

English



Takayama Festival

飛騨高山

The Takayama Festivals refers to both “Sannō Matsuri,” which takes place at Hie Shrine on April 14th & 15th, and “Hachiman Matsuri,” which takes place at Sakurayama Hachimangu on October 9th & 10th.

Takayama's castle town was divided into north and south, and during the spring and autumn, ornate yatai floats were displayed. Among festivals featuring a yatai float in Japan, Takayama's festival floats are well known for their vibrant decorations and master craftsmanship.

The 12 yatai of the Sannō Matsuri and 11 yatai of the Hachiman Matsuri are representative of festival floats developed in the late Edo period and have been designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan. These spectacular events, organized by bureaus called Miyamoto and Nengyoji respectively, are characterized by unique karakuri marionette shows and traditional music performances.



During the Sanno Matsuri, 12 gorgeous yatai floats are on display. The Gojunko Procession includes tokeiraku players banging gongs, lion dancers, and other performances. During the Night Festival, the yatai are returned to their storehouses after being paraded around the festival area. During the main festival on the 15th, the yatai are paraded again and follow a mikoshi float which carries the Sanno deity to and from the center of town.

The yatai (traditional festival float) are registered as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.



The Hachiman Matsuri begins on the 9th with the Gojunko Procession and a yatai parade, and all 11 yatai are brought out for the Night Festival in the evening. On the 10th, there is another Gojunko Procession and yatai parade, conducted along with other activities before the yatai are returned to their respective warehouses until the next year.

春

Spring Takayama Festival Sannō Matsuri

山王祭

April 14-15th



Karakuri Performance

Karakuri marionette shows are performed on three of the yatai: the Sambaso, Shakkyotai, and Ryujintai. Puppeteers breathe life into dozens of puppets and captivate the audience.



Gathering of the yatai

You can only see the yatai up close two days a year. The Kaguratai, Sambaso, Shakkyotai, and Ryujintai floats are on display in the square in front of the Otabisho, which is next to Nakabashi Bridge. The other eight yatai are exhibited between the Shinmeimachi and Kamimachi areas.

After sunset on the 14th, the yatai are adorned with hundreds of lanterns and paraded around the festival area. After completing the route, the yatai are returned to their storehouses while being serenaded with a special song known as “Takaiyama.”



Night Festival

Centered around the mikoshi, this event has been conducted for more than 300 years, with lion dancers, tokeiraku, and local community members dressed in traditional formal attire called kamishimo parading around the festival area.



Gojunko Procession



秋

Autumn Takayama Festival Hachiman Matsuri

八幡祭

October 9-10th



Karakuri Performance

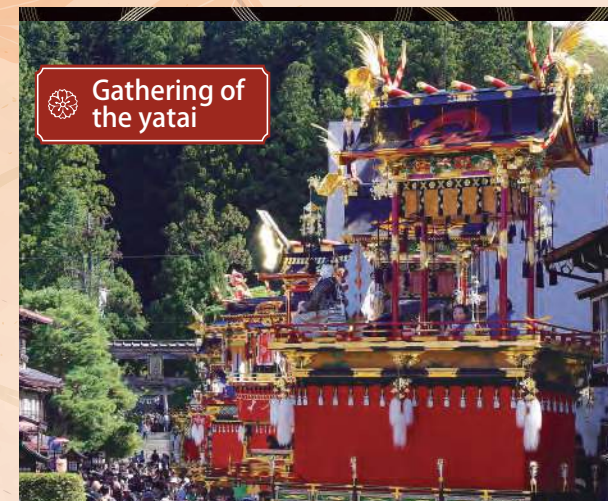
The lone karakuri puppet show during the Hachiman festival is performed on the Hoteitai float on the grounds of Sakurayama Hachimangu shrine. Don't miss the spectacular performance in which two children leap onto Hotei's shoulders, and a banner appears from Hotei's fan. Enjoy the amazing skills of experienced puppeteers who work behind the scenes.



Night Festival

On the evening of the 9th, you can enjoy the yatai in a different way. They're adorned with hundreds of lanterns and paraded around town before returning to their storehouses, serenaded by the unique “Takaiyama” song.

On both the 9th and the 10th, the Hoteitai can be found on the grounds of the Sakurayama Hachimangu shrine, while the other 10 yatai are lined up down the approaching walkway. This is a rare chance to see the yatai up close, which have been designated as Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan.



Gathering of the yatai

Goshinko Procession



Led by musicians and lion dancers, a huge procession of hundreds of people including tokeiraku musicians and guards in traditional formal attire called kamishimo recreates a scene from a historical picture scroll.

Yatai Parade



This is a special event exclusive to the Takayama Autumn Festival in which the yatai parade around the festival area, starting from the approaching walkway to the Sakurayama Hachimangu shrine. By observing them in motion, you can appreciate the intricacy of their construction and the beauty of their calculated movements.

Things to note:

- Events may be changed or canceled due to inclement weather. In this case, they will not be postponed.
- The yatai are important cultural assets. Do not touch them.
- Do not cross the street during processions.
- In some areas, there are uneven surfaces or no gutter covers. Be careful not to fall down.
- During processions, there may be traffic restrictions, such as road closures.
- Due to large crowds, access to surrounding areas may be restricted before, during, or after processions.
- Recording with drones is prohibited.
- Please don't stop in areas for moving foot traffic.
- Please bring your trash home with you.
- Please smoke only in designated smoking areas.

Contact

Hida Takayama Tourist Information Office:

0577-32-5328

Hida-Takayama Tourism and Convention Bureau:

0577-36-1011

Takayama City Hall Tourism Division:

0577-32-3333

A designated line will be opened on the day of the festival, so please direct any questions there.

- The designated line can be found on the Hida Takayama Travel Guide website or fliers distributed on the day of the festival.
- The designated line is different each year.
- For details on the day of the festival, please check the Hida Takayama Tourism website.



Spring
Takayama
Festival



Autumn
Takayama
Festival

※Changes to the details of the festival will be announced in real time.

Spring Takayama Festival "Sannō Matsuri"

Kaguratai



Musicians lead the yatai processions while playing traditional music.

Sambaso



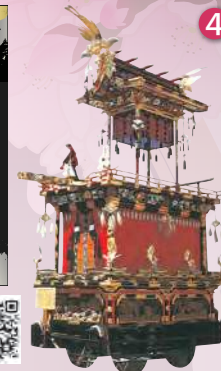
Famous for its performance where a young boy transforms into an old man.

Kirintai



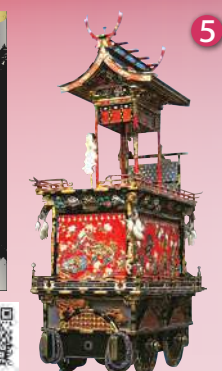
Boasts extravagant carvings by Yoroku Taniguchi, a master craftsman from Hida.

Shakkyotai



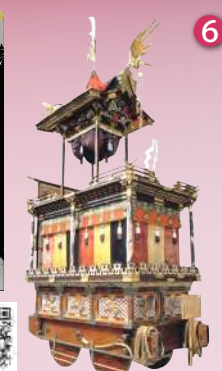
Has a performance that transforms a beautiful dancer into a lion.

Gotaisan



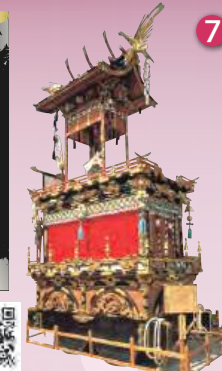
Sports a magnificent embroidered curtain displaying lions and peonies, believed to be a sketch by Maruyama Ōkyo.

Ho'otai



Easily recognizable by its hard red, yellow, and black banners imported from the Dutch many years ago.

Ebisutai



Notable for its carvings by craftsman Yoroku Taniguchi depicting a dragon and its child with short arms and long legs.

Ryujintai



Famous for its performance featuring a child dressed in Chinese attire and a dragon god.

Konkotai



Features beautiful Chinese-style designs such as arabesque and thunder patterns.

Kinkotai



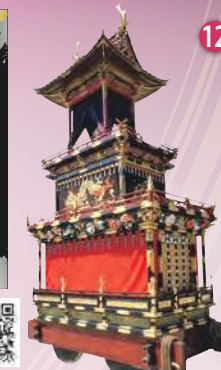
Adorned with koi motifs, including waves threaded in gold and colorful koi embroidery.

Daikokutai



Enshrines Daikokuten as its deity and has a roof designed to sway while its being paraded.

Seiryutai

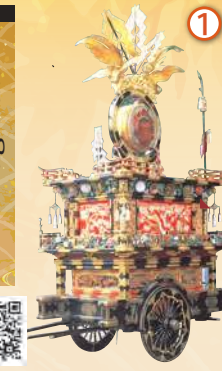


A magnificent yatai with a three-story structure and the only one with a gambrel roof.



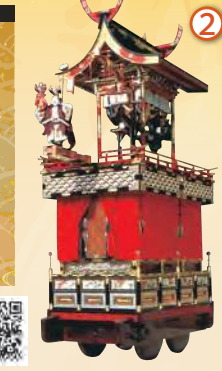
Autum Takayama Festival "Hachiman Festival"

Kaguratai



Its large taiko drum and gold phoenix are especially eye-catching.

Hoteitai



A karakuri marionette show is shown on this yatai during the Hachiman festival.

Kimpotai



This yatai is known for its decorative dolls on the top level.

Daihachitai



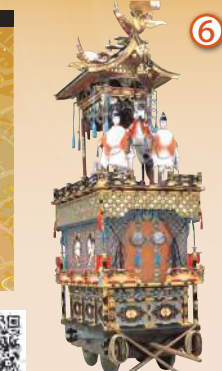
This yatai is known for its black carriage with metal fittings.

Kyuhosha



Boasts gorgeous brocades on all four sides with colors that are distinctive even among the other yatai.

Jinmatai



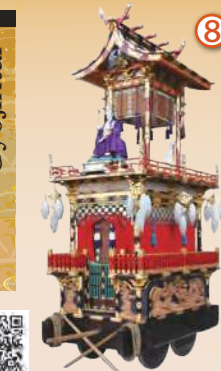
The white horse and doll wearing an eboshi, a type of formal headwear worn by nobles, stand out from the other yatai.

Sennintai



The vivid dragon carvings on both ends of the roof have a strong presence.

Gyojintai



The red curtains and white tassels on the top level create a beautiful contrast.

Hojutai



The roof is adorned with two large turtles, one male and one female.

Homeitai



The large phoenixes on the gabled roof and dynamic carvings of lions and peonies are the highlights.

Ho'otai



Highlighted by the carving known as Tanigoeshishi, created by the legendary craftsman Yoroku Taniguchi and his apprentice Kazuyuki Asai.

You can scan the QR code to see videos of the yatai parades.