

- Notes:
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 2. Dates and functions are subject to change without notice. Be sure to check the latest information in advance.
 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.
 6. The subway Line and Station Number are indicated in parentheses().

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

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011



A. Tokyo 東京

◎ Jan.1

New Year's Day (national holiday), the "festival of festivals" in Japan, is celebrated with solemnity and yet in a joyous mood. The streets are adorned with New Year's decorations of pine and plum branches, bamboo stalks and ropes with paper festoons. People pay homage to shrines and temples, and visit friends and relatives to exchange greetings.

Access :-----

「正月」

最寄駅:-----

Jan.1 ~ Jan.5

Yasukuni Jinja Nento Gyoji, New Year's ceremonies and entertainments at Yasukuni Shrine, Chiyoda-ku. At midnight (0:00 am) on Jan. 1st, as the gate of the Shrine opens and the drum heralding a New Year is beaten, many people begin to enter the Shrine to pay homage. Main performances are scheduled as follows: (1) on the 1st; *Kobudo* or traditional martial arts from 9:30 am and 12 noon, *Mai-bayashi* or *Noh* dance with traditional music from 1 pm, *Shishi-mai* Lion Dance from 2 pm, and *Taiko* drumming from 2:30 pm, (2) on the 2nd; *Koto* or Japanese zither with thirteen strings from 1 pm, and *Shamisen* or three-stringed Japanese banjos from 3 pm, (3) on the 3rd; *Yumi-hajime* or the first practice of the year demonstrated by *Ogasawara-ryu* school of Japanese archery from 10 am, Japanese dance from 12 noon, *Ohayashi* traditional Japanese music from 2 pm, and (4) on the 4th and the 5th; Japanese dance from around 1 pm on both days.

Access :The Tozai Line, Hanzomon Line or Toei Shinjuku Subway Line to Kudanshita Sta. (T 07, Z 06, S 05)

Note : *The exhibition of swords is held from 9 am to 5 pm at Yushu-kan Museum from the 1st to the 16th. Admission is free.*

千代田区九段 靖国神社

「靖国神社年頭行事」

最寄駅: 東西線、半蔵門線又は都営新宿線九段下駅

◇ Jan.1

Tokyo Tower Hatsuhi-no-de or "The first sunrise of the year" event to celebrate New Year's Day on the Special Observatory (250 meters height) of Tokyo Tower starts from 6 am on Jan. 1st., 2011. As the number of people is limited to 80 persons, numbered tickets are distributed from 4 am on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee is ¥1,420. However, the number of people to the Main Observatory (150 meters height) which is also open from 6 am is not limited. Fee is ¥820.

Access :7 min. walk from Kamiyacho Sta. (H 05) on the Hibiya Subway Line or Onarimon Sta. (I 06) on the Toei Mita Subway Line.

港区芝公園

「東京タワー”初日の出”」

最寄駅: 日比谷線神谷駅及び三田線御成門駅より徒歩7分

◇ ◎ Jan.2

Kokyo Ippan Sanga, New Year's Congratulatory Visit to the **Imperial Palace**, Chiyoda-ku, by people who are allowed to pass Nijubashi Bridge on this special occasion. The Imperial Family are scheduled to appear on the balcony to respond to the homage of people five times from around 10:10 am to 2:20 pm. The entrance gate is open from 9:30 am to 2:10 pm.

Access :(1)The Chiyoda Subway Line to Nijubashi-mae Sta. (C 10)
(2)The Hibiya, Chiyoda or Toei Mita Subway Line to Hibiya Sta. (H 07, C 09, I 08)
(3)The Yurakucho Subway Line to Sakuradamon Sta. (Y 17)

Note : *Appearances: 10:10, 11:00, 11:50, 13:30, 14:20*

千代田区 皇居

「皇居一般参賀」

最寄駅: (1)千代田線二重橋前駅

(2)日比谷線、千代田線又は都営三田線日比谷駅

(3)有楽町線桜田門駅

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.2

Shin-nen Tako-age Taikai, the New Year's kite-flying festival is held at Arakawa Todabashi Ryokuchi (recreation grounds) in Itabashi-ku, from 10 am to around 2 pm.

Access : The Toei Mita Subway Line to Takashimadaira Sta. (I 25), and then walk 20 min.

板橋区荒川戸田橋緑地
「新年凧揚げ大会」

最寄駅: 都営三田線高島平駅より徒歩20分

◇ Jan.2 & Jan.3

Haijima Daishi Daruma Ichi, a fair of Dharma dolls at Haijima Daishi Temple, Akishima, on the outskirts of Tokyo. About 600 open-air stalls selling *Daruma* dolls of all types and sizes and others are set up in the temple precincts and along the approach to the temple from around 9 am to 4 pm on both days.

Access : (1)The JR Chuo Line to Tachikawa Sta. (North Exit), and then take a bus to Haijima Daishi-mae Bus Stop.
(2)The JR Ome Line to Akishima Sta. (South Exit), and then walk 20 min.
(3)The JR Ome Line to Haijima Sta., and then take a bus to Haijima Daishi-mae Bus Stop.

昭島市 拝島大師
「拝島大師だるま市」

最寄駅: (1)JR中央線立川駅(北口)よりバスで拝島大師前下車
(2)JR青梅線昭島駅(南口)より徒歩20分
(3)JR青梅線拝島駅よりバスで拝島大師前下車

◇ Jan.2 & Jan.3

Hoyojutsu Jitsuen, a demonstration of Japanese traditional falconry is held at Hamarikyū Garden, Chuo-ku, from 11 am & 2 pm on both days. Admission to the park is ¥300.

Access : Walk 15 min. from Shimbashi Sta. on the JR Yamanote Line, or walk 7 min. from Shiodome Sta. (E 19) on the Toei Oedo Subway Line.

中央区 浜離宮公園
「放鷹術実演」

最寄駅: JR山手線新橋駅より徒歩15分、又は地下鉄大江戸線汐留駅より徒歩7分

◇ Jan.4

Togenuki-jizoson Hatsu Ennichi, the first fair of the year at Togenuki Jizo or Koganji Temple, Toshima-ku, is held from 6 am to around 10 pm. The fair is also scheduled on the 4th, 14th & 24th of every month.

Access : The JR Yamanote Line or the Toei Mita Subway Line to Sugamo Sta. (I 15), and then walk 5 min.

豊島区 とげぬき地蔵(高岩寺)
「とげぬき地蔵尊初縁日」

最寄駅: JR山手線又は都営三田線巣鴨駅より徒歩5分

◇ Jan.5

Hatsu Suitengu, the first fair of the year at Suitengu Shrine, Chuo-ku, is held from around 8 am to 5 pm.

Access : (1)The Hanzomon Subway Line to Suitengu-mae Sta. (Z 10), and then walk 1 min.
(2)The Hibiya or Toei Asakusa Subway Line to Ningyochō Sta. (H 13, A 14), and then walk 5 min.

中央区日本橋蛸殻町 水天宮
「初水天宮」

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

◇ ◎ Jan.6

Dezome-shiki, the new year's event presented by the Tokyo Metropolitan Fire Brigade at the Higashi parking lot of Tokyo Big Sight, Koto-ku. A mass display of the high-tech fire-fighting equipments is held, and a thrilling acrobatics is demonstrated by *Hikeshi*, fire fighters of Edo Firemanship Preservation Association Incorporation, from 9:45 am to around 11:50 am.

Access : (1)The Yurikamome Line originating at Shimbashi Sta. to Kokusai-Tenjijō-Seimon Sta.
(2)The Tokyo Rinkai Kosoku Railway Rinkai Line originating at Shin-Kiba Sta. to Kokusai-Tenjijō Sta.

Note : *Edo is the former name of Tokyo.*

江東区 東京ビッグサイト東駐車場
「出初式」

最寄駅: (1)新橋駅よりゆりかもめで国際展示場正門駅
(2)新木場駅より東京臨海高速鉄道りんかい線で国際展示場駅

Jan.6

Yokozuna Dezuiri, the ring-entering ceremony of Sumo is demonstrated by the Yokozuna grand champion in front of the main hall of Meiji Shrine, Shibuya-ku, from around 3 pm.

Access : (1)The JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku Sta.
(2)The Chiyoda or Fukutoshin Subway Line to Meiji-Jingumae Sta. (C 03, F 15)

渋谷区明治神宮
「横綱手数入り」

最寄駅: (1)JR山手線原宿駅
(2)千代田線又は副都心線明治神宮前駅

◇ Jan.8

Tondo-yaki, a ritualistic bonfire of New Year's decorations at Torigoe Shrine, Taito-ku, starts from 1 pm and lasts for about one or two hours.

Access : (1)The Toei Asakusa Subway Line or Oedo Line to Kuramae Sta. (A 17, E 11), and then walk 5 min.
(2)The JR Sobu Line or the Toei Asakusa Subway Line to Asakusabashi Sta. (A 16), and then walk 7 min.

台東区鳥越鳥越神社
「とんど焼」

最寄駅: (1)都営浅草線又は大江戸線蔵前駅より徒歩5分
(2)JR総武線又は都営浅草線浅草橋駅より徒歩7分

Calendar Events

to be enjoyed in January 2011

Jan.9

Kodokan Kagami-biraki-shiki, a cutting of large round rice-cakes for New Year's ceremony on the first training session day of the New Year at Kodokan (*Judo Hall*), Bunkyo-ku. Practice sessions are demonstrated from 10 am to 11 am. After that, *Shiruko*, sweet red-bean soup with small pieces of rice-cakes offered to the gods, is served to visitors from around 11:20 am to around 12 noon.

Access : (1)The Toei Mita or Oedo Subway Line to Kasuga Sta. (I 12, E 07), and then walk 2 min.
(2)The Marunouchi or Namboku Subway Line to Korakuen Sta. (M 22, N 11), and then walk 5 min.

文京区 講道館
「講道館鏡開き式」

最寄駅: (1)都営三田線又は大江戸線春日駅より徒歩2分
(2)丸ノ内線又は南北線後楽園駅より徒歩5分

Jan.9

Kanchu Suiyoku (midwinter bathing), a purification ceremony at Teppozu Inari Shrine, Chuo-ku. Men wearing only loincloths are purified first by priest's prayer, and then again when they enter into the icy water in a big tank on the grounds of the Shrine, from around 11 am to 11:30 am.

Access : (1)The JR Keiyo Line or the Hibiya Subway Line to Hatchobori Sta. (H 11), and then walk 7 min.
(2)The Yurakucho Subway Line to Shintomicho Sta (Y 20).

中央区 鉄砲州稲荷神社
「寒中水浴(みそぎ)」

最寄駅: (1)日比谷線又はJR京葉線八丁堀駅より徒歩7分
(2)有楽町線新富町駅

◎ Jan.9~ Jan.23

O-Zumo Hatsu Bashi or the first Grand Sumo Tournament of the year at Ryogoku Kokugikan Hall, Sumida-ku. *Dohyo-iri* or the ring-entering ceremony takes place around 4 pm daily except for the very last day of the tournament on which *Dohyo-iri* starts around 3 pm or 3:30 pm. Main bouts by the upper-rank or *Maku-uchi Sumo* wrestlers start after that. Advance tickets might be sold out before the tournament starts, but unreserved-seat tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Kokugikan Hall every day during the tournament period. The number of unreserved seat tickets is limited to about 400 daily.

Access : The JR Sobu Line or the Toei Oedo Subway Line to Ryogoku Sta. (E 12)

墨田区 両国国技館
「大相撲初場所」

最寄駅: JR総武線又は都営地下鉄大江戸線両国駅

◇ Jan.10

Hatsu Konpira, the first fair of the year at Kotohiragu Shrine, Minato-ku. *Satokagura*, sacred dance with music is performed at Kaguraden a few times between 10 am and 4 pm. A parade of *Shichifukujin*, the seven Gods of Good Fortune, is held on Sando Street from 11 am and 2 pm. The open-air stalls are set up in the precincts from the morning to around 6 pm.

Access : The Subway Ginza Line to Toranomon Sta. (G 07)

港区虎ノ門金刀比羅宮
「初金刀比羅」
最寄駅: 銀座線虎ノ門駅

Jan.10

Momote-shiki, an archery ritual to commemorate *Seijin-no-hi* or Coming-of-Age Day in the precincts of Meiji Shrine, Shibuya-ku. The ceremony is held in front of Homotsuden (treasure house) from around 12:30 pm to 2 pm.

Access : (1)The JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku Sta.
(2)The Chiyoda or Fukutoshin Subway Line to Meiji-Jingumae Sta. (C 03, F 15)

渋谷区 明治神宮
「成人式祝賀百々手式」
最寄駅: (1)JR山手線原宿駅
(2)千代田線明治神宮前駅

◎ Jan.10

Kagami-biraki, a cutting of large round rice-cakes for New Year's ceremony on the first training session day of the New Year at Nippon Budokan Hall, Kitanomaru Park, Chiyoda-ku. The opening ceremony starts from 12 noon, and a demonstration of *Budo*, various martial arts are held from 1 pm. And then, *Shiruko*, sweet red-bean soup with small pieces of rice-cakes offered to the gods, is served to 2,000 visitors from 3:15 pm to around 4 pm.

Access : The Tozai, Hanzomon or Toei Shinjuku Subway Line to Kudanshita Sta. (T 07, Z 06, S 05)

千代田区 日本武道館
「鏡開き式/武道始め」
最寄駅: 東西線、半蔵門線又は都営新宿線九段下駅

◇ Jan.12

Ome Daruma Ichi, a fair of *Dharma* dolls along Ome-Kaido Avenue, Ome, on the outskirts of Tokyo, is held from 1:30 pm to 7 pm. Hundreds of open-air stalls selling *Daruma* (*Dharma* dolls), foods, potted plants and the like are set up along the streets.

Access : The JR Ome Line to Ome Sta.

青梅市 青梅街道
「青梅だるま市」
最寄駅: JR青梅線青梅駅

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.12

Manaita-biraki ritual is held at Ho'onji Temple, Taito-ku. The head master of *Shijo-ryu* school of Japanese culinary arts, dressed in traditional attire demonstrates the art of skillfully slicing a large carp on the chopping board, only using a knife and chopsticks, not even touching the fish with his hands, from around 10 am to 12 noon.

Access : The Subway Ginza Subway Line to Inaricho Sta. (G 17), and then walk 5 min.

台東区 報恩寺

「 俎(まないた)開き 」

最寄駅: 銀座線稲荷町駅より徒歩5分

◇ Jan.12~ Jan.18

Onza Hiho Daranie or **Moja Okuri**, the Buddhist rite at Sensoji Temple, Taito-ku. On the 18th, Two devils, symbolizing pestilence and evil spirits, with burning torches, emerge from the darkness at around 5 pm and run around in the compound of the temple for about 15 minutes, and then disappear into the darkness. It is believed that those who are showered by the sparks of the burning torches are assured of good health throughout the year.

Access : The Ginza or Toei Asakusa Subway Line to Asakusa Sta. (G 19, A 18)

台東区 浅草寺

「 温座秘法陀羅尼会 / 亡者送り 」

最寄駅: 銀座線又は都営浅草線浅草駅

◇ Jan.13

Obisha-sai, an archery ritual at Kuzukaya Goryo Shrine, Shinjuku-ku, is scheduled from 10 am to 11 am.

Access : The Seibu Shinjuku Line to Arai Yakushi-mae Sta. (North Exit), and then walk 10 min.

新宿区 葛谷御霊神社

「 御備射祭 」

最寄駅: 西武新宿線新井薬師前駅(北口)より徒歩10分

Jan.14

Kagura-hajime at the main hall of Kanda Myojin Shrine, Chiyoda-ku. *Dai-dai Kagura*, *Shinto* dance with music of drums, flutes and other musical instruments is performed from 3 pm to 4 pm.

Access : The JR Chuo, Sobu Line or the Marunouchi Subway Line to Ochanomizu Sta. (M 20), and then walk 5 min.

千代田区神田明神

「 神楽はじめ 」

最寄駅: JR中央線、総武線又は丸ノ内線お茶ノ水駅より徒歩5分

Jan.15 & Jan.16

Daikoku Matsuri Festival at Kanda Myojin Shrine, Chiyoda-ku. On the 15th, a purification ceremony, in which people newly coming of age pour icy water out of wooden buckets over themselves, takes place from 10 am. On the 16th, *Hocho-shiki* ritual is conducted by *Shijo-ryu* school of Japanese culinary arts to demonstrate the technique or the art of using a Japanese knife from 12 noon to around 1 pm, in which the head master of *Shijo-ryu* school dressed in traditional attire skillfully slices a large carp on the chopping board, only by using a knife and chopsticks. He does not touch the fish with his hands at all. *Masakado-daiko*, a demonstration of drum beating, and *Kanda-bayashi*, festival music, are performed continually in the precincts on both days.

Access : The JR Chuo Line, Sobu Line or the Marunouchi Subway Line to Ochanomizu Sta. (M 20), and then walk 5 min.

千代田区 神田明神

「 だいこく祭 」

最寄駅: JR中央線、総武線又は丸ノ内線お茶ノ水駅より徒歩5分

◇ ◎ Jan.15 & Jan.16

Setagaya Boro (Rag) **Ichi** or Flea Market on Boro Ichi-dori Street, Setagaya-ku, features many open-air stalls selling foods, clothes, potted plants, antiques and the like from 9 am to 9 pm on both days.

Access : (1) Take a bus for Kamimachi or Seijo-Gakuen from Shibuya Sta. (South Exit), and then get off at Kamimachi Bus Stop.

(2) The Tokyu Setagaya Line to Setagaya Sta. or Kamimachi Sta.

世田谷区 ボロ市通り

「 世田谷ボロ市 」

最寄駅: (1) 渋谷駅南口より上町又は成城学園行バスで上町下車
(2) 東急世田谷線世田谷駅又は上町駅

Jan.16

Mochitsuki-kai, a meeting of rice-cake pounding in the precincts of Daita Hachiman Shrine, Setagaya-ku, is held from around 1 pm to around 4 pm.

Access : The Odakyu Line to Setagaya-Daita Sta., and then walk 5-6 min.

世田谷区代田八幡神社

「 もちつき会 」

最寄駅: 小田急線世田谷代田駅より徒歩5-6分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

Jan.16 & Jan.17

Zenkoku Kori Chokoku-ten, an exhibition of ice sculptures is held along the approach to Meiji Shrine, Shibuya-ku from 6:40 am to 4:20 pm on both days. About 40 ice sculptures are created by the members of the All Japan Ice Sculpture Association.

Access : (1)The JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku Sta.
(2)The Chiyoda or Fukutoshin Subway Line to Meiji-Jingumae Sta. (C 03, F 15)

渋谷区 明治神宮本殿～二の鳥居
「全国氷彫刻展」

最寄駅: (1)JR山手線原宿駅
(2)千代田線明治神宮前駅

◇ Jan.21

Hatsu Daishi, the first fair of the year is held at Nishi-Arai Daishi Temple, Adachi-ku. About 300 open-air stalls sell *Daruma* dolls, sweets, clothes and the like in the precincts of the temple and its vicinities from around 9 am to around 6 pm.

Access :The Tobu Isezaki Line to Nishi-Arai Sta., and then take the Tobu Daishi Line to Daishi-mae Sta.

足立区 西新井大師
「初大師」

最寄駅: 東武伊勢崎線西新井駅より、東武大師線で大師前駅下車

◇ Jan.24

Togenuki Jizo Taisai or Grand Festival of Togenuki Jizo (Koganji Temple), Toshima-ku. About 200 street stalls selling sweets, clothes and the like are set up in the compound of the temple and its vicinities from around 8 am to sunset.

Access :The JR Yamanote Line or the Toei Mita Subway Line to Sugamo Sta. (I 15), and then walk 5 min.

豊島区 とげぬき地蔵(高岩寺)
「とげぬき地蔵大祭」

最寄駅: JR山手線又は都営三田線巣鴨駅より徒歩5分

◇ Jan.24 & Jan.25

Usokae, the bullfinch exchange ritual of Kameido Tenjin Shrine, Koto-ku, is held from 8:30 am on both days. People exchange old carved wooden bullfinches for new ones. Bullfinches, which are called "*Uso*" in Japanese, are regarded as symbols of good luck. On the 25th, *Hatsu Tenjin*, the first fair of the year is scheduled, and *Okagura*, *Shinto* dance with music is performed from 9 am in the precincts of the Shrine.

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

江東区 亀戸天神
「鶯替神事」

最寄駅: JR総武線亀戸駅より徒歩15分

◇ Jan.28

Daruma Ichi, a fair of *Dharma* dolls at Takahata Fudson Temple, Hino, on the outskirts of Tokyo. Hundreds of stalls are set up from around 7 am to sunset, selling *Daruma* dolls which attract many people seeking good luck in the year ahead. *Chigo-Gyoretsu*, a parade of children in fancy attire is scheduled in the precincts from around 1:30 pm to 2 pm.

Access :The Keio Line to Takahata Fudo Sta.

日野市 高幡不動尊
「初不動大祭(だるま市)」

最寄駅: 京王線高幡不動駅

Jan.28 ~ Jan.30

Shimokita Tengu Matsuri or Long Red-nosed Goblins Festival is held at Shinryuji Temple, and on & around the shopping streets of Shimokitazawa, Setagaya-ku. On the 29th, *Mamemaki*, bean-throwing ceremonies are held from 12 noon to 2 pm with about 200 children participating on the streets near North Exit of Shimokitazawa Sta. A parade of *Tengu*, men with long red-nosed masks, starts from Shinryuji Temple at 2 pm, goes through the shopping streets throwing beans and comes back to the temple, where *Mamemaki* is held in the compound from 4 pm .

Access :The Odakyu Line or the Keio Inokashira Line to Shimokitazawa Sta.

世田谷区 真龍寺 下北沢商店街
「しもきた天狗まつり」

最寄駅: 小田急線又は京王井の頭線下北沢駅

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

Jan.30~ Mar.21

Tsubaki Matsuri or Camellia Festival on Oshima Island. Various species of camellia are usually in bloom during the festival period on this island. On Jan. 30th, an opening ceremony starts at 9 am, and a parade of *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) goes around the town hall from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. On Feb. 12th, a beauty contest for Miss Camellia starts from 10 am. A demonstration of folk dance and *Taiko* drumming is held in the waiting room of Motomachi Port from 7:30 pm to 9 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays from Feb. 11th to Mar. 21st, and daily from Feb. 25th to Mar. 13th.

Access :(1) 8 hrs. by Tokai Kisen ferryboat or 1 hr. 45 min. by hydrofoil boat from Takeshiba Pier to Oshima Island. (The Yurikamome Line from Shimbashi Sta. to Takeshiba Sta., and then walk 1 min. to the pier, or the JR Yamanote Line to Hamamatsucho Sta., and then walk 7 min. to the pier.)
(2) 30 min. by air from Tokyo (Haneda Airport) to Oshima Island.

大島

「椿まつり」

最寄駅: (1)竹芝棧橋よりフェリー(東海汽船)で8時間、又は高速船で1時間45分、大島下船(竹芝棧橋へは、ゆりかもめ新橋駅から竹芝駅下車徒歩1分、又はJR山手線浜松町駅下車徒歩7分)
(2)東京(羽田空港)より飛行機で大島まで30分

B. KANTO 関東

◇ Jan.3

Hatsu Daishi, the first fair of the year, or **Daruma Ichi**, *Dharma* dolls fair at Kawagoe Daishi Temple, Kawagoe, Saitama Pref. Many open-air stalls selling *Daruma* dolls are set up in and around the temple until dark.

Access :(1)The Seibu Shinjuku Line to Hon-Kawagoe Sta., and then walk 15 min.
(2)The Tobu Tojo Line to Kawagoeshi Sta., and then walk 20 min.
(3)The JR Saikyo Line to Kawagoe Sta., and then walk 25 min.

埼玉県川越市 川越大師

「初大師(だるま市)」

最寄駅: (1)西武新宿線本川越駅より徒歩15分
(2)東武東上線川越市駅より徒歩20分
(3)JR埼京線川越駅より徒歩25分

◇ Jan.5

Joma-Shinji, an archery ritual at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, Kamakura, Kanagawa Pref. The ceremony is conducted from around 10 am to 11 am by the members of Ogasawara-ryu school of Japanese archery in traditional attires. They shoot arrows at a target of 156 centimeters in diameter set in the precincts.

Access :The JR Yokosuka Line to Kamakura Sta., and then walk 10 min.

神奈川県鎌倉市 鶴岡八幡宮

「除魔神事」

最寄駅: JR横須賀線鎌倉駅より徒歩10分

◇ Jan.6 & Jan.7

Shorinzan Daruma Ichi, the first fair of *Dharma* dolls at Shorinzan Darumaji Temple, Takasaki, Gunma Pref., is held from around 12 noon on the 6th, throughout the night and until around 2 pm on the 7th. This fair is one of the biggest of its kind in Tokyo & its vicinities.

Access :The JR Joetsu Shinkansen Line to Takasaki Sta.(West Exit). From there, 30 min. by "Gururin" Bus for Shorinzan, and then get off at Shorinzan-iriguchi Bus Stop.

群馬県高崎市 少林山達磨寺

「少林山だるま市」

最寄駅: JR上越新幹線高崎駅(西口)より"ぐるりん"バス少林山行きで30分、少林山入り口下車

Jan.9

Mochitsuki Odori, a demonstration of dance of pounding rice-cake, which has a history of over 200 years, at Saifukuji Temple, Kawagoe, Saitama Pref. is held four times from around 12:30 pm to around 2:30 pm in the compound of the temple.

Access :The Seibu Shinjuku Line to Minami-Otsuka Sta., and then walk 7-8 min.

埼玉県川越市 西福寺

「餅つきおどり」

最寄駅: 西武新宿線南大塚駅より徒歩7~8分

◇ Jan.9

Maebashi Hatsu-ichi, the first fair of *Dharma* dolls, along Honmachi-dori Street in Maebashi, Gunma Pref., 2 hrs. by train from Ueno Sta., is held from around 10 am to 10 pm. A parade of *Mikoshi* (a portable shrine) followed by many people dressed as *Shishi* lions & *Tengu* goblins, starts from Hachimangu Shrine at 10:30 am, heading for Karimiya, resting place, to arrive there around 11:30 am.

Access :The JR Joetsu Shinkansen to Takasaki Sta. From there, take the JR Ryomo Line to Maebashi Sta. (North Exit), and then walk 20 min.

群馬県前橋市 本町通り 八幡宮

「前橋初市」

最寄駅: JR上越新幹線高崎駅より両毛線に乗り換えて前橋駅下車、北口より徒歩20分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.14

Tori-oi Matsuri Festival at Nakanojo-machi, Agatsuma-gun, Gunma Pref. This festival has a 400-year history. People beat drums in order to drive away harmful birds for a good harvest of the new year. Ten floats march through the town from around 10 am to 8:20 pm, accompanied by young people dressed in festival attire beating the drums placed on the floats.

Access : 54 min. by the JR Agatsuma Line from Takasaki Sta. to Nakanojo Sta.

群馬県吾妻郡中之条町
「鳥追いまつり」

最寄駅: JR高崎駅よりJR吾妻線で54分、中之条駅下車

◇ Jan.15

Chakkirako, local dance at Kainan Shrine, Misaki, Kanagawa Pref. Chakkirako is designated as one of National Important Intangible Cultural Properties. It is performed in the precincts of the Shrine from around 10 am to around 11:30 am by girls dressed in traditional costumes with fans in their hands, and on the main streets in the city from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Access : The Keihin Kyuko Line to Misaki-guchi Sta. From there, 20 min. by bus for Misaki-ko, and then get off at Misaki-ko Bus Stop (terminal).

神奈川県三浦市 海南神社
「チャッキラコ」

最寄駅: 京浜急行三崎口より三崎港行きバスで20分、三崎港(終点)下車

◇ Jan.15

Otariya Festival of Futaarayama Shrine, Utsunomiya, Tochigi Pref., features a performance of *Dengaku-mai*, *Shinto* dance with music from around 5 pm to 5:30 pm in the precincts of the Shrine. *Mikoshi* (a portable shrine) goes through the city from 5:30 pm to 7 pm.

Access : (1) 5 min. by bus from JR Utsunomiya Sta. to Futaarayama Jinja-mae Bus Stop.
(2) Tobu Utsunomiya Sta., and then walk 10 min.

栃木県宇都宮市 二荒山神社
「春渡祭(おたりや)」

最寄駅: (1) JR宇都宮駅よりバスで5分、馬場町二荒山神社下車
(2) 東武宇都宮駅より徒歩10分

◇ Jan.20

Yukake Matsuri Festival at Kawarayu Onsen, Naganohara-machi, Agatsuma-gun, Gunma Pref. Young men wearing only loincloths splash one another with hot spring water from 5 am to around 7 pm.

Access : The JR Agatsuma Line to Kawarayu Onsen Sta., and then walk 15 min.

群馬県吾妻郡長野原町川原湯
「湯かけまつり」

最寄駅: JR吾妻線川原湯温泉駅より徒歩15分

◇ Jan.21

Hatsu Daishi, the first fair of the year at Kawasaki Daishi Temple, Kawasaki, Kanagawa Pref. Open-air stalls selling *Daruma* dolls or *Dharma* dolls for good luck are set up from 10 am to around 6 pm.

Access : The Keihin Kyuko Line to Keikyu Kawasaki Sta. From there, the Keihin Kyuko Daishi Line to Kawasaki Daishi Sta.

神奈川県川崎市 川崎大師
「初大師」

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

H. Closing dates for the New Year's holidays 年末年始休館日

The following **Museums** are closed during the period mentioned below in () for the New Year's holidays:

TOKYO

Tokyo National Museum (12/27-1/1)
National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (12/27-1/1)
& Craft Gallery (12/27-1/1)
Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (12/29-1/1)
National Museum of Western Art (12/27-1/1)
Edo-Tokyo Museum (12/27-1/1)
Idemitsu Museum of Art (12/24-1/7)
Yamatane Museum of Art (12/27-1/7)
Suntory Museum of Art (12/20-1/7)
Okura Shukokan Museum (12/20-1/1)
Japan Folk Crafts Museum (12/24-1/8)
Paper Museum (12/27-1/4)
Japanese Sword Museum (12/20-1/4)
Bridgestone Museum of Art (12/24-1/3)
National Museum Nature and Science (12/27-1/1)
Museum of Maritime Science (12/27-1/3)
Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum (12/28-1/3)
National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (12/28-1/1)

Access :

「東京都内の博物館の年末年始休館日」
最寄駅:

The following **Gardens** and **Amusement parks** are closed during the period mentioned below in () for the New Year's holidays:

TOKYO

Higashi Gyoen (Imperial Palace East Garden) (12/28-1/3)
Koishikawa Korakuen Garden (12/29-1/1)
Kiyosumi Teien Garden (12/29-1/3)
Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden (12/29-1/3)
Rikugien Garden (12/29-1/1)
Hamarikyū Onshi Teien (Hama Detached Palace Garden) (12/29-1/1)
Ueno Zoo (12/29-1/1)
Tama Zoo (12/29-1/1)

Access :

「東京都内の庭園・遊園地の年末年始休館日」
最寄駅:

Notes:

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2. Dates and functions are subject to change without notice. Be sure to check the latest information in advance.
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 Tourism Organization is available at <<http://www.jnto.go.jp>>.

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011



C. HOKKAIDO & TOHOKU 北海道・東北

◇ Dec.29~Feb.28

Zao Juhyo Light-up at Zao Onsen Ski Ground, Zao Onsen, Yamagata, Yamagata Pref., features lighting up *Juhyo*, trees covered with frost, along the Zao Ropeway Sancho Line and around Jizo Sancho Sta., from 5 pm to 9 pm daily from Dec. 29th to Jan. 3rd, from 8th to 10th & from 15th to 17th in January, and daily from Jan. 22nd to Feb. 28th.

Access: The JR Ou Line or JR Yamagata Shinkansen Line to Yamagata Sta. From there, 45 min. by bus to Zao Onsen Bus Stop.

山形県山形市 蔵王温泉
「蔵王樹氷ライトアップ」

最寄駅: JR奥羽線又はJR山形新幹線山形駅より、バスで45分、蔵王温泉下車

◇ Jan.2

Dainichido Bugaku, an ancient court dance with music at O-hirumenomuchi Shrine, Kazuno, Akita Pref. This *Bugaku* with a 1,300-year history, designated as one of National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, is dedicated to the Shrine from around 8 am to 12 noon.

Access: The JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line to Morioka Sta. From there, the IGR Iwate Ginga Tetsudo Line and the JR Hanawa Line to Hachimantai Sta., and then walk 2 min.

秋田県鹿角市八幡平 大日霊貴神社
「大日堂舞楽」

最寄駅: JR東北新幹線盛岡駅よりIGRいわて銀河鉄道とJR花輪線で八幡平駅下車、徒歩2分

◇ Jan.7

Nanokado Hadaka-mairi, shrine homage paid by loin-clothed youths at Kikkodo Hall of Enzoji Temple, Yanaizu-machi, Kawanuma-gun, Fukushima Pref. At a stroke of the bell, hundreds of loin-clothed youths vie with one another in scrambling up a five-meter-long rope suspended from the gong which is hung from the ceiling from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Access: The JR Tadami Line from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta. to Aizu-Yanaizu Sta., and then walk 10 min.

福島県河沼郡柳津町 円蔵寺菊光堂
「七日堂裸まいり」

最寄駅: 会津若松駅よりJR只見線で会津柳津駅下車、徒歩10分

◇ Jan.14 Jan.15&Jan.26

Hadaka-mairi, shrine homage paid by partly attired youths, Morioka, Iwate Pref., is scheduled from around 4:30 pm, (1) at Kyojoji Temple on the 14th, (2) at Morioka Hachimangu Shrine on the 15th, and (3) at Sakurayama Shrine on the 26th.

Access: (1)Kyojoji Temple: The JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line to Morioka Sta. From there by bus to Morioka Shikaku-shien Gakko-mae Bus Stop, and then walk 5 min.

(2)Morioka Hachimangu Shrine: About 15 min. by bus bound for Chabatake from JR Morioka Sta., and then get off at Morioka Hachimangu-mae Bus Stop.

(3)Sakurayama Shrine: Walk about 15 min. from JR Morioka Sta., or by bus to Morioka Joshi Koen-mae Bus Stop.

岩手県盛岡市 教浄寺、盛岡八幡宮、桜山神社
「裸参り」

最寄駅: (1)教浄寺: JR盛岡駅よりバスで盛岡視覚支援学校前下車、徒歩5分

(2)盛岡八幡宮: 盛岡駅より茶畑行きバスで約15分で八幡宮前下車

(3)桜山神社: 盛岡駅より徒歩15分、又はバスで盛岡城址公園前下車

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.14

Matsutaki Matsuri or **Donto-sai**, Bonfire Festival to conclude New Year's season, at Osaki Hachimangu Shrine, Sendai, Miyagi Pref. New Year's decorations are burnt in holy fire in prayer for prosperity and good health from 4 pm. The similar festivals of this kind are usually held around Jan. 14 at many other shrines throughout Japan.

Access : The JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line to Sendai Sta.
From there, take a municipal bus No. 10 or No. 15 to
Osaki Hachimangu-mae Bus Stop.

宮城県仙台市 大崎八幡宮

「松焚祭/どんと祭」

最寄駅: JR東北新幹線仙台駅前No.10又はNo.15乗場より市営バスで25分、大崎八幡宮前下車

◇ Jan.16

Hadaka-mairi, shrine homage paid by half-naked youths, at Shinzan Shrine, Yurihonjo, Akita Pref. Local young men who carry the offering on their shoulders, jostle each other through the town to the Shrine from around 10 am to 11 am.

Access : The JR Uetsu Line to Ugo-Honjo Sta. From there, by bus to Sangencho Bus Stop, and then walk 25 min. to the Shrine. (It takes about 3 hrs. by JR Limited Express "Inaho" from Niigata to Ugo-Honjo Sta.)

秋田県由利本荘市 新山神社

「裸まいり」

最寄駅: JR羽越線羽後本荘駅よりバスで三軒町停留所下車、徒歩25分で新山神社(新潟より羽後本荘駅までJR特急"いなほ"で約3時間)

◇ Jan.17

Bonten Matsuri Festival at Miyoshi Shrine, Akita, Akita Pref. *Bonten*, sacred bamboo baskets covered with brightly colored cloth and streamers, are carried by villagers to the Shrine. The highlight will be from around 10:30 am to 12 noon, when about 80 groups of local young men carrying their own Bonten, compete with one another to be the first in dedicating their own Bonten to the Shrine.

Access : (1)The JR Akita Shinkansen or Ou Line to Akita Sta., and the walk 30 min.
(2)10 min. by bus for Ohira from JR Akita Sta., and then get off at Miyoshi Jinja-Iriguchi Bus Stop.

秋田市 三吉神社

「梵天祭」

最寄駅: (1)JR秋田新幹線、奥羽本線 秋田駅より徒歩30分
(2)JR秋田駅より大平行バスで10分、三吉神社入口下車

◇ Jan.20

Hatsuka-ya-sai, a night festival at Motsuji Temple, Hiraizumi-machi, Nishi-Iwai-gun, Iwate Pref. A parade of worshippers with torchlights in their hands starts from Hiraizumi Sta. at 7 pm heading for Motsuji Temple, where *Ennen-no-mai*, an ancient dance with music for longevity, designated as one of National Important

Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, is performed from 9 pm until around 10 midnight.

Access : The JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line to Ichinoseki Sta.
From there, the JR Tohoku Line to Hiraizumi Sta., and then walk 10 min.

岩手県西磐井郡平泉町 毛越寺

「二十日夜祭」

最寄駅: JR東北新幹線一ノ関駅よりJR東北線に乗り換えて平泉駅下車、徒歩10分

◇ Jan.22~Mar.31

Akan-ko Hyojo Festival on the iced Lake Akan, Akan-cho, Kushiro, Hokkaido. Many snow creations are exhibited on the shore, and a fireworks display is held from 8:10 pm to 8:25 pm, daily during the festival period.

Access : 2 hrs. by bus from JR Kushiro Sta. and then get off at Akan Kohan Bus Center.

北海道阿寒郡阿寒町 阿寒湖温泉

「阿寒湖氷上フェスティバル」

最寄駅: JR釧路駅よりバスで約2時間、阿寒湖畔バスセンター下車

◇ Jan.22~Mar.27

Sounkyo Hyobaku Matsuri, Frozen Falls Festival at Sounkyo Gorge, Sounkyo Onsen, Kamikawa-machi, Kamikawa-gun, Hokkaido. The gorge is the largest and deepest one in Hokkaido, extending 12.5 miles. The scene of the gorge suffused with illuminations can be enjoyed from around 4 pm to 10 pm daily during the period. A fireworks display is held from 8:30 pm to 8:40 pm on Jan. 22, 23, 29, 30, Feb. 3, 5, 6, 11-13, 19, 20, 26, 27, Mar. 1-3, 5, 12, 19, 20 & 26.

Access : (1)The JR Hakodate Line to Asahikawa Sta. From there, 1 hr. 50 min. by bus for Sounkyo and then get off at Sounkyo Bus Stop.

(2)The JR Sekihoku Line to Kamikawa Sta. From there, 40 min. by bus for Sounkyo and then get off at Sounkyo Bus Stop.

北海道上川郡上川町 層雲峡温泉

「層雲峡氷瀑まつり」

最寄駅: (1)JR函館線旭川駅より層雲峡行バスで1時間50分、層雲峡下車

(2)JR石北線上川駅より層雲峡行バスで40分、層雲峡下車

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.28~Jan.30

Obihiro Kori Matsuri, Ice Festival at Midorigaoka Koen (park), Obihiro, Hokkaido. Many snow creations and ice sculptures exhibited in the park are lit up from sunset to 8 pm during the period. A fireworks display is scheduled from 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm on the 28th, and from 6 pm to around 6:15 pm on the 29th.

Access : Walk about 15 min. from Obihiro Sta. on the JR Nemuro Line. (Free buses are available from City Hall to the festival site every 30 min. from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm during the festival period. The last bus leaves the festival site at 8:30 pm.)

北海道帯広市 緑ヶ丘公園

「おびひろ氷まつり」

最寄駅: JR根室線帯広駅より徒歩約15分(期間中は市役所より会場への無料バスが9:30amから7:30pmの間、30分毎に運行、会場発最終バスは8:30pm)

◇ Jan.28~Feb.13

Chitose・Shikotsu Hyoto Matsuri, Ice Festival of Lake

Shikotsu, Chitose, Hokkaido. Many ice sculptures exhibited on the shores are lit up from 4:30 pm to 10 pm during the festival period. A fireworks display is scheduled from 6:30 pm to around 6:50 pm on Jan. 29, 30, Feb. 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13 respectively.

Access : 50 min. by bus from Shin-Chitose Airport, and then get off at Shikotsuko Bus Stop.

北海道千歳市 支笏湖温泉

「千歳・支笏湖氷濤まつり」

最寄駅: 新千歳空港よりバスで50分、支笏湖下車

D. CHUBU 中部

◇ Jan.6

Muika Matsuri or **Hana-bai Matsuri** Festival at Nagataki Hakusan Shrine, Shirotori-cho, Gujo, Gifu Pref. The ritual starts from 1 pm, and then *Ennen-no-mai* (ancient dance with music for longevity) designated as one of National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, is dedicated to the Shrine from 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm. *Hana-bai* in which youths scramble for five artificial flowers hung from the ceiling (6 meters in height) of the main hall of the Shrine is scheduled from 2:30 pm to around 3 pm.

Access : The JR Takayama Line to Mino-Ota Sta. From there, the Nagaragawa Railway to Hakusan-Nagataki Sta., and then walk 5 min.

岐阜県郡上市白鳥町 長滝白山神社

「六日祭り(花奪いまつり)」

最寄駅: JR高山線美濃太田駅より長良川鉄道で白山長滝駅下車、徒歩5分

◇ Jan.8~Mar.6

Atami Baien Ume Matsuri, Japanese Apricot Festival at Atami Baien (Japanese apricot garden), Atami, Shizuoka Pref. There are about 450 Japanese apricot trees of 60 species in the garden and they are usually in bloom from the end of January to the end of February. The garden is open from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Admission is ¥300. There are various events such as a performance of *Koto* (Japanese zither with thirteen strings) from 11 am to 12 noon and from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm on Jan. 10th, *Nodate*, an open-air tea ceremony from 10 am to 11 am and from 1 pm to 2 pm on Jan. 16th, a performance of *Koto & Shakuhachi* (Japanese bamboo flute) from 10 am to 3 pm on Feb 11th, and a demonstration of *Waraku Taiko* drumming from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm on Feb. 20th.

Access : (1) The JR Ito Line to Kinomiya Sta., and then walk 10 min.

(2) The JR Tokaido Line or JR Tokaido Shinkansen Line to Atami Sta. From there, 15 min. by bus for Ainohara-Danchi or Baien, and then get off at Baien-mae Bus Stop.

静岡県熱海市 熱海梅園

「熱海梅園梅まつり」

最寄駅: (1)JR伊東線来宮駅より徒歩7~10分

(2)JR東海道新幹線又は東海道線熱海駅より相ノ原団地行バス又は梅園行バスで15分、梅園前下車

◎ Jan.9

Kaga-tobi-no-Dezome-shiki, the annual New Year's demonstration of the first exercise of Kanazawa City Fire Department at the Shin-maru Hiroba grounds in Kanazawajo Koen Park, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Pref. Acrobatic stunts are performed on the tall ladders by firemen in traditional attire from 10 am to 11 am.

Access : The JR Hokuriku Line to Kanazawa Sta. From there, 13 min. by bus to Kenrokuen-shita Bus Stop, and then walk 2 min.

石川県金沢市 金沢城公園

「加賀鳶の出初式」

最寄駅: JR北陸本線金沢駅よりバスで13分、兼六園下で下車、徒歩2分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.14~Jan.15

Niino-no-Yuki-Matsuri, Snow Festival, designated as one of National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, at Izu Shrine, Anan-cho, Shimoina-gun, Nagano Pref., features various performances of local arts throughout the night. On the 14th, *Onobori*, a procession of people in traditional attire, starts from Suwa Shrine at 4 pm heading for Izu Shrine to arrive there at around 6 pm. There, a big torch is prepared from 9 pm, and set fire at 1 am on the 15th. And then, a demonstration of local performing arts is conducted from 1 am to around 8 am continually.

Access : The JR Tokaido Line to Toyohashi Sta., and then take the JR Iida Line to Nukuta Sta. From there, 40 min. by bus for Niino or Urugi, and then get off at Noson-Bunka Densho Center-mae Bus Stop. Chuo Kosoku (Highway) Bus leaving Shinjuku in Tokyo for Iida is also available.

長野県下伊那郡阿南町 諏訪神社 伊豆神社

「新野の雪まつり」

最寄駅: JR東海道線豊橋駅よりJR飯田線で温田(ぬくた)駅まで行き、そこから新野行又は売木行きバスで40分、農村文化伝承センター前下車、新宿から飯田への中央高速バス有り

◇ Jan.15

Doso-jin Matsuri or **Hi Matsuri**, Fire Festival of burning used New Year's decorations at Babanohara in Nozawa Onsen-mura, Shimo-Takaido-gun, Nagano Pref., is held from around 8 pm to 10 pm.

Access : The JR Iiyama Line from JR Nagano Sta. to Togari-Nozawa Onsen Sta. From there, 20 min. by bus to Nozawa Onsen Bus Stop, and then walk 5 min. to Babanohara.

長野県下高井戸郡野沢温泉村 馬場の原

「道祖神まつり(火まつり)」

最寄駅: JR長野駅よりJR飯山線戸狩野沢温泉駅まで行き、そこからバスで20分野沢温泉下車、馬場の原まで徒歩5分

◇ Jan.16

Tsuruga Nishimachi-no-Tsunahiki, a tug of war, Aioi-cho, Tsuruga, Fukui Pref., is held in prayer for a rich harvest on Nishimachi-dori Street from 12 noon to 3 pm. A tug is 25 centimeters in diameter and 50 meters long.

Access : Take a community bus "Matsubara Line" from Tsuruga Sta. on the JR Hokuriku Line, and then get off at Kaguracho Bus Stop.

福井県敦賀市相生町 西町通り

「敦賀西町の綱引き」

最寄駅: JR北陸線敦賀駅よりコミュニティバス「松原線」で神楽町下車

E. KINKI 近畿

◇ Jan.4

Kemari Hajime, the year's first game of Japanese ancient ball-kicking in the precincts of Shimogamo Shrine, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, is held from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. *Kemari* is an elegant ball game played by the nobles in the Heian period (794-1192). The players in ancient costumes make a big circle and gently kick a ball to each other.

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

京都市左京区 下鴨神社

「けまり初め」

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

◇ Jan.8~Jan.12

Toka Ebisu or **Hatsu Ebisu**, the first fete day for *Ebisu*, the god of wealth at Ebisu Shrine, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto. The festival draws a crowd of people, especially of merchants. *Hoekago* palanquins, in which *geisha* (female entertainers) and famous figures sit, are carried through the Shrine's neighborhood from 10 am to around 4 pm on the 7th & the 8th. The stalls are set up in the precincts of the Shrine, and vendors sell bamboo branches, a symbol of good luck, shouting loudly to visitors, "Buy bamboo branches, and your business will prosper!" from the 9th through the 11th.

Access : (1) 15 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 205 or No. 17 from Kyoto Sta. to Shijo-Kawaramachi Bus Stop, and then walk 10 min.

(2) Walk 15 min. from Kawaramachi Sta. on the Hankyu Railway.

京都市東山区 恵美須神社

「十日ゑびす(初ゑびす)」

最寄駅: (1) 京都駅より市バス No. 205、又はNo. 17で15分、河原町松原下車、徒歩10分
(2) 阪急電鉄河原町駅より徒歩15分

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ ◎ Jan.9~Jan.11

Toka Ebisu, the first fete day for Ebisu, the god of wealth at Imamiya Ebisu Shrine, Naniwa-ku, Osaka, is the biggest festival of this kind in scale and feature in the Kansai region. The festival draws a crowd of people, especially of merchants. A procession of *Hoekago* palanquins in which geisha (female entertainers) and famous figures sit, carried by men, goes through the neighborhood of the Shrine from 10 am to 2 pm on the 10th.

Access : (1) Walk 1 min. from Imamiya-Ebisu Sta. on the Nankai Railway.
(2) The Midousuji Subway Line from Umeda Sta. to Daikokucho Sta., and then walk 5 min.

Note : *Kansai refers to an economic and cultural zone consisting of 9 prefectures including Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe.*

大阪市浪速区 今宮戎神社
「十日戎」

最寄駅: (1)南海電鉄今宮戎駅より徒歩1分
(2)梅田駅より地下鉄御堂筋線で大国町駅下車、徒歩5分

◇ Jan.14

Doya-Doya Festival of Shitennoji Temple, Tennoji-ku, Osaka, held from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. Two groups of loin-clothed youths, shouting "Doya-Doya", jostle with each other for a talisman in front of the central pillar of Rokujido Hall. The winning group is believed to be blessed with rich crops for the year.

Access : The Tanimachi Subway Line to Shitennoji-mae Yuhigaoka Sta., and then walk 5 min.

大阪市天王寺区 四天王寺
「どやどや」

最寄駅: 地下鉄谷町線四天王寺前夕陽ヶ丘駅より徒歩5分

◇ Jan.14&Jan.15

Dai-Sagicho-hoe or **Tondo** at Ebaraji Temple, Sakai, Osaka Pref., is held at 2 pm on the 14th, and at 5 pm on the 15th. New Year's decorations are burnt in holy fire in prayer for prosperity and good health. The main statue of *Monju-bosatsu*, the deity of wisdom, which was carved by Gyoki, is specially open to the public on both days. Admission is ¥1,000.

Access : The Midousuji Subway Line to Tennoji Sta. From there, the JR Hanwa Line to Tsukuno Sta., and then walk 15 min.

Note : *Gyoki: a famous Buddhist priest (668-749) and a founder of Ebara Temple*

大阪府堺市 家原寺
「大左義長法会(とんど)」

最寄駅: 地下鉄御堂筋線天王寺駅よりJR阪和線で津久野駅下車、徒歩15分

◎ Jan.16

Toshiya, a traditional archery meet is held under the eaves of the 120-meter-long hall of Sanjusangendo Temple, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto, from 9 am to around 3:30 pm. About 2,000 archers including youths who come of age this year, participate in this event from all over Japan. Admission is free.

Access : 15 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 206 or 208 from Kyoto Sta., and then get off at Sanjusangendo-mae Bus Stop.

京都市東山区 三十三間堂
「通し矢」

最寄駅: 京都駅より市バスNo. 206かNo. 208で15分、三十三間堂前下車

◇ ◎ Jan.21

Hatsu Kobo (the first fair of the year) at Toji Temple, Minami-ku, Kyoto. Many stalls selling used *kimono*, potted plants, secondhand books and the like are set up from around 7 am to around 4 pm.

Access : (1) Walk 15 min. from Kyoto Sta. on the JR Tokaido Line.

(2) Walk 5 min. from Toji Sta. on the Kintetsu Line.

京都市南区 東寺
「初弘法」

最寄駅: (1)京都駅より徒歩15分
(2)近鉄東寺駅より徒歩5分

◎ Jan.22

Wakakusayama-yaki, Grass-burning Festival on Wakakusayama Hill, Nara, Nara Pref., is scheduled for around 6 pm, lasting for about 1-2 hrs. When it rains, it will be postponed to Jan. 29th.

Access : (1) The Kintetsu Nara Line to Kintetsu Nara Sta., and then walk 5 min. to Kofukuji Temple area, which is one of the best areas to see the fire.

(2) By bus from JR Nara Sta. or Kintetsu Nara Sta., to Daibutsu-mae Bus Stop, and then walk 10 min. to Nara Park.

奈良市春日野町 若草山
「若草山焼き」

最寄駅: (1)近鉄奈良駅より徒歩5分の興福寺付近(見物によい場所)
(2)奈良公園へは JR又は近鉄奈良駅よりバスで大仏前下車、徒歩10分

◇ ◎ Jan.25

Hatsu Tenjin, the first fair of the year at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Kamigyō-ku, Kyoto, features street stalls selling used *kimono*, potted plants, food and other items from around 9 am to 5 pm. The fair is as large in scale as the one at Toji Temple on Jan. 21st.

Access : 30 min. by municipal bus (Shibusu) No. 50 or No. 101 from Kyoto Sta., and get off at Kitano Tenmangu-mae Bus Stop.

京都市上京区 北野天満宮
「初天神」

最寄駅: 京都駅より市バスNo. 50又はNo. 101で30分、北野天満宮前下車

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

F. CHUGOKU & SHIKOKU 中国・四国

◇ ◎ Jan.1 Jan.2 Jan.3&Jan.5

Bugaku, ancient court dance with music at Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichishi, Hiroshima Pref. This Bugaku was introduced by Kiyomori Taira, a warlord in the Heian period (794-1192). The Shinto rites precede *Bugaku*, which is performed from 6:30 am to 7 am on the 1st, from 1 pm to 2 pm on the 2nd, from 1 pm to 3 pm on the 3rd, and from 6:30 am to 8 am on the 5th, respectively.

Access : (1) Walk a few min. from Miyajima-guchi Sta. on the JR Sanyo Line to Miyajima-guchi Pier. From there, 10 min. by ferryboat to Miyajima Pier, and then walk 10 min. to the Shrine.
(2) 30 min. by streetcar or bus from Hiroshima Sta. to Hiroshima Ujina Port. From there, 23 min. by hydrofoil to Miyajima Pier.

広島県廿日市市宮島町 厳島神社
「舞楽」

最寄駅: (1) JR山陽線宮島口駅より徒歩2~3分の宮島口桟橋からフェリーで10分、宮島下船、神社まで徒歩10分
(2) 広島駅より市電又はバスで30分の広島宇品港から高速船で23分、宮島下船

G. KYUSHU & OKINAWA 九州 沖縄

◇ ◎ Jan.3

Hakozakigu-no-Tamaseseri, Ball-catching Festival at Hakozakigu Shrine, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Pref., is held from around 1 pm to around 2 pm. Two groups of farmers and fishermen struggle to catch a sacred wooden ball, which is believed to bring a good harvest or a big catch to the winning team for the year.

Access : Walk 10 min. from Hakozaki Sta. on the JR Kagoshima Honsen Line.

福岡市 筥崎宮
「筥崎宮の玉せせり」

最寄駅: JR鹿児島本線箱崎駅より徒歩10分

◇ Jan.7

Usokae (bullfinch exchange) and **Onisube** Festival at Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Dazaifu, Fukuoka Pref. *Usokae*, in which hundreds of people take part in the ritual of exchanging their own bullfinches made of wood for receiving lucky ones in the dark, starts at 7 pm. It is said that the owners of these lucky ones enjoy good luck for the year. *Onisube*, the main event of the festival reaches its climax at around 9 pm. About 300 people play roles of *oni* (devils) and *keigo* (those who fight against devils) in order to drive away the evil spirits, and bring happiness and good fortune for the year.

Access : The Kuko Subway Line from JR Hakata Sta. to Tenjin Sta., and walk 10 min. to Nishitetsu Railway Fukuoka Sta. From there, 25 min. by the Nishitetsu Railway to Dazaifu Sta., and then walk 5 min.

福岡市太宰府市 太宰府天満宮

「うそかえ/鬼すべ」

最寄駅: JR博多駅より地下鉄空港線で天神駅下車、そこから徒歩10分の西鉄福岡駅から、西鉄に乗り換えて25分大宰府駅下車、徒歩5分

◇ Jan.8~Jan.11

Toka Ebisu or Hatsu Ebisu, the first fete day for Ebisu, the god of wealth at Ebisu Shrine, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Pref. The Shrine is thronged with numerous people every day during the period. On the 9th, *Kachimairi*, a procession of geisha (female entertainers) in colorful kimono, is held from Shimin Taiiku-kan (municipal gymnasium) through the main streets to the Shrine from 2:30 pm to around 3 pm.

Access : Walk 10 min. from Yoshizuka Sta. on the JR Kagoshima Honsen Line.

福岡市博多区 十日恵比須神社

「十日恵比須/初えびす」

最寄駅: JR鹿児島本線吉塚駅より徒歩10分

◇ Jan.15~May.5

Okinawa Flower Carnival 2011 is held at many towns and places in Okinawa Pref., from mid-January to early May. Many kinds of semitropical flowers are usually in bloom during the festival period. Cherry blossoms are in bloom usually in the middle of January. A variety of events and entertainments are scheduled for the period.

Access :

沖縄県各地

「沖縄花のカーニバル2011」

最寄駅:

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2011

◇ Jan.16

Matobakai or **Hamayumi-sai** Festival of Shioji Shrine, Nagasu-machi, Tamana-gun, Kumamoto Pref. *Hamayumi Sansha-sai*, shooting three arrows to commence the ceremony, takes place from around 11 am. Japanese drumming is performed from 12:20 pm to 12:50 pm. And then, *Matobakai*, loin-clothed youths scrambling for a round straw mat, 60 cm in diameter and 6 kg in weight, is held first at the Shrine's precincts from 1 pm. The fight for obtaining the mat is continued on Kaigan-dori Street and finally in the water of Ariake Sea until around 3 pm.

Access : Walk 20 min. from Nagasu Sta. on the JR Kagoshima Honsen Line.

熊本県玉名郡長洲町 四王子神社

「的ばかい／破魔弓祭」

最寄駅：JR鹿児島本線長洲駅より徒歩20分

The following **Gardens** and **Amusement Parks** are closed during the period mentioned below in () for the New Year's holidays:

AICHI

Meiji-mura (12/31), (open: 1/3 & 1/10)

KYOTO

Kyoto Imperial Palace (12/28-1/4)

Imperial Villas (12/28-1/4)

Nijo Castle (12/26-1/4)

(Nijo Castle Garden is open from 10 am to 4 pm on Jan. 2-4. Please enter by 3 pm. Admission is ¥400.)

OSAKA

Osaka Castle (12/28-1/1)

HIMEJI

Himeji Castle (12/29 & 30)

Note : Sapporo Snow Festival is scheduled for the seven days from Feb. 7 to Feb. 13, 2011.

Access :

「地方の庭園・遊園地の年末年始休館日」

最寄駅：

H. Closing dates for the New Year's holidays

年末年始休館日

The following **museums** are closed during the period mentioned below in () for the New Year's holidays:

NAGOYA

The Tokugawa Art Museum (12/13-1/3)

KYOTO

Kyoto National Museum (11/24-1/7)

The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (12/27-1/4)

Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art (12/27-1/2)

NARA

Nara National Museum (12/27, 1/1, 1/3 & 1/11)

Nara Prefectural Museum of Art (12/20-1/21)

HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (12/29-1/1)

Note : Sapporo Snow Festival is scheduled for the seven days from Feb. 7 to Feb. 13, 2011.

Access :

「地方の博物館の年末年始休館日」

最寄駅：