



Hakone-Machi Cultural Heritage Revitalization Executive Committee
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Supervised by : Hakone Town Board of Education



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Let's look at the Hakone festivals in spring, summer, autumn and winter.



Festivals in Hakone



introduction

In Hakone, each area has various events for worshipping Gods.

Since ancient times, people have moved to Hakone from surrounding areas such as Odawara, Gotemba and Mishima. Therefore, there are many similarities in the features of the festivals.

This brochure introduces local festivals season by season.

Let's find out more about local history and culture by participating in or visiting festivals.



- 20th December
Susuharai
- 20th-28th December
Mochi rice cake making
- 1st-6th January
New Year
- Around 14th January
Saito-yaki
- 3rd February
Hakone Shrine
Setsubun Tsuina ceremony



- 27 March
Suwa Shrine Festival (Sengoku hara)
- 12, 13 April
Hakone Shrine Festival (Miya no Shita)
- 15 April
Suwa Shrine Festival (Miyagino)
- 16, 17 April
Sanjin Shrine Festival (Ohradai)
- 4 May
Hakusan Shrine Festival (Yumoto)
- 5 May
Kintoki Shrine
Kintoki Festival
- Last week in May
Sanjin Shrine
May Festival
(Yumoto chaya)



- 1 June
Mt. Sengen Mountain
-climbing season
- 14,15 July
Tanno Festival
(Miyagino)
- 15 July
Tanno Festival
(Yumoto)
- 3rd week in July
Tanno Festival
(Sengoku Hara)
- 31 July
Lake Festival
(Moto Hakone)
- 3 August
Komagata Shrine
Annual Festival
- 5 August
Torii Yaki Festival
- 15,16 August
Hakone Gora
Summer Festival.
Daimonji yaki



- 9 September
Yuba Kumano Shrine
Yuba Festival (Yumoto)
- 15 September
Miyanoshta Kumano Shrine
retai Festival
(Miyanoshta)
- 28 September
Mitsumine Shrine
Retai Festival
- 3 November
Hakone Daimyo
Procession
(Yumoto, Tonosawa)



New Year.

In the past, people cleansed themselves in preparation to welcome in the New Year, offering prayers for a good harvest for the coming year.



- Until December 20th

Susu-harai

In thatched houses, the ceilings that have become blackened with smoke from the sunken hearth were cleaned of soot.



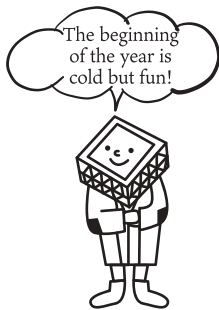
December 26th-28th

Mochi rice cake making



Kadomatsu

In Hakone, there is kadomatsu that does not use pine. This may be because pine is said to be bad luck in Hakone.



The beginning of the year is cold but fun!

Year End

New Year's Day to 6th of January

Oshogatsu

From New Year's Day to the 6th is called Oshogatsu.

Various new year events will be held by the 6th. People visit shrines or temples called Hatsumode-the first visit in the new Year, and practice calligraphy called Kakizome.

Around 14th

Saito Yaki

This is a fire festival, also called Dondon yaki, or Donto Yaki.

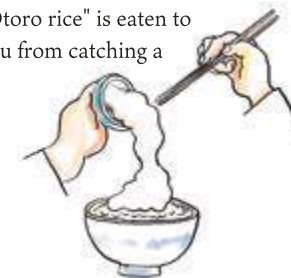
New Year decorations are collected and accumulated to be burnt in the vicinity of Dosojin. Recently, because of the lack of space near Dosojin, the festival takes place by the riverbank or in an open space.



New Year

Special food for the first three days in the New Year

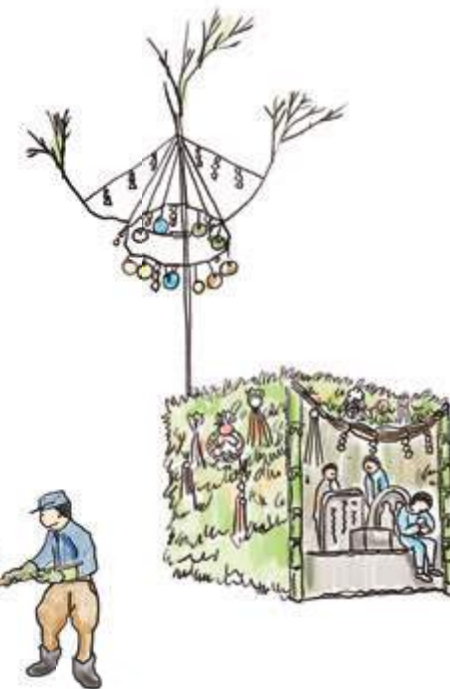
In Sengokuhara and Miyagino, rice with grated yam "Otoro rice" is eaten to stop you from catching a cold.



I want to eat "Otoro rice." It's New Year.

Onbe and the hut

After the 4th of January, Kadomatsu and new year decorations are removed. Then, children will go around the houses, gathering kadomatsu, decorations, and paper. These are used to make a hut, and Onbe around the Dosojin where children gather and eat mochi. The stand-Onbe is set in the center of the Saito (mountain of decorations).



Setsubun is the day that separates the seasons.
 Risshun- the first day of spring (February), Rikka- the first day of summer (May), Risshu- the first day of autumn (August), and Ritto- the first day of winter (November), all according to the lunar calendar.

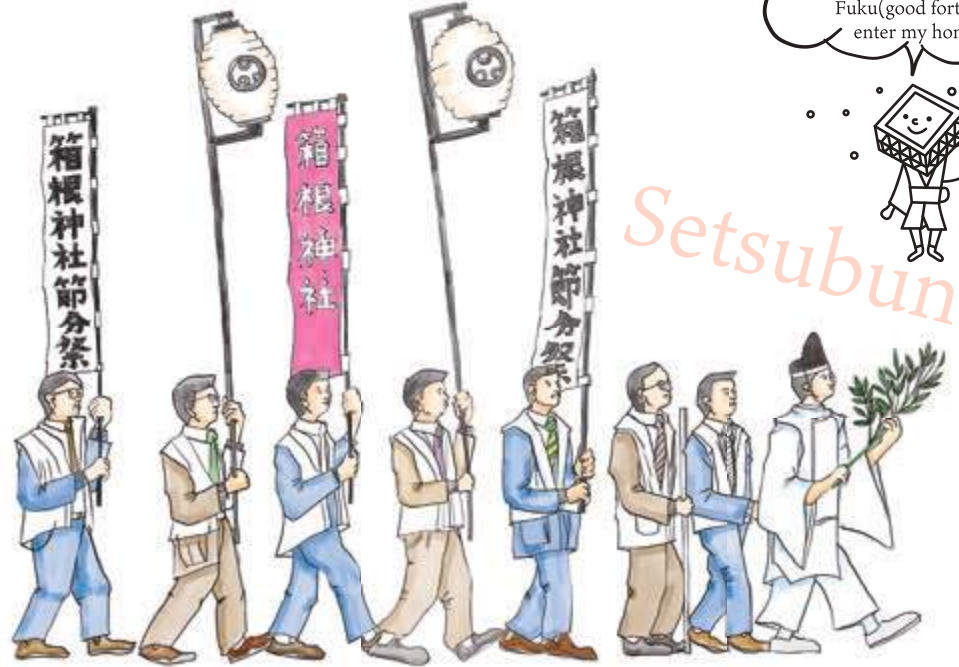


February 3rd

Hakone Shrine Setsubun Festival

At Hakone Shrine, it is called Setsubun Tsuina ceremony. A procession goes from the first torii of Hakone shrine in Lake Ashi to Honden- the main shrine building where the ceremony of Mame maki (throwing beans to cast out evil spirits)) takes place.

Oni (evil spirits) stay outside!
 Fuku (good fortune) enter my home!



Setsubun

Dosojin includes "stone shrine," "twin statue," "single statue," "Mojito-stupa," "Hokora- wooden small shrine" formed in many different shapes. What does Dosojin look like where you live?

What kind of Dosojin is there?



Stone shrine



Twin statue



Single statue



Mojito-stupa



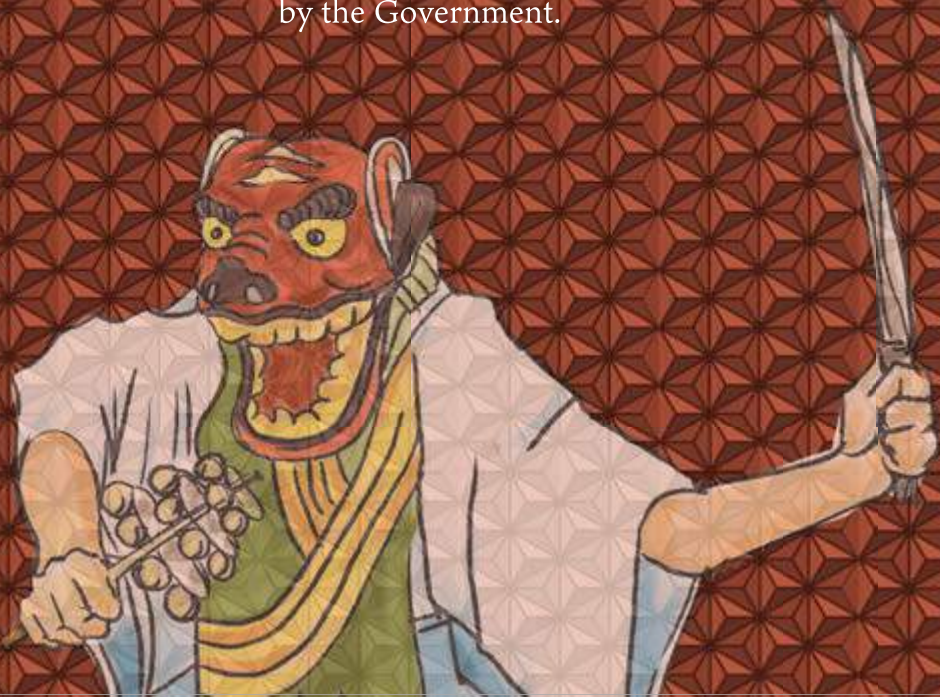
Wooden small shrine



A Nationally designated Important Intangible Property
 Kanagawa Prefecture Designated Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Yudate Lion Dance

A lion dance of Yudate is dedicated in Sengokuhara and Miyagino. Both are held on the grounds of Suwa Shrine. They are very rare lion dance selected as "Intangible Folk Cultural Property to be Recorded" by the Government.



1 Miyamai

A dance to awaken God. The lion (maikata) dances barefoot while standing.



2 Hiramai

A dance to calm the god who has awoken. The person performing at the back of the lion enters the curtain that represents the lion's body. (two-person dance), and dance in barefoot. It is performed in a feminine manner.



3 Ken-no-mai

Dance to exorcise evil spirits.. The lion wears waraji (straw sandals), holding a sword in the left hand, and a bell in the right. The dance turns into a powerful dance. (The gestures are feminine because it is performed with both knees together)

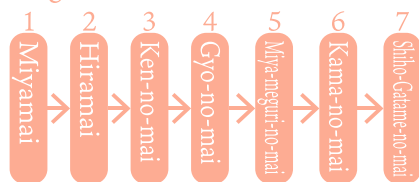


4 Gyo-no-mai

Yudate no Gyo starts from here. This lion dance is also gentle and feminine.



Sengokuhara Yudate Lion Dance



They are not wearing hakama.



5 Miya-meguri-no-mai

Kagura officials move from where the yugama is placed towards the front of the shrine. The lion, and a supporting role, and a salt swinger all head towards the village reciting the "spell of Yuzamashi (cooling boiled water)".

They then dance around the four corners of the shrine, called Miya-meguri Dance. This dance is performed without audience.



Yuzamashi-no-ho (dance of cooling boiling water)

This is a ritual in which boiling water is cooled by the power of dance.

The lion stirs the boiling water with a wand called heisoku in its right hand, to ensure the water has cooled. Holding the bamboo bundle in both hands and stirring the cooled water, it then sprinkles the water on the Yudana (shelves), Haiden (worship halls), and the worshippers to dispel the evils.



6 Kama-no-mai (dance of the boiling pot)

The dancers return to the house of dance with the yugama (boiling pot). The lion dances to the chants of "spell of cooling water" around the yugama. Whilst moving towards the yugama, the right foot steps into the burning fire.



7 Shiho-gatame-no-mai

Since the devil and sickness have been dispelled, a dance called shiho gatame is danced to protect the four corners of the village.

This powerful sword dance is performed in a upright posture that is masculine in character. Finally after throwing away the hot water, the two-hour ritual comes to an end.



1 Hiramai

A dance to calm the god who has awoken. The person performing at the back of the lion enters the curtain that represents the lion's body. (two-person dance)

Straw sandals called waraji are worn, and the dance is performed in a feminine manner.

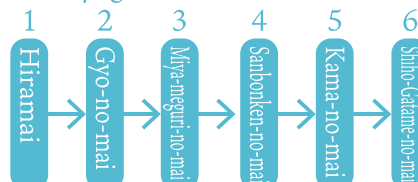


2 Gyo-no-mai

In the first instance, this Gyo-no-mai dance takes place in the shrine.

This lion dance is also gentle and feminine.

Miyagino Yudate lion dance



4 Sanbonken-no-mai

Dance to exorcise evil spirits. The lion wears waraji (straw sandals), holding a sword in the left hand, and a bell in the right. The dance becomes ever more powerful, although the gestures are feminine because it is performed with both knees together.



3 Miya-meguri-no-mai

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They are wearing hakama!



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The festival takes place in the spring before farm work commences to pray for a good harvest. Each region has its own distinctive festival.

April 12th and 13th

Festival of Hakone Shrine (Miyanoshita)

This is a festival of Hakone Shrine in Miyanoshita, which is a branch of Hakone Shrine on the shores of Lake Ashi. People from Sokokura Village, Miyanoshita, Dogashima and Kowakidani will participate. Mikoshi (portable shrine) made in 1938 is carried carefully on the shoulder. They then dance around the four corners of the shrine, called Miya-meguri Dance. This dance is performed without audience.

April 16th and 17th

Festival of Sanjin Shrine (Ohiradai)

Worshiped as a local deity of the Ohiradai district. One adult mikoshi and two child mikoshi, and the floats pulled by the children will travel in procession in the area.

May 5th

Kintoki Shrine and Kintoki Festival (Sengokuhara)

This festival is dedicated to Kintoki (Kintaro) It was thriving until the Meiji era, but gradually declined for a time. In 1980, May 5th was revived as a national holiday, and the festival is now being held to wish for children's health. The Yudate lion dance is also performed.



Saturday and Sunday before April 15th

Suwa Shrine Festival (Miyagino)

The deity worshipped in the Miyagino area. One adult's mikoshi, two children's mikoshi and the floats pulled by the children will travel in procession.

May 4th

Festival of Hakusan Shrine (Yumoto)

Worshiped as a local deity of the Yumoto area. Hakusan shrine is the only shrine where three local towns, Yamazaki, Shinmei Cho and Nakamachi, each has its own Mikoshi and Dashi-floats under one shrine.

Last Monday in May

May festival of Sanjin Shrine (Yumoto Chaya)

The Sanjin Shrine is dedicated as a deity in the Yumoto Chaya district and called "sanjinsan" by its familiar local name. On the day, festival for Mizukami- Water God adjacent to the shrine, is also held, and there will be Mikoshi and floats.

When rice planting and weeding is completed in the early summer, it is time for Tenno Festival to pray for a good harvest. As summer deepens, events to worship the dragon god of Lake Ashi continue, to enliven the locality.

The start of the Mountain-climbing season



The highlights of Hakone in summer are the Tenno Festival and the start of the climbing season.



June 1st

Sengenyama mountain opening (Ohiradai)

The opening of Mt. Asama (802m) which is west of Ohiradai. The Festival of Sengen Shrine is to be found on the summit. The mountain can be approached from the entrance of Ohiradai to the summit so as to make a visit and pray for the safety of mountain climbing.

In the Edo period, "Fuji-ko" was held in order to worship Mt. Fuji. It is said that climbing Mt. Fuji will lead to longevity, and for those who are unable to climb Mt. Fuji, it was said that their wishes would be answered by climbing nearby Mt. Asama. There is a remnant of this "Fuji-ko" to be found at the start of Sengenyama mountain climbing season of Ohiradai. At the time of the mountain opening, the Goshintai that you bring to the shrine is shaped like Mt. Fuji.

July 15th

Tenno Festival (Yumoto)

Tenno Shrine is located on the hill northeast of the village of Yamazaki. Vinaigrette cucumber is eaten at the festival, because it is the custom to eat cucumber before the day of Tenno Festival. There is a monument to Gozu Tenno in the precincts of Tenno Shrine. People in Yamazaki believed that the Tenno Shrine would protect them from plague entering the village.



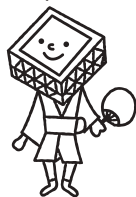
3rd Sunday of July

Tenno Festival (Sengokuhara)

This is a festival of Tenno Shrine worshiped together at Suwa Shrine. Adult's Mikoshi and childrens' mikoshi will travel around the area together with the lion. After Mikoshi finishes Miyairi, the lion dedicates Haya Mai (seven dances) and the festival then ends.



Even Cucumber vinaigrette has a meaning behind it!



Tenno Festival

July 14 and 15

Tenno Festival (Miyagino)

It is a festival of Tsushima Shrine in the precincts of Suwa Shrine. On these dates in Miyagino, the Yudate lion dance is dedicated. It is a grand festival that takes place over two days, from Tsuji on the previous night to the twelve dances in the morning of the following day, and the procession to the subordinate shrines after the dedication of the Yudate lion dance.

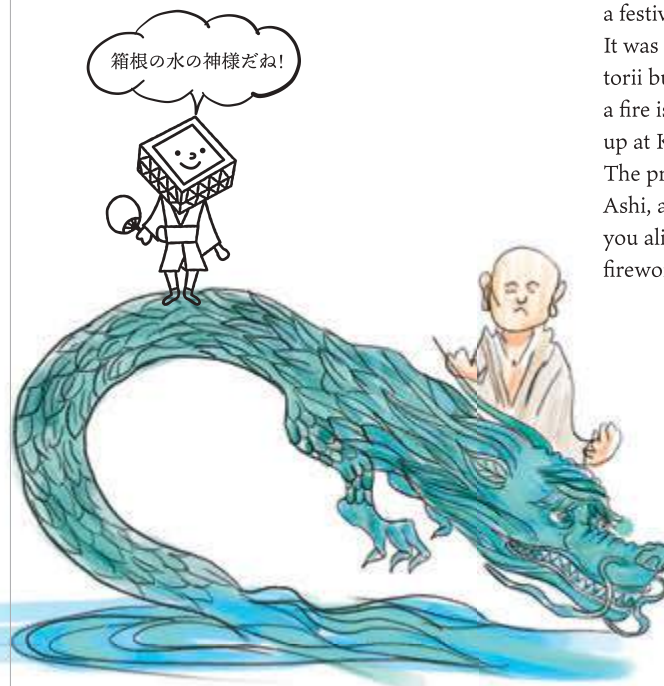


Ryujin (Dragon God) Festival

The legend of Mangan Shonin- the Holy Priest

Hakone Shrine on the shores of Lake Ashi is the most historical shrine in the town. Hakone Shrine was founded in the first year of Tenpyo Hoji (757). The name "Mangan" means "I read the sutra 10,000 times". Also, during training in Mt.Hakone, Mangan Shonin converted a poisonous dragon on Lake Ashi into a guardian god of Lake Ashi named "Kuzuryu." At the annual Lake Festival, red rice is offered to Kuzuryu.

箱根の水の神様だね!



July 31st

Lake Festival (Motohakone)

It starts from the Kuzuryu Shrine in the precincts of Hakone Shrine. Red rice is served in a round wooden container called Ohitsu, and brought to Lake Ashi in a procession. Guji, the chief priest performs a ritual on the Lake Ashi. After the ritual is over, fireworks and night stalls line up for people to enjoy the festival.

August 3rd

Komagata Shrine Annual Festival (Hakone)

Ashikawa in the Hakone area was inhabited by people in the Kamakura-Muromachi period related to "Hakone Gongen," and flourished together with Hakone-juku during the Edo period. At the festival, childrens' Mikoshi is carried every year, whereas adult's Mikoshi is carried once every two years at the "Torii Yaki Festival" on the 5th together with the childrens' Mikoshi.

August 5

Torii Yaki festival (Hakone)

A dragon festival in Hakone area that used to be a festival of Komagata Shrine. It was called "kantataki" by some people. Two torii built by locals are carried to a place where a fire is set on Lake Ashi by night. A torch is set up at Komagata Shrine to ignite the torii. The procession goes from the shrine to Lake Ashi, arriving at the torii gate by boat. When you alight at the torii gate, the fireworks display begins.



Autumn

Autumn of Hakone deepens as the Japanese pampas grass in Sengokuhara turns golden. In September, a festival is held to give thanks for the hot springs.

The festival season ends at the end of September, and it is time to prepare for the following year.

September 9th

Yuba Kumano Shrine Shinto Festival (Yumoto)

September 15th

Miyanoshita Kumano Shrine Annual Festival (Miyanoshita)

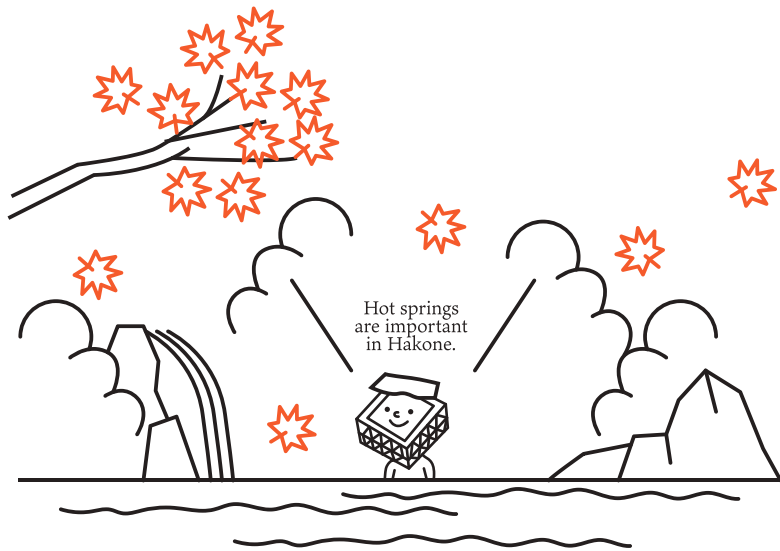
Kumano Shrine is known as the "god of hot springs." In the Edo period, in most Hakone Nanayu (Yumoto, Tonosawa, Miyanoshita, Dogashima, Sokokura, Kiga and Ashinoyu) there was "Kumano Gongen".

At the "Yuba Yumoto Onsen Shinyu Festival," inns and hotels bring their own water from the hot springs to the shrine, to wish for prosperity. At Miyanoshita Kumano Shrine, Guji- the chief priest is invited from Hakone Shrine to perform the rituals.

September 28th

Mitsumine Shrine Annual Festival (Motohakone)

Both Mitsumine Shrine and Komine Fudosen in Tsubaki Park have a festival of Wafuku Jizo enacted on the same day.



August 15th and 16th

Hakone Gora Summer Festival
Daimonji yaki (Gora)

Near the summit of Myojo ga take, a bonfire in the shape of 大 (=Dai, meaning large) will be lit for the Ura bon E Festival. Many tourists visit Gora to observe the superb view. The letter "Dai" is made by laying dried Hakone-take(bamboo); as many as 350 are arranged in the letter Dai. The size of "Dai" is 108 meters wide, and the character is more than 7 meters in size.

November 3rd

Hakone Daimyo procession

The Hakone Daimyo procession has a history of 80 years and is an autumnal tradition of Hakone. Departing from Yumoto Elementary School, through the old Tokaido, to Yumoto Fujiya Hotel. In 1935, it started as part of the "Hakone Kanko Hakurankai (Tourism Expo)".

Festivals

I want to participate
in the Daimyo
Procession.

