

Bringing smiles into the future
The festival of flames

Katsuyama

勝山 義長まつり

Sagichō Matsuri

2026. 2/21 (Sat)
2/22 (Sun)



A unique hometown festival heralding the arrival of Spring.

Sagichō, a festival from the Heian Period, was originally held nationwide on January 15th. Its origins come from *Koshōgatsu* or “Little New Year,” a celebration held to mark the end of the New Year season.

Katsuyama Sagichō has a history of over 300 years, dating back to the arrival of the Ogasawara Clan in the Katsuyama domain during the Edo period.

In neighborhoods throughout Katsuyama, festival towers or turrets called *yagura* are erected. Atop them, taiko performers dressed in colorful *nagajuban* (women’s kimono undergarments) perform and dance with playful, comical gestures to lively *hayashi* festival music featuring the shamisen, flute, and gong. This joyful spectacle is unique to *Katsuyama Sagichō* and is often referred to as a strange or quirky festival.

The *Sagichō yagura* is made from Japanese cypress with towers measuring approximately 4 meters in width and 6 meters in height. The *yagura* is built in the style of a Shinto shrine, and the performers give an enjoyable performance on top of the turret.

Believed to contain the spirits of deities, objects of worship called *go-shintai* made from pine tree and bamboo and are decorated with amulets and placed on roads in each of the city’s neighborhoods.

To adorn the town, narrow strips consisting of three to four colors—red, blue, green, yellow, and

white—selected by each neighborhood are hung across the streets bringing color and excitement to the festival.

Each neighborhood competes to create *tsukurimono*, sculptures that are hastily yet cleverly assembled from everyday household items and often inspired by that year’s Chinese zodiac animal. Around the *yagura* and along the streets, *tsuji andon* lantern displays featuring satirical short poems and illustrations are lined up, drawing passersby to stop and admire them.

On Sunday, the *go-shintai* from each neighborhood is transported to Benten Ryokuchi Park, a riverside park along the Kuzuryū River, famous for its Benten cherry blossoms. There, preparations begin for the *Dondo-yaki* bonfire.

At 8PM, *go-shintai* piled up with New Year’s decorations are simultaneously set aflame by a sacred fire carried from Shinmei Shrine. The flames of the bonfire are beautifully reflected against the snow in the winter sky as the festival reaches to an end. Through the *Dondo-yaki* ceremony, the deity is sent off and prayers are offered for a bountiful harvest and protection from fire. With that, all of the events from the two-day fire festival come to an end. *Katsuyama Sagichō* is said to usher in spring to the Okuetsu region. After the festival, the town begins to feel the approaching footsteps of the new season.

Highlights

2/21 (Sat)

Opening Taiko Performance 1:00pm at Kami-ushiro Turret.

2/21 (Sat) & 2/22 (Sun)

Sagichō Bayashi After the opening taiko, taiko performances will take place atop the 12 turrets to Sagichō’s traditional upbeat hayashi (festival music). *Please refer to each turret’s schedule for rest times.

Tsukurimono Exhibitions Made from everyday household items, *tsukurimono* often representing the current year’s Chinese zodiac are displayed. Calligraphy poems or *kakinagashi* that explain the works are also amusing.

Andon Lanterns In the Edo period, the common people expressed their feelings in the form of *senryū* and *kyōka* poems depicted on the *andon* lanterns. Now, the residents create lanterns that humorously reflect their hopes and society.

Others A stamp rally will be held where you can win Sagichō themed prizes! Each ward will have their own food and beverage stalls.

2/22 (Sun)

Children’s Taiko Bayashi Contest At Kami-ushiro Turret (10:00am) judges will begin to visit each turret to evaluate the children’s performances and select the best performance. They will fiercely compete to be on par with the adults.

Sacred Flame Send-off At the Shinmei Shrine (7:45pm), the sacred fire is lit and carried to the *Dondo-yaki* venue.

Dondo-yaki Bonfire (8:00pm) At Benten Ryokuchi Park, *go-shintai* or sacred objects from each ward will be simultaneously lit. The *Dondo-yaki* marks the end of the festival where prayers for a bountiful harvest and for the fires to be safely extinguished take place.

Attention Please!

- When viewing the performances, follow the instructions of the turret staff and do not disturb the flow of traffic. Additionally, refrain from getting too close to the turret or calling out to performers.
- If you bring New Year’s decorations for the *dondo-yaki* fire, remove any vinyl, plastic, raw or metal materials beforehand.
- We cannot burn dolls or *kadomatsu* pine decorations in the *dondo-yaki*.

勝山 義長

Katsuyama

Sagichō

Sagichō Bayashi
(The signature lyrics of Sagichō)

Chōyo hanayo Hanayo no nenne Madachichi nomuka Chikubihanase Chikubihanase

New Year’s Decorations Drop-off Hours
2/21 (Sat) 1:00pm-6:00pm
2/22 (Sun) 9:00am-3:00pm
Decorations recieved outside of these time frames will be treated as illegal dumping.

For New Year’s decorations, please park in the designated parking lots and deliver them on foot to the *go-shintai* at the main office (in front of the post office).

Parking lots: Katsuyama City Hall, Education Center, Sukoyaka, Benten Ryokuchi Park (Saturday only), Okuetsu Special Needs School (Sunday only).

Every year, parking lots are extremely packed. Please utilize public transportation.

The use of drones and/or drone filming is prohibited.

《Inquiries》

Katsuyama Sagichō Matsuri Executive Office
(Katsuyama City Future Planning Division)

☎ 0779-88-8114

Fukui Prefecture Katsuyama City Motomachi 1-1-1



■ Opening Taiko (Kami-ushiro Turret)

2/21 (Sat) 1:00pm

■ Dondo-yaki Bonfires (Benten Ryokuchi Park)

2/22 (Sun) 8:00pm

Sponsor: Katsuyama Sagichō Matsuri Executive Office

Co-sponsor: Katsuyama City Support: (Public Corporation)

Fukui Prefectural Tourism Federation

Katsuyama Sagichō Festival Map

Feb 2026

Downtown Rest Area Food Stalls & Vendors

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sōzai Kenchan | Grilled ayu sweetfish, fried chicken |
| Takoboshi Kirara | Chinese-style soba |
| Crepe MOKKA | Crepes, drinks |
| Tough | Grilled rice balls, brown sugar manjū |
| Dinosaur Forest | Dinosaur-yaki (ōbanyaki), original towel, original socks |
| Food Truck Eve | Fried chicken and meat rice balls with Ishikawa-style sauce, waffle fries, cheese sticks, fresh potato chips |
| Ōmi-gyū Nishimura | Ōmi-gyū grilled offal, burgers, steak and tongue skewers; chicken and squid skewers, hot drinks, fruity sweets |

Vacation Rental House 'Shirokiya'
Free tea and sweets
21st 1:00pm - 6:00pm
22nd 10:00am - 6:00pm

- Stamp Rally sheets available
- Food Stalls (oden, beef stew, etc.)
- Snowman-making corner

Katsuyama Sagichō Festival Guide

Presented by the Katsuyama Volunteer Tour Guide Club.
Have a tour around Yumeole Katsuyama, followed by a tour of some of the turrets.
*Please note that the tours are only in Japanese.



Scan to apply for a tour

Collect all the stamps to win Sagichō goods!

Sagichō Festival Stamp Rally

Reception Times:
21st (Sat) 1:00pm - 6:00pm
22nd (Sun) 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sagichō Stamp Rally sheets are available to buy for 200 yen each at the following locations: Sagichō Festival Office (opposite the Post Office), Motomachi Ni-chōme Turret, Sawa Turret, Yoshino Turret, and the Downtown Rest Area.

- Prizes can be exchanged at the Festival Office until 7:00pm on both days.

Sagichō Turret (12)

Go-shintai (14) Rest area

Tsukurimono Andon Lanterns

Convenience Store Gas Station

Toilets Free Parking

Road Closures (Pedestrian Access Only)

20th (Fri) 8:00am - 23rd (Mon) 12:00pm

21st (Sat) 8:00am - 10:00pm
22nd (Sun) 8:00am - 10:00pm

During the festival there will be a lot of traffic, so please avoid parking on the side of the road.

In case of emergency during the festival, please contact the Festival Office:
0779-88-8114
(The Festival Office is located opposite the Post Office)

Free Shuttle Bus from Katsuyama Station to the Festival Office (Every 30 minutes)

21st (Sat) 12:24pm - 5:53pm
22nd (Sun) 10:24am - 5:53pm

*Please note that the routes of regular buses are subject to change.
(Changes to regular routes during the festival: Buses will pass south of the Post Office, and continue towards the Tateishi crossing)



Downtown Rest Area
Stamp Rally sheets available

Dondo-yaki Bonfires
22nd (Sun)
from 8:00pm

- Food Stalls (fried chicken, croquettes, etc.)
- Children's Calligraphy Showcase

Sagichō Festival Office

- Stamp Rally sheets available
- Stamp Rally prize exchange
- New Year decorations collection

Opening Taiko
21st (Sat)
1:00pm

Sacred Flame Send-off
22nd (Sun)
~7:45pm from Shinmei Shrine

Festival Office Area Food Stalls & Vendors

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Katsuyama Youth Center | Mochi (for grilling at the Dondo-yaki) |
| Amelia | Coffee, fruit juice, soda, homemade honey-infused drinks |
| Amago no Yado | Grilled amago trout, salmon tempura, sweetened and boiled amago trout |
| Gorira-imo | Fries, fried chicken, stone-baked sweet potato |
| DEKKA! | Baby castella, yakisoba, long fries, frankfurters, deep-fried takoyaki |
| Brownie's | Tacos, organic coffee, organic chocolate brownies, hojicha tea, fermented plum juice, original goods |
| Katsuyama Silver HR Center | Baked sweet potato, oyaki, sushi wrapped in bamboo leaves, vegetables, handicraft goods, recycled goods |

- Stamp Rally sheets available
- Food Stalls (handmade soba, beef and konjac stew, etc.)

- Food Stalls (chicken skewers, chicken and vegetable hot pot, etc.)

Echizen Railway: Katsuyama to Fukui City
Last train to Fukui City: 9:57pm