



MAP 1-1

### Kawane Cherry Blossom Festival

Held around the tunnel of cherry blossoms, Tennozan Park and Ryokuchi Park. Along the tunnel of cherry blossoms of 200 cherry trees runs the steam locomotive of Oigawa Railway, a popular spot among photographers.

Held from late March to early April.



MAP 1-2

### Bara-no-Oka Rose Festival

Various events include a special rose sale, seminars on how to raise roses and concerts.

Held at Bara-no-Oka Park in May and October.



### Kanaya Green Tea Festival

This festival is held to express growers' gratitude to tea in early April when new tea buds begin to grow. The dance by 1,000 women in traditional tea-picking costume is quite impressive. Together with other events including traditional Japanese drum performances, this festival welcomes the first tea of the season.

Held in early April (every two years).

# 四季・イベント を楽しむ

## Lots to Enjoy All Year-Round

Shimada, with its mild climate, is full of colorful flowers all year round, starting with plum blossoms in February, followed by cherry blossoms, young tea buds, roses and colorful autumn leaves. The Shimada Obi Matsuri is a special event held every three years that began over three centuries ago in 1695. You may enjoy the atmosphere of the past or perhaps the spectacular gaiety.

### Flowers throughout the Year

Shimada offers a variety of seasonal flowers, starting with plum blossoms in February, followed by cherry blossoms, fawn lilies, peony flowers, *dodan tsutsuji* azaleas, roses and autumn leaves.



Fawn lilies: Makinohara Park



Dodan tsutsuji azaleas: Dodanbara



### Sarumai (monkey dance) at Tokoji Temple/ Hiyoshi Shrine

MAP 1-3

Two children with a monkey mask dedicate a Shinto dance.

Held on the 2nd Saturday in April at Hiyoshi Shrine.



MAP 1-5

### Oigawa Fireworks Festival

Approx. 8,000 fireworks of various sizes and designs let off from both sides of the wide river are sure to impress.

Held on August 10.



MAP 1-4

### Nomori Matsuri

The festival at Nomori Pond is full of events - a traditional boat race and a memorial service during the day and a *bon* dance, lanterns floating on the water and a fireworks festival at night. The contrast between the lanterns floating on the pond and fireworks overhead is stunning.

Held on August 15.

### Shimada Mage Matsuri

It is believed that the traditional Shimada mage hairstyle was designed by Toragozen, a *yuujo* courtesan who appears in *Soga Monogatari*. About 60 women in traditional hairstyles dance and give thanks for their hair at Utaji Temple.

Held on the 3rd Sunday in September.



### Shimada Obi Matsuri

Starting in 1695, this festival is widely known for its procession of *daimyo* feudal lords, Kashima dance performers and portable shrines stroll along the old Tokaido highway. The greatest attraction is the 25 people in traditional costumes with gorgeous obi belts hanging from wooden swords on both sides of their waist.

Held in mid-October for three days every three years.



### Kashima Dance

Praying for relief from a widespread plague in Shimada in the late 17th century, this dance originated when Kasuga Shrine was dedicated on the precincts of Oi Shrine.

Held in mid-October during the Shimada Obi Matsuri.



### Brushing Off Demon at Chimanji Temple

MAP 1-6

Wishing for sound health in the coming year, three devils are bravely brushed off at the main hall rebuilt by the order of Minamoto Yoritomo, the founder of the shogunate government.

Held on January 7.



## Annual Events

Traditional events that include those to celebrate the blessings of nature have been carried down through generations in Shimada City, an area that enjoyed prosperity as post stations in the Edo period.

- January 7: Brushing Off Devils at Chimanji Temple
- Late February: Ita Plum Blossom Festival
- Late March: Cherry blossoms at Keiji Temple are at their best.
- Late March: Fawn lily garden opens at Makinohara Park.
- Late March: Kawane Cherry Blossom Festival (until early April)
- Early April: Kanaya Green Tea Festival (every 2 years)
- 2nd Saturday in April: Tokoji Hiyoshi Shrine monkey dance
- Mid-April: Peony flowers at Jokoji Temple are at their best.
- Late April: *Dodan Tsutsuji* azaleas in Mt. Chiba are at their best.
- Late May: Bara-no-Oka Rose Festival Spring
- June 1: Starting of *ayu* trout fishing season at the Oi River
- Mid-June: Firefly season in Sasama
- Early July: Canna along Rokugo Community Road are in full bloom.
- August 10: Oigawa Fireworks Festival
- August 15: Nomori Festival
- 3rd Sunday in September: Shimada Mage Matsuri
- Mid-October: Shimada Obi Matsuri (for three days every three years)
- Mid-October: Bara-no-Oka Rose Festival Autumn
- Late October: Sasama Kagura dance
- Early November: Kanaya Culture and Industry Fair
- Mid-November: Shimada Industry Fair
- Mid-November: Autumn leaves of *dodan tsutsuji* azalea bush in Mt. Chiba are at their best.