

What's Up Aichi

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

Original taste of Aichi: Hatcho Miso

Miso adds a distinct flavor that has been a staple of Japanese cooking for centuries. Hatcho Miso is a family owned (18 generations) miso producer based in Aichi. Its high quality and nutritional value have made it famous across all of Japan.



Hatcho Miso is made by steaming the soybeans instead of boiling them which helps preserve nutrients. Then the beans are made into a paste before adding Kojikin for fermentation. Kojikin is a domesticated fungus used in the fermentation of sake, shochu, rice vinegar, soy sauce, and much more. Then for the next two to three years maturation takes place in large cedar barrels (above) under many tons of carefully stacked river rocks.

Hatcho Miso is located about 5 blocks from Okazaki Castle near the Yahagi River. There is also a museum for visitors to explore. The museum provides detailed information about the 350-year history of miso making in Hatcho and the medicinal effects of this unique type of miso. Tours are available every 30 minutes and free samples are provided.

<http://www.kakuq.jp/home/english.htm>

Mikawa Fireworks Festival



During the Tokugawa Shogunate a Mikawa firearms master would only pass his trade secrets to local apprentices, furthermore restrictions were in place that limited production of gunpowder to the Mikawa

area. The legacy left behind today is that Okazaki City in Mikawa is one of the major fireworks manufacturing regions of Japan. Every year on the first Saturday in August a large fireworks festival is held in the area surrounding Okazaki Castle. Thousands of fireworks are launched in a two hour long show making it an amazing event for locals and visitors alike.

Experiencing the Pottery Trail

The region of Seto for over a millennium has produced ceramics; the word 'Setomono' is synonymous with pottery in Japanese. The entire city has started a movement called "Seto Marutto Museum" (Seto Touring Museum). The walking path called Kamagaki-no-Komichi will take visitors to different pottery workshops. While walking the scenery is decorated with ceramic pieces embedded in the stone walls and even in the path itself.



If you would like to learn about ceramics, we recommend a visit to the Seto Municipal Center of Multimedia and Traditional Ceramics. The traditional-style workshop reproduced here provides an opportunity to observe the work up close. You can also observe or experience crafts such as glass art at the Seto Ceramics and Glass Art Center.

<http://www.seto-marutto.info/en/>

Nagoya Basho



A literal translation of Honbasha is "real tournament." Throughout the year there are

six honbasha tournaments, and the Nagoya Basho is held in July each year. Honbasha last for 15 days, and victories decide the promotion and relegation of each wrestler. Even visitors that do not attend Nagoya Basho will have many opportunities to see sumo wrestlers.

Cosplay Summit is here again!



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The "World Cosplay Summit" is an annual event and competition that attracts tens of thousands of cosplay enthusiasts from around the world. "Cosplayers" dress up in elaborate (usually handmade) costumes based off manga and anime characters. Currently all around the world hundreds of thousands are competing in preliminary rounds, and in August the main competition will be between the best teams.

The first World Cosplay Summit was held in Osu, Nagoya in 2003. 3 countries were represented in the competition but by 2010 a total of 15 countries from around the world were competing.

A parade in the streets of Nagoya will be held around the first week of August and the competition will be held immediately after. Of course the Cosplay Summit also offers a wonderful opportunity for travelers interested in people-watching.

www.tv-aichi.co.jp/wcs/e

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