

What's Up Aichi

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

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The Samurai Princesses of Aichi



The Aichi region is the hometown of many samurai warriors including the first ones to unite the Japanese archipelago, Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Maeda Toshiie. Last summer the Nagoya Samurai Greeters were created to commemorate the 400 year anniversary of the founding of Nagoya City. This summer the *Aichi Sengoku Princesses* will be introduced to promote the region's long history. On August 5 the group will make their first public appearance at an event on the grounds of Nagoya Castle.

Starting from top left there is Odai the mother of Ieyasu, Ichi the younger sister of Nobunaga, Kitsuno the concubine of Nobunaga, and One the wife of Hideyoshi. In front there is Matsu the wife of Maeda Toshiie, and Gou the daughter of Ichi.

The original Nagoya Samurai Greeters were created over a year and a half ago, and are still extremely popular. The troop consists of six famous historical commanders Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu, Maeda Toshiie, Kato Kiyomasa, Maeda Keiji and four Ashigaru foot-soldiers.



Shopping for Something Unique

The Japan National Tourism Agency (JNTO) recently published a guide to the popular anime locations of Japan. Nagoya and Aichi are mentioned a couple times, and we are happy for the recognition!

The guide highlights some pop culture stores in Aichi to rival Tokyo's famous Akihabara. Most stores are conveniently located next to stations in the Nagoya area. Some stores not mentioned in the article but worth a visit are Toranoana and Mandarake. Both stores can be found in Tokyo, however the Nagoya branches are equal in size and carry a large number of unique items. Of course a trip to coincide with the annual Cosplay World Summit in Nagoya would be the best way for a Japan pop-culture bonanza.

Full map from JNTO:

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/animemap/>



Beat the Heat at Aichi Beaches

Now is the best time to take an adventurous day trip down to the sea. Aichi has over 350 miles of coastline where you can shed some clothes and escape the heat.



Irago Cape and Kojigahama Beach

Lapped by cool Pacific waves, Aichi beaches offer unique options for tourists looking to escape the concrete jungles. *Umi no ie* are shady hut-like retreats from which to take in views of the sea. Visitors relax while enjoying the weather. you can have an ice-cold draft beer or a refreshing *kakigori*, the Japanese version of the snow cone, and of course delicious food.

Aichi Shows off Autumn Colors

*Enviied by us all,
Turning to such loveliness
Red leaves that fall
Shiko (1665-1731)*



Korankei is said to be the No.1 place to see the autumn maple leaves in the Tokai region. In Autumn over 4,000 maple trees are painted in yellow and red. As a special treat for visitors the trees are illuminated in the evenings from sunset to 9:00 p.m.

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's 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.

If you are interested in travelling to Korankei, it is actually quite simple. Start at Nagoya Station and travel to Higashi-Okazaki Station by Meitetsu line in 35 minutes. From Higashi-Okazaki Station, take a Meitetsu bus to Asuke. It is about 70 minutes by bus from Higashi Okazaki.

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