

ASIA
SPRING
JAPAN
OSHOUGATSU FESTIVAL



● *Date of Organization:*



✚ *Oshogatsu Festival takes place from January 1 to 3. Japanese people prepare for the festival from December 8 to December 12.*

- *Festival Detail:*



✚ January in Japan is called “Oshougatsu” which means “right moon”. The traditional Japanese New Year originates from the custom of welcoming the New Year deity Toshigamisama, who symbolizes health, luck and prosperity.



✚ On these days, every family cleans up, prepares utensils and decorates the house for the new year. January 1st is an important day, marking the beginning of a new year. It is believed that watching the sun rise on this day is the best thing to do to welcome a prosperous, lucky and auspicious new year.



✚ *Japanese New Year has similarities with Eastern countries, but it also has distinctive customs and habits with many special rituals and has its own style of a country rich in traditions:*




1-*Hang Shimenawa in front of the house*

- ✚ *On this occasion, Japanese families will place a tree or Kado-matsu tree in front of the gate of their house or company, consisting of pine branches arranged in beveled fresh bamboo tubes. The Japanese believe that bamboo is a ladder to welcome the New Year god and pine brings luck and longevity.*




✚ In addition, the Japanese also hang Shimekazari charms on Oshogatsu day with the meaning of keeping evil spirits out of the house.



 Legend has is that the god Toshigamisama will descend to earth and take refuge in a pine tree. In the past, people used to build pine trees on December 13, which was the beginning of the preparations to welcome Tet. On the door frames of many Japanese families are decorated with items such as white leaf knitwear, tangerines, grass braided ropes, white strips of paper.



2-Workship of ancestors and deities:

-  Like other Asian countries, the New Year is an occasion to remember grandparents, ancestor and gods. They put all kinds of thick cakes, Tokonoma cakes on the altar to show respect and hope to be blessed by the gods.



✚ *The essence of ancestor worship is to convey the belief that the living and the dead are closely related and support each other. Descendants visit and pray to their ancestors, ancestor protect and guide posterity.*

3-Traditional activities of the day Oshogatsu:



✚ Just like Tet in Vietnam, on Oshogatsu days the Japanese also eat New Year's Eve dinner, write postcards, give lucky money to children and go to pagodas... To celebrate Oshogatsu day, they prepare by cleaning the house with the concept of washing away the bad luck of the old year, welcoming the best of the new year.



✚ On the last day of the old year, the Japanese will eat together a year-end meal with a large number of family members. Meals are carefully and thoughtfully prepared with traditional dishes made from grains, fish and seafood.




✚ Eat Ozoni thick cake on the 1st day of the New Year: In ancient Japanese Legend, on the 1st day of the year, the god Toshidon appeared, giving good children and obeying their parents Ozoni thick cakes. Since then, with the desire to enjoy many of the gifts of the gods, Japanese people often eat Ozono of the first day of the New Year.



✚ *New Year's lucky money: Japanese people often have the tradition of writing postcards during Tet. This is similar to Western culture when the person sending the postcard will write the best wishes, expressing the most sincere feelings to the person they love.*



 *Folk games: There are many traditional fun activities of Japan such as: flying Takoage kites, playing badminton Hanetsuki, playing Kamamawashi, ... These are activities that attract a lot of people to participate.*



✚ *Going to the temple at the beginning of the new year: Going to the temple has become a Japanese custom, the temple become the places that attract the most visitors. People go to the temple to pray for luck and happiness in the new year.*