



Ōgase Fireworks Display

Hongo/Ōshima Districts and Elsewhere, Ōi-cho

The brilliant lights of the Super Ōgase fireworks display brighten the dusk sky over the ocean and Ōshima Peninsula. Ōi-cho's beautiful sea grows all the more so with each burst...



Super Ōgase



Aoto Inlet and the Aoto Bridge

In late August every year, the waters of the Aoto Inlet and Ōshima Peninsula in Ōi-cho are aglow with the brilliant display that is the Wakasa Ōi Super Ōgase fireworks festival. This 300-plus year-old festival has been designated a Prefectural Intangible Folk Cultural Property.

After dusk, a procession of torches, taiko drums, and flutes forms a river of fire. This parade is referred to as *yukya no honō* (the "flames of eternity"), and raises the Super Ōgase, a towering firework approximately 20m in height and 300 *ryo* in weight. It is then lit, sending sparks flying everywhere around it, a mystical and memorable sight for all in attendance.

Across this inlet stretches the Aoto Bridge, which is the longest in Fukui Prefecture. Its red color contrasts with the blue ocean waters and verdant green mountains nearby, providing onlookers with a colorful view combining architecture, greenery, and refreshing ocean waters.



Sode ga Hama swimming area^①

A visit to Ōi-cho's Ōshima Peninsula brings all of Wakasa Bay's charms into clear view.

Nearby Sode ga Hama, which overlooks Obama Bay, is the best beach in the area, with brilliant white sands and beautiful blue waters.

Homes on Ōshima celebrate *Hantō* every New Year by hanging *janawa* ropes (made of straw) or ivy branches, which wind along the streets of residential districts. The fall festival marks another major event in the year, and is held in thanks of the many blessings the town enjoys from the sea. The last Saturday and Sunday in July bring the Minadzuki Festival (as known locally as *Kawasosan*) to the Hongo district, where a portable shrine is carried through the ocean waters and around town.



Ōshima district's *janawa* rope (Hatamura)^②



Hongo's Minadzuki Festival^③



Photos ①~③ courtesy of Ōi-cho