



**GUNMA
KIRYU**

Dance in Kiryu!

Kiryu Yagibushi Festival

Scheduled on the first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in August

**Super-participatory summer festival in Kiryu
This might be your hottest summer ever.**

Festival with a history of over 360 years Kiryu Gion Festival

The earliest record of this festival is in 1656. This event has a history of more than 360 years with unique tradition and ceremonies. Large Yatais (ornate floats) and Hoko floats (largest in the Kanto area) are passed down from generation to generation in each town.



In Japanese festivals, Mikoshis are indispensable!

Hot competition for the No. 1 Yagibushi singer in Japan!

Mikoshi

(portable shrine)

[Honcho-dori Street, etc.]
People carry deities on those Mikoshis through the towns. The Mikoshi parade is one of the essential events of the festival.



First round: Kiryu City Performing Arts Center Small Performance Hall,
Final round: Honcho 5-chome Wide Stage
The contestants sing Yagibushi with their trained voice to be the very best Yagibushi singer in Japan.

All-Japan Yagibushi Competition

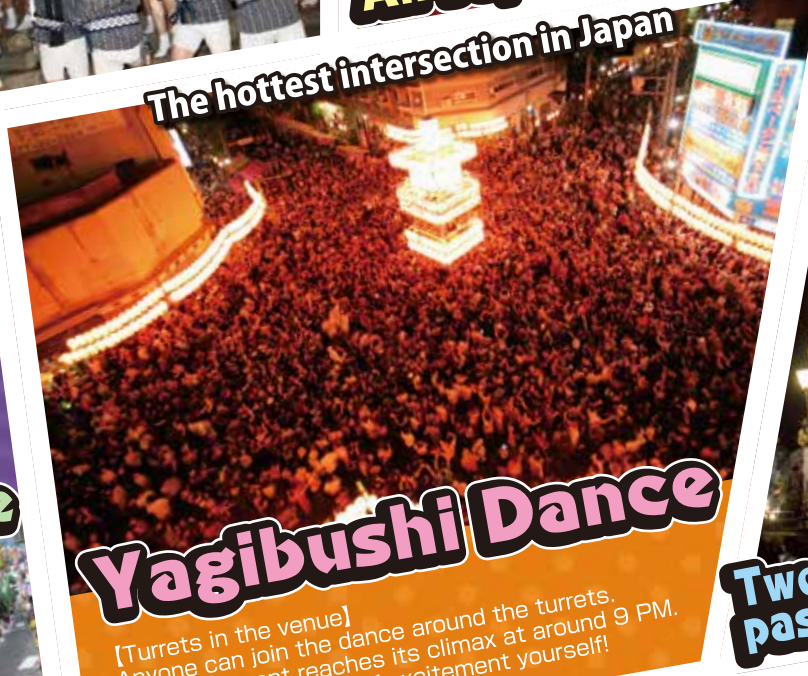
The competition of pride!

[Honcho 3-chome and 4-chome]
The two huge Hoko floats compete against each other by playing festival music to win the right of way. This event is not held every year.

The very popular costume parade!

[Honcho 3-chome to Nishikicho Crossroad]
The modern version of traditional costume parade which has been one of the main events of Japanese festivals. It's fun to see the unique performance of various groups.

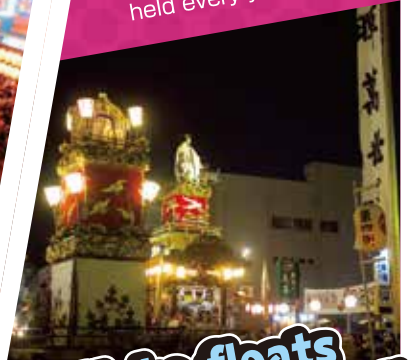
Jumbo Parade



Yagibushi Dance

[Turrets in the venue]
Anyone can join the dance around the turrets. The excitement reaches its climax at around 9 PM. You must feel the air of excitement yourself!

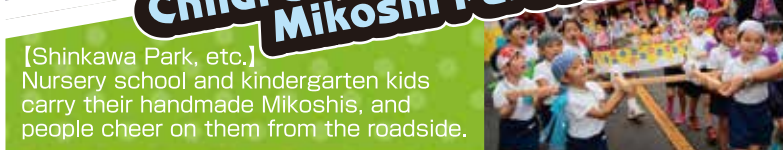
Two Hoko floats passing each other



Children's Mikoshi Parade

Cute and heartwarming!

[Shinkawa Park, etc.]
Nursery school and kindergarten kids carry their handmade Mikoshis, and people cheer on them from the roadside.



Dance performance on the stage!



[Shinkawa Park]
Each team practice hard for this event and they show their spectacular dance performance on the stage.

Dance Yagibushi

1 h 40 min from Tokyo without any transfers!!

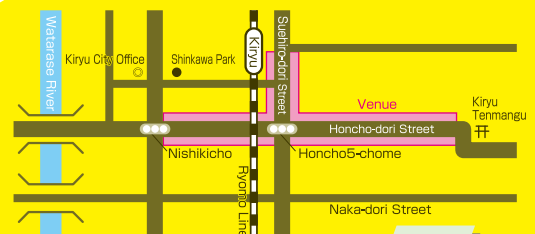
Access

[By Train]

- To bu Railway (Shin-Kiryu Station)
Approx. 1 hour 40 minutes from Asakusa or Kita-Senju by the Limited Express Ryomo
- JR-East (Kiryu Station)
Approx. 2 hours 30 minutes from Ueno by the Tohoku Main Line or Takasaki Line and Ryomo line (transfer at Oyama or Takasaki Station)
- Approx. 1 hour 40 minutes from Tokyo by the bullet train (Tohoku, Joetsu, or Hokuriku Shinkansen Line) (transfer at Oyama or Takasaki Station)

[By Car]

Take the Kita-Kanto Expressway from the Tohoku or Kan-Etsu Expressway. To the central area of Kiryu:
Approx. 20-minute drive on Route 50 from the Ota-Kiryu Exit
Approx. 20-minute drive on Prefectural Route 68 (Kiryu-Isesaki Line) from the Ota-Yabuzuka Exit



Organizer: Kiryu Yagibushi Festival Supporters' Association
Contact: Tourism Exchange Section, Kiryu City <http://kiryu-maturi.net>

