

FESTIVALS

Imotaki 芋炊き in Ehime

Imotaki is a stew made with taro, chicken and other vegetables. It is a seasonal favorite and often eaten outdoors near a river.

Sep. 14 - Oct. 26 18:00-21:30 Deai no imotaki

Under Deai-bashi (bridge) 出合橋 of the Shigenobu-river on route 56 going south out of Matsuyama city. Price: ¥2,000 (Reserved) (Tel. 089-989-5506)

<http://www.ryouin-mattyuu.sakura.ne.jp/imotaki/index.html>

Early Sep. – Mid Oct. 17:00-21:00 Goshikihama kangetsu (moon viewing) imotaki

Goshikihama 五色浜 Seaside Park in Iyo city (Tel.089-982-0360)

Closed on Oct. 14-15 because of the autumn festival. In case of rain, you can eat indoors.

Price: ¥1,900 (Reserved: for more than two people)

Sep. 1– Oct. 31 11:00-21:00 Welpia-Iyo imotaki

Welpia-Iyo in Iyo city (Tel. 089-983-4500)

In case of rain, it will be held indoors. Price: ¥2,000 Course / ¥2,800 Course

<https://welpiaiyo.jp/event>

August 30 - Mid Oct. From the evening to 21:00 Ozu no imotaki

Hijikawa-ryokuchi-konen 肱川緑地公園 Picnic land

You can bring your own drinks. In case of rain it will be canceled. (Tel. 0893-24-2664)

Near here you can visit the Garyu Sanso villa and garden, which are designated as a National Important Cultural Property.

Price: ¥3,000 ~ (Reserved as a group of more than five members)

You need to make a reservation at one of the following shops.

Yonezawa よねざわ (0893-24-2639) Muraya むらや (0893-24-4637)

Tarui たる井 (0893-24-4585) Umetako うめたこ (0893-25-0826)

Nishikawa にし川 (0893-24-4046)

Oct. 14 SPORTS DAY スポーツの日

National Holiday

Sports Day was established so that people enjoy sports and cultivate the spirit of respect for other people through sports.

AKI MATSURI 秋祭り (Autumn Festival)

Autumn festivals are held all over Japan and people thank the gods for the harvest and good health. Visitors often wonder why the gods are treated so roughly in many of the festivals listed below. It is a way of showing one's determination and bravery for the benefit of the gods. One's sincerity is reflected in the vigorous handling of *mikoshi* (portable shrines).

Oct. 5-7 MATSUYAMA AKI MATSURI

Matsuyama City

Mitsu Hsukushima shrine

Mitsu district

(Tel. 089-951-1471)

5th 21:00 *Yoimiya* (eve of the festival vigil) 6th *Reitaisai* (Annual festival)

7th 0:30 *Toramai* (a ritual dance with a tiger's mask)

It started 400 years ago as a local entertainment in Mitsu. This dance is related to Kato Yoshiaki, the first lord of Matsuyama castle, who had hunted tigers on the Korean Peninsula.

1:00 *Miyadashi* and *Hachiawase*

Mikoshi (portable shrines) are brought out of the shrine and they are rammed into each other, *hachiawase*.

21:00 *Miyairi Mikoshi* are returned.

Dogo autumn festival Isaniwa shrine and Yu shrine Near Dogo-onsen Station

5th 20:00 *Yoimiya*

7th 5:30 *Miyadashi* and *kakikurabe*

Hachiawase In front of Dogo-onsen station 8 *mikoshi* compete by ramming into each other to push back their opponent.

9:00 Each *mikoshi* is carried around the neighborhood.

16:00 *Miyairi*

Isaniwa shrine (Tel. 089-947-7447) / Yu shrine (Tel. 089-921-0480)

Katsuoka Hachiman shrine

Near Katsuoka Menkyo Center (Driver's License Center) (Tel. 089-978-1123)

This festival is an intangible cultural folk property of Matsuyama.

5th 20:00 *Yoimiya*

7th 6:00 *Miyadashi*

7:30 *Ittaibashiri* 一体走り *Ittaibashiri* has a history of more than 200 years.

7 *mikoshi* are carried out from the shrine one by one by 10 young men each. From the shrine to *Otabisho* they run 100 meters holding the *mikoshi* high without trembling to show their strength. 7 groups compete.

16:30 *Kawagari* 川狩り Purification of *mikoshi* in the river before *miyairi*.

Transportation: Take a bus from Shieki gate #5 bound for the Menkyo Center and get off at the Menkyo Center bus stop.

Early Oct. Funakoshi Wakehime shrine Gogoshima Island (Tel. 089-961-2001)

Details of the event have not been announced yet.

Early Oct. Uwama Tenma shrine Nakajima Island (Tel. 089-997-1841)

Details of the event have not been announced yet.

Oct. 11-14 HOJO AKIMATSURI Matsuyama City

This festival is known as one of the three roughest *mikoshi* festivals in Japan, including Nada *kenkamatsuri* 灘のけんか祭り in Himeji and *Hotematsuri* 帆手祭 in Miyagi.

KunitsuhiKonomiKoto shrine (Hojo) (Tel. 089-992-1202)

14th 6:00 *Miyadashi*

Danjiri and *mikoshi* are brought out to the sound of fire bells and drums.

Then 4 *mikoshi* parade around the town in company with *Inoki Daimajin* (demon-masked man) holding a green bamboo stick.

9:00 *Ohikiage* お引上げ

Mikoshi are thrown into the sea and pulled up with a help of *Daimajin*.

- 15:50 About 20 *danjiri* decorated with red cloth and hanging lanterns parade around the town to the sound of fire bells and drums, so the festival is called *Hinokoto matsuri* 火事祭り (fire festival).
- 16:30 *Miyairi Mikoshi Otoshi* 神輿落とし 4 *mikoshi* are dropped down from the top of the 39 stone steps of the shrine again and again till they are broken and the '*goshintai*'(god's spirit) 御神体 inside is thrown out. Young men fight trying to get it.

Kashima shrine (Kashima Island)

(Tel. 089-992-0896)

This festival is an intangible cultural property of Ehime Prefecture. Portable shrines are taken on board from Kashima Shrine and the boats sail on the sea for about one hour.

- 14th 15:00 *Mikoshi Misogi* 神輿禊 Purification bathing of two *mikoshi* is held at the Myojo river. The *mikoshi* are thrown into the river several times to bathe them. Then they are carried by boat.
- 16:00 *Kaineri-odori* かい練り踊り An Ancient *Kono Suigun* (marine guard) celebration dance of victory is performed on the leading boat called *kaineri-bune*.

Transportation: Take the JR local train bound for Imabari and get off at Iyo Hojo

Taxi: Iyo Hojo ⇔ Kunitsuhikonomikoto Shrine (10 minutes)

Ferry: Hojo Port (near JR Sta.) ⇔ Kashima (5 minutes)

Oct. 19 KANGETSU-SAI (Moon viewing Festival)

At Dogo park

11:00-21:00

Trees are lit-up.

Art of stars and light / Yuzuki-*manju* (Japanese cakes) / *Imotaki*

Kamishibai (Picture-story show) /Dance /Drama

20:15 Concert: japaharinet (Rock band)

Mid Oct. MATSUYAMA CASTLE KANGETSU-SAI

Details of the event have not been announced yet.

Oct. 12-17 SAIJO AKI MATSURI

Saijo City 西条市

This festival is famous for *danjiri*, a 5-meter tall, decorated wooden structure which weighs about 600-800 kilograms. It takes 15-20 men to carry it. During the festival as many as 100 *danjiri*, *mikoshi*, and *taikodai* are dedicated to each shrine in Saijo city. (Tel. 0897-56-5151)

15-16 Isono Shrine

15th 2:00 *Miyadashi*

16th 17:15 *Kawairi* (Crossing the river)

The Isono Shrine festival is the most famous and lively in Saijo city. On the 16th about 80 *danjiri* and 4 *mikoshi* gather at the Kamo-gawa riverside and at around 16:40 one *mikoshi* called *Shinyo*, which carries the god, begins to cross the river to return to Isono Shrine. At that time some *danjiri* go down to the river to try to stop the god's departure. It becomes very rowdy. The god finally crosses the river to return to Isono Shrine at around 18:00.

12-13 Kamo Shrine

14-15 Iwaoka Shrine

16-17 Iizumi Shrine

Oct. 15-18 NIIHAMA TAIKO (Drum) MATSURI Niihama City 新居浜市

This festival is one of the three biggest festivals in Shikoku, including Awa-odori in Tokushima prefecture and Yosakoi-odori in Kochi prefecture. More than 50 tall wooden carts carrying huge drums called *taikodai* are the features of this festival. They are extravagantly decorated with gold embroidery and tassels. Each one weighs about 3 tons and is 5.5 meters high and 12 meters long. *Taikodai* are brought out at different places and times during the festival.

17th From noon till evening

The most exciting is *Kakikurabe* in Yamane Park. More about 20 *taikodai* gather in the ground of Yamane Park and compete their power and performances. (Tel. 0897-65-1260)

**Oct. 20 KIKUMA MATSURI Otomouma no Hashirikomi お供馬の走り込み
Kamo Shrine Kikuma-cho, Imabari City 今治市菊間町**

This festival has more than a 500-year history and is an intangible cultural folk property of Ehime Prefecture.

20th 10:30 *Otomo-uma* Parade 15 *mikoshi*, boys in ritual costumes and *Otomo-uma* (horses) in decorated saddles parade through the town.

21st 8:00 *Otomo-uma no Hashirikomi* お供馬の走り込み (A Ritual Horse Race)
About 20 boys aged 7-15 in traditional costumes ride at full speed on beautifully decorated horses through the approach to Kamo Shrine, about 300 meters long. Before the race, the boys purify themselves by bathing in the sea. This was probably a coming-of-age rite and originated in Kyoto during the Edo Era (1603-1867). (Tel. 0898-54-3450) <https:kamoj.sakura.ne.jp/>

Transportation: Take the JR local train bound for Imabari and get off at Kikuma. It is a 15-minute walk to the right from the station.

Oct. 28-29 UWAJIMA AKI MATSURI Uwatsuhiko Shrine 宇和津彦神社 Uwajima City



Yatsushika



Ushioni

This festival is famous for the *Yatsu-shika odori*, (eight-deer dance). It started as a ritual parade of Uwatsuhiko Shrine in the days of the first lord of the Uwajima clan more than 300 years ago. Once it was performed as a coming-of-age ritual and now this stately dance has become a well-known local folk entertainment. Young boys wear deer head-like images on their heads with long red cloth reaching to their knees and they carry small drums. The drums provide the beat for the dance. Of the eight deer, seven are males who try to win the love of the one female, who finally chooses one of them. Uwajima is also famous for *Ushioni*, a huge 5-meter-long mythical beast made of paper and bamboo with scarlet cloth covering the body. There are 40 people inside one *ushioni* and 40 other people accompany it. About 10 children operate the

smaller ones. On this day *ushioni* visit from house to house warding off evil spirits.

28th 19:00 *Yoimiya* You can see *yatsu-shika odori*, *shishimai* (lion dance), and *ushioni* at the shrine.

29th 16:00 Parade of *Mikoshi*, and *Ushioni* around the town and *Yatsushika-odori* on *Ushikoni* street (Tel. 0895-22-1276)

Transportation: Take the JR express train bound for Uwajima and get off at Uwajima. It takes 5 minutes to get to Uwatsuhiko shrine by car.

**July 22-Jan. THE 29th NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF KAMABOKO-ITA -NO-E
9:00-17:00 (closed on Tuesday) at GALLERY SHIROKAWA**

Shirokawa-cho, Seiyō City 西予市城川町

The national exhibition of paintings on *kamaboko* (fish-paste) boards started about thirty years ago. This year 6,100 paintings were sent from all over the country and abroad. The painting which won the first prize this year is the one titled “*Yoake ni* よあけに (at dawn)”. It was painted by Nakamura Rutsu (33 years old) from Komatsu city, Ishikawa prefecture, who is a Wajima lacquerware craftsman. She painted the Virgin Mary surrounded with grass and flowers in bloom, and a wing of an angel as if flapping against the light shining from the sky.

(Tel. 0894-82-1001)

Nov. 3 BUNKA NO HI 文化の日 (Culture Day) National Holiday

Culture Day celebrates the development of culture in Japan. It was established in 1948. Many cultural events are held on or near this day.