

AUGUST

■ Bon

It is said that the souls of our ancestors come back home during the week of *bon*.

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■ Eisā

There will be dancers performing *Eisā*, an Okinawan-style *bon* dance, in a festival called the Festa Machida.

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■ Narita and Haneda

Catching a bus to one of the airports from Machida Bus Center is definitely a good option.

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■ Machida Tourist Gallery

The Machida Tourist Gallery is the visitor center of Machida. It is in the Poppo Building near the Machida Station. English service is available when an English-speaking staff member is available..

Joyful Shouts Echo throughout Streets of Hara-Machida

Popular Okinawa dance performance, *Eisā* is coming to Machida in September.

Every year in September, Machida heats up for an Okinawa *Eisā* event called the Festa Machida. Hordes of *Eisā* groups gather from all over Japan in Machida for the event to show the beauty, joy, pride, and love for their dance.

Large numbers of spectators gather around the Hara-Machida Ōdōri, to witness the energetic dancers of *Eisā*.

So what is *Eisā* exactly? Originally, it had a close relation to the season of *bon*. Many summer festivals, in fact, are held around the time of *bon*.

Bon is the season in which we pray to our ancestors. People make small fires to



(Above) Okinawa *Eisā* dancers from the Festa Machida 2009.

welcome the souls of ancestors coming back home, and do the same when the souls are going back to where they belong on the last day of *bon*.

One of the most exciting things happening at 2010's Festa Machida is the fact that the dance group *Ichibaru Seinenkai* is performing. They will be showing off the

Ichibaru Eisā, which hails from the mecca of such dancing, Okinawa. It has been passed down since before WWII, and the characteristics of this style are strongly represented by the instruments they use. The dancers play *kenkenā* (unique bell), *ōdaiko*, and *shimedaiko*, but rather

than pound away indiscriminately, they play soft and elaborately, drumming with incredible subtlety, while the women dance gracefully.

In Okinawa, *Eisā* emerged after Buddhism was introduced.

Nowadays, however, even people who are foreign to

Okinawa participate in *Eisā*.

They wear colorful *kimonos*, play drums, stomp their feet with rhythm, and dance with delight.

Why not join the party and experience the energetic *Eisā* at the Festa Machida in September? It will be refreshing and fill you with energy for another week in Japan.



(Above) Elegant female dancers.

(All photos are from the website of the Festa Machida)

The 24th FESTA MACHIDA 2010 (OKINAWA EISĀ)

Date: September 11th (Sat)
September 12th (Sun)

Time: 11th (Sat) 12:00-17:30
12th (Sun) 11:00-18:00

(Including opening ceremony)

Place: Machida Ōdōri and other

There will also be several shops that

sell Okinawan goods, food, drink, and more!

<http://www.festa-machida.com/fm10/PC/>

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FREE Paper

EVENT NOTICE

[FESTIVALS]

Aug. 25th - Sugawara Shrine Reitaisai

Catch a bus at Stop #21 or #22 (Near the "Pop Building" around Odakyu Machida Station), and get off at "Sugawara Jinja Mae".

Sep. 5th - The Festa Nakamachi

At Machida City Dai-Ichi Shōgakkō (10-15 minutes walk from Machida Station).
10am-4pm.

Sep. 5th - The Festa Sakae Dōri

At Machida City Hall Nakamachi Dai-San Chōsha Chūshajō. 10am-4pm.

Sep. 11, 12th - The 24th Festa Machida 2010

(Eisā)

In Hara-Machida District. Sep. 11th (Noon-5:30pm) and 12th (11am-6pm)

Sep. 25, 26th - Machida Tenmangū Shūki

Reitaisai

At Machida Tenmangū

[EVENTS]

Oct. 30th, Nov. 27th - Bamboo Charcoal

Class in Onoji & Experience Harvesting

Sweet Potatoes

(Still being planned by Machida City Tourism & Convention Bureau. Location TBA.)

Nov. 6th - Dress up experience in Jūni Hitoe

(Beautiful Aristocrats Kimono Style from 10th Century)

(Still being planned by Machida City Tourism & Convention Bureau. Location TBA.)

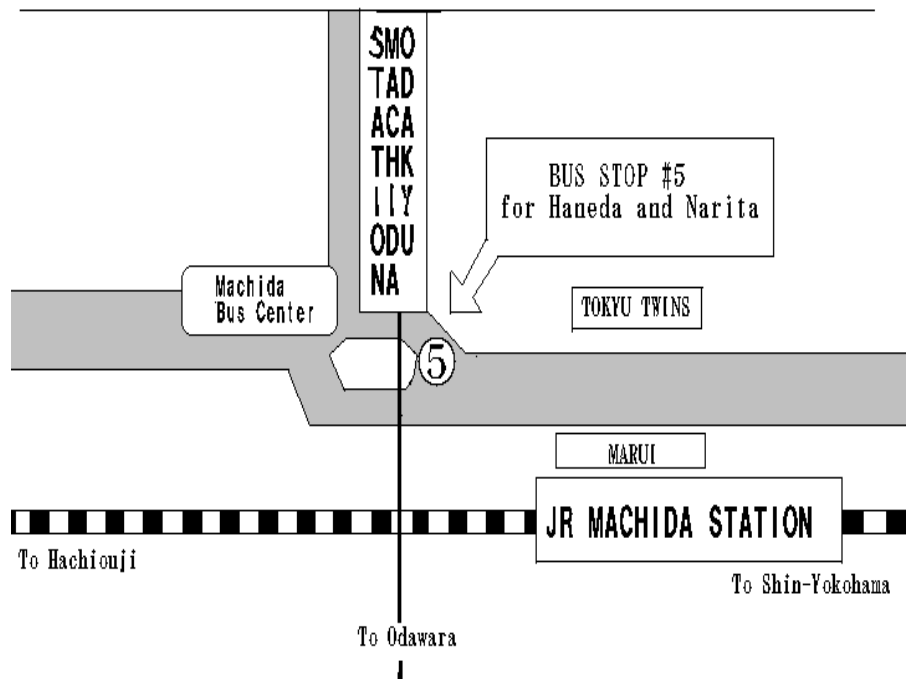
Sick of the Train Ride to and from the Airport?

Machida Bus Center offers a comfy ride to and from both Haneda and Narita international airports.

Trains are very reliable in Japan. They are 95% on time, fast, and safe. However, it gets stressful sometimes, especially when you have just gotten off an airplane. Why don't you take a bus and come to Machida with ease? Both Kanachū and Keikyū bus companies promise you a comfortable ride.

The ride to and from Narita will cost 3500 yen for an adult. For Haneda, it will be 1400 yen. For a child, it costs half the price of an adult's. When traveling TO an airport, you have to make a reservation in advance. There is a booth to purchase tickets at the Machida Bus Center where both reservations and purchases can be made.

MACHIDA BUS CENTER



MACHIDA TRIVIAL QUIZ

Q1. What is the flower that symbolizes Machida City?

(1) Snowball flower (2) Scarlet sage (3) Japanese morning glory

Q2. How many train lines are running in Machida City?

(1) Four (2) Three (3) Two

Q3. What is the Machida Tourist Gallery?

(1) Museum (2) Travel agency (3) Visitor's center of Machida

Answers: Q1. (2) Q2. (1) Q3. (3)

An English version of the "Machida Ethnic Gourmet" is available now!



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