



## March

### *Hina Matsuri (Koshu City)*

A magnificent display of traditional Japanese dolls, designated an important cultural heritage, at Kanzo Yashiki, the splendid former residence of the Takano family.

### *House Momoen (Fuefuki City)*

House Momoen has the earliest blooming peach blossoms in Japan. A garden with seats and entertainment, you can bring your own picnic and sit under the flowers.

## April – Cherry Blossom Season

### *Shingen Ko-Matsuri (Kofu City)*

The largest festival in Yamanashi, in celebration of famous warrior Takeda Shingen.

The battle reenactment involves a parade of over 1500 people.

### *Kawanakajima Living Picture Scroll Reenactment (Fuefuki City)*

A reenactment of the battle of Kawanakajima, one of the most significant events in Japanese history. Hundreds of people gather by the riverside in full armor for the battle. All adults are welcome to participate!

## May – Cherry Picking Season

### *Fuji Shiba-sakura Festival (Lake Kawaguchiko)*

A huge field of over 800,000 shibazakura or moss phlox blooms in May, a spectacular display of pinks and purples, with a stunning view of Mt Fuji in the distance.

## June – Corn Picking Season, Flower Season

### *Herb Festival (Lake Kawaguchiko)*

Fields full of lavender on the shores of Lake Kawaguchiko.

### *Suzuran Village Festival (Fuefuki City, Ashigawa Town)*

Suzuran, or lily of the valley, blooms most beautifully in June. Stalls selling food and local products appear for those coming to view the flowers.

## July – Fruit Picking Season

### *Akeno Sunflower Festival (Hokuto City)*

Over 60,000 sunflowers cover the plateaus of the mountains around the Heidi Village in Hokuto, which has the longest sunlight hours in Japan. A summer must see.

### *Yatsugatake Horse Show (Hokuto City)*

A horse-riding performance including archery and jumping through flaming hoops.

## August – Fireworks Season

### *Yoshida Fire Festival (Fuji Yoshida City)*

One of the three “strangest festivals” in Japan. Torches outside every home are set alight, making the entire city glow and commemorating the end of Fuji climbing season.

### *Shinmei Fireworks Festival (Ichikawamisato Town)*

Famous across Japan for its firework production, Ichikawamisato holds a magnificent fireworks display along the river, so big it can be seen all across the Kofu basin.

## September

### *Festival of Birth (Yamanakako)*

A well-known traditional festival around Japan. To pray to the gods for fertility and safe births, portable shrines are carried through the streets during the late evening.

## October – Grape Picking Season

### *Grape Festival (Koshu City)*

24 different wineries in Katsunuma invite visitors to taste their wines for free. There are performances and stalls to enjoy, before finishing the day with fireworks.

### *Paul Rusch Festival (Hokuto City)*

An American-style County Fair, held in honor of Paul Rusch, a missionary from Kentucky who introduced highland dairy farming to the area.

## November – Autumn Leaves Season

### *Kawaguchiko Autumn Leaves Festival (Kawaguchiko)*

The red-orange leaves of autumn are stunning all across Japan, but Kawaguchiko Lake, with Mt Fuji in the distance, is thought to be one of the best locations to see them.

### *Nouveau de Kampai (Fuefuki City)*

A weekend of wine-related events, from wine lounges to seminars, with parties and plenty of different wines to try.

## December – End of Year Season

### *Yoshida Hataori Festival (Fujiyoshida City)*

Fujiyoshida City has a long history of cloth-making, dating back to the Edo period. At this festival, cloth banners hang over the streets, during two days of music and food.

### *Hatsumode at Takeda Shrine (Kofu City) [first days of January]*

Hatsumode is the ceremonial visiting of a shrine to welcome in the New Year. Takeda Shrine is a beautiful location in the winter, a perfect location to receive your fortune.

## January – Strawberry Picking Season

### *Kawaguchiko Winter Firework Festival (Kawaguchiko)*

Fireworks are usually a summer event in Japan, but when Mt Fuji is at its most beautiful, who doesn't want to visit Kawaguchiko and see the fireworks over the lake?

## February

### *Kuonji Setsubun (Minobu)*

Kuonji is the head temple of the Nichiren Sect of Buddhism, an important religious site. It is one of the best locations for Setsubun, the New Year's celebrations according to the old calendar, when demons are expelled and good luck ushered in.

### *Ice Candles (Yamanakako)*

Thousands of candles, each in their own unique ice lanterns, line the shores of Lake Yamanakako. When the sun sets over Mt Fuji, it creates an illusion known as Diamond Fuji, made all the more beautiful by the ice candles below.

Thanks to Mr Otagiri from the Yamanashi Tourism Organization for the photos and information!

