

Main Folk Performing Arts of Kitakami



← ONIMARU-KUN

He is the character mascot of Kitakami. He was created based on the image of ONIKENBAI.

ONIKENBAI (Sword Dance With Demon's Mask)



ONIKENBAI

Onikenbai, which can roughly be translated as “demon dance”, is the most popular traditional performing art in Kitakami. Onikenbai is said to originally have begun as a prayer to Buddha. The dancers wear stern looking demon masks, but as they symbolize the incarnation of Buddha, the masks have no horns. A typical performance requires performers to dance bravely and move their heads and waists vigorously with a sword and a fan in their hands. Each dance troupe consists of eight dancers. The leader wears a white mask and the other seven dancers wear green, red and black ones.

SHISHI ODORI (Deer Dance)



SHISHI ODORI

Shishi Odori, which can be translated as “deer dance”, is divided into two types 1. with a shroud and 2. with a drum. In Iwate, the second type is considered to be the standard. The main feature of this dance is that each performer plays three roles: beating drums, singing songs and dancing while wearing an elaborate fifteen kilogram deer costume.

The area near the Kitakami River is very crowded ! You can enjoy fireworks even from a distant area.

KAGURA



KAGURA

Kagura is a performing art well known throughout Japan which can roughly be translated as “god-entertainment.” The art form is deeply concerned with Shinto beliefs and mountain priests. In Iwate, there are four types of Kagura depending on its origin, purpose and identity.

Evening of TOROKKO NAGASHI and Fireworks

Monday 19:00~

On the last day of the festival , about 10,000 TOROKKO NAGASHI (floating lanterns) will be floated on the Kitakami River and about 10,000 fireworks will be shot off in the sky !

