Woodland Autumn Comik

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Autumn in Japan

The autumn season is a beautiful time to visit Japan. The summer temperature cools down and many places become a palette of wonderful autumn colors. Last year, 2010 was the best in 15 years, and this year was the best in 50 years. We were so fortunate to have been able to enjoy those.

In the mountains north of Kobe City there is a woodland park which is exceptional in the autumn. Kyoto is famous for it's autumn colors, and we enjoy that too, but I've discovered few places equal to the autumn beauty at the Kobe Municipal Arboretum and the surrounding Futatabi Park area.

The images used in this publication are created from my original photo's and converting them with ComicLife.

Kobe Municipal Arboretum

The Kobe Municipal Arboretum also known as the Kobe City Forest Botanical Garden, is a 142.6-hectare botanical garden and arboretum located near Mount Maya at 4-1 Nakaichiri-yama, Shimotanigami, Yammada-cho, Kita-ku, Kobe, Japan. It is operated by the city and open daily except Wednesdays; an admission fee is charged.

The arboretum was established in 1940 and now contains approximately 1,200 kinds of trees and shrubs from Japan as well as other parts of Asia, Australasia, Europe, and North America, with good collections of cherry trees, conifers, hydrangea, and rhododendrons.

It is Japan's largest botanical garden (1,426,000 ㎡) where flowering plants and wild birds can be seen in each of the four seasons. The natural forest can be enjoyed throughout the year in the flowers and the verdure of early spring, the azalea and the rosebay of late spring, the hydrangea of the rainy season, red-tinted leaves of autumn, the winter groves.

In mid- to late-November the splendor of the autumn leaves is fully revealed in vivid colors in 38 tree varieties including maples, Quercus serratas, wax, larches、dawn redwoods, and American sweetgums dispersed among the roughly 3,000 mountain trees originating from Japan and regions from around the world. There is an especially delightful brilliance emanating from the surroundings of Hase-ike Pond that provides a pleasurable experience through the beauty of the assorted autumn leaves such as maple,

Acer pycnanthum, and Acer palmatum. "Walking among the Autumn Leaves of the Forest" is held every year from November 1st-30th, and activities such as walks among the autumn leaves and a koto concert can be enjoyed.

Futatabi Park

When the port of Kobe opened in 1868, the Rokko mountains to the north were bare, the white face of the bear mountain could be observed. A major tree planting was started in 1902, covering 560 hectares of slopes and 5,000,000 young plants.

To access Futatabi Park, take the city bus #25 from JR Sannomiya Station for approximately 20 minutes and get off at the Futatabi Park bus stop located on the north side of Mt. Futatabi (470m elevation).

Here in the middle of forest along the Mt. Futatabi Driveway is a park centered on the Shiogahara Pond and filled with nature. Along with the beauty of plum blossoms in early spring followed later by cherry blossoms and azaleas in late spring, the park is well known as a place for viewing beautiful autumn leaves and is a prominent tourist attraction even within the Kobe City.

The entire park is considered important as a permanent botanical refuge and is protected. A restaurant, boat rental shop, and walk path are in the vicinity of the park and numerous hikers visit the park in each of the four seasons.

Around the Shiogahara Pond, particularly in the full force of autumn, vivid colors appear in the maple, Quercus serrata, and Rhus succedanea trees, and the area bustles with people on autumn excursions to see the red autumn tints of the changing leaves.

http://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/information/public/online/photo/number24/english/special_features/

Wonderful spot to enjoy
a Japanese box lunch