



Summer Castles and Gardens: Reminders of Ancient Dreams

The castles and gardens that have survived the centuries in various parts of Japan are ideal places for getting a first-hand feeling of Japanese history and culture. Shimmering in the rays of the summer sun, the dreams of feudal magnates who once ruled these lands momentarily appear and vanish.

Nagoya | AICHI 愛知



Okayama | OKAYAMA 岡山



A magnificent palace restored to life

As central locations that flourish in great conurbations, Tokyo and Osaka are followed by Nagoya City in Aichi Prefecture, historically connected to the shogunal clan of the Edo Period (1603-1867). Nagoya Castle was constructed using the most up-to-date technology available at that time. In front of the five-story *tenshu* (castle tower), the Hommaru Palace (inner domainal palace) was constructed in 1615 and decorated with ornamental fittings and murals by the best painters of the day. Although burnt down at one time, it has been splendidly restored, radiating a brilliance that has not changed over the years. The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held here in Nagoya on November 22 and 23, 2019.

<https://www.nagoyajo.city.nagoya.jp/en/>

Graceful lotus flowers ushers in the summer mornings

The Health Ministers' Meeting of the G20 Summit will be held in Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture, on October 19 and 20, 2019. One of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, the Okayama Korakuen, is considered to be the city's symbol. The spacious garden, created under the command of the local lord about 320 years ago, has long been loved as a place for enjoying the flowering of the seasons. In the early summer, visitors will encounter adorable pink lotus blossoms. In the background of the photograph is Okayama Castle, once the residence of the feudal lord, with its beautiful black lacquer walls.

<https://okayama-korakuen.jp/>

