

# Featured Fireworks



## Shô-Sanjakudama Fireworks (Size 30, 3-foot-diameter fireworks shell)

When a giant 3-foot-diameter *Shô-Sanjakudama* fireworks shell (300 kilograms) is launched up to an altitude of 600 meters above the ground, a huge 650-meter-diameter flower opens. The shell contains 80 kilograms of gunpowder, which is the maximum legal amount approved by current law. The highly sophisticated and integrated techniques of local pyrotechnicians have developed the *Shô-Sanjakudama* Fireworks into a quite unique and special masterpiece. *Shô-Sanjakudama* Fireworks are the embodiment of the most sophisticated skills of local pyrotechnicians.

## Niagara Falls

In the image of the true Niagara Falls, this 650-meter-long dynamic fireworks display set up on Chosei Bridge and Otehashi Bridge over the Shinano River vigorously flows down into the river, amazing all the spectators. A total of four Niagara Falls Fireworks are displayed on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.



\* 🎵 Star Mine Fireworks with music



## Wide Star Mine Fireworks

Wide Star Mine Fireworks were first displayed in 1996 to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the modern municipality. Star mine fireworks in a variety of colors are launched simultaneously from five locations in a row, creating a dynamic pageant of lights.



## Miracle Star Mine Fireworks

In 1998, a new type of highly elaborate fireworks were developed. “Miracle Star Mine” was chosen from recommendations for the name by the general public in 1998. Launched simultaneously from several locations, the three-dimensional Miracle Star Mine fireworks shooting diagonally, horizontally, and vertically will lead you into a miraculous world.

## Kome Hyappyô Fireworks (One Hundred Sacks of Rice)

### 100 Shots of Fireworks Shells in Sequence 🎵

These popular fireworks were born in 1986 in commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the modern municipality. In a “wide screen” method, 100 shots of 8-inch-diameter fireworks shells are shot at a rate of nearly one shot per second.



## Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for a Complete Recovery 🎵

Out of the citizens’ wishes for a complete recovery from the devastation caused by the Great Chuetsu Earthquake on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, the Phoenix Fireworks were born. Over a stretch of about 2 kilometers, these overwhelmingly super wide star mine fireworks with a row of Phoenixes, all shining in gold, burst high above the ground. They fly to express our appreciation for the kind support provided by many people, to encourage people in other disaster-affected areas, and to wish for everlasting peace in the world.



## Ten Chi Jin Fireworks 🎵

Commemorating the broadcast of *Ten Chi Jin*, a long-running period TV drama, *Ten Chi Jin* fireworks have been launched since 2008. The highly artistic fireworks in a magnificent scale depict the life of Kanetsugu Naoe, a prominent *samurai* warrior who had a special connection to old Nagaoka. *Ten Chi Jin* fireworks shot from nine locations fill the summer night sky with a sparkling glow.



## “Kono Sora no Hana” Fireworks 🎵

In commemoration of a film entitled “*Kono Sora no Hana* (The Flowers of This Sky)”, the Story of the Nagaoka Fireworks,” these fireworks have been displayed since 2012. To the theme music of the film, flowers in various colors bloom throughout the sky with the citizens’ wishes for the pursuit of peace.



## “Furusato Wa Hitotsu” Fireworks (The Earth, Our Only Hometown) 🎵

These fireworks, first shown in 2015 in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the municipal consolidation, are displayed to a song by Mr. Ryudo Uzaki (musician) and Ms. Yoko Aki (lyricist). This piece of music created by the couple, who both cherish their long careers in music, helps the citizens of Nagaoka focus their thoughts on the only hometown they have.



**Nagaoka Fireworks Official Website**  
The Nagaoka Fireworks Foundation (a general incorporated foundation)  
<https://nagaokamatsuri.com/>



# The Nagaoka Festival

Summer in Nagaoka  
Once Again Brings the Scale and Emotion  
of the Grand Fireworks Show

**August  
1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**NAGAOKA**  
Summer Festival

**Flowers Filling the Sky  
Pull at Your Heartstrings**





# Huge Blossoms of Fireworks Blooming Overhead Their Light Symbolizing Peace and Nagaoka's Recovery



Summer in Nagaoka is a summer of fireworks.

The Grand Fireworks Show on the vast riverbanks of the Shinano attracts and amazes over one million spectators.

## The Origin of the Nagaoka Festival

Starting at 10:30 p.m. on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945, large B29 bombers flew over Nagaoka and continued bombing the city for one hour and 40 minutes. The bombing burned down nearly 80% of the downtown area and claimed over 1,480 lives in a deluge of fire.

In order to remember this sad day as a significant day for restoration, the City of Nagaoka held the Nagaoka Restoration Festival on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1946, one year after the bombing. This festival helped comfort the hearts of the war-afflicted citizens of Nagaoka and encouraged them to restore the war-devastated city by working together with all their strength. The annual Nagaoka Festival has its origin in this 1946 restoration festival.

## The History and Traditions of Nagaoka Fireworks

The history of Nagaoka Fireworks is said to have started in 1879 when 350 fireworks shells were launched during the Hachiman Shrine Festival in Senju-machi. The technology of launching fireworks was further improved along with the development and presentations of new types of fireworks. Two-foot and three-foot diameter (*Shō-Sanjakudama*) shell fireworks were displayed in 1917 and 1926 respectively. Since the late 1920s, Nagaoka's fireworks became popular across Japan. However, the fireworks displays were discontinued due to the outbreak of the Pacific War.

After the Pacific War ended, the once-discontinued Nagaoka's fireworks show was revived in 1947 during the Nagaoka Restoration Festival, which was held to express our condolences to the Nagaoka Air Raid victims and to focus our thoughts on the restoration of the war devastated city. In 1951, this event was renamed the Nagaoka Festival with the revival of the *Shō-Sanjakudama* (3-foot-diameter shell fireworks).

Nagaoka Fireworks are always presented with the special thoughts of Nagaokans in memory of the Nagaoka Air Raid victims, in appreciation of our predecessors for their efforts in postwar restoration, and with our prayers for the pursuit of everlasting peace.

## Our Condolences and Our Wishes for Peace

The City of Nagaoka has designated August 1<sup>st</sup> as the Day for Everlasting Peace. This is the day for us to express our condolences to the Nagaoka Air Raid victims, to convey the preciousness of peace to future generations because we should not forget the misery of war devastation, and to share our thoughts with many people around the world. On this day we hold peace-related events at various locations in the city.

The evening of August 1<sup>st</sup> lively kicks the Nagaoka Festival off with what was formerly called the *Zenyasai* (the celebration on the first night), which was renamed the *Heiwasai* (the Peace Festival) in 2018 in order to express our wishes for peace.

## Peace-Related Events July 31<sup>st</sup>



Peace Memorial Forest Concert



Kakigawa  
Tôrô Nagashi  
(Releasing Memorial  
Lanterns on the Kaki River)

August 1<sup>st</sup>



## Presentation of Fireworks with Our Condolences

The Nagaoka Air Raid started at 10:30 p.m. on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945. At this memorial time every year, during the Nagaoka Festival on August 1<sup>st</sup>, three shots of purely white fireworks (1-foot-diameter fireworks shells) are solemnly shot up in expression of our condolences to war victims and with our prayers for everlasting peace. Temple bells also resound extensively throughout the city.

At the beginning of the Grand Fireworks Show on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, the fireworks in memory of war victims are presented.



Yûkyû Taiko Drumming



Echigo Nagaoka Mikoshi (Portable Shrine) Parade

## August 1<sup>st</sup>

### The Heiwasai (The Peace Festival)



Grand Folk Dance Parade

August 1<sup>st</sup>

### The Heiwasai (The Peace Festival)

Formerly called the *Zenyasai* (the celebration on the first night)  
*Yûkyû Taiko* Drumming, Parades, Grand Folk Dance Parade,  
and Echigo Nagaoka Mikoshi Parade

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Daytime Fureai Friendship Plaza

### Evening The Grand Fireworks Show

August 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Daytime Wampaku Omatsuri Hiroba (Romping Kids' Festival Plaza)

### Evening The Grand Fireworks Show

\*The Peace Festival and daytime programs are held on and around Ote Street.  
\*The Grand Fireworks Show is held on riverbanks of the Shinano (north of Chosei Bridge).



## August 2<sup>nd</sup> Fureai Friendship Plaza



## August 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Wampaku Omatsuri Hiroba (Romping Kids' Festival Plaza)



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