



Niihama, Ehime

Kuchiya taikodai (float)

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NPO Sashiage Project

By taking an opportunity of opening a mine in Genroku 4 (1690), Niihama grew from a fishing village to a leading industrial city in Shikoku. There was a “Hamayado” (house) called “Kuchiya”, which had the key role as a logistics hub for sending blister copper to Osaka and carry daily commodities in for miners.

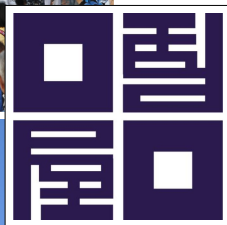
In Heisei 18 (1991), bearing its name from the historical “Akagane” (copper mine) which laid the foundation for the development of Niihama, the Kuchiya taikodai (float) was born.

Niihama Taikodai Festival

Considered one of the top three festivals in Shikoku. The festival runs from October 15th (selected areas only) to the 18th every year. Massive 3 ton taikodai that are 5.5m in height, and 13m in length are used.

There are 50 gorgeous and heroic floats that parade the streets of Niihama, competing with each other for the best carrying style.





“What We Are Aiming For”

The design of the tenmaku on the top represents Ehime prefecture. For kazarimaku (decorations), Niihama’s original motifs taken from the Besshi copper mine are used. Motifs such as “miners in a tunnel”, “miners refining”, “a pine tree and falcon at Kuchiya Akagane”, “the seven deities of good fortune looking at a Kuchiya pine tree”, and “an Ikku shrine parishioner crane hunting”.

To spread the Niihama festival throughout the country, we have actively participated in events outside of the city and conducted private voluntary projects including reconstruction assistance.

The Kuchiya taikodai is owned and managed by the NPO Sashiage project. The name of the organization contains a wish for uniting the team to carry the float higher and share the excitement with everyone. The organization also consults on urban renewal and provides support for the elderly.

We look for people from anywhere who are interested in participating in Niihama Taiko festival and passing the culture on to future generations while also facilitating communication with other areas by means of the festival. If you are interested in taking on the challenge with us, please contact us anytime!



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