

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. Please refer to URI (basically in Japanese) for each event
7. 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 2012



© 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.4

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. *Yumi-hajime* (the first practice of the year of Japanese archery) is demonstrated from 10 am on the 3rd.

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

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.2

Kokyo Ippan Sanga, New Year's Congratulatory Visit to the **Imperial Palace**, Chiyoda-ku, by people who are allowed to cross Nijubashi Bridge on this special occasion. The Imperial Family are scheduled to appear on the balcony to respond to the homage of people.

<<http://www.kunaicho.go.jp/e-event/sanga01.html>>

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

◇ Jan.2 & Jan.3

Haijima Daishi Daruma Ichi, a fair of *Dharma* dolls at Haijima Daishi Temple, Akishima, on the outskirts of Tokyo. Hundreds of open-air stalls selling *Dharma* dolls of all types and sizes and others are set up from 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

Calendar Events

to be enjoyed in January 2012

◇ Jan.2 & Jan.3

Hoyojutsu Jitsuen, a demonstration of Japanese traditional falconry is held at Hamarikyū Garden, Chūō-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, Chūō-ku, is held from around 8 am to 5 pm.

Access : (1)The Hanzōmon Subway Line to Suitengu-mae Sta. (Z 10), and then walk 1 min.

(2)The Hibiya or Toei Asakusa Subway Line to Ningyōcho 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, Kōto-ku. A mass display of the high-tech fire-fighting equipments is held from 9:30 am. A traditional thrilling acrobatics is demonstrated by **Hikeshi**, fire fighters of Edo Firemanship Preservation Association, from around 11 am to 11:20 am.

Access : (1)The Yurikamome Line to Kokusai-Tenjijō-Seimon Sta.

(2)The Tokyo Rinkai Kosoku Railway Rinkai Line 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, Taitō-ku, starts from 1 pm and lasts for about an hour.

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 2012

Jan.8

Kodokan Kagami-biraki-shiki, the first *Judo* training session of the year at Kodokan Hall, Bunkyo-ku, is demonstrated from 10 am to 11 am. *Shiruko* (sweet red-bean soup with small pieces of rice-cake) 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.8

Kanchu Suiyoku (midwinter bathing), a purification ceremony at Teppozu Inari Shrine, Chuo-ku. After priest's prayer, men wearing only loincloths purify themselves by entering into the icy water 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.8 ~ Jan.22

O-Zumo Hatsu Basho or the first Grand Sumo Tournament of the year at Ryogoku Kokugikan Hall, Sumida-ku. *Dohyo-iri* (the ring-entering ceremony) takes place around 4 pm daily. Main bouts by the upper-rank or *Maku-uchi Sumo* wrestlers start after that.

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.9

Momote-shiki, a traditional Japanese archery ritual to commemorate *Seijin-no-hi* (Coming-of-Age Day) in the precincts of Meiji Shrine, Shibuya-ku. The archery is held in front of Homotsuden (treasure house) from 10:30 am to 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

「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.9

Kagami-biraki, the first training session of the year at Nippon Budokan Hall in Kitanomaru Park, Chiyoda-ku. A demonstration of *Budo* (various martial arts) is held from 1 pm. *Shiruko* (sweet red-bean soup with small pieces of rice cake) is served to visitors at 3 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.10

Hatsu Konpira, the first fair of the year at Kotohiragu Shrine, Minato-ku. 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 morning to around 6 pm.

Access : The Subway Ginza Line to Toranomom 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.12

Ome Daruma Ichi, a fair of *Dharma* dolls in 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 Kyu-Ome-Kaido street.

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 2012

◇ Jan.12

Manaita-biraki, a culinary rite at Hoonji Temple, Taito-ku. The head master of the *Shijo-ryu* school of Japanese culinary arts, dressed in traditional attire demonstrates the art of skillfully slicing a large carp, only using a knife and chopsticks, from around 10 am to 12 noon.

Access : The 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.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 & Jan.15

Daikoku (the god of wealth) **Matsuri Festival** at Kanda Myojin Shrine, Chiyoda-ku. On the 14th, a purification ceremony (people coming of age pour icy water over themselves) takes place from 11 am. On the 15th, *Hocho-shiki* (rite or traditional art of skillfully slicing a large carp) is conducted from 12 noon to around 1 pm.

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) **Ich**i or Flea Market on Boro Ichidori Street, Setagaya-ku, features many open-air stalls selling foods, clothes, potted plants, antiques and the like from 9 am to 8 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

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.18

Moja Okuri (Onza Hiho Daranie), the Buddhist rite at Sensoji Temple, Taito-ku. Two devils 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

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2012

◇ Jan.21

Hatsu Daishi, the first fair of the year is held at Nishi-Arai Daishi Temple, Adachi-ku. About 50 open-air stalls sell *Dharma* dolls, sweets, clothes and the like in the precincts of the temple and its vicinities from around 9 am to around 5 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 & Jan.25

Usokae, the bullfinch exchange ritual of Kameido Tenjin Shrine, Koto-ku, is held from 8:30 am on both days. Bullfinches, which are called "Uso" in Japanese, are regarded as symbols of good luck. People exchange old carved wooden bullfinches for new ones. On the 25th, *Hatsu Tenjin* (the first fair of the year) is scheduled 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.27 ~ Jan.29

Shimokita Tengu Matsuri or Long Red-nosed Goblins Festival is held at Shinryuji Temple and on the shopping streets of Shimokitazawa, Setagaya-ku. On the 28th, a parade of *Tengu* (men with long red-nosed masks) is held from 2 pm, and then *Mamemaki* (a bean-throwing ceremony) is held at Shinryuji Temple 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

◇ Jan.28

Daruma Ichi, a fair of *Dharma* dolls at Takahata Fudosen Temple, Hino, on the outskirts of Tokyo. About 100 stalls are set up from around 7:30 am to sunset, selling *Dharma* dolls which attract many people seeking good luck in the year ahead. *Chigo-Gyoretsu*, a parade of children in fancy attire is scheduled 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.29 ~ Mar.18

Tsubaki Matsuri or Camellia Festival on Oshima Island. Various species of camellia are usually in bloom during the festival period on this island. A demonstration of folk dance is held at Motomachi Port from 7:30 pm to 9 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between Feb. 10th and Mar. 18th.

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., or the JR Yamanote Line to Hamamatsucho Sta., and then walk 7 min.)
(2) 30 min. by air from Tokyo (Haneda Airport) to Oshima Island.

Note : *National Holiday*:
Feb. 11th: *National Foundation Day*

大島

「椿まつり」

最寄駅：(1)竹芝桟橋よりフェリー(東海汽船)で8時間、又は高速船で1時間45分、大島下船(竹芝桟橋へは、ゆりかもめ新橋駅から竹芝駅下車、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

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2012

◇ 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 *Dharma* dolls are set up 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 by the members of the Ogasawara-ryu school of Japanese archery, in traditional attires, from 10 am to 11 am

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 noon 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

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 and *Tengu* goblins, is held from 10:30 am to 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

◇ 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. A parade of *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.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 9 am to around 4 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

Calendar Events *to be enjoyed in January 2012*

◎ Jan.23 ~ Feb.6

2012 Shunsetsu, Chinese New Year's Day, a celebration in "Chinatown," Yokohama, Kanagawa Pref. *Shishimai* or Chinese lion dance is performed throughout Chinatown from 4 pm to 8 pm on the 23rd. Chinatown is decorated with thousands of lanterns at night during the period.

Access : (1)The JR Negishi Line from Yokohama or JR Keihin Tohoku Line from Tokyo to Ishikawacho Sta., and then walk 10 min.

(2)The Tokyu Toyoko Line, Minatomirai Line to Motomachi-Chukagai Sta.

神奈川県 横浜市 横浜中華街

「春節」

最寄駅: (1)JR根岸線(東京からはJR京浜東北線が乗り入れ)石

川町駅より徒歩10分

(2)東急東横線みなとみらい線元町・中華街駅下車

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

TOKYO

Tokyo National Museum (12/26-1/1)

National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (12/28-1/1)
& Craft Gallery (12/28-1/1)

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (12/29-1/1)

National Museum of Western Art (12/28-1/1)

Edo-Tokyo Museum (12/26-1/1)

Idemitsu Museum of Art (12/19-1/6)

Yamatane Museum of Art (12/26-1/2)

Suntory Museum of Art (12/30-1/1)

Okura Shukokan Museum (12/19-1/1)

Japan Folk Crafts Museum (12/24-1/6)

Paper Museum (12/26-1/4)

Japanese Sword Museum (12/19-1/4)

Bridgestone Museum of Art (12/26-1/6)

National Museum of Nature and Science (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 (12/29-1/1)

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 information is available at <http://www.jnto.go.jp>.

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2012



◇ Dec.30 ~ Feb.29

Zao Juhyo Light-up at Zao Onsen Ski Ground, Zao Onsen, Yamagata, Yamagata Pref., features the lights lit over *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. 30th to Jan. 3rd, 7th - 9th, 14th, 15th, 21st - Feb. 29th. On Feb. 4th, skiers and snowboarders holding torchlights descend on the Uwanodai ski slope under a fireworks display from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

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 the 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.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 of this year from 4 pm. The similar festivals of this kind are usually held around Jan. 14th 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の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.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 .

<<http://www.miyoshi.or.jp/festival/bondensai.html>>

Access : (1)The JR Akita Shinkansen or Ou Line to Akita Sta., and then 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

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2012

◇ Jan.20

Hatsuka-ya-sai, a night festival at Motsuji Temple, Hiraizumi-machi, Iwate Pref. A parade of worshippers with torchlights in their hands starts from Hiraizumi Sta. at 7:30 pm heading for Motsuji Temple, where *Ennen-no-mai* (an ancient dance with music for longevity, designated as one of the National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties) is performed from 9 pm until around 12 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.1 ~ Mar.4

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 early January. The garden is open from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Admission is ¥300. Various events are scheduled during the period.

<<http://www.ataminews.gr.jp/ume/>>

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 Aino-hara-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.8

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

「加賀鷹の出初式」

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

◇ 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. 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、四条河原町下車、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 2012

◇ ◎ 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 9th.

Access : (1) Walk 1 min. from Imamiya-Ebisu Sta. on the Nankai Railway.
(2) The Midosuji 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.15

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 (Shibas) 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.23 ~ Jan.29

Shunsetsu-sai, Chinese New Year's Day, according to the lunar calendar is celebrated at Nankinmachi-hiroba Square in Chinatown of Kobe, Hyogo Pref. On the 23rd, people in Chinese traditional costumes parade on the main street in Chinatown from 12 noon to 5 pm.

Access : (1) Walk 5 min. from Motomachi Sta. on the JR Tokaido Honsen Line.
(2) Walk 5 min. from Hanshin-Motomachi Sta. on the Hanshin Railways.

Note : *Chinese New Year's Day is Jan. 23rd this year.*

兵庫県 神戸市 南京町

「春節祭」

最寄駅: (1)JR東海道本線元町駅より徒歩5分

(2)阪神電鉄阪神元町駅より徒歩5分

◇ ◎ Jan.25

Hatsu Tenjin, the first fair of the year at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Kamigyo-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 (Shibas) 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

◎ Jan.28

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 Feb. 4th.

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

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2012

◇ ◎ Jan.1 Jan.2 Jan.3 & Jan.5

Bugaku, ancient court dance with music at Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima Pref. The *Bugaku* 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.

<http://www.miyajima.or.jp/english/culture/culture_bugaku.html>

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

◇ ◎ Jan.3

Hakozakigu-no-Tamaseseri, Ball-catching Festival at Hakozakigu Shrine, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Pref. 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, from around 1 pm to around 2 pm..

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、又は地下鉄箱崎宮前駅下車

◇ 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. *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 to buy lucky bamboo branches. On the 9th, *Kachimairi*, a procession of geisha (female entertainers) in kimono, is held along the city's main streets from 2:30 pm to 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

Matobakai or **Hamayumi-sai** Festival of Shioji Shrine, Nagasu-machi, Kumamoto Pref. *Hamayumi Sansha-sai*, shooting three arrows to commence the ceremony, takes place from around 11 am. 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.

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

Calendar Events to be enjoyed in January 2012

◇ Jan.23 ~ Feb.6

2012 Nagasaki Lantern Festival is a picturesque Chinese event featuring 15,000 lanterns in the shape of various creatures lit up daily during the festival period. Chinese dragon dances and some other performing arts, colorful processions and many other events are scheduled during the period.

<http://www.nagasaki-lantern.com/index_2.html>

Access : (1)Minato Koen (park): By street car from Nagasaki Sta. to Tsukicho Sta. and then walk 3 min.
(2)Chuo Koen (park): 6 min. by bus from Sasebo Sta. to Matsuura Bus Stop, and then walk 3 min.
(3)Kofukuji Temple: 5 min. by street car bound for Hotaru-chaya from Nagasaki Sta. and get off at Kokaido-mae Sta., and then walk 5 min.

長崎市 湊公園、中央公園、興福寺

「2012 長崎ランタンフェスティバル」

最寄駅: (1)湊公園:長崎駅から市電築町下車、徒歩3分
(2)中央公園:JR佐世保線佐世保駅からバスで6分松浦下車、徒歩3分
(3)興福寺:JR長崎駅より螢茶屋行き路面電車で5分公会堂前下車、徒歩5分

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

Aichi

The Tokugawa Art Museum, Nagoya (12/12-1/3)
Meiji-mura, Inuyama (12/31, 1/16-1/20), (open: 1/2)

KYOTO

Kyoto National Museum (11/24-1/6)
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (12/26-4/6)
Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art (12/28-1/2)
Kyoto Imperial Palace, and 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)

NARA

Nara National Museum (12/19, 26, 1/1, 1/3 & 1/10)
Nara Prefectural Museum of Art (12/28-1/4)

Hyogo

Himeji Castle (12/29 & 30)

HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (12/28-1/4)

Access :

Note : *Sapporo Snow Festival is scheduled for the seven days from Feb. 6 to Feb. 12, 2012.*

「地方の博物館・庭園の年末年始休館日」

最寄駅: