



Enjoy 月見(つきみ=Tsukimi=Moon Viewing) events in Nara

Sep. 20, 2010 JD

It's well-known that the moon is the most beautiful in the Northern hemisphere in September due to its brightness caused by the position of the sun and earth and the dry air. Tsukimi is an event where people enjoy it on the night of the full moon. Although the Chinese people started this event and introduced it into Japan, it's Japan's own custom to offer pampas grass, rice dumplings, fruit & vegetables while viewing the moon. The ears of pampas grass have been thought to be the symbol of fall in Japan since the old days. People say that rice dumplings came to be offered to the moon because they are similar in shape to the full moon. Be care the event date changes every year according to the full moon date. source: My town Nara No.527



where & when	access	events	photos
*event name: uneme matsuri *site: Sarusawa-ike pond, Nara *date: 17:00, Sep. 22 inquiry: Nara-City tour center 042-22-3900	<p>5 minutes walk from Kintetsu-Nara Station</p>	<p>The 2 decorated ships are to be floated on the pond and to sail around there under the subtle light of the full moon with gagaku, ancient court music. The Uneme and female attendants bedizened with ancient kimono get on board one ship. Japanese traditional music and dance players with Japanese fan board the other ship. (Uneme: Nara-Era(710AD-), really beautiful virgins of the local ruling families were chosen and sent to Nara in order to see the Court. Those ladies were set to be concubines in the Royal Harem. Uneme is the official name of the concubine.)</p>	
*event name: Jikoin moon viewing *site: Jikoin, Yamatokoriyama *date: 17:00, Sep. 22 Jikoin URL: http://www1.kcn.ne.jp/~jikoin/English-top.htm inquiry: Jikoin 0743-53-3004	<p>It'll take 15 minutes on foot from Jr Yamatokoizumi station to Jikoin</p>	<p>You can enjoy the subtle and profound tea ceremony while viewing the full moon in its shoin(study) room which is Japan's important cultural asset.</p>	
*event name: Matsuodera moon viewing with meditation *site: Matsuodera, Yamatokoriyama *date: 18:00, Sep. 22 inquiry: Matsuodera 0743-53-5023	<p>From JR Yamatokoizumi St., get on bus and get off it at Matsuodera-guchi, and take a 30-minute-walk to Matsuodera</p>	<p>After your meditation in the temple's training hall, you can enjoy the beautiful full moon and night view.</p>	
*event name: Shinyakushiji moon viewing *site: Shin-Yakushiji, Nara *date: 18:00, Sep. 22 inquiry: Shin-Yakushiji 0742-22-3736	<p>From Kintetsu Nara Station take a bus circulating Nara-City and get off it at Wariishi, and take a walk to the east for 15 minutes</p>	<p>The door of the temple's main hall is to be open, so you can enjoy the hall's inside which is lighted up. You can also enjoy lighted up lanterns placed on the ground of its precincts.</p>	
*event name: Omiwa shrine moon viewing *site: Oomiwa-jinja-Shrine, Sakurai *date: 18:30 Sep.22 *inquiry: Omiwa-shrine 0744-42-6633 http://www.oomiwa.or.jp/eng.html	<p>It'll take 5 minutes from Jr Miwa-St. to the shrine on foot</p>	*writing haiku poems activities *open air tea ceremony *dancing by shrine maidens <free> *after the ritual, dumplings are given to the audience	
*event name: Toshodajji moon viewing with praying to Buddha *site/date: Toshodajji-temple, Nara/Sep. 22 *inquiry: Toshodajji 0742-33-7900 *URL: http://www.toshodajji.jp/english/index.html	<p>It'll take 8 minutes from Kintetsu-Nisinokyo-st to the temple on foot</p>	<p>In honor of Archbishop Ganjin, the founder of the temple, the doors of the Mieido Hall(Founder's Hall) are opened to the public so you can enjoy its garden basked by the full moon light.</p>	
*event name: harvest moon tea ceremony at *site: Mt.Sigizan Chogosonsiji *date: 11:00-16:00 Oct.10 *inquiry: Chogosonsiji 0745-72-2277	<p>From Kintetsu-Sigizansita-st, it'll take 10 minutes to the temple (bus terminal "Sigizan") by bus</p>	<p>Tea ceremony is held in the four halls including the main hall. (tea ceremony admission: ¥3,000)</p>	
*event name: full moon night party *site: Hokkeji, Nara date: 18:30, Oct.24 *inquiry: rahotutomonokau 0742-22-0904 *URL: http://www2.odn.ne.jp/hokkeji/sub50.html	<p>it'll take 20 minutes on foot from Kintetsu-Sinomiya-station to the temple</p>	<p>Hokkeji was established as a convent in 745 by Empress Komyo, wife of Emperor Shomu, and it became the central convent in the system of provincial monasteries and nunneries that they founded. In honor of the Empress, this full moon night party is held with a music concert and speech. (admission: ¥3,000)</p>	