

Happy Halloween

Halloween in Japan

Halloween originates the ancient Celts and is celebrated on October 31. In the 21st century Japan, young people enjoy it by wearing costumes of all varieties. Rather than the Jack-o'-Lantern or "Trick or Treat", the Japanese version of Halloween is celebrated focusing on masquerade and cosplay. Here is why. (There are other stories.)

In 1997, a very famous theme park outside of Tokyo gave their first Halloween attractions. This is said to have triggered enthusiasm among Japanese people in enjoying Halloween. In 2002, the country's number-one theme park in Osaka also started their Halloween attractions. In late 2000's, Japanese confectionery businesses started selling Halloween sweets. By mid-2010, with the help of social media services, Halloween turned into a big business.

Here are some numbers. Halloween generated JPY300 billion in 2015. Valentine's Day roughly generates JPY110 billion. Halloween is now the second biggest business after Christmas.



Maebashi Matsuri

Maebashi

Festival features children's drum and fife parade, Maebashi *Danbei Odori* troops, floats and portable shrines, representing local districts of Maebashi. It's the city-wide autumn festival.

When: Oct. 6 (Sat) & 7(Sun)

Where: Downtown Maebashi [MAP](#)

Contact: 027-234-5111



OTA THE COUNTRY

Ota

This is where you can enjoy country music and country dance under the clear autumn sky of Ota. To get the feel of the event, please visit the URL below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdZbmYrGy1EO3pQWkLDibAA>

When: Oct. 7 (Sun) 9:30 - 15:30

Where: Hachiojiyama Koen Park [MAP](#)
(2079-3 Kamigodo-cho, Ota)

Contact: 090-3148-8166



Autumn Festa in Numata

Numata

Numata's local produce and crafts will be on sale. Food stands specializing deep fried dishes will be there. Seeing is believing, so just be there.

When: Oct. 6 (Sat) & 7(Sun) 10:00 - 16:00

Where: Numata Koen Yakyujo (Baseball Field)
(594 Nishikurauchi-machi, Numata) [MAP](#)

Contact: 0278-23-2111



Gunma Events

October 2018

[Interchange Festival \(Shimin Koryu Matsuri\) in Iseaki](#)

Iseaki

Fresh produce, local foods, and stage performances will be offered by the cities with which Iseaki has business or other relations. As part of international interchange program, GTIA will participate in this festival. Please visit our tent.

When: Oct. 21 (Sun) 10:00 - 15:00

Where: Hashienuma Kankyo Fureai Koen Park
(3335-2 Hashie-machi, Iseaki) [MAP](#)

Contact: 0270-61-6712

Processed seafood from Teradomari, Niigata is sold here.



[Tatebayashi International Festival](#)

Tatebayashi

International cuisine, music, and dancing will be offered. The turnout reaches as many as 18,000 to this annual event. Bring your family. They can have fun, too.

When: Oct. 8 (holiday) 10:00 – 15:00

Where: Tatebayashi Bunka Kaikan
(3-1 Shiro-machi, Tatebayashi) [MAP](#)

Contact: 0276-72-4111



[Takasaki Live Festival](#)

Takasaki

“Live” literally means to dance frantically like a thunderstorm. Dancers in uniform use Takasaki’s famous *Daruma Doll*-shaped clappers, making a loud noise like thunder.

When: Oct. 14 (Sun)

Where: Motenashi Hiroba (1 Takamatsu-cho, Takasaki)
and other venues [MAP](#)

Contact: 027-321-1257



[Takasaki Marching Festival 2018](#)

Takasaki

Under the tag line of “In Takasaki, we have music”, this is the City’s 29th marching festival. The annual grassroots event draws huge crowds of spectators because all the participating bands are so good. In addition to the local elementary & junior high school bands, national champion, 1st & 2nd runners-up band will also join. Enjoy the music in Takasaki!

When: Oct. 20 (Sat) & 21 (Sun)

Where: Takasaki Arena, Symphony Road, etc. [MAP](#)

Contact: 027-326-5926



[Gunma Kenmin-no-hi \(Gunma Citizen's Day\)](#)

October 28 is Gunma Citizen's Day. To commemorate, all of the prefecture's 35 municipalities (12 cities, 15 towns, and 8 villages) will offer events or free/discount admissions on or around this day.

Contact: 0279-70-5300

[List of events \(our recommendations\) PDF](#)

List of events (all): Please visit the URL below.
<http://www.pref.gunma.jp/contents/100078565.pdf>

