

Reading and Talking

“Kaitenzushi” at home

Do you like “kaitenzushi” conveyer-belt sushi restaurants? If you don’t go to restaurants because of Covid-19, a kaitenzushi restaurant can come to you. On September 2nd, Kappa Zushi said that it is starting home conveyer-belt sushi. A sushi chef and an assistant bring a conveyer belt to your house, and they make sushi for ten people. Watch the plates of sushi go slowly round while you and your family and friends eat. The sushi party lasts for two hours. It costs 80,000 yen for 15 different sushi toppings, or 90,000 yen for 20 toppings.

(100 words)

What do you think about this home “kaitenzushi” catering service?

↳ I think it’s great. / I think it’s OK. / I think it’s stupid. (--How come you think so? / Do you think it’s going to be popular? / Do you want to use the kaitenzushi catering service? / Have you ever cooked at someone else’s house?)

Is there a kaitenzushi conveyer-belt sushi restaurant near your house?

↳ Yes, there is. (--Which restaurant is it? / How long does it take you to walk there? / Have you been there alone?)

↳ No, there isn’t. (--Have you been to a kaitenzushi recently? / Is there a fast food restaurant near your house? / Is there a soba noodle restaurant near your house?)

Did you eat out last week?

↳ Yes, I did. (--Where did you go? / Who did you go with? / What did you have?)

↳ No, I didn’t. (--Did you buy any takeout food last week? / Have you ordered something from a food delivery service recently?)

(September 4, 2020)

More information

“Kaitenzushi” at home

When you eat out, you can have sushi at a traditional sushi restaurant, or at a “kaitenzushi” conveyer-belt sushi place. There are several nationwide chains of these sushi-go-round restaurants, including Sushiro (540 branches), Hama Zushi (512), Kura Zushi (451), and Kappa Zushi (325). If Covid-19 makes you hesitate to head for a restaurant right now, one of these chains can bring the authentic “kaitenzushi” experience to you.

On September 2, Kappa Zushi announced a home conveyer-belt sushi catering service. It’s much more than delivery sushi. A sushi chef and an assistant visit your house with the makings of sushi for ten people, and a conveyer-belt system. For the conveyer-belt, you need a table that is at least three meters long. Relax and watch the plates of sushi go slowly round while you and your family and friends eat your fill. The sushi party lasts two hours.

Naturally, all this doesn’t come cheap. The Standard option, with 15 different sushi toppings, is ¥80,000. The Special option, with 20 toppings and more generous portions, is ¥90,000. Extra charges include transportation from Yokohama to where you are.

(189 words)

(September 4, 2020)

Reading and Talking

A garden with an “unkai” sea of clouds

“Unkai” is “sea of clouds” in English. From a high place, you look down at a carpet of cloud that looks like the peaceful sea. Famous places for viewing a sea of clouds are Takeda Castle in Asago, Hyogo Prefecture, Achi village in Nagano Prefecture, and the top of Mount Fuji. In the gardens of the Hotel Chinzanso in central Tokyo, a sea of cloud is going to appear for a few minutes three times a day from October 1st. Hotel guests can look down at the human-made cloud in the treetops below. The sea of cloud is part of the hotel’s 70th anniversary celebrations.

(116 words)

Do you want to stay at the Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo to see the sea of cloud?

↳Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--Have you ever stayed at this hotel? / Have you ever been somewhere to see a real sea of clouds?)

↳No, I don’t. (--Have you ever seen a sea of clouds? / Have you ever stayed at a hotel in Tokyo?)

Have you ever been to a famous garden?

↳Yes, I have. (--Which famous garden did you go to? / Was it free to enter? / What’s your favorite famous garden?)

↳No, I haven’t. (--Is there a big park in your neighborhood? / Do you like going for a walk? / Do you have flowers or a “kanyou shokubutsu” house plant at home)

Do you like autumn?

↳Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--What’s your favorite autumn food? / Did you eat “matsutake” mushrooms last year? / Do you like spring?)

↳No, I don’t. (--How come you don’t like it? / Do you like winter? / Have you eaten nashi pears and grapes this year yet?)

(September 4, 2020)

More information

A garden with an “unkai” sea of clouds

“Unkai” is “sea of clouds” in English. If you are at a high altitude, it’s a weather phenomenon that most often appears at dusk in winter. You look down at a carpet of cloud that resembles a calm sea. Some famous spots for viewing a sea of clouds are Takeda Castle in Asago, Hyogo Prefecture, Achi village in Nagano Prefecture, and, of course, the peak of Mount Fuji.

In the gardens of the Hotel Chinzanso in central Tokyo, a sea of cloud is going to appear for a few minutes three times a day from October 1. It’s an artificial cloud that is actually a fog, according to the hotel. For guests, it provides a beautiful view as it briefly floats in the treetops below.

The sea of cloud is one of the events that leads up to the Hotel Chinzanso’s 70th anniversary celebrations in 2022. Another is firefly-like illuminations, with 1,000 LED lights that flash among the trees in the garden. “Chinzan” is “hill of camellias” in English, and the hotel also plans to plant 10,000 camellias in its gardens by 2022.

(193 words)

(September 4, 2020)