



Sightseeing

# Falconry at the Ham Gardens

[Leave a comment](#) January 5, 2020



## Day of the Falcon

Japanese falconry or *takagari* was a 'sport' widely practiced by the aristocratic class from the fourth century to underscore their status until the Edo period but with modernisation during the Meiji period it faded. Even the Imperial Household Agency quit the tradition. The practice of hawking is kept only by a few enthusiasts.

On January 2nd and 3rd each year at 11 am and 2 pm demonstrations of the sports can be witnessed at the traditionally styled Hamarikyu Gardens in the Shiodome district. The gardens were a onetime hunting ground of the shogunate. Birds of prey such as the Northern goshawk including seizing morsels of fresh meat mid-flight to eye level from an adjacent 10 storey building. There's even a call for a few people to get involved in the revelries. One of my photos from the

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[of the day](#)” column on Japan Today.

If you decide to rock up next year I suggest getting there quickly, pre entertainment includes an aikido performan



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*Net used to capture ducks.*

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*Lining up a target from 10 floor building.*

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*Rewarded with fresh meat.*

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*Please don't try and touch me.*



*Battling the winter rays.*

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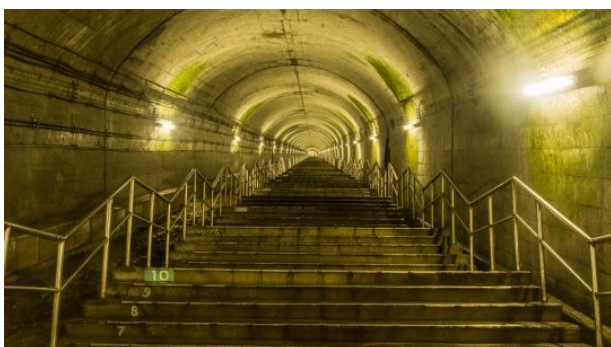
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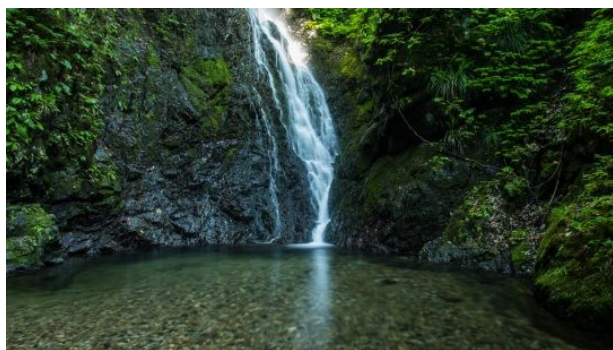


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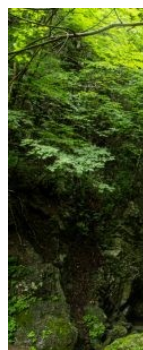
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