

『Summer Festivals in Miyazaki』

宮崎の夏のお祭り

Once the rainy season finishes, it's finally time for summer – and summer means summer festivals! In Miyazaki, as with many other prefectures in Japan, a lot of summer festivals are planned to coincide with the sixth and seventh months on the old lunar calendar. Originally, summer festivals were a way of helping rural farming communities to recover from the stress and strain of agricultural work, while offering prayers for a good harvest. In the towns and cities, before the 17th Century, festivals were held as a way of praying to contain epidemics during summer, and to bring peace to the departed souls of those who had died. Nowadays, in addition to these types of festivals, local governments come up with all manner of interesting ideas to promote festivals and give people a chance to have a good time. In this month's *Living in Miyazaki*, we will write about three local festivals in the prefecture. If you have the chance, please do go and check them out!

Miyakonojo: Miyakonojo “Roggaddo Okage Matsuri”



The “Roggaddo” is a summer festival to pray for good health and bountiful harvests, and is one of the key events that signals the arrival of summer in Miyakonojo. On July 8th, 9 lavishly-decorated festival floats covered with lanterns and people performing on flutes and taiko drums will parade from Yasaka Shrine to Kanbashira Shrine. During the main festival on July 9th, after a performance on the 2.5 meter “Okage” taiko drum, the traditional lion dance is performed, and 4 mikoshi (portable festival shrines) are paraded to Kanbashira Shrine.

- Date & Time: Monday, July 8th 19:45~21:20
Tuesday, July 9th 18:45~22:00
- Venue: Yasaka Shrine, Kanbashira Shrine,
the areas around Nishi Miyakonojo and Miyakonojo Station
- Contact: Okage Matsuri Promotion Council, 0986-21-4835



Miyazaki City: “Erekoccha Matsuri Miyazaki”

The highlight of this festival is seeing all the different dance groups perform elaborate dances between Kusunamiki-dori and Tachibana-dori in the city centre. You can also enjoy “Erekoccha” dance performances by dance teams who have been practicing very hard for the event on a special stage. There are bands performing too!

- Date & Time: Saturday, July 13th 12:00~21:00, Sunday July 14th 11:00~21:00
- Venue: Miyazaki Prefectural Centre for Local Enterprise, southern car park,
Tachibana-dori, Kusunamiki-dori
- Contact: Matsuri Erekoccha Miyazaki Promotion Council, 0985-83-2216

(Open 10:00~17:00 Monday-Friday)

Nobeoka: “Matsuri Nobeoka”

This year marks the 43rd “Matsuri Nobeoka.” On the first day, you can see the “*Deai mikoshi*,” where local young people parade several mikoshi through the streets, the “*Banba sou odori*,” where everyone dances enthusiastically, and the “*Taiko kyoenkai*,” where seven taiko groups from Nobeoka get the crowd fired up. On the second day, there is a *hanabi taikai* (firework display), in which a total of around 10,000 fireworks are set off, and you can enjoy the sight of the brightly-colored fireworks weaving together in the night sky.



- Venue, Date & Time: Saturday, July 27th 17:30~20:20 – Chuo-dori, in front of City Hall, etc.
Sunday, July 28th 20:00~20:45 – Upstream, Osegawa river, Oonuki-cho, Nobeoka
- Contact: Matsuri Nobeoka Organizing Committee, 0982-32-6141

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about this column, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation!

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