

Hanzaki Festival and Hanzaki Floats

The Hanzaki Grand Shrine Preservation Society was set up in 1958 in Yubara—which has been known as the “hometown of Hanzaki” for a very long time.

Whilst revering the Grand Shrine and the grave of Hikoshiro Mitsui, and also designed to be a popular tourist destination, the “Hanzaki Festival” was established.

In 1962, the Okayama National Mountain Climbing Meet’s closing ceremony occurred in front of the Hanzaki Grand Shrine, and the huge Hanzaki from the legends (10.5m long) was made out of paper-mache and revealed to the public, to great reviews.

Afterwards, the Hanzaki was pulled around town behind a traditional dance and accompanying music.

The former paper-mache Hanzaki were replaced in 1992 (Tarou) and 1994 (Hanako), but floats made from Fibre-reinforced plastic.

For the 50th year celebration, the younger locals hand-made a large “Hanzaki Nebuta (float)”, which helped to liven up the festival even more.

With these 3 floats and the dance in *yukatas* walking around town, the Hanzaki festival is one piece of Hanzaki-related culture that can only be found in Yubara.



first paper-mache Hanzaki



Hanzaki Tarou



Hanzaki Hanako



Hanzaki Nebuta Float