



Japan National Tourism Organization



Their Majesties The Emperor And Empress Of Japan To Visit Canada And The State Of Hawaii, The United States Of America

Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada has extended an invitation to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan to visit Canada, and the Government of the United States of America welcomes the visit by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation in Hawaii.

In view of the friendly relations existing between Japan and both countries, the Government of Japan has advised Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress to pay Official Visits to both countries this year.

The itinerary of the visits will be finalized based upon consultations with the Government of each country. Their Majesties are scheduled to leave Tokyo on July 3, 2009, and the duration of the visit will be about two weeks.

http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/canada_e/JapanCanada/09_emperor_visit.html



80th Anniversary Japan-Canada Relations

2008 marked the 80th anniversary of Japan-Canada relations. 80 Year Partnership across the Pacific.

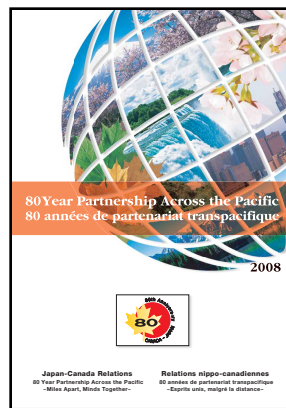
About the 80th Anniversary

Background

In 2008, Japan and Canada are celebrating 80 years of diplomatic relations, which officially started in 1928 with the opening of a Japanese legation in Ottawa. Canada opened its legation in Tokyo in 1929 as the first one in Asia.

Theme

Through a series of events showcasing all aspects of Japan-Canada relationships - political, economic, business, science & technology, culture,



<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/n-america/canada/pamphlet.pdf>

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Japan National Tourism Organization 日本 政府 観光 局

**Please note the new official name as of 2009*

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All previous Newsletters can be accessed at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/canada/newsletter.html>

education and so on, the past eight decades of friendship and cooperation are highlighted, and the promise of the next eight decades is also shown. It is hoped that Canadians will renew their interest in Japan, and in doing so rediscover today's Japan and embrace tomorrow's Japan.

For more information, visit:

http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/canada_e/80thAnniversary/Index.html

Change Of Personnel In JNTO Toronto

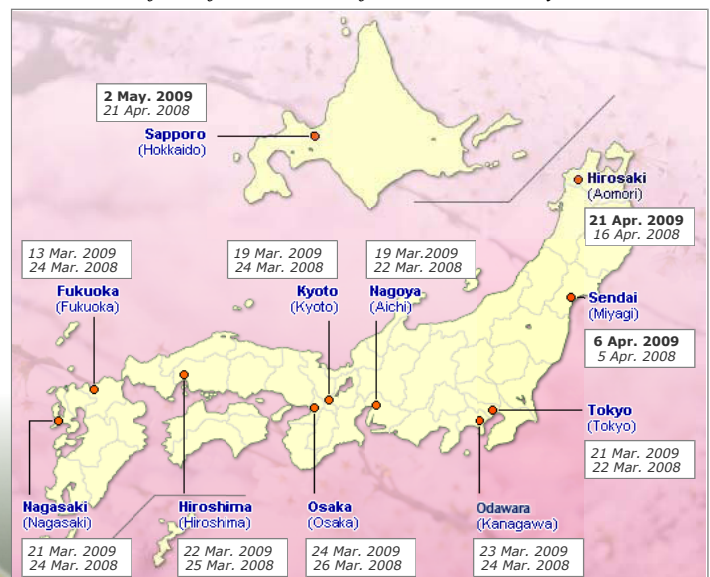
Mr. Fumihiro Sampei, the Executive Director of JNTO Toronto, has completed his term of assignment in JNTO Toronto office and will return to JNTO Tokyo head office at the end of March. Mr. Sampei would like to convey his appreciation for the support from the marketing partners of JNTO and hopes that you will extend your continued support to his successor, Mr. Hisao Hara, who was a project manager in General Affairs at the JNTO Tokyo head office. Mr. Hara graduated from Keio University in 1980 and joined JNTO the same year. Having worked in the JNTO Hong Kong office from 1989 to 1993 and the Sao Paulo office from 1999 to 2002, he has experience in a wide variety of fields including marketing, promotion and administration, and he looks forward to sharing his expertise here in Toronto.

Spring Is The Season To Celebrate In Japan



The cherry blossoms usually bloom for only about a week after full-bloom. The small, round shape flowers flutter to the ground gracefully and the blossoms are said to be the most beautiful at their final stage. For many Japanese people, the blooming of the cherry trees symbolize human life, transience and nobleness. They celebrate and cherish their beauty while it lasts.

Forecast of the first bloom of Sakura, Cherry Blossoms.



Source: Japan Weather Association (<http://tenki.jp>)

Note: The forecast is subject to change due to weather conditions.

*Dates in italic character show result of blooming.

Enjoy the Full Bloom of Cherry Blossoms

Let's Join the Celebration of Local Festivals!



APRIL
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**2nd Sunday –
3rd Sunday
KAMAKURA
FESTIVAL**

At the shrine which serves as a symbol of Kamakura, the samurai society of the Medieval Period is revived.

The main attractions are the shizuka no mai dance performed in the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine on the second Sunday and yabusame on the third Sunday.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a16_fes_kamakura.html

**14th & 15th
TAKAYAMA FESTIVAL**

The Takayama Festival is the collective name for the Sanno Matsuri of spring and the Hachiman Matsuri held at Sakurayama Hachimangu Shrine in October, and is considered one of the most beautiful festivals of Japan.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a17_fes_takayama.html

Joining the festival and events is a perfect way to experience the local culture, please find out more about the festivals & events by map, month and location at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/festivals/>

A list of traditional events at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/index.html>

Important information about National holidays at http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a71a_fes_holiday.html



**17th & 18th
GRAND FESTIVAL OF SPRING
IN NIKKO**

The highlight of this festival is the procession called Hyakumono-Zoroe Sennin Gyoretsu of some 1,000 men dressed as samurai warriors on the 18th, staged at a world heritage site

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a25_fes_nikko.html



**3rd Sunday and
preceding
Friday and
Saturday
ASAKUSA SANJA
MATSURI**

The Sanja Matsuri, a symbolic festival of Tokyo, is one of the largest festivals of mikoshi (portable shrines) held in

Asakusa, which is a quarter where you can still find traditional houses and streets.

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/traditionalevents/a26_fes_sanja.html

MAY
5

'JR East Pass' Exchange Voucher Now Available Directly On The Internet!

For the convenience of foreign visitors to Japan, the East Japan Railway Company is pleased to announce the introduction of direct JR EAST RAIL PASS voucher sales on the internet which started in February 2009. This new system will make the JR EAST PASS even easier for guests from abroad to use and enjoy. Until now overseas travelers who wanted to purchase the exchange voucher for the 'JR East Pass' before arriving in Japan had to contact a travel agency. But now that we are opening our internet direct sale system, all they need is internet access and a credit card in order to buy the exchange voucher from the comfort of their own home.

For more information: http://www.japanrail.com/JR_regionalrailpass.html#east

'SUICA & N'EX' Gets Even Better – From East Japan Railway Company

The Suica & N'EX discount ticket is celebrating 2 years of providing great travel savings with a new Green car (first class) ticket, along with a beautiful new design.

extract the information from http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/topics/pdf/JRE_%20SuicaNEX_093017.pdf

New ticket price: ¥5,000 for the new Green Car version

Savings compared with standard tickets:

Narita Airport Stations → Tokyo Station: ¥4,430 + Suica: ¥2,000 = ¥ 6,430 = ¥1,430 saving!

Narita Airport Stations → Shinjuku Station: ¥4,600 + Suica: ¥2,000 = ¥ 6,600 = ¥1,600 saving!

Narita Airport Stations → Yokohama Station: ¥5,670 + Suica: ¥2,000 = ¥ 7,670 = ¥2,670 saving!

The ¥2,000 Suica card include a ¥500 deposit

Our new design shows the famous woodblock print of "Red Fuji" from Hokusai's Mt. Fuji series.

The ordinary (non-first class) SUICA card is also still available and the value price of ¥3,500



"East West Discovery" Park Hyatt Tokyo In Collaboration With The Hyatt Hotels In Kyoto And Hakone

In addition to a stay at the luxurious Park Hyatt Tokyo, where the acclaimed movie 'Lost in Translation' was filmed, with the "East West Discovery package" you can choose between a stay at the Hyatt Regency Kyoto, located in the heart of Kyoto, or a visit to the Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort Spa, nestled in the foothills of the Goya mountains. The package includes daily breakfast, rail transportation to either destination, and more! Available through August 31, 2009.

Park Hyatt Tokyo: <http://tokyo.park.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>

Hyatt Regency Kyoto: <http://www.kyoto.regency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>

Hyatt Regency Hakone Resort Spa: <http://hakone.regency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>