

## Jike Kiriko Festival

### History

The Jike Kiriko Festival is an annual autumn event at Suzu Shrine. According to the shrine's folklore, this event started about 250 years ago as lanterns provided as offerings for the *mikoshi* (portable shrine).

The large *kiriko* that welcome the *mikoshi* is a spectacular sight. The 1924 issue of the Suzu Shrine publication mentions a grand festival featuring six *kiriko* four tatami mats high (approximately seven meters) from the Oohama-gumi, Kawakami-gumi, Honmachi-gumi, Shimode-gumi, Oominato-gumi, and Uwano-gumi, with visitors hailing from the Suzu and Fugeshi areas.

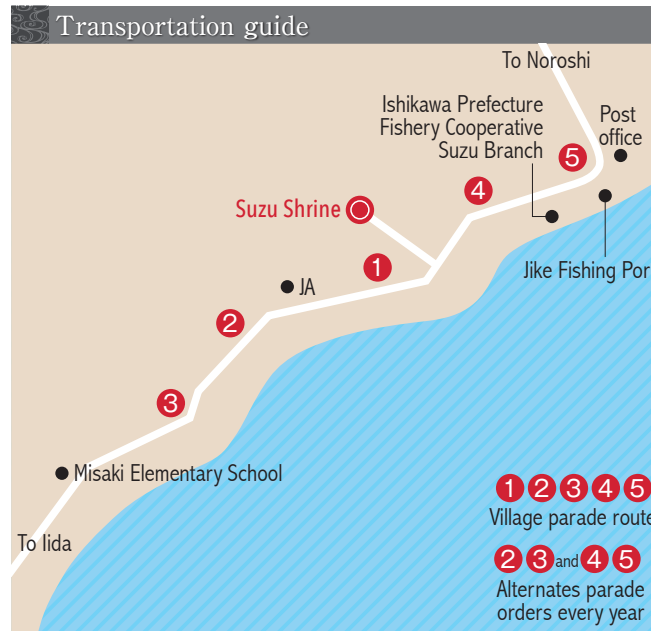
The *kiriko* were adorned with Wajimanuri lacquer from the end of the Edo period to the start of the Meiji era, along with gold and silver foil decorations created by top artisans.

### Date

The second Saturday of September

### Location

The public square in front of Suzu Shrine, along prefectural road 28 (highway). The north area extends to Jike Fishing Port (towards the Noroshi area), the south extends to the Jike Oohama bus stop (towards the Awazu area).



Duration to the festival venue

■ Approximately 70 minutes by car from Noto Airport (interchange)

\*These contents are based on 2015 information.

### Inquiries

The Suzu City Tourism and Exchange Division  
1-6-2 Kitagata, Uedo-machi, Suzu City  
TEL 0768-82-7776



2015  
The Japan Heritage Promotion Project



## Jike Kiriko Festival



Japan Heritage

The Noto Peninsula: Where the Light Dances

—The exciting Kiriko Festivals—



### Dates

The second Saturday of September

### Location

Jike, Misaki-machi, Suzu City





## Festival schedule

The festival used to start with the assembly of the large *kiriko*, but now, sheds have been constructed in front of the shrines to allow all four district *kiriko* to be stored as they are, so that only paper lanterns, gongs, and drums need to be attached for the festival. On the day of the festival, the *kiriko* lanterns are taken out from their sheds and moved to each respective district.

### ● The day of the festival

- 21:00 After the “Yobare (banquet)”, all *kiriko* gather and line up at Suzu Shrine. After religious services, there is a draw to determine the order in which *kiriko* will depart.
- 22:00 The procession departs Suzu Shrine to parade around the town. Whether the parade route is south or northbound alternates every year.

### ● The day after the festival

- 7:00 After those carrying the *mikoshi* have executed the fire-walking ritual, *kiriko* enter the shrine, two at a time.
- 10:00 The festival ends. Drums and paper lanterns are taken off from the *kiriko*, and the *kiriko* are housed in their sheds once more.

\*Times for each event are estimates.

## Number of *kiriko* and their workmanship

There are four *kiriko*: the Shiotsu-uwano, Shimode, Kawakami-honmachi, and the Oohama-gumi.

The Shiotsu-uwano Kiriko is 16.5 meters tall, with a roof 12 tatami mats wide, making it the largest *kiriko* in the Noto region. Additionally, this *kiriko* is entirely finished in lacquer and gold foil decorations, and is said to weigh four tons.

The *kiriko* lanterns used to be carried by the participants, but rubber tires were installed around 1967. Since then, the size of the *kiriko* has increased dramatically.

## Festival music, songs

The chant for this festival is “Yassa, yassa.”

There are two types of festival songs using bamboo flutes, drums and gongs. One is for when the procession is moving, and one is for when the procession is standing still.

## Relations to other *kiriko* festivals

Because the *kiriko* festivals are so widespread in the Okunoto region, it is common for villages to purchase *kiriko* from other districts for their regional festival. When the Jike Festival Kiriko was still 10 meters tall, Shiotsu-uwano purchased a 13-meter *kiriko* from Ookawa, Machino-machi, Wajima City, which spurred on the trend of increasingly larger *kiriko*. The

*kiriko* purchased from Ookawa district has been passed on to Matsunagi-machi, Suzu City, where it is still actively used to this day.

## Characteristics

The incredible size and elaborate decorations of the *kiriko* are a magnificent sight to see.

The festival takes place at Suzu Shrine, a historic shrine listed in the “Engi-Shiki (set of ancient Japanese governmental regulations)”. The shrine contains national important cultural properties such as the “Wooden Male Deity” and the “Semiore Flute” of Minamoto No Yoshitsune. The woods surrounding the shrine are also designated as a national natural monument.

