

Letters to the Editor

Dear SFM,

I'm sure you get this question a million times, and I don't see a FAQ anywhere, so please excuse my need to ask it.

My family will be visiting Tokyo in the summer, a once in a lifetime opportunity for us. Sadly, no basho while we are in town. I suppose the next best thing is for us to attend morning practice at a stable.

Is there a "right" way to do this? What should we do? Please advise.

Very gratefully.
Tom, Texas

Dear SFM,

We will be in Tokyo on the third week of August and would really be interested in attending asageiko in a heya.

The Japan Times online suggested

that we contacted you for additional information.

We will be most grateful if you could indicate to us the best stables to go and that will welcome visitors to their early morning training sessions.

Thanks in advance for your valuable help.

Elena, Madrid, Spain

Editor's response:

Dear Tom and Elena,

Thank you for contacting SFM, and for showing such a keen interest in the wonderful sport of sumo. I hope that you get to witness some live basho action in future.

The next best thing is indeed to watch keiko, although please be careful of the timing. The top wrestlers will be on tour throughout the summer and will only return to keiko in Tokyo in

late August.

Recommended heya to visit would be Musashigawa, because of its wide viewing space and long-standing reputation of hosting foreign guests, and Michinoku because of its sheer proximity to the Kokugikan. Kasugano, not far from the Kokugikan, also has a wide viewing area.

It is probably a good idea to go down to the heya the day before and ask if you can watch keiko the following morning. (Directions available from SFM). It is best not to turn up unannounced. Training usually starts between 6 and 7am, with the lower division guys going first, and the higher division wrestlers entering the room after 8am. I leave it to your discretion as to which time you choose to attend.

Hope this helps.

All the best,

Chris Gould, Editor
[Sumo Fan Magazine](#)