



# Iwa-Key

Volume 25  
August 2019

## Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Iwa-Key



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### Evening Street Stalls at Kawamae Station

Whilst the summer festival crowds can be quite overwhelming for some, Kawamae offers a quiet retreat from the bigger festivals in Taira and other major urban centres of Iwaki. Located just 30 minutes by train from Iwaki Station, you can enjoy the outdoor pub, food stalls offering green pheasant croquette, and box-shaped paper lanterns designed by primary and junior high school students for at least 2.5 hours before getting the train back home.

**Date:** Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July, Fri 9<sup>th</sup>-Sun 11<sup>th</sup> August

**Time:** 4:15pm-8:45pm (last order at 8:15pm)

**Train Fare:** ¥500 one-way from Iwaki to Kawamae stations

#### Train Departure Times (arrival time in brackets):

Iwaki-Kawamae	Kawamae-Iwaki
3:42pm (4:11pm)	6:54pm (7:22pm)
5:50pm (6:18pm)	8:49pm (9:17pm)



#### Inquiries:

Kawamae Branch Office of Iwaki City Hall  
TEL: 0246-84-2111

### Enjoy the Summer in Iwaki via Free Shuttle Bus

Shuttle busses will run on the following days and times to some of Iwaki's summer hot spots that are usually difficult to access without private transport.

**Dates:** Sun 28<sup>th</sup> July, Sun 4<sup>th</sup> August and Sun 11<sup>th</sup>-Tue 13<sup>th</sup> August

**Departing from:** Iwaki Station (in front of Mister Donuts) and Yotsukura Station

**Passenger Capacity:** 20 people (reservation not required)

#### Bus Times

##### Iwaki/Yotsukura Sta. – Wonder Farm:

Iwaki Sta.	9:35am		
Yotsukura Sta.	10:00am	1:00pm	3:05pm
Yotsukura Beach	10:05am	1:05pm	
Hamakaze Kirara	10:15am	1:15pm	
Iwaki City Sea Dinosaur Centre	10:30am	1:30pm	
Iwaki City Ammonite Centre	10:35am	1:35pm	
Pico Blueberry Farm	10:45am	1:45pm	
Wonder Farm	10:55am	1:55pm	3:20pm

##### Wonder Farm – Iwaki/Yotsukura Sta.:

Wonder Farm	12:45pm	2:10pm	3:35pm
Pico Blueberry Farm		2:20pm	3:45pm
Iwaki City Ammonite Centre		2:30pm	3:55pm
Iwaki City Sea Dinosaur Centre		2:35pm	4:00pm
Hamakaze Kirara		2:50pm	4:15pm
Yotsukura Beach		3:00pm	4:25pm
Yotsukura Sta.	1:00pm	3:05pm	4:30pm
Iwaki Sta.			4:55pm

#### Inquiries:

Tourism Projects Division  
TEL: 0246-22-7480

### Jangara Performances during the Obon Period

One of the many highlights of summer in Iwaki is watching the jangara nenbutsu odori being performed across the city during the obon period (13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August). Jangara is traditionally performed during the obon period at the homes of people who have lost a relative over the last year. With over 100 different jangara groups in Iwaki, you should be able to hear the sounds of the jangara's bells and taiko drums wherever you go over those two days.

You can also watch jangara being performed at Kusano Shimpei's Birthplace from 11am for free and the Iwaki Museum of Folklore and Traditional Housing from 1:30pm (fee required) on 14<sup>th</sup> August. Other groups will be performing at various festivals throughout August, so there are plenty of chances to watch Iwaki's traditional jangara this summer.

**Note:** Remember to be respectful when watching jangara being performed outside someone's residence since it is a form of memorial service for the families.



Iwa-Key is produced by the Tourism Exchange Division of Iwaki City Hall

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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](mailto:info@iaa-fukushima.or.jp)  
(The IIA is also on Facebook and Twitter)

The Tourism Exchange Division and the IIA are open to the public. Please feel free to drop by, call, or e-mail us anytime.



# Iwaki Festivals and Events

Event	When & Where	Details	Inquiries
La La Mew Summer Events	Throughout July and August Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama	Ukulele Super Live: 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul from 1pm / Jangara Performance: 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug from 11am and 12pm / La La Mew Bon Odori: 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 4pm-8:30pm.	Iwaki La La Mew Website: <a href="http://www.lalamew.jp/">http://www.lalamew.jp/</a>
Onahama Marine Festival	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 10am-4pm Aquamarine Park, Onahama	You can try riding water sleds, jet skis and other types of boats. From the land, you can also enjoy the jet ski acrobatic show.	Iwaki Fireworks Festival Executive Committee TEL: 0246-53-5677
Nakoso Summer Festival	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 5:10pm-9pm Ueda Patio Street, Nakoso for Samba and Odori; Samegawa River Bank, Nakoso for Fireworks	Samba Parade: 5:10pm-5:50pm / Nakoso Iwaki Odori: 6pm-7:30pm / Nakoso Samegawa River Fireworks: 8pm-9pm.	Nakoso Summer Festival Executive Committee TEL: 0246-63-6521
Yotsukura Nebuta and Iwaki Odori	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 5:30pm-9pm Area between Yotsukura Port and Yotsukura Station	Up to a thousand dancers will parade alongside 10 Nebuta floats.	Yotsukura Chamber of Commerce TEL: 0246-32-2900
Numanouchi Shellfish Festival	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 8:30am-11am (numbered tickets handed out from 8am) Numanouchi Fishing Markets, Taira	The first 600 arrivals can try cooking and eating their own local surf clam for ¥500 (free for those of junior high school age or younger). You can also experience a fish auction or ride a fisherman's boat.	JF Iwaki City TEL: 0246-29-3565
Rainbow Trout Hand Catching Contest	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 9:30am-12:30pm Iwaki City Sea Dinosaur Centre, Ohisa	Try to catch rainbow trout with your hands and then eat it freshly charcoal-grilled (limit of 1 fish per person). Make sure to wear gloves and footwear that you don't mind getting wet.	Iwaki City Sea Dinosaur Centre TEL: 0246-82-2772
Shitoki Dam Festival	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 9:30am-3pm Shitoki Dam, Nakoso	In addition to regular festivities, you can also go on a boat ride around the dam.	Kawabe Community Hall TEL: 0246-64-7645
Geino Summit 2019	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul; 1pm-3:30pm Pedestrian overpass outside of LATOV (2F), Taira	Features performances by several Jangara groups, chigo dance and lion dance performances. This event is also a chance to watch Iwate's traditional demon sword dance.	Geino Summit Executive Committee Email: <a href="mailto:geinosummit@gmail.com">geinosummit@gmail.com</a>
Goldfish Hand Catching Contest	Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug; 6pm-8pm Area around Yumoto Station, Joban	Children up to primary school age can try catching goldfish with their hands in a giant pool set up in front of the station for free.	Yumoto Hot Springs Tourism Association TEL: 0246-42-4322
Onahama Iwaki Odori	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug; 5:10pm-8:45pm Kashima Highway (section between the Onahama Branch Office of Iwaki City Hall and AEON Mall Iwaki-Onahama)		Iwaki Fireworks Festival Executive Committee TEL: 0246-53-5677
Yappe Odori	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug; 7pm-9pm Area around Yumoto Station, Joban		Yumoto Hot Springs Tourism Association TEL: 0246-42-4322
Iwaki Fireworks Festival	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug; 7pm-9pm Aquamarine Park, Onahama	This is one of the largest fireworks festivals in the Tohoku Region, with over 10,000 individual fireworks arranged alongside music.	Iwaki Fireworks Festival Executive Committee TEL: 0246-53-5677
Folk Concert	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug; From 11:30am (doors open at 11am) Iwaki Pit, Taira		Iwaki Pit by Team Smile TEL: 0246-38-3826
Nakamachi Street Festival	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 1:30pm-7:30pm Nakamachi Shopping District, Yotsukura		Nakamachi Pedestrian Zone Executive Committee TEL: 0246-32-2406
Taira Tanabata Festival	Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> - Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 10am-9:30pm, Until 9pm on the 8 <sup>th</sup> Area around Iwaki Station, Taira		Taira Tanabata Festival Executive Committee TEL: 0246-25-9152
Kodane Shrine Festival	Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug; From 3pm Footbaths near Joban Branch Office of Iwaki City Hall		Yumoto Hot Springs Tourism Association TEL: 0246-42-4322
Iwaki Odori	Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 4:25pm-8:40pm Main Street in front of Iwaki Station, Taira		Iwaki Odori Executive Committee TEL: 0246-44-6545
Yunagaya Festival	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 3pm-9pm Kamiyunaqaya Park, Joban		Yumoto Hot Springs Tourism Association TEL: 0246-42-4322
Japan Beach Soccer Championship	Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug Yotsukura Beach		Tohoku Football Association TEL: 022-352-3720
Museum Night	Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 9am-7pm (last entry at 6:30pm) Iwaki Coal and Fossil Museum "Horuru", Joban	Local Products, Food Stalls and Night Tours (including a mystery guided tour): 10 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> / Make Accessories out of Dawn Redwood and Coal: 10 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> from 4pm / Jangara Performances: 11 <sup>th</sup> / Make a Cross-Sectional Sample of Ammonite: 11 <sup>th</sup> from 4pm / Summer Beer Garden: 11 <sup>th</sup> from 5pm.	Iwaki Coal and Fossil Museum Email: <a href="mailto:gakugei@iwaki-kankou.or.jp">gakugei@iwaki-kankou.or.jp</a>
Aquamarine Fukushima Summer Festival	Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> - Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug Aquamarine Fukushima, Onahama	Goldfish Sale: 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 10am-3pm and 4:30pm-7pm / Goldfish Festival and Fair: 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> , 4:30pm-7pm / Giant Goldfish Float: Light-up: Evening of 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> .	Aquamarine Fukushima Website: <a href="http://www.aquamarine.or.jp/">http://www.aquamarine.or.jp/</a>
Hama Summer Festival	Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 2:30pm-8:30pm (fireworks from 8pm) Hisanohama Fishing Port	The afternoon will feature live performances and food stalls followed by fireworks at night.	Hama Summer Festival Executive Committee Email: <a href="mailto:hamanatonatsumatsuri@gmail.com">hamanatonatsumatsuri@gmail.com</a>
Ena Port Revitalisation Project	Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> -Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 9:30am-8:30pm Ena Port, Onahama	Features all sorts of fun marine-themed events including kayak riding (limited to 10 people, registration required).	Ena Single Up Project Email: <a href="mailto:ena.singleupproject@gmail.com">ena.singleupproject@gmail.com</a>
Iwaki Rotating Tower Bon Odori Festival	Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> - Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 1pm-9pm on the 13 <sup>th</sup> , 5:30pm-9pm on the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> Area around Uchigo Station		Uchigo Chamber of Commerce TEL: 0246-26-1256
Kaikaku Temple Obon Odori	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> - Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 6pm-9pm Toyosan Kaikaku Temple, Yotsukura		Toyosan Kaikaku Temple TEL: 0246-32-2751
Yotsukura Repose of Souls and Revival Fireworks	Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 5pm-8:50pm (fireworks from 7:45pm) Yotsukura Beach		Yotsukura Branch Office of Iwaki City Hall TEL: 0246-32-2111
Yumoto Hot Springs Great Costume Bon Odori and Fireworks	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 6pm-9pm Onsen Street, Yumoto, Joban	Dress up in costume and join in this unique bon odori dance. If you apply as a team of 2 or more people, you could be in the running to win ¥50,000 in prize money (must apply by 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug).	Yumoto Hot Springs Tourism Association TEL: 0246-42-4322
Water Balloon Tournament	Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug Toyoma Beach, Taira	Participation fee is ¥3000 for your team. Apply online.	Website: <a href="http://japan-ma.com/form/">http://japan-ma.com/form/</a>
Hula Girls "Koshien" Contest	Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 10am-5pm Main Theatre inside Alios and Taira Central Park (in front of Alios)	High Schools from all across Japan will compete in this annual hula dance competition. You can watch the dances for free inside the Main Theatre or at the park outside, where there will also be food and drink stalls.	Hula Girls "Koshien" Contest Office TEL: 0246-68-8282
Natsui River Lantern Floating Festival	Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug; 6pm-8:30pm (fireworks from 7:45pm) Heijin Bridge (Natsui River Bank), Taira		Natsui River Lantern Floating Festival Executive Committee TEL: 090-4554-6123

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