

wish times

November 2018

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By: Elaine Chiu

NOVEMBER PIZZAZZ

Roasted turkey. Corn pudding. Mashed potatoes. Thanksgiving in November provides the perfect excuse to indulge in some fancy food, but of course here at WISH, Thanksgiving is not the only November celebration that is known to its residents. Since WISH is a multi-national dorm, residents from all cultures have their own celebrations that they take part in, which also shares awareness and appreciation.



11/1-2/2018

Mexico – Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead)

“It’s NOT Halloween! Yes, it does give off a Halloween vibe because of the word “dead” and we have the sugar skulls but it’s NOT Halloween. I feel like everyone knows this celebration after watching Coco/Remember Me. Basically it’s what the movie portrays – family and friends gather to pray for and remember our loved ones who have passed away. The marigolds act as guidance that helps with their spiritual journey to pass to and from the other world. We also have “ofrendas”, which mean “offerings”, and they’re basically altars with all kinds of foods that the departed like, and they’re meant to be left outside the house as sort of a welcoming gesture. It’s a huge part of Mexican culture and heritage.”

11/7/2018

India – Diwali

“In India, Diwali is one of our biggest festivals of all time. Diwali itself means rows of lighted lamps, and it comes from us lighting everywhere up with diyas, which are small oil lamps. It’s so pretty, since there’s just light everywhere and it’s just so nice. We’re also really excited for exchanging gifts, and it’s one of the few times we get to put on our best clothes. It sucks to have to clean up before then though, but it kind of makes sense since we also consider Diwali to be kind of a “New Year” and we also pray to the elephant god Ganesha for good luck and the goddess Lakshmi for wealth and wisdom.”



11/22+23/2018

USA – Thanksgiving + Black Friday

“I feel like Thanksgiving is pretty self-explanatory? If you really want to, in technical terms – “a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year”. For me though, it’s just an excuse to eat loads of good food when I was home. Really, it’s funny how almost thirty of us are crammed up in such a small space, but it’s just nice that the whole family is together, watching the parades. My favorite part, though, is how I get to eat as much pie as I want – pumpkin, apple, custard, all that good stuff. The next best part is the Black Friday sales, when stores drop crazy low prices and people literally migrate in thousands and millions just to snag a deal. I went once and that was really quite the experience.”



Autumn Foliage

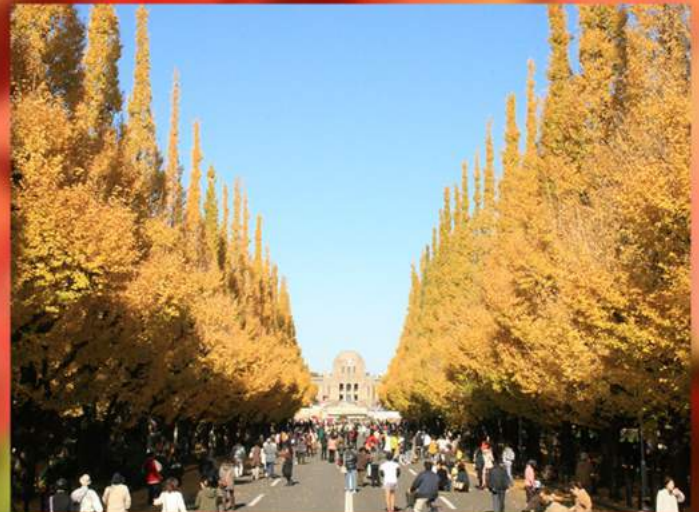
By: Serena Kung

It's been around half a year since the cherry blossom season has passed, and now autumn is greeting us with the cold, chilly wind. Around this time, from November to early December, the cities and parks are painted in crimson and gold. Want to experience the fall foliage season in this lively city in Japan? We've got recommendations for you all to visit, with locations both within and outside of Tokyo.

In Tokyo:

Meiji Jingu Gaien (明治神宮外苑)

- Located near the Japan National Stadium, this park is often used as a film site for TV dramas. Just by looking at the images of this park online, there are countless photos of yellow and gold ginkgo trees lined up on both sides of the road. From 11/15 to first week of December, there will be the Jingu Gaien Ginkgo Festival (10:00 – 17:30) held in this park. You can enjoy famous regional products from all over Japan.
- Closest station: Shinanomachi Station (信濃町駅)

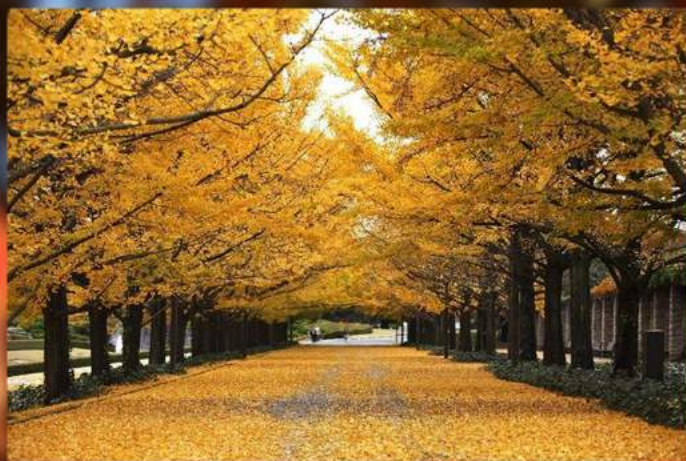


Koishikawa Korakuen (小石川後樂園)

- One of Tokyo's oldest and best Japanese gardens, Koishikawa Korakuen was built in early Edo Period as a residence of the ruling Tokugawa family. Like traditional Japanese gardens, there are ponds, stones, trees, and manmade hills to replicate and reproduce famous landscapes, with the feeling of being present at Japanese and Chinese sceneries. There are dozens of maple trees, that turn vibrant shades of orange and red together, and some ginkgo trees.
- Closest station: Iidabashi Station (飯田橋駅)
- Hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00
- Admission: 300 yen

Rikugien (六義園)

- Considered as Tokyo's most beautiful Japanese landscape garden, along with Koishikawa Korakuen. Built for the 5th Tokugawa Shogun, Rikugien means "six poems garden". This garden is a good example of an Edo Period garden where you can take a stroll and absorb the autumn air. The view is particularly stunning around the stream that runs by the Tsutsujino Chaya teahouse. There are also illuminations of the park at night, so you can enjoy scenery late at night too.
- Closest station: Komagome Station (駒込駅)
- Hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00 (evening light up until 21:00)
- Admission: 300 yen



Showa Kinen Park (国営昭和記念公園)

- Located 30 minutes away from central Tokyo and considered the largest park in Japan, Showa Kinen Park can allow you to view different flowers – such as tulips, sunflowers, and cosmoses with ginkgo leaves. While you are there, go visit the road known as "Canal". It is lined with ginkgo trees on both sides. After taking a stroll in the park, there are teahouses located within the park where you can take a break and savor Japanese sweets.
- Closest station: Tachikawa-Kita Station (立川北駅)
- Hours: 9:30 ~ 16:30
- Admission: 410 yen

Outside of Tokyo:

Mt. Takao (高尾山)

- Though not located near the centre of Tokyo, this mountain is accessible in around one hour by train from Shinjuku. There is a temple and attractive hiking opportunities, with eight different trails, based on hiking time and difficulty level. You can also observe the maple leaves on the mountain while taking the cable car line.
- From 11/1 – 11/30, the Mt. Takao Maple Festival will be held. There will be different events and concerts held to entertain you all.
- Closest station: Takaosanguchi Station (高尾山口)



Hitachi Seaside Park (国営ひたち海浜公園)

- Located in Ibaraki Prefecture (northeast of Kanto region), this park is best known for two flowers: Nemophila and Kochia. Since it's autumn, the Kochia balls are covered in red. I guarantee you that you will be overwhelmed by the sea of red surrounding everyone. In addition, there is the Ibaraki Bara Matsuri (Ibaraki Rose Festival), where there are about 120 varieties and a total of 3400 roses blooming at the Hitachi Rose Garden.
- Closest station: Katsuta Station (勝田駅) → then take the bus
- Hours: 9:30 ~ 16:30

THE WISH AUTUMN PIE FESTIVAL

By: Renuka Kulkarni

As September rolls over into October, summer turns to fall and the leaves gradually begin to turn beautiful shades of oranges and reds. They say fall is the season of transition, marked by changes not only in the scenery, but also the fashion and of course, the food!

Keeping with the spirit of fall, some of our very own WISH residents organised the 'WISH Autumn Pie Festival' which was held on the 7th of October. It was a great opportunity for all the residents, new and old, to get to know each other and experience some yummy Japanese seasonal cuisine at the same time. Residents were divided up into random groups of four or five, and worked together to make the pies themselves. On the menu, there were savoury pies stuffed with saba (mackerel) and sanma (saury). In addition, there were also sweet pies made with pumpkin and sweet potato! The organisers had prepared all the ingredients and instructions beforehand, so that residents



could easily follow the steps and have fun without worrying too much about the detailed procedure. A lot of the attendees had little to no baking experience ("Do you roll the pastry or just flop it over the stuffing?"), so the instructions really came in handy! There was also a lot of finger-licking and lip-smacking along with the actual cooking (who knew mashed pumpkin and margarine tasted so good together?). When the pies were finally stuffed and ready to go, the supporters and RAs put them into the ovens to bake. While the residents waited, several games were organised to keep them occupied. As they played 'Guess the alphabet' and 'What's the word', you could see hesitant smiles slowly turning into friendly grins and before anyone knew it, an hour had passed and the pies were ready to eat! Drinks and snacks were passed all around and after a hurried chorus of "itadakimasu!", everyone dug in.



After the meal, which consisted of more eating and less talking, the prizes were finally announced! There were winners in two categories; the game winners, and the group with the most "Instagrammable" pie. There were some beaming smiles and a few fallen faces, but everyone applauded the winners. Finally, the event concluded with a commemorative picture of the attendees, organisers and supporting RAs.

Asking some of the residents what they thought of the event, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Angel Liu, one of our 2nd year Taiwanese residents from SILS, said that she really liked that they were able to make their own pies in various flavours and shapes and thus showcase their individuality!

They say the fondest memories are made when gathered around a dining table, and in the case of this event, I believe that definitely holds true!



A New Discovery...

The WISH Walk

By: Yuri Ōshima

In Japanese, there are common phrases like "autumn reading", "autumn feasting", and "autumn sports". There's something about the dropping temperatures that invites one to challenge new things, no?

Those of you who can't resist the delicious fall seasonal sweets, it's time to get out and get some exercise. Why not work your body and enjoy autumn to the fullest? To contrast the famous "Baba Walk" (walking from Waseda University to Takadanobaba Station), I decided to invent and explore the wholly new "WISH Walk" (from Waseda University to WISH).

A random day in October. The weather is clear. 22° C. Perfect for a so-called WISH Walk.

14:40 Depart from the main campus

You turn left at Ana Hachimangu Shrine and continue straight along Waseda Street, and continue on for less than 100m and you've already spotted 5 or 6 used bookstores. You wander in, and can barely believe the prices. A little nook where books are 2 for ¥ 100. You might be fortunate enough to discover a leafy companion for a long night indoors.

15:06 Arrive at Takadanobaba Station

Takadanobaba boasts many international eateries, from Chinese mapo tofu, Middle Eastern kebabs, and Vietnamese bánh mì. Taking mental notes of places to check out the next time you come with your friends is a fun thing to imagine as you stroll. The self-coined WISH Walk is essentially a straight path, but there is one turn you have to watch out for! When you see the Inageya supermarket, you'll know that's your cue to turn right at the intersection. Follow this path and soon you'll be back home.

15:41 Arrive at Ochiai Station

By this point, you're beginning to wonder why you haven't arrived yet. The billboards and signs you've so steadfastly ignored until now begin to catch your attention. As the bright evening sun begins to sink beyond the horizon, you squint as the quaint stores as you walk past -- reptile pet shop, a humorously large number of coin laundries, a sweets shop that brings forth long-forgotten feelings of nostalgia and fondness -- and you feel you've unearthed a new side to Nakano. You're now almost there!

16:14 Arrive at WISH

A total of 1 hour and 34 minutes, 5.9 km. This WISH Walk while breathing in the autumn air was far more fun than you ever imagined. Next time, you'll invite your fellow WISHers to explore your new discovery together... "Hey, do you want to do a WISH Walk with me?"



SI: Nakano Toumonkai

By: Lily Toda

In the month of October, we had a special "Toumonkai Week" where we welcomed many Waseda University alumni who came from various places including Nakano, the home of WISH, and OB/OGs all the way from Singapore and San Francisco. The week kicked by welcoming members from the Nakano Toumonkai, where WISH residents had the opportunity to meet and interact with inspiring Waseda alumni currently working in various companies in Tokyo. This event included a free dinner from a specialized udon place in Nakano called "Sanuki no Udon Hana wa Saku," so all of us enjoyed delicious udon noodles freshly made by the chefs who also joined that evening.



Though I attended other SI program during this week, to me, this Toumonkai event felt the most intimate and informative because we were divided up into small table groups to enjoy dinner and hold conversations with our alumni representative. At my table, I talked with Mr. Morizawa from the Kirin Brewery Company group who gave us advice in finding a job that works for us as individuals and told us to follow through with our passions completely during our university years. Since Mr. Morizawa was also in the Political Science and Economics department at Waseda, I was able to ask how he pursued his career path after graduating.

Because I had such a positive experience, I followed up by interviewing another WISH resident from a different group who also attended this event as well to share her personal experience:

N.T. , 1st year in SPSE, GPE major

"I thought that the 稲門会SI was extremely instructive, since we got to hear the real voices of people working in Japan. Mr. Matsuo, the OB I had a chance to talk to, mentioned how he wishes he participated more in social activities back in his uni life, and he told us that we should really treasure the connection we have with our senpais and friends. We got to try 3 different flavors from the udon restaurant 讃岐のおうどん花は咲く and each of them were extremely delicious. The chewiness (is that a word?) of the udon was addicting and we sure will visit this restaurant again!"



CAFÉ in Nakano

By: Miyu Sakari

Recently it has become very cold hasn't it... it's a season that's quite harsh on your skin. Therefore, during such season, let's go and drink coffee to warm our hearts up! I started working at a certain coffee chain store. With that being said, I would like to introduce to you a store with delicious coffee!

Azami

Building 103, South Exit of Nakano station, Nakano 3-33-9, Nakano City, Tokyo

Passing time quietly in a cafe is the best feeling ever!

- Custard Pudding Set ¥850

~Homemade pudding made by natural vanilla beans, and black sugar from Okinawa

~The blend coffee that comes with the set has a fairly strong acidic kick. The flavour is quite plain yet refreshing.

Azami is famous for their pudding and Napolitan. There are customers that travel a great distance to come to this store. When I arrived at the store, I immediately tried their pudding. It had a firm, solid texture. The bittersweet sauce enhances the vanilla fragrance. The pudding is accompanied by figs boiled in red wine and seasonal fruits. Please try this pudding yourself!



Bar Zingaro

Nakano Broadway 2F, Nakano 5-52-15, Nakano City, Tokyo

In a corner of the Nakano Broadway, is the home of Tokyo's subculture. The famous artist Takashi Murakami started produced this store, and even the decorations inside. The store is covered in cushions from the floors to the ceiling so it looks so cute even in pictures.

- Flower Latte ¥570

This makes you want to smile from the bottom of your heart doesn't it? It's so adorable! The rich, creamy milk makes this such a satisfying cup.



CAFÉ FRANKSTON

3F Nakano 5-56-11, Nakano City, Tokyo

The employees are so friendly, it makes you want to come back again!

- Neru-drink Coffee ¥440

~The old beans of Brazilian/Colombian beans~

I have never once thought coffee was delicious. (So why am I including this in the article!) However, once you drink this coffee, your life will change. Because of this coffee, I decided to write about this topic. A juicy yet fresh flavour, accompanied by such a rich smoothness makes this perfect to drink in winter. The gorgeous flavour entices for one to go for another sip. Anyhow, it's sensational!



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