

会津祭り

娘子隊 Joshitai (Women's Troop)

Next come the **Joshitai**, (or Fujinbutai) who were a group of Aizu female fighters. The most famous member was **Takeko Nakano** (1846-1868) who wanted to participate in the Boshin Civil War. She was given information about a princess (Teruhime) who needed protection in the town of Bange in the north. In an attempt to prove her worth she went to Bange to offer Teruhime her protection. After a couple of days, she realized that she had been lied to about the princess, so she rushed back to Aizu, but unfortunately, she was killed in battle on the way back. Other women heard this story and were inspired to begin fighting for the Aizu Clan.

薙刀隊 Naginatatai (Long Sword Troop)

The final group in the parade is the **Naginatatai**. The *naginata* is a sword with a long handle used by the female warriors during the Boshin Civil War. Girls in local schools still study the use of this weapon today.

玄武隊 / 会津新選組 Genbu-tai & Aizu Shinsengumi

Members of the Genbu-tai, and Aizu-shinsengumi are the final groups featured. The Aizu Shinsengumi were disbanded soldiers of the Shinsengumi (stationed in Kyoto) who returned to Aizu to fight.

ヘンリースネル / おけい Henry Schnell & Okei

Henry Schnell, a Prussian merchant, worked in Aizu selling weapons to the Clan. However, these weapons were old-fashioned relics left over from the American Civil War and various wars in Europe and they were no match for the new rifles used by the Emperor's forces. He was allotted a residence, and a Japanese name: *Hiramatsu Buhei*. He also led a group of Aizu people in a failed attempt to set up the Wakamatsu Colony at Gold Hill, Eldorado, California. Accompanying this group was the Schnell family nanny, **Okei** (17), who consequently became the first Japanese woman to emigrate. Sadly, she died in 1871, only two years after arriving in the United States.

斗南藩 Tonamihan (Tonami Clan)

The next group in the parade is the Tonami Clan from Aomori, with their leader, also named Matsudaira. After the war, the people of Aizu were forced to give up the clan system and follow the orders of the Meiji government. The ruling class was given two options: either to stay in Aizu and work as farmers (the lowest class under the shogun system) or they could move north to try to regain influence. About 4000 of these people decided to move north. They traveled to Aomori Prefecture, the home of the **Tonami Clan**. However, the conditions were extremely difficult and farming was almost impossible. Because of the poor land, many former Samurai became poor and had to survive on food that was normally used to feed animals. As a result they earned the disparaging nickname "hatozamurai" (pigeon samurai).

八重とその家族 Yae Nijima (Yamamoto) and Her Family

The main character of the 2013 Taiga Historical Drama "Yae no Sakura," Yae Nijima (Yamamoto) and her family and related characters. Yae Nijima fought for the Aizu Clan nearly 145 years ago during the Boshin Civil War at the last stronghold of the Aizu Clan, Tsuruga-jo Castle.

SEPTEMBER 23RD SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT TSURUGA CASTLE

- [Prayer of Thanksgiving to Ancestors Ceremony] (8:40AM)
- [Signal to Depart for the Front (Archery Demonstration)] (9:25AM)
- [Departure Ceremony - Mock Battles, Sword Dances, and More] (9:55AM)
- [Aizu Clan Parade Begins] (10:25AM)
- [Events in the Castle Keep] (11:15AM)
 - 1 Dances by White Tigers and Women's Troop
 - 2 Aizu Lion Dance
 - 3 Nigata Traditional Deta dance and Sightseeing PR
 - 4 Chinese Poem Recitation
 - 5 Chinese Poem Recitation
 - 6 Stage Performance by the Mankai Fukushima Troop
- [Return of Aizu Clan Parade] (2:45PM)
- [Return Ceremony] (3:00PM)



会津藩公行列

City Center Performances

Time	Location and Events	
10:25 AM	Japan Tobacco 日本たばこ • Taiko Drum Performance • Introducing the Parade Performers	A
10:25 AM	Lion Dor Supermarket on Shinmei Street 神明通り • Rifle Demonstration • Mock Battle • Introducing the Parade Performers	B
11:25 AM	Renaissance Bridal ルネッサンツ中の島前 • Introducing the Parade Performers	C
11:35 AM	Coop Supermarket Aioi コープあいおい • Taiko Drum Performance	D
12:45 PM	Chuo Street (Lion Dor Supermarket) 中央通り • Rifle Demonstration • White Tigers and Women's Troop Performances	E
12:45 PM	Chuo Street (Aigando Glasses) 愛眼堂 • White Tigers Sword Dance • Rifle Demonstration • Mock Battle	F
12:20 PM	Nanokamachi Street (Shimin Hiroba) 市民広場 • Taiko Drum Performance	G
1:20 PM	Honmachi Street (Honmachi Post Office) 本町通り • Taiko Drum Performance • White Tigers Sword Dance	H

FREE Guided Tours of the Castle in English 10:45 AM to 2:00 PM
Come to the Multilingual Information Desk* (see map on the right) next to the shrine at Tsuruga Castle. Tours will leave approximately every 30 min.

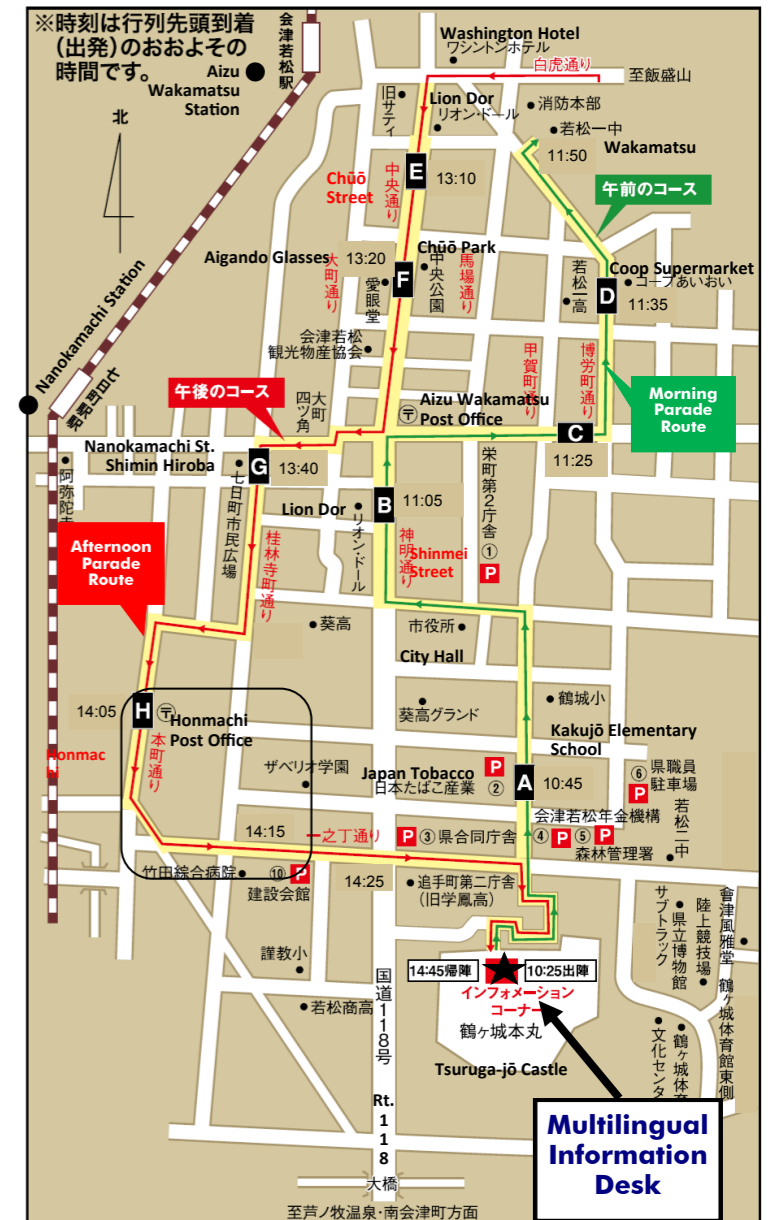
*Run by the Aizu Wakamatsu International Association
 **See back page for Events at the Castle on Sept. 23rd

11TH ANNUAL AIZU SHINSENGUMI FESTIVAL AND MARKET
 Come enjoy a traditional market, as well as presentations about Aizu's History and Culture.

Sunday, September 21st from 10:00am-5:00pm
Place: Amida-ji and Nanokamachi

AIZU CLAN PARADE

*Time indicates time parade will arrive at a given area.



※23日当日のイベント内容についてはお気軽にインフォメーションコーナーにお尋ねください。

AIZU AUTUMN REVIVAL MARKET

Come enjoy traditional foods and crafts at this reproduction of Gamo's famous "Rakkuten" Markets.

Sunday, September 21st to Tuesday, September 23rd
 from 10:00am-5:00pm (Tuesday- 9:00am-5:00pm)

Place: Tsurugajo Castle Grounds

For more information, call the Samurai City Project: **0242-39-6539**

Aizu Festival 2014

AIZU AUTUMN FESTIVAL CLAN PARADE



This festival has been held every September 23rd, since the defeat of Aizu Wakamatsu in the Boshin Civil War in 1868. Nearly 3,000 members of the Aizu Clan died, and almost 2/3rds of Tsurugajo was burned. The festival is held in remembrance of these deaths. The parade itself goes from 10:30am to 3:00pm.

奴隊 Yakkotai (Servants Troop)

These colorful characters were the servants of the samurai, and accompanied them for entertainment as well as protection. They carried spears and weapons, and chanted as they walked. They were always bearded!

歴代藩公旗手 Flags of the Feudal Lords

In front of each group are flags bearing the names of the Daimyo (Feudal Lord) families who led the region and manned Aizu's castle: *Tsurugajo*, through the ages... **Ashina, Date, Gamō, Uesugi, Katō, Hoshina, and Matsudaira.**

蒲生家 Gamō Family

Next is Lord Gamō Ujisato, who built the seven story castle in Aizu Wakamatsu and named it *Tsurugajo*.

横須賀開国甲冑隊 Yokosuka Kaikoku Katchutai (Yokosuka Open Country Armored Brigade)

After 1810, the Aizu Clan was also given the task of protecting the Miura Peninsula at the entrance of Edo (Tokyo) Bay along with this group, the Yokosuka Kaikoku Katchutai.

保科家 Hoshina Family 1643-1868

Next is **Masayuki Hoshina** (the Daimyo) and his retainers. Masayuki and Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa were distant relatives, further strengthening the loyalty of the Aizu clan to the Shogun. Masayuki was given control of the Minami Aizu area by the Shogunate. Following Hoshina is his elder advisor and his daughter, **Kikuhime (Princess Kiku)**, accompanied by her ladies in waiting.

The rest of the parade is devoted to people connected with the Byakkotai and the Boshin Civil War (1868). The Matsudaira family was in power in Aizu at the time.

松平家 Matsudaira Family 1643-1868

The Hoshina family was later given the title of **Matsudaira** by the Shogun, marking a strengthening of ties between the Aizu and the Shogun. The Matsudaira family led the Aizu Clan and built the **Nisshinkan** school in 1803, which trained the Aizu clan's Samurai. The Matsudairas led Wakamatsu and the Aizu Clan to join with the Shogun's forces in the **Boshin Civil War** that broke out in 1868. Two southern forces supporting the Emperor attacked the Shogun, the Choshu from Yamaguchi Prefecture, and the Satsuma from Kagoshima Prefecture. The Northern clans all fought hard against combined western and imperial armies, but Aizu refused to fall. The castle—*Tsurugajo*—was under siege for an entire month starting in August of 1868, during which it was bombarded heavily with cannon fire. It is said that there were 20,000 soldiers in the invading army, while just 3,000 Aizu soldiers defended the castle. A government officially headed by the Emperor was finally established after the Aizu Clan, lead by Lord Matsudaira, surrendered on Sept. 23, 1868. Featured at this point in the parade are the public servants in the official bureau of the Aizu Clan.

新選組 Shinsengumi (Shogunate Police and Military Force)

The **Shinsengumi** was stationed in Kyoto and was given the role of policing the city where the Emperor and his allies had a stronghold. The Shinsengumi had units from Hino & Aizu and the soldiers all came from the working classes. After the opposition gained strength, the Shinsengumi disbanded, and many of the soldiers came to assist with the war in Aizu.

京都所司代 Kyoto Shoshidai (Shogun's Deputies in Kyoto)

Next is a group from Kyoto, who was said to be the rival of the Shinsengumi because both groups had to share the task of policing Kyoto. In Kyoto there were several people from the same Matsudaira family as the Aizu Clan.

長岡藩銃士隊 Nagaoka Han Jūshi-tai (Nagaoka Clan Musketeer Brigade)

This was a unit of soldiers from Nagaoka in Niigata. They handled rifles, and other types of artillery. Following them comes the cannon.

朱雀隊 / 青龍隊 Suzaku-tai (Vermillion Bird Brigade) / Seiryu-tai (Blue Dragon Brigade)

The troops in the Aizu armies were organized by age. Members of the **Suzaku-tai** were between the ages of 18 and 35, and members of the **Seiryu-tai** were between 36 and 49 years old.

越後口隊 / 日光口隊 / 白河口隊 Echigo-guchitai, Nikko-guchitai, and Shirakawa-guchitai

Next come the Kuchitai armies made up of people who hailed from areas surrounding Aizu, and were lead by Aizu soldiers. The **Shirakawa-guchitai**, lead by Saigo Tanomo, lead the defense against Western forces closing in from Shirakawa in the East. The **Nikko-guchitai** led in defending the South. Meanwhile, the **Echigo-guchitai** was being defended from an attack out of Niigata in the West. Another troop, not represented today, called the **Oohira-guchitai**, led in defending the East.

白虎士中一番隊 Byakkotai No. I Unit (White Tiger Brigade)

Following is the first group of **Byakkotai** soldiers. These young boys studied *bushido* (the way of the warrior) at the samurai school, Aizu Nisshinkan. This group served during the Boshin Civil War, and called themselves the Byakkotai (White Tiger Brigade). Some of these soldiers were only around 15 to 16 years old. They advanced from Takizawa village to the battlefield in Tonokuchi village, but upon arrival they realized that they were heading into an ambush, so they fled into the forest to regroup. When the signal was given, they began a volley of gunfire, but they were gradually surrounded and overwhelmed by the Emperor's forces.

After the first Byakkotai group, we can see the last Daimyo of the Aizu Clan, **Katamori Matsudaira**, who was only 24 years old at the time of the war. He is accompanied by his elder advisors and retainers, most notably **Gonbe Kayano** who strongly supported participation in the Boshin Civil War. In 1869, after the war, he was ordered to commit suicide in Tokyo in order to take responsibility for bringing Aizu into the war.

白虎士中二番隊 Byakkotai No. II Unit (White Tiger Brigade)

The next group of Byakkotai soldiers are the infamous twenty members of the No. II Unit. While the rest of the Byakkotai were attending to their wounded and avoiding the enemy troops, twenty of the boys escaped through a tunnel that runs from Inawashiro to Iimoriyama. They looked over the city from the safety of the Iimoriyama hill and spotted the castle, Tsuruga-jo, in flames. The boys were wounded and weaponless. Rather than bringing shame to their lord and their ancestors by being captured by the enemy, they committed ritual suicide. Tragically, the castle itself was not burning (it was the surrounding area that was in flames) and the war continued to rage on for a few more weeks.

One boy, **Sadakichi Iinuma**, survived the ritual suicide because his hand was too badly wounded to complete the ritual and he was later found by a local woman named Hatsu. Because of his shame for not dying with his comrades, he did not mention the episode to anyone for several years. Iinuma's dying wish was to be buried along with his soul brothers. The names of the Byakkotai who died on the 21st of August, 1868 are: Tōzaburou Adachi, Orinosuke Ariga, Shintarō Ikegami, Wasuke Ishida, Toranosuke Ishiyama, Teijirou Itō, Toshihiko Itō, Motarō Ibuka, Gisaburō Shinoda, Genkichi Suzuki, Kiyomi Tsugawa, Sutezou Tsuda, Yuuji Nagase, Katsutarō Nishikawa, Komashirō Nomura, Yasoji Hayashi, Genshichirō Mase, Katsusaburō Yanase, and Takeji Yanase. Their graves can be found on Iimoriyama, where they died.

照姫 Teruhime (The Princess)

Next up—riding on a cart—is the princess, **Teruhime**. She was the third daughter of Lord Hoshina Masamoto and she was born in 1832. At the age of ten she was adopted by the 8th Lord of Aizu, Katataka Matsudaira. When Teruhime's father Masamoto died in 1848 there were no heirs to succeed him, so her adoptive father-in-law Katataka Matsudaira became Lord. At 18, she married and moved to Okayama prefecture for a few years, but she returned to Aizu in February 1868 at age 23 after divorcing her husband. During the Boshin Civil War, she commanded a force of 600 women and children that assisted with the defense of the castle. They worked to keep troops fed, tended the wounded, doused fires, and removed cannon shells. Teruhime was also known to be an expert calligrapher and poet. Teruhime is accompanied by the **Jijo**, maidservants to Ladies in the clan.