

November - 11月、霜月



The ancient name for November is *shimotsuki*(霜月)which means the month of frost. It is the start of winter, and the leaves will reach their peak colors.

November 23 - Niinamesai (新嘗祭) to “Labor Thanksgiving Day”

This is the most important Shinto ritual in the Emperor's court. The new crop of rice from various parts of Japan is gathered in the Imperial Palace. Along with the new crop the Emperor himself grew and harvested in the Palace, the new crops will be offered to the deities, ancestors, and spirits in thanks for the bounty of the last year and pray for a bounty of grains next year.

The Emperor himself will conduct this ceremony, which involves sitting for hours in an unheated room. Read more at Japan-Forward.com.

<https://japan-forward.com/inside-the-niinamesai-the-emperors-most-difficult-ritual/>

Niinamesai is also celebrated at many shrines. People used to wait to eat the new crop of rice until Niinamesai was over, but it's not so common anymore.

After 1948, November 23 became a national holiday called “Labor Thanksgiving Day.” The holiday celebrates human and worker rights and people express gratitude to one another for work done throughout the year.

November 15 - Shichi Go San (七五三)

Shichi Go San means 7, 5, 3 is a traditional rite of passage and festival day. The girls who turn 3 and 7 and boys turn 5 celebrate their growth and well-being. They get dressed up and visit neighborhood shrines for the blessings and thank the god for their health and happiness. Even though the date is technically the 15th, families usually visit shrines on weekends in November.

They get *chitose ame*, rice candy in pink and white, to wish for a long healthy life.



Karatsu Kunchi (唐津供日 **November 2,3,4**)



Kunchi means festivals in Kyushu. Karatsu Kunchi is one of the three largest Kunchi festivals in Japan. It is designated as UNESCO Intangible cultural heritage.

This is a festival for Karatsu Shrine. There are 14 enormous festival floats, each belonging to a different neighborhood in the city.

The floats were made from the Edo period (1819) through the Meiji period (1876) in the shape of creatures such as Shishi lions, helmets, sea breams and so on. The floats are made by layering hundreds of sheets of *washi*

paper, shaped with a mixture of wood powder, hemp, and lacquer on a frame. Then they painted them with lacquer, decorating them with colored lacquer and gold leaf. They are the world's largest lacquered art pieces.

The floats weigh two to three tons, and each of them is adorned in fine detail with intricate decorations. By looking at them up close, you'll see their charm like you've never seen it before. They are the pride of each neighborhood.

Starting on the evening of the 2nd, 200-300 adults and children pull each float around the city.



November Origami



Acorn. <https://en.origami-club.com/easy/food/acorn/zu.html>

Maple Leaf.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1iNVmt-BtYr>

