

Hirosaki Neputa Festival 1-7 August

Received "Prince Takamado Memorial Regional Traditional Performing Arts Award" in 2006.

National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property "Hirosaki Neputa"

Selected as 100 Soundscapes of Japan

English



Hirosaki Neputa Festival 1-7 August, 2024

8/1 ~ 4 Dotemachi Course (Starts at 7 p.m.)

8/5 • 6 Station Area Course (Starts at 7 p.m.)

8/7 Nanukabi Dotemachi Course (Starts at 10 a.m.)

In the event of rain, the parade will be postponed or canceled.

Contact: Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center TEL: +81-172-37-5501

HP: <https://www.hirosaki-kanko.or.jp/>

Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Hirosaki Neputa Festival

About Hirosaki Neputa

The Hirosaki Neputa Festival colors the summer night sky of Tsugaru.

About 70 Neputa floats with a brilliant and colorful warrior painting depicting scenes from ancients' stories such as Sangokushi (Records of the Three Kingdoms) and Suikoden (Water Margin) parade through the city accompanied by people shouting "Yah-ya Doh".

The Neputa Festival was started by a group of villagers in order to combat the sleepiness that strikes during the scorching heat and busy farming season of summer. It was designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Japan in January 1980, boasting a history of over 300 years.



procession marches through the downtown area, leaving a strong impression on the audience.

The main Neputa float, with a max height more than 9 meters, gracefully maneuvering around electrical wires and signs while being pushed and pulled by dedicated "hikite" (pullers) is truly remarkable. These floats, weighing several tons, continue their procession without halting their momentum, all while the hikite, covered in sweat, tirelessly guide them forward. It is a sight that shouldn't be missed.

Also, there are adorable and charming "Kingyo Neputa" floats, (Goldfish-shaped lanterns), held by children, add a delightful touch and bring a unique flair to the festival.

Highlights of Neputa

The Hirosaki Neputa Festival features a procession of smaller neputa floats followed by larger ones as it progresses. Each float is accompanied by a group of flutes and drums, creating a powerful and lively musical performance that resonates in the hearts of the spectators. The



Neputa as a Local Community

As the traditional custom, it has been common in the local communities of Hirosaki to prepare the Neputa float and practice how to implement the festival parade with the local citizens including the children. They can tighten the relationship with each other through the festival preparation.

Hirosaki Neputa Book

The "Hirosaki Neputa Book" is a book which summarized the history and how to make a Hirosaki Neputa. For more information, please visit the Hirosaki Tourism and Convention Bureau's website.



Paid Reserved Seats

You can truly savor the experience of the Hirosaki Neputa Festival.

Paid Reserved Seat:
3,000yen (tax included)
*Chair seats

Souvenirs Included
(Aomori Prefecture's apple juice, Neputa fan, etc.!!)

August 1 - August 4
Dotemachi course
[Sakura Avenue Reserved Seat]

August 5 - August 6
Station area course
[Station Front Reserved Seat]

Online sales

Marutto-Aomori Search Site
"ポみっと!" (Pomitto!)
June 25 to July 30

Phone reservations

Link Station Event Office
+81-17-718-5544
(10:00 am ~ 6:00 pm)

Same Day Tickets

Remaining tickets for pre-sale will be available for on-the-day purchase.



Please visit the site for details.

Hirosaki Tourism and Convention Bureau
TEL+81-172-35-3131

Participate in Neputa

Depending on the organization, you can join in the operation. Join the parade and gain new friends in Hirosaki!

*If you wish to participate, you will need to apply directly the group.

*Participation requirements may vary depending on the group.

For group information, please contact the Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center at +81-172-37-5501.



Neputa Special Exhibition

Station Front Neputa Special Exhibition

●Date: Wed, July 3 - Fri, August 16

●Place: Next to Hirosaki Station Chuo Exit

You can enjoy the whole process of Neputa floats making.

Kumi Neputa Special Exhibition

●Date: Sun, August 4 - Tue, August 6

※Except during festivals

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

●Place: HIRORO Entrance

Neputa Public Display

●Date: Thu, August 1 - Tue, August 6

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

●Place: Civic Central Square/
Kamenokomachi Square

*Please refer to the "Hirosaki Neputa Festival Traffic Restriction Map" for detailed location information.

*The exhibition times and duration are subject to change.

Nanukabi Okuri (Neputa Burning)

●Contact: Hirosaki Neputa Festival Operation Committee
Tourism Division, Hirosaki City TEL: +81-172-40-0236

"Neputa sinking" and "Neputa burning" will be held with Neputa floats running along the banks of the Iwaki River.



●Date: Wed, August 7

*Cancellation in case of rain

5:00 pm~8:30 pm (scheduled)

●Event: 5:00 pm~ Open (food stalls start)

5:30 pm~ Stage event

6:00 pm~ Neputa exhibition

7:30 pm~ Neputa sinking

8:10 pm~ Neputa burning

*The schedule may change depending on circumstances.

●Place: Iwaki River riverbed
(Near the Akane Bridge)

Free shuttle bus service

Route: Konan Railway Chuo-Hirosaki Station
~ Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center Bus Pool
~ Seibu School Lunch Center

Operating hours: First departure 4:45pm (From Chuo-Hirosaki Station)

*Regarding transportation to JR Hirosaki Station: The bus service from Hirosaki Municipal Tourist Center to JR Hirosaki Station direction ends after 8:00 pm.

Neputa Parade Order

The order of Neputa floats will be posted on the official website (<https://hirosaki-neputa.com>) as soon as the order is determined on the day.

We also provide information about each group, Neputa artists, and the themes depicted on the floats. Please visit the website for more details.



No Drones



Flying drones, etc. over and around the Neputa course area is prohibited due to flying or falling objects lead to accidents. If you see a drone or other unmanned aircraft, please contact the staff.

Hirosaki Neputa Viewing Manners

- Please refrain from taking places that obstruct pedestrian traffic, otherwise we may remove your belongings.
- Please refrain from causing any nuisances, such as smoking or using selfie sticks in crowded areas.
- Please do not enter the path of the floats during Neputa parade.
- Please do not intrude into private property without permission.

Hirosaki ⇄ Oirase/Towada Sightseeing Bus

Relaxing and healing journey

Fare One way: 4,000 yen Round trip: 6,500 yen

Course Four courses (with stop)

Phone reservation Konan Bus TEL +81-172-38-2255

Please visit the official website for details. ▶



TOHOKU MaaS

Tsugaru Free Pass



Enjoy going around Tsugaru's attractions, hot springs and tourism facilities!!

Unlimited Travel on JR lines, Konan Railway, Tsugaru Railway, and Konan Bus in the Tsugaru area with the electronic tickets.

Adult: 2,460yen (tax included)

Child: 1,230yen (tax included)

Valid for 2 days.

TOHOKU MaaS membership registration is free.

Access the website for electronic tickets. Only available on smartphones.

