

# 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.



### Senteisai Festival

[May]  
[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.

### Wisteria Festival

[April - May]  
[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.

## SUMMER



### Kangensai Festival

[July or August]  
[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 the "Niwaka Ren" dance group to experience the Awa Odori Dance Festival!



### Summer Garden of Dreams, Okayama Korakuen Garden

[August]  
[Okayama City, Okayama]

This summer nighttime festival invites revelers to enjoy food and drink as well as a stroll at the garden with fantastic night illuminations.



### 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.



# 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.



# Events around Setouchi

January	January - March	Hiroshima Oyster Festival	Various regions throughout Hiroshima Prefecture	Hiroshima
	3rd Saturday	Saidaiji Eyo	Saidaijinaka, Higashi Ward, Okayama City	Okayama
February	Late February - Early April	Big Hina-doll's Festival	Katsuura Town, Katsuura District	Tokushima
		Shikoku Sake Festival	Miyoshi City	Tokushima
April	10	Kotohira-gu Shrine Cherry Blossom Festival	Kotohira-cho, Nakatado District	Kagawa
	29	Kintaikyo Bridge Festival	Kintaikyo Bridge, Iwakuni City	Yamaguchi
May	May 3 - 5	Hiroshima Flower Festival	Peace Boulevard, Hiroshima City	Hiroshima
	Early May	Heartland Kurashiki	Kurashiki Bikan Historical Area, Kurashiki City	Okayama
June	Varies by year.	Himeji Oshiro Matsuri Festival	Himeji Castle and surrounding areas, Himeji City	Hyogo
		Oyamazumi Shrine Rice-Planting Festival	Omishima-cho, Imabari City	Ehime
July	22 - 24	Uwajima Ushioni Matsuri Festival	Uwajima City	Ehime
August	1st Saturday and Sunday	Okayama Momotaro Festival	Okayama City Center	Okayama
	Late August	Miyajima Suichu Fireworks Festival	Offshore from the O-torii at Itsukushima Shrine, Hatsukaichi City	Hiroshima
September	4th Saturday	Odaishiyama Fire Festival	O-kawacho, Sanuki City	Kagawa
	2nd Sunday	Hyoge Festival	Kagawa-cho, Takamatsu City	Kagawa
October	16 - 18	Niihama Taiko Festival	Niihama City	Ehime
		Kobe Jazz Street	Kobe City	Hyogo
November	3	Ear of Rice Festival (Wedding of the Foxes)	Hanaoka, Shimomatsu City	Yamaguchi
	Late November	Yokai Festival	Yamashiro-cho, Miyoshi City	Tokushima
December	November - January	Winter Illumination Festival	Shunan City Center	Yamaguchi
	14	Ako Gishi-sai Festival	Ako City	Hyogo

# WINTER



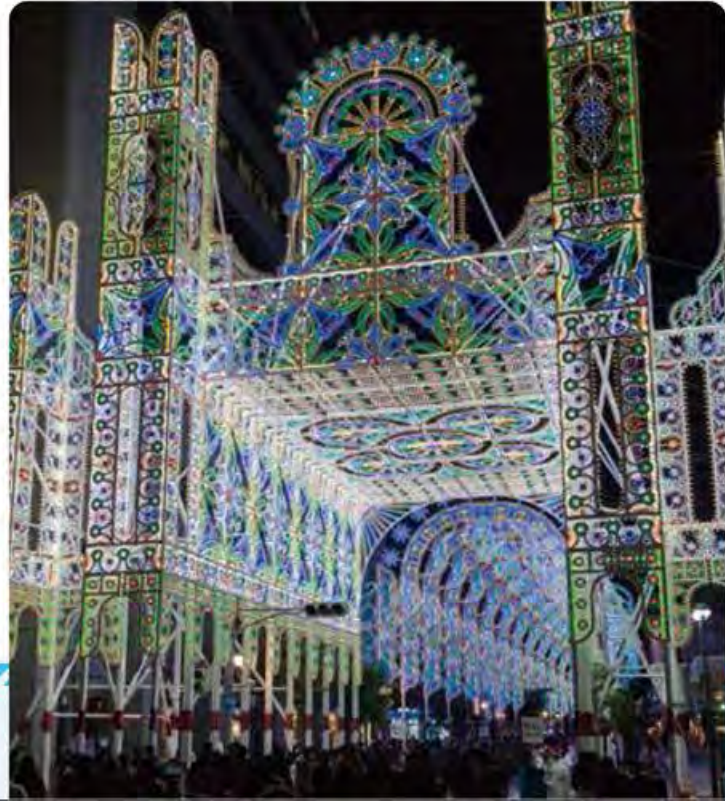
## Akiyoshidai Mountain-Burning Event [Mine City, Yamaguchi] | February

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

## 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.

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## 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.