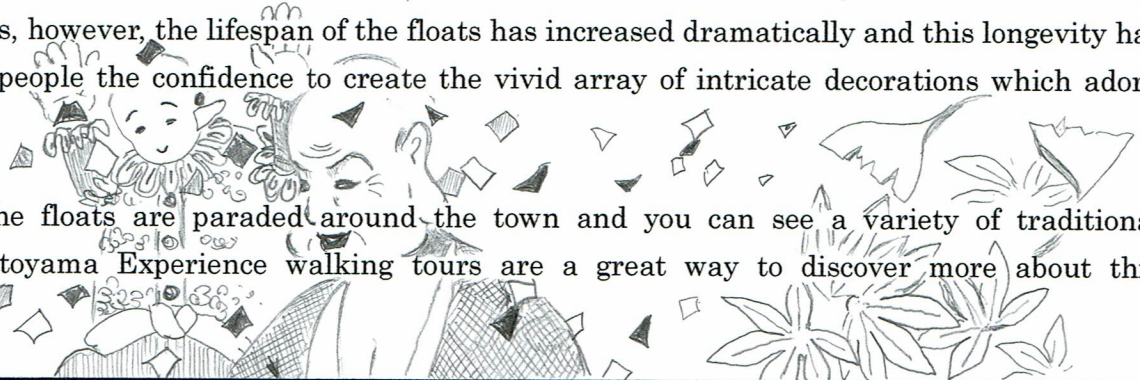


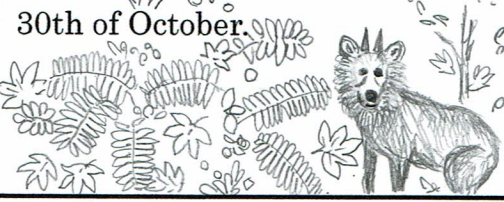
Held on 9th and 10th October each year, **TAKAYAMA AUTUMN FESTIVAL** is ranked as one of the most beautiful festivals in the whole of Japan. It belongs to the Hachiman Shrine in the northern half of Takayama and so is known locally as the Hachiman Festival. Dating back to at least 1718, it takes place to give thanks for a (hopefully!) abundant harvest.

The festival boasts 11 tall and elaborately-decorated floats (yatai), kept in storehouses scattered around the old town throughout the year, except for 4 which are exhibited for visitors in the Takayama Matsuri Yatai Kaikan next to Hachiman Shrine. Before custom-designed housing was built for them, the festival floats were often destroyed by fire and needed to be rebuilt every 50 years on average due to degradation. With modern conservation techniques, however, the lifespan of the floats has increased dramatically and this longevity has given local Takayama people the confidence to create the vivid array of intricate decorations which adorn them.

During the festival, the floats are paraded around the town and you can see a variety of traditional performances. Our Satoyama Experience walking tours are a great way to discover more about this traditional spectacle.



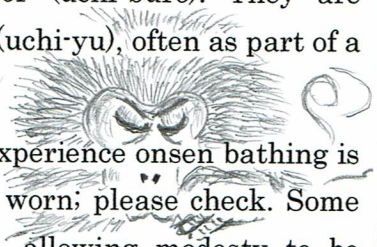
**AUTUMN COLOURS** sparkle at night in Hida! From early October the mountainside foliage begins to change colour, resulting in a beautiful array of multi-coloured leaves until first snowfall. If you stay in Okuhida, deep in the Northern Japanese Alps, the trees are artistically illuminated when night falls between the 20th and 30th of October.



## Experience **JAPANESE HOT SPRING BATHS.**

The volcanic nature of the Japanese archipelago means there are literally thousands of hot springs, known as **ONSEN**, scattered amongst it. Making use of natural hot water from geothermally-heated springs, onsen come in many types and shapes, including outdoor (roten-buro) and indoor (uchi-buro). They are publicly run by municipalities or privately (uchi-yu), often as part of a hotel or ryokan.

The traditional way for local Japanese to experience onsen bathing is naked (!), but some allow swimsuits to be worn; please check. Some accommodations also have private baths, allowing modesty to be preserved! One thing is for sure: towards the end of the day with the evenings growing chilly, hot springs come to the forefront of the locals' minds.



Find out more at  
**SATOYAMA EXPERIENCE**

*Let's make the most of your Hida trip!*

**CAFÉ  
TAKAYAMA**

**iCafe Takayama Tour Desk**  
**(Opening Hours from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm)**