

April–May Events in Toyama

From April to May, Toyama is in its “festival season.” During this time, many traditional festivals are held across the prefecture, including some that are recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage.



- ▷ April 4 (Sat) – April 5 (Sun) All–Japan Chindon Competition (Toyama City)
- ▷ Mid–April to Mid–June Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route –“Snow Walls” (Tateyama Town)
- ▷ May 1 (Fri) Takaoka Mikurumayama Festival (Takaoka City) *UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage*
- ▷ May 4 (Mon) – May 5 (Tue) Etchū Yatsuo Hikiyama Festival (Toyama City) *Toyama Prefectural Cultural Heritage*
- ▷ May 4 (Mon) – May 5 (Tue) Jōhana Hikiyama Festival (Nanto City) *UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage*
- ▷ May 17 (Sun) – May 18 (Mon) Iwase Hikiyama Festival (Toyama City)



Etchū Yatsuo
Tourism Association

UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage program protects and promotes important local traditions, such as history, customs, music, dance, and festivals. UNESCO World Heritage Sites are in two groups: Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage. In Toyama Prefecture, the Gokayama area of the “Historic Villages of Shirakawa–go and Gokayama” is registered as a Cultural Heritage site.

Late–blooming cherry blossoms in Toyama



❁ In Asahi Town in Toyama Prefecture, there is an event called the “Spring Quartet”. Here, you can see cherry blossoms, rapeseed flowers, and tulip fields with the snowy Tateyama Mountains in the background. The best time to visit is from early to late April. The nearest station, Tomari Station, is about 50 minutes from Toyama Station.



❁ Jogayama Park (Toyama City, Yatsuo Town) Best viewing period: early April to early May. You can also enjoy barbecues while viewing the cherry blossoms.



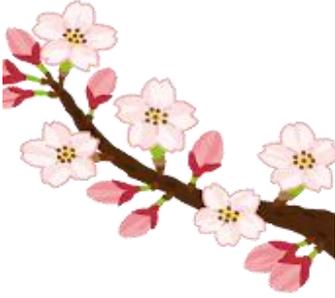
❁ Jinzu River Sakura Embankment and Shio no Thousand Cherry Trees (Toyama City, Yatsuo Town) The best viewing period is mid–April. The cherry blossoms bloom around the Jinzu River area in Yatsuo Town.



❁ Around the Matsukawa Riverside (Toyama City) Best viewing period: late March to mid–April. It has been selected as one of Japan’s Top 100 Cherry Blossom Spots.



April, the start of many new beginnings in Japan



In April, when cherry blossoms bloom, many things begin all across Japan. People move for new schools, new jobs, and other reasons. But why does everything in Japan start in April?

1. fiscal year

In 1868, the samurai era ended and the Meiji era began. The new government needed to decide the fiscal year. In 1886, they made a law that set it from April to March. Most people were farmers then, and they paid taxes after selling rice in autumn. So it was easier for the government to plan the budget starting in spring.

2. School

Most elementary, junior high, high schools, and universities in Japan start in April. In many other countries, the school year does not begin in April.

Singapore: January, Australia: January–February

South Korea: March, United States: September

European countries: September (Germany: August)



In the world, 116 countries start school in September. Many countries chose this because of farming. Summer was busy for farm work, and children helped. Now, Japan is also thinking about starting school in September because there are more international students.

3. Companies

Every April, we see many young people wearing new suits. They are new employees. In Japan, many people start working in April because the company fiscal year also begins then. In the future, with more internationalization and diversity, more people may start work in months other than April.



Let's hunt for design manhole cover !

Toyama City has some artistic manhole covers.
While collecting Manhole Cards, enjoy searching for
these creative designs around the city!



Reproduced from the Toyama
City official website

Are there any near your homes?

Since the 1980s, cities and towns in Japan have created unique manhole covers to promote local culture and tourism. Each place features designs inspired by landmarks, history, and plants. Free coasters and cards with these designs are available at tourist information centers and public facilities. The cards also include location coordinates, making them a nice keepsake for travelers.



Reproduced from the Toyama
City official website

The design shows a thistle flower, which is linked to Toyama's medicine industry. You can also get them at the Toyama City International Exchange Center on Saturdays and Sundays.



Design
Manhole



Manhole
Card



YURUYURI &
OHMUROKE
Design Manhole

Pokémon utility hole covers "Poké Lids"

Toyama City has three Pokémon utility hole covers. They are also PokéStops in the mobile app Pokémon GO. There are no coasters or cards.

Scan the QR code for details.



Poké Lids

Toyama Dialect ④ Toyama people speak French!?

“Na-a-n” and “Oui”

☆”Na-a-n” means “No.” “Oui” has two meanings: “I’m full.①” and “I feel sick.②”

Dialect	Example
Na-a-n +	(A)Korekara, Fami-resu ikan-ke? (B)Na-a-n, Ikan-cha.
①Oui	Sakki, Mochi tabete, mada, hara Oui-gan-cha.
Na-a-n +	(A)Korekara, Fami-resu ikan-ke? (B) Na-a-n, Ikan-cha. Chotto, Oui-gan-cha.
②Oui	Kaze hiitan-kamo-shiren.



Dialect	Meaning
Na-a-n +	(A) How about going to a family restaurant now? (B) I’m sorry, but I don’t feel like going.
①Oui	I ate Mochi some time ago, and I’m still full.
Na-a-n +	(A) How about going to a family restaurant now? (B) I’m sorry, but I don’t feel like going.
②Oui	I feel sick, and I might have caught a cold.

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Publicity Committee, Toyama Cosmopolitan Association
 CiC 3F 2-3 Shintomi-cho 1chome,
 Toyama City 930-0002 Japan
 Tel: 076-444-0642
 E-mail: info@tca-toyama.jp



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