



Iwa-Key

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Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Iwa-Key



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Closure of Public Facilities over the New Year's Period

Most public facilities will be closed over the New Year's period from 28 December 2019 – 5 January 2020.

Closed from 28 Dec 2019 – 5 Jan 2020

- All Iwaki City Offices including City Hall, Branch Offices and Citizens Service Centres (Iwaki Station Citizens Service Centre open 10am-7pm on 26-28 Dec & 4 Jan, 10am-6pm on 5 Jan)*
- Waterworks Bureau

Closed from 29 Dec 2019 – 3rd Jan 2020

- All Iwaki City Gymnasiums and Sports Facilities (Shinmaiko Heights facilities will remain open)
- Iwaki City Cultural Centre, Lifelong Learning Plaza and Alios (Iwaki City Art Museum closed 28 Dec – 4 Jan)
- All Civic Centres and Community Halls
- All City Libraries (Iwaki City Library open 10am-6pm on 29 & 31 Dec and 2-3 Jan)
- Rubbish disposal facilities (the Northern and Southern Waste Disposal Centres will accept burnable rubbish on 30-31 Dec)

Medical Facilities

Iwaki City Medical Centre: Closed 28 Dec – 5 Jan

After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre: Open Weekdays: 8pm - 11pm.

Saturdays (including 28 Dec and 4 Jan): 8pm – 7am (next day).

Sundays: 2pm - 6pm, 7pm - 11pm.

Public Holidays (including 30 Dec - 3 Jan): 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 6pm, 7pm - 11pm.

TEL: 27-1208

Emergency Dental Care: Open 9am-noon and 1pm-4pm on 29 Dec and 31 Dec – 3 Jan (reception closes at 3:30pm)

TEL: 27-8620

Please inquire with all other facilities to confirm which days they are closed on.

*Notifications related to the family register (birth, death, marriage and divorce notifications) are still accepted 24 hours a day at City Hall and branch offices in Onahama, Nakoso, Joban, Uchigo, and Yotskura during this period.

Hashigonori Acrobatic Ladder Stunts by Firemen

Hashigonori is a traditional event dating back to the Edo Period that involves firemen performing acrobatic stunts on a 5.5m ladder. This event is held at the beginning of every year as part of the New Year's parade for Iwaki's firefighters.

This year, the Hashigonori will be held on **Sunday 5 January**. The following are some of the main venues where you can watch this performance:

Taira Fire Brigade

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Kanosaku Park (Chuodai) | 9:30am |
| Umega Nursery / Kitame Intersection | 9:30am |
| Yamanobe Fish Shop | 10:00am |
| Shiroyama Community Hall | 10:00am |
| Ito Yokado Shopping Centre | 10:45am & 3:00pm |
| Latov Shopping Centre | 10:45am & 3:00pm |
| AEON Iwaki Shopping Centre | 11:15am |
| Taira Fire Station | 3:30pm |

Uchigo Fire Brigade*

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Takenouchi, Miya-machi | 7:00am |
| Iwakialumi Inc. | 7:30am |
| Everia Shopping Centre | 12:50pm |
| Uchigo Community Centre | 1:30pm |
| Uchigo Fire Station | 5:00pm |

Both the Taira and Uchigo fire brigades will hold a joint performance at Taira Central Park (in front of Alios) at 11:50am.

*Here is a full list of where the Uchigo Fire Brigade will perform (Japanese version only):

<http://www.city.iwaki.lg.jp/www/contents/1001000002471/simple/utigou.pdf>

Inquiries:

General Affairs Division,
Iwaki Fire Service Headquarters
TEL: 0246-24-3940



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Iwaki City's Official Website: <http://www.city.iwaki.lg.jp/>

Iwaki International Association (IIA)

Official Website: <http://www.iaa-fukushima.or.jp>
TEL: 0246-22-7409 Email: info@iaa-fukushima.or.jp
(The IIA is also on Facebook and Twitter)

The Tourism Exchange
Division and the IIA are
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by, call, or e-mail us
anytime.



Iwaki Festivals and Events

| Event | When & Where | Details | Inquiries |
|--|---|--|---|
| Iwaki Cherry Blossom Illumination Festival | Sat 14 th Dec – Mon 13 th Jan; 5pm-11pm Main street in front of Iwaki Station, Taira | The trees lining the street of Taira's city centre will be lit up and appear like blooming cherry blossoms throughout December and early January. | Junior Chamber International Iwaki TEL: 0246-24-0780 |
| Aquamarine New Year's Events | Late December - Early January Aquamarine Fukushima, Onahama | Year of the Mouse Exhibitions: 28 th Dec – 13 th Jan / Scallop Fishing: 31 st Dec – 5 th Jan / Aquamarine Goods Lucky Bag Sale (only 100 available): 1 st Jan / Ebisu-Style Red Sea Bream Fishing: 4 th -5 th Jan, 11 th -13 th Jan. | Aquamarine Fukushima Email: amf@aquamarine.or.jp Web: http://www.aquamarine.or.jp/ |
| Nasu Animal Kingdom Petting Zoo | Tue 31 st Dec – Fri 3 rd Jan; 9am-4:30pm (last entry at 4pm) Warehouse next to Onahama Bishoku Hotel | Get up close and make friends with some of the animals from Nasu Animal Kingdom. You can enjoy petting or feeding rabbits and other cute animals and also have your photo taken with an alpaca or guinea pig. You can even have a parrot put a ¥100 coin in a box and then draw an <i>omikujifortune</i> slip for you. Entry into the petting zoo is ¥700 for adults and ¥300 for children up to high school age, but discounts are available for those who visit Aquamarine Fukushima on the day. | Aquamarine Fukushima Email: amf@aquamarine.or.jp Web: http://www.aquamarine.or.jp/ |
| Shiramizu New Year's Festival | Tue 31 st Dec; 11pm-2am (next day) Shiramizu Amida Temple, Uchigo | Lanterns made out of plastic bottles will light up a path to the main temple creating a magnificent scenery. | Assembly to Energise Shiramizu TEL: 0246-26-1496 |
| Hatsumode (First Shrine Visit of the New Year) | Wed 1 st Jan; From midnight Yotsukura Suwa Shrine and other shrines in Iwaki | Many Japanese take part in a midnight <i>hatsumode</i> shrine visit as soon as the New Year begins. Hot soup will be served at Yotsukura Suwa Shrine for free. | Yotsukura Suwa Shrine TEL: 0246-32-2485 |
| New Year's Day Festival | Wed 1 st Jan; From 6am, Yamato dance from 7:30am Akai Suwa Shrine, Taira | Several traditional dances are performed at this festival, including the yamato dance, which is a Designated Intangible Folk Culture Asset in Iwaki City and believed to have been passed down from Okunitama Shrine's Yamato Dance. | Iwaki Tourism and City Planning Bureau TEL: 0246-44-6545 |
| Iwaki La La Mew New Year's Events | Wed 1 st – Sat 4 th Jan Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama | Japanese Wadaiko Drum Performances: 1 st Jan from 9:30am and 11am / Free Sweet Red Bean Soup (limited to first 400 customers): 1 st Jan from 2pm. / Mochi Pounding (limited to first 500 customers): 2 nd Jan from 3pm / Lion Dance: 2 nd Jan from 11:30am and 1:30pm / Hula Tahitian Dance Show: 3 rd Jan from 11:30am and 1:30pm / Ukulele Super Live: Jan 4 th from 1pm. | Iwaki La La Mew TEL: 0246-92-3701 |
| Okunitama Shrine Torigoya Hut Burning Ritual | Wed 8 th Jan; Ceremony from 4pm, Ritual burning from 7pm Okunitama Shrine, Taira | <i>Torigoya</i> are small huts made of bamboo that are lit on fire at the beginning of each year. People usually put their New Year's ornaments or other good luck charms inside the <i>torigoya</i> to burn. It is said that if you eat mochi rice cakes that are roasted by the flames of the burning hut you will be free of illness for the whole year. | Okunitama Shrine TEL: 0246-34-0092 Web: http://ookunitama.jp/ |
| Onahama Suwa Shrine Events | Daruma doll market: Thu 9 th Jan from 9am; Purification ritual: Sun 12 th Jan from 6pm Onahama Suwa Shrine | Daruma dolls will be sold at the shrine on the 9 th . There will be a ceremonial burning of daruma dolls and New Year's ornaments after the purification ritual on the 12 th . | Onahama Suwa Shrine TEL: 0246-92-2656 |
| Konpira-sama Festival | Fri 10 th Jan Kotohira Shrine and surrounds, Yumoto, Joban | At this annual festival, several hundred thousand people come and pray for a happy and trouble-free year. Over 400 stalls will line the street from Yumoto Station all the way to the shrine. Shuttle buses will operate between the 21 st Century Forest Park's carpark and Yumoto Station for those coming by car. | Kotohira Shrine TEL: 0246-43-1001 Web: http://kotohira-iwaki.jp/ |
| B League Basketball Match | Game 1: Fri 10 th Jan from 6pm; Game 2: Sat 11 th Jan from 1:30pm Iwaki General Gymnasium, Taira | In this basketball match, the Fukushima Firebonds will play two home games against Tokyo Excellence. Free non-reserved seating on the second floor is available for local primary and junior high school students (you must tell the ticket sales staff your school name for free seating). Ticket prices vary for adults depending on seating. | Web: https://firebonds.jp/ticket-info/ |
| Okunitama Hatsune Festival | Mon 13 th Jan; From 6am, Chigo and yamato dances from 9am-11am Okunitama Shrine, Taira | This annual festival is dedicated to Daikoku-sama, the main god of Okunitama Shrine. Prayers for prosperous businesses as well as household peace will be made. The yamato dance and chigo dance, both designated as Intangible Folk Culture Assets in Iwaki City, will also be performed. | Okunitama Shrine TEL: 0246-34-0092 Web: http://ookunitama.jp/ |
| Numanouchi Water Festival | Mon 13 th Jan; From 1pm Numanouchi Community Hall, Taira | In this roughly 400-year-old festival known as <i>mizushugi</i> , newlywed local men wearing only a yukata have cold water poured on them three times. It is quite common for the bucket carrier to "accidentally" spill cold water on the spectators, so you may want to be prepared to get wet when attending the festival. | Iwaki Tourism and City Planning Bureau TEL: 0246-44-6545 |
| Winter Starwatching | Sat 25 th Jan, 6pm-8pm Takaku Community Hall, Taira | Enjoy viewing the winter night sky and catching sight of the Orion Constellation, the Milky Way and other various star clusters using a telescope. Participation is free and there is no need to apply in advance. Please bring your own binoculars, telescope and torch if you have any. | Iwaki Astronomy Club 0246-31-0541 |

*The event information above may be subject to cancellations or changes. Before attending any events, please confirm with the event sponsors in advance.