : (1)25 min. by Limited Express on Keio Line from Shinjuku to Fuchu Sta., and then walk 5 min.

(2)JR Nambu Line or Musashino Line to Fuchu-Hommachi Sta., and then walk 5 min.

府中市宮町3 大国魂神社
「くらやみまつり(大国魂神社例大祭)」

最寄駅: (1) 新宿から京王線特急で25分、府中駅より徒歩5分
(2) JR南武線又は武蔵野線府中本町駅より徒歩5分

May5

Takara-no-mai (Japanese dance) in the precincts of Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon Temple), Taito-ku, in celebration of Children's Day. A parade of drawing *Takarabune* (ship laden with treasure) by children will be held from 11 am to 11:30 am and from 1:30 pm to 2 pm.

Access : Subway Ginza Line or Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusa Sta.

台東区 浅草寺
「宝の舞」

最寄駅: 銀座線又は都営浅草線 浅草駅

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in **May 2008**

May5

Annual Spring Festival of Suitengu Shrine, Chuo-ku. *Sato Kagura* (sacred music & dance) and Japanese *Minyo Odori* (local Japanese folk dancing) are scheduled in the morning. About 20 open-air stalls are set up. This year *Chigo-Gyoretsu* (procession of children in fancy attire) will not be held.

Access : (1)Subway Hanzomon Line to Suitengumae Sta., and then walk 1 min.
(2)Subway Hibiya Line or Toei Asakusa Line to Ningyocho Sta., and then walk 5 min.

中央区日本橋蛸殻町2 水天宮
「水天宮例大祭」

最寄駅: (1) 半蔵門線 水天宮前駅より徒歩1分
(2) 日比谷線又は都営浅草線 人形町駅より徒歩5分

May5

Kachiya Matsuri Festival at Katori Shrine, Koto-ku, features *Musha Gyoretsu* (the parade of Samurai warriors in armor of the Heian period). The parade will start marching from Kamede Shrine around 1 pm, passing through Jusangen-dori Street, and will arrive at Katori Shrine around at 3 pm. A bow and arrows of thanks for the victory are dedicated to the Shrine.

Access : JR Sobu Line to Kameido Sta., and then walk 10 min.

江東区亀戸 香取神社 (亀戸神社:かめで神社)
「香取神社 勝矢祭」

最寄駅: JR亀戸駅より徒歩10分

May8

Hinode Matsuri (Sunrise Festival) at Mitake Shrine in Oume on the outskirts of Tokyo. After Shinto rituals at 9:30 am, Shrine's *Mikoshi* (portable shrine), escorted by some two dozen *Samurai* warriors, will leave Mitake-san Cable Car Sta. and proceed to Mitake Shrine. After arriving at the Shrine at around 11 am, they will parade around the Shrine three times.

Access : JR Oume Line to Mitake Sta. From there, 10 min. by bus to Cable-shita Bus Stop and walk to Takimoto Sta. Take a cable car to Mitake-san Sta., and then walk 20-30 min. to the Shrine.

青梅市 御嶽神社
「日の出まつり」

最寄駅: JR青梅線御嶽駅よりバスで10分、ケーブル下で下車後、滝本駅まで歩き、ケーブルカーに乗り換えて御岳山駅下車、神社まで 徒歩20-30分

May9 ~ May11

Annual Festival of Shitaya Shrine, Taito-ku. Shrine's *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) will start parading at 6:15 am and return to the Shrine at around 6:30 pm on the 11th. *Kagura* (ancient court dance) and *Ohayashi* (festival music) will be performed all day long on the 10th and 11th.

Access : (1)Subway Ginza Line to Inaricho Sta., and then walk 5 min.
(2)JR Yamanote Line to Ueno Sta. (Asakusa Exit), and then walk 5 min.

台東区 下谷神社
「下谷神社大祭」

最寄駅: (1) 銀座線稲荷町駅より徒歩5分
(2) JR山手線 上野駅(浅草口)より徒歩5分

May9 ~ May15

Kanda Myojin Omikoshi Togyo or Kanda Matsuri (Kanda Festival) at Kanda Myojin Shrine, Chiyoda-ku. The festival is one of the three grandest festivals in Tokyo, but the festival is rather small in scale this year. *Ohayashi* (festive music) and *Taiko* (Japanese drum beating) will be performed in the precincts of the Shrine. On the 14th, *Takigi Noh* (open-air torchlight *Noh* performance) will be held at 6 pm.

Access : (1)JR Chuo Line or Subway Marunouchi Line to Ochanomizu Sta., and then walk 5 min. to the Shrine.
(2)JR Yamanote Line, Keihin Tohoku Line or Sobu Line to Akihabara Sta., and then walk 5 min. to the Shrine.
(3)Subway Chiyoda Line to Shin-Ochanomizu Sta., and then walk 5 min. to the Shrine.

千代田区 神田明神及び周辺
「神田明神御神輿渡御」

最寄駅: (1) JR中央線又は丸ノ内線御茶ノ水駅より徒歩5分
(2) JR山手線、京浜東北線又は総武線秋葉原駅より徒歩5分
(3) 千代田線新御茶ノ水駅より徒歩5分

May11 ~ May25

Grand Sumo Tournament at Ryogoku Kokugikan Hall, Sumida-ku. *Dohyo-iri* or the ring-entering ceremony by *Yokozuna* (grand champion) takes place around 4 pm daily. The main tournament by *Rikishi* (*Sumo* wrestlers) belonging to the upper-rank or *Maku-uchi* will start after that. Unreserved seat tickets (¥2,100 per person) are sold on a first-come, first-served basis at the Kokugikan Hall every day during the tournament period. The number of the tickets is limited to 400 people.

Access : JR Sobu Line or Subway Toei Oedo Line to Ryogoku Sta.

墨田区 両国国技館
「大相撲5月場所」

最寄駅: JR総武線又は都営地下鉄大江戸線両国駅

Calendar Events

to be enjoyed in **May 2008**

May11

Shishi Matsuri (Lion Dance Festival) at Nagasaki Shrine, Toshima-ku. The dance has a 400-year history and will be performed from 2 pm to 4 pm. When it rains, it will be canceled.

Access : Seibu Ikebukuro Line to Shiinamachi Sta., and then walk 2 min.

豊島区 長崎神社
「獅子まつり」

最寄駅: 西武池袋線椎名町駅より徒歩2分

May16 ~ May18

Sanja Matsuri Festival of Asakusa Shrine, Taito-ku. The festival is counted as one of Tokyo's grandest. On the 16th, a parade of *Meibutsu-Daigyoretsu* consisting of 1,000 participants in traditional attire will march to a tune of the festival music on Nakamise-dori Street to Asakusa Shrine from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. On the 17th and 18th, over 100 *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) will start parading at around 11 am. *Mikoshi* owned by the Shrine will not parade this year.

Access : Subway Ginza Line or Subway Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusa Sta.

台東区 浅草神社
「三社祭」

最寄駅: 銀座線又は都営浅草線浅草駅

May17 & May18

Kifune Matsuri Festival at Kifune Shrine, Ota-ku. About 10 *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) carried by townspeople will parade along the streets from 2 pm to 4 pm on the 18th. About 50 open-air stalls are set up on both days.

Access : JR Keihin Tohoku Line to Omori Sta. From there, take a bus for Morigasaki, and then get off at Omori Higashi Chugakko Bus Stop.

大田区大森東 貴船神社
「貴船祭」

最寄駅: JR京浜東北線大森駅より、森ヶ崎行バスにて大森東中学校下車

May21 ~ May23

Osunafumi Taisai (walking-on-sand ritual) at Tamagawa Daishi Temple, Setagaya-ku, will be held from 9 am to 4:30 pm on the 21st & 22nd and from 9 am to 2 pm on the 23rd.

Access : Tokyu Oimachi Line or Den'en Toshi Line to Futako-Tamagawa Sta., and then walk 10 min.

世田谷区 玉川大師
「お砂ふみ大祭」

最寄駅: 東急大井町線、田園都市線で二子玉川駅より徒歩10分

May23 ~ May26

Annual Festival of Hanazono Shrine, Shinjuku-ku. The main event of the festival is the parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) leaving the Shrine at around 11 am and return at 8:30 pm on the 25th.

Access : Subway Marunouchi Line to Shinjuku-Sanchome Sta.

新宿区新宿5 花園神社
「花園神社例大祭」

最寄駅: 丸の内線新宿三丁目駅

May24

Spring Festival of Togenuki Jizo Temple (or Koganji Temple), Toshima-ku. Many street stalls are set up from around 9 am to the sunset.

Access : JR Yamanote Line or Subway Toei Mita Line to Sugamo Sta., and then walk 5 min.

豊島区 とげぬき地蔵(高岩寺)
「巢鴨とげぬき地蔵大祭」

最寄駅: JR山手線又は都営三田線巢鴨駅より徒歩5分

May24 ~ May25

Annual Festival of Yushima Tenjin Shrine, Bunkyo-ku. A parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) will be held from around 9 am to 5pm on the 24th and from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm on the 25th. Open-air stalls are set up daily during the festival period.

Access : Subway Chiyoda Line to Yushima Sta.

文京区湯島3 湯島天神
「湯島天神祭」

最寄駅: 千代田線湯島駅

May24 & May25

Tokyo Minato Matsuri or Port Festival features various events at Harumi Kaijo (festival site) mainly around Harumi Futo (pier), Chuo-ku. A flea market by townspeople and a bazaar of fish, vegetables & flowers by wholesalers will be held on both days. On the 24th, a "water pageant" by the Tokyo Fire Board can be seen from around 10:30 am to 11:30 am at Harumi Passenger Terminal, including a fireboat parade, a fire-fighting drill and a fire-hosing of five-colored water.

Access : Take a municipal bus (Tobasu) No. 03 or No. 05 bound for Harumi Futo from Ginza-Yonchome Bus Stop or Tsukiji Bus Stop along Harumi-dori Ave., and then get off at the last stop to go to the pier.

中央区 晴海会場(晴海埠頭周辺)
「東京みなと祭」

最寄駅: 晴海会場へは、晴海通り銀座4丁目バス停又は築地バス停から都バスNo. 03又はNo. 05晴海埠頭行に乗り、終点で下車

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

May25

Asakusa Yayoi Matsuri ceremony by those of the Edo Shobo Kinen-kai (Edo Civilian Fire Fighters' Association) in the compound of Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon Temple), Taito-ku. The demonstration of acrobatics on the ladder is scheduled for around 12 noon.

Access : Subway Ginza Line or Subway Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusa Sta.

台東区 浅草寺本堂裏
「浅草弥生祭(消防殉職者慰霊祭)」
最寄駅: 銀座線又は都営浅草線浅草駅

May31 ~ Jun1

Ebara Jinja Tenno-sai (Kappa Matsuri Festival) or Annual Festival of Ebara Shrine, Shinagawa-ku. A parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) will be held all day long on May 31 & Jun. 1. On the Jun. 1, a little fleet of

boats will depart from the Shrine at around 10 am to set out for a cruise down Megurogawa River and out to Tokyo Bay, arriving at Odaiba Kaihin Koen (park) near Odaiba-Kaihinkoen Sta. on Yurikamome Line, and then eventually will return to the Shrine. Open-air stalls are set up until around 8 pm daily during the festival period. Festival is carried out regardless of any weather

Access : Keihin-Kyuko Line to Shin-Bamba Sta., and then walk 2 min.

品川区北品川2 荏原神社
「荏原神社天王祭」
最寄駅: 京浜急行新馬場駅より徒歩2分

May31 & Jun1

Ofuji-san-no-Ueki Ichi (Potted Plant Fair) in the neighborhood of Sengen Shrine, Taito-ku, will be held from around 12 noon to around 10 pm on both days. The fair is one of the biggest potted plant fairs in Tokyo.

Access : Subway Ginza Line or Subway Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusa Sta.

台東区 浅間神社周辺
「お富士さんの植木市」
最寄駅: 銀座線又は都営浅草線浅草駅

B. KANTO 関東

Apr26 ~ May6

Mashiko-yaki Toki Ichi (Pottery Fair) at Mashiko-machi, Haga-gun, Tochigi Pref., will be held from 8 am to around 6 pm at several venues in Mashiko, such as Kyohan Center, Tsukamoto Seitoshō and Togeji Mura.

Access : (1)Kyohan Center and Tsukamoto Seitoshō: 50 min. by Toya Bus from Tobu Railways' Utsunomiya Sta. or from Miyano-hashī Bus Stop, which is a 4-min. walk from JR Utsunomiya Sta., get off at Togeji-Messe Iriguchi Bus Stop, and then walk 1 min.
(2)Togeji Mura: Take Toya Bus from Tobu Railways' Utsunomiya Sta. or from Miyano-hashī Bus Stop to Sayadokami Bus Stop, and then walk 1 min.

栃木県芳賀郡益子町
「益子焼陶器市」

最寄駅: (1) 共販センター及び塚本製陶所へは、東武宇都宮駅発又はJR宇都宮駅から徒歩4分にある宮の橋バス停より東野バスで50分、陶芸メッセ入口下車、徒歩1分
(2) 陶芸村へは、上記と同じ東野バスで道祖土上(さやどかみ)入口下車、徒歩1分

Apr29 ~ May5

Kasama-yaki Toki Ichi (Pottery Fair) at the grounds adjacent to Geijutsu-no-mori Koen (park) in Kasama, Ibaraki Pref., will be held from 9 am to 5 pm every day during the fair period. Music concerts are scheduled from 7 pm to 8:30 pm on May 3.

Access : 1 hr. 10 min. by JR Joban Line's Limited Express "Hitachi" (or about 2 hrs. by local train) from Ueno Sta. to Tomobe Sta. From there, JR Mito Line to Kasama Sta., and then walk 20 min. (or special buses to the fair site). A special rapid local train "Kasama de osanpo-go" leaves Ueno Sta. at 8:05 am for Kasama on May 3, 4 and 5.

茨城県笠間市芸術の森広園
「笠間焼陶器市(陶炎祭)」

最寄駅: 上野よりJR常磐線特急"ひたち"で1時間10分、又は各駅列車で約2時間の友部駅まで行き、JR水戸線に乗り換えて笠間駅下車、徒歩20分(笠間駅より臨時バス運行)。5月3、4、5日、JRの笠間行きの快速"笠間de おさんぽ号"が上野駅を8:05 amに出発する。

May3

The Yokohama Parade (Kokusai Kaso Gyoretsu) or International Masquerade Parade in Yokohama, Kanagawa Pref. Super Parade (the main parade of the Yokohama Parade) will start at 11:15 am from Yamashita Koen (park). When it rains, the Yokohama Parade will be postponed to the next day.

Access : JR Negishi Line from Yokohama or JR Keihin Tohoku Line from Tokyo to Kannai Sta. or to Sakuragicho Sta.

神奈川県横浜市
「横浜パレード」

最寄駅: JR根岸線(東京からはJR京浜東北線が乗り入れ)関内駅又は桜木町駅

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

May3

Odawara Hojo Godai Matsuri Festival, mainly at Odawara Castle, Odawara, Kanagawa Pref. The highlight of the festival is *Musha Gyoretsu* (warriors' procession) starting at 1:20 pm from Odawara Castle and marching around the city's main streets. A parade of a brass band and folk dancers will leave Ginza Street at 1:40, marching through the streets. All the parades will arrive at Ninomaru-Hiroba in the Castle at around 3:30 pm. Some other events are scheduled for 10 am.

Access : (1) JR Tokaido Shinkansen Line or JR Tokaido Line from Tokyo Sta. to Odawara Sta.
(2) Odakyu Line from Shinjuku Sta. to Odawara Sta.

神奈川県小田原市
「小田原北條五代まつり」

最寄駅: (1) JR東海道新幹線又はJR東海道線小田原駅
(2) 小田急線小田原駅

May3 & May5

Otako-age or giant kite flying, Showamachi, Saitama Pref. Two giant kites weighing 800 kg are flown on both days. Flying small kites will start at around 1 pm and big kites at around 2 pm on both days. Time schedule is subject to change depending on wind conditions. When it rains, it will be postponed to the 6th.

Access : Tobu Isezaki Line to Kasukabe Sta. (East Exit). From there, 25 min. by special buses to the kite flying site is available.

埼玉県庄和町 西宝珠花
「大風揚げ」

最寄駅: 東武伊勢崎線春日部駅(東口)より江戸川河川敷広場まで25分、臨時バス運行

May4 & May5

Zama-no-Otako-age or giant kite flying over the riverbank near Zakaebashi Bridge, Zama, Kanagawa Pref., will be held from 10 am to 4 pm on both days. When it rains, kite flying will be canceled.

Access : (1) Odakyu Railway to Sobudai-mae Sta. (North Exit). From there, take a bus bound for Zama & Yotsuya to Jinja-mae Bus Stop, and then walk 15 min.
(2) Odakyu Railway to Zama Sta. From there, take bus bound for Sobudai-shita to Nakajuku Bus Stop, and then walk 20 min.
(3) JR Sagami Line to Sobudai-shita Sta. or Iriya Sta., and then walk 20 min.

神奈川県座間市 座架依橋(相模川)
「座間の大風あげ」

最寄駅: (1) 小田急線相武台前駅(北口)から座間・四谷行きバスで神社前下車、徒歩15分
(2) 小田急線座間駅から相武台下行きバスで中宿下車、徒歩約20分
(3) JR相模線相武台下駅又輪は入谷駅から徒歩20分

May4 & May5

Sagami-no-Otako-age Matsuri or giant kite festival in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Pref. The festival will be held from around 10 am to around 4 pm at two venues, Shindo Sports Hiroba (field) and Sandan-no-taki-shita Hiroba. About 100 men wearing happi-coats will fly a giant kite (14.5 square meters, 950 kilograms) with a 4 centimeter-thick rope. When it rains, the festival will be canceled.

Access : (1) Shindo Sports Hiroba: JR Sagami Line to Soubudai-shita Sta., and then walk 15 min.

神奈川県相模原市
「相模の大風まつり」

最寄駅: 新戸スポーツ広場はJR相模線相武台下駅より徒歩15分

May5

Kintoki Matsuri Festival at Kintoki Shrine, Hakone-machi, Ashigara Shimo-gun, Kanagawa Pref. The major events are *Sumo* matches by children from 1 pm to 2:30 pm and *Yudate-no-Shishi-mai* (local Lion Dance) at the precincts of Kintoki Shrine from 11 am to 12 noon.

Access : (1) Take a bus for Kojiri-Togendai from JR or Odakyu Odawara Sta. or Odakyu Hakone-Yumoto Sta. to Sengoku Bus Stop, and then walk 20 min.

神奈川県足柄下郡箱根町 公時神社
「公時祭(金時祭り)」

最寄駅: (1) JR又は小田急線小田原駅、又は小田急箱根湯本駅より湖尻桃源台行バスで仙石下車、徒歩20分

May5

Aburi Jinja-no-Kyogen or **Performance of Kyogen** (*Noh* farce) at Aburi Shrine on Mt. Oyama, Isehara, Kanagawa Pref., will be performed from 1 pm to around 3 pm.

Access : Odakyu Line to Isehara Sta. (North Exit). From there, 30 min. by bus to Oyama Cable-eki Bus Stop, and then 6 min. by cable car up to Shimosha Sta.

神奈川県伊勢原市 阿夫利神社
「阿夫利神社の狂言」

最寄駅: 小田急線伊勢原駅(北口)よりバスで30分、大山ケーブル駅まで行き、ケーブルカーで6分、下社駅下車

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in **May 2008**

May5

Sagami-Konomachi Festival at Rokusho Shrine (or Kami-soroiyama), Oisomachi, Naka-gun, Kanagawa Pref. This is a festival of six shrines in the region, and *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) starting from six shrines at 7 am gather around 1:50 pm at Oyaba, where *Sagi-no-mai* (Heron Dance) accompanied by people wearing dragon & lion heads will be performed from around 1:30 pm.

Access : (1) JR Tokaido Line to Ninomiya Sta. From there, 10 min. by bus for Hiratsuka to Makinoki Bus Stop or Kokufu-Shinjuku Bus Stop, and then walk 10 min. to Rokusho Shrine, or 5 min. by taxi from Ninomiya Sta.

神奈川県中郡大磯町 六所神社
「相模の国府祭」

最寄駅：(1)六所神社へは、JR東海道線二宮駅より平塚行バスで10分、榎の木または国府新宿で下車、徒歩10分。又は二宮駅よりタクシーで5分。

May17 & May18

Grand Spring Festival of Toshogu Shrine, Nikko, Tochigi Pref. On the 17th, *Yabusame* (horseback archery) in the precincts of Toshogu Shrine will be held from around 1:30 pm (lasting for about one hour). On the 18th, a gala procession of over 1,200 armor-clad people who escort three *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) will start parading from Futarasan Shrine at 11 am and proceed to *Otabisho* (portable shrine storage) near Shinkyo Bridge at

11:30 am. During a rest there, *Bugaku* (court dance & music) will be presented. The parade, leaving *Otabisho* at around 12 noon, will return to Toshogu Shrine at around 1:30 pm. When it rains, the procession may be canceled.

Access : Tobu Railways' Nikko Line to Tobu-Nikko Sta. or JR Nikko Line to Nikko Sta., and then 5 min. by bus to Shinkyo Bus Stop.

栃木県日光市 日光東照宮
「東照宮春季大祭」

最寄駅：東武日光駅又はJR日光駅よりバスで神橋下車、徒歩5分

May27

Takigi Noh (open-air torchlight *Noh* performance) in the compound of Kawasaki Daishi Temple, Kawasaki, Kanagawa Pref., will be performed from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Admission is ¥3,000.

Access : Keihin Kyuko Line to Keikyu-Kawasaki Sta. From there, take Keikyu Daishi Line to Kawasaki-Daishi Sta.

神奈川県川崎市 川崎大師
「新能」

最寄駅：京浜急行京急川崎駅より、京急大師線に乗り換えて川崎大師駅下車

May27 ~ Jun2

Kaiko Kinen Bazaar, a big bazaar is held in Yokohama Koen (park) near Yokohama Stadium in Yokohama, Kanagawa Pref., from 10 am to 7 pm daily during the event period. Over 200 open-air stalls selling potted plants, clothes, toys and the like are set up.

Access : JR Negishi Line from Yokohama Sta. (or JR Keihin Tohoku Line from Tokyo Sta.) to Kannai Sta.(South Exit), and then walk 3 min.

神奈川県横浜市横浜公園(横浜スタジアム周辺)
「開港記念バザー」

最寄駅：横浜駅よりJR根岸線(東京からはJR京浜東北線が乗り入れ)関内駅(南口)より徒歩3分

May28

Soga Kasa-yaki Matsuri or paper umbrella-burning ritual at Jozenji Temple, Odawara, Kanagawa Pref., will be held twice starting from 11:30 am and 8 pm, respectively.

Access : JR Gotemba Line to Shimo-Soga Sta., and then walk 5 min.

神奈川県小田原市 城前寺
「首我傘焼まつり」

最寄駅：JR御殿場線下首我駅下車、徒歩5分

Jun1 & Jun2

Yokohama Kaiko-sai Festival in Rinko Koen (park), Yokohama, Kanagawa Pref. A fireworks display will be held over Akarenga Park from about 8 pm to 9 pm on June 2nd. Some other events are scheduled during the festival period.

Access : (1) JR Negishi Line from Yokohama Sta. or JR Keihin Tohoku Line from Tokyo Sta. to Sakuragicho Sta.
(2) Minato Mirai Line to Nihon Odori Sta.

神奈川県横浜市
「横浜開港祭」

最寄駅：(1) JR根岸線(東京からはJR京浜東北線が乗り入れ)桜木町駅
(2) みなとみらい線日本大通駅

Notes:

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2. Dates and functions are subject to change without notice.
3. Events marked with are the major events.
4. Dates of events marked with are the same every year.
5. Japanese explanations appearing at the bottom of each entry give the names of the event and the nearest railway station in Japanese. Point to this Japanese when you need help from a Japanese passerby.

Note: The Internet Website of the Japan National Tourist Organization is available at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>.

Note: For further information, please call Tourist Information Center, Tokyo of the Japan National Tourist Organization (Tel: **03-3201-3331**).

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

C. HOKKAIDO & TOHOKU 北海道・東北

Apr23~May5

Hirosaki Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) will be held at Hirosaki Koen (park) in Hirosaki, Aomori Pref. There are about 5,000 cherry trees in the grounds of Hirosaki Castle and along the castle's moat. Various attractions are scheduled during the festival period.

Access : JR Ou Honsen Line to Hirosaki Sta., and then walk 15-20 min.

青森県弘前市 弘前公園
「弘前さくらまつり」

最寄駅: JR奥羽本線弘前駅下車、徒歩15~20分

Apr29~May3

Uesugi Matsuri Festival, Yonezawa, Yamagata Pref., features a ceremony commemorating a famous warlord, *Uesugi Kenshin*, from around 7 pm on May 2. *Uesugi Gyoretsu* or a procession of about 1,000 warriors will pass along the city's main streets from 10:20 am to 12 noon, and a sham battle will be held from 2 pm to around 3:30 pm on May 3.

Access : JR Yamagata Shinkansen Line or JR Ou Honsen Line to Yonezawa Sta.

Note : *Uesugi Kenshin (1530-1578): One of the feudal lords in the 16th century.*

山形県米沢市
「上杉まつり」

最寄駅: JR山形新幹線又はJR奥羽本線米沢駅

May1~May5

Fujiwara Matsuri Festival, Hiraizumi, Nishi-Iwai-gun, Iwate Pref. On the 3rd, a warriors' procession will start at 10 am from Chusonji Temple to Motsuji Temple, and then start at 1:30 pm to Konjikido arriving at 3:20 pm. On the 4th, *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) by townspeople will parade along the streets from 10 am, and *Noh* (classical masked drama) and *Kyogen* (Noh farce) will be performed at 12 noon at Hakusan Jinjya in the precincts of Chusonji Temple. On the 5th, *Ennen-no-mai* or ancient court dance is scheduled from 11 am to around 12 noon at Motsuji Temple. Performances of local arts will be held every day during the festival period.

Access : (1) JR Tohoku Honsen Line to Hiraizumi Sta., and then 5 min. by bus or walk 15-20 min. to Chusonji Temple.
(2) JR Tohoku Honsen Line to Hiraizumi Sta., and then walk 5 min. to Motsuji Temple.

岩手県西磐井郡平泉町 中尊寺、毛越寺
「藤原まつり」

最寄駅: (1) 中尊寺へは、JR東北本線平泉駅よりバスで5分、徒歩15~20分
(2) 毛越寺へは、JR東北本線平泉駅より徒歩5分

May5

Annual Festival of Jionji Temple, Sagae, Yamagata Pref. This festival with a more than 1,200-year history features performance of traditional *Bugaku* (ancient court music & dance) from 2 pm to 4 pm. However, visitors are recommended to be there by around 12 noon.

Access : JR Yamagata Shinkansen Line to Yamagata Sta. From there, take JR Aterazawa Line to Sagae Sta., and then 15 min. by taxi to the temple.

山形県寒河江市 慈恩寺
「慈恩寺大祭」

最寄駅: JR山形新幹線山形駅よりJR左沢線寒河江駅まで行き、慈恩寺までタクシーで15分

Calendar Events

to be enjoyed in May 2008

May12

Hinoemata Kabuki or a performance of local *Kabuki* handed down from generation to generation at Hinoemata Village, Minami-Aizu-gun, Fukushima Pref., is presented by the villagers on the stage in the precincts of Atago Shrine, from 5:30 pm. Admission is free.

Access : Aizu Tetsudo Line to Aizu Kogen Sta. From there, 1 hr. 20 min. by bus to Hinoemata-Chuo Bus Stop, and then walk 3 min. to the Shrine.

福島県南会津郡桧枝岐村
「桧枝岐歌舞伎」

最寄駅：会津鉄道会津高原駅よりバスで1時間20分、桧枝岐中央下車、徒歩3分

May17 & May18

Sendai Aoba Matsuri Festival, Sendai, Miyagi Pref. A performance and a parade of *Suzume Odori* or Sparrow Dance (local Japanese dance native to Sendai) can be

enjoyed along Jozenji-dori street, on the stage set up in Simin Hiroba (civic park) and many places in the city's main streets on the 17th and 18th. The highlight of the festival, *Mushagyoretsu* (warriors' parade of floats) and a parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrine), will be held from 12

noon to around 4 pm on Higashi-Nibancho-dori Street on

Access : JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line to Sendai Sta., and then walk 10 min.

宮城県仙台市
「仙台青葉祭り」

最寄駅：JR東北新幹線仙台駅より徒歩10分

May19 ~ May21

Sakata Matsuri Festival in Sakata, Yamagata Pref. On the 20th, a parade of floats, *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) and pairs of *Shishi-gashira* (lion's heads) will start at 1 pm from Nakago-Shimizuya Department Store near Sakata City Hall and will pass along the city's main streets. Some other events are scheduled at the parking lot of Sakata City Hall from 5:30 pm to 9 pm on the 19th. When it rains, these events will be canceled. About 300 open-air stalls are set up along the main streets around Hiyoriyama Koen (park) during the festival period.

Access : JR Uetsu Honsen Line or JR Ou Honsen Line to Sakata Sta., and then walk 10-15 min.

山形県酒田市
「酒田祭り」

最寄駅：JR羽越本線又はJR奥羽本線酒田駅より徒歩10～15分

D. CHUBU 中部

May3 ~ May5

Hamamatsu Matsuri (Kite Battle Festival), Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Pref., will be held from 11 am to 3 pm every day during the festival period. Huge kites are flown by groups of citizens, who try to cut the lines of their opponent's kites by skillful maneuvering. About 82 floats will add color to the event, passing along the city's main streets from 6:30 pm to 9 pm during the festival period.

Access : JR Tokaido Shinkansen Line or JR Tokaido Honsen Line to Hamamatsu Sta. From there, 25 min. to the festival site by the direct bus (operated during the festival period).

静岡県浜松市
「浜松まつり」

最寄駅：JR東海道新幹線又はJR東海道本線浜松駅より、浜松まつり会場まで直通バスで25分(期間中運行)

May1

Mikurumayama Matsuri Festival, at Sekino Shrine in Takaoka, Toyama Pref. A parade of seven gorgeous floats decorated with gold work and lacquer ware which are the local traditional industrial arts will pass along the city's main street, escorted by people in traditional attire, and will be seen at Sakashita-machi-dori street from 11:20 am. All the floats will assemble at Katahara-machi intersection and the parade will leave there around 12 noon and arrive at Sekino Shrine around 6 pm. Floats are lighted up & displayed from 6:30 pm to 9 pm on Moriyama-machi Street. When it rains, the parade will be canceled.

Access : JR Hokuriku Honsen Line to Takaoka Sta., and then walk 5-10 min. to Katahara-machi intersection.

富山県高岡市 関野神社
「御車山まつり」

最寄駅：JR北陸本線高岡駅より徒歩5～10分

May3 ~ May5

Nanao Seihaku-sai Festival, Nanao, Ishikawa Pref. Three beautifully decorated floats, each 8-meter in length and 20-ton in weight, will be carried by people along the city's main streets from 9 pm on the 3rd, from 1 am to 7 pm on the 4th and from 7:30 am to 10 pm on the 5th. A display of fireworks is scheduled from 8 pm to 8:30 pm on the 4th.

Access : JR Nanao Line to Nanao Sta., and then walk 5-10 min.

石川県七尾市
「七尾青柏祭」

最寄駅：JR七尾線七尾駅より徒歩5～10分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in **May 2008**

May3 ~May5

Toki Mino-yaki Matsuri (Ceramic Fair) in Toki, Gifu Pref., will be held from 9 am to 5 pm daily during the fair period.

Access : JR Chuo Honsen Line to Toki-shi Sta. From there, a free shuttle bus is available to the fair site during the fair period.

岐阜県土岐市 土岐美濃焼卸商業団地
「土岐美濃焼まつり」

最寄駅: JR中央本線土岐市駅より、期間中まつり会場まで無料バスあり

May3 ~ May5

Chawan Matsuri (Pottery Fair of Kutani-yaki Ware) at Terai-machi, Nomi, Ishikawa Pref. The fair will be held along Sun Road Terai street and at Fureai Hiroba (municipal open space) from 8:30 am to 8 pm on the 3rd & the 4th, and from 8:30 am to 6 pm on the 5th.

Access : (1) Free shuttle bus runs between JR Terai Sta. on Hokuriku Honsen Line and the venue during the fair period.
(2) JR Hokuriku Honsen Line to Komatsu Sta. From there, 20 min. by bus to Terai-Chosha-mae Bus Stop.

石川県能美市寺井町

「茶碗まつり(九谷焼)」

最寄駅: (1) 期間中、JR北陸本線寺井駅から会場まで無料シャトルバスが運行
(2) JR北陸本線小松駅よりバスで20分、寺井庁舎前下車

May4 ~May6

Yabusame Matsuri (horseback archery) at Sengen Shrine, Fujinomiya, Shizuoka Pref. On the 5th, *Yabusame*, the main event of the festival, will be held from around 9 am to 10:30 am by Shrine's School and from 3 pm to 4:30 pm by Ogasawara School. A warriors' parade can be seen in the city from 12 noon to 2 pm. When it rains, the event might be canceled.

Access : JR Minobu Line to Fujinomiya Sta., and then walk 10 min.

静岡県富士宮市 浅間大社
「流鏝馬祭」

最寄駅: JR身延線富士宮駅より徒歩10分

May16 ~May18

Kurofune Matsuri (Black Ship Festival) in Shimoda, Shizuoka Pref. This is the festival commemorating the first landing of Commodore Perry from his American "black ship." The parade of brass bands and people disguised as Perry and his men will march along the city's main streets from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on the 17th and from 11 am to 12 noon on the 18th.

Access : (1) JR Limited Express "Odoriko" originating at Tokyo Sta. to Shimoda Sta.
(2) Izu-Kyuko Railways originating at Ito Sta. to Shimoda Sta.

静岡県下田市

「黒船まつり」

最寄駅: (1) 東京駅よりJR特急"踊り子"下田駅
(2) 伊東駅より伊豆急下田駅

E. KINKI 近畿

May1 ~May4

Kyogen-to-Saiten or Performance of Kyogen (*Noh farce*) at Shinsen-en on the south side of Nijo Castle, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto, will be held from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm on the 1st & 2nd, and from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm and 7 pm to 9:30 pm on the 3rd & 4th. Admission is free.

Access : 20 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 9 or No. 50 from Kyoto Sta., and then get off at Horikawa Oike Bus Stop.

京都市中京区 神泉苑

「狂言と祭典」

最寄駅: 京都駅より市バスNo. 9又はNo. 50で20分、堀川御池下車

May1 ~May4

Enma-do Kyogen or Performance of Kyogen (*Noh farce*) at Senbon Enma-do Temple, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto, will be performed from 7 pm on the 1st & 2nd, and from 1 pm & 6 pm on the 3rd & 4th. (Each performance lasts for about 2 hours.) Admission is free.

Access : 40 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 206 from Kyoto Sta., and then get off at Senbon Kuramaguchi Bus Stop.

京都市上京区 千本えんま堂 引接寺(いんしょうじ)

「えんま堂狂言(千本えんま堂大念仏狂言)」

最寄駅: 京都駅より市バスNo. 206で40分、千本鞍馬口下車

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

May1 ~May24

Kamogawa Odori or Japanese dance performance at Pontocho Kaburenjo Theater, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto. It will be presented three times daily from 12:30 pm, 2:20 pm and 4:10 pm. Admission tickets are ¥2,000, ¥3,800 and ¥4,300 (with a bowl of green tea).

Access : 20-30 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 4, No. 5, No. 17 or No. 205 from Kyoto Sta., and then get off at Kawaramachi-Sanjo Bus Stop.

京都市中京区 先斗町歌舞練場
「鴨川をどり」

最寄駅：京都駅より市バスNo. 4, No. 5, No. 17又はNo. 205で
20-30分、河原町三条下車

May1 ~May5

Fujinomori Matsuri Festival at Fujinomori Shrine, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto. On the 5th, *Musha Gyoretsu* (warriors' procession) and a parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) will be held from 8:10 am to 4 pm. *Kakeuma-Shinji* (acrobatic horseback riding) will start at 1 pm & 3 pm, and *Kagura* (*Shinto* music & dance) will be performed from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Access : Keihan Line to Sumizome Sta., then walk 10 min.

京都市伏見区深草鳥居崎町 藤森神社
「藤森祭」

最寄駅：京阪電鉄墨染駅より徒歩10分

May2

Shomu-sai Festival at Todaiji Temple, Nara, Nara Pref. A colorful procession by people in ancient costume will start from Kokaido (civic hall) at 1 pm, and will arrive at Todaiji Temple around 1:30 pm. Japanese dancing and *Bugaku* (court music & dance) will be presented in the compound of Todaiji Temple from 1:30 pm. When it rains, the procession and *Bugaku* will be demonstrated in Kokaido.

Access : JR Nara Line to Nara Sta. or Kintetsu Line to Kintetsu-Nara Sta. From there, take a bus to Daibutsuden-mae Bus Stop.

奈良市 東大寺
「聖武祭」

最寄駅：JR奈良駅又は近鉄奈良駅より、循環バス大仏殿前下車

May3

Yabusame-Shinji (horseback archery) at Shimogamo Shrine, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, will be held from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Access : Take a municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 4 or No. 205 at Kyoto Sta., and then get off at Shimogamo Jinjya-mae Bus Stop.

京都市左京区 下鴨神社
「やぶさめ神事」

最寄駅：京都駅より市バスNo. 4又はNo. 205で下鴨神社前下車

May3

Kume-Eshiki (Requiem Parade) at Kumedera Temple, Kashihara, Nara Pref. From 3 pm, a procession of two dozen people wearing face masks of *Bosatsu* (Buddhist saint who is seeking a state of spiritual enlightenment) will cross a long bridge supposed to link this world with the Pure Land.

Access : Kintetsu Kashihara Line to Kashihara-Jingumae Sta., and then walk 5 min.

奈良県橿原市久米町 久米寺
「久米会式(練供養)」

最寄駅：近鉄橿原線橿原神宮前駅より徒歩5分

May5

Kurabe-Uma (horse racing of olden times) at Kamigamo Shrine, Kita-ku, Kyoto. From 2 pm, riders wearing fancy court robes will demonstrate courtly horsemanship. The event used to be held at the Kyoto Imperial Palace.

Access : (1) Subway Karasuma Line to Kitaoji Sta. From there, 10 min. by Kita-3 Bus for Sangyo Daigaku-mae, and then get off at Misonoguchi-cho Bus Stop.

(2) 50 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 9 from Kyoto Sta., and then get off at Kamigamo Misonobashi Bus Stop.

(3) Municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 4 from Subway Kitayama Sta., and then get off at Kamigamo-jinja-mae Bus Stop.

京都市北区 上賀茂神社
「くらべうま(競馬会競馳)」

最寄駅：(1) 地下鉄烏丸線北大路駅より北3バス(産業大学前行)で
10分、御園口町下車

(2) 京都駅より市バスNo. 9で50分、上賀茂御園橋下車

(3) 地下鉄北山駅から市バス4番で上賀茂神社前下車

May5

Annual Festival at Jishu Shrine, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto. A parade of 100 people disguised as warriors, flower vendors and the like will march around the parishioners' towns from around 1 pm to 3 pm. When it rains, the parade will be canceled.

Access : Municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 206 from Kyoto Sta. to Kiyomizu-michi Bus Stop or Gojozaka Bus Stop, and then walk 10 min.

京都市東山区 地主神社
「地主神社例大祭」

最寄駅：京都駅より市バスNo. 206清水道下車又は五条坂下車、
徒歩10分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

May11 & May12

Takigi Noh (open-air torchlight *Noh* performance) at Kofukuji Temple, Nara, Nara Pref., will be performed from 11 am and from 5:30 pm on both days. Admission is free for seeing a play standing. A seat for one day costs ¥3,500, and a seat for both days costs ¥6,000. When it rains, the performance will be held in Bunka Kaikan (hall).

Access : (1) Kintetsu Line to Kintetsu-Nara Sta., and then walk 5 min.
(2) Walk 15 min. from JR Nara Sta. on Nara Line.

奈良市 興福寺南大門跡
「薪能」

最寄駅: (1) 近鉄奈良駅より徒歩5分
(2) JR奈良駅より徒歩15分

May14

Neri-kuyo Eshiki (Requiem Parade) at Taimadera Temple, Taimacho, Kita-Katsuragi-gun, Nara Pref., will be held from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Access : Kintetsu Kashihara Line to Kashihara-Jingumae Sta. From there, Kintetsu Minami Osaka Line to Taimadera Sta., and then walk 15 min.

奈良県北葛城郡當麻町 当麻寺(たいまでら)
「練供養会式」

最寄駅: 近鉄橿原線で橿原神宮前まで行き、南大阪線に乗りかえて当麻寺駅下車、徒歩15分

May15

Aoi Matsuri or Hollyhock Festival of Kamigamo Shrine and Shimogamo Shrine in Kyoto. This 1,400-year old festival features a magnificent pageant colorfully reproducing the Imperial procession that paid homage to the Shrine in ancient days, consisting of the ox-drawn carriage, flower-decorated umbrellas, courtiers and court ladies in ancient court robes. The procession will start at 10:30 am from Kyoto Goshō or the Kyoto Imperial Palace (Old Imperial Palace), following Kawaramachi-dōri Ave., and will arrive at Shimogamo Shrine at around 11:40 am. Thereafter, the procession leaving Shimogamo Shrine at 2:20 pm will proceed to Kamigamo Shrine (expected arrival time is at 3:30 pm). When it rains, the festival will be postponed.

Access : (1) Subway Karasuma Line to Marutamachi Sta. (4th stop from Kyoto Sta.), and then walk 10 min. to the Kyoto Imperial Palace.
(2) Keihan Railway to Demachi-yanagi Sta., and then walk to Shimogamo Shrine.

京都市 下鴨神社及び上賀茂神社
「葵祭」

最寄駅: (1) 行列出発点の京都御所へは、地下鉄烏丸線丸太町駅下車(京都駅から4番目駅)、徒歩10分
(2) 行列が通る下鴨神社へは京阪電鉄出町柳駅

May18

Mifune Matsuri (Boat Festival) of Kurumazaki Shrine, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto. This charming festival will be held on the Oi River near Arashiyama in the suburbs of Kyoto. A procession of people in costumes depicting the Heian Period (794-1185) will start from Kurumazaki Shrine at 1 pm, parade along the streets toward Togetsukyo Bridge in Arashiyama and go aboard the gaily decorated boats at 1:30. On the floating boats, over 20 kinds of Japanese traditional culture including *Bugaku* (ancient court music & dance), tea ceremony and the like will be demonstrated from 2 pm to around 3:30 pm. These in all are referred to as "*Ofuna-asobi*" which literally means playing & pleasure on the boat.

Access : (1) Keifuku Arashiyama Line to Kurumazaki Sta., and then walk to the Shrine.
(2) Keifuku Arashiyama Line to Arashiyama Sta. or Hankyu Arashiyama Line to Hankyu Arashiyama Sta., and then walk to the river around Togetsukyo Bridge.

京都市右京区嵯峨朝日町 車折神社(くるまざき)及び大堰川渡月橋周辺
「三船祭」

最寄駅: (1) 神社へは、京福嵐山線車折駅
(2) 渡月橋周辺へは、京福嵐山線嵐山駅又は阪急嵐山線阪急嵐山駅

May18

Kobe Matsuri Festival in Kobe, Hyogo Pref. A variety of parades and performances, such as *Omatsuri* Parade, will be scheduled from 1 pm to 5 pm. More events are also scheduled.

Access : JR Kobe Line to Sannomiya Sta., Hankyu Kobe Line to Hankyu-Sannomiya Sta. or Hanshin Railway to Hanshin-Sannomiya Sta.

兵庫県神戸市
「神戸まつり」

最寄駅: JR神戸線三ノ宮駅、阪急神戸線阪急三ノ宮駅又は阪神三ノ宮駅下車

May19

Uchiwa-maki or fan-throwing festival at Toshō-daiji Temple, Nara, Nara Pref. A ceremony & *Bugaku* (ancient court dance with music) will be performed from 1 pm. A number of good luck fans will be thrown in the temple grounds by monks, from 3 pm (lasts for about 15 min.).

Access : Kintetsu Kashihara Line to Nishinokyo Sta., and then walk 8 min.

奈良市五条町 唐招提寺
「うちわまき」

最寄駅: 近鉄橿原線西ノ京駅より徒歩8分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in May 2008

F. CHUGOKU & SHIKOKU 中国・四国

May3 & May4

Misasa Hana-yu Matsuri or the festival of Misasa Onsen (hot spring), Tohaku-gun, Tottori Pref., features *Tsunahiki* (a tug of war) from around 9:30 pm on the 4th. A display of fireworks will be held from 8:30 pm to 9 pm on the 3rd, and from 8 pm to 8:30 pm on the 4th.

Access : JR San-in Honsen Line to Kurayoshi Sta. From there, 25 min. by bus to Misasa Onsen Bus Stop.

鳥取県東伯郡三朝温泉
「三朝花湯まつり」

最寄駅: JR山陰本線倉吉駅よりバスで25分、三朝温泉下車

May3 ~ May5

2008 Hiroshima Flower Festival, mainly along Heiwa-dori Ave., Hiroshima, Hiroshima Pref. A big parade by 6,000 to 7,000 people with brass bands, Japanese folk songs & dancing and local performing arts will be held along Heiwa-odori Street from 12 noon to 7 pm on the 3rd and 5th.

Access : JR Sanyo Shinkansen Line to Hiroshima Sta.

広島市
「2008ひろしまフラワーフェスティバル」

最寄駅: JR広島駅

May14 ~ May16

Annual Festival of Izumo Taisha Shrine, Taishacho, Hikawa-gun, Shimane Pref., features a parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrine) and *Chigo-Gyoretsu* (procession of children in fancy attire) from 12 noon to 3 pm on the 15th. *Jindai Kagura* (*Shinto* music and dance) can be seen every night during the festival period. Japanese tea (\1,500) will be served to visitors from 9 am to 4 pm on the 15th & 16th.

Access : (1) Ichibata Dentetsu Railway to Izumo-Taisha-mae Sta.
(2) JR San-in Honsen Line to Izumoshi Sta. From there, 20 min. by bus to Izumo Taisha Bus Stop.

島根県出雲市 出雲大社
「大祭」

最寄駅: (1) 一畑電鉄出雲大社前駅
(2) JR山陰本線出雲市駅よりバスで20分出雲大社下車

G. KYUSHU & OKINAWA 九州 沖縄

Jan19 ~ May6

Okinawa Flower Carnival 2008 is held at many places in Okinawa Pref. such as Shurijo Koen (park), Kaiyohaku Koen (park), Darumayama Koen (park). Many kinds of flowers can be enjoyed. (Cherry blossoms are in bloom usually in the middle of January.) A variety of events and entertainments are scheduled for the long carnival period.

Access :

沖縄県各地
「沖縄花のカーニバル2008」

最寄駅:

Apr29 ~ May5

Hasami-yaki Toki Ichi (Pottery Fair) at Hasami-machi, Higashi-Sonogi-gun, Nagasaki Pref. The fair will be held at Yakimono Koen (park) from 8:30 am to 5 pm during the fair period.

Access : 1 hr. 30 min. by JR Limited Express "Midori" from Hakata to Arita Sta. From there, 10-15 min. by taxi to the fair site.

長崎県東彼杵郡波佐見町
「波佐見焼陶器市」

最寄駅: 陶器市会場となる焼物公園へは、博多よりJR特急"みどり"で1時間半、有田駅下車、タクシーで10-15分

Apr29 ~ May5

Arita-yaki Toki Ichi (Ceramic Fair), at Arita-machi, Nishi-Matsuura-gun, Saga Pref. The fair will be held around Kami-Arita Sta. or Arita Sta. from around 8 am to 7 pm during the fair period.

Access : 1 hr. 30 min. by JR Limited Express "Midori" from Hakata to Kami-Arita Sta. or Arita Sta. The fair will be held along "Kyudo" route, which connects Kami-Arita Sta. and Arita Sta. on JR Sasebo Line. Walking from Kami-Arita Sta. is an easier access to the fair site as a long downward slope extends to Arita Sta.

佐賀県西松浦郡有田町
「有田陶器市」

最寄駅: 博多よりJR特急"みどり"で1時間半、上有田駅又は有田駅下車。会場はJR佐世保線上有田駅から有田駅に至る旧道沿い(約5 km)で有田駅に向かって下り坂になっているので、上有田駅から歩いたほうが良い。

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in **May 2008**

May3 & May4

Hakata Dontaku, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Pref. A procession of a large number of townspeople in fancy attire will parade from Subway Gofukumachi Sta. to the City Hall along Meiji-dori street from around 1 pm to 7 pm on the 3rd and from 3 pm to 8 pm on the 4th. On the evening of the 4th, the entire city will be again bursting with townspeople singing and dancing with rice paddles in hand. Various entertainments are scheduled on both days at about 30 temporary stages in the city.

Access : JR Sanyo Shinkansen Line to Hakata Sta., and then walk 10min. to Meiji-dori street.

福岡県福岡市
「博多どんたく」

最寄駅：JR博多駅より徒歩10分で明治通り。

May3 ~ May5

Naha "Hari" in Naha, Okinawa Pref., features the *hari* boat race, peculiar to Okinawa, which will be participated in by young men who display their strength in the sea at Naha Shinko (Port), from 10 am to around 5:30 pm on the 5th. Fireworks display is scheduled from about 8:40 pm to 9 pm every night during the period.

Access : 15 min. by taxi from Naha Airport to Naha Shinko (Port).

沖縄県那覇市
「那覇ハーリー」

最寄駅：那覇空港より那覇新港までタクシーで15分

May17 & May18

Kawa-watari Jinko-sai Festival of Fuji Hachimangu Shrine, Tagawa, Fukuoka Pref. The festival has a more than 300-year history and features a gorgeous parade of about 10 floats beautifully bedecked with many red banners crossing the Hikosan River from 4 pm on the 17th and from 2:30 pm on the 18th.

Access : JR Nippo Honsen Line to Jyomo Sta. from Kokura Sta., and then change to JR Hitahikosan Line to Tagawa-Ita Sta. (50 min. ride).

福岡県田川市 風治八幡宮
「川渡神幸祭」

最寄駅：JR小倉駅よりJR日豊本線城野駅へ、そこで日田彦山線に乗り換えて田川伊田駅下車(全行程50分)

I. Ukai, Cormorant Fishing

May11 ~ Oct15

Nagaragawa Ukai, the Nagara River, Gifu Pref.
Period of time: May 11 - Oct. 15 (from 6:15 pm, 6:45 pm & 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm or 9 pm).

Charge: ¥3,300 leaving at 6:15 pm, ¥3,000 leaving at 6:45 pm or 7:15 pm (meals excluded).

Reservation: Call 058-262-0104 (Gifu City Ukai Kanransen Jimusho) in Japanese, or reserve through JTB, travel agency.

Cormorant fishing is an ancient method of catching *Ayu* (sweetfish or trout-like fish) with trained cormorants. This takes place at night under the light of blazing torches fastened to the prows of fishing boats. It will be held every day during the period except on the night of the full moon or when the water is excessively muddy.

Access : JR Tokaido Line to Gifu Sta. From there, 15 min. by bus to Nagaragawa-bashi Bus Stop.

岐阜県岐阜市長良川
「長良川鵜飼」

最寄駅：JR東海道線岐阜駅よりバスで15分、長良川橋下車

May11 ~ Oct15

Seki-no-Oze-no-Ukai, the Nagara River, Gifu Pref.

Period of time: May 11 - Oct. 15,

May (from 7:15 pm), June - Aug. 15 (7:30 pm),
Aug. 16 - Oct. 15 (7:15 pm).

Charge: ¥3,150 (meals excluded).

Reservation required (from 3 pm): Call 0575-22-2506 (Seki Yusen Jimusho) in Japanese.

Access : Nagaragawa Tetsudo Railway to Seki Sta., and then 10 min. by taxi.

岐阜県長良川
「関の小瀬の鵜飼」

最寄駅：長良川鉄道 関駅よりタクシーで10分