



Cherry blossoms along the Kiso River bank



Cherry blossoms on the banks of Oe River

Ichinomiya Cherry Blossom Festival

The Ichinomiya Cherry Blossom Festival is a spring festival centering on cherry blossoms on the banks of the Oe River(Daijyo Park to Sugasaki Bridge) and the banks of the Aoki River, and also at Azaiyama Park and Inari Park, as well as at the banks of the Kiso River, the Bisai Green Road, and Masumida Shrine. The cherry blossoms on the banks of the Oe River are wonderfully lit up at night during the period of the festival, in which a Seven Gods of Good Fortune Parade is held during the first Sunday in April. In the parade, both Miss Tanabata (Tanabata is a Festival of the Weaver and also known as the Star Festival, in which lovers ideally meet on July 7th if the sky is clear) and Miss Orimono (the textile queen) take part in the parade.



Japanese Iris Festival

At the adjunct garden of Manyo Park in Takamatsu, 38 kinds of irises are planted. From May to June is the best time of the year to view the irises. (Hagiwara-cho Takamatsu)



Bisai Hydrangea Festival

Other than admiring the hydrangeas in full bloom at Mimo Shrine, other attractions include an outdoor tea ceremony, folk songs, poetic dance, and a wadaiko (Japanese traditional wooden drum) performance. (Sanjo)



Chrysanthemum Flower Contest

The chrysanthemum is a flower long admired by people from ancient times. The results of painstaking creations are exhibited all together and along with competing for the refinement and cultivating skill of the chrysanthemums, this contest is held to interest more people to become enthusiasts. (138 Tower Park)



Ichinomiya Azalea Festival

Approximately 1,000 various-colored azaleas are planted at Asano Park. Between the end of April to the first part of May, the azaleas bloom splendidly and afford visitors a fantastic sight. (Asano)



Rose Stream

The Rose Stream, which is a rose park within the grounds of the 138 Tower Park, approximately 4,000 roses of nine types bloom wonderfully both at the end of May and in November. (Komyoji)



Peach Flower Festival

The area surrounding Sumiyoshi and Masumida Shrine is called Matsufuri no Sho Sei Tokyu, and peach trees grow in clusters, and flowed on the tributary of the Kiso River near these shrines.

From ancient times, tradition says that small branches of peach trees have the power to exorcise worshippers who cut off and take such branches. Upon purification after exorcising oneself, by sending the branches down the tributary of the Kiso River, this Peach Flower Festival is said to be a festival that brings good fortune. The Masumida Shrine Festival serves as an annual, regularly held festival that is a grand festival, which was held formerly a peach seasonal festival on March 3rd of the Chinese calendar. In 1910 (Meiji 43), the grand festival day was made to be April 3rd on the Western calendar. As special shinto rituals, on April 1st is held the Tanzaku Festival, a festival in which participants write their wishes on narrow strips of paper. On April 2nd, there is held a special Shinto ritual for shooting arrows while walking and also the Shigaku Festival, or rehearsal festival. On the 3rd of April of the grand festival is held the Kenma ceremonies, in which horses are offered to the Shinto god of the shrine. Among the ceremonies held are the Yabusame and the Omikoshitogyo special Shinto rituals. (Masumida 1-chome, Masumida Shrine)



Iwato Festival

The Iwato Festival is one of the few Tounin festivals in the prefecture. As Tangible Folk Culture Property designated by Ichinomiya City, three floats offer a display of mechanized tricks by dolls on the float presented together with traditional Japanese instrument accompaniment of the fife and taiko drums. Currently, a regular festival of a special Shinto ritual is held every year, and on the first Sunday after this ritual, these mechanized trick doll floats and Kenuma ceremonies, in which horses are offered to the Shinto god of the shrine are presented. (Imaise-cho Umayose, Iwato Shrine)



Basho Dancing (Intangible Folk Cultural Property designated by Aichi Pref.)

From long ago, Basho dancing is said to have the name Amagoidori, in which basho, also known as sashimonojyo, or long, split sections of bamboo are fit together onto one's back, and a taiko drum is attached to one's chest. Basho means bamboo split 12 times to represent the 12 months of the year, and the split bamboo is white for amagoi, which means praying for rain, and then the white is switched with five pieces of different-colored paper for oreidori, or a dance offering thanks, for when the prayer for rain is answered. We are told that the number of split bamboo prepared are for the number of days in one year. While dancing and wearing both basho and the drum, one hits a bell (kanesuri), blows a fife, and sings. (Kitagata-cho Kitagata, Basho Dancing Preservation Society)



Shibauma Festival (Intangible Folk Cultural Property designated by Aichi Pref.)

The Shibauma Festival involves making shibauma, which are horses made of cut Japanese blood grass (cogon grass), to which rope is attached for children to steer the shibauma around the town. The shibauma are finally released to flow down the Mizunori River in praying for avoiding calamity and being in sound health. (Asano Shibauma Festival Preservation Society)



Amazake Festival (Intangible Folk Cultural Property designated by Ichinomiya City)

Amazake, a sweet fermented rice drink, and also kowameshi, a glutinous rice with red beans that is served on celebratory occasions, are both offered to the local Shinto deity in praying to have an abundant harvest. These offerings of amazake and kowameshi are thrown into the air and scattered about by naked Person of Year, men who were born in a year with the same Chinese zodiac sign as the current year, to have the festival-goers receive the offerings. (Tanyou-cho Shigeyoshi, Shigeyoshi Amazake Festival Preservation Society)



Miyaushiro Sumiyoshi Dancing (Intangible Cultural Asset designated by Ichinomiya City)

This dance is said to have begun as a stage performance dedicated as a Shinto ritual for rice planting. Seven songs for posture dancing with one's hands and arms have been passed down by tradition, and there is also danmono, which are dramatic pieces in several acts that feature kyogenbuyo, or farcical dancing. To date, there have been four performances of this posture dancing and danmono with kyogenbuyo. (Imaise-cho Miyaushiro, Miyaushiro Sumiyoshi Dancing Preservation Society)



① Myokoji Temple

Myokoji Temple (Chotosan Myoko-Hoon Zenji) is a branch temple of Myoshinji School of Rinzai Zen Buddhism . The Main Halls were said to have been completed in 1365 (fourth year of the Joji era). During the Southern and Northern Courts era, it flourished as the headquarters of the North Imperial Court in Owari Province. The temple precinct, which is surrounded by deep forests, is an Historical Site designated by Aichi Prefecture and it owns many Cultural Treasures, including The Myokoji Temple Documents, Colored Portrait of Ashikaga Yoshinori, Colored Picture of Buddha in Nirvana On Silk Cloth, and Colored Portrait of Hotaiko . Due to many natural disasters, many buildings were lost, but the Chokushi-Mon Gate is the original building from the 14th century. The gate is designated as an Important National Cultural Asset. The tablet which hangs on the gate on which the words Kuniju Muso Zen-satsu (Best Zen Temple in Japan) are written was received from the Emperor Gokogon in 1353 (second year of the Bunna era).(Yamato-cho Myokoji)



Chokushi-mon Gate (Important Cultural Property)



Belfry (Historical Site designated by Aichi Pref.)



2 The Group of Azai Ancient Tombs (Historical Treasures designated by Aichi Pref.)

The Azai ancient tombs comprise a group of burial mounds that have been called the 40 Mounds, in which there are over 50 ancient tomb mounds, or kofun. Five of these tombs, all considered to be constructed in the late Tumulus Period, have been designated as Cultural Assets by Aichi Prefecture. These five kofun include the Atagozuka kofun, Iwatsuka kofun, Kenashizuka kofun, Ozeki Shrine kofun, and Momotsuka kofun. Archaeological finds are on display in the Ichinomiya City Museum. (Azai-cho Ozeki)



A burial mound and a sarcophagus of Iwatsuka old burial mound



3 Inariyama Ancient Tomb (Historical Site designated by Ichinomiya City)

The diameter of this two-stage construction, keyhole-shaped ancient tomb mound, or tumulus, is 40 meters with a height of 6.64 meters. A surrounding channel is unable to be confirmed. The shrine Shinmei Shrine is enshrined at the top of the hill, which has a wonderful view. (Mitsui 8-chome)



4 Mamizuka Remains (Historical Site designated by Aichi Pref.)

Mamizuka remains are remains dating back from the late Jomon Period through the Yayoi Period, and extend on to the Tumulus Period. The Mamizuka remains were discovered in 1926 (Taisho 15), and the main artifacts excavated are kuchi-kamekan, tankan, dasekifu axe, masekifu axe, ishizara (stone dishes), and Sekibo (stone bar). These artifacts are currently on exhibit at the Ichinomiya City Museum. (Mamizuka)



5 Tadokoro Remains

An irrigated rice field from the Tumulus Period and also the remains of a cemetery from the middle ages were discovered as a result of an excavation investigation for the construction the Tokai-Hokuriku Expressway. These finds were confirmed to be a compound remains extending over three historical periods. (Tadokoro)



⑥ Masumida Shrine

Ichinomiya is a very old place name which has been used since the Heian Period .The first shrine to be visited by the Provincial Governor was called Ichinomiya (First Shrine)in every province. Masumida Shrine was the "Ichinomiya" of the Owari Province and has been famous for having many believers and a long history. The place name of Masumida shrine was applied to the name of the town long ago. The deity of the shrine, Ame-no-hoakari-nomikoto, is believed to be the Father of the Mirror Maker, or to be the Ancestor of Owari (present Aichi) people. Ame-no-hoakari-nomikoto is also believed to be the grandson of Amaterasu-Omikami.

Yorozu-hatatoyo-akitsushi-hime-no-mikoto, the mother of the deity, is enshrined in Hatori Shrine, in the same grounds as the Goddess of Weaving. Among the many treasures displayed in the Shrine Treasure Museum, there are 12 masks for dancing/music which are designated as Important National Cultural Assets, as well as other various Cultural Assets designated by Ichinomiya City and Aichi Prefecture. (Masumida 1-chome)



Homotsukan (Treasure Museum)



Ryo-o mask
(Important Cultural Property)



Hatori Shrine



7 Aburaden Remains

Tradition says that Masumida God descended to earth and that in later years it was relocated to its current location. (Takaki 2-chome)



8 Terute-Hime Sode-Kake(hanging kimono) Pine

In the middle of the Muromachi Period, Princess Terute, who is famous for being portrayed in Jyoruri(dramatic narrative chanted to a shamisen accompaniment) and Kabuki theatrical plays, was traveling with Ogurihangan Sukeshige, the castle warlord in Hitachi (present day Ibaraki Prefecture) together to Kyoto along the Kamakura Kaido. At the current location of this pine tree, it is said that Princess Terute hung her quilted silk garment on the pine tree while taking a rest during her journey to Kyoto. (Ushinodori 2-chome)



9 Seven Stones

(Kentogi <sword-sharpening> Stone)
(Historical Site designated by Ichinomiya City)

According to legend, this Kentogi (sword sharpening stone) is said to be the stone used for sharpening the sword of Yamato Takeru Nomikoto, an ancient warrior mentioned in the Kojiki (Oldest Chronicles of Japan) on his way to Ibuki Mountain from the Atsuta forest (present day Atsuta Shrine). (Yamato-cho Totsuka)

10 Kasa-kake (hat-hanging) Pine Tree (Draping Pine Tree)

This site is said to be the location where Yamato Takeru Nomikoto hung his hat while taking a short rest. (Yamato-cho, Miyaji Hanaike)

