



A Festival of Light From Long Ago

Every year, the Yamaga Toro (Lantern) Festival fills the town of Yamaga with a fantastic glow. Hundreds of women dressed in traditional *yukata* and wearing ornate golden lanterns balanced on their heads dance elegantly in the summer night to the airy melody of the Yoheho song.

The most famous event of the Lantern Festival is the Sennin Toro (Thousand Lantern) Dance, where the flickering lights of innumerable dancers shine in the moonlight as they slowly wind their way around the main stage.

August 15th
Tuesday

Festival Schedule

August 16th
Wednesday



Time	Kikuchi Riverside	Festival Plaza	Omiya Sando Event Space	Omiya Shrine	Yachiyoza	Yamaga ES Gym	Engei Stage
10AM					9AM-1PM Open to public		
4PM					1PM-8PM Yachiyoza Noryo Show	3PM-8PM Thousand Lantern Dance Lantern Exhibition	
5PM			5PM-8PM Yamaga JC Omatsuri Hiroba (food trucks)				
6PM		6:20PM-6:40PM Yamaga Lantern Nagashi Dance Culture Association		6PM-6:30PM Shinjidai Toro			6PM- Bejiful Brothers Comedy Talk Show Guradan Cosplay Dance Performance 6:30PM- Zero Station Anime Song Concert
7PM	7PM Hi Parade Start (at Nakamachi Park)	7:10PM Hi Parade 7:15PM-7:35PM Lantern Dance Kamoto Ag. HS Folk Performance Club	7:10PM-7:30PM Hi Parade	7:30PM Purification			7PM- Hoki-ryu Iaijutsu Kumagai-ha Takahama-ryu Yamaga Lantern Nagashi Dance Nidaimie Ide Yamika Group
8PM	8PM-9PM Fireworks	8PM-8:30PM Yamaga Lantern Nagashi Dance Culture Association		7:45PM-8PM Lantern offering dance	8PM-10PM Open to public		8PM- Kamoto Ag. HS Folk Performance Club Lantern Dance
9PM		8:50PM-9:10PM Lantern Dance Preservation Society 9:25PM-9:45PM Lantern Dance Kamoto Ag. HS Folk Performance Club					9PM- Gao Local Superhero Show 9:30PM- Kei Yamamoto Music show
10PM		10PM-10:30PM Lantern Dance Lantern Dance Preservation Society					
11PM							
12AM							

● Festival HQ (Yunohata Park)
8/15 (Tue) 1PM-10:30PM
8/16 (Wed) 10AM-10:30PM
General info, emergency services,
stamp rally desk (until 10:30PM on
both days)



Check out the Yamaga Tanbou website for the latest info

Entranced
by the lights
and the dance



Yamaga Lantern Festival

AUGUST 15TH & 16TH

How the Lantern Festival came to be:

Long ago, the Emperor Keiko was traveling along the Kikuchi River, but he found his progress hampered by a thick fog. The townspeople of nearby Yamaga gathered together with torches to light the way for the Emperor. In the years following, the townspeople continued to gather together with torches in honor of the Emperor. Around the 14th to 16th centuries, elaborate lanterns made from *washi* paper replaced the torches.

Yamaga Lanterns - A Traditional Japanese Craft

Yamaga Lanterns have been designated by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as a Traditional Craft, a designation created to promote traditional craft industries in Japan. A total of 218 items have been designated in Japan, with Yamaga Lanterns being the fourth in Kumamoto, after Shodaiyaki pottery, Amakusa Tojiki pottery, and Higo Zogan inlay.



Gold Lantern

About Yamaga Lanterns

Yamaga Lanterns are three-dimensional pieces crafted by skilled lantern artists, who carefully fold and glue traditional *washi* paper into spectacular designs. No metal or wood pieces are used—just paper and glue. As such, they are referred to as *hone-nashi toro*, meaning literally "boneless lanterns." The Yamaga Lantern tradition started in the Muromachi era (14th-16th centuries), and in addition to their original ceremonial uses, they are now popular as decorations, presents, and souvenirs.



Model shrines



See the lanterns up close!

The lanterns paraded to the shrine on the 16th are available for viewing during the festival at the locations numbered 1 through 30 on the map.

Yamaga Lantern Festival Map



IMPORTANT FESTIVAL INFORMATION

In case of rain
The lanterns the dancers wear on their heads are made out of paper and glue and are very delicate. As such, they damage very easily if they get wet, meaning the lantern dance will likely be canceled if it is raining.

Drones are prohibited
In order to keep visitors and performers safe, the possession and use of drones is prohibited at all event spaces during the festival.

Photography/filming
Using a tripod or stepladder is also prohibited during the festival.

Road Closures
No vehicles are permitted in the following areas:
 8/15 9AM-11PM
 8/16 5:30PM-11:30PM
 8/15-16 Route 325 6PM-11:30PM
 Other roads 5PM-11:30PM (Omiya Sando: 5:30PM)

Detours for Fukuoka, Kikuchi, Tamana
 Fukuoka ↔ Kikuchi Tamana ↔ Kikuchi
 Please use these routes as normal roads will be closed 8/15-16.

Free Shuttle Bus
8/15-16 3PM-12AM (regular departures)

Free Shuttle Bus Stops ① ②

- Stage next to Dai-ichi Shinkin Bank
- Festival Plaza
- Food
- Performance/Event Space