



Experiencing traditional  
Japanese festivals

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Kurayami Matsuri | Fuchu

1

January

**Hachioji Geikosai** 1 Jan. / Mt. Takao

An event for welcoming the first sunrise of the year at the top of Mt. Takao. People visit to see the first light and pray for the year's safety as the priest recites a prayer. ▼MAP C3

2

February

**Hino Setsubun Bean Throwing Event** 3 Feb. / Takahata-Fudosen

Beans are cast in this event to cast away bad luck and pray for good health. ▼MAP C5

3

March

**Chofu Daruma Doll Market** 3,4 Mar. / Jindaiji Temple

One of the "three great Daruma doll markets in Japan". There are around 300 stalls in the precinct selling bright red Daruma dolls. ▼MAP C7

4

April

**Fuchu Kurayami Matsuri** 30 Apr. - 6 May / Ōkunitama Shrine

A festival held every year that attracts roughly 700,000 people. The carrying of the mikoshi (portable shrine), large taiko drums, and pulling of the decorative floats are a must-see. ▼MAP C6

5

May

**Ome Hinode Festival**

7,8 May / Musashi Mitake Shrine

This is an annual spring festival at Musashi-Mitake Shrine. On the main day, people gather to carry the Mikoshi (portable shrine) and climb 300 stone steps to reach the main building of the shrine at the top of the mountain. ▼MAP E2

6

June

**Ome Ome Taisai**

2,3 May / Around JR Ome Station

A grand festival that attracts more than 160,000 people. The competition between the magnificent festival floats are an incredible sight, and 12 of these floats parade down the Ome Kaido road on the second day. ▼MAP E4

**Fussa Fussa Tanabata Festival**

Early Aug. / Around JR Fussa Station  
Over 400,000 people visit this lively summer festival each year. Brilliant bamboo ornaments decorate the shopping streets. ▼MAP D4

7

July

**Hachioji Hachioji Festival**

the 1st Fri, Sat, Sun of Aug. / Around Koshu Ave, etc.

This festival is known for the "Buttsuke", where 19 ornate floats gather and perform together. There are also many other performances worth seeing. ▼MAP C4

8

August

9

September

**Mitaka Mitaka Awa-Ōdori Dance**

The 3rd Sat, Sun of Aug. / Around JR Mitaka Station

2017 was the 50th anniversary of this summer event in Mitaka. Many dancers from the local area as well as other Awa-Ōdori dance groups take part to display their passionate performances. ▼MAP D7

**Musashimurayama****Murayama Dedara Matsuri**

Oct. / Shinnyoen project site  
The highlight of this festival is the parading of the float that represents the legendary giant, "Dedara Bocchi". ▼MAP D5



10

October

11

November

**Fuchu Tori-no-Ichi** 'cock' days of Nov. / Ōkunitama Shrine

The Tori-no-Ichi is a traditional festival held on the day of the rooster in November. Three of these festivals exist in the Kanto region. Many people come to get a "kumade", a brightly decorated bamboo rake and fortuitous item. ▼MAP C6

12

December



The word "matsuri" comes from a Japanese word that refers to the consolation and thanksgiving to spirits and ancestors alongside wishes for rich harvests and family safety. Back when gods were enshrined all over Japan, folklore and methods of worship differed from region to region, as did their matsuri. Matsuri have developed to this day in accordance with local folklore: some locales may carry a mikoshi (portable shrines) or pull floats.

Links

