



SEIRAN ENGLISH  
JOURNAL

夏  
祭り

SUMMER  
FESTIVALS

AUGUST 2026

おいで



# 夏祭り

Summer Festivals



There are many fun  
summer festivals  
around Gunma.  
Let's have a look at  
some of them.

# Ashikaga Fireworks Festival



**This year is the 110<sup>th</sup> Ashikaga Fireworks Festival - it started in 1903. It is one of the largest fireworks festivals in Kanto, with over 20,000 fireworks. Around 500,000 people attend each year. Be careful, public transport can get very, very busy!**

Public transport (名): 公共交通機関



# 前橋七夕まつり

株式会社吉田鉄工所

## Maebashi Tanabata Festival

The Maebashi Tanabata Festival is one of the largest star festivals in the Kanto area. It is held each year since 1951, it has handmade decorations and food stalls across Maebashi City.

The festival is for 3 days in early July, around tanabata.

Hold (an event): イベントを開催する Handmade (形容): 手作り  
Decoration (名): 装飾 Food stall (名): 屋台

# Maebashi Fireworks Festivals



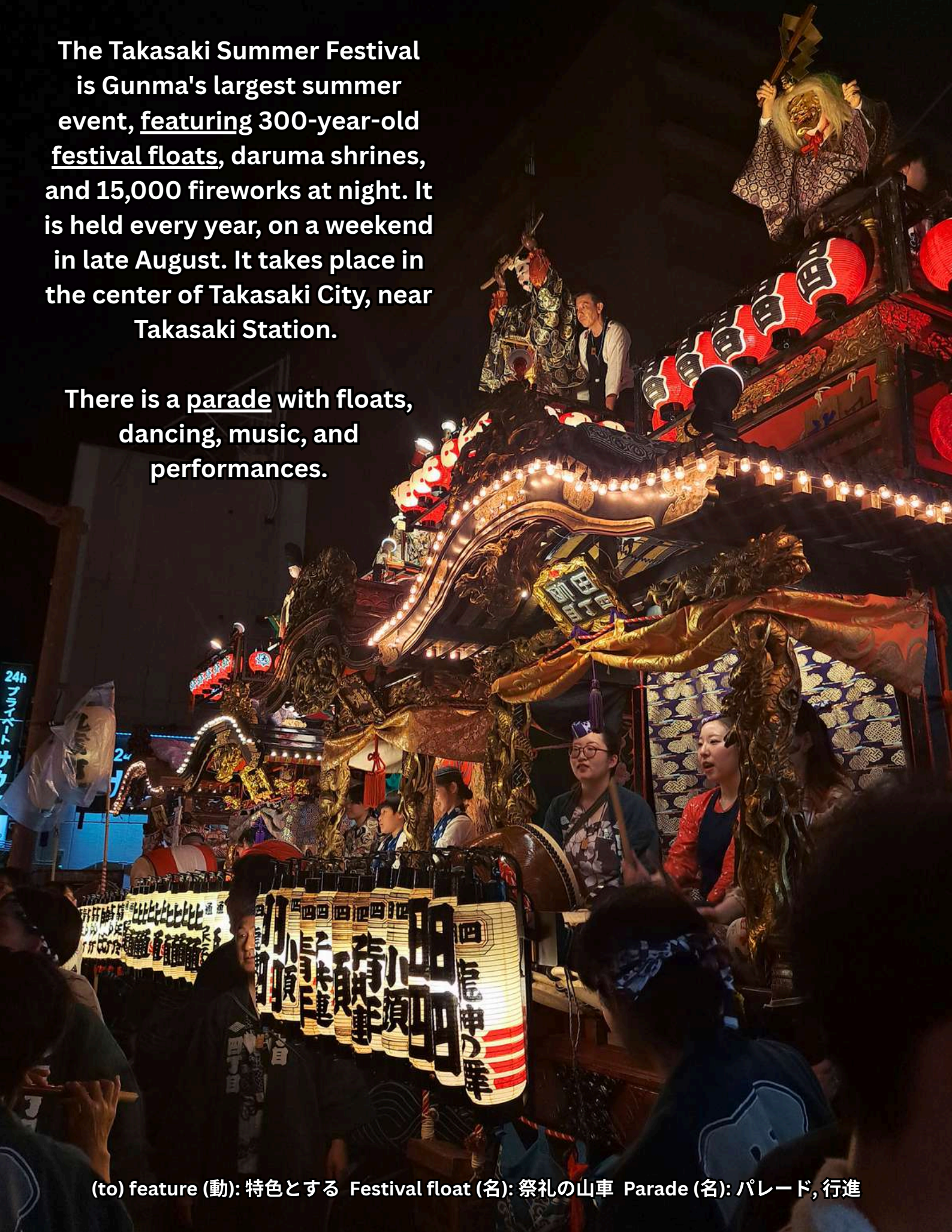
The Maebashi Fireworks Festival takes place every year, in early August. This year was the 70th year it has been held. It takes place along the Tone River, near the Owatari Bridge. It has around 15,000 fireworks.

(to) take place (動): 行われる、起こる

# Takasaki Summer Festival

The Takasaki Summer Festival is Gunma's largest summer event, featuring 300-year-old festival floats, daruma shrines, and 15,000 fireworks at night. It is held every year, on a weekend in late August. It takes place in the center of Takasaki City, near Takasaki Station.

There is a parade with floats, dancing, music, and performances.



(to) feature (動): 特色とする Festival float (名): 祭礼の山車 Parade (名): パレード, 行進

# Kiryu Yagibushi Festival



The Kiryu Yagibushi Festival is a three-day summer celebration held annually on the first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of August in the middle of Kiryu City. People dance the traditional *yagibushi* dance in circles around illuminated *yagura* towers

Celebration (名): お祝い Annually (副): 毎年

# Kiryu Fireworks Festival

This is a newer fireworks festival - this year will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year it will be held. It takes place late September, in Kiryu City, at Koume Kotohira Park, by the Watarase River. There are food and drink stalls and, at 8pm, around 3,000 fireworks are launched.



(to) launch a firework (動): 花火を打ち上げる

# ☪ Minakami Onsen Oide Matsuri ☪

This small festival is held on the first weekend of September. It is held to celebrate the end of summer and the return of the onsen-bathing seasons - autumn, winter, spring.

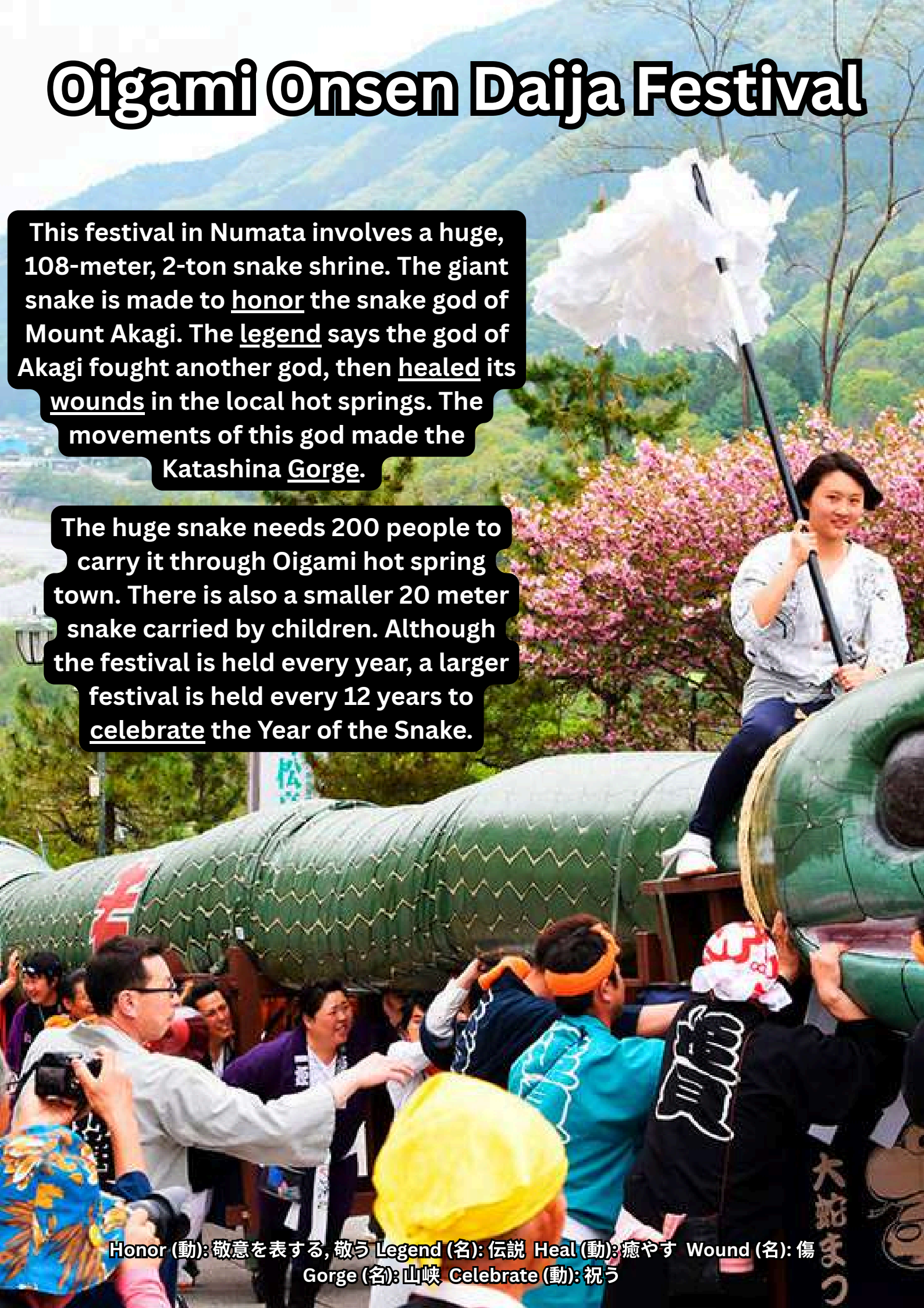
There is a dance parade on the main road of Minakami town, with food and music performances.



# Oigami Onsen Daija Festival

This festival in Numata involves a huge, 108-meter, 2-ton snake shrine. The giant snake is made to honor the snake god of Mount Akagi. The legend says the god of Akagi fought another god, then healed its wounds in the local hot springs. The movements of this god made the Katashina Gorge.

The huge snake needs 200 people to carry it through Oigami hot spring town. There is also a smaller 20 meter snake carried by children. Although the festival is held every year, a larger festival is held every 12 years to celebrate the Year of the Snake.



Honor (動): 敬意を表する, 敬う Legend (名): 伝説 Heal (動): 癒やす Wound (名): 傷  
Gorge (名): 山峡 Celebrate (動): 祝う

# Ojima Neputa Festival



This festival began in 1986 as a sister-city programme with Hirosaki City in Aomori Prefecture, the home of Japan's famous Neputa tradition.

It is held on August 14 and 15 in the shopping streets of Ojima town, in Ota City. It has large illuminated neputa floats over 7 meters tall and big taiko drums.

There are also special stalls selling local goods, as well as festival food and drink stalls.

Sister-city programme (名): 姉妹都市交流プログラム Local goods (名): 地元の特産品, 名物



# Serada Gion Festival

This festival is held in July at Serada Toshogu Shrine. It has a parade of eight large festival floats from the Edo period. There is also traditional shamisen music, dancing, food and drink stalls, and a small fireworks display at night.

# Ota Summer Festival

**The Ota Summer Festival is held to the north and south of Ota Station. It used to be held in July, but has been moved to September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> due to the summer heat. There are floats, food stalls, and dances, including traditional odori and Brazilian samba. This year there was even wrestling!**



# Oizumi Festival

The 53rd Oizumi Festival will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> near Nishi-Koizumi Station. It has parades, floats, and international food stalls. There will be many Brazilian foods and performances.



# Nagasaki Spirit Boat Procession (精霊流し)



This is a festival that is held on August 15<sup>th</sup> every year in Nagasaki City, for obon. Spirit boats are made and pushed around the city, to remember people who recently passed away. People light fire crackers, hit gongs, and yell. I recommend it if you ever travel to Nagasaki City!

Spirit boat (名): 精霊船 Pass away (動): 亡くなる Light (a fire or firework; 動) 熾す, 火をつける  
Fire cracker (名): 爆竹 Gong (名): 銅鑼 (どら) Yell (動): 叫ぶ

# Nagasaki Kunchi



This festival is held in autumn, from October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, at Suwa Shrine, the largest shrine in Nagasaki City. It started in the year 1634. It is very international - there are Chinese dragon dances, and people push giant floats that look like old Chinese and Portuguese sail ships. This is because Nagasaki has a history of trade with China, Portugal, and the Netherlands, through the port of Dejima.

Portuguese (形容): ポルトガルの Sail ship (名): 帆船 Trade (名): 貿易 Port (名): 港

**People carry shrines,  
with 4 children inside  
playing the drums.  
People throw the  
shrines into the air,  
and yell  
“Kokodeshou!”**



Throw (動): 投げる



I hope you had a very fun summer  
break and could go to some of these  
amazing summer festivals!