

Ojiya *Chijimi* Exhibition Hall, Workshop, and Gallery

The linen-like Ojiya *chijimi* fabric has been woven in the Echigo region of Niigata for over 400 years. The production process involves multiple steps carried out in winter, when the area's relatively mild temperatures and high humidity create the optimal conditions for working with the brittle ramie plant fiber. Two venues in Ojiya offer visitors the opportunity to learn about Ojiya *chijimi*, take part in the weaving process, and compare both traditional and modern representations of the textile.

Orinoza exhibition hall and workshop

Visitors can delve into the history of Ojiya *chijimi* at Orinoza, an exhibition hall and workshop located in the Sun Plaza Building in Ojiya's city center. It exhibits traditional and modern looms, and Edo-period (1603–1867) kimono made from the fabric.

Displays explain each step of the production process, from making the thread from plant fiber, to the resist-dyeing methods used, and natural bleaching through exposure to snow and sunlight. The works of local artists and craftspeople take center stage during the exhibitions of photography and textiles held periodically at Orinoza. Weavers regularly hold demonstrations at the venue, and visitors can try using a loom to make a coaster, ribbon, or fabric doll.

Takuminoza gallery and boutique

Chijimi fabric and kimono with striking patterns are displayed and sold at Takuminoza. Here, visitors can view finely crafted pieces, such as the kimono worn by performers at local festivals, and shop for one-of-a-kind Ojiya *chijimi* garments and accessories. A range of modern apparel and items such as wallets, card cases, and book covers are available. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Sun Plaza building, above Orinoza.