



YOKOSO! JAPAN WEEK

If you come to visit Japan during the 'Yokoso!Japan Weeks' from Jan 20 to Feb 20, 2006, your visit will be assured to be more memorable by having an opportunity to enjoy:



1. Nationwide Special Events
2. Discounted prices on accommodation, tourist facilities, ski resorts, restaurants, shopping centers, and local transportation.
3. Various tourist support services at public transportation and other facilities. Yokoso! Japan Desks will be established during the campaign period too.

For details, please visit www.jnto.go.jp/yjw/eng
Most important, please remember to pick up the complimentary 'YOKOSO! JAPAN WEEKS COUPON BOOK' at the major airports in Japan.

Features

Calendar of Events.....	1
Will Aitken explores	
Memoirs of a Geisha.....	2
Kyoto Festivals.....	3
Kyoto Locations seen in	
Memoirs of a Geisha.....	3
Affordable Japan.....	4
100 Yen Shop.....	5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & FESTIVALS

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/RTG/PTG/pdf/pg-805.pdf>
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/TTP/SG/09-TouristAttractions/MediumIndex/01-Festivals.html>



January

1st New Year's Day (National Holiday) – the major festival of the year is celebrated throughout the country. People pay homage at shrines, and visit friends and relatives to exchange greetings. Most of all, the colourful traditional kimono worn for this special occasion offer an excellent opportunity for tourists to take beautiful photographs.

6th Dezome-shiki or the New Year Parade of Firemen, Tokyo – The parade takes place at Tokyo Big Sight with a dazzling spectacle of agile fireman in traditional uniform performing acrobatic stunts at the top of tall bamboo ladders.

9th Coming of Age Day (National Holiday) – At the age of 20, young Japanese are granted adult status, with all the rights of citizenship. Municipal governments host coming of age ceremonies where the participants wear their finest clothes, and in particular young women wear beautiful long-sleeved kimono for this special day.

February

3rd Setsubun or Bean-Throwing Festival – is observed at major temples across Japan to chase away imaginary evil and welcome good luck.

Mantoro or Lantern Festival of Kasuga Shrine, Nara – a breath taking sight created by 3,000 lit lanterns lining the beautiful pathways..

6-12th Snow Festival in Sapporo, Hokkaido – Huge and elaborate sculptures of snow and ice erected on the Odori-Koen Promenade create the most spectacular winter festival in Japan.

15-16th Kamakura in Yokote, Akita Prefecture – a unique snow country event for a popular children's activity. Kamakura (similar to igloo), in which the God-of Water is enshrined, are made for children to have parties inside.

Happy New Year from the Toronto office of Japan National Tourist Organization



If you have any comment or suggestion, please submit to the Editor, Athena Ho, at athena@jntoyyz.com.

Japan National Tourist Organization
165 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5H 3B8
Tel: 416-366-7140, Fax: 416-366-4530
Email: info@jntoyyz.com
Website: www.jnto.go.jp

Will Aitken Explores The Real-World sets of the new film "Memoirs of a Geisha"

Inspired by the movie and novel 'Memoirs of Geisha', Will Aitken, Canadian novelist and journalist, is writing a piece on Geisha for the Globe and Mail during his visit to Japan this month. As a preview of his article, this is what he described:

"In my piece on Memoirs of Geisha, I'm going to concentrate on areas of Kyoto where filming for the movie was done, particularly on the Gion. The article will include information on the difference between geisha and maiko, some history of geisha themselves and Kyoto, a brief synopsis of the book as well as practical information – how to get to the Gion, what to see there, places where you can rent and wear geisha costumes for an hour or two and mentions of the Heian Shrine and Kamo River where important scenes in the movie take place. There will also be a sidebar discussing related matters – how to get there, where to stay, things to do and tour offered by JTB.

In Kyoto, I'll also be researching an article on Japanese and Chinese gardens. I'm particularly interested in the miniature 'dry' gardens – not the well-known ones like Ginkakuji or Ryoanji but smaller, less frequented ones."

Will Aitken is a Maclean-Hunter Arts Journalism Fellow, and has acted as Guest Curator at the Harvard Film Archive, Harvard University.



Photo: Courtesy of Will Aitken

As a theatre director working in collaboration with Canadian poet Anne Carson, he has directed productions of her opera "Decreation" in Berlin, London and Montreal. His film and visual arts criticism can be heard regularly on "The Arts Today" CBC-Radio One Toronto, and on "All in a Weekend", CBC-Radio One Montreal. Will's love for Japan could be recognized both in his travel writings and novels. "Realia", one of his novels published by Random House in 2000, is about a Canadian woman who goes to teach English in Japan and ends up falling in love with a Japanese pop star. Currently he is also working on another novel about Japan, titled "Hospitality", it's a kind of fictional history of Japan from 1939 to 1960, seen through the eyes of Japan's greatest movie star.



Major Festivals in Kyoto

Besides the hot topic of 'Memoirs of Geisha', Kyoto is a city that offers special rituals and ceremonies to commemorate or observe almost every day of the year.

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/spn/kyoto/events/>

Also you can read about the three major festivals, Aoi, Gion and Jidai Festivals, in

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/spn/kyoto/three/index.html>



Kyoto locations featured in *Memoirs of a Geisha*

People inspired to visit Japan after seeing *Memoirs of a Geisha* can visit many of the Kyoto locations featured in the film, such as Yoshimine-dera Temple, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Fushimi Inari Shrine, Heian Jingu Shrine, the bamboo forest in Arashiyama and the geisha district of Gion.

Kiyomizu-dera Temple (Pure Water Temple)

Kiyomizu-dera is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan. The temple offers visitors a nice view over the city from its famous wooden terrace. Below the terrace, you can taste the spring water which gives the temple its name.

Kiyomizu-dera can be reached from Kyoto Station in about 15 minutes by bus. Take bus number 100 or 206 and get off at Kiyomizu-michi or Gojo-zaka, from where it is a 10-15 minute uphill walk to the temple. Admission: 300 yen. Open: 6:00 to 18:00.

Fushimi Inari Shrine

The complex is composed of five shrines spread out over the wooded slopes of Mt. Inari. Here you can find the 4km-long tunnel of torii (red Shinto gates) which creates a striking image in the film.

Fushimi Inari Taisha is best accessed by train. Take either the JR Nara line and get off at Inari station (2 stops from Kyoto station), or alternatively, take the Keihan line and alight at Fushimi-Inari Station. Admission: free. Open: dawn till dusk.



Bamboo Forest

Arashiyama, on the outskirts of Kyoto, literally meaning the forested mountain. The stunning bamboo groves are found behind Tenryuji Temple and along the trail to Okochi Sanso villa.

Yoshimine-dera Temple

This Buddhist temple also goes by the name of matsu no tera or Pine Tree Temple. It gets the name from a 600-year-old pine tree with two branches of which

have been trained to grow horizontally for about 55 meters. From Kyoto Station take the Tokaido Line to Himukai-cho, then take Hankyu Bus No.66 to Yoshimine-dera. The journey takes around 40mins. Admission: 300 Yen Open: 8:00 – 17:00.

Gion

One of the five hanamachi (flower towns) in Japan's ancient capital Kyoto, a famous entertainment and geisha district. The main street in Gion, Hanami-koji, is lined with beautiful old traditional buildings, teahouses and restaurants. Gion can be reached by bus number 100 and 206 from Kyoto Station in about 15 minutes. If taking the train, the closest station is Keihan Shijo.

Heian Jingu Shrine

The shrine was built in 1895 to commemorate the 1100th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto. The shrine is popular for its garden, especially the weeping cherry trees. It is the shrine's garden that is featured in the film.

Heian Shrine can be reached by bus number 5 from Kyoto Station – get off at Kyoto Museum stop. Admission: 600 yen for adults, and 300 yen for children to visit the garden, but free for the shrine precincts.. Open: 6:00 – 18:00. (note: closes at 17:00 between Nov-Feb).



JAPAN IS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU THOUGHT

Based on the 2005 Survey of 'TravelStyles Canada' by Menlo Consulting Group, Canadian still perceive Japan to be an expensive place in which to travel: 76.4% of best prospects say that the phrase "An expensive country in which to travel" accurately describes Japan. Moreover, Japan's many positive features do not appear to be enough to compensate for its high prices. Only 1 in 10 best prospects (10.2%) say that the phrase "Overall, offers good value for money" describes Japan. Indeed, many rule out the possibility of a holiday in Japan without even checking the facts. Here you will find out how the following information will add up to affordable fun:

- * In <http://www.jnto.go.jp/affordable/>, you can read about the topics such as 'Hints for Affordable Japan', 'Free Attractions', 'JR Pass', 'List of Outlet Malls', 'For the Budget Travellers', and more.
- * 100 yen shop along JR Yamanote Line in Tokyo (Please see page 5 for detail).
- * Economical train/bus tickets and passess in Tokyo



So how do prices compare with other cities?

Please find out from 'Inside View of Japan from Expatriates' at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/JN/expat/afford.html>

"It's true that there are restaurants here that will cost you a fortune, but in what city is that not true? And in Japan that doesn't have to be the case. In fact, if you know where to eat and, most importantly, when, you can eat great food at remarkably good prices" quoted from an article by Martin Walker, a San Franciscan hotel and catering consultant, who lived and worked in the hotel and catering business in Japan for over 20 years.

TICKETS & PASSESS IN TOKYO

Tokyo Furi Kippu (Ticket) One-day pass for JR, Toei streetcars, Toei buses, Toei subways and Tokyo Metro.

- FARE: 1,580 Yen (Child: 790 Yen)
- You can take JR trains (except JR express trains), Toei subways, Toei streetcars, Toei buses and Tokyo Metro as many times as you want.
 - Available at JR stations, JR travel agency "View Plaza", Toei subway stations, sales offices of Toei bus and streetcar, and ticket counters at major Tokyo Metro stations.

Tokunai Pass JR one-day pass in Tokyo

- FARE: 730 Yen (Child: 360 Yen)
- You can take JR trains (except JR express trains) running within the 23 wards of Tokyo as many times as you want in a single day.
 - Available at JR stations and JR travel agency "View Plaza"

Toei One-Day Economy Pass (Ichinichi Josha-ken) One-day pass for Toei subways, busses, and streetcars.

- FARE: 700 Yen (Child: 350 Yen)
- For day-of-use purchases: available on Toei streetcar, busses and from ticket vending machines at Toei Subway stations.
 - For advance purchases: available at Toei subway pass vending locations, station counters, Toei Streetcar/Bus offices and pass vending locations. (Choose one day within six months after the date of purchase to use the pass.)

Tokyo Metro One-Day Open Ticket



(Ichinichi Josha-ken) One-day pass for all Tokyo Metro

- FARE: 710 Yen (Child: 360 Yen)
- For day-of-use purchases: available from ticket vending machines at Tokyo Metro stations.
 - For advance purchases: available from ticket counters at major Tokyo Metro stations.

Toei and Tokyo Metro One-Day Pass (Kyotsu Ichinichi Josha-ken)

- #### One-day pass for both Toei and Tokyo Metro
- FARE: 1,000 Yen (Child: 500 Yen)
- Available from ticket vending machines at Toei and Tokyo Metro stations.
 - No advance purchase.

Yurikamome One-Day Open Ticket (Ichinichi Josha-ken)

- #### Useful one-day pass for Odaiba (Tokyo Bay) area.
- Fare: 800 Yen (Child: 400 Yen)
- Available from ticket vending machines at all Yurikamome stations.

Passnet Card

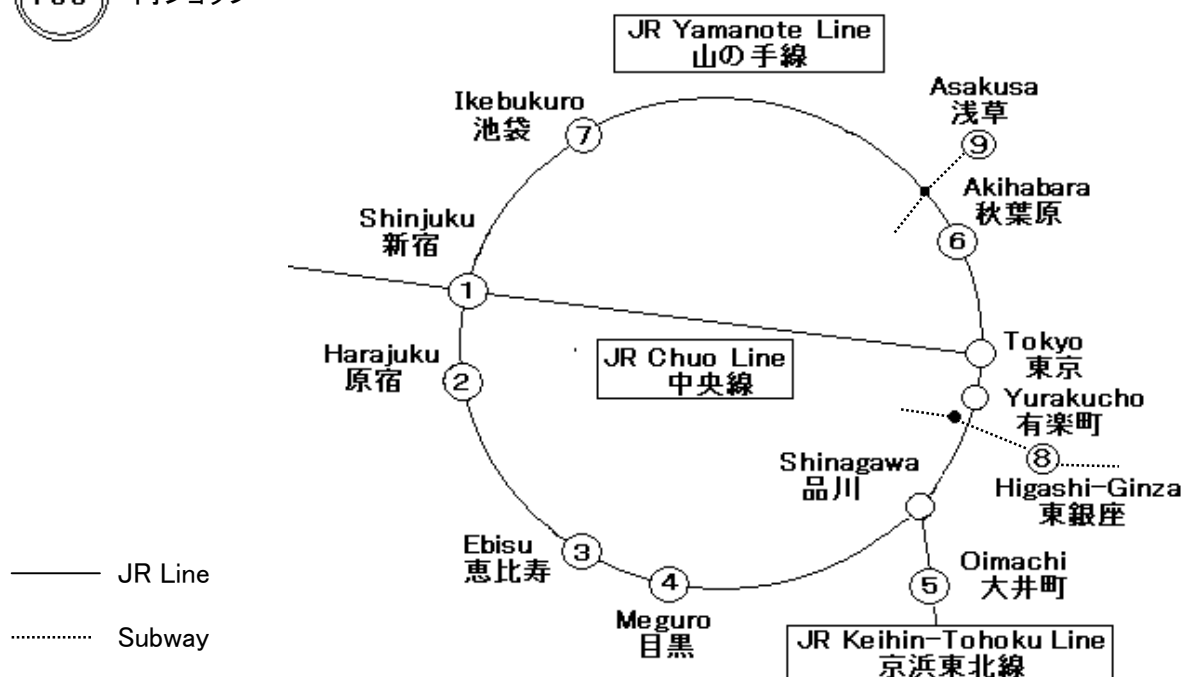
Just one fare card for 22 private railway and subway companies (not valid for JR trains) in Tokyo and its suburbs.

- FARE: 1,000 3,000 5,000 Yen
- A prepaid card good for the services of 22 railway and subway companies in Tokyo and its suburbs: Tokyo Metro, Toei Subways, Odakyu lines, Keio lines, Keisei lines, Tokyu lines, Keikyu lines, Tobu lines, Seibu lines, Yokohama Shie (municipal) subways, Sagami Railway lines, Yokohama Kosoku line, Shin-Keisei line, Hokusou line, Toyo Kosoku line, Saitama Kosoku line, Rinkai line, Yurikamome line, Disney Resort line, Tama monorail and Hakone Tozan line and Tsukuba Express.
 - Available from ticket vending machines at the stations of most of the railway companies.

All information is based on data as of November 2005 and is subject to change without notice.
Copyright 2005 Japan National Tourist Organization. All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

100 円ショップ

100 Yen Shop Information



Nearest Sta./Shop's Name	Business Hour	Phone (in Japanese)	Location
① JR Shinjuku Sta. Can Do Shinjuku Pepe (キャンドウ西武新宿ペペ)	11:00-22:00	03-3202-1160	8F, Seibu-Shinjuku Pepe 西武新宿ペペ 8階 5 min. walk from JR Shinjuku Sta. (East Exit)
② JR Harajuku Sta. The Daiso Harajuku (ザ・ダイソー 原宿)	10:00-21:00	03-5775-9641	1 min. walk from JR Harajuku Sta. JR原宿駅から徒歩1分 ビレッジ107 (Takeshita-guchi Exit)
③ JR Ebisu Sta. Can Do Ebisu (キャンドウ 恵比寿)	10:00-23:00	03-3793-6161	2F, Matsuzakaya Store 松坂屋ストアー恵比寿店2階 JR Ebisu Sta. (West Exit)
④ JR Meguro Sta. Can Do Meguro (キャンドウ 目黒)	10:00-22:00	03-3493-3487	2F, Tokyu Store 東急ストア目黒店2階 JR Meguro Sta.(West Exit)
⑤ JR Oimachi Sta. Can Do Oimachi (キャンドウ 大井町)	10:00-20:00	03-5746-1157	2F, Hankyu Store 阪急ストア大井町店2階 JR Oimachi Sta. (West Exit)
The Daiso Oimachi (ザ・ダイソー丸井大井町)	10:30-20:00	03-5796-2786	7F & 8F, Marui Dept. Store 丸井大井町店男の館7階 & 8階 JR Oimachi Sta. (East Exit)
⑥ JR Akihabara Sta. The Daiso Takarada Akihabara (ザ・ダイソー 宝田秋葉原)	11:00-20:30	03-3253-0101	B1, Takaradamusen 宝田無線 地下1階 JR Akihabara Sta. (West Exit)
Can Do Akiba Select-kan (キャンドウ アキバ・セレクト館)	10:00-21:00	03-3253-3575	Tozai Jiyu Tsuru (Passage in the Sta.) 東西自由通路 JR Akihabara Sta.
⑦ JR Ikebukuro Sta. Can Do Kinkado (キャンドウ キンカ堂)	10:00-20:00	03-3988-4510	B1, Kinkado キンカ堂 地下1階 Ikebukuro Sta. (East Exit)
⑧ Subway Higashi Ginza Sta. US MART (ユーエス マート)	24 hrs	03-3542-4100	US LAND Ginza 1F ユーエスランド 1階 Subway Higashi Ginza Sta. (Exit A7)
⑨ Subway Asakusa Sta. Silk Kaminarimon (シルク 雷門)	10:00-22:00	03-5806-2100	Near Kaminarimon 雷門の近く 15 min. walk from Subway Asakusa Sta. (Exit 1)

A 5% consumption tax will be levied. All information is based on data as of Nov. 2005 and is subject to change without notice.

© 2005 Japan National Tourist Organization. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.