



Namahage Sedo Festival (in 2011)

Namahage Sedo Festival

(Shinzan Shrine: Second Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of February each year)

This event, which attracts many tourists, is performed at Shinzan Shrine on January 3rd, which combines the Sedo Festival, and the traditional Namahage event. Round rice cakes are baked in the sacred bonfire lit within the shrine precincts and offered to Namahage, an incarnation of the gods. The highlights are the Namahage dance and Namahage drums choreographed by a contemporary dance artist, Baku Ishii.



Namahage dance

Shinzan Shrine

Said to have been built during the era of the twelfth emperor Keikoh, a shrine associated with Namahage. It is also a popular 'power spot', with its giant nutmeg tree that dates back over a thousand years and numerous other plants.

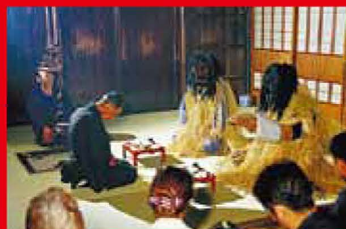


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Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum

The New Year's Eve Namahage event is re-enacted in a typical Oga magariya (bent) house adjacent to the Namahage Museum. A learning course is available to experience the Namahage practices of the Shinzan district.



Re-enactment of the Namahage event

Namahage Museum

Namahage garments and masks differ in each district where the event is performed. The Namahage Museum displays the masks and garments of approximately 60 districts, and the lineup of garments and masks is an impressive sight. There are also many special exhibits of Oga that carry on the tradition of the Namahage.



Interior of Namahage Museum



Yunoshiri district

Toga and Kitaara



Hamashioya district



Anzenji district

Hamanaka district



Mitsumori district

Oganaka

Makino district

Takigawa district

Machida district



Kamikanegawa district

Daishima district

Niiyama district

Ashizawa district

Onnagawa district

Namahage masks from the different districts



Oga no Namahage events

National important intangible folk cultural property
 Takes place throughout Oga City on New Year's Eve.

Toga and Kitaara

Oga Aquarium GAO

Namahage Museum Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum

Shinzan Shrine

Namahage Sedo Festival

Shinzan

Honzan

Kenashiyama

Akagami Shrine Goshado

National important cultural property

Northernmost natural habitat of camellia japonica

National natural monument

Oga

Funagawaminato

Wakimoto and Funakoshi

Wakimoto

Hadachi

Ruins of Wakimoto Castle

National historic site

Civic Cultural Hall Oga

Oga dugout canoe

National important cultural property

Toko Yasaka Tonin Event

National important intangible folk cultural property

July 7th

Masks



Namahage masks differ from village to village, a rich diversity that adds to the appeal of Namahage.



Namahage Sedo Festival (2011)

* Masks from approximately 60 districts are on display at the Namahage Museum.
 * Some of the masks shown here are not being used in the current events.
 * The photographs of the masks of each district are the property of Oga City, the Japan Sea Culture Research Institute, and private collections.



Wakami

Fukumezawa district



Nagane district



Kofukami district



Hashimoto district

Kotogawa district

Takaya district

Chuishi district



Wakimoto and Funakoshi

Momokawa district

Urada district

linomori district

Tayazawa district

a national important intangible folk cultural property



Oga no Namahage