

A Day in Toyohashi – Fall

As Japan enters fall and the weather gets cooler, the leaves change color and the landscape becomes like a painting. The sun sets earlier, but with it comes a beautiful nightscape. Seasonal fall fruits and *oden* begin to appear. Toyohashi is full of beautiful fall leaves, delicious fruits and traditional fall festivals. Today I would like to show you what a day exploring Toyohashi in the fall might look like.



Fumon Temple

Let's begin the morning by enjoying some beautiful fall leaves. There is a temple in Toyohashi known as *Momiji Temple* – *momiji* meaning fall leaves or maple tree – where you can see not only beautiful fall leaves, but also Himalayan Cherry Blossoms which bloom in fall. Prime viewing season is from late November to early December. Around Momiji Temple are a variety of hiking courses. We can hike through the mountains painted with beautiful leaves and stop at the look-out points to view the stunning natural landscape surrounding Toyohashi.

After a hike, let's enjoy a traditional meal famous to the area called *nameshi dengaku*. Dried daikon leaves are cooked with rice, and served with skewered pieces of tofu smothered in miso. The rice is fragrant and the miso-covered tofu is sweet and delicious. There are a variety of fantastic restaurants in Toyohashi where you can enjoy *nameshi dengaku*.



Nameshi Dengaku



Jiro Persimmon

After lunch, let's take a trip to Ishimaki Park, where you can pick the famous local *Jiro* persimmon, which is incredibly sweet and succulent.

In the evening, we can go watch the local pro basketball team, San-En Neophoenix, play a home game at the Toyohashi Sports Park. Local favorite Atsuya Ota always puts on a show for the fans. The games feature an all-you-can-drink bar, so you can relax and enjoy top-level Japanese basketball.

After the game, head to the bustling downtown Toyohashi and enjoy the assortment of bars and restaurants the city has to offer. Fall is a fantastic time to visit Toyohashi!



Atsuya Ota