

SPRING

◀ Cherry Blossom (Sakura) Viewing, *Hanami* (花見)

Traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of Sakura from late March to early April. Mostly having a party under the tree.

▼ Children's Day, *Tango no Sekku* (端午の節句)

At Children's day on May 5th, Calamus are added to bathwater because people believe Calamus possess the power of removing negative vibes.



The Bonsai

"Bonsai" is an ornamental potted plant created by using branches and shaft of plants. An array of plants such as pine, satsuki azalea, Japanese cherry, Japanese apricot, etc. are used as base materials, and the branches are delicately trimmed into different sizes and shapes before they are carefully put together as the final product.

盆栽

草木の枝や幹に手を入れて観賞用にした鉢植えを「盆栽」といいます。素材にはマツやサツキ、サクラ、ウメなど、さまざまな草木が用いられ、枝をこまめに剪定するなど手をかけて好みの形に仕上げていきます。



The Japanese Floral Art (Ikebana)

"Ikebana" is one of the Japanese traditional arts that became widespread in Japan from about the 16th century. The art of Ikebana has the fundamental concept in combining some elements by using flowers to express the beauty of nature and one's sentiment towards nature.

生け花

「生け花」は、16世紀頃から広く国内に普及した日本の伝統芸術のひとつです。自然の美や自然に対する心情を、花を用いていくつかの要素をまとまりよく表現するという考え方が基本です。



AUTUMN

◀ Moon-viewing, *Tsukimi* (月見)

Enjoying and appreciating the beautiful mid September full moon. The tradition of offering rice dumplings, eulalia grass or fruits to the moon.

