

起し太鼓

飛騨古川祭

OKOSHI DAIKO April 19th 9:00pm-

Okoshi Daiko represents the "motion" of Furukawa Festival. It is believed that it started as an "alarm" to wake up the residents and to inform them of the beginning of the festival. Led by more than a thousand of people with lanterns, a few hundred men, naked except for the cloth wrapped around their upper body and loin, go through the streets carrying a wooden tower, on top of which two young men play the main drum, energetically banging it with their drumsticks. At every corner of the street, the procession is encountered by young men of each block rushing toward the main drum, carrying their Tsuke Daiko (small drum) tower. It is believed that the first group to reach the main drum will enjoy good luck throughout the year. "The fierce battle among the groups of the small drum to reach the big drum quickly is the highlight of Okoshi Daiko".

Furukawa Matsuri April 19th and 20th

Furukawa Festival, which is designated as a significant intangible folk cultural asset by the Japanese government, is an annual festival by Ketawakamiya Shrine.

This event has been passed down from generation to generation within the local community as the most important event of the year.

The ceremonial part of the festival consists of the traditional Shinto ritual at Ketawakamiya Shrine and the Mikoshi (portable shrine) procession, and the most notable among the highlights offered are the Okoshi Daiko (Okoshi: wakening) Japanese drumming parade which represents "motion", and Yatai Parade (yatai: festival float) which represents "stillness".



YATAI (FESTIVAL FLOAT) PARADE

April 19th and 20th

The Yatai float parade represents the "stillness" of Furukawa Festival.

It is said that the Yatai in Furukawa are a mixture of Tokyo and Kyoto style. They originally started as pure Edo (today's Tokyo) style, but subsequently changed by introducing Karakuri marionette performances, textiles and lacquer-works from Kyoto.

You can see the techniques of craftsmen in their delicate carving, decorative metal parts and lacquer works.

In the evening of April 19th, the Yatai floats decorated with lanterns start proceeding through the town.

On April 20th, all nine Yatai floats are displayed together and you can also see Kabuki performances by children as well as Karakuri marionette theater on the second floor of the floats.



Seiryu Tai



Kirin Tai

CHILDREN'S KABUKI

This show was revived in 1984 after a hiatus of more than 100 years. This was also the year when the float was repaired. This colorful play performed by adorable children is very popular. (The performance lasts for about 15 minutes.)

Children's Kabuki and Karakuri marionette theater are performed a few times a day, at different locations within the town.



KARAKURI MARIONETTE PERFORMANCE

Seiryu Tai

The marionettes are controlled by 25 strings. At the end of the show, you will see a turtle marionette transforming into a crane, created by ingenious craftsmanship.

Kirin Tai

The marionettes are controlled by 20 strings. The marionette dances to Noh song. At the splendid ending, you'll see petals falling beautifully.

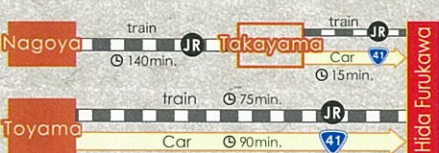
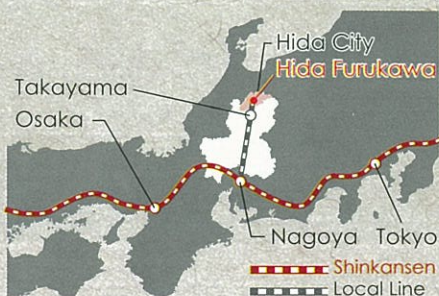
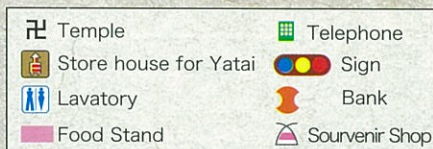
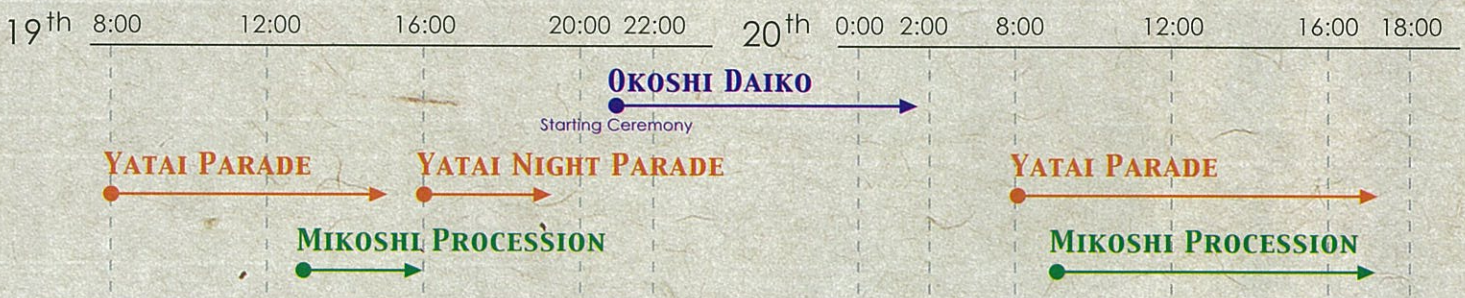


MIKOSHI PROCESSION

April 19th 1:00pm - 4:00pm
April 20th 9:00am - 4:00pm

The procession, consists of several hundred people, departs Ketawakamiya Shrine on April 19th and returns on April 20th. The procession makes brief stops at several places to perform Shinto rituals and the traditional lion dance.

SCHEDULE



Note: If it rains, the Yatai parade, Mikoshi procession and lion dance will be canceled, and the Karakuri marionette theater and Children's Kabuki will be performed at the storehouses for Yatai floats.

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