Flowers Filling the Sky
Pull at Your Heartstrings

August 1st to 3rd
NAGA KA
Summer Festival

The Nagaoka Festival
Summer in Nagaoka
Once Again Brings the Scale and Emotion of the Grand Fireworks Show

Nagaoka Fireworks Official Website
The Nagaoka Fireworks Foundation (a general incorporated foundation)
https://nagakamatsuri.com/

Featured Fireworks

Wide Star Mine Fireworks
Wide Star Mine Fireworks were first displayed in 1996 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the modern municipality. Star mine fireworks in a variety of colors are launched simultaneously from five locations in a row, creating a dynamic pageant of lights.

Shô-Sanjakudama Fireworks
Shô-Sanjakudama Fireworks are the embodiment of the most sophisticated skills of local pyrotechnicians.

Niagara Falls
In the image of the true Niagara Falls, this 50-meter-long dynamic fireworks display, set up on Chosei Bridge and Oteohashi Bridge over the Shinano River, vigorously flows down into the river, amazing all the spectators.

Miracle Star Mine Fireworks
In 1998, a new type of highly elaborate fireworks were developed. “Miracle Star Mine” was chosen from recommendations by the general public in 1998. Launched simultaneously from several locations, three-dimensional Miracle Star Mine fireworks shooting diagonally, horizontally, and vertically will lead you into a miraculous world.

Kome Hyappyô Fireworks
100 Shots of Fireworks Shells in Sequence
These popular fireworks were first shown in 1996 in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the modern municipality. In a “wide screen” method, 100 shots of 8-inch-diameter fireworks shells are shot at a rate of nearly one shot per second.

Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for a Complete Recovery
Out of the citizens’ wishes for a complete recovery from the devastation caused by the Great Chubu Earthquake on October 23rd, 2004, the Phoenix Fireworks were born. Over a stretch of about 2 kilometers, these overwhelmingly super wide star mine fireworks, with a row of Phoenixes, all shining in gold, belt high above the ground. They fly to express our appreciation for the kind support provided by many people, to encourage people in other disaster-affected areas, and to wish for everlasting peace in the world.

Tan Chi Jin Fireworks
In commemoration of a film entitled “Konosore no Hana: The Flowers of This Sky,” the story of the Nagaoka Fireworks, these fireworks have been launched since 2012. To the theme music of the film, fireworks in various colors burst throughout the sky with the citizens’ wishes for the pursuit of peace.

“Kono Sora no Hana” Fireworks
In commemoration of a film entitled “Konosore no Hana: The Flowers of This Sky,” the story of the Nagaoka Fireworks, these fireworks have been launched since 2012. To the theme music of the film, fireworks in various colors burst throughout the sky with the citizens’ wishes for the pursuit of peace.

“Furusato Wa Hitotsu” Fireworks
These fireworks, first shown in 2015 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the municipal consolidation, are displayed to a song by Mr. Ryudo Uzaki (musician) and Ms. Yoko Aki (lyricist). This piece of music created by the couple, who both cherish their long careers in music, helps the citizens of Nagaoka focus their thoughts on the only hometown they have.

Wide Star Mine Fireworks
When a giant 3-foot-diameter Shô-Sanjakudama fireworks shell (300 kilograms) is launched up to an altitude of 600 meters above the ground, a huge 650-meter-diameter flower opens. The shell contains 80 kilograms of gunpowder, which is the maximum legal amount approved by current law. The highly sophisticated and integrated techniques of local pyrotechnicians have developed the Shô-Sanjakudama Fireworks into a quite unique and special masterpiece. Shô-Sanjakudama Fireworks are the embodiment of the most sophisticated skills of local pyrotechnicians.

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Huge Blossoms of Fireworks Blooming Overhead
Their Light Symbolizing Peace and Nagaoka’s Recovery

Summer in Nagaoka is a summer of fireworks. The Grand Fireworks Show on the vast riverbanks of the Shinano attracts and amazes over one million spectators.

The Origin of the Nagaoka Festival
Starting at 10:30 p.m. on August 1st, 1945, large B29 bombers flew over Nagaoka and continued bombing the city for one hour and 40 minutes. The bombing burned down nearly 80% of the downtown area and claimed over 1,480 lives in a deluge of fire.

In order to remember this sad day as a significant day for restoration, the City of Nagaoka held the Nagaoka Restoration Festival on August 1st, 1946, one year after the bombing. This festival helped comfort the hearts of the war-afflicted citizens of Nagaoka and encouraged them to restore the war-devastated city by working together with all their strength. The annual Nagaoka Festival has its origin in this 1946 restoration festival.

The History and Traditions of Nagaoka Fireworks
The history of Nagaoka Fireworks is said to have started in 1879 when 350 fireworks shells were launched improved along with the development and presentations of new types of fireworks. Two-foot and three-foot diameter (Chū-Sanokinamichi) shell fireworks were displayed in 1917 and 1926 respectively. Since the late 1920s, Nagaoka’s fireworks became popular across Japan. However, the fireworks displays were discontinued due to the outbreak of the Pacific War.

After the Pacific War ended, the once-discontinued Nagaoka’s fireworks show was revived in 1947 during the Nagaoka Restoration Festival, which was held to express our condolences to the Nagaoka Air Raid victims and to focus our thoughts on the restoration of the war-devastated city. In 1951, this event was renamed the Nagaoka Festival with the revival of the (3-foot-diameter shell fireworks).

Nagaoka Fireworks are always presented with the special thoughts of Nagaokans in memory of the Nagaoka Air Raid victims, in appreciation of our predecessors for their efforts in postwar restoration, and with our prayers for the pursuit of everlasting peace.

Our Condolences and Our Wishes for Peace
The City of Nagaoka has designated August 1st as the Day for Everlasting Peace. This is the day for us to express our condolences to the Nagaoka Air Raid victims, to convey the preciousness of peace to future generations because we should not forget the misery of war devastation, and to share our thoughts with many. The evening of August 1st lively kicks the Nagaoka Festival off with what was formerly called the Zenyasai (the Peace Festival) in 2018 in order to express our wishes for peace.

Peace-Related Events

August 1st
The Heiwasai (The Peace Festival)
Kakigawa Tōrō Nagashi (Relaying Memorial Lanterns through the main river)
Presentation of Fireworks with Our Condolences
The Nagaoka Air Raid started at 10:30 p.m. on August 1st, 1945. At this memorial time every year during the Nagaoka Festival on August 1st, three shots of purely white fireworks (1-foot-diameter fireworks shells) are solemnly shot up in expression of our condolences to war victims and with our prayers for everlasting peace. Temple bells also resound extensively throughout the city.

At the beginning of the Grand Fireworks Show on August 2nd and 3rd, the fireworks in memory of war victims are presented.

August 2nd
Fureai Friendship Plaza
The Grand Fireworks Show

August 3rd
Wampaku Omatsuri Hiroba (Romping Kids’ Festival Plaza)

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