

Festival Eve

Venue: RasseLand (Aoiumi Park)

August 1 3:00PM - 9:10PM (Scheduled)
*Schedule may be subject to change.
Nebuta floats display and Hayashi (Nebuta music) contest

Nebuta Street Parade

Venue: City Center

August 2-3 7:00PM onward ★★★★★
Approximately 10 children's Nebuta floats & 15 large Nebuta floats

August 4-6 6:45PM onward ★★
17~23 large Nebuta floats
*Award-winning Nebuta will be paraded on the 6th.

August 7 1:00PM onward ★
17 large Nebuta floats

Nebuta Marine Procession & Aomori Firework Festival

Venue: Aomori Port

August 7 7:15PM-8:45PM
4 Nebuta floats will be placed on boats and ferried around Aomori Bay, along with colorful fireworks, marking the festival's highlight.



Legend

- Parade Direction
- Reserved Seating Areas
- Parade Starting Point
- Toilet (Only usable during shop's opening hours)
Some of the temporary toilets are removed on the 7th.
- Multipurpose Toilet
- Information Center
- Convenience Store
- Hotel
- Temple
- Shrine
- Police Station
- Smoking Area
- HANETO Costume Rental

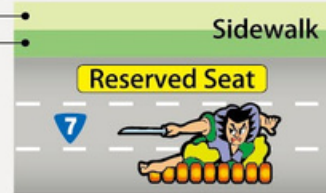
Aomori Station West Side Map



Free viewing spots are available along the parade route.

Sidewalk on the National highway will be open as free viewing area after 7:05PM.

Keep Clear
Free Viewing Area
open to all after 7:05 PM



DO NOT ENTER the parade route



NO SMOKING



NO DRONES

Tips for Watching the Parade

- Nebuta floats parade counterclockwise from the starting point, circling around the route. The parade ends immediately after all floats complete the route.
- You do not need a ticket for the festival. You can still enjoy the parade alongside the route without getting a seat. It will be easier to watch the parade if you avoid the crowded areas.

Nebuta Marine Procession on Aug. 7

- If you want to see the floats parading at the bay, you need a reserved seat at the firework venue. Otherwise it is too far to watch.
- You can enjoy the firework without a ticket.

Luggage Storage

- Coin lockers are available at Aomori Station and Shin-Aomori Station.
- Coin lockers are also available inside the LOVINA and &LOVINA buildings.
- Only available during the facilities' opening hours: 10AM - 8PM
- SAGAWA EXPRESS offers luggage storage and delivery service at Aomori Station during the festival. Service hours: 10AM - 10PM (Aug. 1-7)
- If you are staying at a hotel in Aomori City, we strongly recommend leaving your luggage there, as coin lockers tend to fill up quickly during the festival.



Official Website



nebuta.jp

View Locations & Parking on Google Maps



Nebuta Floats Location



Information accurate as of July 2026.

AOMORI NEBUTA FESTIVAL

A Japanese Fire Festival

青森ねぶた祭

Every Year **Aug.2-7**

What is "Nebuta?"

"Nebuta" refers to lanterns made of wood, wire, and Japanese paper. These lanterns are inspired by Japanese mythology, history, or Kabuki legends. Historically, bamboo was used to construct Nebuta, illuminated by candles, but today, they are framed with wire and lit by light bulbs. Each large Nebuta is approximately 9 meters wide, 7 meters deep, and 5 meters high, weighing about 4 tons and requiring 30-40 adults to pull the float.

2025 1st Place Nebuta Float "King of the Seas"
Artist: Hiroo Takenami



Origin and History

The Aomori Nebuta Festival is believed to have evolved from the Tanabata Festival, introduced from China during the Nara period (710-794), though its exact origins are unclear. A Tanabata custom called Tourou Nagashi involved floating lanterns on rivers to drive away evil spirits. This practice combined with local traditions in Aomori, creating Nebuta.

The word "Nebuta" comes from "nebutai" (sleepy) in the Aomori dialect. It's said the festival was meant to chase away farmers' drowsiness during the summer heat. Held every August 2-7, the festival features 20 to 23 large illuminated Nebuta floats parading through the city. On the final day, select floats are placed on boats for a marine parade in Aomori Bay, followed by a fireworks show. Recognized as a National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property in 1980, the festival is world-famous, with Nebuta floats even exhibited at the British Museum.



The Making of Nebuta

The creators of large Nebuta are known as Nebutashi, or Nebuta masters. These specialists design the structure, framework, and colors of the Nebuta. After each festival, they start planning for the next year, completing the initial design draft during winter. By May, the entire structure is built using wood and wire, then covered with traditional Japanese paper. Outlines are drawn with black charcoal ink, patterns with melted candles, and final colors are added with paintbrushes and sprays.

Visit RasseLand!

The studios where Nebuta are made

If you're interested in the construction process, RasseLand offers a glimpse into the making of Nebuta. These temporary studios are set during early May to August 7th. *You can only observe it through the small windows on the tents from outside. Tourists are not allowed to enter the tents without permission.



Nebuta Museum WARASSE

4 large Nebuta floats on display. Next to the station. Live shows 4 times daily! Here, every day feels like a festival!

Nebuta Festival Live Performance

①11:10AM ②1:10PM ③3:10PM ④5:10PM

*The show starts 10 minutes earlier when a Nebuta Bayashi team is invited for performance.

■Admission: Adult ¥620 / HS ¥460 / JH & Elem ¥260. Group discount available.
■Opening Hours: 9AM-7PM (Sept. to Apr. opens until 6PM)
■Closed: Aug. 9-10 (for exhibition renewal) / Dec. 31-Jan. 1



Volunteer Guide

Free tour exploring how the Nebuta floats are made (Japanese only but foreign visitors are warmly welcome!)

Jul. 1 - Aug. 6



■Location: Behind ASPAM (Guide Reception)
■Hours: 10AM-12PM / 1PM-3PM
■Last Entry: 11:30AM / 2:30PM
■Duration: Approx. 20 min
■Sign-up: Walk-ins welcome.
■Reservation: Accepted for individuals only / up to 10
■Contact: warasse0@jomon.ne.jp



Highlights of the Parade



化人 BAKETO (Buffon)

These comic performers dress up simply to entertain the crowd. Their funny costumes and antics earn cheers and applause from spectators along the parade route.



跳人 HANETO (Dancer)
Shouting "LA SE LA, LA SE LA!" and joyfully jumping in rhythm, the Haneto dancers bring energy to the parade. Anyone wearing a Haneto costume can join in, making this one of the most exciting parts of the festival.

扇子持ち SENSU MOCHI (Conductor)

The Sensu Mochi (fan-holder) directs the float carriers using a whistle and hand fan. Their skillful signals guide the team smoothly and dynamically, bringing the Nebuta floats to life. This is their moment to shine.



ねぶた囃子 NEBUTA BAYASHI (Music Band)

The festival band consists of taiko (drum), fue (flute), and teburigane (hand cymbals). The drums keep the rhythm, the flutes play the melody, and the hand cymbals add lively accents to the music.



Join in the fun!

Anyone can join the parades as a dancer. There is no need to sign up in advance. Simply wear the traditional HANETO costume and you are good to go. Costume are sold at department stores and other shops. Some shops also offer rental service.

HANETO Costume Rental

- ① Kobeya 神戸屋 TEL.017-723-3389
- ② Kimono Place Minagawa きのものあつらえ処 御川 TEL.080-1835-1768
- ③ Koushuya 甲州屋洋服店 TEL.017-722-3363
- ④ Haneto ya ハネトヤ TEL.017-774-2550
- ⑤ Narumi ya (Kamata Bldg. 3F) なるみや特設会場(鎌田ビル3F) TEL.017-775-3011
- ⑥ Nebuta Rental Costume Owl ねぶたレンタル衣装 あうる TEL.017-777-3955
- ⑦ Matsuri ya 祭屋 TEL.090-7667-1522
- ⑧ Marubun Fukushima Kimono 丸文福士呉服店 TEL.017-722-3613
- ⑨ FES Special Venue (Cinemadict 1F) フェス特設会場(シネマディクト1F) TEL.070-9283-0294



Lists of shops that sell or rent the costume (Japanese)

