

## 7 MUST INDULGING ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN DURING OCTOBER

**National, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019:** Traveling to Japan in October is ideal for an economy traveler to experience the nature; prices are not high as compared to cherry blossom season but offers almost similar spectacular view and can enjoy traditional festivals all across Japan keep its cities bustling. To add to its beauty, during this time autumn is at its peak coloring the country in the vibrant shade of reds, oranges, and yellows. With October being a mellow season, vacationer influx is less which makes tourist spots less crowded allowing you to get a perfect picture with your loved ones.

Japan being a multi-island nation comes with a very diverse climate. October in Hokkaido feels very different from October in Okinawa, with one being chilly and later being pleasantly hot. By ending October, autumn foliage is at a peak in places like Nikko and Aomori but will have just kicked off in Tokyo and Kyoto. If you are looking out for some adventure and experiential trip then October in Japan will keep you on your toes with its offerings. Beneath mentioned are some fun-filled events one must indulge in while visiting Japan in October.

### **Kochia Carnival**

Around mid-October, about 32,000 Kochia, which are also known as summer cypress gradually turn its color from green to burning red. This picturesque Kochia Carnival is held at Kochia Hill in Hitachi Seaside Park, Ibaraki Prefecture. The park also entails an amusement park, cycling path, and BMX courses allowing from adults to children all to enjoy. Entry fee involved to enter this event is 450 yen per adult, 210 yen for over 65-year-old, and free for kids under junior high class.

### **Ramen Show**

From 24 October to 4 November 2019, Komazawa Park, Tokyo hosts the country's biggest ramen festival in two parts. This event allows a food buff to taste the most delicious Ramen bowls from all over the country under one roof! This year there will be 36 selected Ramen dishes served at the festival. The event date is divided into 2 rounds (24–29 Oct and 30 Oct-4 Nov 2019) and there will be around 18 Ramen booths during each round. Nearly 40 Ramen stores from all over Japan will be offering their best Ramen dishes. The entry to the festival is free of cost, but you must purchase Ramen Tickets to buy bowls of Ramen. Tickets for the same are sold at the event site.

### **Halloween in Japan**

With passing years Halloween festival in Japan is becoming much bigger than the previous years. From an economic perspective, the festival is now the second biggest event in Japan after Christmas. Therefore, there are numerous Halloween events taking place at the destination to entertain overseas travelers. In Tokyo, travelers can join a costume party, event or a parade on 31st October or a day before that. On 26 and 27 October, 2019 one can join Ikebukuro Halloween Cosplay Festival 2019 where they can dress as their favorite anime and manga characters. Disney Halloween 2019 is also going to be held at Tokyo Disneyland and Disney Sea which began on 10th September 2019 and is being held for 52 days till 31st October. Keeping up with the spookiness, Universal Studio Japan hosts Universal Surprise Halloween which started on 6th September, featuring 3 types of extraordinary Halloween experiences for everyone! Three different themes featured at the Universal Studios are Halloween Horror Nights, Otona Halloween (Sophisticated Halloween) and Kowa Kawa Halloween (Scary and Cute Halloween).

### **Tsuchiura All Japan Fireworks Competition**

Witness the newest designs and creations of the fireworks by the best pyrotechnicians in Japan at the firework competition. Held on the 26th of October at the Sakuragawa riverside in the Gakuen-Ohashi area, it is an experience which one shouldn't miss. As the event lasts for about two and a half hours it is advised to grab some food from the street stalls along the way and get your seat early to catch the best view! Entry to this event is free of cost and can be reached through Tsuchiura rail station.

### **Kawagoe Festival**

Spread across two days from 19th to 20th October, the Kawagoe Festival showcases spectacular festival floats carrying exquisitely crafted dolls that are taken around the center of Koedo-Kawagoe's landmark Kurazukuri (traditional warehouse architecture) Zone. The highlight of this event is 'Hikkawase' – a face-off between floats with their accompanying orchestras while being cheered on by onlookers. The festival spot can be easily accessed through Kawagoe Station.

### **Nikko Toshogu Shuki Taisai Grand Autumn Festival**

The festival was started to honor the burial of one of Japan's most influential leaders- Tokugawa Ieyasu. The Shuki Taisai Grand Autumn Festival takes place at Toshogu Shrine in Nikko and can be accessed by public transportation or car or on foot. The closest station from the festival spot is Nikko station. Tokyo to Nikko station is reachable within 2 hours by Shinkansen (Bullet train). Held on October 16th and 17th every year, you can watch the demonstrations of traditional warrior skills like longbow archery and horseback archery. The highlight of this festival is the Samurai parade. During this parade, 1,000 fully armored Samurai march along the streets, recreating the escort of Tokugawa Ieyasu's remains to Toshogu Shrine.

### **Jidai Matsuri and Kurama Fire Festival**

Jidai Matsuri is one of the three great festivals of Kyoto, which is held on October 22 every year. A historical costume procession from the Kyoto Imperial Palace to Heian-Jingu Shrine allows the spectator to witness both residents and geiko – Kyoto's very own geisha – dressed in ancient garb from the 8th to the 20th centuries. After catching the costume parade during the day, you hop on a train up to the nearby mountain village of Kurama for the excitement of the Kurama Fire Festival in the evening. The fire festival is held in the mountain village of Kurama, north of the city. Participants carry torches, 5-6 meters long weighing around 100kg, and light bonfires throughout the night.

### **About Japan National Tourism Organization:**

The Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) was founded in 1964 with the mission of enticing foreign travelers to Japan. Affiliated with the Japan Tourism Agency of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, JNTO has effectively functioned as the Japanese government bureau of tourism. It has a total of 21 tourism-promotion-oriented offices across the world, and a large network of suppliers for tourism and event services in Japan. The Japan Convention Bureau (JCB), within JNTO, gathers professionals dedicated to attracting international conferences and incentive tours to Japan, located in 6 strategic offices.

For more information: <https://www.japan.travel/en/guide/autumn-guide/>

JNTO Website: <https://www.japan.travel/en/in/>

**For more information contact:**

**Anu Bhat**

+91-9643674469

[anu.bhat@bluesquareconsultants.com](mailto:anu.bhat@bluesquareconsultants.com)

**Deepa Doshi**

+91-9820663193

[Deepa.Doshi@bluesquareconsultants.com](mailto:Deepa.Doshi@bluesquareconsultants.com)