



ASA KUSA

浅草寺本堂 落慶50周年記念小判

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浅草の年中行事 Asakusa Events and Festivals

各行事に関する詳しいことは、浅草観光連盟 (電話 03-3844-1221 FAX 03-3844-1330 www.e-asakusa.jp) までお問い合わせください。 For more information, please call Asakusa Tourist Federation at 03-3844-1221.

初詣 Hatsumoude 1月1日 Jan. 1

First New Year's Visit to Shrines and Temples

昔はその年の大吉の方角にある社寺に参詣することで一年の福寿が得られると云われた。また年の初めに七福神を祀る神社仏閣に参詣して、一年の平穏を祈る七福神参りも行われており、浅草では名所七福神詣りが行われている。ちなみに浅草寺は大黒天、浅草神社が恵比寿、待乳山聖天が毘沙門、今戸神社・矢先稲荷神社が福祿寿、橋場不動院が布袋尊、石浜神社・鷺神社が寿老人、吉原神社が弁財天を祀っている。

In the olden days, it was said that a person visiting a shrine or a temple which was located in that year's lucky direction, would be able to enjoy happiness and longevity throughout the year. Nowadays, people visit shrines and temples where Shichihuku-jin (the Seven Deities of Good Fortune) are deified to pray for peace for the coming year during the New Year period. This is called Shichifuku-jin Mairi (a visit to the Seven Deities of Good Fortune). In the Asakusa area, Nadokoro Shichifuku-jin Mairi (a visit to famous Shichifuku-jin in Asakusa) is held. Senso-ji deities Daikokuten (the God of Wealth), Asakusa-jinja deities Ebisu (the Patron of Seafarers and a symbol for prosperity in business), Matsuyama-Shoden deities Bishamon (the God of War), Imado-jinja and Yasaki-inari-jinja enshrine Fukurokuju (the God of Wealth and Longevity), Hashiba-fudojin deities Hotei (the God of Happiness), Ishihama-jinja and Otori-jinja enshrine Jurojin (the God of Longevity), and Yoshiwara-jinja deities Benzaiten (the Goddess of Art).

節分会 Setsubun-e 2月3日 Feb. 3

Bean-Throwing Festival

室町時代より新春を迎えるにあたり行われていた行事で、災厄厄難の退散のために豆を撒いた。この日浅草では観音の福徳を讃え、福聚の舞が奉演される。

This is a ceremony to celebrate the coming of spring and has been held since the Muromachi period. Beans are scattered to ward off a misfortune or a calamity. Fukujyu-no-mai (a dance of the Seven Deities of Good Fortune) is performed on this day to praise Kannon for happiness and prosperity.

浅草観音示現会 Asakusa Kannon Jigen-e 3月18日 Mar. 18

Manifestation of Asakusa Kannon

浅草寺の観音様が御示現した日であり、観音様を最初に祀りた土師中知と観音様を網で揚げた浜成・竹城の兄弟を表す、一之宮・二之宮・三之宮という三基の宮神輿が前日の夕刻、本堂にお泊りし、翌朝、本堂から降ろされる。この日は金龍の舞の奉演も行われる。

March 18th is the day when Senso-ji Kannon is celebrated. Three mikoshi (portable shrines), ichinomiya, ninomiya, and sannomiya, respectively representing Hajino Nakatomoto (who first enshrined Kannon), and Hamanari and Takenari (the brothers who found the Kannon in their nets), are brought to the main building of Senso-ji Temple on the evening of the 17th and taken out on the morning of the 18th. The dance of the golden dragon is also performed on the 18th.

隅田公園桜まつり Sumida Park Cherry Blossom Festival 3月下旬~4月中旬

Late March-Early April

江戸の昔から桜の名所とされ、隅田川をはさみ向岸で1,050本、隅田公園では700本あまりの桜が花を付ける。

Since the Edo period, the area around Sumida Park has been known for its magnificent cherry trees. During the cherry blossom season (late March - early April), people come and view the 1,050 beautiful blossoming cherry trees along the Sumida River, and another 700 trees in Sumida Park.

浅草流鏑馬 Asakusa Yabusame 4月中旬 Mid-Apr.

The Art of Shooting Arrows on Horseback

流鏑馬は江戸時代には浅草神社の正月行事であった。それを昭和58年に復活させ、今では4月中旬に隅田公園で行っている。馬に乗って弓的を射る姿は勇壮であり、当時の錦絵を見るようである。Yabusame was the New Year's event of Asakusa Shrine in the Edo period. It was revived in 1983 and is now held in the middle of April at Sumida Park. The courageous riders shooting arrows from horseback are a rousing sight, and evokes images of a woodblock print of the Edo period.

泣き相撲 Nakizumo 4月下旬 End of Apr.

Baby Crying Competition

丈夫で健康な子に育つようにという願いをこめて、九代目市川團十郎の「暫」の銅像復元5周年を記念して始められた。まわし姿の組ませ役を抱かれた赤ちゃんが、土俵の上で泣き声を競うものだが、先に大きな声で泣いた方が勝ちという競技である。

This game, held during the last 10 days of April, started as a memorial on the fifth anniversary of the restoration of a bronze statue of Danjuro Ichikawa IX, a Kabuki performer in "Shibaraku", a famous Kabuki play. This traditional event is held to ensure the future health of children. Two babies, each held in the arms of a person wearing a sumo wrestler's loincloth, compete by outcrying each other. The first baby to cry in a loud voice is the winner.

三社祭 Sanja Matsuri 5月第3土・日 3rd Weekend of May

Sanja Festival

浅草神社のお祭で、江戸時代は観音様の御示現に因み3月17~18日に行われていたが、明治改暦後、5月17~18日に、さらに近年には5月17~18日近い土・日に行われる。土曜日は氏子四十四ヶ町百基余りのお神輿の連合渡御、日曜日は本社神輿三基の宮出し・宮入りが行われる。

During the Edo period, this festival of Asakusa Shrine was held on March 17th and 18th in association with the manifestation of Kannon. However, after the Meiji period, it was changed to May 17th and 18th. These days, it is held on the third Saturday and Sunday of May. On the Saturday, there is a combined parade of approximately 100 mikoshi (portable shrines) from 44 ujiko (communities under the protection of a community deity), and the three mikoshi of the head shrine are taken out for the parade and returned to the shrine on Sunday.

お富士さんの植木市 Ofuji-san no Ueki-ichi 5月下旬および6月下旬 End of May and End of Jun.

The Plant Fair

浅間神社のお祭で、植木市が開かれる所から、「お富士さんの植木市」と呼ばれている。江戸時代、富士参りが盛んになり、全国各地に浅間神社が祀られ、富士講が作られた。そして富士詣りが出来ない人がそれぞれ浅間神社に参詣した。浅間神社の祭日が5月の晦日と6月の1日であり、富士山の山開きが7月1日なので、5月の晦日・6月1日・6月晦日・7月1日の4日間の植木市が開かれる。しかし近年ではこの日程付近の土・日に開催されている。This is a festival of Sengen-jinja (Mt. Fuji Shrine) and is called "Ofuji-san no Ueki-ichi" because it is a plant fair. In the Edo period, climbing Mt. Fuji became popular, and many Sengen-jinja were erected to the spirit of Mt. Fuji in various parts of the country. Many "Fujiiko" (religious groups that worship Mt. Fuji) were formed. People who were not able to climb Mt. Fuji visited each Sengen-jinja. The festival days of Sengen-jinja are May 31 and June 1, and the climbing season at Mt. Fuji opens on July 1. The festival used to be held over four specific dates (May 31, June 1, June 30 and July 1), but nowadays it is held on the Saturday and Sunday closest to these dates.

ほおずき市 Hozuki-ichi 7月9日~10日 Jul. 9-10

Chinese Lantern Plant Fair

観音様の功徳日で、この日にお参りすると4万6千日分の御利益があると云われている。この日浅草寺境内には、風鈴の音と共に威勢のいいほおずきの売り声がひびき、一日中賑わう。

The fair is held on July 9th and 10th, days when people pray to Kannon for good fortune. It is said that a person visiting Senso-ji on this day will receive 46,000 days' worth of divine favors. On this day, the precincts of Senso-ji are filled with the sounds of wind-chimes and lively cries of vendors selling Chinese lantern plants throughout the day.

隅田川花火大会 Sumida River Firework Festival 7月最終土曜日 Last Sat. of Jul.

享保18年に始まった江戸の風物詩、両国の花火が恒例化されたのは明治以降のことであるが、戦争や交通問題で何度か中断されていた。しかし昭和53年に「隅田川花火大会」として復活し、毎年2万発の花火が打ち上げられる。

This festival, usually held on the last Saturday of July, started in 1733 and became an event that gave poetic charm to Edo city. Fireworks in the Ryogoku area had been an annual event since the Meiji period, but were suspended from time to time due to wartime and traffic problems. It was revived in 1978 as the "Sumida River Firework Festival," with 20,000 fireworks displayed every year.

東京時代祭 Tokyo Jidai Matsuri 11月3日 Nov. 3

Tokyo Historical Parade

東京の歴史を、浅草観音示現の628年より現代まで時代絵巻行列で再現している。東京の歴史と文化の原点が浅草にあることがよくわかる。当日は白鷺の舞を見ることが出来る。

Tokyo Jidai Matsuri is a historical parade that recreates Tokyo's history and culture by exhibiting picture scrolls depicting a pictorial history from 628, when Sensoji Kannon was enshrined, to the present day. This parade highlights the fact that Asakusa is the historical and cultural center of Tokyo. You can also watch Shirasagi-no-Mai (Dance of the White Heron) on this day, November 3rd.

酉の市 Tori-no-ichi 11月の酉の日 Held in Nov.

The Rooster Fair

11月の酉の日に行われる酉の市は、もともと農民が秋の収穫を祝い、感謝のしるしに鶏を奉納した「とり祭」が江戸時代に「酉祭」になり、市が立つようになった。そして神社から熊手を受け「かつこむ」という縁起と結びつき、商売繁盛を願う祭りに変化していった。Tori-no-ichi is held in November on the day of the rooster. This fair was originally known as "Tori-matsuri" (literally Bird Festival in kanji characters) among farmers celebrating the autumn harvest who dedicated a rooster to show their gratitude. In the Edo period, the kanji character changed to rooster and the day was celebrated as a fair. Nowadays it is a festival to pray for a prosperous business year. Bamboo rakes from the shrine serve as lucky charms that represent raking in good luck.

浅草サンバカーニバル Asakusa Samba Carnival 8月下旬 End of Aug.

この日浅草はラテンのリズムに熱狂する。昭和56年から始まった浅草の夏の風物詩として定着したサンバカーニバルは、参加者約3千人に及び。

People in Asakusa move to Latin rhythms on this day held during the last 10 days of August. The Samba Carnival began in 1981 as an event to add charm and excitement to summer in Asakusa. Currently, more than 3,000 people participate annually in the carnival dancing and parade.

歳の市・羽子板市 Hagoita-ichi 12月17日~19日 Dec. 17-19

Battledore Fair

羽子板市はその年最後の観音様の御縁日で、納めの観音とも云われている。元々は歳の市と云い、正月の準備をする市であった。今は正月の準備は歳の日でなくとも出来るようになり、羽子板を売る店が主流になった。

Hagoita-ichi is held on December 17th-19th as the last festival of the year for Kannon, and is also called "osame-no-Kannon" (the last Kannon). It was originally called "Toshi-no-ichi" (a year-end fair) and it was held to prepare for Oshogatsu (the New Year). Since people no longer need to buy their Oshogatsu goods at Toshi-no-ichi, the main products for sale today at the festival are battledores ("hagoita" - an ancient form of a traditional Japanese badminton racket).