



FESTIVALS IN JAPANESE:-

Name of the Festival	Date of the festival	Description of festival
Sapporo snow festival	Early February(Sapporo)	The Snow Festival began as a one-day event in 1950, when six local high school students built six snow statues in Odori Park. In 1955 the Japan Self-Defense Forces from the nearby Makomanai base joined in and built the first massive snow sculptures , for which the Snow Festival has now become famous. Several snow festivals existed in Sapporo prior to the Sapporo Snow Festival, however, all of these were suspended during World War II .
Nebuta Matsuri	August 2-7 (Aomori)	Nebuta and Neputa are a type of Tanabata -related summer festival held in towns around Aomori Prefecture . The largest of these festivals is the Nebuta Matsuri (ねぶた祭) of Aomori City , held every year from August 2 to 7. The highlight of the festival is the daily parade of enormous lantern floats, flanked by large taiko drums, musicians and dancers. The Nebuta Matsuri is one of the three great festivals of the Tohoku Region (Tohoku Sandai Matsuri) alongside Akita's Kanto Matsuri and Sendai's Tanabata .

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Awa Odori	August 12-15 (Tokushima)	<p>Awa Odori (阿波おどり) is the most famous of many dance <u>festivals</u> held across Japan during the <u>Obon</u> season in mid August. Awa is the former name for Tokushima Prefecture while Odori means dance.</p> <p>From August 12 to 15, spectators and dancers come to Tokushima in the thousands to see this "Fool's Dance" whose origins date back 400 years. The nickname comes from the lyrics to a common dance song: "Fools dance and fools watch, if both are fools, you might as well dance".</p>
Tanabata Matsuri	July 7 (various cities throughout Japan)	<p>Tanabata (七夕), also known as the "star festival", takes place on the 7th day of the 7th month of the year, when, according to a Chinese legend, the two stars Altair and Vega, which are usually separated from each other by the Milky Way, are able to meet. Because the 7th month of the year roughly coincides with August rather than July according to the formerly used <u>lunar calendar</u>, Tanabata is still celebrated on August 7 in some regions of Japan, while it is celebrated on July 7 in other regions.</p>

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Gion Matsuri	July 1-31 (Kyoto)	The Gion Festival is one of the largest and most famous festivals in Japan, taking place annually during the month of July in Kyoto. Many events take place in central Kyoto and at the Yasaka Shrine, the festival's patron shrine, located in Kyoto's famous Gion district, which gives the festival its name.
Tenjin Matsuri	July 24-25 (Osaka)	Osaka, known as the second capital of Japan, and one of the most lively and fun cities in the country couldn't be left behind in a festival competition. Tenjin Festival (天神祭) , with more than 1,000 years of history, is another one of Japan's three greatest festivals, held at Osaka Tenmangu Shrine in the heart of Osaka City.