



Tsukimi, JLPT, and Evacuation Alerts

Although September is a sign of autumn in many countries, it remains quite hot in most regions of Japan. People are advised to stay on alert for weather updates as unexpected high temperatures can cause heatstroke while heavy



rain can lead to landslides. The government has updated its evacuation alerts this year. At **Level One**, people are advised to stay on alert for weather updates, and at **Level Two**, they should check how to evacuate. Warnings are issued at **Level Three**, which calls for the start of

evacuations for the elderly and those with physical disabilities. **Level Four** is an "evacuation order," when people face a high risk of mudslides or floods from heavy rain. Everyone in high-risk places must quickly evacuate. **Level Five** alerts people of the need to "secure safety immediately." This is to be issued when a disaster has already happened or is imminent.

JLPT (Japanese-Language Proficiency Test)

The JLPT is now open for registration. The test date this year is on December 5, 2021 (Sunday). As mentioned before, some employers require a certain level of the JLPT when looking for employees. The test is held in Japan twice a year.

What is Tsukimi?

Tsukimi (月見) or Moon-viewing festival means "to look at



the moon" (月-tsuki- means moon and 見-mi- means

to look). According to this legend, when you

observe the full moon during this night, you can

see two rabbits kneading mochi (Japanese

glutinous rice cake) with a mallet. It is celebrated

between the end of September and the beginning of October (the date varies

each year), while this year it is on September 21. There are many foods

associated with Tsukimi such as "tsukimi dango" (月見団子), tsukimi udon (udon

with raw egg) and other freshly harvested products.



All is put in the moonlight as an offering to thank

the Gods for a good rice harvest in the summer and

to ask for a good and abundant harvest next year.

The shape of the egg yolk is similar to a full moon

which is why we can

also see dishes like eggs on pizza during

September in Japan. Some restaurants and

stores even have limited edition products

and/or food just for the festival.

