

Yokote Snow Festival

Kamakura Snow Huts



Bonden Figures

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Yokote City Designated Intangible Folk Property
Kamakura Snow Huts February 15 (Wed) and 16 (Thu)
Bonden Figures February 16 (Thu) and 17 (Fri)

The contents of this event may change depending on the situation. Please see the website of the Yokote City Tourism Association for details.

HP



Inquiries : Yokote City Tourism Association ☎0182-33-7111

Kamakura (Snow Hut)



Yokote in Akita Prefecture is located in northern Japan and is a heavy snowfall area.

Kamakura (snow hut) Festival is a traditional lunar calendar event that is held every year on February 15 and 16.

The Kamakura Festival has a history of around 450 years and is famous as a leading winter festival of Tohoku. An altar is built in each kamakura, and the God of Water is worshipped there.

30 tons of snow are necessary to make a single kamakura. Inside the kamakura, children entertain visitors by offering toasted Omochi (rice cakes) and Amazake (a sweet drink made from fermented rice).



Information & Articles in English ▶▶▶



Bonden



A “Bonden” refers to a big object in shape of *gohei* (a wand with plaited paper streamers in Shinto) where divine spirits are drawn. *Bonden* are imbued with various prayers (e.g. for a bumper crop, peace and prosperity in the household or a thriving business) and then dedicated to the Asahi Okayama Shrine every year on February 17. The *bonden* of Yokote are characterized by their unprecedented size, elegance and gorgeousness. The length of their poles are about 4.3 m. A cylindrical bamboo basket with a diameter of about 90 cm is attached to the head of the pole and colorful “*sagari*” (fabrics and hemp yarns), *shimenawa* (ropes used to cordon off consecrated areas), *shide* (paper streamers) and headbands are attached to it. Furthermore, ornaments designed with the Chinese zodiac, dolls or something similar are placed on the top of *bonden*. The overall size of a *bonden* well exceeds 5 m and it weighs more than 30 kg.



Event Information



Kamakura Snow Huts

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Wed) and 16 (Thu)

A Venue in front of Yokote City Hall Main Building

B Yokote Park Venue



Mini Kamakura Snow Huts

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Wed) and 16 (Thu)

C Janosaki River Bed

Milky Way on Earth with 3,500 mini *kamakura* snow huts.

D Yokote Minami Elementary School

Mini *kamakura* snow huts built by children.



Snow Art

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Wed) and 16 (Thu)

E・F Komyoji Park and throughout the rest of the city

You can see snow art which adds beauty to the snow festival.

Please take a look at the snow sculptures created by neighborhood associations and companies.



Bonden Figure Competition

Around 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on February 16 (Thu)

The Bonden Figure Competition will be held in front of Yokote City Hall Main Building on February 16.

Luxurious and gorgeous *bonden* figures will be brought together from around the city on the day to compete over the workmanship of the head ornaments and the overall level of their completion.



Asahi Okayama Shrine Bonden Figure Offering Festival

Scheduled to be held during the morning on February 17 (Fri)

The Asahi Okayama Shrine Bonden Figure Offering Festival will be held on February 17.

Young men of Yokote will deliver various wishes for safety in town, prosperous business and a bountiful harvest from people together with *bonden* figures.



Kamakura Snow Hut Photo Event

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on February 14 (Tue)

Houses and Gardens of Kido Gorobei Village (Omonogawa)

**Only the Kamakura Snow Hut Photo Event will be held on February 14*

One-way fare : 500 yen

Kamakura Snow Hut Photo Event Bus (One-way: approx. 40 minutes)



Yokote City Hall Civic Square

Kido Gorobei Village

3:30 p.m. departure

7 p.m. departure

*You will need a ticket to ride the bus.

*The traveling time may vary slightly depending on the weather and traffic conditions.

*You may not be able to ride the bus if it is full.

Sales office: General Information Counter on the 1F of Kamakura Museum

Inquiries: ☎0182-33-7111 (Yokote City Tourist Association)

Warm up with Tasty Food from Yokote!

Hokkori Yokocho (Kamakura Snow Hut Sponsor Product Exhibition)

There will be a full lineup of food from Yokote including Yokote yakisoba fried noodles! Why don't you warm up with tasty food from Yokote while enjoying *kamakura* snow huts?

Tasty food awaits those who want to warm up their cold bodies and fill up their empty stomachs.

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Wed)

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 16 (Thu)

Venue: Roadside Park in front of Komyoji Park (Refer to the map)

Kamakura Snow Hut Winter Market

Large Gathering of the Food and Experiences of Akita!

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 15 (Wed) and 16 (Thu)

Venue: Y2 Plaza Open Space

Organizer: Yokote City Tourism Promotion Organization

Scan here for details



Streets of Masuda



Scan here for information on the Streets of Masuda



Masuda Town Tourist Agency



Scan here for information on the Manga Museum



Yokote Masuda Manga Museum

*Getting here

From Narita:

From Narita airport, take the shuttle to Haneda Airport (approx. 85 mins.).

Then from Haneda, fly to Akita Airport (approx. 60 mins.).

From Akita Airport, shuttles are available to take you to Yokote (approx. 75 mins.).

From Tokyo Station:

From Tokyo Station, take the Akita Shinkansen “Komachi” to Omagari (approx. 3 hrs). Then from Omagari, take a local train to Yokote (approx. 20 mins.).

Yokote,
Akita Prefecture

