

# What's Up Aichi

— Timely Tourist Information On Aichi Prefecture And The Surrounding Central Japan Region —

## Aichi International Art Festival



The very first Aichi Triennale will begin August 21st and wrapping up on October 31st. The theme for the 2010 Triennale is based on 'Arts and Cities.' The aim is to create an open platform for artists and curators who seek to challenge the idea of arts. So far it has attracted over 100 international artists, composers, dance groups, and film directors to the exhibition. There will also be a public competition held in conjunction with the main art shows. This gives young artists and curators a chance to contribute in the new Aichi Triennale.

In recent years Japan's contribution to the international art scene has been growing. This year's event will provide a visually stimulating opportunity for anyone interested in fine arts and performing art also including traditional and lifestyle related arts.

The Aichi Arts Center, Nagoya City Art Museum, and the Chojamachi and Nayabashi areas will host the exhibitions and artistic displays. 2010 is the inaugural Aichi Triennale, and consecutive festivals will be held every 3 years.

### ● Objectives

- To contribute to the world-wide development of arts and culture by creating and transmitting "new" arts
- To familiarize people with culture and arts through education on contemporary arts
- To boost the region's profile by promoting cultural activities



Yayoi Kusama <Dots Obsession> 2008 Installation view: LA Villette, Paris



Pip & Pop <Under the Crystal Sky> 2009 Japan Foundation, Sydney Australia  
<http://aichitriennale.jp/en/>

## Mikawa Fireworks Festival



©City of Okazaki, Mikawa

During the Tokugawa Shogunate a Mikawa firearms master would only pass his trade secrets to local apprentices, furthermore restrictions were in place that limited production of gunpowder to the Mikawa area. The legacy left behind today is that Okazaki City in Mikawa is one of the major fireworks manufacturing regions of Japan. Every year on the first Saturday in August a large fireworks festival is held in the area surrounding Okazaki Castle. Thousands of fireworks are launched in a two hour long show making it is an amazing event for locals and tourist alike.

## Samurai Spirit and Hospitality!

The Nagoya Samurai Greeters were created to perform at events as part of the yearlong celebration for the 400 Year Anniversary of the founding of Nagoya City. The troop consists of six famous historical commanders Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu, Maeda Toshiie, Kato Kiyomasa, Maeda Keiji and four Ashigaru (warrior) foot-soldiers. The Nagoya Samurai Greeters promote the region as a tourist destination and entertain with sketches, dances, and reenactments during public events.



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Keeping the samurai historically accurate was also a major consideration. The commanders and foot-soldiers all act and speak as it was common in 16th century Japan. Furthermore all members wear body armor that is modeled on the armor actually used in ancient Japan and largely true to the original armor of the commanders they are portraying. This year for the first time the Samurai Summit, a spinoff of the Cosplay Summit, will be held on Jul 31st and Aug 1st in Nagoya.

## Cosplayers Get Ready: Part 2!

Recently there is a growing buzz around the World Cosplay Summit in Nagoya this summer. To support would be cosplayers a number of tour companies have created packages for airfare and accommodations. With the 2010 World Cosplay Summit just around the corner there is a lot happening right now. The US Final Preliminary was held at FanimeCon on May 30th in San Jose, CA. The primer finalist received a chance to compete on stage in Nagoya this summer. The Cosplay Summit starts on July 31th.



[www.tv-aichi.co.jp/wcs/2010/e/index.php](http://www.tv-aichi.co.jp/wcs/2010/e/index.php)  
[www.destination-japan.com/Tours/tabid/104/agentType/View/PropertyID/31/Default.aspx](http://www.destination-japan.com/Tours/tabid/104/agentType/View/PropertyID/31/Default.aspx)

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