

What's Up Aichi

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

Autumn Colors at Korankei Gorge



Korankei Gorge

Autumn in Japan brings with it the opportunity for unhurried anticipation of the arrival of fall colors. By mid-November, Aichi's landscape gives itself up to be painted in the soft reds, oranges and yellows that have crept down slowly and steadily from Hokkaido.

With the turning of fall foliage comes the realization that winter chill can't be far behind, and the people of Aichi make the most of this opportunity to enjoy the mild weather one last time. Autumn is also a great time for foreign visitors to the region to get out and discover some of Aichi's less-explored areas at a leisurely pace while witnessing Mother Nature's slow costume change.

Throughout November, visitors from all over Japan flock for the Korankei Maple Leaf Festival in Asuke Town to see the 4000-plus fire-red maples lining the banks of the Tomoe River.

Korankei Gorge is a 70 minute bus ride from Higashi Okazaki Station on the Meitetsu Line

Hunting for Chestnuts



One of the simple joys of the cold months in Japan is roasted chestnuts. A surprising realization for many westerners is how much chestnuts are a part of Japanese cuisine. In Japan chestnuts are one of the most beloved autumn dishes,

and vendors pop up on street corners and local markets all across the country when the chestnuts come into season. There are thousands of different methods for cooking chestnuts from savory dishes like *kurigohan*, chestnuts cooked with rice and seasonings, to sweet dishes like *kurikinton*, originally a regional specialty but *kurikinton* is now enjoyed in all Japan. The Mitachi Green Farm is the perfect place to collect chestnuts for yourself. It's located a short drive away from Korankei, and is the perfect way to spend an afternoon. The farm spans over 150 acres and has about 7000 chestnut trees. The Mitachi Green Farm is a 40 minute bus ride from Toyota City Station.

Farm Information:

<http://www.farm-mitachi.com/>

Goodwill Volunteer Guide Network



The Goodwill Guide Volunteer Program in Aichi, JAPAN

A new website dedicated to introducing Aichi's large group of volunteer tour guides just went live. The site features easy accessibility for everyone including support for the visually impaired, software supported reading, character expansion, and quick translation provided by Google. This is most comprehensive accessibility support offered on Aichi Tourism Bureau websites.

Aichi supports the largest number of volunteer guides in the country. Currently there are 61 tour groups and over 2600 active volunteers. There are no application fees, and most tours are provided free of charge for any group of 2 or more people. The website has full details on what routes and activities are possible and accommodations will be made for those with special needs. There are many volunteers that can provide English tours, and two groups that specialize in English tours.

Main Website:

<http://www.aichi-voluguide.jp/about/>

English Tour Groups:

<http://www.aichi-voluguide.jp/guide/detail.php?id=40>

<http://www.aichi-voluguide.jp/guide/detail.php?id=11>

The Healing Waters of Yuya



The mountains of Aichi are stunningly beautiful. As the Ure River gently flows through the valley, it slowly carves its way through the rocks creating waterfalls and rapids. The valley walls are blanketed by a living wall of Japanese cypress and pine. Nestled in these mountains the Yuya Hot Springs are blessed with a long history and beautiful surroundings.

Its origins date back more than 1300 years ago when a Buddhist monk named Rishu discovered a natural hot spring bubbling up to the surface. Other legends say that while Rishu was living in the mountains the 42nd Emperor of Japan became very ill. Rishu was trained in the Buddhist arts of healing, so he was called to cure the Emperor. The monk was carried by a phoenix to the royal palace. At the palace the monk worked for 17 days and the Emperor successfully recovered. As a reward the monk was allowed to establish the Horaiji Temple (which means 'Phoenix Come Temple') in the mountains above Yuya Hot Springs.

Today you can still visit Horaiji Temple and the hot spring discovered by Rishu. For centuries the hot spring water has been known for its soothing and medicinal properties. It is said to be able to cure everything from rashes to cancer. While there certainly is some exaggeration connected with Yuya Valley its beauty and peacefulness cannot be overstated.

Yuya Onsen Station is only an hour and a half from Nagoya Station on the JR line.

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