

Mid-Nov.~Jan. Koriyama City
Big Tree Pageant Festa in Koriyama

Awesome illumination of Japanese elm trees in front of Koriyama Station and nearby shopping streets. Music and other entertainment takes place on the luminous stage at the station-front square.
 [Place] JR Koriyama Station-front square, etc.
 [Info.] Executive Committee for Big Tree Pageant Festa in Koriyama
 Tel: +81(24)921-2610
 [Access] In front of Koriyama Sta. on JR Tohoku Shinkansen and Tohoku-honsen lines

Early Dec. Date City
Winter Knitwear & Taste Treats Festival

Superb-quality knitwear is on sale at prices direct from local manufacturers. The taste treats festival features an array of the town's outstanding delicacies, including farm products direct from local farmers.
 [Place] CORE210
 [Info.] Fukushima Prefecture Knitwear Industry Cooperative
 Tel: +81(24)563-6705
 [Access] 1 min. walk from Yanagawa Sta. on Abukuma Kyuko Line; or 20 min. after exiting Kunimi I.C. on Tohoku Expressway

Early Dec.~early Jan. Minami-Soma City
Akari (Light) Fantasy at Odaka Illumination Contest

This dazzling event features various types of illumination, including lamps and candles as well as decorative modern-day illumination, exhibited by individual participants.
 [Place] Odaka district
 [Info.] Odaka Ward Industrial Promotion Sec. Tel: +81(244)44-6718
 [Access] 5 min. walk from Odaka Sta. on JR Joban Line

Early Dec.~late Mar. Iwaki City
Onahama Port Crab/Anglerfish Festival

You can appreciate truly tasty crab and anglerfish dishes at member restaurants of the Onahama Ryokan/Hotel Cooperative.



[Place] Ryokan/hotels in Onahama district
 [Info.] Onahama Ryokan/Hotel Cooperative
 Tel: +81(246)54-4220
 [Access] 15 min. by car from Izumi Sta. on JR Joban Line; or 30 min. drive after exiting Iwaki Yumoto I.C. on Joban Expressway

Early Dec. Iwaki City
Onahama Port Crab/Anglerfish Festival

You can enjoy Crab/Anglerfish Cooking Contest, cutting demonstration of hooked anglerfish.
 [Place] Aquamarine Park (Aquamarine Fukushima)
 [Info.] Executive Committee for Onahama Port Crab/Anglerfish Festival
 Tel: +81(246)52-1275
 [Access] 15 min. by car from Izumi Sta. on JR Joban Line; or 30 min. drive after exiting Iwaki Yumoto I.C. on Joban Expressway

Dec. 1~Jan. 31 Date City
Pageant of Light: Jinya-dori Street Illumination

From December through January each year, illumination by some 10,000 lights graces the Japanese elm-lined Jinya-dori Street (300m long) that runs east to west through the center of Hobara-machi in Date City.
 [Place] Jinya-dori Street
 [Info.] Date City Hobara-machi Commerce & Industry Association
 Tel: +81(24)575-2284
 [Access] 7 min. walk from Hobara Sta. on Abukuma Kyuko Line; or 20 min. drive after exiting Fukushima-lizaka I.C. on Tohoku Expressway

Early Dec. Minami-Soma City
Nomaoui-no-Sato Good Health Marathon

Over 2,000 marathon runners gather from all over Japan to compete in this race along the Nomaoui-no-Sato course.
 [Place] Hibari-gahara Athletic Stadium
 [Info.] Minami-Soma City Sports Center Tel: +81(244)22-8952
 [Access] 20 min. walk from Haranomachi Sta. on Joban Line

Early-to late Dec. Futaba Town
"Dream Kingdom: Futaba"

In this event, the tree-flanked street in front of the station is brightly illuminated. At the lighting ceremony, a Japanese drum performance by the "Shineha Sendan-daiko" drum corps and other entertainment for children are featured.
 [Place] Futaka Ekimae-dori Street
 [Info.] Executive Committee for "Dream Kingdom: Futaba"
 Tel: +81(90)1069-9325
 [Access] 1 min. walk from Futaba Sta. on JR Joban Line; or 20 min. drive after exiting Joban-Tomioka I.C. on Joban Expressway

Sun. of Early Dec. ~ early Feb. Tamura City
Abukuma-do Cave "Takine Goten" Concert

"Takine Goten," the largest grotto-like hall inside the Abukuma-do limestone cave turns into an auditorium, resounding with the harmony of hand-bells and harmonicas.
 [Place] Abukuma-do Cave
 [Info.] Abukuma-do Management Office Tel: +81(247)78-2125
 [Access] Approx. 10 min. by taxi from Kanmata Sta. on JR Joban Line; or approx. 20 min. drive after exiting Ono I.C. on Joban Expressway



1st Sun. of Dec. Koriyama City
Bandai-Atami Onsen "Tsururinko" Festival

The festival site is adorned with an ice sculpture by a top-notch chef. Events such as an on-ice tug-of-war and a curling class are popular among visitors, as well as complimentary "Tsururinko" hotpot stew.
 [Place] Koriyama Ice Skating Rink, Bandai-Atami Ice Arena
 [Info.] Executive Committee for Bandai-Atami Onsen "Tsururinko" Festival Tel: +81(24)984-2625
 [Access] 5 min. walk from Bandai-Atami Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-saisen Line

1st Sun. of Dec. Nihonmatsu City
"Hata (Banner) Festival" at Kohata

This festival features a colorful parade of many participants in ancient costume, carrying large banners, as soul-stirring conch horns resonate along the route. It truly resembles a scene from a gorgeous Heian-period picture scroll.



[Place] Kohata Daiichi Elem. School yard, etc.
 [Info.] City Office's Towa Branch (Community Revitalization Sec.)
 Tel: +81(243)66-2490
 [Access] 40 min. by special bus from Nihonmatsu Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line, getting off at Gakko-mae stop, then 1 min. walk; or 20 min. drive after exiting Nihonmatsu I.C. on Tohoku Expressway

Early Dec. Soma City
"Umi-no-Aji" Seafood Festival (Anglerfish)

A great taste treat from the winter sea, anglerfish hotpot is served to visitors free of charge.
 [Place] Marine Products Direct Sales Center
 [Info.] Marine Products Direct Sales Center Tel: +81(244)38-8956
 [Access] 15 min. by car from Soma Sta. on JR Joban Line; or approx. 90 min. drive after exiting Fukushima-nishi I.C. on Tohoku Expressway

Dec. 23 ~ Jan. 1(planned) Kunimi Town
"Big Tree" on Mt. Atsukashi

A large scaffold is erected on the summit of Mt. Atsukashi to which ten cables (100m long each) are attached to form a big tree-like shape. In the evening of December 23, fireworks shoot up into the night sky, illuminating the "Big Tree."
 [Place] Mt. Atsukashi Lighting ceremony: Uenodai Sports Park
 [Info.] Kunimi Town Office (Planning/Information Sec.)
 Tel: +81(24)585-2927
 [Access] Approx. 10 min. drive after exiting Kunimi I.C. on Tohoku Expressway



Nov.16~18 (lunar calendar) Fukushima City
"Hayama-gomori" Rite of Kanezawa

The Shinto deity of Mt. Hayama is the guardian of rich harvest. In mid-winter, dozens of men purify themselves with water, stay overnight at the shrine and pray for good harvest for the coming season. A divine ceremony known as "Yama-kake" is practiced to forecast the year's harvest. (A nationally designated important intangible folkloric cultural asset)
 [Place] Kuronuma Shrine
 [Info.] Kuronuma Shrine Office Tel: +81(24)567-4213
 [Access] 5 min. by taxi from Matsukawa Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 7 min. after exiting Matsukawa Smart I.C. on Tohoku Expressway

Sometime in Jan. (date not fixed) Koori Town
Symbolic Seasonal Event: Koori Winter Fireworks Display

Koori Town holds a winter fireworks display to celebrate the coming of age, and to pray for business prosperity and family happiness. It is representative of the events calendar for the northern part of Fukushima Prefecture. Please inquire about the date.
 [Place] Kanahara district (south side of town road Suginomae Route)
 [Info.] REPRIZE 21 Tel: +81(24)582-2432
 [Access] 15 min. after exiting Kunimi I.C. or 20 min. after exiting Fukushima-lizaka I.C. on Tohoku Expressway; or approx. 40 min. walk from Koori Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Sta.



Jan. 1 Shinchi Town
Mt. Karo New Year's Climbing

Upon the signal of a large firework at 6:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, participants begin climbing Mt. Karo and reach the summit in less than an hour. They give three cheers toward the year's first sunrise. After that, they are served a complimentary cup of pork miso soup and coffee along with a commemorative gift.
 [Place] Mt. Karo
 [Info.] Shinchi Town Office (Planning & Promotion Sec.)
 Tel: +81(244)62-2112
 [Access] 15 min. from Shinchi Sta. on JR Joban Line

Jan. 1 Shinchi Town
Viewing the First Sunrise from Tsurishi (Anglers') Beach

Participants make a resolution for the New Year as they greet the first sunrise of the year. Then they are served a complimentary cup of pork miso soup and given a commemorative gift.
 [Place] Tsurishi Beach
 [Info.] Society to Keep Tsurishi Beach Clean Tel: +81(244)62-2173
 [Access] 10 min. walk from Shinchi Sta. on JR Joban Line

Jan. 3 Motomiya City
Iwazuno-san "Dai-Bonten" Festival

In this religious rite, a holy fire prayer is offered to the temple deity along with 12 sacred shafts each with pendant paper strips (called "Dai-Bonten") attached. Because anyone lucky enough to get one of the paper strips is promised good luck for the coming year, visitors jostle each other to obtain one.
 [Place] Iwazuno-san Gankaku-ji Temple
 [Info.] Gankaku-ji Temple
 Tel: +81(243)44-3354
 [Access] 15 min. by car from Motomiya Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line



Jan. 5 Tamura City
Tokiwa "Daruma" Doll Market

In order to wish for good luck for the coming year, many people flock to the Tokiwa Daruma Market to buy Daruma dolls and other good-luck items.
 [Place] Kamimachi district, Tokiwa-machi
 [Info.] Tokiwa-machi Commerce & Industry Association
 Tel: +81(247)77-2019
 [Access] 20 min. by car from Funehiki Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line



Jan. 7 Yanaizu Town
Nanoka-do "Hadaka (Naked) Mairi"

A vibrant mid-winter festival where sturdy youngsters clad only in loincloths dash through the snow to Enzo-ji Temple's huge gong and compete climbing up a rope hanging beside the gong from a beam.
 [Place] Enzo-ji Temple (deity:Fukuman-Kokuzoson)
 [Info.] Yanaizu Tourism Association
 Tel: +81(241)42-2346
 [Access] 10 min. walk from Aizu-Yanaizu Sta. on JR Tadami Line; or 10 min. after exiting Aizu-Bange I.C. on Joban Expressway



Jan. 7 Bandai Town
Nanoka-ichi Market

This is the first outdoor market to open in the Aizu area. It comes alive with many shoppers seeking to buy New Year's good-luck items, such as "Daruma" dolls and self-righting dolls.
 [Place] Parking lot of YOU-yu Shopping Center
 [Info.] Bandai Town Commerce & Industry Association
 Tel: +81(242)73-2144
 [Access] 10 min. walk from Bandai-machi Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-saisen Line; or 5 min. after exiting Bandai-Kawahigashi I.C. on Joban Expressway

Jan. 10 Aizu-Wakamatsu City
Toka-ichi Market

With numerous roadside stalls, this open-air market is packed with some 100,000 shoppers seeking to buy New Year's good-luck items, such as self-righting Daruma dolls.
 [Place] Shinmei Street, etc.
 [Info.] Executive Committee for Toka-ichi Market
 Tel: +81(242)37-2789
 [Access] 5 min. walk from Aizu-Wakamatsu Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-saisen Line; or 5 min. after exiting Bandai/Kato I.C. on Joban Expressway