

The Chichibu Night Festival, or Chichibu Yomatsuri, traces its origins to ancient times as a form of worship dedicated to Mount Bukō. It is said to have evolved into today's grand event between 1660 and 1700, when Chichibu prospered as a center of silk production.

According to legend, the festival celebrates the annual reunion of the male deity of Mount Bukō and the female deity of Chichibu Shrine, who come together to enjoy a joyful night once a year. To celebrate that, on the morning of December 3, magnificent festival floats (yatai and kasaboko) from six neighborhoods set off toward Chichibu Shrine. After the main Shinto ceremony, all the floats, accompanied by a sacred procession, depart from the shrine toward the Otabisho, located about one kilometer away, a sacred site where the deities are welcomed and honored through traditional rituals.

The festival is known for its magnificent floats, lively drum and flute music, and traditional kabuki performances that bring the streets to life. As night falls, colorful fireworks light up the winter sky, adding magic to the celebration.

Rich in tradition and spectacle, the Chichibu Night Festival is a truly unforgettable experience that continues to fascinate visitors from around the world.



Chichibu Visitor's Guide





Official Instagram of Chichibu City

