

# Japan Travel News

## Japan National Tourist Organization

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## Gordon Ramsay to Open His First Restaurant in Japan at the Conrad Tokyo

Gordon Ramsay, the world famous British chef, will be opening his first restaurant in Japan, at the Conrad Tokyo, the city's newest luxury hotel scheduled to open in July 2005. Renowned for his successful London-based restaurants, winning no less than 7 Michelin Stars, Ramsay looks to repeat his unparalleled success in this much-anticipated expansion.

"Opening in Tokyo has always been my ambition, since it is such a cosmopolitan city with the most vibrant people and fantastic food," says Ramsay, who once played professional soccer for the Glasgow Rangers and has starred in reality television shows such as ITV's Hell's Kitchen and Channel 4's Kitchen Nightmares. At the Conrad Tokyo, Ramsay looks to focus on maintaining the superior standards found at all of his restaurants, through the use of the best ingredients, the deployment of a team with a strong sense of dedication and pride, and the practice of always putting the customer first.

Located on the 28<sup>th</sup> floor of the Conrad Tokyo overlooking the district of Ginza, the restaurant will feature fine dining and casual all-day dining. Ramsay will produce both dining concepts, personally overseeing every preparatory stage until the launch, tasting every sauce and approving every ingredient in order to ultimately provide guests with a truly magnificent dining experience. Key personnel, including the head chef, restaurant manager and sommelier, will be transferred from London to ensure the finest quality of Ramsay's signature cuisine is maintained.

The future Conrad Tokyo will be located in the top ten floors of a 37-storey, multi-purpose tower and will offer stunning views over Hamarikyu Gar-



-dens, Rainbow Bridge and the Shiodome precinct. Catering to both the corporate and leisure market, it will feature 172 Deluxe rooms and 50 Executive rooms boasting an impressive minimum room size of 48 square metres, three-metre-high ceilings and full ceiling-to-floor front windows. The Conrad Tokyo also facilitates 11 spa treatment rooms, 25-metre indoor swimming pool, full equipped gymnasium; aerobics studio and sauna; and steam rooms with relaxation areas.

Conrad Tokyo

1-9-1 Higashi-Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-7377

Tel.: +81 (0)3 6388 8000 Email: tokyoinfo@conradhotels.com www.ConradTokyo.co.jp

# Accommodation News

## Important Amendment to Japan's Inns and Hotel Laws

Please be advised that effective from 1 April, 2005, international visitors to Japan will be required to fill in the guest registration forms their nationalities and passport numbers in addition to their names, addresses and occupations when they check in at lodging facilities in Japan. They will also be required to present their passports so that the items written in the registration forms and those mentioned in their passports may be verified. The proprietors of lodging facilities will be obligated to keep photocopies of the guests' passports

The above measure will be taken as part of a revision of security measures in accordance with the amended enforcement regulations of Inns and Hotels Law laid down by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Travel companies organising clients who travel in groups, are kindly requested to take additional measures such as making copies of the clients' passports in advance and giving them to lodging facilities, so that the clients may be efficiently check in at their time of arrival.

We will be most grateful if you inform your clients planning to visit Japan of this change in the registration procedure. Your understanding and cooperation will be appreciated.

We give you this information at the request of the Japanese government's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

## Accommodation Websites

Finding accommoation in Japan is simple and fast using the following websites:

### Japan Hotels Online

An online hotel reservation system developed by Kintetsu International. Hotels all over Japan are listed, including ryokans in Hakone and Kyoto.  
[www.knt.co.jp/kokusai/quick.htm](http://www.knt.co.jp/kokusai/quick.htm)

### iTRAVEL

A reservation system for budget hotels and ryokans.  
[www.itravel.jp](http://www.itravel.jp)

### Rakuten Travel

Hotels to suit all budgets throughout Japan. The site also includes a business hotels section.  
[www.mytrip.net/en](http://www.mytrip.net/en)

### Japan Hotel Guide

A guide to hotels in Japan's most popular tourist destinations, including images and links to the hotel's websites.  
[www.e-japanhotels.com](http://www.e-japanhotels.com)

### Japan City Hotel Association (JCHA)

JCHA is a hotel industry association that aims to provide safe and comfortable accommodations at reasonable rates.  
[www.jcha.or.jp/english](http://www.jcha.or.jp/english)



Gora Kadan, [www.relaischateaux.com](http://www.relaischateaux.com)

### Japan Economy Hotel Group

Reasonably priced hotels in convenient locations.  
[www.kid97.co.jp/~jeh-group/jeh-group.html](http://www.kid97.co.jp/~jeh-group/jeh-group.html)

### Japan Ryokan Association

Lists ryokans by area and includes links to individual ryokan's websites.  
[www.ryokan.or.jp/index\\_en.html](http://www.ryokan.or.jp/index_en.html)

### PT Group

Historical and memorable hotels and ryokans in Tokyo.  
[www.pt-web.gr.jp](http://www.pt-web.gr.jp)

### YadoPlaza

Features over 3,000 hotels and ryokans throughout Japan  
[www.tabiplaza.net/japanhotels/index.html](http://www.tabiplaza.net/japanhotels/index.html)

For more accommodation information visit JNTO's website: [www.seejapan.co.uk](http://www.seejapan.co.uk)

## Radisson Miyako Hotel Tokyo Refurbishment Completed

Soon after completing New York's World Trade Centre in the mid-1970s, Minoru Yamasaki built the 12-story Radisson Miyako Hotel Tokyo. After over two decades of use the hotel had begun to lose its sparkle so the owners have recently refurbished the hotel from top to bottom. The refurbishment has resulted in a hotel that blends Western comfort and Japanese aesthetics and hospitality. The dark brown African wood wenge has been used throughout the hotel to give it a relaxed and chic design. The new decor is designed to appeal to younger guest after cool design and also older guest after a relaxing environment.



Now that the refurbishment is complete, all of the hotel's 500 rooms are fitted with 'Super Beds' (oversized American mattresses + Italian sheets + three types of pillows) and free LAN-internet access. Rooms on the premium floors also have BOSE Wave radio/CD players.

Radisson Miyako Hotel Tokyo  
1-1-50 Shirokanedai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8640  
Telephone: +81 (0)3 3447 3111 3133  
Email: [rm-rez@tokyo.miyakohotels.ne.jp](mailto:rm-rez@tokyo.miyakohotels.ne.jp)  
[www.radisson.com/tokyojp\\_miyako](http://www.radisson.com/tokyojp_miyako)

## Tour Operator News

### The Cultures of the East - Japan, South Korea & China with Pettitts

Formed in 1988 and based in Tunbridge Wells, Pettitts arrange individual holidays by car, train and plane for discerning clients worldwide. They provide the experience, expertise and advice for clients to create their own unique itinerary, ideally suited to their interests, the places and sights they've always wanted to see.

In 2005, Pettitts have introduced Japan to their brochure for the first time, in their Cultures of the East Tour. The tour is a 21-day journey of discovery from Mt. Fuji to the Great Wall taking in the highlights of Japan, South Korea and China; three different, but complimentary countries, sharing a history rich in culture and traditions. The tour is a tailor-made itinerary so Pettitts suggested itinerary for the tour can be tailored to suit the client. In Japan, the sample itinerary includes visits to Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone and Kyoto.

The Japan leg of the tour is designed to show travellers Japan's amazing blend of the modern and the traditional; futuristic cities, snow-capped mountains, 'shinkansen' bullet trains, manicured gardens and shimmering peaceful lakes that mirror the ancient temples.



Pettitts  
Tel: +44 (0)1892 515966  
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Email: [pettitts@btclick.com](mailto:pettitts@btclick.com)  
[www.pettitts.co.uk](http://www.pettitts.co.uk)

# June/July Calendar

## June

### *1st & 2nd Takigi Noh Performance, Heian Shrine, Kyoto*

The famous Takigi Noh, participated in by the various Noh schools, is presented after dark under the light of blazing torches on an open-air stage set up in the shrine's compound. Each night's program consists of four plays and one kyogen (a short comic interlude). Many people bring along food and drink to the performance for an evening picnic. Noh is the oldest of Japan's theatrical arts.

### *11th Chagu-Chagu Umakko Horse Festival, Morioka, Iwate Prefecture*

A number of colourfully decorated horses are led by their proud owners from Sozen Shrine to Hachimangu Shrine where the owners pray for the longevity of their horses.

### *14th Rice-planting Festival, Sumiyoshi Shrine, Osaka*

Major rice-planting festival that dates back more than 1,700 years. Twelve women ritually plant rice seedlings in the shrine's paddy field to the accompaniment of traditional music and rice-planting folk songs.



Noh Theatre

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## July

### *1st -15th Hakata Gion Yamagasa, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture*

The highlight of this festival is on the 15th when a fleet of giant beautifully-crafted floats depicting scenes from various historical or legendary tales are either pulled or carried through the streets by people in bright costumes.

### *7th Tanabata or Star Festival, throughout Japan*

As an offering to the stars who met across the Milky Way, Vega and Altar, children set up bamboo branches to which colourful strips of paper bearing their wishes are tied.

### *10th-24th July Sumo Bashi, Nagoya City*

The best Sumo wrestlers in Japan meet at the Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium for the July Bashi, one of the year's six Grand Tournaments. Tickets on sale from 12 May. [www.sumo.or.jp](http://www.sumo.or.jp)

### *14th Nachi Shrine Fire Festival, Nachi-Katsuura, Wakayama Prefecture*

The festival climaxes with an ancient purification ritual where 12 giant torches (each weighing about 50kg) of burning cypress logs are swung by white robed priests as they ascend and descend stone steps. This festival commemorates Jimmu, Japan's mythical first emperor, since he's said to have prayed at the sacred Nachi falls when he arrived from Kyushu.

