

## Visiting the Seven Gods of Good Fortune *Shichifukujin Meguri*

**S**hichifukujin Meguri, or visiting the Seven Gods of Good Fortune, is a custom unique to Japan where worshippers visit the temples and shrines of seven gods to wish for and receive wealth and happiness. The seven gods are of mixed origin, coming from India, China and Japan. Don't you think this befits contemporary Japan where many beliefs such as Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, etc. peacefully co-exist? It is a custom that spread throughout the country in the middle of the Edo period (17-19th century). In eastern Japan we practice *Shichifukujin Meguri* between January 1st and 7th.

The seven gods consist of *Benzaiten* (God of Fortune), *Daikokuten* (God of Wealth) and *Bishamonten* (God of Fortune) of Indian origin, *Fukurokuju* (God of Happiness), *Jurojin* (God of Health) and *Hoteison* (God of Wisdom or Cleverness) of Chinese origin, and *Ebisujin* (God of Success) of Japanese origin. There are many local clusters of temples and shrines of *Shichifukujin* in Japan. In Tokyo metropolitan area alone there are about twenty clusters, of which *Yamanote Shichifukujin* in the Meguro area is famous for being the oldest in Tokyo and is convenient for Meguro residents to visit. To visit *Yamanote Shichifukujin*, refer to the guide map below.

Following are the addresses, access information and possible good fortune you could receive by visiting each temple.



- 1) Ebisujin in Ryusenji Temple**  
(3-20-26 Shimomeguro, Meguro City)  
(Tokyu Meguro Line Fudomae Sta.)  
(Business prosperity and happiness)
- 2) Benzaiten in Banryuji Temple**  
(3-4-4 Shimomeguro, Meguro City) (JR Yamanote Line Meguro Sta.) (Wealth and improvement of musical skills)
- 3) Daikokuten in Daienji Temple**  
(1-8-5 Shimomeguro, Meguro City)(JR Yamanote Line Meguro Sta.) (Business prosperity and good harvest)
- 4) Fukurokuju and Jurojin in Myoenji Temple**  
(3-17-5 Shirokanedai, Minato City)  
(Metro Namboku Line & Mita Line Shirokanedai Sta.) (Happiness, wealth, good health and long life) These two gods are very similar in appearance.
- 5) Hoteison in Zuishoji Temple**  
(3-2-19 Shirokanedai, Minato City)  
(Metro Namboku Line & Mita Line Shirokanedai Sta.) (Happy home due to his plump figure and smiley face)
- 6) Bishamonten in Kakurinji Temple**  
(1-1-47 Shirokanedai, Minato City)  
(Metro Namboku Line & Mita Line Shirokane-takanawa Sta.) (Driving away misfortune and bring happiness and wealth)



(Metropolis, Koji Shiiki)

Well, let's visit the temples of *Yamanote Shichifukujin* this coming new year to get wealth and happiness!

## Tori-no-Ichi Fair at Meguro Ootori Shrine

**T**ori-no-Ichi Fairs (Rooster's Days) are held on the days of the rooster in November to pray for good luck and business prosperity. They are seen at shrines across Japan, but especially popular in the Kanto region.

The Tori-no-Ichi Fair at Meguro Ootori Shrine has a long history in Tokyo, which started in the Edo period. Bamboo rakes or *kumade* are often sold as lucky charms at the fair. The *kumade* rakes, which are originally farming tools, are decorated with good fortune accessories. For example: Seven Gods of Good Fortune; pine, bamboo and plum trees; and Japanese oval gold coins in small and large sizes (replicas, of course). They are sold containing the meaning of gathering wealth and sweeping in good luck. It is believed that good fortune will come your way if you buy a small *kumade* for the first time and a bigger one the following year. You need to place the purchased *kumade* somewhere high in the house or store while making it face toward the front door but avoiding the northern direction.



The Tori-no-Ichi Fair is held two or three times a year as the day of the rooster comes around every twelve days.

### 2018 Tori no Ichi Schedule

**First Day (*Ichi no Tori*) : Nov. 1 (Thu)**

**Second Day (*Ni no Tori*) : Nov. 13 (Tue)**

**Third Day (*San no Tori*) : Nov. 25 (Sun)**

## Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum and Institute for Nature Study

**T**okyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum is one of the best places to visit in Tokyo. It was built as a residence of Prince Asaka in 1933. Henri Rapin and Rene Lalique, both famous French designers, were invited to decorate its interior in Art Deco style. Art Deco is a style which was popular in Europe in arts and crafts, architecture, pictures, fashion, etc. from the 1910s to the 1930s. A few decades after the Prince Asaka family moved out, it was renovated as a museum and was opened to the public in 1983. Inside the building, you will be impressed with a spectacular Art Deco atmosphere. When you go outside, the dazzling green garden will come into your sight. It consists of a Western style grass area and a Japanese style garden with a pond, miniature hills and a tea house. This museum gives you a perfect opportunity to enjoy both the arts and nature.

<https://www.teien-art-museum.ne.jp/en/>



**I**n contrast, the Institute for Nature Study next door to the museum is a spacious park that gives you a totally different impression as if you were in a deep forest. It is a wonderful sanctuary for plants and birds that has been preserved in the heart of Tokyo. Evergreen trees like chinquapin and pine, and deciduous trees like quercus serrata and zelkova spread out through an area of 200,000m<sup>2</sup> with ponds and marshes. A reason for such vast area of nature being preserved in the middle of Tokyo is that access to the site was restricted for a long time as follows. In the Edo period, the feudal lord Matsudaira's family took up residence in this area. In the Meiji era, army and navy forces placed an ammunition depot here. Then it turned into Imperial Estate in 1917, and was taken over by the Ministry of Education in 1949. Let's enjoy a walk in the "forest" with beautiful autumn leaves.

<http://www.ins.kahaku.go.jp/english/index.php>

## Komabasai School Festival at Komaba

Komabasai is a school festival presented by first- and second-year students of The University of Tokyo (UTokyo) at Komaba. It is held in late November for three days, when the ginkgo trees tunnel on the campus are glittering in gold under the sunlight. The festival is open to the public, and is one of the biggest school festivals in Japan. Approximately 120,000 or more guests join the Komabasai. There are more than 500 programs ranging from academic research exhibitions to amusing performances such as modern Japanese pop culture. There are also a variety of food stalls where visitors can easily drop by and enjoy the food on the go. All the innovative and exciting programs are prepared and organized by students alone. This year's Komabasai is the 69th



annual festival and the theme is “はい、チーズ”(Say cheese!). Why don't you visit this exciting place which is only available for three days, take some lovely pictures and have a great time?!

### Date and Time:

**Nov. 23 (Fri) 9:00 – 18:00**

**Nov. 24 (Sat) 9:00 – 18:00**

**Nov. 25 (Sun) 9:00 – 17:00**

### Place:

Komaba campus of The University of Tokyo, 3-8-1, Komaba Meguro City, Tokyo

### Nearest Station:

Komabatodai-mae of the Keio Inokashira Line



## The Season for Reading

Fall is the season for reading. Let's enjoy reading at the Meguro Public Library. There are eight public libraries in Meguro containing about 1,180,000 books, 40,000 sets of CDs and magazines of a variety of interests and fields.

Library guides printed in English, Chinese and Korean are available. About 20,000 foreign language books for both children and adults are included; with about 10,600 in English, 2,600 in Chinese, 800 in Korean, and more in many other foreign languages. Computer on-line service known as “Samma Kun” is available for you to find the book you want and to make reservation from home in English, Chinese or Korean.

The service is also accessible at each library. You can borrow up to twenty items, including books, magazines, sets of comic books and CDs for up to two weeks with your library card. To receive a library card, submit a “Library Card Application Form” in person to the counter with an ID for address and name verification.

Each library organizes events for children such as picture book reading, picture story shows or craft classes. There is a YA Corner (Young Adult Corner) in every library except Nakameguro Ekimae Library, providing books and magazines targeting junior and senior high school students and a “YA Notebook” for exchange of opinions. Furthermore, various services



are provided to people with disabilities.

Each library has different characteristics due to its location and surroundings.

Yakumo Chuo Library has 160 seats, lots of foreign books and outdoor reading terrace overlooking greenery. Nakameguro Ekimae Library is conveniently located and has the longest opening hours.

As for the opening hours and location, refer to Meguro Library homepage. Closing days are the first Monday of the month at Yakumo Chuo and Ohashi Library and every Monday at all other libraries (or the following day if Monday is a holiday).

Meguro Public Library:

<https://www.meguro-library.jp>



## Himawari - Reference Service for Medical Institutions and Pharmacies

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has "Himawari" and "t-Pharmacy Info," services that provide information regarding medical institutions and pharmacies in Tokyo. These services are available in multiple languages. The information includes the names and the location of medical institutions and pharmacies, types of treatment and opening hours of the institutions. This information is available in four languages - Japanese, English, Korean, and Chinese. Clicking the "Translation" button activates the automatic translation.

<https://www.himawari.metro.tokyo.jp/>

Additionally, The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Health and Medical Information Center also provides consultation services on phone regarding medical institutes that provide services in foreign languages and the medical system of Japan.

**Languages supported:**

English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, and Spanish

**Office hours:**

9:00-20:00 every day

**Tel: 03-5285-8181**

## World AIDS Day and Tokyo Metropolitan AIDS Prevention Week

December 1st is World AIDS Day. The progression of AIDS can be prevented by early detection and treatment. Why not take this opportunity to have an HIV / AIDS test?

**HIV / AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Tests** (Chlamydia and syphilis)

During the Tokyo Metropolitan AIDS Prevention Month(November 16th – December 15th), Meguro City will host HIV / AIDS and sexually transmitted infections tests (Chlamydia and syphilis) as below. The tests are free and anonymous.

**Date:** Nov. 26 (Mon) and Dec. 10 (Mon)

**Place:** Meguro Public Health Center, 3rd Floor Main Building, Meguro City Office Complex

**Reservation:** Call or visit directly to the Public Health & Infection Control Section. (03-5722-9896, Japanese only)

**HIV / AIDS Prevention Panel Display**

Meguro City will hold HIV / AIDS Prevention Panel Display.

**Date:** From Nov. 29 (Thu) to Dec. 5 (Wed)

**Place:** West Entrance Lobby, 1st Floor, Main Building, Meguro City Office Complex

## MEGURO Free Wi-Fi Service to Start Soon



Meguro City will provide free Wi-Fi service. You can connect your smartphone and other electronic devices to the Internet and look up information you want to know while in the city. This service is offered near main stations and tourist facilities. In addition to this, a portal site will be launched so that you can check tourist and disaster prevention information all in one location. The site is available in English, Chinese and Korean. Please feel free to use it. (This service will be rolled out gradually from November 26th.)

**SSID: 0000Meguro\_Free\_Wi-Fi**

**Portal site: <https://Meguro.kokosil.net/>**

### Meguro City Newsletter

5 languages are now supported on an e-book version! Read in your own language! Supports Text-to-Speech!

Easy to read even on the smartphone!



Access from QR code, and you can easily read Meguro City Newsletter anytime you want.

### Foreign Residents Information Desk

**Tel: 03-5722-9187 (English)**

Main Building 1st Floor,  
Meguro City Office Complex  
2-19-15, Kamimeguro,  
Meguro-ku, Tokyo  
<http://www.city.meguro.tokyo.jp/multi/index.html>

### Life in Tokyo

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



Published by Culture & Exchange Promotion Section, Meguro City Office

Edited by Edit Group in **MIFA**

5th Floor, Meguro City Office Complex's Annex, 2-19-15 Kamimeguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0051  
**TEL 03-3715-4671 FAX 03-3715-4672 E-mail: [info@mifa.jp](mailto:info@mifa.jp) URL: <http://www.mifa.jp/en/>**



The bimonthly newsletter Kaleidoscope MEGURO is intended to make a multi-cultural society embracing and diversity.