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Spectacular "Kiriko" Festivals in the Noto Region, of Ishikawa

Kiriko festivals are held in various communities within the Noto region of Ishikawa from July to September. A parade of *kiriko*, tall lantern-floats, which proceed *mikoshi*, a portable shrine, is spectacular in the summer night.

Each community's Kiriko Festival is unique. Among them, at the Nanao city Issaki Houtou Festival, two tons of lantern-floats are carried by the local men. In Wajima Festival, Wajima-lacquered gorgeous lantern-floats are paraded. In Togi-machi Saikai Festival, only women carry lantern-floats instead of men. In Ukawa Niwaka Festival, portraits of samurai-warriors painted on lantern-floats are spectacular. In Takojima Festival, lantern-float carriers wear colorful dresses.

Schedule of Major Kiriko Festivals:

August 2-3, Issaki Houtou Festival, Issaki, Nanao city

August 14, Saikai Festival, Futo and Kazanashi, Togi-machi

August 23-25, Wajima Festival, Wajima city

August 24, Gozare Festival, Yanagida Village

September 10-11, Takojima Kiriko Festival, Takojima-machi, Suzu city

September 14-15, Shoin Kiriko Festival, Shoin-machi, Suzu city

Please visit the web page, "Hot Ishikawa Tabi Net" at www.hot-ishikawa.jp/ for more information of traditional rituals and festivals, arts and crafts.

Ishikawa Alumni Association