



Japan National Tourist Organization



Best Wishes for 2008!



*from Japan National Tourist Organization
Toronto Office*

Features

Yokoso! Japan Weeks 2008.....	1
Calendar of Events & Festivals.....	2
Canadian Geisha Stories.....	3
Kyoto Winter Special 2008.....	4
Kyoto launches new English-language website.....	4

Japan National Tourist Organization
481 University Avenue, Suite 306
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E9
Tel: 416-366-7140
Fax: 416-366-4530
Email: info@jntooyz.com
Website: www.jnto.go.jp/canada/

YOKOSO! JAPAN WEEKS 2008

January 20 to February 29, 2008



The 'Yokoso! Japan Weeks' is a major nationwide event held every winter. Besides being a part of the overall promotional plan in 2008, these special weeks have events based on two major themes: 'Shopping Spree' and 'Experiencing Japan'.

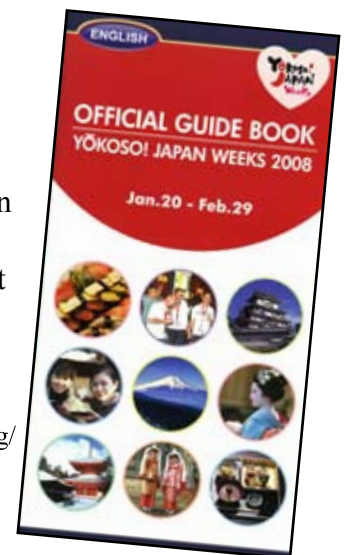
During this period, travelers can enjoy their visits by:

1. Experiencing Japan first hand
2. Utilizing the special discounts
3. Utilizing a variety of services nationwide

For 'Yokoso!Japan Week' web coupon,
please access:
<http://www.yjw2008.jp/eng/coupon.html>

The 'Official Guide Book of Yokoso! Japan Week 2008' is available in English and Chinese. To obtain a copy, please contact Japan National Tourist Organization, at the address above.

<http://www.yjw2008.jp/eng/>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

January

3rd

Tamaseseri (Ball-Catching Festival)

Half-naked men scramble for a lucky 8-kg ball in a shower of cold water.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a01_fes_tama.html

6th

Dezome-shiki (New Year's Parade of Firemen)

Warning people of the dangers of fire through acrobatic stunts on top of ladders.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a02_fes_dezome.html

7th

Usokae (Bullfinch Exchange Toka Ebisu)

A year of happiness secured by a golden bird. A wooden bird bringing good luck by turning last year's lies into this year's truths.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a03_fes_uso.html

13th

Yamayaki (Grass Burning on Mt. Wakakusayama)

An entire hill is set ablaze in winter. A New Year event which originated in boundary disputes among temples.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a05_fes_yamayaki.html

17th

Bonden-sai (Bonden Festival)

A contest to become the first to reach the sacred mountain, carrying bonden for the gods to descend.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a07_fes_bonden.html



Bonden-sai



Kamakura Snow Festival

February

5th - 11th

Sapporo Snow Festival

Sapporo turns into a snow museum! Internationally renowned and Japan's largest snow festival.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a08_fes_snow.html

3rd

Setsubun Mantoro (Lantern Festival)

Candle fire lights up 3,000 lanterns.

Here you can experience a fantastic world of antiquity.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a09_fes_setsubun.html

15th - 16th

Kamakura Snow Festival, Yokote

A fantastic world appearing on a snow country evening. Chatting with children in rooms made of snow.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a10_fes_Yokote.html

16th

Hadaka Matsuri (Naked Festival at Saidai-ji Temple)

A mysterious and exciting night festival.

Almost fully-naked men compete for good luck charms.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a11_fes_eyo.html

17th - 20th

Hachinohe Enburi

Dancing and praying for a rich harvest. A dance expressing farm work to signal the arrival of the northern spring.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a12_fes_hachinohe.html

CANADIAN GEISHA STORIES

For those who have seen the movie or read the book 'Memoirs of a Geisha' by Arthur Golden may have an urge to transform into a geisha for a day. It is quite possible if you visit the Kyoto Toei Movie Land (Toei Uzumasa Eigamura) www.eigamura30.com

Let's read the stories told by two journalists, who received a professional transformation at the Kyoto Toei Movie Land:

From *Sara Waxman, Food and Travel Writer:*



Sara Waxman

“The thick white Geisha makeup, black eyebrows and pink eye shadow hid the real me from the world. A black wig, several undergarments and a kimono concealed my body. I gained five inches in height from the wooden clogs. It was suddenly clear how young women who came from ordinary families were transformed by this makeup into glamorous beautiful creatures, able to live in a different world. When my final hair ornaments were put in place, my imagination left Toronto far behind.”

In “*Memoirs of an unlikely Geisha*”, *Maryam Siddiqi* wrote a National Post article detailing her experience of transforming into a geisha.



Maryam Siddiqi

If you dream of becoming a samurai or other characters from Japanese history, your wish could be granted at the Makeup Studio of Toei Movie Land. Here is the team of makeup artists under the supervision of Mr. Maki.



The Makeup Studio

KYOTO WINTER SPECIAL 2008

A special winter campaign (December 2007- March 2008) with a lot of events to make your winter trip to Kyoto even more enjoyable. During this time, there will be special admission to restricted heritage sites and spectacular winter events such Arashiyama Hanatouro and Higashiyama Hanatouro (where traditional lanterns will fill the night time streets with light), as well as chances to receive upgrades on your hotel or inn.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/kws/> or <http://www.kyoto.travel/>

KYOTO LAUNCHES NEW ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEBSITE FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS

Kyoto, April, 2007

The City of Kyoto launched an English-language website in cooperation with the Kyoto City Tourist Association and tourism industry partners to attract more tourists from abroad. The site, www.Kyoto.Travel, dubbed the Kyoto Official Travel Guide, concisely outlines a variety of main tourist attractions in the city. It is the first official tourist site in Japan with links to direct reservation systems for accommodation and airline tickets. The site contains useful tips on transport and accommodation, suggested one-day travel itineraries, etc.

The site features:

- easy-to-read English-language information on tourist attractions in Kyoto;
- availability of direct booking systems for accommodation & air tickets;
- top-page listing of a selection of 100 things to see and do, including popular cultural activities;
- useful information on transportation, accommodation, one-day travel itinerary ideas, etc.
- the latest information sent through an “RSS” function.

Contact:

Rie Tokura

Tourism Promotion Section, Industry & Tourism Bureau

City of Kyoto

TEL: +81-75-222-4133



Source: City of Kyoto

Japan National Tourist Organization
481 University Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E9

Tel: 416-366-7140, Fax: 416-366-4530

Email: info@jntooyz.com

Website: www.jnto.go.jp/canada/

For comments & suggestions, please submit to the Editor, Athena Ho at athena@jntooyz.com