

IWATE MORIOKA

Sansa Odori Festival

Aug. 1, 2, 3 and 4



The parade will be held as scheduled even in the event of light rain.

Venue: approx. 1km-long street parade route on Chuôdôri street (in front of the Iwate Prefectural Government Building), Morioka City

Starts at 6 pm [Parade and Wa-odori(Dancing-in-a-circle)]



Sansa Odori Festival

Dankon! Darascodan! (the sound of the Sansa drum's drumming)
To the World's Largest Drum Parade
Accompaniment
Dance! Dance with Us!

**Anyone
Can Join!**

■ The Origin of Sansa Odori and Iwate

'Sansa Odori Dance' originates from the 'Mitsuishi Legend'.

A long time ago, in Morioka castle town, an oni (demon) named 'Rasetsu' was terrorizing the local people. Being at a total loss as what to do, they prayed to the deity Mitsuishi-kami to rid them of the demon.

Mitsuishi-kami heard their prayers, caught the demon and made him pledge to never trouble the people again by making the demon leave his handprint on the rocks located at Mitsuishi Shrine.

This legend 'Oni no tegata' or 'Demon's handprint on the rocks' explains the origin of the name Iwate (rock · hand).

In addition, the locals rejoicing at the dispelling of the demon danced around the Mitsuishi Stones shouting 'Sansa, Sansa', which is also said to be the beginning of the 'Sansa Odori' dance.

The traditional Sansa Odori dance has been carefully handed down from the Nanbu period to today and has been designated as one of Morioka's Intangible Cultural Properties.

Guinness
World
Records
Certificate

The World's Largest Drum Parade



The reverberant drumming sounds and dancing under the night sky shaking the ground on the 1 km-route of Morioka's main street is the best part of the parade.



Guinness World Records Certificate authorizing the world's largest concurrent performance of Japanese drums

On June 10, 2007, the people of Morioka attempted the world record for concurrent performance of Japanese drums at the Morioka Racecourse 'ORO Park' and it was officially recognized by Guinness World Records Ltd. as the largest in the world.

Traditional Sansa Odori Dance Parade and Special Performances

In and around Morioka City, there are more than ten 'Traditional Sansa Odori' groups.

The arrangement of each group's dancing and their traditional costumes vary from district to district. During the Sansa Odori Festival period, in addition to each day's parade, you can see the local Sansa performances from various districts put on by the 'Traditional Sansa Odori Conservation Society' at other venues such as the Morioka Shimin Bunka Hall (Malios Bldg.) just west of the JR Morioka Station and Taki no Hiroba (JR Morioka Station Square).



Miss Sansa Odori Dancers

Miss Sansa Odori' dancers clad in colorful kimonos lead the parade dancing beautifully at its front. Each year, five beautiful and bright young ladies are chosen as Miss Sansa Odori from the local population and they actively play an important role in the exchange of friendship both inside and outside Morioka City throughout the year as well as the Sansa Odori Festival period.



Sansa Taiko Group

The parade is colorfully enlivened by an approx. 50-member group including 'Miss Taiko', 'Miss Yokobue' and 'Utakko-musume', who are chosen from applications open to the local public.

To the tune of the dynamic drumming and rhythmical fluting, Utakko-musume sing 'When dancing Sansa, dance elegantly, and We will be taken to be an elegant bride.'

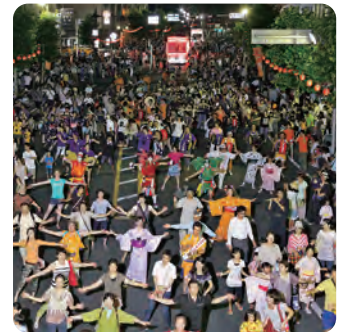


Large Parade of Men and Women of All Ages

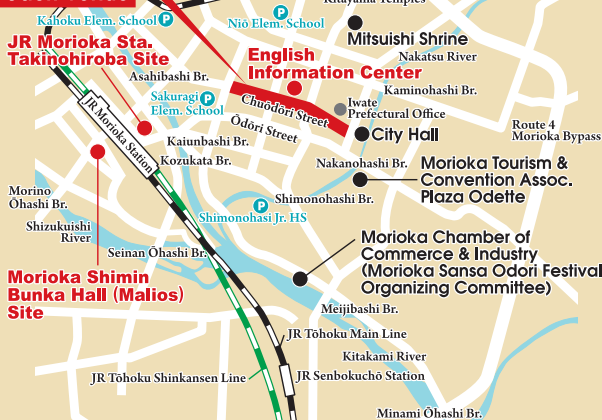
'Miss Sansa' dancers and 'Sansa Taiko' group are followed by a succession of large Sansa groups of child dancers as well as large groups of dancers from local traditional Sansa groups, firms, district associations and schools. This dynamic and magnificent parade proceeds before a large audience.

Come, See, Be Fascinated by and Join Sansa Odori

Only watching the 'Festival' is fun, but the true joy is in taking part with the members in the 'Sansa'. 'Sansa Oherense-shishō', a dancing instructor in Sansa Odori, will gesture for you to join the parade while teaching you how to dance Sansa Odori. Jump in the day's parade group 'Ippan-sanka Sansa Group' which anyone can join regardless of what you are wearing, and dance with us!



Sansa Parade & Wa-odori Venue



(20-minute walk from JR Morioka Station to the Parade venue)

Temporary Parking Lots (Only for Out-of-City Visitors) During the Sansa Festival Period

Free temporary parking is available for standard-sized cars only at the following school grounds: Sakuragi Elementary School, Niō Elementary School, Shimonohashi Junior High School and Kahoku Elementary School.

Morioka Sansa Odori • Parade Route

- 6:00 pm Parade starting time from in front of City Hall
- Approx. 8:30 pm ... Wa-odori (Dancing-in-a circle) starts successively in groups from in front of the Prefectural Government Building. Anyone, please freely join the Wa-odori.
- 9:00 pm Wa-odori finishing time

※ In case of cancellation due to heavy rain, Sansa Odori Dance performances will be held from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Morioka Shimin Bunka Hall (Malios Bldg.) just west of JR Morioka Station.

Parade & Wa-odori (Dancing-in-a circle)

- ◎ **Venue:** approx. 1km-long street parade route on Chuōdōri street (in front of the Prefectural Government Bldg.), Morioka City
- ◎ **Date and time:** Aug. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (from 6 pm to 9 pm)
- ◎ **A total of 230 groups of approx. 34,000 participate over 4 days**

● The large Sansa Odori Parade starts at 6:00 pm sharp.

Miss Sansa dancers and groups of the Sansa drummers & dancers colorfully parade. The parade is enlivened by traditional Sansa group dancers, beautifully decorated floats and citizens' dance groups. It's really worth seeing.

● Wa-odori (Dancing-in-a circle) you can taking part in and experience.

(At approx. 8:30 pm starts successively from groups in front of the Prefectural Government Bldg.)

Wa-odori including traditional Sansa Odori dances will be held at the seven sites along the parade route simultaneously.

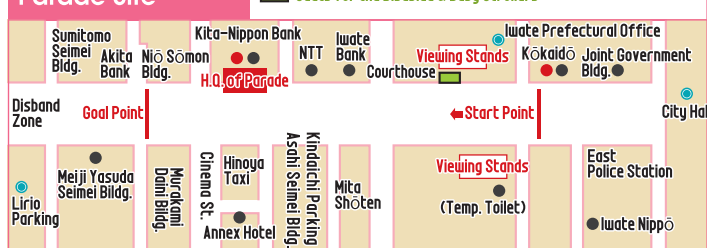
● The largest drum parade in the world and large Wa-odori [Aug.4, the final day]

The Aug. 4th Parade includes child Sansakko dancers, and the dance groups who won the previous year's highest and outstanding performance awards respectively.

Also, you can see the largest drum parade registered in the Guinness World Records, and participate in the Wa-odori, the grand finale of the year's Sansa Odori Festival.

Sketch Map of the Parade Site

- Information
- Restrooms
- Restroom for the Disabled Available
- Seats for the Disabled & Baby Strollers



※ Also, other restrooms are available in Kyōsai Bldg (Chuōdōri) and Moss Bldg. (Odōri Area)

■ General Information Center

English speaking staff will be available for foreign visitors from 5:30 pm each evening during the Sansa Odori Festival period, at the general information center, near the midpoint of the parade route (just in front of Kita-Nippon Bank Head Office building) on Chuōdōri street.

● In Case of Cancellation Due to Heavy Rain

- ◎ **Date & Time:** Aug. 1, 2, 3 and 4 [from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm]
- ◎ **Place:** Morioka Shimin Bunka Hall (just west of JR Morioka Station)
- ◎ Sansa Dance performances will be held by the selected dance groups of the day.

Traditional Sansa Odori Dance Special Performances

- ◎ **Place:** Morioka Shimin Baunka Hall (just west of JR Morioka Station)
- ◎ **Date & time:** Aug. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm)
- ◎ **Admission Fee:** 500 yen per person per day
- ◎ Admission tickets can be purchased at the following locations: the Sansa Odori Festival Organizing Committee, Morioka City Hall, Morioka Tourism & Convention Association and ticket agencies in Morioka.
- ◎ You can see the traditional local Sansa Odori Dance performances, which have been passed down from generation to generation since the olden days.

■ 'Special Sansa Odori Dance Performances' & Temporary Tourist Information Center at JR Morioka Station Taki no Hiroba Square

At JR Morioka Station Taki no Hiroba Square, you can enjoy the same 'Traditional Sansa Odori Dancing' as the ones performed at Morioka Shimin Bunka Hall without any admission fee. In addition, a temporary tourist information center will be open (Japanese only) in front of JR Morioka Station.

'Sansa Dance You Can Join' Lessons of the Day at Kōkaidō Hall

- ◎ **Place:** Iwate-ken Kōkaidō Grand Hall (next to the Iwate Prefectural Government Bldg.)
- ◎ **Date & time:** Aug. 1, 2, 3 & 4 [from 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm]
- ◎ **Lesson:** Free of charge
- ◎ You will have a lesson of how to dance Unified Sansa Odori No.2 'Tanabata Kuzushi'.
 ※ Learn here how to dance Sansa and participate in the day's parade group 'Ippan-sanka Sansa Group' or Wa-odori (Dancing-in-a-circle).