

FESTIVALS

Sep. 1 BOSAI-NO-HI (Disaster Prevention Day) 防災の日

Disaster Prevention Day was established in 1960 in order to remind us Japanese of the serious consequences of disasters caused by typhoons, tidal waves, earthquakes, tsunami etc., and to prepare ourselves to cope with them. The week from August 30 to Sept. 5 is called Disaster Prevention Week, during which disaster drills are held in many districts. It is also a time to make sure we have emergency supplies in our homes and that we know where the closest evacuation center is.

June 1 - Sept. 20 UKAI (Cormorant Fishing) on the Hiji-kawa (river) Ozu City

In Japan the tradition of cormorants fishing goes back at least a thousand years. In Ozu it started as a tourist attraction in 1957 and now the Hiji-kawa is one of the three most famous *ukai* spots in Japan, including the Nagara-gawa in Gifu Prefecture and the Mikuma-gawa in Oita Prefecture. The fishing is done in the evening from a boat called *u-bune*, which is lit by torches as it sails down the Hiji-kawa, the river that runs through Ozu. Cormorant fishermen called *usho* beat the sides of the boats to encourage trained cormorants to catch fish. They are drawn by long strings attached to rings around the birds' necks, which prevent them from swallowing fish. When a cormorant makes a catch, a fisherman pulls the bird in and has it cough up the fish on the boat. You can watch it from special sightseeing boats called *yakata-bune*. *Ukai* is done in the way called *awase-ukai* 合わせ鵜飼 that *u-bune* and sightseeing *yakata-bune* sail down the river together. You can order a bento to eat on board or just ride the boat and watch, and some hotels offer a special *ukai* package. Prices range from ¥4,000 depending on your plan. It will be canceled if the weather is bad.

Ask for the further information to Ozu-kanko-sogo-annaisho 大洲観光総合案内所 and make a reservation. (Tel. 0893-57-6655) <https://ozuukai.com>

Transportation: Take the Iyotetsu bus bound for Yawatahama from Shieki, gate #4, and get off at Ozu-honmachi bus stop (a 90-minute ride). Or take the JR express train from Matsuyama and get off at Ozu (a 40-minute ride). From the station take a taxi or walk for 30 minutes.

July 22 - Jan. (Next year) THE 29th NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF KAMABOKO-ITA -NO-E 9:00 - 17:00 (closed on Tuesday) at GALLERY SHIROKAWA

Shirokawa-cho, Seiyo City 西予市城川町

The national exhibition of paintings on *kamaboko* (fish-paste) boards started about thirty years ago. This year 6,100 paintings were sent from all over the country and abroad. The painting which won the first prize this year is the one titled “*Yoake ni* よあけに (at dawn)”. It was painted by Nakamura Rutsu (33 years old) from Komatsu city, Ishikawa prefecture, who is a Wajima lacquerware craftsman. She painted the Virgin Mary surrounded with grass and flowers in bloom, and a wing of an angel as if flapping against the light shining from the sky.

(Tel. 0894-82-1001)

Sept. 7 YUYAKE (Sunset) PLATFORM CONCERT 16:20 - 19:10

At JR Shimonada station 下灘駅 in Futami-cho, Iyo City 伊予市双海町

A music concert will be held on the platform of JR Shimonada station. The station is very close to the sea, and you can enjoy a beautiful sunset as well as nice music. The concert will be held even if there is light rain. (Tel. 089-994-5852)

<https://iyokankou.jp/event/event-958/>

Transportation: Take the JR local train bound for Uwajima and get off at Shimonada.

JR Matsuyama-----JR Shimonada	
13:02	13:44
JR Shimonada-----JR Matsuyama	
19:38	20:25

Imotaki 芋炊き in Ehime

In Ehime prefecture about this time of the year we have a tradition of eating *imotaki*, a kind of stew with taro, chicken and various ingredients. We enjoy eating and chatting with our families, fellow workers, and friends outdoors, usually by the river side.

Sep. 14 - Oct. 26 18:00-21:30 Deai no imotaki

Under Deai-bashi (bridge) 出合橋 of the Shigenobu-river on route 56 going south out of Matsuyama city.

Price: ¥2,000 (Reserved) (Tel. 089-989-5506)

<http://www.ryouin-mattyuu.sakura.ne.jp/imotaki/index.html>

Early Sep. - Mid Oct. 17:00-21:00 Goshikihama kangetsu (moon viewing) imotaki

Goshikihama 五色浜 Seaside Park in Iyo city

Closed on Oct. 14-15 because of the autumn festival.

In case of rain, you can eat indoors.

Price: ¥1,900 (Reserved: for two or more people) (Tel.089-982-0360)

Sep. 1- Oct. 31 11:00-21:00 Welpia-Iyo imotaki

Welpia-Iyo in Iyo city

In case of rain, it will be held indoors.

Price: ¥2,000 Course / ¥2,700 Course (Tel. 089-983-4500)

<https://welpiaiyo.jp/event>

August 30 - Mid Oct. From the evening to 21:00 Ozu no imotaki

Hijikawa-ryokuchi-konen 肱川緑地公園 Picnic land

You can bring your own drinks.

In case of rain it will be canceled. (Tel. 0893-24-2664)

Near here you can visit the Garyu Sanso villa and garden, which are designated as a National Important Cultural Property.

Price: ¥3,000 ~ (Reserved as a group of more than five members)

You need to make a reservation at one of the following shops.

Yonezawa よねざわ (0893-24-2639) Muraya むらや (0893-24-4637)

Tarui たる井 (0893-24-4585) Umetako うめたこ (0893-25-0826)

Nishikawa にし川 (0893-24-4046)

Sept. 16 KEIRO-NO-HI 敬老の日 (Respect-for-the-Aged Day) National Holiday

Respect-for-the-aged day was instituted in 1966 as a national holiday to express thanks and respect for older people and pray for their health. In Japan, as in China, we celebrate their

longevity as well as their health on the 60th and 70th birthdays. We have even more celebrations for ages 77, 88 and 99 because double numbers are favored in the belief that luck also doubles in those years.

Tsukimi 月見 or Kangetsu 観月 (Moon Viewing)

Autumn is the season of moon viewing. *Mangetsu*, the full moon (harvest moon) in autumn is the largest and clearest of the year and so it is special in Japan. We call it *Chushu no meigetsu* 中秋の名月 (the full moon of August 15th by the lunar calendar). This year the full moon is on the night of September 17th. In many homes, a small table is set on the south side of the house where the moonlight pours in. On the table *susuki*, Japanese pampas grass, which is said to invite the gods, is arranged. Anything round, like the moon, such as *tsukimi dango*, sweet dumplings, *edamame*, green soybeans, grapes or *satoimo*, taro, is offered. It is said that the custom of moon viewing was introduced from China in the 8th century. In the Heian era (792~1180) the imperial court appreciated the beautiful moon and competed in composing *waka* poetry. In the Edo era (1600~1867) this custom spread among common people. The autumn season is also favored because of the cooler evenings when singing insects give full voice amid the tall autumn grasses and flowers.

Sep. 16-17 YOKAICHI MACHINAMI KANGETSUKAI 八日市町並観月会 (18:00~) **In Yokaichi-Gokoku District, Uchiko-cho 内子町八日市・護国地区**

To appreciate the full moon, a moon viewing festival is held in Yokaichi・Gokoku Important Traditional Building Preservation District (八日市護国重要伝統的建造物群保存地区) in Uchiko. Visitors walk along the street lined with houses built more than 100 years ago, lit by *andon* lanterns made of paper and bamboo placed or hung just in front, which produces a special atmosphere. Great for strolling on the long autumn evening.

The street

18:30 A *Koto* concert.

18:30 Haiku contribution boxes are placed here and there.

18:30 An exhibition of works of *tesukiwashi* (handmade Japanese paper) and *hakushoku washi* (gold-leafed paper)

Only 16th 19:10 / 19:50 *Hazetori odori* (a dance accompanied by a song sung when *haze*-berries, the raw material of wax, are picked.)

Kamihaga House 上芳我邸

19:20 / 20:20 A concert of *niko* 二胡 and *yokin* 楊琴

Kamihaga House was built in 1904 as the homestead of the Haga family and is now a wax museum 木蠟資料館. The Haga Family made their fortune manufacturing wax from the 19th to the early 20th century.

Koshoji temple near the Yokaichi street

Only 17th 18:00 Japanese cakes and tea ¥300

You should go early and walk around Uchiko town, especially the Yokaichi area.

Tel. 0893-44-5251

Email: machinami-g@town.uchiko.ehime.jp

(Tel. 0893-44-5212)

Transportation: Take the JR limited express train bound for Uwajima from Matsuyama and get

off at Uchiko. (a 20-minute ride). From the station it is a 30-minute walk to the district.

Sept. 22 SHUBUN-NO-HI 秋分の日 (Autumn Equinox) National Holiday

Shubun-no-hi is the center of *Higan* week (19th -25th). According to Buddhist custom, during the week people visit their family graves, clean them and offer incense and flowers. It is believed that on this day one can meet one's ancestors. The symbol flower of *Higan* is *higan-bana*, a cluster amaryllis that blooms at this time in the fields. It has no leaves at first, just flowers, and the root is poisonous.