

## Visiting castle town having retro atmosphere — Visiting Nagahama

**Nagahama Castle History Museum**  
It introduces the history of Nagahama of the period between ancient and modern times culture of surrounding region, and so on. An observation deck on the top floor offers panoramic views of lake Biwa and town streets.

**Kurokabe Glass Pavillion**  
The first floor is a shop for glass accessories, the second floor displays glassworks from all over the world. It is the landmark in Kurokabe Square which is full of about 30 buildings of shops, restaurants, galleries and so on along the old street.

**Nagahama Railway Museum**  
The first Nagahama station building is the oldest railway station building in Japan. It exhibits genuine SL, a train and displays various exhibits about the railroad.

**Keiunkan**  
It was built in 1887 as a temporary rest house for the Meiji emperor, which is famous as the site of the Plum Tree Bonsai Exhibit early spring.

**Daitsumi Temple**  
It was built in 17th century. It is the branch temple of the Otani Sect of Shinshu. Its main building, hall and gate are the remains of Fushimi Castle in Kyoto of 16th century.

**Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine**  
It is an old shrine which appealed to the Iwashimizu Hachimangu shrine in Kyoto in the 11th century. Many famous warriors protected the shrine.

**Legend:**  
 ● Tourist Office ● Public Toilet (Guests for the physically handicapped)  
 ○ Parking Lot ● Public Toilet  
 🏠 Hikiyama-house 🏠 Public Toilet  
 🏠 Facility eligible for Nagahama Roman Passport  
 🏠 Yanmar Museum



**Nagahama Hikiyama Museum**  
In this museum, the gorgeous and splendid floats that are paraded around the city during the Hikiyama Festival are exhibited. These are decorated with beautiful ornament has plenty of impressive points.

**Spots of performance of children's Kabuki**  
On April 15th children's Kabuki is performed in seven locations, moving from Hachimangu Shrine to Otabisho.

- ① Hachimangu Shrine
- ② Funakuma-reiseki
- ③ Kanaya-reiseki
- ④ Ippachiya-reiseki (Hikiyama Museum)
- ⑤ Komeka-reiseki
- ⑥ Fudanotsuji-reiseki
- ⑦ Otabisho

**Introduction to each hikiyama**  
Hikiyama called moving museum is preserved with care in Hikiyama strage of each Hikiyama group, waiting anxiously for the turn which come once every three years. Hikiyama stored in Hikiyama strage is opened on the day of Festival, and townspeople celebrate the festival together.

Float name	District
Naginatayama	(Kobunemachi)
Okinazan	(Ibetchou)
Kasugazan	(Honmachi)
Kankozan	(Midomae)
Kujakuzan	(Goudomachi)
Gekkyuden	(Tamachi)
Kotobukizan	(Otechou)
Shoujumaruru	(Funamachi)
Seikaizan	(Kitamachi)
Takasagozan	(Miyamachi)
Tokiwazan	(Gofukuchou)
Banzairou	(Setamachi)
Hououzan	(Iwaichou)

■ "Nagahama Roman Passport" is recommended! You can visit 5 facilities by buying the passport for 1,000 yen. It is good value!

**Traffic information**  
**Train in case of**  
 ● From Osaka or Kyoto area, take the Biwako Line going toward Nagahama Station or Ohmishiotsu-tsuruga Station and get off at Nagahama Station.  
 ● From Tokyo or Nagoya area, take the JR Tokaido Line and get off at Maibara Station, and transfer to the Hokuriku Main Line and after 7 min. get off at Nagahama Station.



**Car in case of**  
 ● Meishu Expressway - Hokuriku Expressway - Nagahama Interchange, about 10 min. to festival area.

**Traffic access from major cities**

City	Distance	Time
Tokyo	410km	5hr
Osaka	120km	1hr 30min
Nagoya	80km	1hr
Kyoto	80km	1hr

  

City	Distance	Time
Tokyo (by Shinkansen)	410km	2hr 40min
Osaka (by Shinkansen)	120km	1hr 30min
Nagoya (by Kaisoku)	80km	1hr 30min
Kyoto (by Shinkansen)	80km	1hr

- Recommended walking trails**
- ① JR Nagahama st. 10min(Walk)
  - ② Nagahama Castle History Museum 7min(Walk)
  - ③ Nagahama Railway Museum・Keiunkan 5min(Walk)
  - ④ Walk around Hokkoku-kaidou ?
  - ⑤ Kurokabe Glass Pavillion 5min(Walk)
  - ⑥ Nagahama Hikiyama Museum 5min(Walk)
  - ⑦ Daitsumi Temple 15min(Walk)
  - ⑧ JR Nagahama st.

Lake province  
Nagahama

UNESCO intangible heritage registration

April

13th  
14th  
15th  
16th



# 長浜曳山まつり Nagahama Hikiyama Festival

Designated as important intangible folk culture asset

Strenuous performance of pretty child actors, and an atmosphere from an earlier age, inherited still now. On the beautiful spring day, lake province Nagahama is lively in sound of festival, and gorgeous and luxurious festival starts.



# Tasteful and splendid big event

## Origin of Nagahama Hikiyama Festival

The history of Nagahama Hikiyama Festival starts in the latter part of the 16th century. It is said that the festival began from the time when townspeople built a float (Hikiyama) to be drawn throughout the town in the festival of the Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine, after the lord of the castle gave gold dust to the townspeople because the Busho (Japanese military commander), who ruled Nagahama at the time, had a baby boy. As Nagahama developed, floats were in luxury remodeled and decorated gorgeously to compete with the other groups, from the middle of the Edo period. Also the children's Kabuki was later performed on the stage, Nagahama Hikiyama Festival has developed into the present style.



This photo shows a special memorial festival. Five things appear every year.



## Fascination of hikiyama called moving museum

Float hikiyama has three parts, Butai is a stage which is three meters square area, and Gakuya where Joruri is performed by Tayu (who tell the story) and Shamisen-kata (accompanying shamisen players), and Chin, where Shagiri (kabuki orchestra) is performed. It is the gorgeous architectural beauty. It is decorated with coating using beaten gold, bright laquer Urushi. It also has Ketsuzure (woolen cloth) and Miokurimaku (tapestry for setting off) which designated as an important cultural property. Therefore, it is called moving museum.



## The children's kabuki

The highlight of Nagahama Hikiyama Festival is children's kabuki after all. 5 to 12 years old boys of each hikiyama group become actors. Their performance is like that of an adult and they are applauded by the audience. Four of twelve hikiyama with stage participate on a yearly basis. On the 15th after Kyogen is dedicated at Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine, it is performed on the way to otabisho. Lanterns are lighted when they arrive at otobisho, and that is very fantasy scene. Children's kabuki is also performed on the night of the 13th, the morning of the 14th, and the day of the 16th at each town.



## Beauty and mystery of Miokurimaku

Tapestry made in Belgium in the latter 16th century is used of Miokurimaku of Hououzan and Okinazan. The curtains which were very rare and expensive at the time are still beautiful even now, and tell townspeople's aesthetic sense, vigor, and financial ability. The tapestries are remaked from cutting parts of one tapestry matching the Hikiyama, but that doesn't look that way to people, because of the high perfection. That show high level skills of craftsmen in the Edo period of Japan.

Also it is considered that Miokurimaku of Hououzan, Miokurimaku of Niwatoriboko of Kyoto Gion Festival, and maekake of Araretenjinyama were attached by a string.



Back Tapestry of Hououzan



Back Tapestry of Okinazan

Nagahama Hikiyama Festival is a symbol of Nagahama culture that is gorgeous, graceful, and elegant.

## Main events of Nagahama Hikiyama Festival

Traditional various events with people's many wishes continue for almost one week. It is real pleasure to feel atmosphere of the city, which becomes excited gradually toward the 15th that is main day of the festival

<p><b>Apr. 9</b></p> <p><b>Senkuban</b></p> <p>At 6:00pm ceremony to measure the time for performance of Kabuki using Senko (incense stick). From this ceremony the rehearsal is presented to the public.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 9-12</b></p> <p><b>Hadaka-mairi</b></p> <p>At 8:00pm naked young men worship at Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine and Hokoku Shrine to pray for good health of actors and order of Kabuki performance.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 12</b></p> <p><b>Mikoshi Togyo</b></p> <p>In the evening Mikoshi (portable shrine) leaves Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine for Otobisho (temporary shrine). Until Kabuki performance on 15th finishes, Mikoshi stays at the Otobisho.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 13</b></p> <p><b>Goheimukae</b></p> <p>The groups of Hikiyama go to the shrine to receive Gohei (wooden wands, decorated with two zigzag paper). It is said that spirit dwells in it temporarily and put it on each Hikiyama floats.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 14</b></p> <p><b>Kujitorishiki (Ceremony of drawn lot)</b></p> <p>At 1:00pm Kujitori member of deban-yama (hikiyama of the year's turn) gather in Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine, and draw lots for turns to show Kabuki.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 14</b></p> <p><b>Noboriyama</b></p> <p>Early in the afternoon four floats is go up to the precinct of Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 14</b></p> <p><b>Yuwatari (Evening parade)</b></p> <p>At 7:00pm a parade is held by child actors in Kabuki costume with wakashu (young men) from Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine to Ippachiya-reiseki through the town.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 15</b></p> <p><b>Asawatari (Morning parade)</b></p> <p>From around 8:00am child actors in stage costume of opening performance walk to Hachimangu Shrine.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 15</b></p> <p><b>Tachiwatari (Long sword parade)</b></p> <p>At 9:10am child Musya (warriors) having a long tachi (sword) with them walk to Hachimangu Shrine, being led by rikishi (wrestler).</p>	<p><b>Apr. 15</b></p> <p><b>Children's kabuki</b></p> <p>Four groups of hikiyama dedicate to god Kabuki performance at Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine. After that until the 8:00pm at five locations and Otobisho on their way Kabuki performance is given. *Children's Kabuki is also performed on the night of the 13th, the morning of the 14th, and the day of the 16th.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 15</b></p> <p><b>Mikoshikangyo</b></p> <p>After all children's Kabuki performances at Otobisho, Mikoshi is returned to Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 15</b></p> <p><b>Modoriyama</b></p> <p>After Mikoshi is returned, Hikiyama is returned back from Otobisho to each the town in order.</p>	<p><b>Apr. 17</b></p> <p><b>Goheigaeshi</b></p> <p>After children's Kabuki is performed at each town on the 16th, Gohei which has been received is returned from each group of hikiyama to Hachimangu Shrine at 8:00am on the 17th.</p>	<p><b>Second Saturday of October</b></p> <p><b>Hikiyama-kotai shiki (Ceremony of changing hikiyama) at Hikiyama Museum</b></p> <p>In the morning four floats, which are the year's turn, are moved out. In the afternoon four floats Dashi, which are the next year's turn, are stored in.</p>
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