

Charms of Setouchi

Seasonal Events



SPRING

Awaji Flower Festival [All over Awaji Island in Hyogo] [March - May]

This grand flower event is celebrated all over Awaji Island. Visitors can stroll along a hillside covered with 80,000 poppies in bloom or through a garden with nearly 700 blossoming roses as well as enjoy the numerous events held throughout the area.

Wisteria Festival [Wake-cho, Wake District, Okayama]

During this festival, visitors will be treated to beautiful wisteria raining down like purple smoke from a 500 m long wisteria trellis.



Ritsurin Garden Illumination [Takamatsu City, Kagawa] [March - April]

Ritsurin Garden is known as the garden that offers a different beautiful scene with every step. The garden's main attraction besides cherry blossoms in spring and foliage in autumn is the garden's illuminated nighttime scenery.



Machi Asobi Convention [Tokushima City, Tokushima] [May]

In spring and autumn, anime fans and cosplayers from all over Japan attend the Machi Asobi Convention, painting the city with the lively colors of Japanese anime.



Senteisai Festival [Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi]

Travel back in time to ancient Japan during the Senteisai Festival, which features a parade of women dressed in gorgeous traditional costumes.



AUTUMN

Hagi Jidai Matsuri Festival [Hagi City, Yamaguchi] [November]

The more than 200 staff dressed as lords and irregular militia (kiheitai) from the reign of the Mori Clan parading around the town of Hagi make the Hagi Jidai Matsuri Festival a scene straight from a historic picture scroll.



Matsuyama Autumn Festival [Matsuyama City, Ehime] [October]

The Matsuyama Autumn Festival includes groups of young men carrying miniature shrines jostling each other with all their might. The boisterous shouts of the men and the ferocious clashing of the floats make this a lively event.



Former Shizutani School Illumination [Bizen City, Okayama] [October to November]

The red and yellow of the school's Chinese pistache tree—brought to Japan as seeds from a Confucius Temple in China—present a dazzling display of autumn foliage. The maples and autumn foliage offer a beautiful sight.



Nada no Kenka Matsuri (Fighting Festival) [Himeji City, Hyogo] [October]

Called one of the oddest festivals in the world, the Nada no Kenka Matsuri Fighting Festival features portable shrines that are jolted against one another. This festival is known as the largest of many similar "fighting festivals."



Chosa Matsuri Festival [Kan-onji City, Kagawa] [October]

During the Chosa Matsuri Festival, 23 "chosa" (floats) richly decorated with gold embroidery are paraded through the city. The impressive splendor of the floats makes this a truly special festival.

SUMMER



Kangensai Festival [Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima]

The Kangensai Festival is held on a boat traveling from Itsukushima Shrine to its opposite shore and back to the sound of wind and string instruments. The festival climax begins with the sun beginning to set as the boat returns to the shrine's great red torii.

Awa Odori Dance Festival [Tokushima City, Tokushima] [August]

The Awa Odori Dance Festival, which began more than 400 years ago, is one of Tokushima's most prominent summer festivals. Let the music take you and feel free to join in on the dancing festivities!



Summer Garden of Dreams, Okayama Korakuen Garden [Okayama City, Okayama]

This summer nighttime festival invites revelers to enjoy food and drink while admiring the delicately designed illumination bathing Korakuen Garden in light.



Onmaku Festival [Imabari City, Ehime] [August]

The Imabari Festival includes a variety of events—including lion dances and other traditional dances performed to music—that cannot be found anywhere else in Japan. One such must-see event is the fireworks display set off from the sea.

WINTER



Akiyoshidai Mountain-Burning Event [Mine City, Yamaguchi] [February]

This annual event marks the start of spring as flames race across the Akiyoshidai Plateau, leaving the mountainside black in their wake.



Hiroshima Dreamination [Hiroshima City, Hiroshima] [November to January]

The fairylend theme of Hiroshima Dreamination sets the mood as various objects decorated with colorful illuminations appear throughout the city.

Kobe Luminarie [Kobe City, Hyogo] [December]

A symbol of hope and regeneration, Kobe Luminarie lights up the winter streets with artistic light displays. This festival is a solemn event commemorating the Great Hanshin Earthquake. ©Kobe Luminarie O.C.

