

# Cosmos Times

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014

## Tempura

When you think of Japanese cuisine, one of the dishes that usually comes to mind is “Tempura” (天ぷら), a dish with deep fried vegetables and sea food, or both. Either served with a dipping sauce on the side, or used in other dishes, tempura usually served with grated “daikon” (大根, “big root”, a form of radish) and eaten straight after frying. Everything from squid, scallop, crab and different types of fish, to mushrooms, lotus roots, sweet potato and eggplant can be used for Tempura.

As mentioned, tempura can be part of other dishes, such as donburi, soba, or udon soup. These dishes are usually called Ten-don (天井), Tempura Soba (天ぷらそば), and Tempura Udon (天ぷらうどん), respectively. You can find Tempura in everything from fast-food restaurants, to five star expensive restaurants.

This typically Japanese dish, however, was introduced to Japan by Portuguese Jesuits in the sixteenth century. It is believed that the word “Tempura” comes from the Latin word “tempora”, which was used to refer to the period of Lent, Fridays, and other christian holidays, where red meat were to be avoided, and instead fish and vegetables were eaten. Other, less substantiated, theories also exist, however.

When looking for something to eat next time, keep an eye out for 天 or any combination using this Kanji. Chances are very high, that it is a form of Tempura.



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*Ki wo mite mori wo mizu*

“You cannot see the wood for the trees.”

Meaning:

- a person who stays in a single environment will never gain a wider perspective of the world.

き み て も り み ず  
木を見て森を見ず

## Kojimachi Café

This café is located only 1 minute away from Hanzomon station. Lunch meals that include meat, fish, soup and pasta plates are roughly 1000 yen and all come with a drink and dessert. They are also open till 11pm on weekdays so it's perfect for a gathering after school or work.

For more information, check out their website:

<http://www.kojimachi-cafe.com/>

## Festivals in June

- 上野夏まつり (Ueno Summer Festival)  
Date: 7/12 - 8.10 Place: Different places throughout Ueno
- 神楽坂まつり (Japanese Lantern festival and Awa-odori)  
Date: 7/23 - 7/26 Place: Backstreets of Kagurazaka
- 隅田川花火大会 (Sumida River Fireworks Festival)  
Date: 7/26  
Place:  
Venue 1: Sakura-bashi bridge downstream -  
Kototoi-bashi bridge upstream  
Venue 2: Komagata-bashi bridge downstream -  
Umayabashi bridge upstream



A sneak preview of the Sumida River Fireworks