

History

The Kurayami Festival is an ancient-style festival that has continued over several hundred years in Fuchu, a historic city. This festival features portable shrines carried during the night, which is said to provide new power to the gods. Around the festival period, Fuchu City is bustling with people.

This is part of a Kurayami Festival picture that was included in an Edo (Tokyo) attraction guidebook about 200 years ago. A five-page, large layout depicts people in a state of excitement and joy carrying portable shrines back to Okunitama-jinja with paper lanterns and bonfires lit at midnight.



"Picture of the May 5 Festival at the Rokusho Shrine" from "Edo Meisho Zue (Pictures of Famous Places in Edo)" At Fuchu City Kyodo-no-Mori Museum



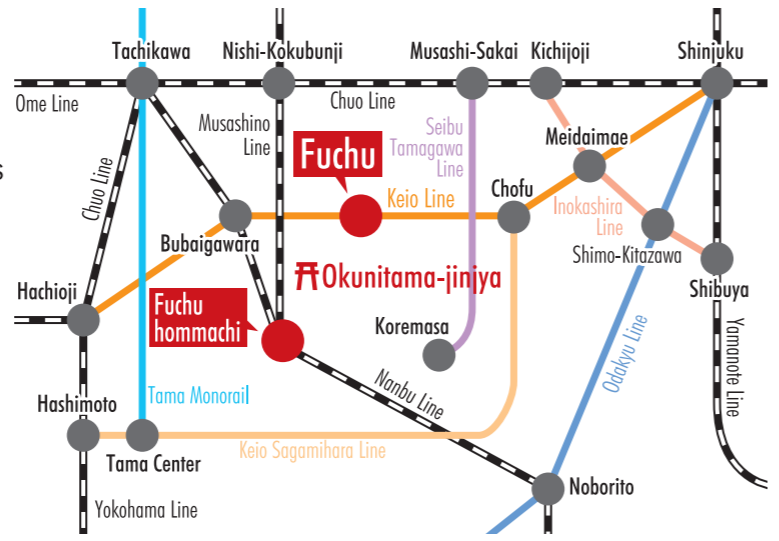
Okunitama-jinja

About 1,300 years ago, Fuchu became the seat of Musashinokuni provincial government, and Okunitama-jinja enshrined six other distinguished shrines of Musashinokuni province together under the direct control of the government. So, it had been called Rokushogu (Six Gods Shrine). The Kurayami Festival is the largest annual festival held at this shrine.

Access to Fuchu

Keio Line users
Approx. 20min., three stations on a special express from Keio Line Shinjuku Station

Visit Okunitama-jinja by taking a 5-min walk from Fuchu Station on the Keio Line or Fuchuhommachi Station on the JR Nambu Line or JR Musashino Line.



Use public transport to visit the Kurayami Festival

The essence of an old and still flourishing Japanese festival

KURAYAMI Festival

Sightseeing Guide (English)
May 3 through 5, 2023

Tokyo
Fuchu
From Keio Line Shinjuku Station
Approx. 20 min.



くらやみ祭

Highlights

The climax of the Kurayami Festival is the passage of 8 portable Shrines on May 5. However, around that time, from May 3 through 5, a wide variety of rituals are performed as below:

3
Wed



① Hayashi-no-Kyoen (festival music performance)

18:30 - Keyakinamiki Dori (Zelkova Tree Street)

You can enjoy Japanese traditional performing arts consisting of flute and drum music and dance performed on 22 decorated high-wheeled festival floats (stages).



② Komakurabe (horse-riding ritual)

20:00 - Kyu Koshu-kaido Ave.

Six horses gallop down the road one by one. It is said that this originated from examination of horses for offering to the ruler.

4
Thu



③ Taiko-no-Kyoen (drum performance)

17:00 - 18:00 In front of the Large Torii Gate

Performers bang six giant drums, which are deemed to purify the roads where the portable shrines are carried.



③ Manto Taikai (lantern-themed flower performance)

12:30 - 14:30
In front of the Large Torii Gate

Performers wave Manto (lantern-themed flowers) around.

①② Dashi Gyoretsu (float parade)

18:00 - 21:00 Kyu Koshu-kaido Ave. /
Keyakinamiki Dori (Zelkova Tree Street)

Until late at night, 22 festival music floats go back and forth along the old avenue.

5
Fri



④ Mikoshi Togyo (portable shrine parade)

18:00-21:00 (plan)
Haiden - Keyakinamiki Dori (Zelkova Tree Street)
- Kyu Koshu-kaido Ave. - Otabisho

At 6 p.m., preceded by six giant drums, eight portable shrines depart from Okunitama-jinja for Otabisho (their one night resting place).

At 4 a.m. of the next day, May 6, the portable shrines leave the Otabisho, tour the area, and return to Okunitama-jinja.



Map



- ① Hayashi-no-Kyoen**
18:30 -
Keyakinamiki Dori(Zelkova Tree Street)
- ② Komakurabe**
20:00 -
Kyu Koshu-kaido Ave.
- ③ Manto Taikai**
12:30 - 14:30
In front of the Large Torii Gate
- ③ Taiko-no-Kyoen**
17:00 - 18:00
In front of the Large Torii Gate
- ①② Dashi Gyoretsu**
18:00 - 21:00
Kyu Koshu-kaido Ave. /
Keyakinamiki Dori (Zelkova Tree Street)
- ④ Mikoshi Togyo**
18:00-21:00 (plan)
Haiden - Keyakinamiki Dori (Zelkova Tree Street)
- Kyu Koshu-kaido Ave. - Otabisho

There are traffic restrictions during the festival period.