

The heart and soul
of Aomori.

AOMORI NEBUTA FESTIVAL

Every Year **8/2~7**

Aomori Nebuta Festival Schedul

August 1 (Night)

- 18:00~21:00 **Nebuta Festival Eve**
at Rasse Land (Aoi Umi Park)
- 19:00~20:40 **Asamushi Onsen Fireworks Festival**
at Asamushi Onsen

August 2-3 (Evening)

- 19:10~21:00 **Nebuta Parade**
15 mini floats and 15 large floats take part in the parade.
※The mini floats are made by neighbourhood groups and children.

August 4-6 (Evening)

- 19:10~21:00 **Nebuta Parade**
20 large Nebuta floats on parade
※Nebuta Awarding on the 6th available for viewing

August 7 (Afternoon & Evening)

- 13:00~15:00 **Nebuta Parade**
About 15 children's Nebuta floats and large Nebuta floats on parade
- 19:15~21:00 **Harbor Parade • Aomori Fireworks Festival**
at Aomori Port (from Tsutsumi Wharf to Hakkoda-Marui)
※Nebuta floats are paraded on top of boats through the harbor.



Volunteer guides are free of charge!

Nebuta guides are on hand to explain how the floats are made.
©Date & Time/July 1 ~ 22/10:00~15:00 July 23 ~ August 6/10:00~15:30
©Inquiries: Wa Rasse Nebuta Museum TEL 017-752-1311

We ask that you help us keep the Nebuta Festival eco-friendly!

*Please take your trash with you. *Please do not park illegally. *Please no unnecessary idling. *No smoking around parade course.

※Information updated as of May 2017.



Origins

Nebuta's origins are thought to lie in the Chinese Tanabata festival. However, no one truly knows how it came to be.

The common theory is that Tanabata combined with Aomori's local customs to create a new festival, one with lanterns at its centre.

The floats are made and paraded by various neighbourhood groups in Aomori every year. Nebuta has grown in size over the years and is now one of Tohoku's most famous festivals. It is often referred to as a "fire festival" as the floats were originally lit using candles.



The Nebuta Grand Prize

Floats are judged based on three categories: the quality of the float, how well it is paraded/how well its dancers perform and the quality of its band. While there are individual prizes for each of these three categories, the Nebuta Grand Prize is given to the group that excels in all three.



Play that Music

The bands which accompany the floats contain several taiko, flutes and hand cymbals. The pounding rhythm is set by the taiko players, the flautists provide the melody and the hand cymbal players provide that unique clanging sound associated so strongly with the festival. It is this music that powers the dancers long into the night.



Dance the Night Away

Referred to as haneto, the festival dancers do a jig in time to the music whilst chanting "Rassera, rassera". One of the best parts of the Nebuta festival is that, as long as you wear the traditional dancer's outfit, anyone can join in the parades!



Law and Order

The float conductors keep their group ticking along nicely with their trusty whistle and fan. The most skilled conductors have a real ability to work both their group and the crowds that line the parade route.



Master Craftsmen

The creators of the floats are known as "Nebuta artists". Every year, as soon as the festival ends, they begin designing their float for the coming festival, eventually creating a sketch of their idea in the deep winter.

While most wear the traditional outfit associated with Nebuta, there are some that choose to be different. The jokers of the festival—baketo in Japanese—are all about amusing the crowds.



Send in the Clowns



Heave Ho

One of the more labour-intensive roles one can play in the festival, those who pull the floats rarely get a break. Putting on a good show requires both a skilled conductor and a group that is able to move its float smoothly.

Nebuta Festival
Tourist
Information Inquiries:

Aomori City Tourist Information & Exchange Center
(in front of Aomori Station) TEL 017-723-4670 FAX 017-777-8639

Aomori Tourism Information Center
(inside Shin-Aomori Station) TEL 017-752-6311 FAX 017-752-6312

Nebuta Festival Homepage:
http://www.atca.info/nebuta_en/

Tourist Information Homepage:
http://www.atca.info/atca_language/index_en.html



◆Festival Sponsorship : Aomori Nebuta Festival Executive Committee [Aomori City, Aomori Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Aomori Tourism and Convention Association]
◆Inquiries : Aomori Tourism and Convention Association TEL017-723-7211