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# *Furyu-odori*



Welcome  
to movie!!

*Inscribed on the Representative List of  
the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity  
Furyu-odori : ritual dances  
imbued with people's hopes and prayers*



Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

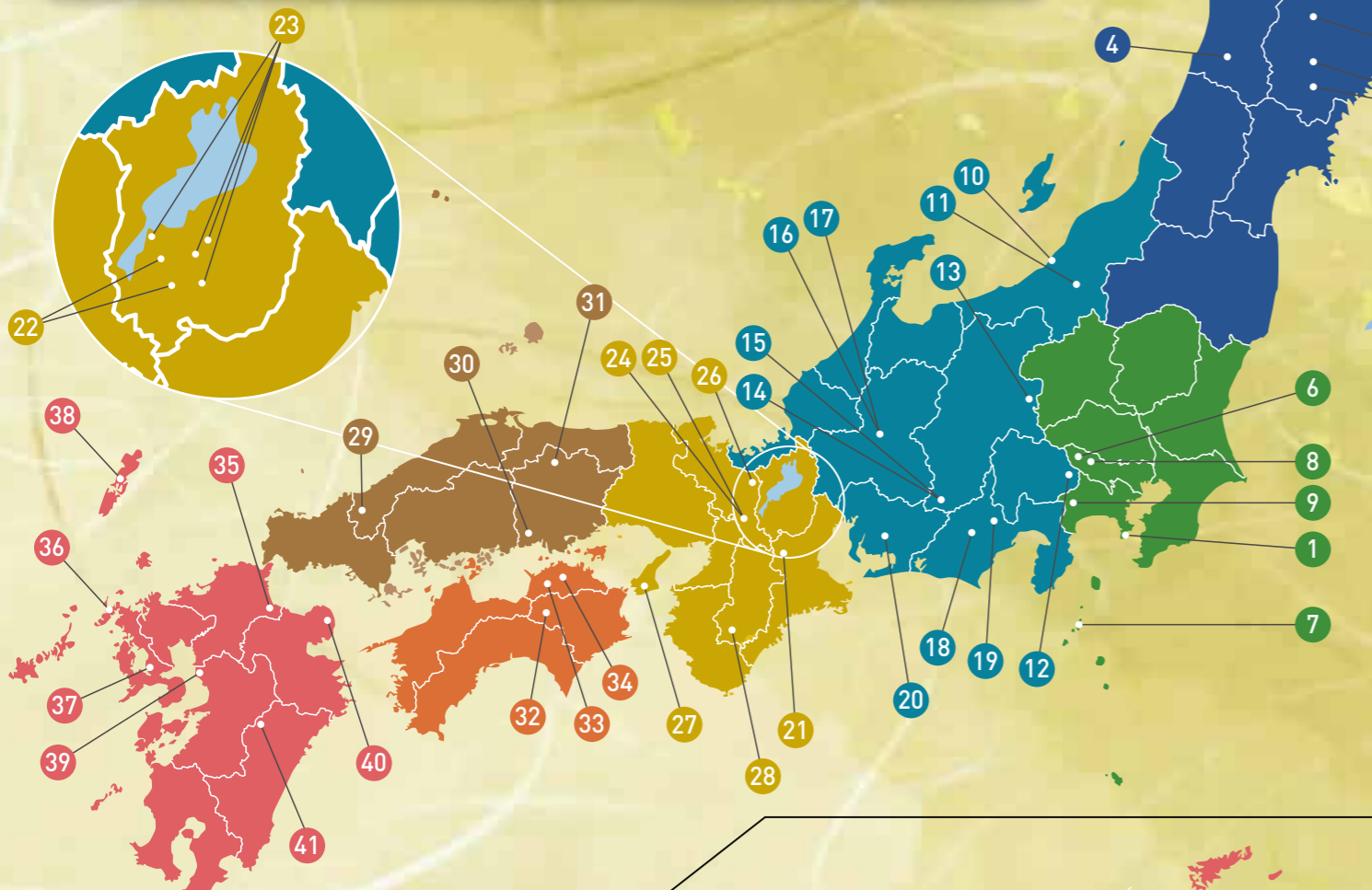


## Furyu-odori :

ritual dances imbued with people's hopes and prayers

### What is "Furyu-odori" ?

Furyu-odori is a performing art that embodies the spirit of "furyu," which includes features such as being magnificent and drawing the gazes of onlookers. Furyu-odori performers create elaborate costumes or tools and dance to festival songs or festival music using flutes, taiko drums, small gongs. They incorporate the prayers of people who wish for a tranquil life, such as prevention of disasters, repose of the deceased, or prayers for a bountiful harvest or rain. People of all generations in the communities concerned take part in furyu-odori. Furyu-odori are a type of performing arts representative of Japan. They reflect the history and climate of each region they have been practiced in and have been passed down with diverse forms they continue to play a major role as a source of the community's vitality.



## Furyu-odori list

1 Chakkirako	22 Sanyare-odori in Ohmi Konan
2 Dainenbutsukenbai in Nagai	23 Naginata-furi of the Kenketo Festival in Ohmi
3 Onikenbai	24 Rokusai-nenbutsu in Kyoto
4 Bon-odori in Nishimonai	25 Yasurai-bana
5 Bon-odori in Kemanai	26 Hanagasa-odori in Kuta
6 Kashima-odori in Ogoh-uchi	27 Furyuu oh-odori ko-odori in Ama
7 Oh-odori in Nijijima	28 Oh-odori in Totsukawa
8 Ho-oh no mai in Shimohirai	29 Sagimai at Yasaka Shrine in Tsuwano
9 Omineiri in Yamakita	30 Shiraishi-odori
10 Ayakomai	31 Ohmiya-odori
11 Dai no saka	32 Jindai-odori in Nishiya
12 Dainenbutsu in Mushoh-no	33 Ayako-odori
13 Odorinenbutsu in Atobe	34 Nenbutsu-odori in Takinomiya
14 Bon-odori in Niino	35 Kannoh-gaku
15 Nenbutsu-odori in Wagoh	36 Jangara in Hirado
16 Gujoh-odori	37 Okita-odori and Kuromaru-odori in Ohmura
17 Kanomizu-kakeodori	38 Tsushima no Bon-odori
18 Bon-odori in Tokuyama	39 Nobara hachimangu furyu
19 Bon-odori in Utougi	40 Yoshihiro-gaku
20 Yonenbutsu and Bon-odori in Ayado	41 Ara-odori in Gokase
21 Shinji-odori at Katte Shrine	

### 1 Chakkirako

Miura City, Kanagawa Prefecture

Girls holding fans and decorated lease rods dance to the songs of women, praying for a bountiful catch.

1. Date held: January 15

2. Performance: Some parts are open to the public (performances are at shrines, in shopping areas, and houses, but houses are not open to the public to protect the privacy of residents)



## 2 Dainenbutsukenbai in Nagai

Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture

Dancers wearing magnificent outfits dance to songs that include *nenbutsu* chanting to pray for the repose of their ancestors or people who have died.

1. Date held: During the Bon festival period in summer (But not annually or regularly)
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 3 Onikenbai

Kitakami City, Oshu City, Iwate Prefecture

Dancers wearing masks with stern expressions purify the land with dynamic foot movements, as a memorial service for the dead or their ancestors.

Nenbutsukenbai in Ho-o no Ki Zawa

1. Date held: September 16 / 2. Performance: Open to the public

Dainenbutsukenbai in Kawanishi

1. Date held: August 24 / 2. Performance: Open to the public

Onikenbai in Iwasaki

1. Date held: August 16 / 2. Performance: Open to the public

Onikenbai in Nameshida

1. Date held: Around August 16 / 2. Performance: Open to the public



## 4 Bon-odori in Nishimonai

Ugo Town, Akita Prefecture

People wearing kimonos or *yukata* robes and woven hats or hoods dance, praying for a good harvest for the year or for the repose of their ancestors.

1. Date held: From August 16 to 18 annually

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 5 Bon-odori in Kemanai

Kazuno City, Akita Prefecture

Men and women wearing kimonos wear a traditional cloth on their head and dance gracefully around a bonfire.

1. Date held: From August 21 to 23 annually

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 6 Kashima-odori in Ogoh-uchi

Okutama Town, Tokyo

The performance is done by six dancers, two people playing flutes, and two people playing drums. All performers on the stage are men.

1. Date held: The first Sunday of September

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 7 Oh-odori in Niijima

Niijima Village, Tokyo

10 to 20 people form a circle and dance a dance of repose with characteristic slow movements. The dance is performed to ancient songs.

1. Date held: August 14 (Wakagou district) , August 15 (Honson district)

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 8 Ho-oh no mai in Shimohirai

Hinode Town, Tokyo

There are two types of dances: one involves boys who dance wearing costumes and headbands or fans and the other young men who dance wearing costumes made to look like the legendary phoenix. In both dances, prayers are made for rain or prevention of sickness.

1. Date held: A weekend close to September 29

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 9 Omineiri in Yamakita

Yamakita Town, Kanagawa Prefecture

The songs and dance movements are all transmitted orally. Dancers dressed as characters like the long-nosed *tengu*, the lion, or the plain-faced woman dance to music played by flutes or *taiko* drums.

1. Date held: The second Sunday of October every 5 years

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 10 Ayakomai

Kashiwazaki City, Niigata Prefecture

There are three types of dances: two are danced gracefully to songs or the sound of *taiko* drums or flutes by dancers holding a fan, and the third is a skit that is plain but humorous.

1. Date held: The second Sunday of September

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 11 Dai no saka

Unuma City, Niigata Prefecture

Dancers form a circle and dance during the night to songs and flutes playing beautiful but mournful music.

1. Date held: August 14, 15, 16 annually

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 12 *Dainenbutsu in Mushoh-no*

Uenohara City, Yamanashi Prefecture

At night, men wearing white outfits dance indoors to the rhythm of *taiko* drums or small gongs to drive away evil.

1. Date held: Around February and August 16
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 13 *Odorinenbutsu in Atobe*

Saku City, Nagano Prefecture

Eight dancers wearing purple kimonos play small gongs to the beat of *taiko* drums and dance while leaping about.

1. Date held: The first Sunday of April
2. Performance: Open to the public

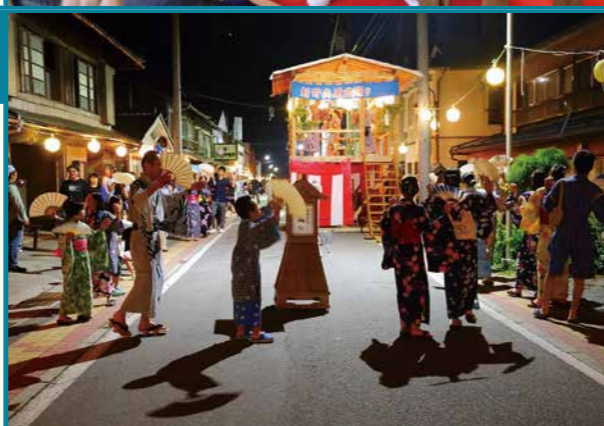


## 14 *Bon-odori in Niino*

Anan Town, Nagano Prefecture

For three days, dancers dance until morning to music made with only human voices (no instruments). Anyone can participate in the performance.

1. Date held: August 14 to 16, the fourth Saturday of August
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 15 *Nenbutsu-odori in Wagoh*

Anan Town, Nagano Prefecture

After barefoot men dance by slamming into each other forcefully to the sound of *taiko* drums, a *nenbutsu* song is chanted quietly.

1. Date held: August 13 to 16
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 16 *Gujoh-odori*

Gujoh City, Gifu Prefecture

During roughly 30 nights of summer, anyone can enjoy dancing in areas of the castle town.

1. Date held: Roughly 30 nights from the middle of July to early September
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 17 *Kanomizu-kakeodori*

Gujoh City, Gifu Prefecture

People including four youths with flower decorations on their backs dance while praying for peace, a good harvest, or rain.

1. Date held: The second Saturday and Sunday of September
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 18 *Bon-odori in Tokuyama*

Kawanehon Town, Shizuoka Prefecture

There are three types of dance ; for example, dancers dance while wearing a head covering that looks like a deer, or dance using fans or sticks.

1. Date held: August 15
2. Performance: Scheduled to be open to the public



## 19 *Bon-odori in Utougi*

Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture

Dancers perform separate dances depending on their gender, and they hold various items while dancing.

1. Date held: August 14 and 15
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 20 *Yonenbutsu and Bon-odori in Ayado*

Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture

The villagers walk in lines and chant *nenbutsu* chants at specific spots, then dance a Bon festival dance with just vocal songs and the beat of *geta* sandals being clapped together.

1. Date held: August 10 and 15
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 21 *Shinji-odori at Katte Shrine*

Iga City, Mie Prefecture

People wearing magnificent outfits and spectacular decorations on their backs perform a dance with a slow tempo.

1. Date held: The second Sunday of October
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 22 Sanyare-odori in Ohmi Konan

Kusatsu City, Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture

Dancers call "Sanyare" as they dance to songs played on *taiko* drums, small gongs, and flutes to pray for the prevention of disasters.

1. Date held: May 3 or 5 (not held annually in some areas)
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 23 Naginata-furi of the Kenketo Festival in Ohmi

Moriyama City, Koka City, Higashiomi City, Ryuoh Town, Shiga Prefecture

The performance includes children dancing while playing instruments and a dance in which dancers use *Naginata* (a traditional type of pole weapon) or sticks.

1. Date held: May 3 and 5
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 24 Rokusai-nenbutsu in Kyoto

Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture

In the past, performers would simply chant *nenbutsu* chants and ring small gongs or beat *taiko* drums. But since the Edo period (roughly the 17th century), elements or Noh or Kabuki theater and other performances were incorporated and theatrical movements are now included with the playing of instruments.

1. Date held: April 25 (Kisshoin Rokusai), August 9 (Mibu Rokusai), August 16 (Chudoji Rokusai, Saihoji Rokusai), August 22 (Sain Rokusai, Katsura Rokusai, Koyamago Rokusai), August 23 (Sagano Rokusai), August 25 (Kuze Rokusai, Kisshoin Rokusai), August 31 (Kuze Rokusai), etc.
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 25 Yasurai-bana

Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture

Men with long hair beat on *taiko* drums and dance to call in deities who bring pestilence and then trap them in umbrellas decorated with flowers to remove pestilence.

1. Date held: Imamiya Yasurai-bana  
1. Date held: The second Sunday of April / 2. Performance: Open to the public  
Kawakami Yasurai-bana  
1. Date held: The second Sunday of April / 2. Performance: Open to the public  
Genbu Yasurai-bana  
1. Date held: The second Sunday of April / 2. Performance: Open to the public  
Kamigamo Yasurai-bana  
1. Date held: May 15 / 2. Performance: Open to the public
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 26 Hanagasa-odori in Kuta

Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture

Men holding lanterns decorated with artificial flowers sing songs transmitted for more than 500 years at shrines and thank deities for the year's good harvest.

1. Date held: August 24
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 27 Furyuu oh-odori ko-odori in Ama

Minami awaji City, Hyogo Prefecture

When prayers for rain are answered, two types of dance with different melodies and outfits are performed to thank the deities.

1. Date held: A Sunday close to September 15
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 28 Oh-odori in Totsukawa

Totsukawa Village, Nara Prefecture

Men and women holding *bachi* (drumsticks) decorated with ornaments of many colors, *taiko* drums, or lanterns dance.

1. Date held: August 13, 14, 15
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 29 Sagimai at Yasaka Shrine in Tsuwano

Tsuwano Town, Shimane Prefecture

At the center of the performance, two people dressed as a male and female heron dance to songs, praying for good health.

1. Date held: July 20, 27
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 30 Shiraishi-odori

Kasaoka City, Okayama Prefecture

Dancers wearing different costumes dance simultaneously to one leader while making different movements. The dance is performed in memorial of ancestors.

1. Date held: July, August 13-16 (July is for events and the performers wear the costumes. August is a Bon festival event and the costumes are not worn)
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 31 Ohmiya-odori

Maniwa City, Okayama Prefecture

This is a beautiful Bon festival dance in which dancers dance around a leader under a large lantern.

1. Date held: From late July to late August
2. Performance: Open to the public



## 32 Jindai-odori in Nishiiya

Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture

Women wearing decorated straw hats or dancers dressed as different characters with roles dance to songs and music played by people holding large *taiko* drums.

1. Date held:

Zentoku district June 25 according to the lunar calendar

Tokuzen district A weekend between late September and early October

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 33 Ayako-odori

Manno Town, Kagawa Prefecture

People such as boys dressed in women's clothing dance, praying for rain.

1. Date held: Once every 2 years, on the first Sunday of September

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 34 Nenbutsu-odori in Takinomiya

Ayagawa Town, Kagawa Prefecture

People form a circle in front of a shrine. While people play conch shells, small gongs, *taiko* drums, and flutes, dancers in the middle of the circle leap about and dance to pray for a good harvest of grains to the music of the instruments and calls of "Namuami-doya."

1. Date held: A Sunday in late August

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 35 Kannah-gaku

Buzen City, Fukuoka Prefecture

Young men dance gallantly while playing on small *taiko* drums called *Shime-daiko* that they strap to their chests.

1. Date held: April 30 and May 1 of years ending in even numbers

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 36 Jangara in Hirado

Hirado City, Nagasaki Prefecture

Dancers go around different areas holding flags. They dance to pray for a good harvest or rain while *taiko* drums, flutes, and small gongs are played.

1. Date held: August 14 (Shijiki, Noko districts), August 15 (Houki, Himosashi, Neshiko, Nakatsura, Tsuyoshi districts), August 16 (Yamanaka, Kawauchi-zai districts), August 18 (Hirado districts)



## 37 Okita-odori and Kuromaru-odori in Ohmura

Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture

Okita-odori: A dance in which performers pretend to cut each other with katana swords.

Kuromaru-odori: Dancers carrying four large flowery decorations and two large flags twirl slowly, dancing a majestic dance while beating on *taiko* drums.

1. Date held: Hana-shobu festival (June), Ohmura Autumn festival (November), Hoyo festival (Kuromaru-odori only, November 28)

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 38 Tsushima no Bon-odori

Tsushima City, Nagasaki Prefecture

People including adult men wearing women's clothing dance, praying to their ancestors for happiness.

1. Date held: Around August 15th

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 39 Nobara Hachimangu Fuyu

Arao City, Kumamoto Prefecture

Two children beat a large *taiko* drum and small *taiko* drum to songs and flutes while dancing to ward off evil.

1. Date held: October 15

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 40 Yoshihiro-gaku

Kunisaki City, Oita Prefecture

Many men wear traditional helmets or hats and dance while beating on *taiko* drums on their chest.

1. Date held: The fourth Sunday of July

2. Performance: Open to the public



## 41 Ara-odori in Gokase

Gokase Town, Miyazaki Prefecture

About 60 dancers wearing the costumes of warriors and holding weapons such as spears, bows, and firearms dance roughly 10 songs.

1. Date held: A Sunday at the end of September

2. Performance: Open to the public

