

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 fishing with cormorants 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. 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 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 *yakata-bune* sail down the river side by side. You can order a box lunch to eat on board or just ride the boat and watch. Some hotels offer a special *ukai* package. Prices vary depending on the plan. It will be canceled if the weather is bad. You need to make a reservation.

Further information: <https://ozuukai.com>

(0893-57-6655 Ozu kanko Sogo annaisho 大洲観光総合案内所)

Transportation: Take an Iyotetsu bus bound for Yawatahama from Shieki, gate #4, and get off at Ozu-honmachi bus stop (a 90-minute ride). Or take a 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 19 – January 11 next year The 31st NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF KAMABOKO-ITA -NO-E At GALLERY SHIROKAWA Shirokawa-cho, Seiyo City 西予市城川町 9:00–17:00 Closed on Tuesdays & from Dec. 28–January 3

The national exhibition of paintings on *kamaboko* (fish-paste) boards started more than thirty years ago. This year 6,552 paintings were sent from all over the country and abroad. The painting which won the first prize this year is titled “*Natsu Satoyama ni Ikiru* (In Summer, Live in the Countryside, *Satoyama*) 夏里山に生きる”. It was painted by Nishi Koji 西浩二 (69 years old) from Okayama prefecture. It shows a *kamikirimushi* (longhorn beetle), which is not good at flying, trying to spread his wings.

Admission: Adults - ¥500 High school & University students - ¥300

Children younger than junior high school students - free

<https://www.city.seiyo.ehime.jp/miryoku/galleryshirokawa/> (Tel. 0894-82-1001)



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

A music concert is 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 is held even if there is light rain. (Tel. 089-994-5852)

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

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

JR Matsuyama	→	JR Shimonada
13:45		14:58
JR Shimonada	→	JR Matsuyama
19:38		20:36

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. 12- Oct. 31 18:00-21:30 Deai-no-imotaki

Under the Deai-bashi (bridge) 出合橋, of the Shigenobu-river on route 56 going south out of Matsuyama city. (Tel. 089-989-5506)

Price: ¥2,200 (Reserved only by telephone between 10:00 and 15:00) ※¥ 2,500 (Day)

Sep. 11 - Oct. 17 17:00-21:00 Goshikihama Kangetsu (moon viewing) -imotaki

In Goshikihama 五色浜 Seaside Park in Iyo city

Closed on Oct. 10-11 because of the autumn festival.

In case of rain, you can eat indoors. (Tel.089-982-0360)

Price: ¥ 2,200 (Reserved for more than two people the day before) ※ ¥2,400 (Day)

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

In Welpia-Iyo in Iyo city

In case of rain, it is held indoors. <https://welpiaiyo.jp/> (Tel. 089-983-4500)

Price: ¥2,000 Course / ¥3,000 Course (Reserved for more than two people 3 days before)

August 28 - Mid Oct. From the evening to 21:00 Ozu-no-imotaki

In *Hijikawa-ryokuchi-konen* 肝川緑地公園 Picnic land

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 (0893-24-2639)

Muraya (0893-24-4637)

Tarui (0893-24-4585)

Umetako (0893-25-0826)

Nishikawa (0893-24-4046)

Oishi Foods (0893-25-5620) – Only for sale as a set

Sept. 21 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.

Sept. 22 KOKUMIN-NO-KYUJITSU 国民の休日

National Holiday

Sept. 23 SHUBUN-NO-HI 秋分の日 (Autumn Equinox)

National Holiday

On Shubun-no-hi as well as on *Shunbun-no-hi* 春分の日, day and night are of the same length and the sun sets directly in the west. According to Buddhist cosmology, paradise, or the land of happiness, is located in the west. During the week of the equinox (20th -26th) called *Higan*, people visit their family graves and offer incense sticks, *o-senko*, to pay respect to their 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.



A favorite food on this occasion is *ohagi*, soft rice-balls covered with sweet *azuki* bean-paste. *Higan* is also referred to as a change of hot or cold season and there is an old saying, "Hot or cold weather ends with the equinox" (*Atsusa samusa mo higan made* 暑さ寒さも彼岸まで).