

Nagahama Hikiyama Museum

The **Nagahama Hikiyama Festival** takes place each April, but the festival's elaborately decorated floats are displayed year-round at this centrally located museum.

Hikiyama are mobile stages, each between 6 and 9 meters tall and weighing between 5 and 6 metric tons. During the festival, teams of around 40 people pull the *hikiyama* to different locations throughout the city. At each stop, child actors who ride inside the *hikiyama* emerge to perform Kabuki plays accompanied by musicians hidden behind the stage.

Two or more *hikiyama* are always on display at the museum. The stages have been nicknamed “mobile art museums” for their ornate decorations, which include crimson lacquer, gold leaf, intricate carvings, and detailed metalwork. Guests accompanied by a certified regional interpreter guide have the rare chance to step into the glass-walled bay for an up-close inspection.

The museum also has displays that introduce the history of the festival, which has been held in its current form since the eighteenth century. Near the entrance is a replica of a *hikiyama* stage, atop which visitors can imagine themselves as performers. Video recordings of past Kabuki performances are screened on the second floor, where there are also pictures of the priceless embroidered curtains that hang on the back of each *hikiyama*.

コメントの追加 [BC1]: 細分化シート NO.17 「長浜曳山祭り」へのハイパーリンクを挿入