

Topics on Japan



Obon お盆

Obon has a special meaning for most of the Japanese. Around Aug 13-16, though the period varies depending on where you live, the souls of family ancestors are thought to come back to their families. At the same period, the families also gather at their hometowns to welcome them. Some families visit their family graves, while others invite their ancestors to their home altars with special offerings of flowers, lanterns, food, etc., and enjoy heart-warming gatherings among the family members. To guide the souls of ancestors, the family may light “^{Mukaebi}迎え火” (welcoming bonfires) at the entrance, and “^{Okuribi}送り火” (farewell bonfires) to see them off.

The most famous Okuribi is “^{Gozan Okuribi}五山 送り火” in Kyoto, known as “^{Daimonji yaki}大文字 焼き.” “^{Bizenbori Toronagashi}備前堀 灯籠流し” and “^{Senbako Toronagashi}千波湖 灯ろう流し” held here in Mito are also part of Okuribi. You can say such Obon related activities are all rooted in love and respect for our ancestors.

However, nowadays, many Japanese companies close the office during this Obon period, so that people tend to spend Obon as a long summer vacation, rather than a traditional religious event.



Mito City International Association (MCIA)

Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm

(Closed : Mondays, **Aug11, Sep20,22**)

Add 〒310-0024 ^{Mito-shi Bizen-machi}水戸市 備前町6-59

Mito International Center

Tel 029-221-1800 Fax 029-221-5793

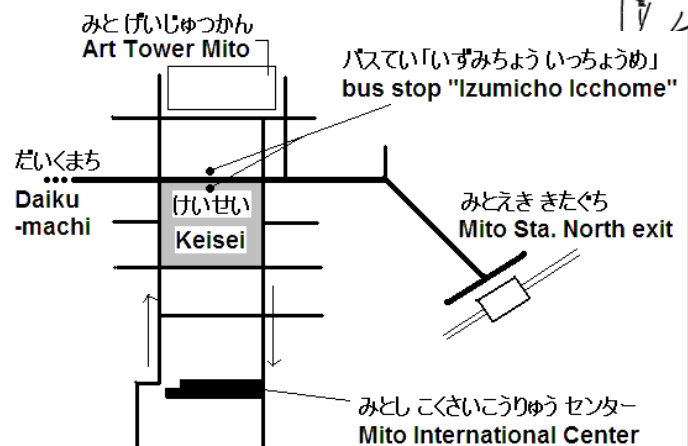
Mail mcia@mito.ne.jp

HP <http://www.mitoic.or.jp>

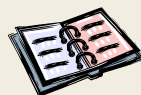
Please forward us any opinions or suggestions you may have!



Feel free to drop by!



Take a bus from Mito station North exit, bus terminal #4~7 ⇒ 5mins ⇒ ♀ “泉町一丁目”



Culture Pot MITO

In the title “Culture Pot MITO,” Mito city is likened to a pot stuffed with various cultures which resembles a multicultural city loved by every citizen. We are hoping that this newsletter will be useful in your daily life and that you will feel more attached to Mito City in the near future.

▼ Photo: Goodwill Ambassador from Anaheim City



Petit Japanese



At a Demise.



At the Japanese festival, you can find many food booths called “Demise”.

Let’s ask a seller about food and it’s price.

A: ^{korewa}これは、^{nandesuka}何ですか？
 What is it?

A: ^{korewa}これは、^{ikuradesuka}いくらですか？
 How much is it?

B: ^{sorewa}それは、^{wataamedesu}綿あめです。
 It’s a cotton candy.

B: ^{hitotu}1つ^{endesu}300円です。
 It’s 300 yen, a piece.

A: ^{wataamewo}綿あめを ^{hitotokudasai}1つください。
 Can I have one please?

