



JAPANESE SECTION (四月一旅)

春
リンゴ



resonant echo of a temple bell, the uniquely Japanese aroma of soy, sugar and sake, and the sensual caress of silk, all experienced on a day's walk, convey the legacy of this ancient culture in a uniquely personalized manner for each visitor. Kyoto, which in 1994 feted the 1200th anniversary of its birth as the nation's capital, has never been so vibrant. In addition to the 1,600 temples and 400 shrines which draw 40 million visitors annually, the city boasts a new concert hall and commemorative gardens. Here, history, the arts, landscaped beauty and religious heritage join forces to present a microcosm of Japan's legacy to the world. One thing Kyoto does not have is an off season.

食べまし世尾!

When traveling to any foreign place it's always good to ask yourself three things; where are you going to sleep, what are you going to do and most importantly what are you going to eat! When going to Japan there are numerous options when it comes to dining. The most popular in Japan are those found at the basement of office buildings, railway stations and urban mall centers. They serve a variety of Japanese cuisine including various types of pork, rice, Kobe steak and numerous amounts of fish dishes. For those who are on a budget, also try visiting local noodle shops or places that may serve bento boxes, which are sort of a boxed lunch with rice, meat, vegetables etc. Another good option are these diners where a person sits down while a conveyer belt lined with inexpensive sushi passes in front of you, this makes for a fun and interesting meal. Japan also offers a variety of French, American, Chinese and other foreign restaurants for those who like to mix it up or just don't have a taste for Japanese cuisine. They also have many of the American fast food places like McDonalds and Wendy's. Dining in Japan does run more expensive than it does in America so be prepared to pay \$2.60 for some Wendy's nuggets or \$2.80 for a Big Mac. But regardless what food you find yourself eating; Japan is a beautiful and exciting place full of culture and wonder.



はなみ!



The beginning of April marks a very celebrated time in all of Japan. It is the time when the cherry trees bloom. While blooming times differ all over Japan, some occurring as early as January and as late as May, most cherry trees bloom from late March to early April. The blooming period depends on the geographic location of the trees. It is at this time when many Japanese people participate in what is called hanami or flower viewing. It is not unusual to see crowds of people sitting beneath the ceiling of pink blossoms enjoying food, drinks and the company of their friends.

旅に居おみがある

Kyoto is definitely the place to go if you want to take a step back into the rich history of Japan. A mass of cool green garden moss, the

日本語の単語

(Japanese vocabulary)

はどこですか?

Where is the _____?

銀行 Bank
ホテル Hotel
病院 Hospital
大使館 Embassy
英語が話せますか?

Can you speak English?

Mount Koya - Koyasan, Japan



Mount Koya (Koyasan) is the center of Shingon Buddhism, a Buddhist sect which was introduced to Japan in 805 by Kobo Daishi (aka Kukai), one of the most significant personalities in Japan's religious history. Over one hundred temples stand in the small town on top of the wooded mountain.

Koyasan is one of the best places to experience a night in a temple. About fifty temples in the area function as "しゆくぼ," where tourists are welcome to overnight, try "しよじんりより," the vegetarian cuisine of monks and participate in the morning prayers.

How to get to Koyasan

Koyasan is most conveniently accessed by Nankai Railways from Osaka's Namba or Shin-Imamiya Station. The ride takes about 80 minutes and costs 1,610 Yen, while express trains (kyuko) take about 100 minutes, but cost only 850 Yen.

You can save a little bit by purchasing the "Koyasan Free Sabic" ticket for 2,780 yen. It includes the return trip from Osaka to Koyasan and bus travel within the town. It is sold at Nankai Railways stations.