



雪の横手のまつり

YOKOTE SNOW FESTIVAL

Yokote City-Designated Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Kamakura (Snow Huts) and Snow Art

February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

"Each year, the schedule is updated."

Bonden Figures

February 16 (Mon) and 17 (Tue)

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



Kamakura (Snow Hut)



Yokote City, located in a heavy snowfall region of northern Japan's Akita Prefecture, hosts the Yokote Kamakura Festival every year on February 15 and 16. This 450-year-old tradition, considered one of Tohoku's premier winter events, originated as a lunar calendar ritual to worship the God of Water.

Each massive Kamakura (snow hut) requires roughly 30 tons of snow to construct, standing 3 meters high with a diameter of 4 meters. Inside, locals welcome visitors with warm hospitality, offering toasted Mochi and Amazake (Sweet Rice Drink).

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 4.3m. A cylindrical bamboo basket with a diameter of about 90cm 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 5m and it weights more than 30kg.

Streets of Masuda



Scan here for information on the Streets of Masuda



Masuda Town Tourist Agency

Yokote Masuda Manga Museum



Scan here for information on the Manga Museum



Yokote Masuda Manga Museum

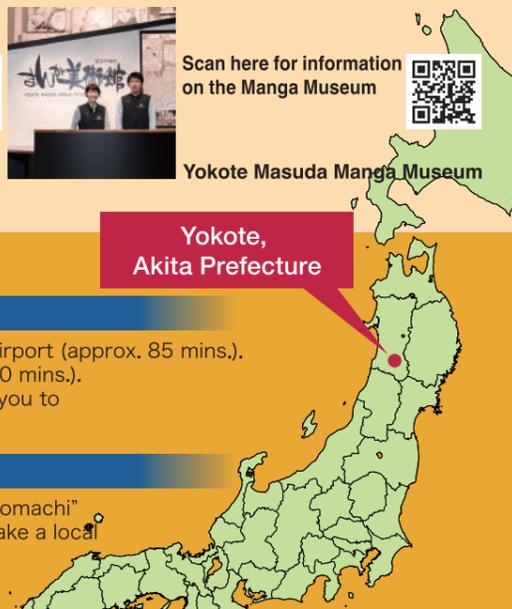
*Getting here

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.).



Event Information

Kamakura Snow Huts

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

- A Yokote City Hall (in Front of the Main Building)
- B Former Katano Residence (Akari Art Festival)
- C Yokote Park
- D Futaba-cho



Mini Kamakura Snow Huts

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

- E Janosaki River Bed
Experience the "Milky Way on Earth" featuring 3,500 illuminated mini snow huts along the river.
- F Yokote Minami Elementary School
View a heartwarming display of mini kamakura snow huts handcrafted by local children.



Snow Art

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

- G-H etc. Komyoji Park and throughout the rest of the city

Snow art brings a unique beauty to our festival. We invite you to come and see the stunning snow sculptures created by local neighborhood associations, companies, and organizations.



Bonden Figures

Bonden Figure Competition

Around 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on February 16 (Mon)

The *Bonden* Figure Contest will be held in front of the Yokote City Hall Main Building. Ornate and magnificent *bonden* figures from across the city will be gathered to compete for the best craftsmanship, judged on their intricate head ornaments and overall quality of completion.

Asahiokayama Shrine *Bonden* Figure Offering Festival
Scheduled to be held during the morning on February 17 (Tue)

Young men of Yokote will carry the people's wishes for safety, business prosperity, and a bountiful harvest, delivering them together with the *bonden* figures.



The images published are for illustrative purposes only.

Kamakura Snow Hut Photo Event

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on February 12 (Thu)

Kidogorobei Village (Omono River Region)

Get a great photo! Join locals inside the cozy *kamakura* (snow huts) for memorable pictures.
*Only the *Kamakura* (Snow Hut) Photo Event will be held on February 12.

One-way fare: 1000 yen **Kamakura Snow Hut Photo Event Bus** (One-way: approx. 40 minutes)

Yokote City Hall Civic Square
3:30 p.m. departure

Kido Gorobei Village
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: 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 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

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

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

This is a café in an old Japanese-style house. It was renovated from a *koji* (malted rice) shop built in the Meiji period (1868 to 1912). In addition to hot drinks, the café also sells Yokote specialties and other items. Please make sure to stop by.

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

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

Ao-na Event Information

February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

- Mini *Kamakura* (Snow Hut) Making Experience (Participation: Free) 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Treat Yourself to *Amazake* (Sweet Rice Drink) (While supplies last) 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

16th Yokote Kamakura Winter Storytelling Event

Sharing Stories about the Good Old Days of Our Hometown

Storytellers: Yokote Furusato Storytelling Association
Toppinparari no Pu

February 14 (Sat) From 12:30 p.m. (Admission: Free)

Venue: 2F Hall, Kamakura Museum

Former Katano Residence Event Information

The Former Katano Residence, a nationally registered tangible cultural property, is located on a former samurai residence street. A *kamakura* (snow hut) will be placed in the garden inside and old Snow Festival posters will be exhibited in the brick storehouse.

February 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat)

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Venue: Former Katano Residence (Map B)

Yokote Kizuna Project

February 13 (Fri) 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

February 14 (Sat) 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.



There is lots of fun to be had here with events including Yukinko Kizuna-chan's *kamakura* (snow hut), food trucks and a *namahage taiko* (drum) performance!

Venue: Special Event Area at the West Exit of Yokote Station

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