

■FESTIVALS

–Mid May MT. TOMISU TSUTSUJI (Azalea) FESTIVAL Ozu City

As many as 63,000 of azalea bushes are in bloom on top of Mt. Tomisu about this time of the year. Mt. Tomisu is well known in east Japan for its azalea blossoms. Many stalls are set up and the azaleas are lit up at night, creating a festival atmosphere.

Transportation: Take a bus bound for Yawatahama from Matsuyama Shieki bus stop #4 and get off at Ozu Honmachi bus stop. It takes one hour and 20 minutes. Or take a JR express train from JR Matsuyama Station bound for Uwajima. Get off at Ozu (a 40-minute ride). From the bus or train station you will need to take a taxi to the park (a 15-minute ride). (Tel.0893-24-2111)

May 3 KENPO-KINENBI (Constitution Day) (National Holiday)

The present constitution was promulgated on May 3, 1947. This day commemorates the event and it is also a day for us to reaffirm hope in national growth.

May 4 MIDORI-NO-HI (Greenery Day) (National Holiday)

This holiday was established in 1989 for people to admire nature, give thanks for its blessings, and to cultivate love for all living things on the earth.

May 5 KODOMO-NO-HI (Children's Day) (National Holiday)

Traditionally, this was Boys' Day, but after World War II it was changed to Children's Day. Now it is a day to pray for healthy growth of children. Koinobori (carp streamers) are flown which, according to Chinese legend, symbolize vigor and strength. Chimaki (rice dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaf) and kashiwa-mochi (rice cake wrapped in an oak leaf) are the traditional treats of the day.

KASHIMA SPRING FESTIVAL is canceled this year.

IMABARI SPRING FESTIVAL is canceled this year.

IKAZAKI ODAKO-GASSEN (Big Kite Fight Festival)

The main events like Odakogassen are canceled and Hatsuzeke Shinto ceremony to celebrate newly-born babies will be held this autumn.

May 22– June 13 NANRAKU-EN HANA-SHOBU (Iris) FESTIVAL

9:00–17:00

Nanraku-en is the biggest Japanese-style garden in Shikoku. There are many kinds of trees and flowers. Among them, 30,000 iris plants are particularly impressive and most beautiful around the end of May. (Tel. 0895-32-3344)

Main events: Take-toro (bamboo lantern) Evening May 29th –June 6th 17:00–21:00
/ Tobe-yaki (pottery) Sales / Local Product Sales / Tea ceremony

Admission Adults (Older than 18) ¥310

Children (High, Junior high, and Elementary school students) ¥150

Transportation: Take a train bound for Uwajima (an 80-minute ride). Then take a Uwajima bus bound for Nanraku-en, Fukuura or Kakeajiro and get off at Nanraku-en-mae (a 40-minute ride).

NOTES: Events might be canceled or postponed to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus infection. Please check the latest information.