**Hibuse Stone Monuments**

These stone monuments stand on either side of the harbor in Naburi Bay. Comprised of three large stones each, they were erected to ward off fires after a great blaze broke out in 1781. The Japanese word *hibuse* means “fire prevention.”

 Another result of the 1781 fire is an annual celebration held on January 24th called the Hibuse Festival, which has been designated an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property. The event is partly a solemn reminder to remain vigilant against potential disasters but also a chance to have some fun. There are performances of bawdy, improvised skits called *ometsuki*, along with a colorful parade of large floats. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011, the festival has become even more significant to the local community as a symbol of recovery.