

WAJIMA SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE MAP

AUGUST 22, 23, 24, 25

輪島大祭

Noto Kiriko Matsuri has been officially recognized as an important Japanese cultural asset.

HISTORY

The history of the Wajima festival lies in a romantic tale of a princess god from Hegura-jima island who came to visit her beloved, another god in Wajima once a year. Local people assisted them by bringing huge lanterns to light their way hoping for blessings and good fortune from the gods in return.

The festival traditions have been handed down from generation to generation as high points of the year to express gratitude for good harvests, commemorate significant events in local history and deepen the bonds between family, relatives and friends making fond memories for all in celebrations which everyone can look forward to.

A OKUTSUHIME SHRINE FESTIVAL



It is said a long time ago a god felt jealous of the young and powerful men who carried the hime (princess) portable shrine. Because of this the men changed their appearance to resemble women. The participants in the parade wear brightly coloured dresses and make-up which creates a quite unique festival.

Interesting fact: As the men carrying the portable shrine try to take it into the sea, the children on the shore pull on a thick rope attached to the back end of the shrine trying to stop them entering the water. This is repeated many times. It is said that the longer the men remain in the water the bigger the catch of fish for the year will be. Before the sun sets they carry the god into a temporary shrine called okariya for one night of rest. The next day the event is repeated and the portable shrine is returned to the Okutsuhime Shrine.

PLACE: AMA-MACHI AUGUST 22 and 23

● 22nd 15:00	Start time	Okutsuhime Shrine
	Shinto ritual "Nyusui-shinji"	Sodegahama Beach
	Mikoshi (portable shrine) arrives at	Okariya (temporary shrine)
21:00	Kiriko parade	Front of Fish Union Bldg.
● 23rd 15:00	Start time	Okariya (temporary shrine)
	Shinto ritual "Nyusui-shinji"	Sodegahama Beach
18:30	END	Okutsuhime Shrine

B JUZOU SHRINE FESTIVAL



The kiriko carriers gather at the Juzou Shrine in Kawai-machi. There are usually about 30 lanterns that take part in the parade which describes the journey of a deity. The event is a very romantic spectacle which ends in Marine Town.

Interesting fact: The 10 metre high torches called taimatsu are a big surprise if it is your first visit to the festival. They are held in position by people holding onto three big ropes which support them. They are set alight and the flames rise up into the sky. The mikoshi (portable shrine) is rushed around the base of the taimatsu as the raging flames bring it down to the ground. The men then rush to get the "gohei strips" which symbolize good luck and success and this provides a fitting climax to the culmination of the festival.

PLACE: KAWAI-MACHI AUGUST 23

20:00	Start time	Juzou Shrine
	Kiriko parade	Around the Shrine
	Taimatsu torch	Marine Town
Late night	END	Okariya (temporary shrine)

C SUMIYOSHI SHRINE FESTIVAL



In the Sumiyoshi Shrine festival heavy kiriko are carried on strong shoulders and at the end of the procession they are raced across the Shinbashi Bridge up to the river delta in front of the city office in an impressive display of strength.

Interesting fact: The spectacle of heavy kiriko being spun and carried back and forth the across the bridge by running men to the sound of beating drums is a sight not to be missed. In moments between the pounding drums, festival flutes can also be heard and the finale is performed by the Gojinjo-taiko drummers on the river delta. The festival is

celebrated with excitement, high spirits and large quantities of alcohol resulting in a truly memorable powerful and wild event which ends with the lighting of the taimatsu torch at the delta.

PLACE: FUGESHI-MACHI August 24

20:00	Start time	Sumiyoshi Shrine
	Kiriko parade	Fugeshi-machi
	Taimatsu torch	The Wajimagawa River Delta
Late night	END	Okariya (temporary shrine)

D WAJIMAZAKI SHRINE FESTIVAL



Wajimazaki is a fishing town brimming with a strong sense of community. The festival here celebrates the many bounties of the sea and the rich cultural heritage of the area. Kiriko made out of bamboo in the image of the shrimp and tai (sea bream) are really impressive.

Interesting fact: The kiriko carriers run and chase each other with vigour countless times creating an exciting but dangerous scene with seemingly no sense of direction. The festival drums power out their beat as the men take periodic rests from the action. The fishing boats are decorated with flags creating a unique backdrop of colour and beauty to the event. The festival attracts many fans from nearby towns and the evening climax is again the taimatsu festival torch which is lit in the fisherman's wharf.

PLACE: WAJIMAZAKI-MACHI August 25

20:00	Start time	Wajimazaki Shrine
	Kiriko parade	Wajimazaki-machi
	Taimatsu torch	Fisherman's Wharf
Late night	END	Okariya (temporary shrine)

WAJIMA SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE MAP

[REST AREA] can be found at the meeting place on August 23rd and 24th. Please use free of charge.

Wajima Tourist Information Center

20-1-131 Kawai-machi, Wajima-shi, Ishikawa 928-0001
Phone (0768) 22-1503 Fax (0768) 22-0136
Mail wajimaguide@gmail.com
URL <https://wajimanavi.jp>

Four days of celebration in different shrines. See the amazing festivals, the Wajima nuri portable shrine, the floating deity lanterns and the gigantic festival torches. Make wonderful memories in your time here in wajima.

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| A | OKUTSUHIME SHRINE FESTIVAL COURSE | 22nd and 23rd Aug. from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. |
| | NYUSUI-SHINJI COURSE | |
| B | JUZOU SHRINE FESTIVAL COURSE | 23rd Aug. from 8:00 p.m. until late night |
| C | SUMIYOSHI SHRINE FESTIVAL COURSE | 24th Aug. from 8:00 p.m. until late night |
| D | WAJIMAZAKI SHRINE FESTIVAL COURSE | 25th Aug. from 8:00 p.m. until late night |

※ Please be aware that the route of the parade and torch locations sometimes changes, due to local conditions.

