

Karatsu Kunchi in Saga, Kyushu, Japan

■ **Date:** 2019/11/2(Sat)- 2019/11/4(Mon)
■ **Place:** Karatsu City, Saga Prefecture

■ **Description :** Karatsu Kunchi is an annual autumn festival in Karatsu City, held over a three-day period from November 2 to 4 each year. "Kunchi" means "autumn festival" in northern Kyushu dialect. The festival has been selected for the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List and is designated as an Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Japan. 14 sumptuous lacquered floats with spectacular forms such as a lion and a war helmet are carried through the old castle town in Karatsu, accompanied by bells, flutes, taiko drums and chants of "Enya, enya" and "Yoisa, yoisa". Exquisitely painted in brilliant colours with gold and silver accents, the floats stand over 7m high and weigh around 2-3 tons.

Information

- **Station:** JR Karatsu Station
- **Getting to the venue:** 5-minute walk from the nearest station
- **Official website/social media:** Available (multilingual)

<https://www.karatsu-kankou.jp/en/>

- **Attendees:** 630,000 people

■ **Local attractions:**

- Karatsu has magnificent nature spots, such as Mt. Kagamiyama which offers a panoramic view of the Genkai Sea. There is also an abundance of historic sites such as Karatsu Castle and Hizen-Nagoya Castle.
- Delicious fresh seafood from the Genkai Sea, such as Yobuko squid



Experience program

Experience program name: Walking tour of Karatsu, the festival city

Experience program combining a walking tour of Karatsu with sake tasting. Get to know Karatsu Kunchi in a walking tour that takes you through all the best spots, teaches you about the history of the festival and tells you how you can enjoy Karatsu Kunchi even more.

■ **Selling points**

- English explanations of the festival's history and best spots
- Explore attractions around Karatsu
- Learn about Karatsu's beautiful Karatsu-yaki ceramics at the end of the tour
- Sample local sake in traditional ochoko (small cups)

■ **Selling price: ¥8,800**

■ **Capacity: About 10 people per day**



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■ Schedule

- Held every Saturday and Sunday from September 21 to October 26
- 13:00 Meet at Karatsu Station Tourist Information Centre
- 13:15 Karatsu Shrine
- 13:45 Float exhibition area
- 14:35 Choose an ochoko (small sake cup) and sample sake at Choko Bar
- 16:00 End of tour

■ Memo

- The ochoko is not a free gift.
- Participants will learn about Karatsu-yaki ceramics and can buy some if they are interested.
- Minimum group size is 2.

■ Inquiries and reservations

TEL:— E mail: expe@karatsu-kankou.jp

■ Payment method

- ① Payments are made online via travel agents.

■ Cancellation fee

- ① Travel agent's cancellation policies apply.