

Hojozu Hachimangu Shrine Annual Fall Festival

What is the Shinminato Hikiyama Festival?

The Shinminato Hikiyama Festival, held every year on October 1st, is just one part of the Hojozu Hachimangu Shrine Annual Fall Festival. The whole town parades while the music from the hikiyama hayashi musical accompaniment echoes, and the 13 gallant festival floats are paraded by participants who shout "Iyasa Iyasa" meaning pray for peace and prosperity, and change the appearance of the floats to match the themes of "Hanayama" (flower float) during the day and "Chochinyama" (lantern float) during the night. The grandeur of these 13 floats as they line up and turn a narrow street corner is a great sight to behold. Additionally, the nighttime reflections of the lantern floats on the surface of the Uchikawa River also make for a fantastic sight.

Feel the Atmosphere of the Festival
Through This Video
[Shinminato Hikiyama Festival
Promotional Video ▶](#)



About the Hojozu Hachimangu Shrine

In the year 746, it is said that the Hachimangu Shrine, which enshrines Emperor Ojin, was built at the request of Otomo-no- Yakamochi, the governor of Etchu Province. It is deeply revered by the townspeople and has played a central role in the development of the town's history and culture. The fall festivals, which include festivals such as the "Tsukiyama Festival" and the "Hikiyama Festival," remain very important to the townspeople and have been preserved to this day.



Hojozu Hachimangu Shrine
Official Instagram



Tsukiyama Festival (October 2nd)



Flower Floats

During the day, each float is decorated with a "flower float" design that features an umbrella with 30 or so flowering umbrella ribs.

Lantern Floats

At night, the flower umbrellas are removed and the upper parts of the floats are covered in 250 or so paper lanterns to change the appearance to a "lantern float" design. The sight of the lantern floats all lit up at once is truly a wondrous sight to behold and one of the many highlights of the festival.



About the Hikiyama Hayashi Musical Accompaniment

The hikiyama hayashi musical accompaniment plays instruments, such as the flute, drums, gong, and shamisen, from the bottom section of the float as the parade advances. Each town has their own style of musical accompaniment that has been passed down, from solemn songs to lively songs and even calm songs. The various melodies and styles of music you can hear is certainly one of the many charming points about this festival.

Hon-bayashi Musical Accompaniment

This musical accompaniment has quite a calm melody and is considered to be the official hayashi musical accompaniment. It is mainly played when departing from Hachimangu Shrine or when entering another town.

Zakkyoku

As the parade proceeds, the musical accompaniment will play many types of melodies to match the different situations of the parade. There are many highlights to the musical accompaniment, such as the "Iyasaka" tune, which is played when the floats turn a corner, and the "Chinchiko" tune, which accompanies the dancing marionettes on the floats.

Curtain

Curtains are used to hide the hikiyama hayashi musical accompaniment while they ride in the bottom section of the hikiyama floats. A wide range of designs and decorations are used.



Kadomawashi

Turning around a corner in the town during the festival is known as "Kadomawashi." As the tempo of the "Iyasaka" gradually increases, they heroically turn the float around the corner. The direction in which the float will be turned is called out and directed using the words "Hama," meaning beach, and "Tambo," meaning rice field.

[Chinchiko]

One of the "Zakkyoku" tunes that is played upon receiving a congratulatory gift. One of the many distinctive features of the Shinminato Hikiyama Festival is the marionettes that ride the middle section of the floats and dance to the "chinchiko" melody in a cute manner. Along with the musical accompaniment, why not try comparing the different marionettes that are unique and different in each town?



Shinminato Hikiyama Festival



Held Every Year on October 1st

Heroic and Gorgeous Hikiyama Festival Floats Parade Through the Port Town with Hikiyama Hayashi Musical Accompaniment

On October 1st, when the heat of summer has begun to die down, the magnificent and majestic 13 festival floats are paraded around the port town of Shinminato. The festival floats, decorated by the townspeople, change their appearance from day to night, and the voices of the musical accompaniment echo as the people move in a truly dazzling manner. Why not experience the fruits of the town's culture with your own eyes?

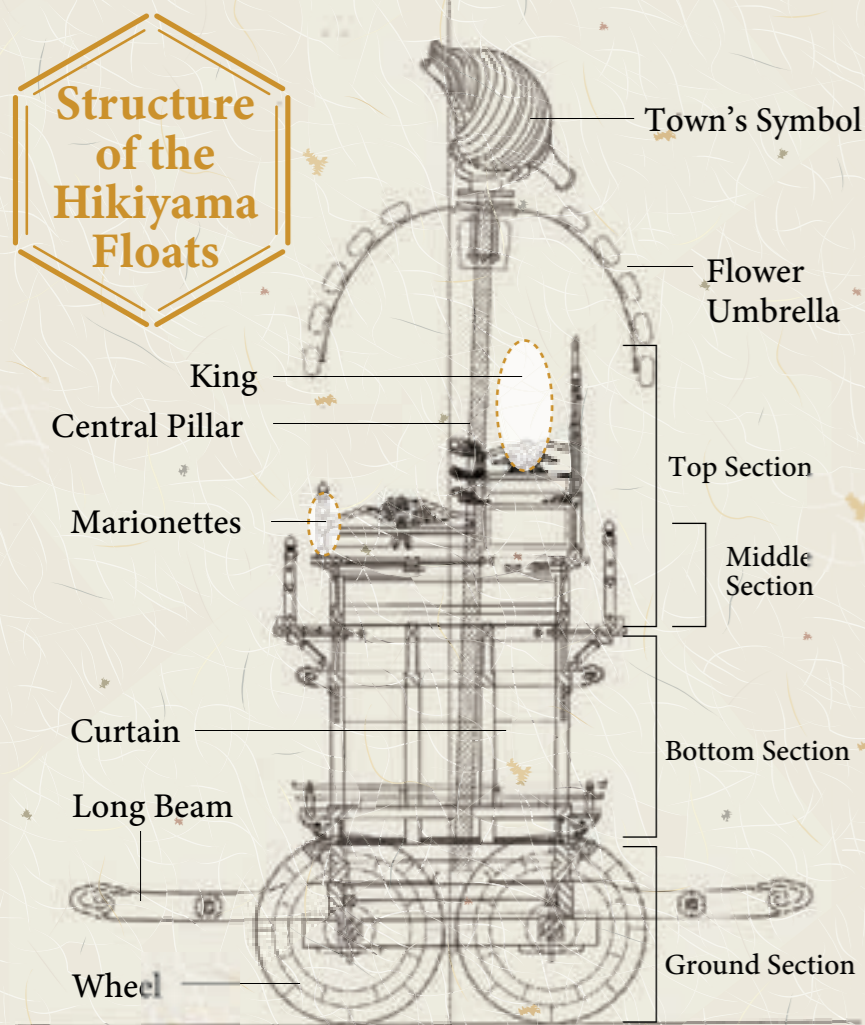
Imizu City Tourism Town
Development Division

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General Incorporated Association
Imizu City Tourism Association

Tel 0766-84-4649





The Shinminato Hikiyama floats are known as “flower umbrella floats,” with their central pillar being decorated with a sign and a flower umbrella, reaching a total height of roughly 8 m. Each town has the floats decorated with their own unique style of decorations.



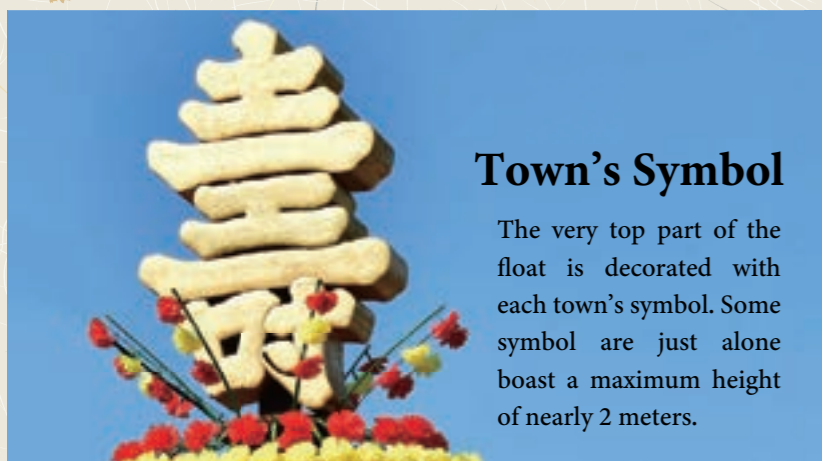
King

Each town has a life-size doll that rides on the top section of their float to represent their guardian deity. The motifs are based on Japanese and Chinese deities and warlords.



Marionettes

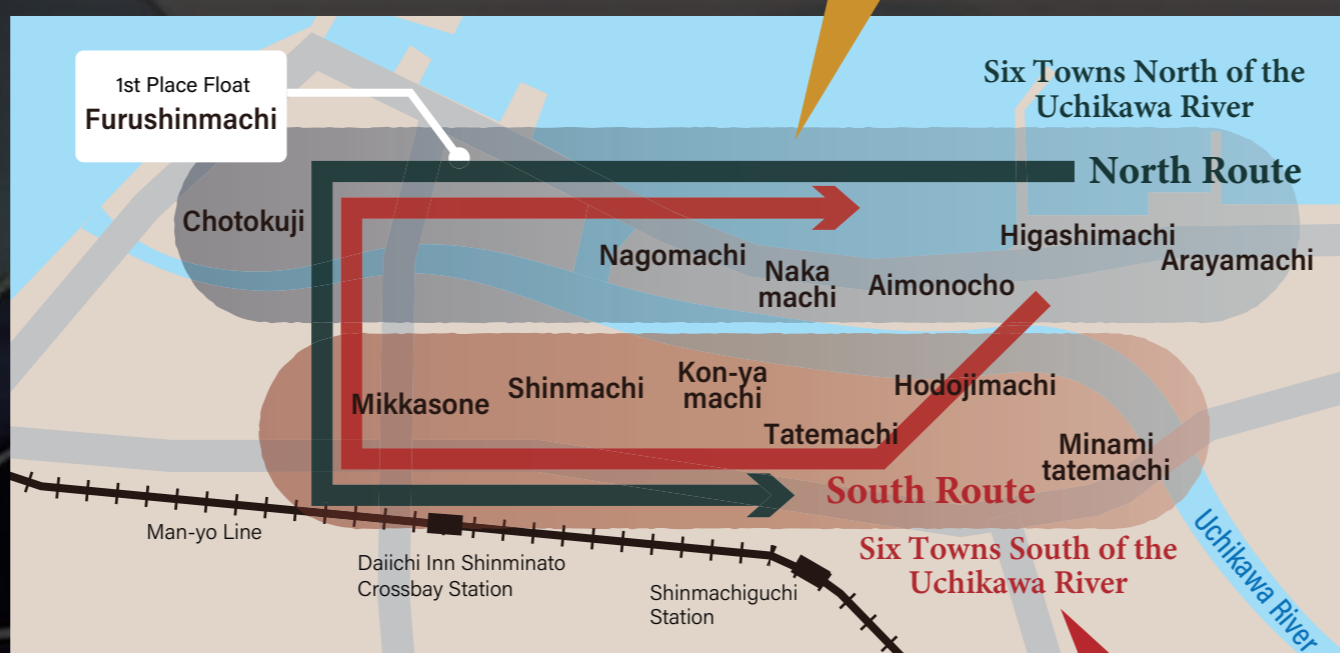
Placed in the middle section of the hikiyama floats are the marionettes. When a celebratory gift has been received, the marionettes will dance to the hayashi musical accompaniment melody.



Town's Symbol

The very top part of the float is decorated with each town's symbol. Some symbols are just alone and boast a maximum height of nearly 2 meters.

Lottery Exemption-1st Place Float Furushinmachi Built: 1650	Chotokuji Built: around 1773	Nagomachi Built: 1692	Nakamachi Built: 1692	Aimonocho Built: 1718	Higashimachi Built: 1718	Arayamachi Built: 1770
[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]
Zhuge Liang Taiko Drumming Karako Children	Emperor Jinmu Playing Karako Child	Ebisu Playing Karako Child	Jurojin 4 Karako Children	Kikujido Sanbaso	Jo and Uba Sanbaso	Daikoku Rotating Suspended Karako Children
[Town's Symbol] Vajra Bell	[Town's Symbol] Swallowtail Butterfly	[Town's Symbol] Khakkhara Staff	[Town's Symbol] Jurojin and Crane with Pine Tree	[Town's Symbol] Uchide no Kozuchi	[Town's Symbol] Rooster on a Drum	[Town's Symbol] Thousand-weight Coin



*Arrows are for illustrative purposes only. Please confirm the route details from the web page.

About the Parade Route and Order of the Floats

The Hikiyama Festival parade float order has been decided by a lottery ritual since the Edo Period. The north and south sides of the area, separated by the Uchikawa River that flows between them, are alternately designated as either the “Sakiyama” or the “Atoyama.” Six towns from each side participate in the parade with their own respective float. The floats from the “Sakiyama” side will occupy the 2nd–7th place positions, and the floats from the “Atoyama” side will occupy the 8th–13th place positions in the parade. The position of each town's float is decided by lottery. The parade starts in the afternoon on the “Sakiyama” side, where the floats are decorated with the “Hanayama” (flower float) decorations. At night, the parade moves to the opposite side, and the floats are redecorated with the “Chochinyama” (lantern float) decorations. Each year, the north and south sides alternate between being the “Sakiyama” and the “Atoyama” so that each side of the city has a chance to see both of the decorations. Also, Furushinmachi is exempt from the lottery and always takes the 1st place position in the parade, as it is considered to be the founder of the Shinminato Hikiyama Festival. Every year, the “Sakiyama” and “Atoyama” sides alternate between the north and south sides. When the north side is “Sakiyama,” the parade follows the north route. When the south side is “Sakiyama,” the parade follows the south route.

Mikkasone Built: 1721	Shinmachi Built: 1715	Kon-yamachi Built: 1789	Tatemachi Built: 1721	Hodojimachi Built: 1764	Minamitatemachi Built: 1862
[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [King]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]	[King] [Marionettes]
Hotei Karako pull-up rotation doll	Empress Jingu Takenouchi no Sukune	Yamato Takeru Shrine Maiden	Confucius Drum Beating Monkey	Guan Yu & Zhang Fei Monkey	Sumiyoshi Daimyojin Playing Karako Child
[Town's Symbol] Wadokaihou Coin	[Town's Symbol] Triton's Trumpet Shell	[Town's Symbol] Pellet Drum	[Town's Symbol] "Kotobuki" Kanji for Longevity	[Town's Symbol] Gunbai	[Town's Symbol] 5-3 Paulownia Crest

Lottery-taking ritual

The lottery-taking ritual is held on the first “Taian” (luckiest day in the Japanese calendar) of August. People involved in the Hikiyama Festival gather to solemnly pray for the festival's safety.

