## Festivals in Nearby Areas

Over 40 other neighborhoods in the Azumino valley host festivals that include parades of similar large, boat-shaped floats decorated with elaborate historical scenes. These events are held in early summer and around the autumn harvest. While there are no clashes between the *ofune* like the ones at Hotaka Jinja, the sight of these heavy, colorful floats being pulled through the rural landscape to the rhythm of flute-and-drum ensembles (many of them made up of local schoolchildren) is nonetheless an unforgettable experience.