

SEASON OF LIGHTS MIXED WITH EXCITING ACTIVITIES & DRUNCHING

National, 21st November 2019: November in Japan brings brisk air, clear blue sky, and vibrant autumn foliage, making it one of the most pleasant months to travel. It is the best time to capture the gorgeous autumn foliage at many locations including Tokyo, Kyoto and around Mt Fuji. While the weather may get slightly chilly but it gives you an opportunity to go for a hot spring or an onsen excursion.

Japan being the tech hub of the world slightly maintains a right mix of culture, history and modern comforts. November hosts numerous events in Japan which are spread evenly across the country. From cultural events to food events to world famous annual sumo match; the month November has got it all .

Gion Odori

Started in 1894, Gion Odori is one of the longest-running festivals in Japan which is held annually from 1st to 10th November at Gion Kaikan (Kyoto). There are two spectacular performances by the Maiko (apprentice geisha) which are held each day at 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm. Tickets to attend this performance is 4,300 yen. For an additional amount guests can enjoy a cup of green tea and a sweet before the play, which also comes with a commemorative plate.

Arashiyama Momiji Festival (Red Maple leaves festival)

Arashiyama in Kyoto is a famous spot for viewing beautiful red maple leaves (momiji) in fall. And the picture of Togetsu Bridge across the Katsura River with Mt. Arashiyama turned red and yellow is well-known for visitors. It is an annual celebration which is held every second Sunday of November at one of the most stunning spots of Kyoto during autumn. On 10th November this year, boats will sail on the river around Togetsu Bridge, with elaborately dressed characters reflecting the nobles of the Heian Period. The Noblemen and women will perform from the boats, playing traditional instruments as well as performing Noh and Kyogen.

Grand Sumo Tournament

Held every November, from 10th to 24th November Grand sumo tournament is the finale of Japan's six annual Sumo Tournaments, which is also known as Honbasho, to be held in Fukuoka. Fukuoka is known for ancient temples, beaches and modern shopping malls. It is a lifetime opportunity to watch this traditional sport up close and personal in the tense atmosphere of spectators cheering for their favorite player. Seating during the tournament is divided into box seating – tatami areas and arena seats. General admission seat ticket to attend this event starts from 2,100 yen for one adult.

Winter Illumination at Nabana no Sato

Winter illuminations in Japan are a battle taken extremely fiercely. Over the years the gardens at Nabana no Sato are certainly a contender for the top prize. If you happen to be in the Mie Prefecture from October to early May, a visit to see this stunning extravaganza of flowers and radiance will definitely be worth it. Some of the awestruck setting includes the river of blue lights, the tunnel of light, the illuminated metaphorical sea of clouds, and the twin trees. For a picturesque top view of the dazzling display you can head to the Observatory or at the taller Island Fuji observation deck.

Sagamiko Illumillion (Kanagawa prefecture)

The Sagamiko Illumillion is a beautiful light installation show that combines conventional light displays with an exciting array of rides decked out with radiant ornamentation. The installations involve the use

of over half a million LED bulbs, more than any of other festivals of light in Japan. This mesmerizing event takes place at Sagamiko Resort Pleasure Forest in western Kanagawa from 2 November 2019 to 5 April 2020, and the illuminations are lightened up after 16 pm every day. One can either stay in a camping tent or quaint wooden cabins or cottages nearby, some of which come with a deck and barbecue grill.

The 6th “Gotochinabe” Festival

From 22-24th November Hibiya Park open its gate to Nabe festival which is a popular winter dish in Japan. Vendors from all over Japan serve local iterations of this soupy dish which is served in an iron or a clay pot. Generally made with *dashi* (soup stock), vegetables, and meat, nabe usually has many varieties.

Ramen Expo 2019

The Ramen Expo this year will take place in Expo Commemoration Park which is scheduled for four consecutive weekends (including Fridays) in December. Therefore the dates for the festival are actually 6th – 8th Dec, 13th – 15th Dec, 20th – 22nd Dec, 24th – 29th Dec. There will be up to 40 stores from around Japan setup in the park, although each weekend will see a different group of ramen makers landing at the expo.

Okinawa International Carnival

Okinawa being a crossroads of the seas is home to at least 10 different nationalities. To celebrate all these nationalities, Okinawa International Carnival is held from 23rd-24th November. The carnival involves Samba Queen Competitions, biker runs, live music, tug-of-war competitions, karate demonstrations, and much more! Entry to this carnival is free of cost.

These unique and exceptional views and events, during the autumn foliage season, will surprise anyone who is traveling to Japan. Japan in fact witnessed 13,900 Indian tourist arrivals in October, posting 1.2% SPLY hike. Moreover, 149,300 Indians visited Japan from Jan-Oct’19, posting a phenomenal 14.4% year-on-year hike.

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

Deepa Doshi

+91-9820663193

Deepa.Doshi@bluesquareconsultants.com