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Note from the Editor~



As we bid farewell to the desk-warming season, I hope everyone is comfortably settling back into their routines. For our newly arrived ALTs, a warm welcome to you! We wish you the best as you get into the swing of things and find your rhythm here in Okayama. This monthly newsletter is brought to you by your friendly muscateers at Okayama AJET, we're thrilled to have you with us.

With recent natural disaster scares in Japan, we felt it was important to address disaster preparedness in this issue, alongside our usual roundup of seasonal events. Being prepared is key to staying safe, and we hope you find the tips and information helpful as we navigate these unpredictable times.

As always, we'd like to remind you that we are always looking for contributors. Whether you have photos of unique spots you've explored, events you've attended within the prefecture, stories from your time on the JET Programme, or even book and movie recommendations, we'd love to feature you.

If you're interested in contributing, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at

newsletter@okayama-ajet.com

or

okayama.rose@gmail.com

Tsukimi



Moon Viewing Festival

Written by Karissa Garcia

Tsukimi (月見) is a festival held in Japan every autumn that celebrates the harvest moon. The name “Tsukimi” means “looking at the moon”, and has remained an autumn tradition for more than one thousand years.

Tsukimi is celebrated traditionally in September, dating back to Japan’s Heian period (794-1185).



It’s believed that Tsukimi was influenced by Tang Dynasty China’s (618-907) Mid-Autumn Festival. Japanese aristocrats would gather to play music, compose poetry, and take boats out in the evening to admire the moonlight’s reflection on the water. Eventually, Tsukimi has become a festival that not only admires the moon, but also thanks the Gods for a bountiful harvest.

Originally, Tsukimi was celebrated on the 13th day of the month. However, in 1683 when the calendar was changed, the timing of the full moon moved to the 15th. Now, the

festival's date is dependent on the lunar calendar, although it typically falls somewhere in mid-September.



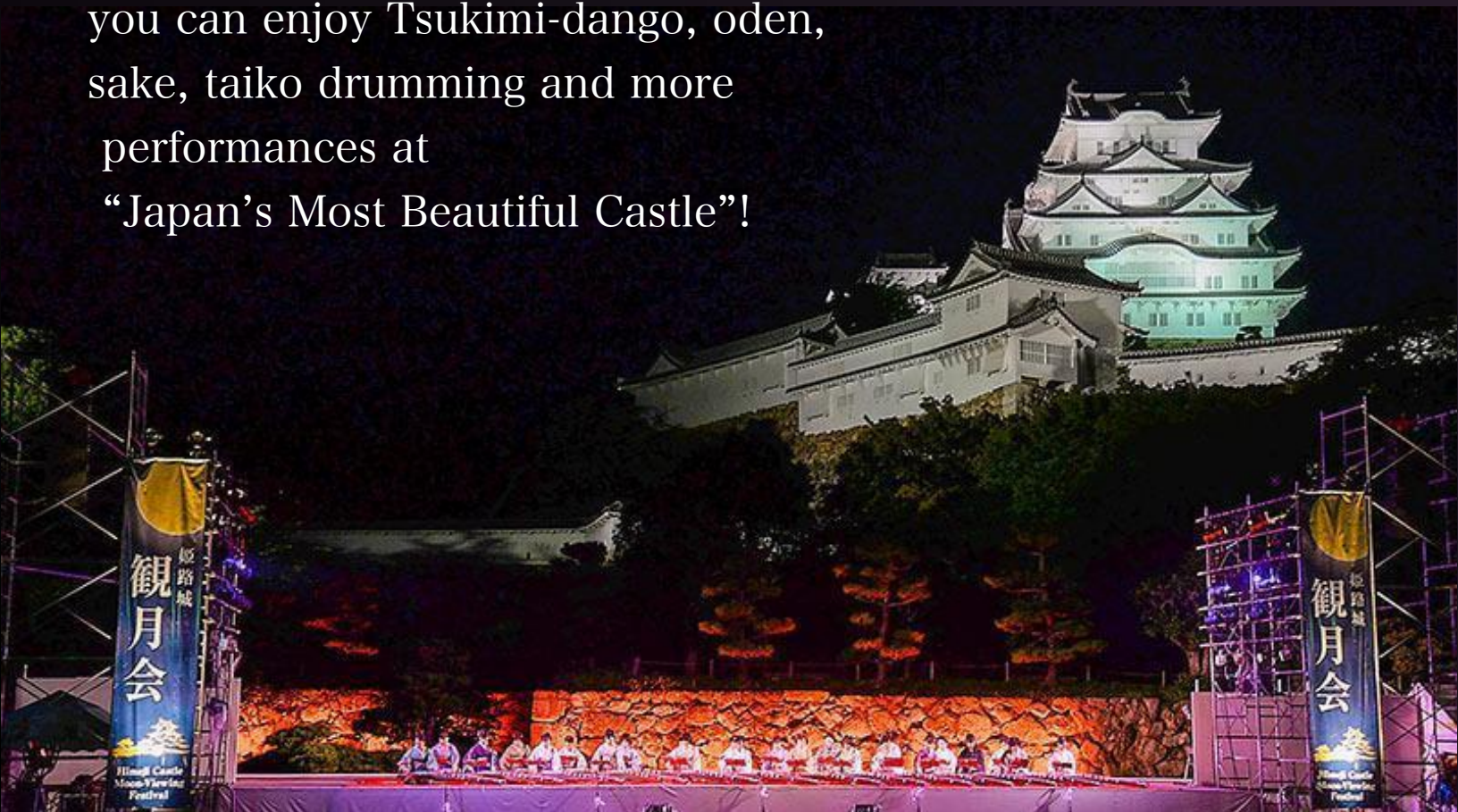
One thing that may surprise you about Japanese culture is the common belief that there's a rabbit on the moon! The craters on the surface of the moon resemble a rabbit pounding “mochi”, or Japanese rice cake. In Japan, rice has remained significant culturally, historically, and economically, so it's no surprise that mochi appears in this tale. Naturally, rabbits have become a special symbol in Japan during Tsukimi. You can find rabbit-shaped snacks during this time of year, as well as rice dumplings known as Tsukimi-dango.

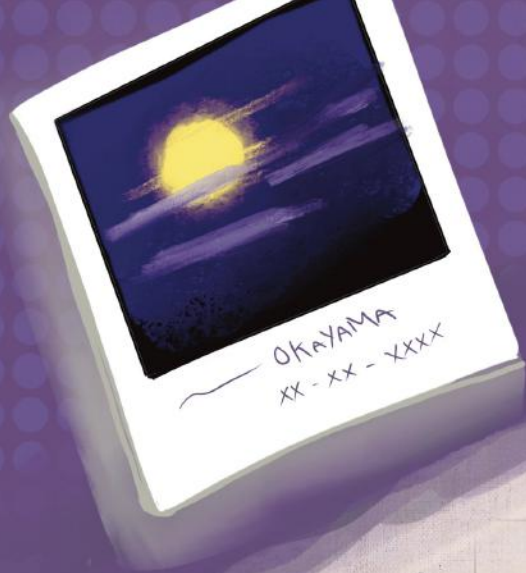


Edamame, chestnuts, pumpkins, and pampas grass are a few among many seasonal offerings used and given during Tsukimi. Moon-viewing parties are also commonly held, with people inviting friends and family over to gather and watch the moon together.

Moon viewing events also take place at several temples, shrines, gardens, castles, and at outdoor locations across Japan! You can enjoy traditional dancing, music and poetry recitals. You may even get your own chance to admire the moon by boat in some areas.

Himeji Castle in Hyogo Prefecture is one among many popular places where Tsukimi events take place. Located about an hour from Okayama by train, you can enjoy Tsukimi-dango, oden, sake, taiko drumming and more performances at “Japan’s Most Beautiful Castle”!





Want to be part of
The Peach Cobbler!?!?!?



If you want to
contribute photos or
stories please contact
us at
newsletter@okayama-ajet.com
OR
okayama.rose@gmail.com



more info available on www.okayama-ajet.com

Advice Corner

Disaster Preparedness in Okayama: Staying Safe in an Unpredictable World

While Okayama is known for being one of Japan's safest prefectures in terms of natural disasters, it's important to stay informed and prepared, especially given the ongoing discussions about the potential for a "megaquake". Though we don't know when—or even if—this event will occur within the next 30 years, taking proactive steps can provide peace of mind and ensure you're ready for any situation.

In this issue, we'll be sharing key information and tips on disaster preparedness tailored to life in Okayama. From assembling an emergency kit to understanding local resources, we want to make sure you have everything you need to stay safe and confident, no matter what comes our way.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS



AMBULANCE AND
FIRE TRUCK

☎ 119



POLICE

☎ 110



ALERT, WARNING AND
WEATHER FORECAST

☎ 177

USEFUL APPS AND PLACES TO GET EMERGENCY INFORMATION



SCAN ME



To sign up for Okayama City Hall Disaster Information Mail (in English for other languages click [here](#)) please scan this QR code send the pre-typed email, you should soon after receive a reply with a link to complete your registration. If you don't see it check your junk.



Safety Tips



Yurekuru Call



Japan Shelter Guide



NHK World Japan

E a r t h q u a k e s

Before the Earthquake

1. **Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Include essentials like water, food, a flashlight, batteries, a first-aid kit, and important documents.
2. **Secure Heavy Items:** Make sure heavy furniture, appliances, and shelves are securely anchored to the walls.
3. **Know Safe Spots:** Identify safe spots in your home, such as under sturdy tables or against interior walls, away from windows and heavy objects.

During the Earthquake

1. **Drop, Cover, and Hold On:** If you're indoors, drop to your hands and knees, cover your head and neck with your arms or get under a sturdy table, and hold on until the shaking stops.
2. **Stay Indoors:** If you're indoors, stay there. Moving outside can be more dangerous due to falling debris.
3. **Avoid Windows:** Stay away from windows, glass, and anything that could shatter.
4. **If You're Outside:** Move to an open area away from buildings, trees, and power lines.
5. **If You're in a Vehicle:** Pull over to a safe area, away from bridges, overpasses, and buildings. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.

After the Earthquake

1. **Check for Injuries and Hazards:** Tend to any injuries and be cautious of hazards like broken glass, gas leaks, and damaged structures.
2. **Be Prepared for Aftershocks:** Aftershocks can occur minutes, hours, or even days after the main quake. Stay alert and take cover if they occur.
3. **Listen to Official Information:** Use a battery-powered radio or your phone to stay informed about the situation and follow any evacuation orders if necessary.
4. **Communicate Carefully:** Use text messages or social media to let others know you're safe. Avoid making phone calls unless absolutely necessary to keep lines open for emergencies.

Typhoon

Before the Typhoon

1. **Monitor Weather Reports:** Keep an eye on weather updates and typhoon warnings through TV, radio, or your phone.
2. **Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Gather essentials: water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, batteries, first-aid supplies, and important documents. Include a portable phone charger.
3. **Secure Your Home:** Lock all windows, shutters, and doors. Bring outdoor items like plants, furniture, and bicycles inside.
4. **Charge Your Devices:** Ensure your phone and other essential devices are fully charged in case of a power outage.
5. **Stock Up on Supplies:** Ensure you have enough food, water, and supplies to last a few days, as services may be disrupted.

During the Typhoon

1. **Stay Indoors:** Don't go outside during the typhoon; strong winds and debris are dangerous.
2. **Stay Away from Windows:** Stay in a safe room, away from windows and glass doors. Choose an interior room on a lower floor if possible.
3. **Avoid Using Electrical Appliances:** Disconnect non-essential electrical appliances to prevent short circuits or fires.
4. **Stay Informed:** Continue monitoring weather updates and follow local authorities' instructions, including evacuation orders.
5. **Don't Drive:** Don't drive during the typhoon; roads may flood, and winds can make driving dangerous.

After the Typhoon

1. **Be Cautious Outside:** Watch for hazards like downed power lines, broken glass, and flooding. Avoid walking through flooded areas.
2. **Check for Damage:** Inspect your home for structural damage, leaks, or other issues. Be cautious of weakened walls, roofs, or floors.
3. **Stay Away from Floodwaters:** Stay away from floodwaters, which may be contaminated or hide hazards.
4. **Communicate Your Safety:** Let family and friends know you're safe. Use text messages or social media to reduce the strain on phone lines.
5. **Follow Official Advice:** Continue listening to local authorities for updates on road conditions, drinking water safety, and other essential services.

For more information and a detailed check list of things to prepare please visit check out the [Disaster Preparedness](#) available on Okayma's website

Lastly, while pre-made emergency kits are available online and can be a good start, we strongly recommend creating your own if possible. By doing so, you can ensure the quality of the items, confirm all essentials are included, and tailor the kit to your specific needs and preferences.



When it comes to securing your home, especially for earthquakes, you can find a variety of useful items at Daiso or on Amazon. Consider investing in tension bars and earthquake-resistant mats to secure furniture, small appliances, and even valuable items like anime figures. It's a small effort that can make a big difference in keeping your belongings safe.



Stay safe out there Peaches

UPCOMING AJET EVENTS



Hosted by Okayama AJET

WELCOME PARTY!

LET'S ENJOY GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

SAT, SEPT. 21, 2024 | 5PM-7PM

ALL YOU CAN DRINK & EAT 🍺

Okayama Tenmaya Rooftop
BBQ Beer Garden
contact:

heykarissa@gmail.com

¥5000



INTERESTED?
Scan me!



SIGN UP DEADLINE SEPT. 18TH

Events in Okayama

SEPTEMBER 2024

名月観賞会 - Crow Castle Summer Festival



Date: September 17th

More Info: [日本語](#) [English](#)

Location: Okayama Korakuen

Time: 17:00 - 21:30

Admission: Free with admission to park

*Tea ceremony tickets can only be bought in advance

Special bento can also be bought in advance

神楽共演会 - Kagura Joint Performance

Date: September 22nd

More Info: [日本語](#)

Location: Manabi Square Niimi Large Hall

Time: 13:00

Admission: S Seat: ¥2500 Junior High Student/Younger: ¥500
A Seat: ¥2000

*Prices increase by ¥500 at the door



吹屋ベンガラ灯り - Fukiya Bengala Light



Date: September 21st

More Info: [日本語](#) [English](#)

Location: Fukiya Furusato Village

Time: 17:30 - 20:00

Admission: Free

FAN - Find a New...



Date: Sept 14th

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Niimishi Ikoitofureaino Park

Time: 11:00 - 19:00

Admission: Free

ドイツの森 ミュージック花火大会 - Musical Fireworks (German Forest)

Date: September 15th

More info: [日本語](#)

Location: Okayama Forest Park

Time: 19:30 - 19:45

Admission: Park Admission; Adult - ¥1500
Kids (4-Elementary Student) - ¥1000
Dogs - ¥500



OTHER

International Meet Up Party 「せかつく」



Date: August 7th

More info: [Instagram](#)

Location: Matador (Bar in Okayama City)

Time: 20:00 - 22:00

Admission:

Men ~ ¥4000

All you can drink and buffet style food included

Women ~ ¥3500

August Word Search

ANSWER KEY



August, try to beat the summer heat while finding more words related to summer time in Japan.

Write the English translation (and/or kanji) of the words below and find them in the wordsearch above.

① せみ → cicada 蝉

② ゆかた → yukata 浴衣

③ ひがさ → parasol 日傘

④ およぐ → to swim 泳ぐ

⑤ うみ → sea 海

⑥ かきごおり → shaved ice かき氷

⑦ みずぎ → swimsuit 水着

*⑧ ひまわり → sunflower 向日葵

⑨ はちがつ → August 八月

⑩ ねっちゅうしょう → heatstroke 熱中症

* → words usually written in kana

ANSWER KEY

Difficulty: Medium

Monthly Sudoku

AUGUST 2024

6	2	4	9	3	5	7	8	1
9	7	1	8	2	6	4	5	3
5	3	8	4	1	7	2	6	9
2	1	5	7	8	4	9	3	6
7	8	9	1	6	3	5	2	4
4	6	3	5	9	2	1	7	8
3	9	6	2	7	1	8	4	5
8	4	7	6	5	9	3	1	2
1	5	2	3	4	8	6	9	7

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

September Word Search



September, find words relating to the month as well as natural disasters. Stay safe out there!

Write the English translation (and/or kanji) of the words below and find them in the wordsearch above.

① つぎみ →

② しぜんさいがい →

③ くかつ →

④ じしん →

⑤ たいふう →

⑥ うさぎ →

⑦ さく (flower) →

⑧ まんげつ →

⑨ ひじょうち →

⑩ じこしょうかい →

Difficulty: Medium

Monthly Sudoku

SEPTEMBER 2024

	5			4				8
	7	9	3		2		5	
	4			6		9		
3				7			4	
		2		3	5		6	
		7	4	2				
9	3	4				1	8	
8				1		3		
					3			

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.