

花街歳時記Seasonal Events in Kagai

1月	始業式
2月	節分・お化け 梅花祭（上七軒） 北野天満宮の祭神・菅原道真の命日である2月25日に行われる。「梅花祭野点大茶湯」では、芸妓や舞妓が参拝者にお茶を振る舞う。 Baika-sai (Kamishichiken) February 25th is the memorial day of the death of a Heian-period court officer, Michizane Sugawara, who is enshrined as the deity at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. Every year on this day, the Baika-sai Plum Festival is held and Geiko and Maiko perform tea ceremony outside and serve matcha to visitors.
3月	北野をどり（上七軒、～4月）
4月	都などり（祇園甲部）／京おどり（宮川町）／平安神宮例祭
5月	鴨川をどり（先斗町） 観亀稲荷神社例祭（祇園東） 火伏せの信仰を集める観亀稲荷神社で毎年5月14日に開催。前日の宵宮祭では祇園東の芸妓・舞妓が名人入り提灯を手に路地を歩く姿が名物。 Kanki Inari Shrine Festival (Gion Higashi) Kanki Inari Shrine is famous as it enshrines the deity of preventing fire. The festival is held on May 14th every year. Geiko and Maiko of Gion Higashi join the Yoi-miya Festival which held the day before, and walk along the local streets holding lanterns on which their name is written.
6月	五花街合同公演「都の賑い」 伊勢講と高野山参詣（先斗町） 先斗町には伊勢参宮を目的とする「伊勢講」と、高野山参詣の講があり、毎年6、7月にお伊勢参り、高野山参りを交互に行う。 Ise-ko & Visiting Koya-san (Pontocho) "Ko" is a group of people who share same belief or purpose. There are two "Ko" in Pontocho. One is the Ise-ko whose people travel to Ise Jingu Shrine and the other is to visit Koyasan. Each Ko visits Ise and Koyasan in June or July respectively every year.
7月	祇園祭＝花笠巡行
8月	八朔
10月	温習會（祇園甲部）／みずゑ会（宮川町）／水明会（先斗町） 時代祭＝婦人列
11月	祇園をどり（祇園東）／寿会（上七軒）／祇園小唄祭 かにかくに祭（祇園甲部） 花街を愛した作家・吉井勇の歌「かにかくに 祇園はこひし……」の碑が立った11月8日に、祇園甲部の芸妓・舞妓が菊の花を供える。 Kanikakuni Festival (Gion Kobu) Isamu Yoshii was an author who deeply loved the culture of Kagai. November 8th is the day when a stone monument was established on which Yoshii's famous song about Gion is inscribed. On this day, Geiko and Maiko of Gion Kobu visit the monument and offer chrysanthemum flowers to the memory of Yoshii.
	お火焚（宮川町） 若宮八幡宮社の神職が、宮川町歌舞練場前に設けられた祭壇を前に祝詞を奏上。お茶屋組合員が芸妓・舞妓の伎芸向上と無病息災を祈る。 Ohitaki (Miyagawacho) A shrine priest of Wakamiya Hachimangu Shrine offer the Shinto prayer at the altar set in front of the Miyagawacho Kaburenjo Theatre. Members of the Ochaya Association join the ceremony and pray for improvement of Geiko and Maiko's artistic skills and their healthy life.
12月	事始め／南座顔見世総見

独特の勘亭流で書かれた「まねき看板」とともに、師走の京の風物詩として広く知られている南座吉例顔見世興行。「顔見世総見」は、各花街の芸妓・舞妓や花街関係者がそろって舞台を鑑賞するもの。左右の棧敷席に色とりどりの衣装をまとった芸妓・舞妓がすらりと並ぶ姿は壮観です。舞妓たちは、幕あいにひいきの役者の楽屋を訪ね、かんざしにぶら下がった白紙の「まねき」に名前を書いてもらうのを楽しみにしているといひます。

12月 南座顔見世総見

明治維新から平安時代までさかのぼる「動く時代絵巻」として知られる時代祭。その衣装や祭具は、厳密な時代考証を元に再現され、京都が持つ伝統工芸の粋が込められています。1950年以降毎年五花街が交代で奉仕するのは、中世と平安時代の両婦人列。芸妓・舞妓たちが淀君や紫式部などに扮します。中でも、颯爽とした鎧姿で馬上に映える平安婦人列の巴御前は時代祭のハイライト。京都らしい華やぎを添えています。

10月 時代祭

8月1日には、黒の緋の正装に身を包んだ芸妓・舞妓が祝い扇子を手に、芸事の師匠やお茶屋を回ります。「おめでとうさんどす」と日頃の感謝を込めたあいさつを交わすのが慣例。元々は農家が「八朔（旧暦8月1日）の日に田の神に豊作を祈ったことから、「田の実の節」とも呼ばれていました。「田の実」は「頼み」に通じるとされ、八朔にはお世話になっている人に祝いの贈答とあいさつ回りをする習慣ができたといわれています。

8月 八朔

2月3日の節分の日、祇園甲部、宮川町、先斗町、祇園東は八坂神社で、上七軒は北野天満宮で舞を奉納。舞殿の上から芸妓や舞妓が豆をまくと、参拝客からは歓声が上がります。夜には、各花街を「お化け」が練り歩きます。その昔、節分の夜に少女が大人の髪型にして「化け」、鬼をはらったことが由来という説あり。現在には、芸妓・舞妓が趣向を凝らした扮装でお茶屋を回ってこの日限りの芸を披露し、ひいき客を楽しませるのです。

2月 節分・お化け

祇園甲部、宮川町、先斗町、祇園東では7日、上七軒では9日に、関係者が一堂に会し、芸事への精進を誓います。芸妓や舞妓たちは正装である黒紋付きを身にまとい、正月用の稲穂のかんざしを挿して出席。式では、前年の成績が優秀だった芸妓・舞妓、お茶屋の表彰や、「舞初め」が厳かに行われます。お世話になっている師匠やお茶屋の女将などとあいさつを交わし、花街の新たな1年が始まります。正月は、黒紋付きの正装でお座敷に出るのが習わし。

1月 始業式

花街歳時記

京都の四季を彩る花街独自の風習は、それぞれの由来や歴史を知ること、より深く楽しめる。五花街共通の行事がある一方で、各花街独自のものも存在する。また、舞台は花街に限らず、京都の伝統的な祭事に芸妓や舞妓が登場することもしばしば。伝統を守り、文化の継承に尽力していることも覚えておきたい。



December – Kaomise Soken at Minamiza Theatre

Kichirei Kaomise Kogyo at Minamiza Theatre is a spectacular Kabuki show held in winter. Large wooden name boards called "Maneki" on which every Kabuki actor's name is written in the special Kantei-ryu calligraphy style are set on the façade of the theatre. Kaomise Soken is the day on which Geiko, Maiko and Kagai related people are invited to watch the show. It is such a superb scene as Geiko and Maiko dressed in colorful and gorgeous kimono sit in the seats near both sides of the stage. During the intermission, Maiko visit backstage to meet their favorite Kabuki actor and receive his autograph on their mini-Maneki hair ornament.



October – Jidai Festival

Jidai Festival is called the Moving Picture Scroll of History as the parade covers different historical eras of Kyoto's history dating back from the Meiji Ishin era to the Heian era. Costumes and accessories worn by the participants are all reproduced based on thorough historical research and every single item displays the refined traditional craftworks of Kyoto. Geiko and Maiko from five Kagai have participated in the procession of women from the Medieval era and Heian era in turn since 1950. They play important female historical figures such as Yodo-gimi and Murasaki Shikibu. One of the most impressive figures is Tomoe Gozen who is dressed in dignified samurai armor and rides on a horse in the procession of the Heian-era women. Geiko and Maiko are a vital element of the procession as their presence truly captures the elegance of Kyoto.



August – Hassaku

August 1st is the day that Geiko and Maiko dressed in the formal summer black kimono called "ro" and holding a special folding fan visit their teachers of cultural lessons and Ochaya and offer their seasonal greetings. "Omedetosan-dosu" is a formal phrase to express their daily gratitude. Originally, Hassaku (August 1st on the lunar calendar) was the day that farmers prayed for a good harvest of that year to the deity of rice paddy, therefore, the day was also called "Tanomi-no Setsu, or the Season of Rice Harvest." Since the sound, "Tanomi" is the same as another Japanese word meaning "to count on someone," a new custom was developed as Hassaku, the day people greet and offer gratitude to those who have shown them favor.



February – Setsubun & Obake

February 3rd is the day called Setsubun. On the day of Setsubun, Geiko and Maiko of Gion Kobu, Miyagawacho, Pontocho and Gion Higashi perform a dance dedicated to the deity of Yasaka Shrine while those of Kamishichiken perform for the one at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. Then, Geiko and Maiko throw roasted beans from the Mai-dono stage which the audience try to collect with squeals of delight. In the evening, every Kagai is filled with the joy of Obake. In olden times, a young woman is disguised ("Bake" in Japanese) with the hairstyle and looks of an old woman in order to get rid of goblins on the night of Setsubun. This is said to have been the origin of Obake today. In the evening, Geiko and Maiko dress up in different costumes and visit Ochaya to entertain their clients which can be enjoyed only on the day of Obake.



January – Shigyoshiki

Shigyoshiki is the opening ceremony of a year term. Geiko, Maiko and Kagai-related people gather and make a fresh resolve to improve their artistic skills. Shigyoshiki in Gion Kobu, Miyagawacho, Pontocho and Gion Higashi is held on January 7th while in Kamishichiken it is held on January 9th. Geiko and Maiko dressed in their most formal black kimono with crests and wearing the hair ornament of a rice ear visit their teachers and Okami (female managers) at Ochaya and give their New Year's greetings. Later, they join the Mai-zome, the first dance performance of the year, in front of the Kagai-related people. This is the official beginning of the New Year in Kagai. Geiko and Maiko work in the Ozashiki with the same formal attire until January 7th (until January 9th in Kamishichiken).

Seasonal Events in Kagai

The unique culture of Kagai has always been a delight of the seasonal events of Kyoto. Learning about the origin and history of each event will deepen your understanding about Kagai. Some events are commonly practiced with the participation all five Kagai while others are held only in each district. Geiko and Maiko often go out from the Kagai and appear in the important traditional events of Kyoto. They are working hard not just for Kagai but strive for the continuance and succession of the traditional culture of Kyoto.

京都花街

photo by Hiroshi Mizobuchi

私たちは京都花街文化の保存・継承を応援しています

御料理 寿司
糸源
裏千家今日庵
株式会社 エフエム京都

京ごふく
おか善
御菓子司
鍵善良房

京都・割烹
祇園さゝ木

洋食
祇園MIKUNI

京とうふ藤野株式会社

株式会社 京都銀行

株式会社 京都新聞ホールディングス

京都信用金庫

京都中央信用金庫

株式会社 京都放送

株式会社 グランマーブル

株式会社 聖護院ハッ橋総本店

株式会社 進々堂

ステーキハウスゆたか

双林株式会社

京懷石 美濃吉本店
竹茂楼

株式会社 土井志ば漬本舗

中野公認会計士事務所

京屬子
白竹堂

懷石料理
瓢亭

株式会社 フクナガ

千鳥酢
村山造酢株式会社

日本料理
やげんぼりグループ

天ぶら
八坂圓堂

株式会社 リーフ・パブリケーションズ

京都金平糖
株式会社 緑寿庵清水

公益社団法人 京都市観光協会