

The 48th Annual Noboribetsu Onsen Hot Spring Festival

| Sunday, 3rd February <i>(The traditional end of winter)</i> | | | |
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| 18:00 - | Distributing hot spring/Opening ceremony | Sengen Park | Opening ceremony of Hot spring festival |
| 18:20 - | Exorcism Tour in Noboribetsu Onsen | Shops & Hotels | <i>Yukijin the demons</i> are coming down to Onsen town and drive evil spirit out of tourists and local people, wishing health and happiness. Yukijin are making a tour in town: first shops in main street, then hotels. |
| 21:00-21:30 | <i>Yukijin kagura</i> / Rice-cake Pounding Complimentary <i>Amazake</i> & <i>Shiruko</i> Service | Sengen Park | Exorcism dance by Yukijin, hot spring demons, and performance of rice cake pounding wishing for prosperity of descendants. Enjoy " <i>Amazake</i> " Japanese traditional hot sweet sake and " <i>Shiruko</i> ," sweet hot soup with red-beans & rice cake to keep you warm. |
| 21:30 - | Exorcism Tour in Noboribetsu Onsen | Pubs & Restaurants | Red and blue demons will make a tour in Main street for exorcism. |
| Monday, 4th February <i>(The first day of spring)</i> | | | |
| 18:00 - | Exorcism Tour in Noboribetsu Onsen | Hotels | Red and blue demons will make a tour to hotels in the area for exorcism. |
| 20:00 - | <i>Yukijin kagura</i> / Rice-cake Pounding Complimentary Sweet sake / <i>Shiruko</i> | Sengen Park | Exorcism dance by Yukijin, hot spring demons, and performance of rice cake pounding wishing for prosperity of descendants. Enjoy " <i>Amazake</i> " Japanese traditional hot sweet sake and " <i>Shiruko</i> ," sweet hot soup with red-beans & rice cake to keep you warm. |
| 21:10 - | Hot Spring Splashing Battle | Sengen Park | Cavalry battle is held and 100 men in waistcloth will fight splashing hot spring water. |

NOTE: Events and schedule are subject to change.

Noboribetsu Onsen is known for its abundant hot spring in various types at high temperatures.

It's a festival to wish the hot spring water will never die out and give thanks to the health effects of it as well as to wish for peoples' happiness and health through the year, as well as the last day of winter on lunar calendar.

It's a Japanese custom to throw beans saying "*Oni wa soto* (out with the demons)", "*Fuku wa uchi* (in with good fortune)" wishing for people's happiness and health on the day.

In the festival, *yukijin* the red and blue demons sent by Enma, the Hell master, will make a tour in onsen town to drive evil spirits out." They collect disasters and misfortune of people and onsen town this year and bring it back to Hell with them.

Here's an exclusive rule of bean throwing in Noboribetsu Onsen:

Never say "*Oni wa soto* (Out with the demons)" as the national tradition, since demons in Noboribetsu Onsen are hot spring guardians.

Just say "***Fuku wa uchi*** (In with good fortune)," and throw beans to exorcise.