



横手のまつり

Yokote Snow Festival

BONDEN

KAMAKURA

Intangible Folk Cultural Property Designated
by Yokote City in Akita Prefecture

2025

Kamakura Snow Huts
February 15 (Sat) and 16 (Sun)
Bonden Figures
February 16 (Sun) and 17 (Mon)



Inquiries: Yokote City Tourism Association TEL: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.

Kamakura 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 worships the God of Water.

30 tons of snow is necessary to make one kamakura. It has a diameter of approximately 4 meters and a height of 3 meters.

Inside kamakura, children entertain the visitors by offering toasted Mochi (rice cake) and Amazake (a sweet drink made from fermented rice).



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 Asahiokayama 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 (Sat) and 16 (Sun)
- A** Venue in front of Yokote City Hall Main Building
- B** Former Katano Residence (Akari Art Festival)
- C** Yokote Park Venue
- D** Futaba-cho



Mini Kamakura Snow Huts

- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Sat) and 16 (Sun)
- E** Janosaki River Bed
Milky Way on Earth with 3,500 mini kamakura snow huts.
- F** Yokote Minami Elementary School
Mini kamakura snow huts built by children.



Snow Art

- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Sat) and 16 (Sun)
- G·H** Komyoji Park and throughout the rest of the city
Snow art adds beauty to the snow festival. Please come and see the snow sculptures made by neighborhood associations, companies and organizations.

Bonden Figure Competition

- Around 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on February 16 (Sun)
- The Bonden Figure Contest will be held in front of the Yokote City Hall Main Building. 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.



Asahiokayama Shrine Bonden Figure Offering Festival

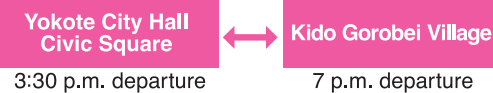
- Scheduled to be held during the morning on February 17 (Mon)
- Young men of Yokote will deliver various wishes for safety in town, prosperous business and a bountiful harvest from people together with bonden figures. *The photos here are for illustrative purposes only.



Kamakura Snow Hut Photo Event

- 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on February 14 (Fri)
- Kidogorobei Village (Omono River Region)
- *You can take photographs of the kamakura (snow huts) with local children inside them.
*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)



*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: Kamakura Museum 1F Office
Inquiries: 0182-33-7111 (Yokote City Tourism 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.



11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Sat)

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

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

Café in an Old Japanese-style House "IDEHA CHAYA"

A koji (malted rice) shop built in the Meiji period (1868 to 1912) has been renovated into an old Japanese-style house and is now open as a cafe! In addition, the café also sells Yokote specialties and other items. Please make sure to stop by.

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Sat) and 16 (Sun)

Venue: Koujian (Kaji-machi) TEL:0182-36-0803

Ao-na Event Information

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 15 (Sat) and 16 (Sun) Treat Yourself to Amazake (Sweet Half Sake)

Mini kamakura (snow hut) building experience, botanical candle making workshop and more will be held at this event!

Venue: Ao-na (See the map) TEL:0182-32-2662

There are no parking lots in the area around the kamakura (snow huts) venue. Please use the Loop Bus or the Parking Lot Bus. Please understand that the details are subject to change depending on the snowfall and other conditions.

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

