

Friendship City with Kanazawa



Kanazawa City and Meguro City have a historically and culturally close relationship.

For example, Marquis Toshinari Maeda, who was the 16th head of the Maeda family (a former feudal clan lord of Kanazawa), had a main residence, *Kyu Maedake Hontei*, in Komaba, Meguro.

With this important background in mind, the two cities signed a friendship city agreement on October 27, 2017 to further deepen this mutual relationship, to promote the local and cultural characteristics of each city, and to cooperate in a variety of fields to contribute to the vitalization of both cities.

During the Hyakumangoku Festival, which will be held from June 1 – June 3 in Kanazawa, the *Meguro Kanko Machizukuri Kyokai*, the association of tourism and city planning, will run a booth to introduce Meguro City and to strengthen our friendship with Kanazawa.

Registration and Rabies Vaccination of Pet Dogs



picture #1



picture #2

In Meguro City, if you start keeping a dog aged 91 days or older, you are required by law to:

Register your dog at the Meguro City Office Health Promotion Section (once in its lifetime). The fee is ¥3,000. The city office will issue a dog license tag (picture #1).

Take your dog to a veterinary hospital for a rabies vaccination shot. The veterinarian will provide a vaccination certificate. Take the vaccination certificate to the Health Promotion Section. Upon paying a fee of ¥550, you will receive a rabies shot tag (picture #2).

You must always keep the dog license tag and rabies shot tag attached to your dog's collar.

Every subsequent year, between April and June, you will need to take your dog for another rabies shot and provide proof of re-vaccination to the Health Promotion Section.

Meguro City News Letter

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Life in Tokyo

Site for Foreign Residents of Tokyo
<https://www.lifein.tokyo.jp/en/>

Foreign Residents Information Desk

Main Building 1F, Meguro City Office 2-19-15
Kamimeguro Meguro-ku Tokyo
<http://www.mifa.jp/mifa2/gaikokujinsodan2/2E.htm>

Kaleidoscope MEGURO

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The Rainy Season and *Ajisai Matsuri* (Hydrangea Festival)

In Japan, we have comparatively more rainy days from spring to summer, than during the other times of the year. We call this season, *tsuyu* (the rainy season).

In Kanto area, June and July are the rainy season. In June, we see the beautiful flowers native to Japan, called *Ajisai* (hydrangeas). The color of the flowers varies from pale green, white, indigo blue, to pale pink. That's why it has another name, *nanahenge*, or "seven changes".

Hydrangeas that bloom during the rainy season are special for Japanese people, so a lot of events and festivals with hydrangeas as the theme, are held in many places all around the country. In Kanto area, one of the most famous sites for hydrangeas is Kamakura. You can see the hydrangeas not only in the temples and shrines but also in many places within the city. The historical buildings and the landscape of Kamakura match very well with hydrangeas.



If you visit some parks in Meguro or Rinshinomori Park, you can find the hydrangeas so beautiful and fresh in the rainy season.

Let's enjoy the rainy season when hydrangeas are bursting into bloom.



Marie Claire Festival 2018



Thanks to fashion magazine Marie Claire's cooperation, the Marie Claire Festival will be held again this year near the south exit of Jiyugaoka Station, on the fashionable streets decorated in the style of Southern France. Please visit the four-themed streets, located in the area around Marie Claire Dori-Ave. and Kuhonbutsugawa Nature Path.

Date and time:

May 25 (Fri.), noon – 8:00 p.m.
May 26 (Sat.), noon – 8:00 p.m.
May 27 (Sun.), noon – 6:00 p.m.

1. Music Street:
Chanson performance and other concerts
2. Job Street:
Refreshment booths, wine corner
3. Art Street:
Street performance.
4. Shopping Street:
Shopping booths.

<http://shoutenkai.jiyugaoka-minami.com/news.html>



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Meguro City Komabano Park



Now the season of fresh green has come. We would like to introduce to you Komabano Park where you can enjoy in the mother nature. In Komabano Park, there are many tree species gathered from all parts of Japan, various types of cherry blossoms, a pond where you can play with your children, a bird sanctuary and a day camp site where you can enjoy BBQ. Five BBQ furnaces with a capacity of eight people. You can use all five furnaces, with a maximum capacity of 50 people. Tables and chairs are available near the furnaces and water supply is also available. Citizens living outside of Meguro are also welcome to use the day camp site!

Time:
Open 9am to 4pm throughout the year (except December 28th to January 4th)
Might be closed due to windy weather condition

Fees :
Free

- Guidance for usage :**
1. Alcoholic drink, musical and sound instruments which produce loud sound are prohibited because the park is located in the middle of a residential area.
 2. Bring all the garbage back with you.
 3. Parking slot exclusive for the Komabano Park is not available. Park in the neighboring parking is recommended.
 4. Tools rental service(free) : grill, hot iron plate, fire chopstick, broom and dustpan for cleaning
 5. Goods to be prepared by the users: Fuels (only charcoals and solid fuels are permitted. Liquid fuels and burners are prohibited), foods, seasoning, cooking devices, table wares, detergent and sponges for cleaning

How to apply and reserve the BBQ site :
Date:
Please apply between 2 months to 3 days in advance before the actual usage of the camp site. Administration office is open between 8:30am to 5pm. Reservations are accepted on first come first served basis.

Inquiries:
03-3485-7760 (Japanese only) Komabano Park Administration Office

Address:
2-19-70 Komaba

Access:
1 min walk from Keio Inokashira line Komaba-todaimae station

There are also a tennis court (reservation in advance necessary) and an indoor swimming pool (reservation not necessary) available at the park.

Private Recreational Facilities at Discounted Fee

There are some private recreational facilities that residents or workers of Meguro City can stay at a discounted fee. If you want to take a break, please use these facilities. To book, you only need to contact the facilities over the phone. For further details of each facility, such as location, phone number, or price, please refer to the Meguro City office website. The URL for all facilities (in Japanese, Multilingual translation available):

www.city.meguro.tokyo.jp/shisetsu/shisetsu/hoyoshisetsu/index.html

The following is a portion of the private recreational facilities.

- Hotel Kagetsuen:**
Sengokubara Hakone-machi Kanagawa Pref. Located on a hill in Sengokubara where Lake Ashinoko and Mt. Fuji are nearby.
- Hotel Dankoen:**
Takenouchi Ito-shi Shizuoka Pref. Located in the center of Ito-shi, it is convenient to travel around the Izu peninsula.
- Newell City Yugawara:**
Atami-shi Shizuoka Pref. A big hot spring hotel located in Yugawara, surrounded by Sagami Sea and Sagami Mountain.
- Hotel Sanmi Club :**
Atami-shi Shizuoka Pref. Grand Pacific Ocean view and beautiful night view of Atami-shi.
- New Hakkeien:**
Izunokuni-shi Shizuoka Pref. A view of Mt. Fuji from the outdoor rooftop spa, guest rooms and restaurant.



Rainy Season in Japan - COOL BIZ



The coming season called *Tsuyu* (梅雨) in Japan is between June to July. It's also called the rainy season. During this time, it keeps raining for a long time every day, which often occurs in the

southern area of Japan.

Tsuyu season changes its period depending on the year and doesn't have an exact date when it starts and ends precisely.

Mold really likes this season. It prefers warm and highly humid environment. That's why *Tsuyu* season is perfect for it. It's very important to prevent humidity and ventilate regularly to keep mold away.

Also 'COOL BIZ' starts around this season. It's one of the ideas proposed by the Ministry of Environment in 2003 targeting against global warming. It indicates 'Comfortable life style at room temperature 28 °C (82.4 °F) even with air-conditioning'. It recommends NO tie, NO jacket.

COOL BIZ is a coined *Japanglish phrase consisting of two words: COOL (meaning superb, refreshing) and BIZ(abbreviation of business). COOL BIZ period is between June 1st and September 30th; this period might vary depending on the location and climate. *made-in-Japan English



Interview with Our International Resident

We have the wonderful Janette Maxey here from Connecticut, USA. She has been living in Meguro City for 7 months and is learning Japanese from scratch at MIFA. She friendly accepted our request for the interview.



Q1.
You studied art at university, right? So how do you feel about Japanese culture? Do you have any interest in Japanese art or craft?

Yes, I have a B.F.A. in Painting with a minor in Western Art history. I paint daily life and culture around me; people, places, and things. Japan has a rich, deep culture.

I have just begun to really see. One example is Tea Ceremony. I like how it makes me feel in the moment and connected to the other participants, the beauty of the objects used, and the physical movement of the preparation.

There is so much great art in Tokyo! Kengo Kuma buildings are beautiful, so modern and warm, I admire the work ethic of Yayoi Kusama and of course the drawings of Hokusai. I have taken a beginner workshops in Ukiyo-e for carving at Adachi Foundation for the preservation of Wood Carving and a printing at Mokuhankan. I'll never be an Ukiyo-e master, but I have a deep respect for the artist and craftspeople who spend their lives to improve their vision of what is beautiful.



Q2.
Have you found some particular foods that were surprising to you?
What surprised me is how beautiful Japanese food is, and the high quality of eggs. Japanese eggs are the best I've ever had.

Q3.
Do you have a favorite shop around Meguro City?
I enjoy the second hand stores here in Meguro. The things I get from these stores have a history that I want to know. Where did it come from, who owned it, where was it made. It makes me feel more connected to the people of Japan.