

UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage

Furukawa Festival

春川祭

National Designated Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties

Furukawa Festival Okoshi-daiko, Yatai Event

Furukawa Festival was registered on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List as one of the "Yama, Hoko, Yatai Events." There are 33 float festivals with National Designated Important Intangible Cultural Properties.

Hida City, Gifu Prefecture
April 19th - 20th

The Furukawa Festival which heralds the arrival of spring to Hida Furukawa, is an annual celebration of the Ketawakamiya Shrine. It has been passed down from generation to generation among the local community as the most important event of the year. This Festival consists of the traditional Shinto rituals at the Ketawakamiya Shrine, the Mikoshi (portable shrine) procession, "Okoshi-daiko (rousing drum)" and the parade of the 9 Yatai festival floats.





The best place to know what the Furukawa festival is like!

Hida Furukawa Festival Exhibition Hall

Get a close look at 3 of the 9 ornately decorated Furukawa Festival Yatai floats. Try your hand at Karakuri marionettes. You can experience the highlight of the Furukawa Festival through our 3D movie on a 260-inch big screen.

Address 14-5 Ichinomachi, Furukawacho, Hida City, Gifu
 Admission fee Adult 500 jpy Children under 16 years 300 jpy
 Children under 6 years Free

Opening times 9:00am-5:00pm
 (Close at 4:30pm Dec-Feb)

Closed 28th Dec-2nd Jan
 Tel +81-(0)577-73-3511

Karakuri Marionette Performance



Seiryu-tai

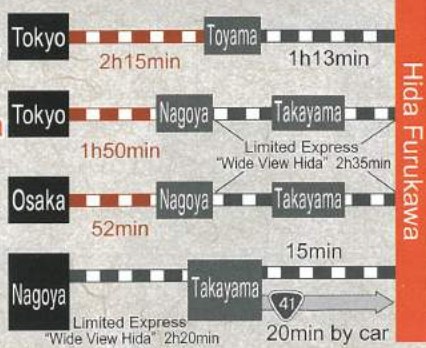
This marionette is controlled by 25 strings. At the end of the show, a turtle marionette transforms into a crane.



Kirin-tai

This marionette is controlled by 20 strings. At the end of the show, flowers come out of a basket and the marionette plays lion dance.

Access



Okoshi-daiko (The Rousing Drum)

There are two highlights of Furukawa Festival. One of them is "Okoshi-daiko (rousing drum)," which is held on the night of April 19th. Okoshi-daiko, the big Japanese drum structure, is carried through the streets by hundreds of half-naked men. During Okoshi-daiko parade, the 12 neighborhood groups of men follow the main drum with their small drums called Tsuke-daiko (attaching drums). They become very aggressive and charge upon the main drum, since the position directly behind the drum structure is highly esteemed. Okoshi-daiko represents the DYNAMIC aspect of the Furukawa Festival, which is known as one of the most eccentric festivals in Japan.



Before starting the parade of Okoshi-daiko, Tsuke-daiko group members take turns balancing atop of the Tsuke-daiko poles.



More than a thousand people holding paper lanterns illuminated by candles lead the Okoshi-daiko procession.

Yatai (Festival Float) Parade

The parade of 9 Yatai festival floats is another highlights, and a TRANQUIL aspect of the Furukawa Festival. You can see the legacy of craftsmanship on the floats in the wood carving and metal engraving, and Japanese lacquer work. These floats parade in their yatai groups' area individually on the 19th of April, and all nine Yatai floats parade together on the 20th. Especially on the evening of the 20th, every float is decorated with Japanese "Chochin" lanterns.



Children's Kabuki performance

Byakko-tai

The Byakko-tai features the Children's Kabuki performance, which is performed on the stage on the middle level of the yatai. This Kabuki performance was resumed when the current float was overhauled in 1984.



Mikoshi Procession

Mikoshi Procession departs Ketawakamiya Shrine on April 19th and returns on 20th. During the festival, the procession makes dozens of brief stops to perform the Japanese Shinto religious rituals and the Shishimai (traditional lion dance).



Contact us

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The Official Tourism Website of Hida City
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