

GO GIFU

Gifu Prefecture Event and Tourism Newsletter

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A Snowy Shirakawa-go

The isolated countryside village of Shirakawa-go is nestled in a mountainous area that is among few in Japan to see extremely heavy snowfall. This snowfall, sometimes accumulating up to two meters, has shaped the culture, architecture, and history of the village (not to mention its many traditions that continue to this day).

While winter in Gifu is on the frigid side, it's also a time where one can see the interesting climate differences between the Mino and Hida regions: a majority of the southern Mino region is taken up by the Nobi Plains and sees relatively little snow (with a climate similar to Tokyo and Osaka) while the northern Hida region is quite mountainous and experiences extremely heavy snowfall. Luckily for those of us here, there are an ample amount of winter activities, places to see, and hot foods to help take our minds off the chilly weather.

Santera "Three-Temple" Pilgrimage (Hida City)

This 300-year-old festival was originally a standard pilgrimage to the three local temples in Furukawa, however, *over time it has become famous as an event that gives its participants good luck in finding love the following year.* It's also a good chance to see a snow-covered Hida Furukawa lined up with various sorts of candles making for a very beautiful atmosphere.

Date: January 15 (every year)

Schedule:

- Monzen-ichi Market: 12pm~9pm
- Candles and special snow candles: 4pm~9pm

Venue: Downtown Furukawa, Hida City

Directions: 5-minute walk from JR Hida-Furukawa Station

Anyone
looking for
romance?



The Seto Canal in
Hida Furukawa



At night one can see a beautiful
candle-light atmosphere

Hida Takayama Sake Lovers' Festival

Calling all sake lovers!

Takayama's long-running sake-tasting event (previously known as the Hida Takayama Sake Brewery Tour) has been transformed into a more fun and interactive event that has participants traveling to seven different breweries/storefronts in order to collect stamps and sample their delicious sake.



Don't miss out on Takayama's delicious locally brewed sake!

- **Period:** 2020 1/26~2/29
- **Location:** Takayama Old-Town Area
- **Sake Breweries:** Funasaka, Harada, Hirase, Hirata, Kawashiri, Niki and Oita Sake Brewery
- **Sake Sampling Hours:** 9am~4:30pm (Kawashiri Sake Brewery is closed from 12pm~1pm)
- **Participation Fee:** 3,000 yen for a Hida Takayama Sake Booklet (Goshuin-cho in Japanese)
- **Benefits of a Sake Booklet:** the ability to sample 2 varieties of sake at each brewery, a commemorative sake cup, and a reusable shopping bag
- **Stamp Rally:** Collect stamps from all breweries to receive a commemorative prize, additionally, if one spends a certain amount of money at each brewery and gets their respective Certification Stamp they will be entered into a lottery to win Gifu specialty goods
- **Notes:** One must purchase a Sake Booklet to participate the event



Akigami Inn's Subzero Forest



Please dress warmly!



Akigami Hot Springs Subzero Forest (Akigami, Takayama)

See the frozen landscapes around the Akigami Hot Springs Inn transformed into a beautiful subzero ice forest. The forest is illuminated blue during the day and then varying hues of red, blue, and green at night.

- Period:** January to February
- Time (Light Up):** Afternoon to 9pm
- Location:** Akigami Hot Springs Inn, Takayama City
- Access:** From Nohi Takayama Bus Terminal take a bus for Akigami Onsen on the Asahi Line (1,420 yen and 1 hour)

Gero Hot Springs Fireworks Musical Winter Performance

Watch world-class pyrotechnicians launch fireworks in time with accompanying music during this dazzling winter spectacle. 7,000 to 11,000 fireworks are launched during the course of a normal 15-minute show.

Dates: 12/7, 12/14 and 12/21 (Special Christmas Performance on the 24th)

Time: 8pm~8:15pm (Christmas Performance 8pm~8:30pm)

Location: Shirasagi Ryokuchi Park (along the banks of the Hida River upstream of the Gero Ohashi Bridge)

Directions: 5-minute walk from Gero Station



Watch a Winter Firework Stories' performance from downtown Gero

Gero Hot Springs Winter Firework Stories

Enjoy firework performances based on seasonal Japanese holidays and societal traditions.

Themes: **January:** New Year's and Coming of Age Ceremony **February:** Valentines and Prayers for Students in Passing Exams **March:** Japanese Doll Festival (Girls' Day), White Day, and Wishing Good Luck in Setting Out on a New Journey

Dates: Every Saturday from 1/11 to 3/28

Time: 8:30pm~8:40pm

Location: Along the banks of the Hida River downstream of the Gero Ohashi Bridge

Directions: 5-minute walk from Gero Station



The special Christmas Fireworks Performance

Magome-juku Ice Candle Festival (Nakatsugawa)

See the sloped streets of Magome-juku lined with special ice candles at this rare event that is only held for two hours each year.



Candle-lined streets of Magome-juku



An Ice Candle

Date: February 8, 2020

Time: 5:30pm~7:30pm (tentative)

Location: Magome-juku, Nakatsugawa

Notes: Please do not attempt the Magome-Tsumago Hike at this time of the year as parts of the Nakasendo are frozen over. Also, for those using public transportation, please be aware that the last bus from Magome-juku to Nakatsugawa Station leaves at 6:15pm

Gujo Carp-Banner Dyeing "Kanzarashi" Showcase

Held on the coldest days of the year, "Kanzarashi" is a step in one of the Gujo Hon-zome indigo dyeing processes where colorful "koinobori" carp banners are soaked in cold, running water. Soaking the banners in frigid water will wash off (naturally made) paste, help fix the dye, tighten the material, and bring out the bright colors of each banner.



Carp Banners in the Kodara River

Dates: Kanzarashi Showcase

1/20 (1pm~2pm) and
2/2 (10am~11am)

Pre-Kanzarashi Carp-Banner Lightup
1/19 and 2/1 (5pm~7pm)

Location: In the Kodara River right before it flows into the Yoshida River (near Sogi Spring), Hachiman-cho Gujo

Directions: 5-minute walk from Gujo Hachiman Jokamachi Plaza

Frozen Waterfall Tours (Hida Osaka Falls, Gero)

Explore the winter wonderland of Hida-Osaka with the final destination being a frozen waterfall! Various plans include hot-spring visits and a delicious lunch.

Period: Late Jan~Mid-March

Web: <https://www.osaka-taki.com/en/>

Notes: Reservations are required to be made 3 days prior to desired tour date



Frozen waterfall trekking

Winter Satoyama Experience (Hida City and Takayama)

Satoyama Experience offers a plethora of tours and activities that are sure to keep you occupied during the cold winter season. In addition to the standard walking tours they also offer various cooking classes and snowshoeing tours.

Period: Dec~Late Feb

Web: <https://satoyama-experience.com/>



Snowshoe at Shinhotaka Ropeway with Satoyama Experience

TAKASU MOUNTAINS Snow Experience (Gujo)

It's time to head to the TAKASU MOUNTAINS where 6 Gujo-area ski resorts have banded together in order to provide a quality, convenient snow experience! In addition to skiing and snowboarding, take part in a large selection of snow activities like sledding, tubing, snow-rafting, snowmobiling, and even snowshoeing.

Multi-Resort Lift Pass:

Pass Name: Takasu Mountains Ticket

Participating Ski Resorts: ①Takasu Snow Park

②Dynaland ③Washigatake Ski Resort ④White PIA

⑤Hirugano Kogen Ski Resort

Takasu Snow Shuttle Bus (free bus between resorts):

Operating Period: Dec. 21~Mar 22

Official Website (Reservations and Inquiries):

<https://www.takasumountains.com/>

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