

2025 Hachioji Festival

Sacred dance, dreamy night

八王子
まつり

Calligraphy by: KANAZAWA Shoko

8/1 (Fri.)
Ice-Sculpting Festival
The Dance of the Festival Eve(Hachioji-Geigi)
Ibayashi

8/2 (Sat.)
Children's Bon Odori Dance
Japanese Folk Song Dance
Performance of Kanto Taiko
Dashi & Mikoshi Parade
Ibayashi, Stalls

8/3 (Sun.)
Taga Shrine Miyamikoshi
Sengan Mikoshi Parade
Hachiman Yakumo Shrine
Dashi & Mikoshi Parade
Shishimai, Lion Dance
Ibayashi, Stalls

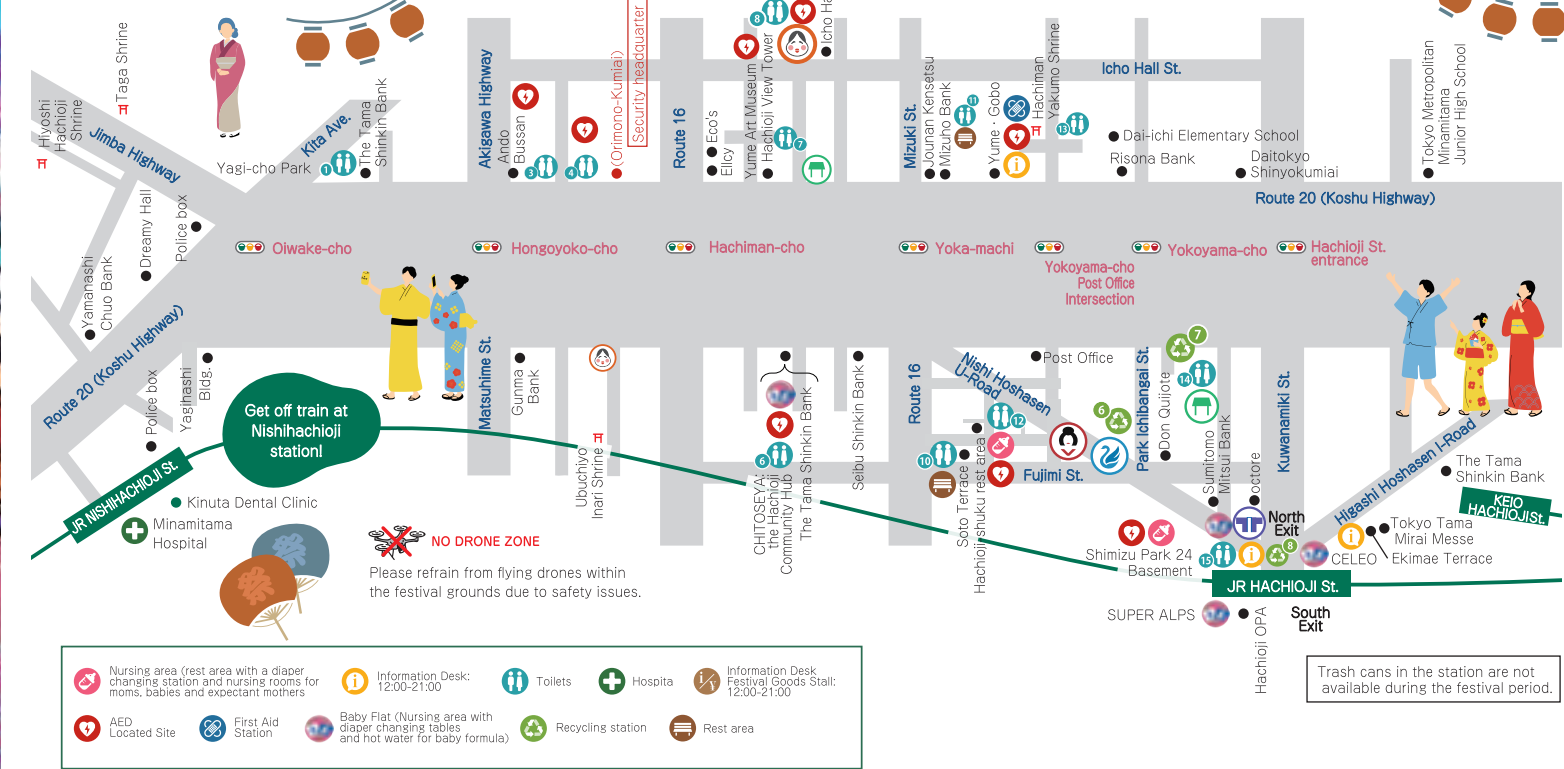
2025 Hachioji Festival Sacred dance, dreamy night

Organized by Hachioji Festival Executive Committee
Cooperated by Hachioji Chamber of Commerce & Industry and
Hachioji Visitors & Convention Association
Secretariat: Hachioji College Community & Culture Furcai Foundation
Phone:042-686-0611 https://www.hachiojimatsuri.jp/



Audio Guide
無料 FREE
For foreign languages, written guide.
Download on the App Store or Google Play

Enter to win great prizes!
+ Hachioji Festival Photo Contest
We are welcoming entries of photos that celebrate the festival.
Please visit our website for the details.
Entry period : Aug. 1 (Fri) - Aug. 31 (Sun)



*There will be no stalls along the Koshu-Kaido Avenue on Friday. *There will be no on-street stalls this year.

History of the Hachioji Festival

The origin the Hachioji festival goes back to the Edo period to two festivals dedicated each to the lower area's Hachiman-yakumo shrine and the upper area's Taga shrine. From the late Edo period to the mid-Meiji period, the festival was known as a festival of doll-display dashi and later from the late Meiji period to the present, Hachioji festival has been renowned throughout the Kanto region for its marvelously carved dashi floats. Although eight of the dashi floats were lost in the warfare in 1945, the festival is currently features 19 dashi including ones rebuilt after the war by Kamiyoka-machi, Yokoyama-cho 3 Chome and Yoka-machi 1 and 2 Chome and their dynamic parades along Koshu-Kaido avenue live up the festival. This "Upper and Lower Festivals (Hachioji Festival)" and the "Mikoshi (portable shrines) and dashi floats of these festivals" are the two of the 30 cultural assets in the story "the History of Soto" which is designated as Japan Heritage in 2020.



Ice-Sculpting

place/Festival Nishi Hoshasen U-Road
time/13:30~16:10
Chefs from all over the country carve blocks of ice into sculptures.

The Dance of the Festival Eve

place/Festival Nishi Hoshasen U-Road Naka-Cho park
time/18:30 ~19:00
Hachioji Geigi (geisha) perform a series of traditional Japanese dances.
"Hachioji Geigi" is one of the cultural assets of Hachioji's Japan Heritage story "the History of Soto".

EVENT SCHEDULE

	Ice-Sculpting Festival	The Dance of the Festival Eve	Ibayashi	Food Stall Area	The traditional festival Hanten jacket exhibition
12:00					
13:00					
14:00	13:30 ~ 16:10				
15:00					
16:00				12:00 ~ 18:00	
17:00					
18:00		18:30 ~ 19:00	18:00 ~ 21:00		
19:00					
20:00					
21:00					

*Events might be cancelled according to circumstances and the weather.

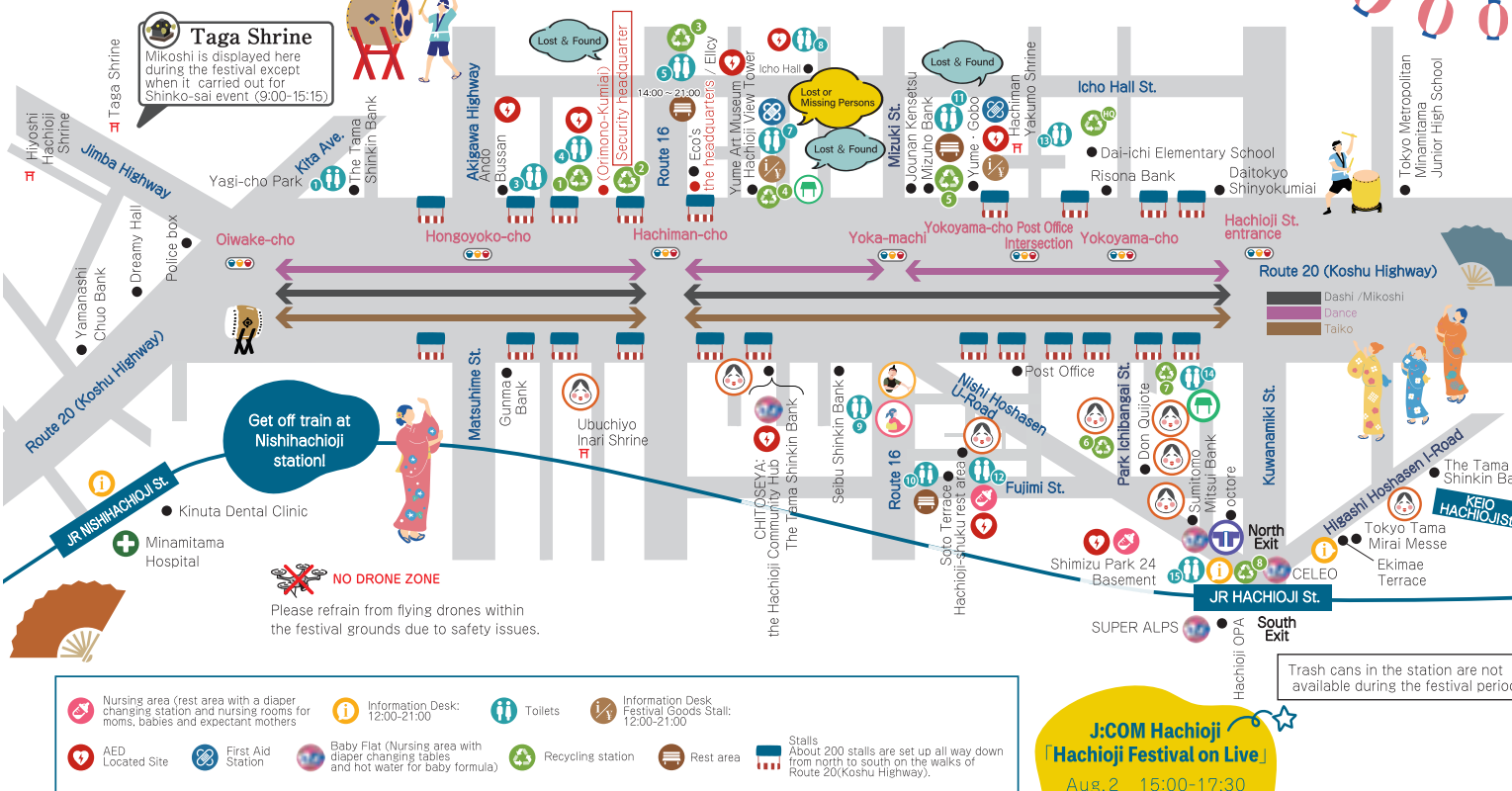


Japanese Folk Song Dance
place/Route 20 (Koshu Highway)
time/16:00~18:30
Approximately 1,500 dancers wearing yukata perform a folk dance.

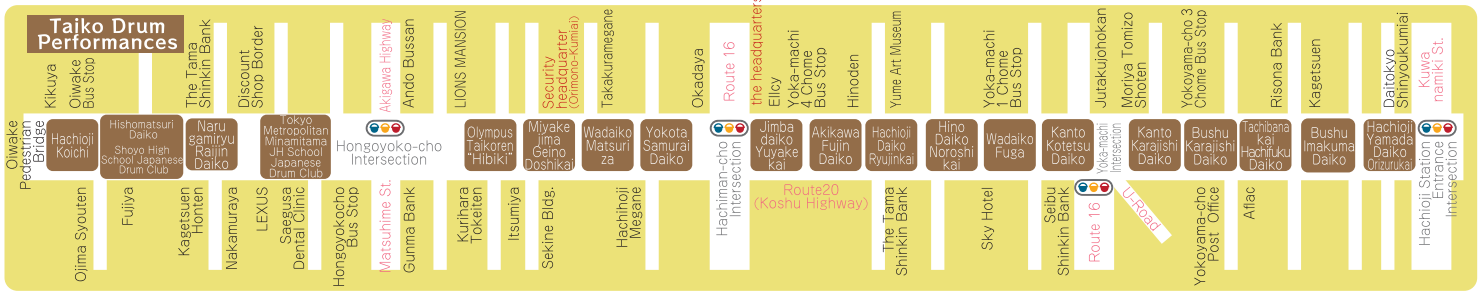
Performance of Kanto Taiko
place/Route 20 (Koshu Highway)
time/14:00~16:00
The vigorous and powerful sounds of the taiko drums and the drummers' stick tricks excite the festival.

Children's Bon Odori Dance
place/Yoka-machi intersection south
time/16:30~17:30
Children from local kids clubs jointly perform energetic dance.

Performance of Kaohsiung City, Taiwan
place/Yoka-machi intersection south
time/15:30~15:50, 18:00~18:20
Delegation from Kaohsiung City, Taiwan (Hachioji city's international friendship city) will present a performance



*There will be no on-street stalls this year.



8/3

Sun.

J:COM Hachioji

[Hachioji Festival on Live]

Aug.3 16:00-21:00

OTA ch.11











J:COM Channel Hachioji

#The program is subject to change.

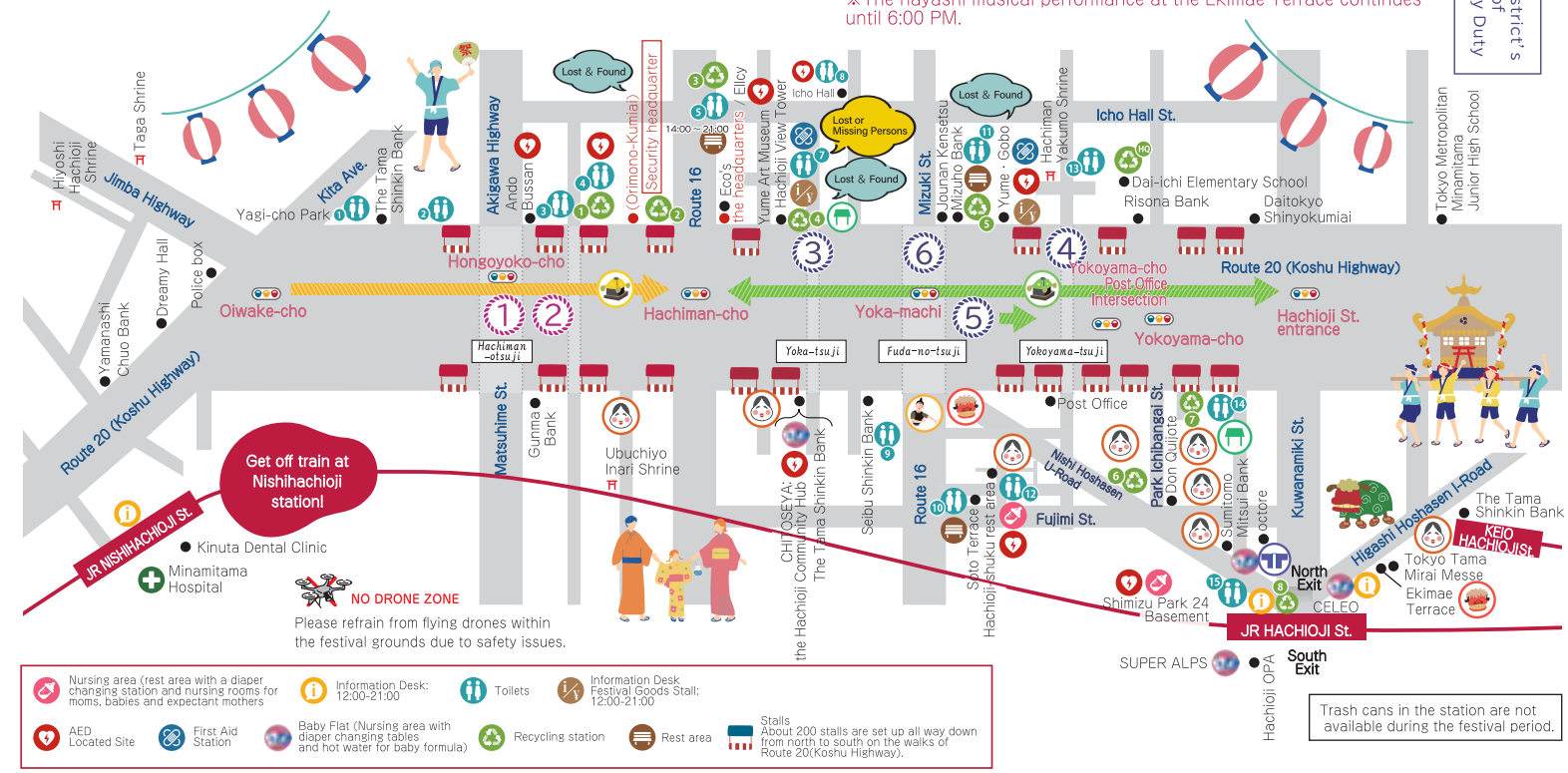


Shishimai, Lion Dance

・ place/Festival Nishi Hoshasen U-Road・Ekimae Terrace
・ time/16:00~18:00
The local traditional art of lion dance "Hachioji Shishimai" is one of the cultural assets of Hachioji's Japan Heritage story "the History of Soto".
Miyama-cho Sasara-Shishimai Hozonkai and Yotsuya Ryuzunomai Hozonkai and Hikawa-jinja Shishimai Hozonkai perform traditional lion dance.

EVENT SCHEDULE									
									
12:00									
13:00									
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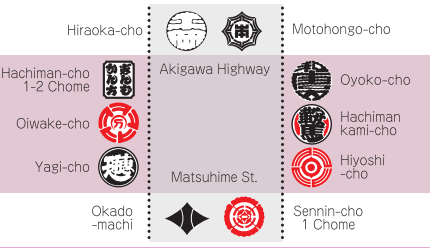
*Events might be cancelled according to circumstances and the weather.
*The hayashi musical performance at the Ekimae Terrace continues until 6:00 PM.



1

Gathering Dashi at Hachiman-otsuji


All of the 10 Dashi floats of the upper area gather at Hachiman-otsuji crossing and their hayashi performances begin with kiyari chant. [18:40 ~]



2

Joint Parade of Upper Area's Mikoshi

Eight of the upper area's Mikoshi gather together and parade jointly in the upper area. [18:10~21:00]




3

Dashi Gathering at Lower Area

[18:00~18:20]

Lower area's dashi gather together at Yoka-tsuji and Yokoyama-tsuji crossing.




5

Joint Parade of Lower Area's Mikoshi

[17:00~20:00]

Seven Mikoshi gather together and parade jointly in the lower area.

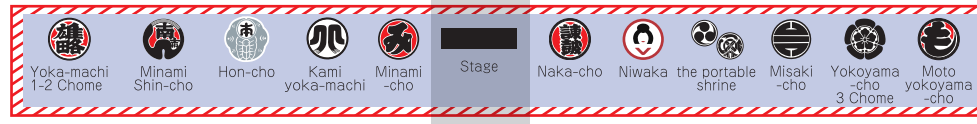


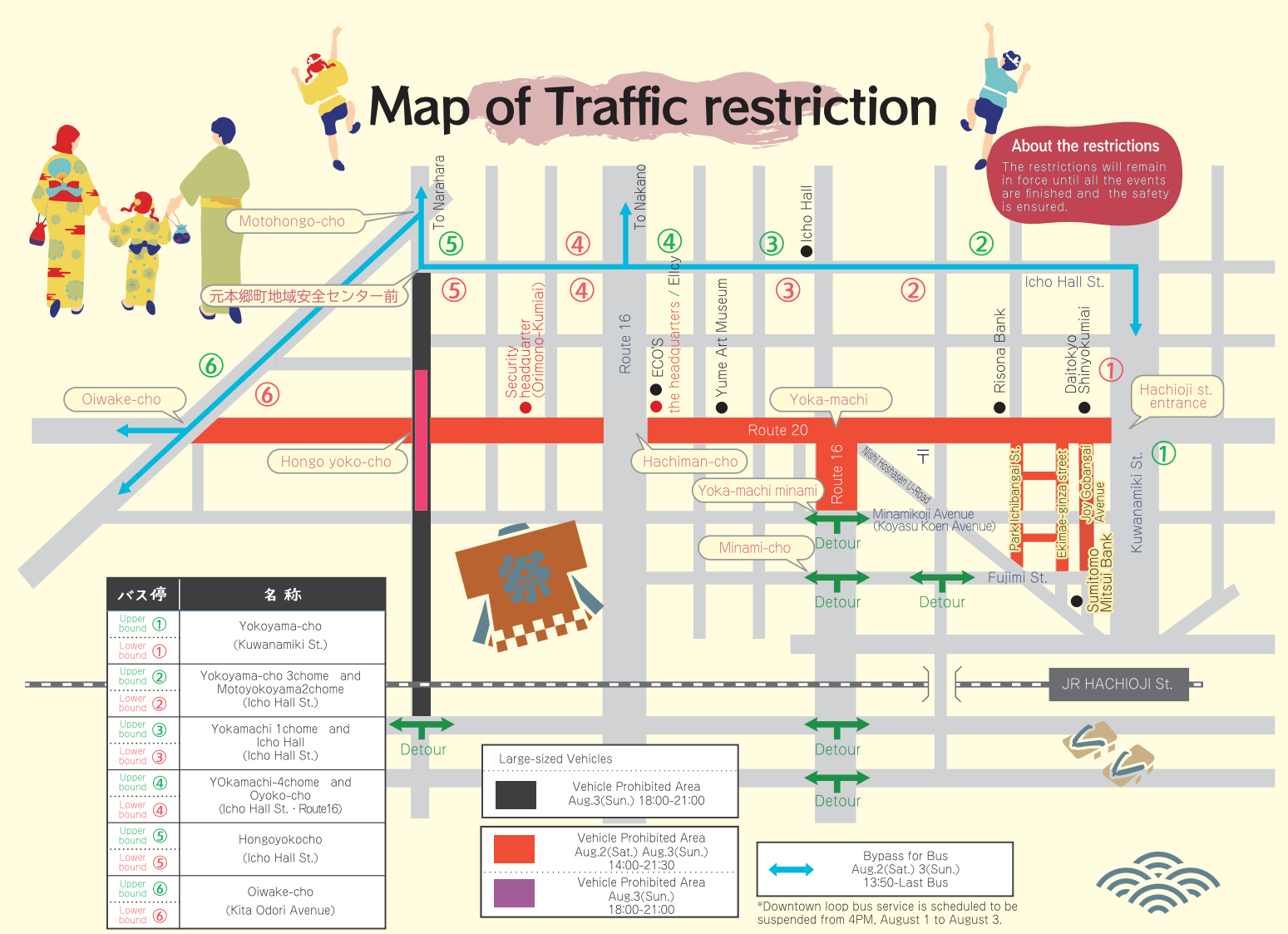
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Lower District's Passing of the Yearly Duty

[20:00~20:20]

Nine Dashi floats and Niwaka-yatai floats from the lower area as well as the portable shrine of Hachiman Yakumo Shrine gather at the Fuda-no-tsuji (Yokamachi intersection). Children's mando lantern and hayashi music performance lead the festive atmosphere.
*Visitors and spectators are not allowed inside the red and white striped ropes.





List of Public Toilet

1

Yagicho Park Public Toilet

2

Nanohana Chibikko Hiroba (available only on Sunday)

3

Com Park Hachioji Hachimancho Parking #2

4

Orimono Kumiai Parking

5

ECO'S Parking lot (available only on Saturday and Sunday)

6

CHITOSEYA: the Hachioji Community Hub (available only on Friday)

7

Hachioji View Tower East courtyard

8

Ichio Hall

9

Seibu Shinkin Bank Parking lot (available only on Saturday and Sunday)

10

Soto Terrace

11

Mizuho Bank Parking lot

12

Machinaka Lounge Hachioji-Shuku

13

Motoyokoyamacho 2 Chome Public Toilet (Dai-ichi Elementary School West)

14

Compark Hachioji Yokoyamacho #5 Parking

15

JR Hachioji Station North Public Toilet (Behind the police box)

Recycling Stations

(Only available on Saturday and Sunday)

1

The Lions Mansion Hachioji #8 Station

2

Okadaya Butsuguten Station

3

ECO'S Parking

4

The View Tower Hachioji Station

5

Moriya Tomizo Shoten Station

6

Kaitori-Hambai Kingram Station

7

Hachioji Station West Intersection South Station

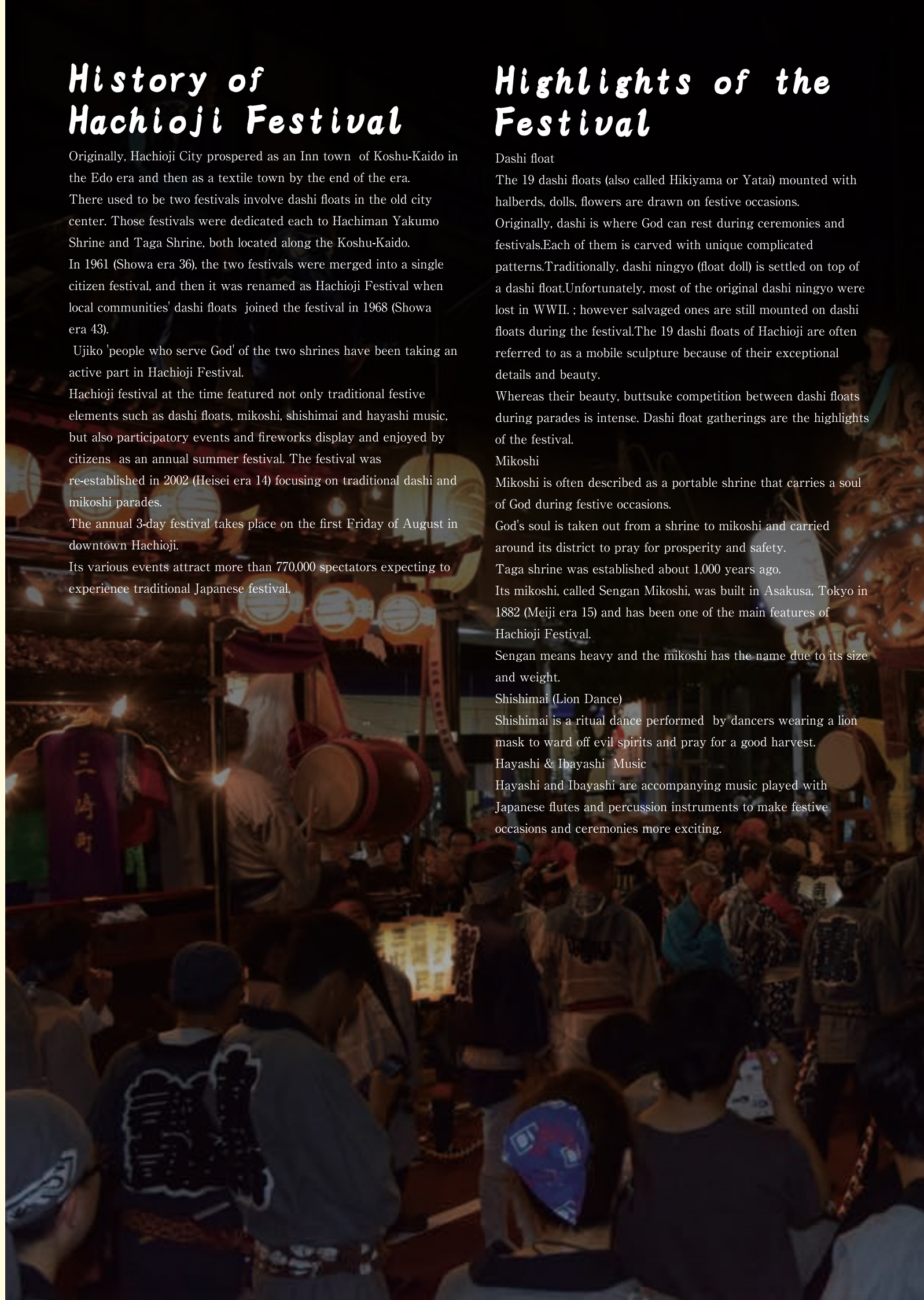
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Hachioji Station North Police Box Station

HQ

The Recycling Center Headquarters Dai-ichi Elementary School

*Only stations ⑥, ⑦, and ⑧ are available on Friday, August 1.



History of Hachioji Festival

Originally, Hachioji City prospered as an Inn town of Koshu-Kaido in the Edo era and then as a textile town by the end of the era. There used to be two festivals involve dashi floats in the old city center. Those festivals were dedicated each to Hachiman Yakumo Shrine and Toga Shrine, both located along the Koshu-Kaido. In 1961 (Showa era 36), the two festivals were merged into a single citizen festival, and then it was renamed as Hachioji Festival when local communities' dashi floats joined the festival in 1968 (Showa era 43).
Ujiko 'people who serve God' of the two shrines have been taking an active part in Hachioji Festival.
Hachioji festival at the time featured not only traditional festive elements such as dashi floats, mikoshi, shishimai and hayashi music, but also participatory events and fireworks display and enjoyed by citizens as an annual summer festival. The festival was re-established in 2002 (Heisei era 14) focusing on traditional dashi and mikoshi parades.
The annual 3-day festival takes place on the first Friday of August in downtown Hachioji.
Its various events attract more than 770,000 spectators expecting to experience traditional Japanese festival.

Highlights of the Festival

Dashi float
The 19 dashi floats (also called Hikiyama or Yatai) mounted with halberds, dolls, flowers are drawn on festive occasions. Originally, dashi is where God can rest during ceremonies and festivals. Each of them is carved with unique complicated patterns. Traditionally, dashi ningyo (float doll) is settled on top of a dashi float. Unfortunately, most of the original dashi ningyo were lost in WWII; however salvaged ones are still mounted on dashi floats during the festival. The 19 dashi floats of Hachioji are often referred to as a mobile sculpture because of their exceptional details and beauty.
Whereas their beauty, buttsuke competition between dashi floats during parades is intense. Dashi float gatherings are the highlights of the festival.
Mikoshi
Mikoshi is often described as a portable shrine that carries a soul of God during festive occasions. God's soul is taken out from a shrine to mikoshi and carried around its district to pray for prosperity and safety.
Toga shrine was established about 1,000 years ago.
Its mikoshi, called Sengan Mikoshi, was built in Asakusa, Tokyo in 1882 (Meiji era 15) and has been one of the main features of Hachioji Festival.
Sengan means heavy and the mikoshi has the name due to its size and weight.
Shishimai (Lion Dance)
Shishimai is a ritual dance performed by dancers wearing a lion mask to ward off evil spirits and pray for a good harvest.
Hayashi & Ibayashi Music
Hayashi and Ibayashi are accompanying music played with Japanese flutes and percussion instruments to make festive occasions and ceremonies more exciting.