## **Explore** Shizuoka

## Must-See Events and Festivals for 2025 in Shizuoka

# Home to majestic Mount Fuji, there's plenty more to see in the Japanese prefecture throughout the seasons in 2025



L-R: Kawazu Cherry Blossoms Festival, Mount Fuji in Autumn, Suruga Noon Tea, DAIDOGEI World Cup. <u>A wider selection of high-resolution images is available to download here</u>.

**19 December 2024**: Just one hour by bullet train from Tokyo and home to majestic Mount Fuji, the Japanese prefecture of Shizuoka will welcome an array of must-see events next year – from early cherry blossom, giant kites and doll festivals to spectacular firework displays and green tea celebrations. Here, the team at Tourism Shizuoka Japan summarises some of the unmissable events in the region for each season...

## Winter – Japanese noon tea, early blossoms and dolls...

Shizuoka is Japan's top producer of green tea, and the region's famous produce can be enjoyed with a <u>Suruga Noon Tea</u> at various vendors in the central area of the prefecture until February 2025 with distinct tea blends paired with exquisitely prepared sweet treats.

Shizuoka is also home to some of the earliest blooming cherry blossoms in Japan. Travellers can expect to see vast displays of the famous flowers at events such as the <u>Itokawa Promenade Sakura</u> <u>Festival</u> (mid-January to early February) and the <u>Kawazu Cherry Blossoms Festival</u> (February).

Each year in Japan, a Doll Festival (Hina Matsuri) takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March when families celebrate their female children and pray for their continued health and happiness by displaying traditional Hina dolls in their homes. Before the festival, each winter from January through to March, Kasuisai Temple holds the <u>Kasuisai Doll Festival</u> which attracts huge crowds all keen to catch a glimpse of the ancient temple decorated with over 1,000 intricately made dolls – the largest display of its kind in Japan.

## Spring – giant kites and green tea

One of the most famous spring events held in Shizuoka is the 3-day-long <u>Hamamatsu Festival</u>  $(3^{rd} - 5^{th} May)$  which dates back over 450 years. The event sees large decorated kites battling in the skies above Nakatajima Dune in the day whilst dazzling illuminated floats parade through the streets by night, each representing a local neighbourhood.

Celebrating the region's links to green tea, <u>The Kanaya Tea Festival</u> is expected to draw the crowds next April, held every 2 years on the 2nd weekend of the month coinciding with the first picking of the new green tea leaves. This festival includes green tea-themed food stalls, green tea tasting and preparation demonstrations, traditional floats with music, and over 1,000 dancers dressed in traditional tea-picking costumes parading through the streets.

#### Summer – fantastic fireworks and the start of Mount Fuji's climbing season...

Shizuoka is famous for its firework displays, with the most popular pyrotechnic summer event being the **Fukuroi Enshu Fireworks Festival** each July. Here, professional teams gather from all over Japan to compete and visitors are treated to awe-inspiring displays that light up the skies.

July also marks the start of the <u>Mount Fuji climbing season</u>, with locals and visitors ascending the famous mountain for spectacular views across the prefecture. There are three different routes in Shizuoka to climb the mountain, each ranging in ability and duration.

### Autumn – fall foliage and street performers...

As autumn arrives, the changing leaves in Shizuoka are just as beautiful as the region's famous cherry blossoms, making it an ideal time to visit. From mid-November until early December, visitors can enjoy the <u>Atami Baien Momiji Festival</u> for a seasonal display of foliage in fall colours. The garden's spectacular Japanese maples are a highlight with their vivid orange and red hues.

Also held each autumn for more than 30 years, the **DAIDOGEI World Cup** is an event dedicated to street performance artistry in Shizuoka City. The international event is one of Asia's top street performance festivals, attracting talent from around the globe, taking place in November.

For more information on Shizuoka, visit: <u>https://exploreshizuoka.jp.</u>

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#### About Shizuoka

Just one hour from Tokyo by bullet train, Shizuoka prefecture is home to the iconic Mount Fuji. It boasts a spectacular natural environment of coastline, mountains and lakes, including the beautiful Izu Peninsula, which has been described as "Japan's Riviera" and was designated as a Global Geopark by UNESCO in April 2018. The region is steeped in history, has a huge choice of traditional ryokan inns and onsen hot springs, and is also a gourmet paradise. Its natural environment produces some of the country's best food and drink, from green tea and wasabi to fresh seafood. Shizuoka is Japan's biggest producer of green tea.

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