



Abare Mikoshi (portable shrine)

In the Tsukahara district of Nagao-nishi in Sanuki City, there is an unusual festival that has been held since the Edo era. Young people wearing farm clothes, their faces heavily painted with face-paint and ink, carry a rough portable shrine made from local materials including bamboo, vegetables and even flowers. The carriers run in all directions, as they carry the portable shrine around the grounds of the shrine and the Sando, the approach to the shrine, while loudly chanting "Mottainai (what a waste!)".

As the portable shrines make their way along the Sando, the approach to the shrine, the watching viewers scream with delight as the carriers slam their bodies into the main portable shrine in the lead of the procession, dive repeatedly into the nearby pond, throw even sightseers into the pond, and generally go crazy. Abare Mikoshi (portable shrine) is an autumn festival of Tsukahara Inari Shrine held to pray for a good harvest and freedom from sickness.

It is said that the unique custom started a long time ago when the local young people were not allowed to carry the decorated portable shrine (the main portable shrine).

It is also said that in the years when the Abare Mikoshi portable shrine did not make its usual rounds, disease and disasters occurred as a result. The locals believe that "If the Abare does not come out, then the village will have a rough time" and so they have continued to hold this unique event for over 100 years.



A great man born in Sanuki City

Hiraga Gennai

Scholar of herbalism, Dutch scholar, inventor, artist... Hiraga Gennai was a genius who applied his prodigious talent in many and varied fields. In the Shido area you can visit only the Hiraga Gennai Memorial Museum but also Hiraga Gennai's former residence and herb garden, and even see his paintings and the Erekiteru (a hand-operated electric generator) he invented.

The many talents of Gennai

Scholar of herbalism

He collected ingredients of medicines and held the first pharmaceutical exhibition in Japan. He published a work explaining the properties and effects of his exhibition's products called "Butsuruihinshitsu".

Playwright

Under the pen-name Fukuchi Kigai, he wrote numerous Ningyo Joruri Japanese puppet theater works, and one of his works, the famous work of Edo Japanese puppet theater "Shinreiyaguchi no watashi" is still performed today.

Inventor

One of Gennai's most well known inventions is the Erekiteru (a hand-operated electric generator). It was the first device in Japan to generate static electricity using friction.



Potter

He developed "Gennai Yaki" a genre of ceramics designed for artistic appreciation. He was the first artist in Japan to use the world map as a design element in pottery.



Copy writer

He was the creator numerous advertising catch phrases and product names such as "Doyo No Ushi No Hi" (the Midsummer Day of the Ox) and "Sosekiko" toothpaste.



Portrait of Hiraga Gennai

Hiraga Gennai Memorial Museum



Address: 587-1 Shido, Sanuki City
Tel: 087-894-1684
Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
Closed: Monday.
End of Year/New Year period
Parking: 13 car parking spaces

Former Residence of Hiraga Gennai



Address: 46-1 Shido, Sanuki City
Tel: 087-894-5513
Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
Closed: Monday.
End of Year/New Year period
Parking: 13 car parking spaces

The largest production center in Japan

Paulownia wood clogs, Geta



The Shido district is a center for the production of paulownia wood clogs called Geta which boasts the largest volume of production in Japan. The Geta, which are created by artisans, are strong, light and have excellent water absorbency and heat insulation properties. If you make a reservation in advance you can even experience attaching a thong to the Geta yourself.

Make your own
original Geta



Yamanishi Shouten

Address: 5382-33 Shido, Sanuki City
Tel: 087-894-0306
Opening Hours: 8:00 - 17:00
Closed: Saturday / Sunday / Holidays

Taikodai (floats with drums)

give stirring performances as they parade through the streets

Shido district Tawa Shrine Autumn Festival



The road from the shrine to the Otabisho (resting place for gods) is long and the portable shrine and 8 districts' Taikodai (floats with drums) called "Chosa" ritual parade takes about 5 hours to complete while the notes of the Ise Song ring out powerfully into the night. After they arrive at the Otabisho the carriers offer the Chosa to the gods, turning them on their side to display the designs on the inside of the awnings. Then, eight of the carriers put on an impressive and powerful display of strength as they spin the Chosa around by themselves. After they reach Otabisho, they attach a roof decorated with lanterns, then return to the shrine together with the portable shrines.