

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage:33 Yama, Hoko, Yatai, float festivals in Japan  
Japan Heritage: Edo-era travelogue of four Hokuso cities, an excursion around Edo towns with traditional townscape filled with the nostalgic air of Edo.

Nationally-designated Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Property

Edo Masari 'Superior to Edo' Spirit

# Sawara Grand Festival



## Summer Festival

10 festival floats

Fri., Sat. & Sun., on the second or third weekend of July, when Friday first falls on a two-digit day.

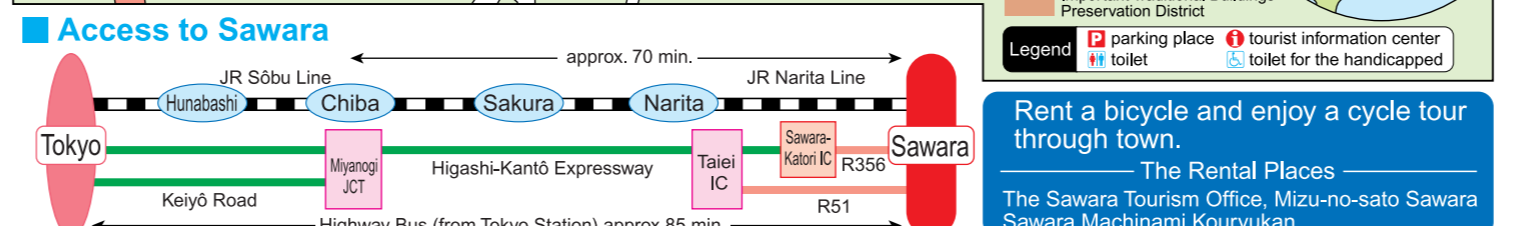
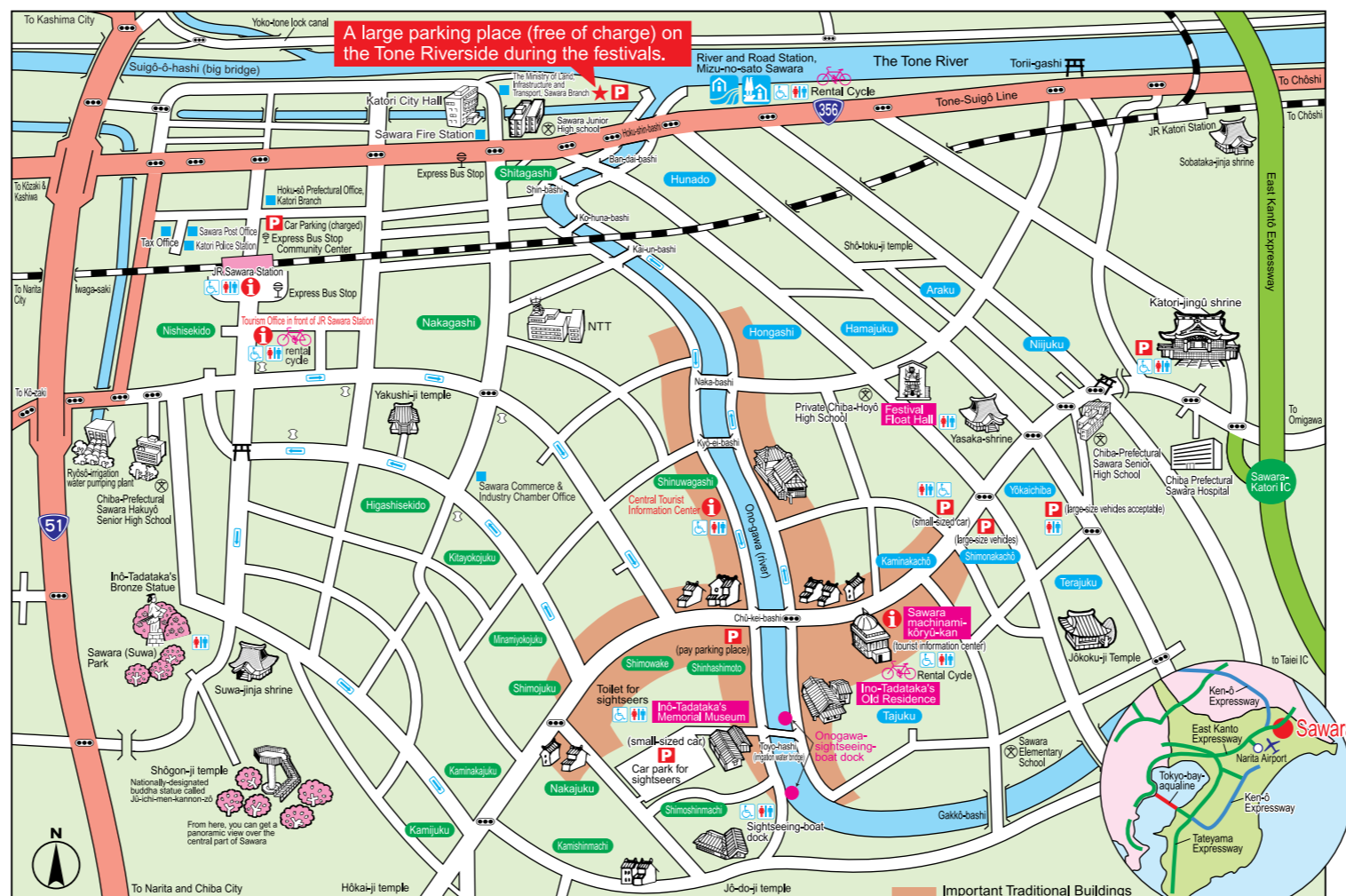


## Autumn Festival

15 festival floats

Fri., Sat. & Sun., on the second weekend of October

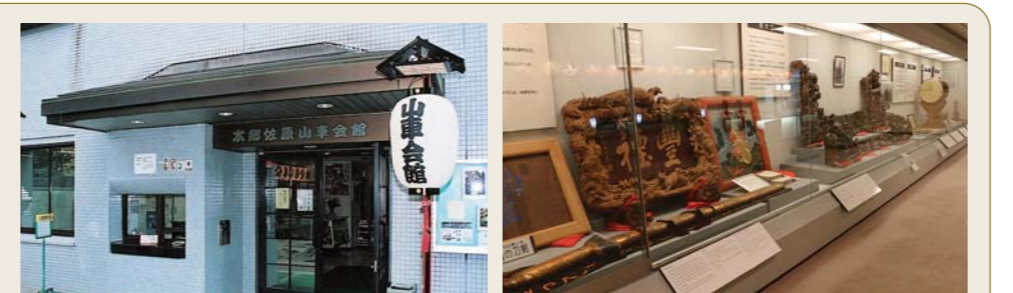
In case of emergency or bad weather, the schedule is subject to change. Before setting out, please make sure the festival is under way.



## The Beauty of Tradition, Japan No. 1 Floats on display Suigô Sawara Dashi Kaikan



Two floats on display seen up close. The one drawn in July and the other in October are changed once a year. Each figure shows off its real power and strongly appeals to visitors.



**Open Hours**  
9:00 ~ 16:30, (closed on Monday or the day after Monday is a national holiday)  
9:00 ~ 20:30, open during the period of summer & autumn festivals  
Open every day during the period of Ayame Festival in June

**Transportation Access to Sawara**  
By JR Narita Line: 15-minute walk after getting off at JR Sawara Station  
By Car (From Tokyo): turn off the Higashi-Kanto Speedway at Sawara-Katori IC, and drive on about 5 min.

**admission fee**  
individual adult 400 yen elementary and junior high students 200 yen  
group of adults (15 people and over) 350 yen elementary and junior high students 150 yen

**Buy a discount special ticket equally valid at Float Museum & Inô Tadataka Memorial Museum**  
adult 800 yen elementary & junior high students 350yen

**The annual passport available at the following facilities.**  
Buy the annual passport valid for admission to the three facilities (Suigo Sawara ayamepark, Suigo Sawara festival float hall and Inô Tadataka Memorial museum) all through year as often as you can and get certain gifts from shops under the sponsorship.  
adult 2,000 yen elementary & junior high students 1,000 yen

〒287-0003 4368 Sawara, Katori City, Chiba Prefecture (in the precincts of Yasaka Shrine) TEL0478-52-4104 <http://www.city.katori.lg.jp/sightseeing/matsuri/dashiikaikan/index.html>

Please contact for inquiries to: Katori-shi Shô-kô-kankô-ka Sawara-no-taisai-jikkô-iin-kai NPO Machi-okoshi Sawara-no-taisai shinkô-kyôkai address □2127 Sawara, Katori City, Chiba Prefecture TEL0478-54-1111(main phone No.) <http://www.city.katori.lg.jp/sightseeing/matsuri/index.html> 2017.4 20,000

## Nintoku tennô (Minamiyokojuku)

Made in Taishô 14th year (1925) by Yasumoto-Kamehachi III.  
Looking down from the highest tower, how pleasant I feel to see the smoke rising from the kitchen of every home! This waka-song was written by Emperor Nintoku, the 16th tennô. He is said to have reduced taxes from the suffering folks.



**Jinmu (Hunado)**  
Made in Meiji 20th year (1887) by Hara-shûgetsu III.  
According to the accounts of mythology, Kojiki and Nihon-shoki, Jinmu-tennô ascended the throne as the first Emperor of Japan after he suppressed all protesting gods. Another figure of Jinmu-tennô sits on the float of Nakagashi-block.

**A colored woodblock print of a hero Chô-jun (good swimmer likened to river fish) breaking down the watergate**  
From 'Suiko-den' (a Chinese picaresque),



## The wood carvings attached to the four sides of the float

The wood-carvings made of hard keyaki (Japanese zelkova) wood are attached around the floats. This style of carving is called 'Kantô-bori.' Most of the carvings around the floats were produced by notable master-sculptors of Edo. The scenes are from popular myths of Japan, war tales, legends and Chinese historical stories besides dragons, flowers, birds, lions, and other objects. Especially, the features of each character are lively and vividly expressed.



**Shimoshinmachi**  
Bunkyû 2nd year (1862)  
Carved by Ishikawa-Sannosuke  
Group of heroes of color print originally drawn by Utagawa-Kuniyoshi are carved in wood by Ishikawa-Sannosuke. The best scenes from stories of 'Suiko-den' are brilliantly expressed around the float.

**An elaborately carved dragon on a pillar of the float of Nishi-Sekido block**  
Kaei Years (1848-1854)  
Carved by Ishikawa-Tôkichi-Tomomitsu IV



**Yôkaichiba**  
Produced in Meiji 21st year (1888) by Komatsu-Jûtarô-Mitsushige and Mitsuharu  
The whole scenes around the float are from the stories 'Taikô-ki (the life story of Toyotomi-Hideyoshi)'. The wood-carvings show Toyotomi-Hideyoshi and his followers, Takenaka-Hanbei, Katô-Kiyomasa and others. This photo is Katô-Kiyomasa.