

# The Machida Tourist Times

Vol.1 Special Edition

Monday, JULY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

FREE Paper

## JULY

### ■ Machida City

Some people believe that the area surrounding the station represents all of the Machida. Is that true? **Page 1**

### ■ Yakushiike-Kōen

The *Yakushi-ike* park is the most famous park in Machida city. Needless to say, it is a must-see spot. **Page 1**

### ■ Ohga Lotus

Dr. Ohga revived an ancient lotus from two thousand years ago. Please visit the *Yakushi-ike* Park to admire the beautiful lotus. **Page 2**

### ■ Machida Tourist Gallery

The Machida Tourist Gallery (the Machida city information center) in the Poppo Machida building offers English service when an English-speaking staff member is available. **Page 2**

### ■ MTCB

Stands for Machida City Tourism and Convention Bureau.

## How much do you ACTUALLY know about Machida?

### Spending some time around the station is not enough.

Machida City (町田市) is in the southern part of Tokyo that stretches toward Kanagawa Prefecture. The *Kanji* (chinese characters) for Machida represents the characteristics of the city. 町(*machi*) means “town”, and 田(*da* - single letter can be read as *ta*) is the kanji for “field”.

Although parts of Machida have spots of natural beauty that have survived over hundreds of years (some exceed possibly thousands of years!), people who get off at Machida station can become satisfied with the downtown atmosphere, and believe that the area surrounding the station represents the whole picture of Machida City.

Why don't we shake off the old routine? Let's take a bus and explore the remote areas, far from the station! Even the smallest detour will lead you to a discovery of the country side of Machida.



(Above, left) View from the pedestrian deck connecting JR and Odakyu Machida station.



(Above, right) Photo taken on the platform of JR Machida station.

## Winning Formula of Tourism in Machida

### Appetizer = Machida station; Entrée = *Yakushi-ike*

Machida City Tourism and Convention Bureau (MTCB) recommends a visit to the most famous park in the city, named *Yakushi-ike Kōen*. (*Kōen* means “park”.) It is enjoyable not only in spring but throughout all the seasons, due to the diversity of plants and flowers in the park. Indeed, the famous Ohga Lotus can be observed around the end of July.



(Above) The famous *Yakushi-ike kōen* attracts many tourists and photographers.

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## Beauty Restored from Ancient Times

### Lotuses revived by Dr. Ohga still bloom with Pride.

Dr. Ohga was a botanist and the head of a project team that revived an ancient lotus from two thousand years ago. The pink lotus field of *Yakushi-ike* attracts hordes of photographers and tourists every year.

The best time to admire the opening of the Ohga lotus buds is in the early morning. By noon, the buds will already be closed.

However, please do not worry, the park is vast and there are plenty of other things to enjoy. To give you a break from walking, there is a traditional Japanese café called *Yakushi-chaya* (茶屋) in the park where you can order tea, coffee, Japanese sweets, riceballs, and more.

(Above) The lotuses Dr. Ohga revived from ancient times flourish in late July.



(Above, left) Poppo Machida Building.

(Above, right) Machida Tourist Gallery welcomes visitors.

## Quick Peek at *Yakushi-ike* Park

### The Machida Tourist Gallery has answers for you.

The Machida Tourist Gallery (the Machida city information center) is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Poppo Machida building. The Tourist Gallery owns several view masters that show fascinating 3D pictures of *Yakushi-ike*. It is open every day from 10 am to 7pm (It will be closed around the end of the year). The Tourist Gallery offers free Machida maps (English map is still in production). English service is available on days when an English-speaking staff member is available.

### ↓Easy access to the Machida Tourist Gallery...



### Tip to Visit *Yakushi-ike*

Take a bus from Stop #21 and get off at “*Yakushi-ike*”. The ride will take approximately 15 mins. The park will be on your left. You can't miss it.



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