

Illumination

Flowers of Light Bloom along Meguro River



“NAKAMEGURO JEWEL DOME 2017” will be held this year again from Friday December 15 to Sunday December 24. Half a million light bulbs on about 110 cherry trees will illuminate

along the Meguro River between Horai Bridge and Asahi Bridge.

Baccarat Chandelier Shines

“Baccarat ETERNAL LIGHTS”, an annual illumination event, will be held in Yebisu Garden Place from early November through early January.



One of the world’s largest chandeliers made by Baccarat, a company with a 250-year history, always attracts many visitors with its overwhelming presence and dazzling light. Please enjoy the illumination of Tokei Hiroba and other lit-up attractions.

Illumination of Jiyugaoka

The Marie Clair Christmas Tree, located in front of the south exit of Jiyugaoka Station, brings people’s wishes together. The charity plates containing people’s messages are placed on the tree as ornaments. The light-up ceremony will be held on Saturday November 25 at 16:00. The station masters of Tokyu Line will be there to view the lighting. The Christmas tree will illuminate the street until Monday December 25. After the event, the fir tree will be returned to the forest and the ornaments will be buried in the soil.

Meanwhile, in front of the main exit of the station is the Megami Hiroba Plaza where the annual Christmas tree lighting will be held on Sunday December 3 at 16:30.



This illumination will continue until Wednesday February 14 (St.Valentine’s Day). This year’s theme is “Motto Jiyugaoka (Can’t Get Enough of Jiyugaoka)”. It marks the 88th anniversary of the opening of Jiyugaoka Station.

Please also enjoy the events to celebrate this anniversary.

The Events of Year End & New Year’s Day

Azuki-gayu (Red bean porridge) etc. on Toji (Winter Solstice)

On the day of *toji* (winter solstice), red bean porridge and pumpkins are customarily eaten and people take a hot bath scented with *yuzu* (aromatic citron) in order to prevent catching a cold.

Toshikoshi-soba (Year-crossing noodles)

In the evening of *oomisoka* (the last day of the year), people eat *soba* (buck wheat noodle), called *toshikoshi-soba*, wishing that life be long like the noodles and that misfortunes be severed from them, just like *soba* noodles are easily cut apart.



Joya-no-kane (New Year’s Eve bell)

In the Buddhist temples, just in the beginning of New Year’s Eve and continuing into New Year’s Day, the bells are rung 108 times because of the Buddhist belief that human beings are plagued by 108 earthy desires or passions (*bonno*).

You can experience tolling a bell during the night of *oomisoka* at such temples as Enyuji in Himonya, Gohyakurakanji in Shimomguro (fee charged),



and Megurofudosen in Shimomeguro (fee charged, reservation required).

At Enyuji, you can also enjoy project mapping on the walls of the temple as well as various games to play by yourself.

Hatsumoode (First shrine or temple visit)

On the New Year’s Day, people pay the first visit to Shinto shrines or Buddhist temples wishing for good fortune and peaceful life during the new year. People clap hands at the Shinto shrines but not at the Buddhist temples when making a wish. Sweet *sake* or refined sake is served for purification at the Shinto shrines.

Osechi ryori (New Year’s Food)

Special foods called *osechi ryori* are served on New Year’s Day (or on the New Year’s Eve in some areas of the countryside) to celebrate the New Year, wishing for good fortune.

