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NEWS

HELLO KAWASAKI



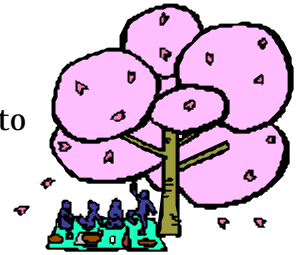
Cherry Blossoms

Introducing you famous places in Kawasaki for cherry blossom trees. At these places you can enjoy the Japanese traditional custom of Hanami, which is a kind of picnic under blooming cherry trees.

First up is Midorigaoka-Reien, this being a cemetery set up by Kawasaki City for the faithfully departed. During the cherry blossom season Midorigaoka-Reien, which has several hundred cherry trees, is one of the best places of all the competing places to see cherry blossoms. You can get to Midorigaoka-Reien by getting out at the Tsudayama Station on the JR Nambu Line.

Next is the Yumemi-gasaki Animal Park, where are over 400 animals from at least 50 different species, for example, the Lesser Panda and the Humboldt Penguin. Within the Yumemi-gasaki Animal Park there are over 500 cherry trees such as the Higan and the Somei-yoshino species. To get to the Yumemi-gasaki Animal Park you can take a bus from the West Exit of Kawasaki Station and get off at the bus stop marked Yumemi-gasaki Dobutsu Koen Mae and then it's a 5 minute walk. Or you can reach the Yumemi-gasaki Animal Park by getting off at the Kashimada Station on the JR Nambu Line and then it's a 20 minute walk.

Next: the Nikaryo-yosui stream walkway that is nearby the area from Shukugawara Station on the JR Nambu Line and Ryokka Centre (Greenery Center). Cherry trees of this area have been kept in good condition thanks to a preservation group set up by the local people.



Following on, we have the Nikaryo-yosui Stream that goes through Nakahara Ward. The cherry trees here start from the Imai-kamicho-Ryokudo area, past the Nakahara Peace Park and then go onto the Nakahara Ward Office. From the Ward Office the Nikaryo-yosui splits up becoming the Shibukawa River which continues on to Motosumiyoshi and the Karugamo no sato.

Lastly there's the Kajigaya Dai-ichi Park in Takatsu Ward. Here there are over 280 cherry trees that when in bloom become a busy attraction for people doing "Hanami". It's a 15 minute walk to the Kajigaya Dai-ichi Park from Kajigaya Station on the Denentoshi Line.

These are all the popular places you can visit when the cherry blossoms are in bloom, not only are the beautiful, they are free to view. If you do plan to have a Hanami party, be sure to clean up and take away your rubbish afterwards.

Please enjoy Hanami, one of Japan's cherished and popular annual events.

Kawassaki Marien

Introducing you to Kawasaki Marien and the facilities around it in Higashi-Ougishima in Kawasaki Ward, where is a 51 meter high observation platform, from which you can see a great view of Tokyo Bay and even Chiba area, if the weather is good.



To enter the observation platform costs 300 yen for people aged over 15, for those of elementary and middle school age is 150 yen.

Attached to the Kawasaki Marien is a BBQ Area, which is open for use by anyone as long as the person applying to use it is over 20 years old. You have to apply one month before the date you want to use it on a first-come-first-served basis at the office or by telephone. It is FREE to use this BBQ Area. Here you can use the iron



plates, the metal grills and the thongs for free. However you cannot buy or rent charcoal, food, leisure sheets, chairs, tables etc.

The opening times : during the ordinary season from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
open at different times in July and August and also from December to February .

There are washing areas, toilets and vending machines selling soft drinks (no alcohol).

Also at the Kawasaki Marien you can borrow bicycles for free in order to go over and fish at the Higashi-Ougishima Nishi-Park, where not only can you enjoy fishing but you can also use the wide green area, which has been set up for the enjoyment of children. You can rent bikes between 9:00am and 4:00pm. To get to the Kawasaki Marien area just take the bus marked Higashi-Ougishima Junkan and get off at the bus stop marked Kawasaki Marien Mae. In relation to the Kawasaki Marien BBQ Area you can get further information and even apply to use the facility by phoning 044-287-6000. The facilities are closed on Mondays, but if Monday is a National Holiday the facilities will be open but will be closed on the following regular day.



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Folk House Park

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Kawasaki City's Folk House Park in Tama Ward is an outdoor museum of old traditional Japanese folk houses that was opened in 1967 with the aim of preserving these traditional houses for the future.

>> In the Folk House Park there are 25 buildings that you can view. Starting from a typical Eastern Japan style house, you can see buildings such as a water mill, a boatman's house, an elevated store house, a kabuki stage and many more. Eighteen of the buildings have been awarded National or Prefectural Cultural Treasures of Importance Status. These houses were relocated to the Folk Park from different parts of Japan and then rebuilt according to the rules of traditional Japanese carpentry.

The old folk houses from East Japan are the central focus of the Folk Park, but there are also folk houses from the far parts of Japan such as Iwate, Yamagata, Gifu, Toyama, Mie and Kagoshima prefectures. The ages of the houses range from the 17th century to the 20th century.

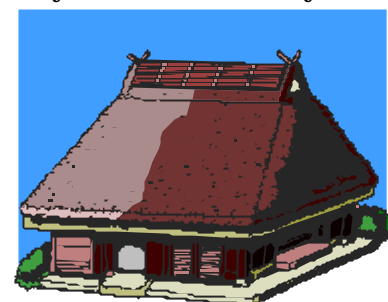
Nearly everyday you can see one of the fireplaces being lit in one of those houses. When you visit the houses not only can you see the fires you can also sit down and make yourself comfortable around the fireplace.

>> Along with the beautiful traditional houses in the Folk House Park there is also a special exhibition building where you can learn information about folk houses.

>> The Kawasaki Municipal Japanese Folk House Park is a 12 minute walk from Mukogaoka-yuen Station on the Odakyu Line. Entrance fee is 500 yen. However it is 300 yen for students and it is FREE for those below junior high school age and also for people aged over 65.

>> The Folk Park is open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. It is closed on Mondays, however, Folk House Park will be open on Mondays if the national holiday falls on a Monday or if Saturday or Sunday are national holidays; in such a case it will be closed the following Tuesday. The Folk House Park will also be closed during the New Year Holidays.

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