

RISE

MONTHLY JOURNAL FROM JAPAN



KORENKAI, AICHI

LETTER FROM EDITORS DESK

Dear Reader,

Ohayo Gozaimasu!!

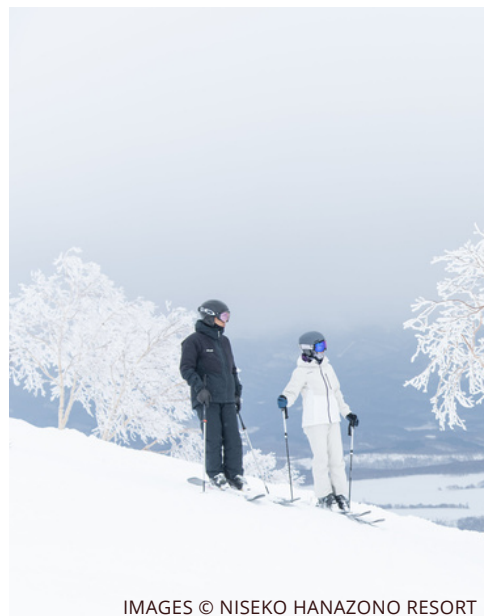
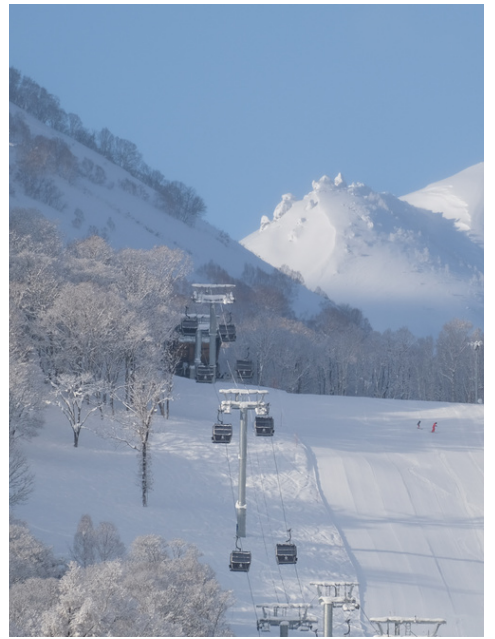
There have been some developments in the last month that indicate a positive change in policy for opening of Japan's borders in the near future.

Japan's coronavirus expert panel recommended downgrading COVID-19 to the same level as seasonal influenza. Effective September 7, 2022, pre-arrival PCR tests are to be dropped for travellers who have received three shots of an approved COVID-19 vaccine for all cross-border travellers and returnees from countries/regions where the Omicron variant becomes dominant. Japan will also raise the daily arrival cap to 50,000 and allow entry of

foreign tourists on non-guided tours.

Independent travellers are currently unable to enter Japan, but nothing is stopping travellers from planning their trip in the coming months of 2022. For visiting Japan, the autumn and winter seasons are less travelled in the Indian market, but we are now seeing this trend changing. With the changing colours of leaves signalling the arrival of the autumn season in September, we hope that Japan announces its border opening for Indian travellers without any restrictions.

Arigato Gozaimasu!



IMAGES © NISEKO HANAZONO RESORT

WINTER ADVENTURE STARTS HERE—NISEKO HANAZONO RESORT

BY SONIA SINGH

Niseko in Japan is the most popular powder skiing destination for passionate skiers and snowboarders from all parts of the globe, located on the northernmost island of Hokkaido. Niseko is coveted as one of the largest joint resort areas in Japan. Hanazono Resort is no such exception.

Hanazono is one destination, one big powder playground, which can be enjoyed with family, friends, or even for your corporate meetings. There is a wide range of on-and off-mountain snow activities available right at the resort, including snowmobiling on their private mountain for both thrill-seekers and chill-seekers, among other things.

Located 100 km south of Sapporo, Niseko Hanazono Resort is located at the base of Mt. Annupuri, which is part of the Niseko-Shakotan-Otaru Kaigan Quasi-National Park and is the eastern end of the Niseko mountain range stretching from the Japan Sea.

It is never too late to start with Snowsports or improve your ride with a lesson in some of the world's softest snow. During the winter season, Niseko attracts a lot of international guests, and there are many instructors that offer to guide the tourists.

Niseko International Snowsports School (NISS) is one such ski school partner,

which is based out of the Hanazono resort and has been offering snow sports lessons since 2013. With decades of experience, NISS is one of Niseko's resort run schools with a high level of professionalism and the quality of instructors is unmatched. They also have instructors who are bilingual (Japanese & English). NISS offers a wide range of products to suit every pocket, skill level, and even schedule. The Hanazono Shield by Trek Track is the latest in GPS Location and Tracking Technology. This system is the first of its kind in the Snowsports industry in Asia and offers the ultimate protection

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IMAGES © NISEKO HANAZONO RESORT

and safety for families travelling with children, especially. Whether you are a novice or expert, child or adult, skier or snowboarder, everyone can have fun. To save time while transferring from resort to resort, NISS offers priority lift access within the Hanazono resort, so you have more time for fun.

There are various activities that one can do at Hanazono with unforgettable winter holidays.

Take a **snowmobiling** adventure through Niseko's renowned powder snow on your very own high-performance snowmobile. Experienced guides take you through lush forests and snow-covered pastures with amazing views of the Niseko range, and you can also take pictures together with a snow mobile. The snowmobile is made up of a state-of-the-art, 600cc, easy to ride,

lightweight machine. There are tandem machines available, where children aged 7 to 13 can ride along with their parents. There are 3 courses offered: Rabbit Course (30 mins), Snowfield Course (60 mins) and Super View Course (90 mins).

Snow rafting : Most of us are familiar with white-water rafting, but not many are aware of snow rafting. Hanazono offers the experience of snow rafting. Slide through the forests and snow banks while being pulled by one of our experienced snowmobilers. Children as young as three can also enjoy this activity. The duration of the activity is 30 min.

Snowshoeing: Take a one-hour guided walking tour including the use of snowshoes with your family. For this activity, the minimum age limit is 13 years old and the maximum group size

is 8.

Horse-riding: Enjoy the ride while swaying on the back of the horse, looking up at the towering Mt. Yotei, Niseko's main peak. The instructors here guide you and make you practice how to ride in a padlock, then leave you in an open field.

Tube Park: If any of your family members or friends missed doing an activity, then this is the activity that one should definitely try. Tubing is great for kids and also for those who play like one.

Hanazono Galaxy of Kidz : As the name suggests, this is an indoor kids' adventure area where children have the freedom to play and challenge curious



IMAGES © NISEKO HANAZONO RESORT

minds in a safe environment. Parents must stay nearby for this activity, as we do not allow children to be left alone. If you want to ensure that parents have free time, child care is recommended.

Terrain Park: This is an outdoor recreation area containing terrain that allows skiers and snowboarders to have all the fun. The terrain park at Hanazono is divided into a main park and a jib park for beginners, both of which are accessible from the Hanazono Hooded Lift #1. The main park consists of two big lines filled with kickers of different sizes. These parks are maintained by a dedicated digger team, and they also assist with tips on ski or snowboard tricks or points to keep in mind when you try the park for the first time.

Weiss Powder Cats: If you wish to book exclusive services for yourself

and your friends, Hanazono offers the Niseko Weiss Powder Cats program. It provides cat-assisted ski and snowboard adventures on a private mountain. A maximum of 12 guests per day guarantees line after line of fresh tracks without queuing for lifts or hiking. Enjoy spectacular views and a specially prepared lunch at Somoza, which is located at the base of Mt. Weisshorn. The terrain is suitable for intermediate powder skiers and riders, or advanced guests who want an exclusive adventure. Groups are joined by several guides to give advice on the best spots on the mountain and ensure your safety throughout the day.

The nearest airport to Hanazono Resort is New Chitose Airport, located approximately 45 kilometers from Sapporo and then you will need to take a rental car. If you are planning to come

by train Hakodate Line is the main rail artery of Hokkaido, running through the Niseko area, providing easy access to Hakodate, Sapporo, Otaru, Asahikawa, and other major cities in Hokkaido. Kutchan station is the most convenient stop when travelling to and from Niseko, just a 10 minute drive to Hanazono and a 15 minute drive to Hirafu Village.

Hanazono Resort is open from the first week of December to early April. If you are unable to travel during the winter season, you can also visit Hanazono during the summer. A must try is the HANAZONO ZIP WORLD, one of the world's largest zip lines with a distance of 2591 meters. Water sports activities like river rafting, kayaking, canoeing, ducky are also available. Golfers can enjoy the 18-hole golf course with a spectacular view of Mount Yotei in the background.

JAPAN—KIT KAT CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

BY SONIA SINGH

Kit Kat as a Nestle brand has been very popular in India for many years now, and most of us have tasted very limited varieties of Kit Kat in India. Japan as a destination is known for its amazing cuisine, but did you know Japan is also the Kit Kat Capital of the World? When in Japan, you can get your hands on more than 400 flavours of Kit Kat. You can easily get it from vending machines, from family marts to Don Quijote, and even a drug store.

The Kit Kat was first produced as a crisp, four-finger chocolate wafer bar in the 1930s in Britain by the chocolate manufacturer Rowntree's. In Japan, Kit Kat was introduced in 1973. Since then, Japan has grown and become the brand's biggest consumer in terms of sales and profits, with Nestle as its present day owner. Kit Kat was originally limited to flavoured chocolate, but after it regained popularity, Nestle began experimenting with new flavours, sweetness levels, packaging, and so on in order to increase its sales in Japan.

In the year 2000, Nestle introduced a new flavour, Strawberry, which was released during strawberry season in Hokkaido as part of a market test. It instantly became a hit. Since then, many unique flavours have been introduced in Japan, like Matcha, Zunda (Green Soya Bean Rice Cake), Orange, Pineapple, Baked Potato, Lemon Cheese Cake, Pumpkin, Azuki Bean, Fruit Parfait, Cherry Blossom, Custard Pudding, Jasmine tea, and many more. The list is endless.

So how did Japan become the Kit Kat capital of the world? In Japan, the name of the brand is pronounced as "kitto katto" and is very similar to the expression "kitto katsu," which is translated as "success at all times." This expression of saying "good luck" is used by students who are appearing for exams. Academic achievement is a very important aspect of Japanese beliefs and culture. When Kit Kat arrived in Japan, it used this in advertising campaigns to establish itself as the "Chocolate of Luck". Everyone started considering this as a nice gift to be given to students before an exam.

Kit Kat has also opened Kit Kat Chocolatory—the shop's name itself comes from a fusion of the words' chocolatier 'and' chocolate factory 'and sells creative Kit Kat bars crafted by the renowned patisserie chef Yasumasa Takagi. Currently there are 4 stores across Japan-- Shinjuku Takashimaya Store, Seibu Ikebukuro Store, and Miyashita Park Shibuya Store in Tokyo and Itami Airport Store in Osaka.

Today, Kit Kat has become part of Japan's Omiyage culture, which is bringing souvenirs for family and friends when returning from a trip. What is your favourite Kit Kat flavour? Let us know.





IMAGES © OKURA NIKKO HOTELS

OKURA CHIBA HOTEL

BY EMI ITO

Okura Nikko Hotels exemplify the very highest Japanese hotel standards, both in Japan and around the world. Each of their hotels has its own individual character and flavour, but all have something in common: a dedication to Omotenashi-Japan's culture of exceptional service and attention to every detail of your stay. Okura Hotels has more than 54 hotels in Japan under its flagship under the brands Okura Hotels & Resorts, Nikko Hotels International and Hotel JAL City.

The Okura Chiba Hotel is a compact city hotel with a European classical style, standing at the seaside of Chiba City, where the city and nature merge. This hotel is situated amid the lush greenery of Chiba City Harbour Promenade, which

extends to Chiba Port Park.

The guest rooms are located on the sixth through ninth floors and look out over Chiba Port. This 84-room property has various room categories like business, standard, superior, and deluxe, with room sizes varying from 15sqm to 30sqm. This hotel is a barrier-free hotel and takes special care of people with disabilities, who can spend their stay without restrictions in specially designed Universal Rooms. The rooms include a flat-screen TV. Some rooms feature a seating area to relax in after a busy day. You will find a kettle in the room. The rooms have a private bathroom. For your comfort, you will find bath robes and free toiletries. The Okura Chiba Hotel features free Wi-Fi throughout the

property. Spy Skyview, on the top floor, is a hot bath facility complete with a Jacuzzi and a jet sleeping bath, perfect for relieving the fatigue of the day. The main restaurant Seven Seas is an unusual restaurant amongst those available in other Okura Hotels and Resorts member hotels in that it combines Japanese Western and Chinese cuisine to provide a very varied and enjoyable menu. This restaurant is all non-smoking and has 2 semi-private space as well. The hotel also houses "Trevi"- a lobby lounge and a bar named "Captain".

The Okura Chiba Hotel, can be easily reached in 70mins by monorail and an express train ride. It is also accessible from Haneda Airport and Narita Airport.



JAPAN

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NIIGATA'S SOH ODORI—GATHERING THROUGH DANCE

BY SONIA SINGH

Japan has a long tradition of performing arts, which can be witnessed in today's modern world in the form of Noh, Kabuki, or Bunraku. In fact, a lot of them originate from dance. Festivals in Japan are a perfect chance to partake in traditional Japanese dances.

Niigata, besides having one of the leading high-quality geisha (geigi) cultures with traditional dance, is becoming even more famous for the "Niigata Soh Odori" (theme "The spirit to pass on to the next generation"), one of the largest all-genre dance festivals in Japan, which was started in 2001.

The festival was born from young people's wish for a bright future. This handmade festival is organised by citizen volunteers.

Anyone is welcome to attend from kids to the elderly.

The Soh Odori dance festival will also feature the "Geta Soh Odori" dance, a reproduction of a 300-year-old Niigata dance. You will notice that dancers wear the Odori Geta sandals (wooden clogs) during this festival. Anyone can attend this festival. Dance groups gather not only from Niigata Prefecture but all over Japan, and even foreign visitors join in.

As the festival temperature rises, one can sense the dynamism and enthusiasm. Audience who are watching the festival also groove into the atmosphere. It is a festival of dance that transcends nationality, age, language barriers, values, and even dance genres.

About 15,000 people from all over Japan will participate in the festival, performing various genres of dances like -HIPHOP, jazz, yosakoi, chia, folk dance, flamenco, salsa, gymnastics, creative dance... The audience reached as high as 200,000. Intense dances are on display on Niigata city's main shopping street and in the tourist facilities. This festival has now become a tradition that reminds people that autumn is near. Every year, this festival takes place on 3 days during the middle of September. This year's festival will be held from September 17th to 19th. If you are planning to visit Niigata, do attend this festival, it is a once in a lifetime experience to participate.



Circular Number: DEL-009
Dated: 30th August 2022

ANA NOTICE

All Nippon Airways (ANA) is updating its international flight schedule for service until 25th March 2023 to select cities due to the ongoing changes to immigration guidelines, recently instituted public health measures and passenger demand trends.

Flt. No.	Route	Departure	Arrival	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
NH830	Mumbai →Narita	19:40 (*2)	08:00 +1 (*2)	-	○	-	○	-	○	-
NH829	Narita →Mumbai	11:25 (*2)	17:35 (*2)	-	○	-	○	-	○	-
NH838	Delhi →Haneda	18:00 (*3)	05:55 +1 (*3)	○	-	○	-	○	(*1)	○
NH837	Haneda →Delhi	09:40 (*3)	15:55 (*3)	○	-	○	-	○	(*1)	○

(*1) Operating on Saturday from 01st October 2022 to 25th March 2023.

(*2) NH830 (10/30 ~11/30) 20:00-07:45+1, (12/1 ~3/25) 20:00-07:25+1
NH829 (10/30 ~11/30) 11:35-18:35, (12/1 ~2/28) 11:05-18:25, (3/1 ~3/25) 11:10-18:25

(*3) NH838 (10/30 ~3/25) 18:45-06:45+1
NH837 (10/30 ~3/25) 10:15-17:15

※ Schedules & aircraft are subject to change without prior notice. Please refer to the ANA website for the latest information.

ANA Promotions:

*Hello Again Japan! Bonus Miles Campaign
<https://www.ana.co.jp/en/in/amc/amc-members/bonus-mile-campaign/>

*No Change Fee
https://www.ana.co.jp/en/in/offers-and-announcements/promotions/nochangefee/?cid=SBN2006free_cxLINE_WWS28ANA2376a

*Double Premium Points Campaign
<https://www.ana.co.jp/en/in/amc/premium-members/cpn-premium-double-point-2022/>

ANA e-Newsletter





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MOTO TOUR

JAPAN





OICITO RESTAURANT, SHINBASHI TOKYO

BY RYO WATANABE

Visiting Tokyo and craving for sumptuous cuisine from the city of Itoshima in Fukuoka Prefecture is no longer a distant dream. Oicito is an Italian restaurant in Shinbashi, Tokyo, serving fusion cuisine of Italian and Itoshima City.

It was started by Mrs. Tomoko Watanabe, born in Itoshima City, which is surrounded by a fabulous coastline and magnificent mountains. Because of this perfect location, the area is absolutely blessed with crystal clear water. Agriculture and fishing are thriving, too. It is famous for its gastronomic culture.

Coming to the restaurant in Shinbashi, Tokyo, this place is the birthplace of Japanese railway history, and the terminal is always bustling and hustling

with loads of business people. The town has many restaurants, bars, and cafes as an oasis for those who work hard there. The district is a melting pot of bars and restaurants, from 5 stars to classic Japanese red lantern pubs, there are diverse kinds of cuisine and drinks. People can enjoy this interesting multicultural atmosphere that only Japan has to offer. This was ideal for the owners to choose Shinbashi for setting up the restaurant, Oicito.

Mr. Shun Yamaguchi, who is the chef at Oicito, has trained in a high-end restaurant, tried Itoshima's diverse ingredients and was moved by the producers' enthusiasm, and he began to believe in promoting those foods through this restaurant.

This 18-seater restaurant wants to deliver

the best experience through delicious food. Oicito restaurant's motto is "Serving the best and suitable food for each and every customer."

Most of the restaurants in Japan use meat and fish in their food, and there are very few restaurants that consider making vegetarian or vegan food. The restaurant serves keema curry and pasta dishes using soybean meat. They also serve a salad with a heap of fresh vegetables from Itoshima, which vegetarians and vegans can enjoy when visiting the restaurant. The food ingredients are so well integrated with the guests' dietary requirements. The restaurant provides many kinds of vegetables with our sincerity by embracing each and every customer's diet.

We look forward to welcoming Indian travellers to our restaurant, Oicito!



SUMO WRESTLING: A DETOUR IN TOKYO

BY SHARAD SHARMA

Planning a travel to Japan and realising that sumo wrestling season is over and seeing a match in person would not be possible. Seeing sumo wrestlers in action is one of the best cultural experiences one could expect in Japan. But one should not be disappointed, if one has missed the wrestling schedule. Yes, a visit to Japan is incomplete without watching sumo wrestlers play some moves. Tokyo will never disappoint you, as it has some of the best sumo training stables, where experiencing this ancient craft up-close and personal is possible by watching training in the morning – known as *asageiko*.

A few of the training stables (in Japanese – *beya*) are now allowing tourists to visit and experience the training sessions. Most of the training stables are located in Tokyo and the Kanto region. During the tournament, these training stables are also available in Osaka, Nagoya, and Fukuoka.

To watch a tournament in person, planning travel to Japan in months of January, May, and September is advisable, as most of the matches happen in Tokyo at Kokugikan Sumo Stadium, located in the cultural town of Ryogoku. Even the training stables in Tokyo are located in the Ryogoku historic district, between the former Tsukiji Market and the Tokyo Skytree.

Most of the sumo stables are located on the ground floor of the apartment building and the upper floors are used for housing the sumo wrestlers. It is important for a visitor to make prior reservations with the sumo training stable so that they are prepared for your visit. Trainings does not happen over the weekend, and wrestlers are given a week off after the tournament to recover. While making the reservation, do check if the training is scheduled for the following day or if it is a rest day for sumo wrestlers.

Training usually starts in the morning at around sunrise and lasts for approximately three hours. It is advisable for guests to arrive at the start of the training session and a minimum of fifteen to twenty minutes prior to the training session. Some of the etiquettes to be followed while visiting training sessions, visitors are expected to maintain silence because talking or even whispering may distract the wrestler or master. While entering the stable, bow to the master and other wrestlers. No eating, or drinking, or smoking is allowed at the stable. One can take pictures with the permission of the stable master. It is generous to leave some gifts behind for the sumo wrestlers.

The Sumo wrestling sport is one of the most interesting cultural activities and one must make time to experience it.

September in Japan



ULTRA JAPAN -EDM FESTIVAL TOKYO

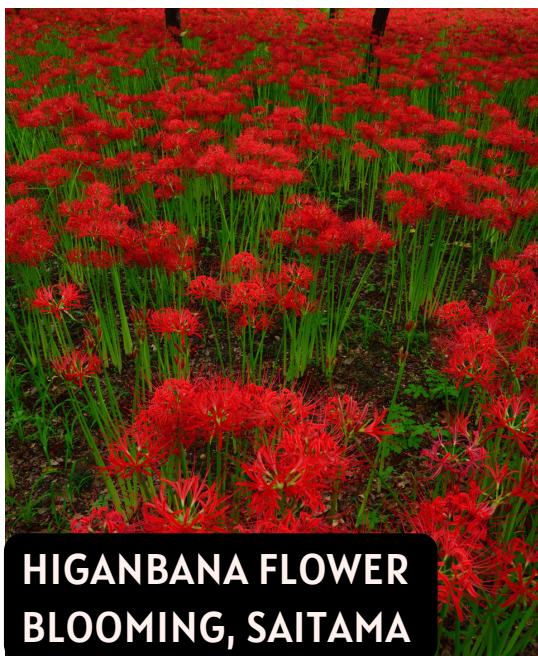
COMB FESTIVAL, KYOTO



SENDAI OKTOBERFEST



TOKYO GAME SHOW

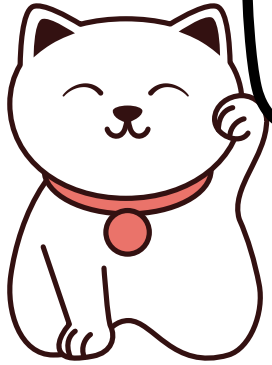


**HIGANBANA FLOWER
BLOOMING, SAITAMA**



KISHIWADA DANJIRI FESTIVAL OSAKA

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Useful
Expressions in
Japanese

Let us
learn



I WANT THE BILL PLEASE – OKAIKEI ONEGAISHIMASU

I WANT THIS PLEASE – KORE ONEGAISHIMASU

I WANT PASTA PLEASE– PASUTA ONEGAISHIMASU

I WANT COFFEE PLEASE– KO-HO ONEGASHIMASU

I WANT WATER PLEASE– MIZU WO KUDASAI

DO YOU HAVE BURGERS – BA-GA GA ARIMASU KA

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