

**JTF**  
SEPTEMBER 2019

**ASSOCIATION NEWS**

## **Aizu Matsuri Multilingual Information Desk**

*Sunday, September 22nd, 9am-3pm*

*Tsurugajo Castle Grounds (near Inari Shrine)*

Every year during the Aizu Matsuri (more information on back page), the AWIA has a booth on the castle grounds and gives free 30-min English tours to visitors. You can volunteer for the morning, afternoon, or the whole day. (There is a free lunch included for people who help out the whole day.)

Additionally, if you wish to brush up on your knowledge of the castle, we will have a language volunteers meeting at the castle on Sunday, September 8th from 10am-11:30am.

## **Aizu Bandaisan Odori**

*Sunday, September 22nd, 7pm-8pm  
(meet in front of the Tsutaya building at 6:50pm)*

*Shinmei Dori Street*

Dance the Aizu Bandaisan Dance along Shinmei Dori Street with the AWIA! We'll lend out *happi* on the day of; you can also wear a yukata or come in costume. Even if it's your first time, you'll be able to learn the dance right away. Anyone can join, so sign up with your friends or family!



## **Disaster Information News Services**

In case of a disaster, here are some news services you can check out or subscribe to:

- ◆ NHK World Japan (<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/>): In the event of an emergency, such as a natural disaster, NHK World Japan will broadcast information in multiple languages for the safety of foreign residents and those visiting Japan. You can download their free app in English, and through your settings, receive alerts about earthquakes and tsunami information from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).
- ◆ JMA also has their own website where they have begun publishing information in six different languages. You can visit their English website here: <https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html>



# AIZU MATSURI

The biggest annual festival of the Aizu area!  
Here are this year's highlights:

## LANTERN PROCESSION

Saturday, September 21, 6-7pm

Tsurugajo Honmaru



Celebrates the opening of the Aizu Matsuri with around 5,000 children swaying lanterns as they walk in procession from Tsurugajo Honmaru to Shinmei Dori.

## AIZU JURAKU

Sat, Sept 14—Mon, Sept 16; Sat, Sept 21—Mon, Sept 23  
from 10am-4pm

Tsurugajo Honmaru

Gamo Ujisato, a 16th century daimyo, introduced juraku markets to Aizu to encourage economic and cultural growth in the area. The markets of this era are recreated with the biannual Aizu Juraku. Enjoy food and crafts stalls from the time period manned by staff in traditional costume.

## HANKO GYORETSU

Sunday, September 22, 9:25am-4pm

Tsurugajo Honmaru, Shinmei-dori, Chuo-dori

The biggest event of the Aizu Matsuri Festival, the Hanko Gyoretsu Parade takes place after a solemn ceremony honoring the ancestors. The parade is made up of approximately 500 people dressed as historical characters and warriors. The parade begins in Tsurugajo Castle Honmaru and sets off into the center of town. In each area, the parade members give a small performance to cheering spectators who pack the roadsides.

## Nikko Toshogu Shrine Yabusame Ritual

Monday, September 23 (holiday), from  
2pm on (doors open at 1pm)

Former Prefectural Hospital Site (会津  
若松市城前108番)

In commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the city's founding, and to further strengthen the historic ties between Aizu and Nikko, the city will hold a special performance of Nikko Toshogu Shrine's *yabusame* ritual. The ritual is performed in the Ogasawara style, where archers shoot whistling arrows at targets while riding atop galloping horses.

For more information: [https://  
www.aizukanko.com/event/857](https://www.aizukanko.com/event/857)

## Byakkotai Walk

Tues, September 24, from 9am on  
*limoriyama*

151 years ago, the Byakkotai warriors fought in the Battle of Tonoguchihara, and, injured, they trekked through a grotto to arrive at *limoriyama*. This walk will follow the path they took at the time.

Find out more information and sign up by visiting the this link: [https://  
www.aizukanko.com/event/858](https://www.aizukanko.com/event/858)