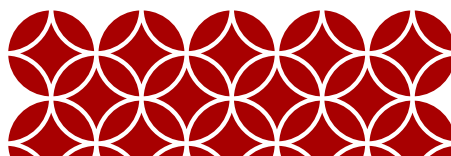




24th

Portable shrines, the Kasahoko Floats, and horses assemble for the Shinto ritual. The Kasahoko Float procession departs led by the Sumiya canopy umbrella, winding its way along the streets performing rituals the length of the route. In the evening, the Kasahoko Floats line up on Old Aizu-bashi Bridge, the procession casting enchanting images on the river.



What is the Tanabe Festival?

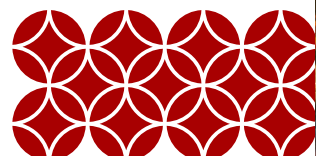
Some 450-years old, the Tanabe Festival is a regular festival of Tokei-jinja Shrine held on July 24 and 25 every year in which Kasahoko Floats wind through the streets. Emerging from various parts of the old castle town, the Kasahoko Floats are a type of wheeled festival float that have fondly come to be known as "The Kasahokos". The upper levels are decorated with dolls, etc., while instrumentalists ride on the lower level playing the accompaniment. Portable shrines also join in from Tokei-jinja Shrine, with horses coming from Uma-machi.



25th

The Urayasu-no-Mai (Urayasu Dance) is presented at Tokei-jinja Shrine (Dawn Ceremony). Midday: Negotiations (Shichidohan no Tsukai) take place to meet the Sumiya canopy umbrella at Old Aizu-bashi Bridge.

In the evening, the Kasahoko Floats assemble for the service at Tokei-jinja Shrine and the horseback archery is held at the riding track, reaching the climax of the festival.



24th – Kasahoko Float Procession Route



Morning Mikoshi Togyo (Tokei-Jinja)
Kasahoko Honmachi Tatemachi Hikisoroe
Okasa Togyo Goryu, Shuppatsu
Otabisho Zutome (Egawa-gyoko)
Midday Mikoshi Kanko
Kasahoko Shuppatsu
Bunkakaikan-yoko Hikisoroe
Torii-mae Sando Hikisoroe

Evening Torii-mae Zutome (Tokei-jinja)
Sumiya no Hashiri
Kasahoko Shuppatsu
Kyu-Aizubashi Hikisoroe

25th – Kasahoko Float Procession Route



Morning Akatsuki no Saiten (Tokei-jinja)
Midday Shichidohan no Tsukai (Kyu Aizubashi)
Shiogori Zutome
Kasahoko Shuppatsu
Fukuro-machi Hikisoroe
Torii-mae Sando ni Hikisoroe

Evening Omiyairi (Tokei-jinja)
Shinzen Zutome
Sumiya no Hashiri
Yabusame-shiki
Hikiwakare

Otabisho: Resting place for the portable shrines from Tokei-jinja Shrine
Tsutome(Zutome) : Kamiuta (song in praise of the gods) or musical performance in place of a ritual prayer
Shiogori : salt water purification site

The Kasahoko Float route is based on Tanabe Matsuri Junko (The Tanabe Festival – A Royal Progress), published by the Tanabe Kasahoko Association, 2017.



July 24-25

EXPLORATION MAP & TANABE FESTIVAL



Published by the Community Revitalization Committee promoting the Tanabe Festival

This pamphlet was produced with an Arts and Culture Funding Grant from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, 2017.



March 2018

EXPLORATION MAP

The streets of Tanabe have long been a hive of activity, both as a castle town, and as the starting point for the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route. Everywhere around Tanabe you can still see windows into those times. We hope you use this map to explore the Tanabe Festival as well as the streets of Tanabe with their windows into the past.



①Tokei-jinja Shrine

Legend has it that the gods of the three main Kumano shrines were ceremonially transferred from Kumano Hongu Taisha, and were manifested in the Tokei-jinja Shrine, which was thought to emulate Kumano Hongu Taisha. Historical sources say the shrine's name ("Cockfight shrine") emerged in the Genpei War when a priest staged a cock fight with a red and a white cock, the white cock winning and siding with the Minamoto clan. It is a World Heritage site listed under the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range."



②Otabisho

The Portable Shrine Transferral ritual used to be held with The Kasahoko Floats gathering at Shiogori Beach, but is now held at Egawa Port.



⑧Inari-jinja Shrine

Funds for construction were already being raised in the late Edo period. One legend says the Isaida Inari-jinja Shrine (Inari-cho) was moved from this site.



⑤Ebisu-jinja Shrine

Funds were raised for this shrine in the early Edo period. Moved to its present location from Amiya, Kata-machi in 1706.



⑨Aritoshi-jinja Shrine

The name derives from a historical source saying a person ordered to thread conch shells tied a thread to an ant and induced it to pass through the shell by pouring honey into the shell. .

③Urayasu-jinja Shrine

Existing records show it was built before 1694. It enshrines Ebisu, the god of fishing.

④Yatachine-jinja Shrine

Created when 4 shrines were merged in 1907, 1 character from each of their names taken for the new shrine's name: Yatachine.

⑥Benten-jinja Shrine

Following the widening of Benten Street, the community turned the small wayside shrine where they prayed into Benten-jinja Shrine. Enshrines Benzaiten and Hachimangu.

⑦Yasaka-jinja Shrine

Records from 1776 say it had existed for a long time. On the grounds is a stone seat where Benkei is said to have sat when he was a young boy.

Tokei-jinja Shrine & Tanabe Festival

Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route

⑩Dedachi-oji

This Oji Shrine appears in numerous diaries of the nobility: "We went to Tanabe and made an offering at Oji Shrine" and "Will pay respects at Dedachi Oji".

⑫Signpost

Engraved with "Right: Kumano Road", "Left: Wakayama Road", this signpost is said to have stood close to the eastern end of the main street in Hon-machi.



⑬Signpost

Engraved with "Right: Kimii Temple", "Left: Kumanomichi", this signpost is said to have stood close to the western end of the main street in Sakae-machi



⑭Signpost

Engraved with "Left: Kumanomichi, Ohechi, Straight, Ohechi", "Right: Kimii Temple", this signpost is at the intersection of the Nakahechi Highroad and the Ohechi Highroad.



⑪Shiogori Beach Site Monument

Was an important place for seawater purification on the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route. The Portable Shrine Transferral Ritual (Tanabe Festival) was held here.



⑮ Daifukuin Temple Used to be the temple with Original Vow of Amida Buddha belonging to Tokei-jinja Shrine and the center of Japanese asceticism in Tanabe. The wooden seated Fudomyou (god of fire) statue (city designated) is from the Muromachi period.

③Minakata Kumagusu Archives & Minakata Kumagusu Former Residence

Houses the archives of Minakata Kumagusu, world-famous naturalist. His residence (national registration), where he lived and studied, is open for viewing.

②Tanaberu - Cultural Exchange Center

Culture center with library, Museum of History and Folklore, and public event space.

Cultural Sites



⑬Jon-ji Temple

Said to have been built in 1591. The longbow of Daihachiro Wasa, and the tomb of Chozaemon Bitchuya, who first produced bincho charcoal, are located here.



⑫Saiho-ji Temple

Family temple of the Ando (Kohee) clan, Tanabe's feudal lords. Includes the tombs of Sumitayu Takemoto and Yusen Masago, and a monument to Taiken Yukawa.

⑭Jogyo-ji Temple

Built in 1593, moved to present location in 1608. Includes the main temple from the Edo period.

⑮Ryusen-ji Temple

Jodo School temple said to have been established in the Keicho period (late 16th to early 17th century). Home to the Kiyohime Well, whose water Kiyohime drank, according to a legend.



⑮Kaizo-ji Temple

The wooden seated bodhisattva statue (prefecture designated) , said to have been enshrined in a boat in prayer for victory in the Genpei War, is also known as Benkei Kannon.

⑯Honsho-ji Temple

Built in the early Edo period and said to have been moved to the present location after a statue of Nichiren was unearthed here.

⑰Jizo-ji Temple

Said to have been built in the early Edo period. Home to numerous cultural properties including the principle statue, a standing Jizo bodhisattva (Ksitigarbha) (city designated).

⑱Horin-ji Temple

Soto School temple built in 1620. Cultural properties include the tomb of Hyogo Makino (city designated).

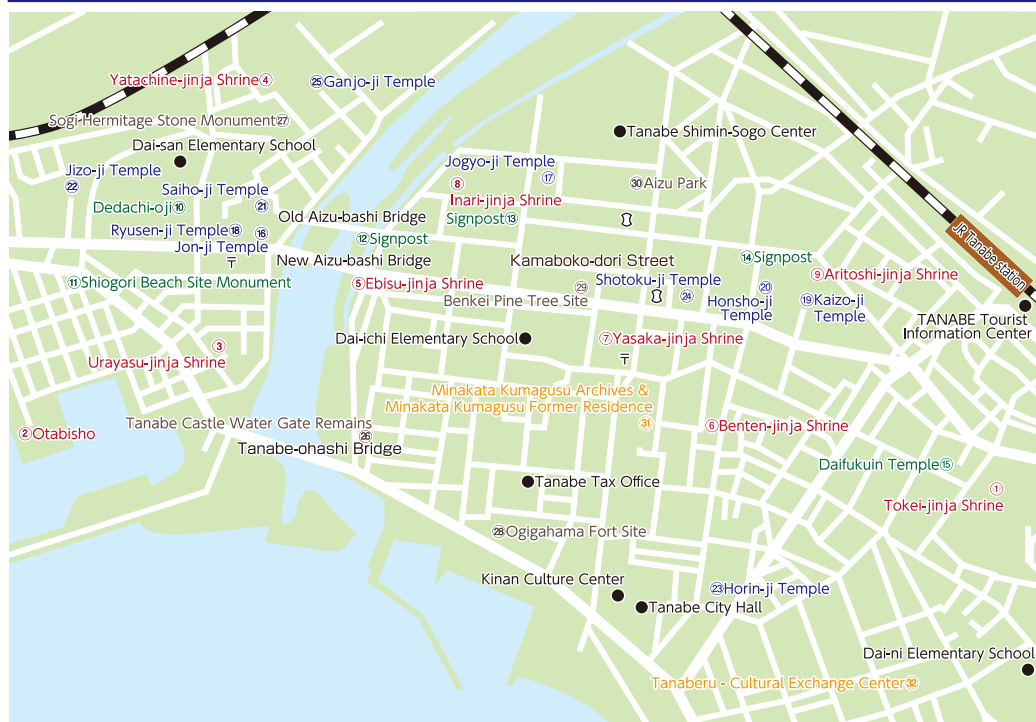
⑲Shotoku-ji Temple

The founding monk moved to Tanabe from Hamamatsu, built the temple in 1636 and named it after his father.

⑳Ganjo-ji Temple

Built by longtime monk of Chosei-ji Temple in Minabe on the bidding of Minabe townsfolk who had moved to Tanabe.

Temples



①~⑨Tokei-jinja Shrine & Tanabe Festival ⑩~⑮Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route
⑯~⑳Temples ㉑~㉓Historic Sites ㉔~㉖Cultural Sites



㉑Tanabe Castle Water Gate Remains

Feudal lord Naotsugu Ando built Tanabe Castle in 1619. Remains of the sluice gate and stone wall extending to the east are visible today.

㉒Sogi Hermitage Stone Monument

Tanabe haiku poet Kofu Tamaki built the Sogi Hermitage in honor of renga poet Sogi. The stone monument from that time remains.

㉓Ogigahama Fort Site
Built in 1854 in preparation for attack by the US Black Ships. There are no remains of the fort, but the former presence of the fort may make itself felt.

Historic Sites



㉔Aizu Park

On display is a Japanese National Railways C577 steam locomotive that served on the Kisei Main Line. A stone monument commemorates the 1889 flood.

The Kasahoko Floats of Tanabe



Egawa (Sumiya canopy umbrella)

Fishing has thrived in Egawa, called "Egawa Ura" in the Edo period, since that time. The Sumiya is a canopy umbrella that runs in between homes, like an arrow, to exorcise evil, and always leads the Festival procession, purifying the way. Topping the canopy is a nicely shaped 7 to 9 branched black pine and is a sacred Shinto object housing a deity spirit.



Sakae-machi

The amalgamation of Edo period Kaminaga -machi and Shimonaga-machi in 1871/72. The figures are a "Shojo" (oranger/heavy drinker) an animal of Chinese legend, and Empress Jingu and Takenouchi no Sukune of Japanese mythology. The figures are alternated throughout the festival.



Minamishin-machi

Grew southward from Shin-machi (Kitashin-machi) in the Edo period. Alternately decorating the float are 4 figures: Nitta Yoshisada, who toppled the Kamakura shogunate; Susanoo-no-Mikoto, a Shinto god; Ushiwakamaru (the childhood name of Minamoto no Yoshitsune); and Shiokumi, famous kabuki character.



Konya-machi

Named after the numerous dyers who lived here in the Edo period. Konya-machi used to participate with an Kasahoko Float, but it was lost in the 1889 flood, so has participated with a canopy umbrella since the Taisho period. At the top of the canopy is a 5 branched black pine, a sacred Shinto object housing a deity spirit.



Egawa (Ebisu)

Egawa-machi participates with 2 Kasahoko Floats as well as the Sumiya canopy umbrella. The figures have not changed since the Edo period, being 2 of the 7 Lucky Gods: Ebisu, the god of fishing, and Daikoku, the protector of crops.



Hon-machi

Said to be the first part of the castle township to be developed in the Edo period. Hon-machi has prospered as its center ever since. This Kasahoko Float heads the Tanabe Festival procession, after the Sumiya canopy umbrella. The figures are the characters of the old husband and his old wife of the Noh song "Takasago" by Zeami and are associated with the folklore around long life and marital love.



Kitashin-machi

Originally called Shin-machi in the Edo period, it stretched from Naga-machi (Sakae-machi) along the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route , the name changing to Kitashin-machi after it grew southward. Since then the float has been decorated with "mochibana", branches carrying dumplings and rice cakes, in prayer for bountiful harvests.



Fukuro-machi

Called "Fukuro (land surrounded by water)-machi" in the Edo period, but changed to "Fukuro (good fortune road)-machi" in 1870/71. Fish paste (kamaboko) manufacturing flourished here from the mid-19th century and it is now called Kamaboko-dori Street. The figure is Yamato Takeru, known as a hero of Japanese legend.



Kata-machi

Named Kata ("one-sided") as Tanabe castle's outer moat is on the south, there are residences to the north, and the commercial area is only on one side. The figures Guan Yu, hero of Romance of the 3 Kingdoms, and Empress Jingu of Japanese legend are alternated throughout the Festival.



Egawa (Daikoku)