

English

KOMATSU CITY

Otabi Festival

Hikiyama Children's KABUKI

11 May 2023 Sat.

Venue: Saiku-cho Intersection
(10-minute walk from JR Komatsu Sta.)

With a history of over 250 years, the Otabi festival features elaborately decorated hikiyama festival floats that double as stages for the kabuki plays performed by children.

The plays are FREE to watch!

Hikiyama Children's Kabuki Performances:

The Tatsumi Channel, Cornerstone of the People

Scene at Inaba Sakon's Mansion by Nishi-cho neighborhood

3:30pm, 6pm (45 mins)

Kanjincho

by Eight Neighborhoods-Collaboration

4:30pm, 7pm (50 mins)

Hikiyama Line Up

The hikiyama floats of Komatsu are gathered for a spectacular light-up.

10:00am - 12:30pm

In front of Hikiyama Gallery Miyossa

2:00pm - 8:30pm

Saiku-cho Intersection



An Ishikawa Historical Heritage



25th Japan Children's Kabuki Festival

DANJURO URARA Theater (beside JR Komatsu Station)

Ticket prices start from 1,500 yen! Purchase at service desk of URARA Theater, via phone (0761-20-5501), 7-Eleven (P-code 524-640)

Come see famous traditional kabuki plays performed by children's troupes from all over Japan!!

4 May (Thu) and 5 May (Fri)
12:30pm - 5:30pm

The Otabi Festival of Komatsu

With a history of over 250 years, the Otabi Festival is Komatsu's pride and joy, attracting thousands every year. The star attractions are the all-girls children's kabuki plays staged upon extravagant hikiyama festival floats.

What is Kabuki?

Kabuki is a traditional form of Japanese theatre that began in the 17th century, as a form of popular culture for the masses. Known for its dramatic poses and plots, as well as lavish costumes and make-up, it has been inscribed in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. While actors are usually men, Komatsu's children's kabuki are unique in being performed by young girls instead.

What are Hikiyama?

Hikiyama is the name given to the festival floats unique to Komatsu. Originating as a means to show off the neighborhood's wealth, they are decorated lavishly with gold leaf and mother-of-pearl, as well as elaborately carved panels or embroidered curtains. Each hikiyama is unique, but they share a defining feature of doubling as kabuki stages, with a pull-out walkway representing the hanamichi, an essential part of kabuki stages for the entrance and exits of characters.

While over 20 hikiyama were believed to have existed at one point, only 8 remain today, each belonging to a neighbourhood of Komatsu. The hikiyama are stored in parts and the neighborhood comes together to reassemble it each year for the festival. Neither any nails nor blueprints are used! It is pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle, based just on verbal instructions passed down through the generations.

English Tour & Play-viewing

Tour the festival and streets with our English-speaking local guides! You may also opt to watch the play afterwards.

Date: 11th May (Sat)

Time:

3.00 PM - 5.00 PM (tour),

6.00 PM - 8.00 PM (optional play-viewing)

Meeting point: JR Komatsu Station



Free of charge, but spots are first-come-first-serve.
Scan QR code to book your spot!
(Sign-up deadline: 3 May)

For Inquiries

Official Site: explorekomatsu.com

Email: kokusai@city.komatsu.lg.jp

TEL: +81-761-24-8369 (weekdays only)



@explorekomatsu

Scan here for
more details
on the festival!

