

How to enjoy Nagasaki Kunchi!

Chants

There are unique rules for the chants at Nagasaki Kunchi. For example, when people hear the sound of the Kasaboko bells, they keep shouting "Mottekoi Mottekoi." This means "Come quickly." When the dance ends and we want an encore, we shout "Shomoyare!" This means "One more time!" Please try these chants at Nagasaki Kunchi!



Festival Food

While enjoying Nagasaki Kunchi, don't miss some of Nagasaki's popular local foods. Yoriyori is a crispy Chinese-style fried snack. Hatoshi is a deep-fried sandwich filled with shrimp paste. Kakuni Manju is a steamed bun filled with tender braised pork. Kurikaki Manju is also unique food enjoyed during Kunchi. "Kuri" is chestnut, "Kaki" is persimmon, and "Momo Manju" represents sweet bun shaped like peach. Be sure to try these local specialties and enjoy the flavors of Nagasaki!

Music

Shagiri is a traditional festival music in Nagasaki Kunchi that raises the excitement and atmosphere of the festival. Shagiri is made up of two instruments: the Shimedaiko (a drum) and the Shinobue (a bamboo flute), both of which make beautiful sounds. People in Nagasaki love this Shagiri music!

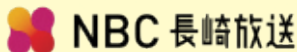


Niwasaki-mawari and "Kunchi Navi"

Other than the main stages, you can watch the Performances at several spots in the city. It is called "Niwasaki-mawari", and you can see them for free if you can come across them.

Download the application shown on the side and use "Nagasaki Kunchi Navi" to track them! It is provided by NBC, the local TV station.

<https://kunchi.nbc-nagasaki.co.jp>



Access (the main stages)



A Suwa Shrine, Kaminishiyama-machi 18-15, 〚Suwa Jinja

B Otabisho, Motofuna-machi 17, 〚Ohato

C Chuo Koen, Nigiwai-machi 5-100, 〚Meganebashi

D Yasaka Shrine, Kajiya-machi 8-53, 〚Soufukuji

※You need to buy a ticket to enter these places.

For further information nagasaki-kunchi.com



We are NAGASAKI MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL English Club!



Nagasaki Minami High School is one of the Nagasaki Prefectural High Schools. The school motto is Spirit and Passion. We are designated as SSH (Super Science High School).

We belong to English Club. We are 8 members now, 5 of us are 3rd graders and 3 of us are 2nd graders. Unfortunately, there are no 1st grade members this year. We enjoy fun activities using English, such as playing board games, cooking, watching movies, and so on!

References

- 『平成28年度版 見えないものを伝える 諏訪神事 長崎くんち取材記録』(土肥原 弘久, 2016)
- 『長崎くんちの栞』(長崎伝統芸能振興会, 2017)
- 長崎新聞 (2026年5月31日)



NAGASAKI KUNCHI

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What is Nagasaki Kunchi(長崎くんち)?

It is the autumn grand festival of Suwa Shrine, the local deity of Nagasaki, held annually from October 7th to 9th. It was designated as an Important Intangible Cultural Property of Japan in 1979. You can enjoy not only traditional Japanese performances but also performances with a foreign flavor.

UWA-MACHI UWAMACHI KOKKODESHO, KASABOKO



Uwamachi Kokkodesho is the performance in which people carry dashi (festival float). The highlight is that a large group of people carries a massive dashi float, tosses it high into the air with a powerful shout of "Kokkodesho!", and then catches it. It is very impressive!



Kasaboko
Kazari : an Eboshi hat and a bell in the middle, a scroll originating from Suwa Shrine in the front, Sakaki tree's branch and Gold coin at the back.
Wa : velvet, and the town name is stitched
Tare : a five-color arabesque pattern with the shrine's crest embroidered in gold.

CHIKUGO-MACHI JA ODORI, KASABOKO

Ja Odori means "dragon dance." It is said to represent a dragon attempting to eat the moon, which is believed to be the source of eternal youth and longevity. The greatest part of the Dragon Dance is the powerful and dynamic "Tomoe Odori." Three dragons dance wildly together at the same time.



Kasaboko
Kazari : gold, silver, indigo, and white balls placed on a rock, the antlers of a deer, Kusanagi sword, the sacred Sakaki tree's branch, Yata mirror, and Magatama jewel.
Wa : adorned with a sacred straw rope.
Tare : red silk decorated with silver-thread waves and scattered gold-thread sea bream.



What is Odori Cho(踊町), performing towns?

Odori Cho is a town which performs Hono Odori. It comes around once every seven years. There are six Odori Cho this year.

What is Hono Odori(奉納踊り), a dedicatory dance?

Hono Odori is a performance done by each Odori Cho. Each of them has their unique performances, such as dancing, ship, and carrying things.

MOTOFUNA-MACHI TOSEN MATSURI, KASABOKO



Tosen Matsuri (Tosen means "a Chinese ship." Matsuri means "a festival.") The performance tells the story of celebrating the arrival of the Chinese ship. Maso, the goddess of safe navigation, rides on the ship. Local children wear traditional Chinese dresses and dance beautifully to Minshin-gaku music. You will also be captivated by the ship turned dynamically and powerfully.



Kasaboko
Kazari : An iron cannonball, two cranes, and an old pine tree. The iron cannonball is a symbol of the town.
Wa : velvet, and the town name is stitched.
Tare : Pattern of tortoise-shell shapes and flying cranes.

ABURAYA-MACHI KAWAFUNE, KASABOKO

Kawafune, the river boat performance, depicts a story in which boatmen race the boat to deliver freshly caught, lively carp quickly to Suwa shrine. The performers move the boat dynamically through the streets, which are imagined as a river. The scene in which a child acting as a boatman tries to catch fish is really breathtaking.



Kasaboko
Kazari : A golden sacred ball is placed on a wooden stand with long ceremonial Noshi strips.
Wa : adorned with a sacred straw rope.
Tare : Oct 7th, crimson silk embroidered with gold-thread waves and a rising sun. (It changes on Oct 9th to a different decoration.)



What is Kasaboko(傘鉾), umbrella float?

Kasaboko is another important performance of each Odori Cho. It consists of three parts. Kazari (飾) is an ornament on the top. Wa (輪) is a ring, which is attached around the Kasaboko, under the Kazari. Lastly, Tare (垂れ) is hanging fabric. It hangs down around the Kasaboko.

IMAKAGO-MACHI HON ODORI, KASABOKO



Imakago machi performs **Hon Odori**, the dance. The dance changes every festival year. In the previous time, girls selling flowers carried flower baskets and performed a dance for the purpose of celebrating the Suwa Festival. They also added tap dancing to create a new style of performance. This year, we can enjoy the performance with a totally new and original song.

Kasaboko
Kazari : a flying large eagle, with splashing rough waves.
Wa : Ja Kago, the ring stuffed with fake small stones. Ja Kago is usually used when the kazari is related to the waterside.
Tare : Waves and the morning glow.

KAJIYA-MACHI TAKARA BUNE, SHICHIFUKUJIN, KASABOKO

Shichifukujin, Seven Lucky Gods, arrive aboard "**Takara Bune**, a treasure ship," bringing wealth to the town. After their dancing, the ship spins dynamically. The contrast between its powerful rotation and sudden stillness is the highlight of this performance.



Kasaboko
Kazari : Figures of a craftsman forging and a child blacksmith deity. Please watch as the deity's child mask transforms into a fox mask when the craftsman strikes the sword.
Wa : sacred straw decoration.
Tare : on Oct 7th, it has features of handwoven Shichifukujin fabric. On Oct 9th, it changes to feature the Suwa Shrine crest.

