

What's Up Aichi

— Timely Tourist Information On Aichi Prefecture And The Surrounding Central Japan Region —

Make Authentic Japanese Cuisine



Front Page - courtesy J-Simple Recipes

J-Simple Recipe's mission statement is straightforward: Teach people how to make simple, healthy, authentic Japanese cuisine!

3 years ago a brother and sister team in Aichi created a website for people interested in cooking Japanese meals at home. The website provides detailed instructions and photos for every recipe. You can search for recipes depending on the ingredients you have or if you would like a breakfast, lunch, or dinner meal. Most ingredients can be found at your local supermarket, but the website also has substitutions for hard to find ingredients. J-Simple Recipes also has a wealth of information on the best way to serve and eat Japanese food.

Recently J-Simple Recipes started a Facebook page. These give readers an opportunity to interact and make request for new recipes!

Website

<http://j-simplerecipes.com/>

Facebook

www.facebook.com/JSimpleRecipes

Century Old Tradition of Hanami



Entertainment on the castle grounds

Hanami (lit: Flower Watching) is when millions of people gather at parks in Japan to have picnics under the beautiful cherry blossoms and enjoy food, drinks, friends, and family. Travelers are always welcome, and everything you need to enjoy hanami picnic can be bought at a

local grocery store. The atmosphere at hanami is always fun, people are singing, listening to music, playing games, and of course telling stories. The best part for travelers to Japan is that this will be a great opportunity to interact with locals in a fun and casual way.

This year in Nagoya the cherry forecast (yes, there is such a thing) shows the trees should start blooming on March 31st and be in full bloom by April 5th (<http://sakura.weathermap.jp/>). On the castle grounds there are over 1000 cherry trees and room to have a picnic. On the weekends, beside the usual revelry there will also be live music performances, tea tastings, and other attractions.



Nagoya Castle in Bloom

There are a number of great alternative locations to enjoy hanami. There are over 1,700 cherry trees at Okazaki park and the nearby Okazaki Castle. Inuyama City is a wonderful place to visit as well. There are five major parks around the castle, plus the castle grounds itself. The area has over 5000 trees, so no matter where you go you can have a prime spot under your very own cherry tree.

In the evenings travelers can enjoy the beauty of illuminated blossoms. Yozakura (lit: Night Cherry Blossoms) gives the castles a dream like quality.

Nagoya Castle Website (Japanese)

<http://www.nagoyajo.city.nagoya.jp/>

Inuyama City Website

<http://ml.inuyama.gr.jp/en/>

Food Competition & Festival in Aichi

The 8th annual "B-1 Grand Prix" of cuisine will be held in Toyokawa City, Aichi Prefecture. The B-1 Grand Prix began in 2006, and is held in a different location

every year. The competition is held between 63 teams from around Japan who cook up a specialty dish from their hometown. The event's popularity has also grown greatly and last year a record breaking 515,000 people attended the event in Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture.



Tebasaki is fried Kochin chicken, a unique Aichi breed

Aichi is famous for a number of dishes, but at past B-1 Grand Prix Aichi teams cooked up local favorites: *tebasaki* (Japanese-style chicken wings), *ankake* spaghetti (Japanese-style marinara sauce), and Curry Udon. This year an Aichi team will be making Inarizushi. Toyokawa Inarizushi has been a local favorite for centuries, but a resurgence of the dish's popularity in Japan and a home turf advantage gives the Aichi team a huge advantage over the competition.



Inarizushi is fried tofu wrapped around sushi rice

Aichi News on Facebook

Aichi Tourism information can be found on Facebook. Check it out and become a fan!

["What's up in Aichi - Jetro San Francisco"](#)

Aichi Prefectural Government

c/o JETRO San Francisco
201 Third Street, Suite 1010
Phone: 415-392-1333 ext. 252
Facebook: What's up in Aichi
Email: aichisf@jetro.go.jp

Kenji Sato
Sean Lampe