



## 日本の四季

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私が日本で一番満喫したことの一つは四季を楽しむことです。一つ一つの季節が違う意味を持ち、日本人は様々にそれを楽しみます。今まで住んだことのあるどの国とも違い、日本はそれぞれの季節の楽しみ方を完璧なまでに分かっているようです。日本のお祭り、食べ物、伝統のすべてが季節と関連しています。例えば夏の盆踊り、秋の紅葉狩り、春のお花見、そして冬は山で雪と戯れたり、スポーツをしたり、北海道ではお祭りさえ開催されます。またお餅つきや流しソーマンのような習慣もあります。



## THE FOUR SEASONS OF JAPAN

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One thing about Japan that I enjoyed the most was the four seasons. Each has a different meaning to Japanese and different ways to enjoy them. Unlike other countries I have lived in, Japan seems to understand well how to enjoy each season perfectly. Japanese festivals (matsuri), foods, traditions, all had to do with the seasons. For example; Bon Odori in Summer, Momiji in Autumn, Hanami in Spring and while in winter people tend to enjoy playing snow on mountains and even some festivals going on in Hokkaido area. Also some other activities such as Mochitzuki (mochi making) and nagashi somen are very popular too.

The sweetness and the beauty of Japanese cultures helped me and my family to easily adapt to the neighborhoods. The huge number of festivals had allowed us to gather with the neighbors and meet new people each time we come. New experiences new friends and new foods (though some food we cannot eat due to Islamic religious matters) but everything we see and found during the festivals are always memorable. If you're new to Japan and would like to enjoy Japan, all you have to do is relax and enjoy the seasons. Once I go back to my home country, surely Japanese culture will be the most things I will missed.

Out of all the seasons, I loved spring the most; autumn for the next, then winter and lastly summer. I have been living as a housewife in Japan with a 3 year old son, this season is best when the weather is good. We can stroll along walking to nearest parks seeing in front of your eyes the beauty of the Sakura flowers and the falling petals. We could also go to big parks and have picnics, playing around between the Sakura trees, enjoying foods, having chitchat with best friends. Something I would rarely do back at my home country. At this time of the seasons the weather is just perfect. Not too cold and not even hot, just splendid.

This year will be my last spring in Japan. I hope that I and my family could once again enjoy this year's Hanami. Saying goodbye to the Sakura trees before we go, wishing that in the near future we can once again go back to Japan and enjoy spring. Surely it will be the peak season and the most expensive time to travel around Japan. Also it is tricky to find the exact date to see the Sakura, thus it really depends on the weather condition. In this case, I felt very lucky to be able to enjoy spring in Japan for the 4th time in my life.

All seasons brings different colors and ambience. Spring is identic to pink and colorful flowers. Autumn is identic to warm color maple leaves. Winter is all about white. And summer is all about green. So, if you had to choose, which seasons do you like best in Japan? Do you have the same favorite season as me?

日本文化の優しさと美しさは私たち家族が近所の方と打ち解ける手伝いをしてくれます。数あるお祭りは近所の人たちと一緒にいる機会を与えてくれ、その度に新しい人と顔を合わせることができます。新たな経験、新たな友達、新たな食べ物(イスラムなので食べられないものもありますが)、お祭りで見たり、わかったりした事は皆心に残る記憶です。もしあなたが初めて日本に来て楽しみたい時は、ただゆったりとその季節を楽しむだけでいいのです。私は帰国するとすぐ、必ず懐かしく思うのは日本の文化です。

季節の中でも一番は春、次に秋、そして冬、最後が夏です。私は日本では3歳の息子がいる主婦なので、お天気のいい春が一番です。桜や散る花びらの美しさを見ながら近くの公園を散歩し、桜の中で遊び、仲のいい友達とおしゃべりしながら広い公園でピクニックをします。めったに帰国しないのはこれができるからかも。春のこの時期は寒くもなく、暑くもなく素晴らしいお天気です。

今年は日本で過ごす最後の春になります。家族ともう一度お花見を楽しみ、日本を離れる前に桜に「さようなら」を言い、近いうちにまた日本に戻り桜を見たいと願っています。さくらのピーク時は旅行費用も高いですねきっと。また満開の桜を見る日も微妙です。お天気の状態によります。このような中で4回も日本の春を楽しめたのは本当にラッキーでした。

すべての季節に様々な色と雰囲気があります。春はピンクと色とりどりの花、秋は暖色の紅葉、冬は白、夏はすべてが緑。選ぶとしたら、あなたはどの季節が好きですか。私と同じですか。

