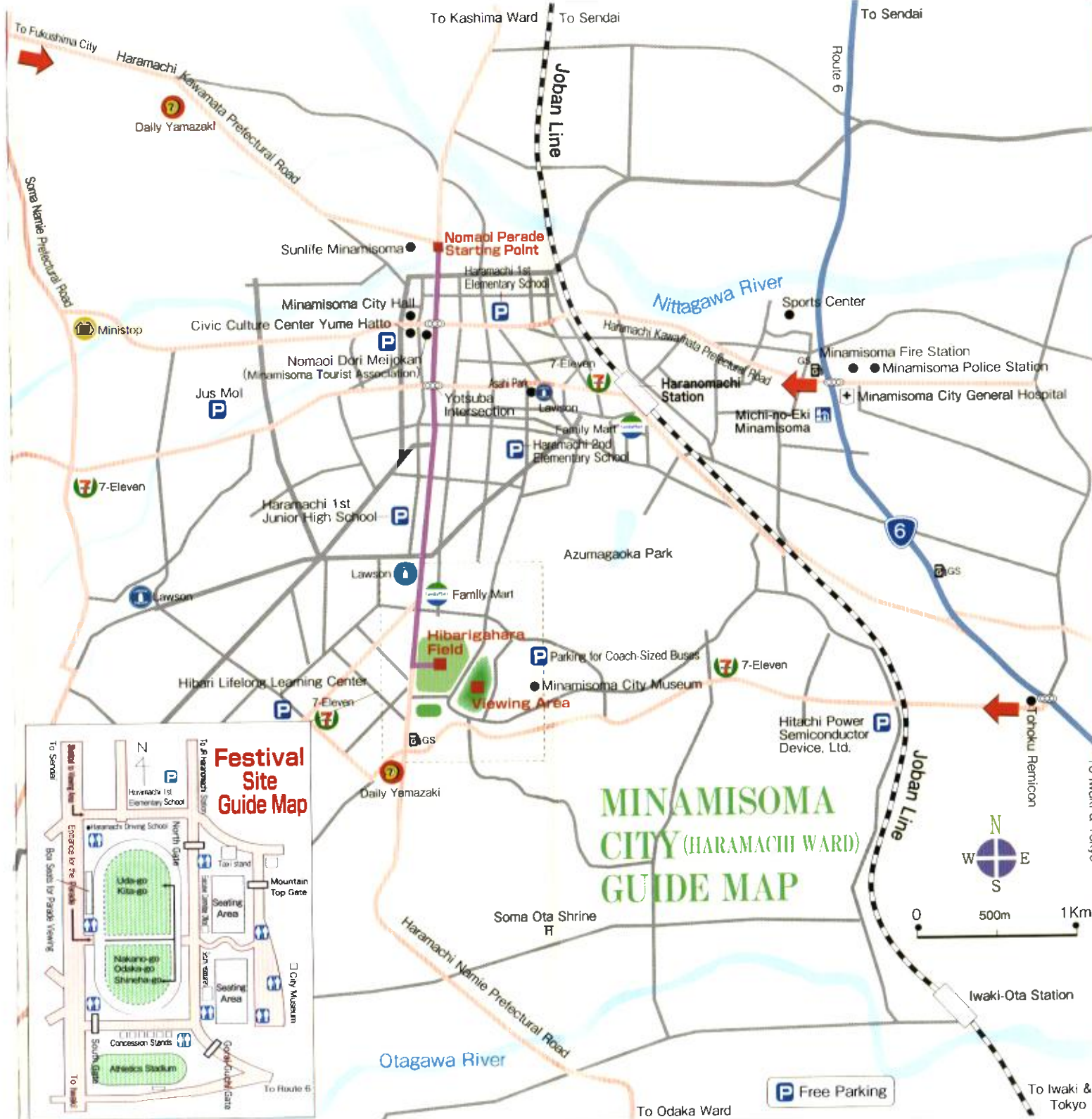


- By Air**
- From Fukushima Airport
 *By car: take Route 4 north and go east via Nihonmatsu (around 120km, 2h40m)
- From Sendai Airport
 *By car: Sendai Airport → Sendai-Tobu Road → Joban Expressway → Minamisoma Interchange (around 64km, 1h)
 *By train: Sendai Airport Station → Natori Station → Haranomachi Station (around 1h30m)
- By Train**
- Tokyo Station → Tohoku Shinkansen Line: Hayabusa (around 1h30m) → Sendai Station
 ●Sendai Station → Joban Line (around 1h20m) → Haranomachi Station
 ●Shinagawa/Ueno Station → Joban Line: Hitachi Express Train (around 3h30m) → Haranomachi Station
- By Car**
- Fukushima → Haramachi Kawamata Prefectural Road → Minamisoma Interchange (around 1h30m)
 ●Nihonmatsu → (Iino/Kawamata) → Minamisoma City (around 1h30m)
 ●Tokyo → Joban Expressway → Minamisoma Interchange (around 3h)
 ●Sendai → Sendai Tobu Road → Joban Expressway → Minamisoma Interchange (around 1h15m)

●For Inquiries and Ticket Prices●
Soma Nomaol General Incorporated Association
 (Soma Nomaol Executive Committee)
 975-8686 Fukushima-ken, Minamisoma-shi, Haramachi-ku, Motomachi 2-27
TEL 0244-22-3064 · FAX 0244-22-3100
<http://soma-nomaol.jp/>



Nomaol Overseas Performances

TOPICS

Soma Nomaol has crossed oceans to be performed in several countries. People experiencing the exhilarating view of Japanese samurai warriors for the first time watch the performances with bated breath.

The valiant performance of mounted samurai warriors electrifies overseas audiences.



2014 Hawaii



2005 Los Angeles

Featured in Historical Dramas and Films

Nomaol horsemen have appeared in various TV dramas and feature films.

Works in Which Nomaol Appears

1. Movie "Furinkazan" (1969, Mifune Production)
2. Drama "Ten to Chi to" (1969)
3. Drama "Kunitori Monogatari" (1973)
4. Drama "Kaze to Kumo to Niji to" (1976)
5. Movie "Sengoku Jitai" (1979)
6. Drama "Wakaki Hi no Hojo Soun" (1980, TV Asahi)
7. Drama "Sekigahara" (1981)
8. Drama "Onna Furinkazan" (1986)
9. Drama "Dokuganryu Masamune" (1987)
10. Movie "Fukuro no Shiro" (1999, Fukuro no Shiro Seisaku linkai)
11. Drama "Kizuna - Hashire Kiseki no Koume" (2017, NHK)

Soma Nomaol is gaining international recognition

LONDON



1991 London

MOSCOW



1993 Moscow

Soma Nomaol has been performed in countries like the USA, the UK, Russia, and Brazil. Nomaol samurai were warmly welcomed everywhere, and their performances garnered much applause from audiences who were fascinated by the strength and splendor of modern-day samurai warriors.

[London]

On December 18, 1991, Nomaol samurai participated in the Japan Festival, an event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Japan Society of London.

[Moscow]

On June 5, 1993, Nomaol was performed in Hello Russia, an exchange event held at Red Square in Moscow to promote friendship between Japan and Russia. This event was organized by Kansai Yamamoto, a famous fashion designer, with the theme "Celebration of Humanity."

[Hawaii]

In 1994, Nomaol was invited to Matsuri in Hawaii (Pan-Pacific Festival), a cultural exchange event between Japan and Hawaii. It was not just an event, but a great opportunity for international exchange, showcasing unique festivals from different regions in Japan overseas.

[Los Angeles]

Since 2002, Nomaol samurai have been invited to Japan Family Day at the Santa Anita Race Track in Los Angeles to perform Nomaol as a representative example of Japanese equestrian culture. This event is held to celebrate friendship with Oi Race Track in Tokyo, and various exchange programs are conducted at both race tracks.

A Breathtaking Traditional Festival With Over 1,000 Years of History



National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Soma Nomaol

[Dates]
 End of Every May
 (Saturday · Sunday · Monday)

Day One
 Okuridashi (Soma City)
 Soutaishou-Omukae (Kashima Ward, Minamisoma City)
 Yoinori (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City)

Day Two
 Ogyouretsuo (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City)
 Kacchu-Keiba (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City)
 Shinki-Soudatsusen (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City)

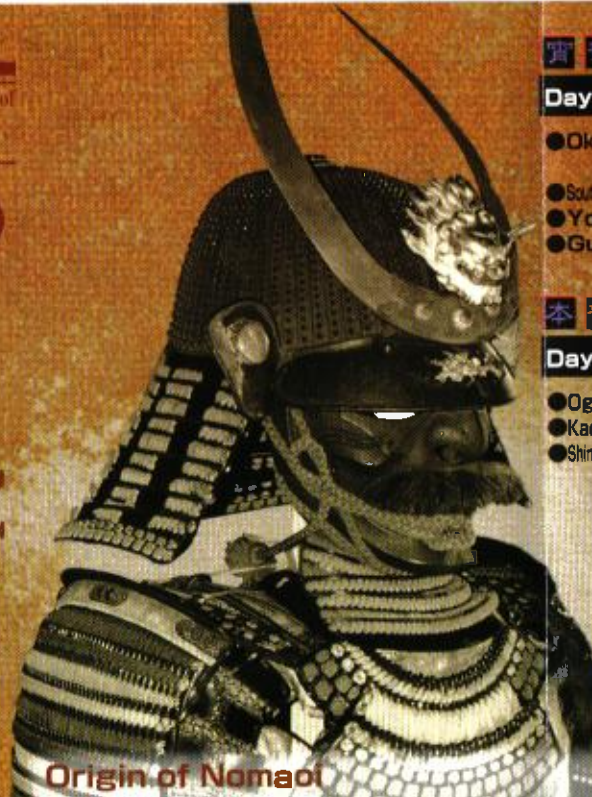
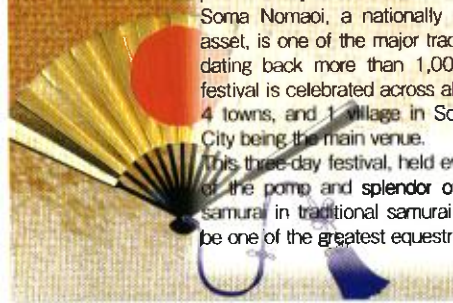
Day Three
 Nomakake (Odaka Ward, Minamisoma City)



Soma Nomaol General Incorporated Association
 (Soma Nomaol Executive Committee)

Reenactment of
Ancient
Japan

Soma Nomaoui
A Living Tradition
Woven Over 1,000 Years



Origin of Nomaoui

History tells us that Soma Nomaoui started as a military exercise conducted more than 1,000 years ago by Taira no Kojiro Masakado, the founder of the Soma Clan. Masakado, who was then the governor of the Soma Mikuniya (estate dedicated to the Ise Jingu Shrine) in Shimousa Province, thought of using horses as a new military tool. He started military exercises in which he released wild horses as stand-ins for enemies on Shimousa's Koganehara Plains in Katsushika County (near the modern-day city of Nagareyama in Chiba Prefecture). He then made his cavalry, gathered from eight provinces in Kan-Hasshu (northern part of modern-day Kanto Region), pursue and capture the wild horses. After the exercise, the wild horses were dedicated as offerings to Myoken (Bodhisattva of the North Star). Even after the Soma Clan moved their main residence to Namekata County, Oshu Province (modern-day Soma County containing Soma and Minamisoma) in 1323, each successive feudal lord of the Soma Domain continued this event uninterrupted until the Meiji Restoration. This was possible because the Soma Clan was one of the few clans which were not ordered to move to another province and ruled their domain for an exceptionally long time, from the Kamakura Period through the end of the Edo Period. The role of the supreme commander in this event is still performed by a descendant of the Soma Clan. Soma Nomaoui, a nationally designated important intangible folk cultural asset, is one of the major traditional cultural events in Japan with a history dating back more than 1,000 years to the Warring States Period. The festival is celebrated across all the former Soma Domain territories (2 cities, 4 towns, and 1 village in Soma and Futaba Counties) with Minamisoma City being the main venue. This three-day festival, held every year at the end of May, is a reenactment of the pomp and splendor of ancient Japan. With around 400 mounted samurai in traditional samurai armor participating, Soma Nomaoui is said to be one of the greatest equestrian festivals in the world.

宵祭り Eve of Festival

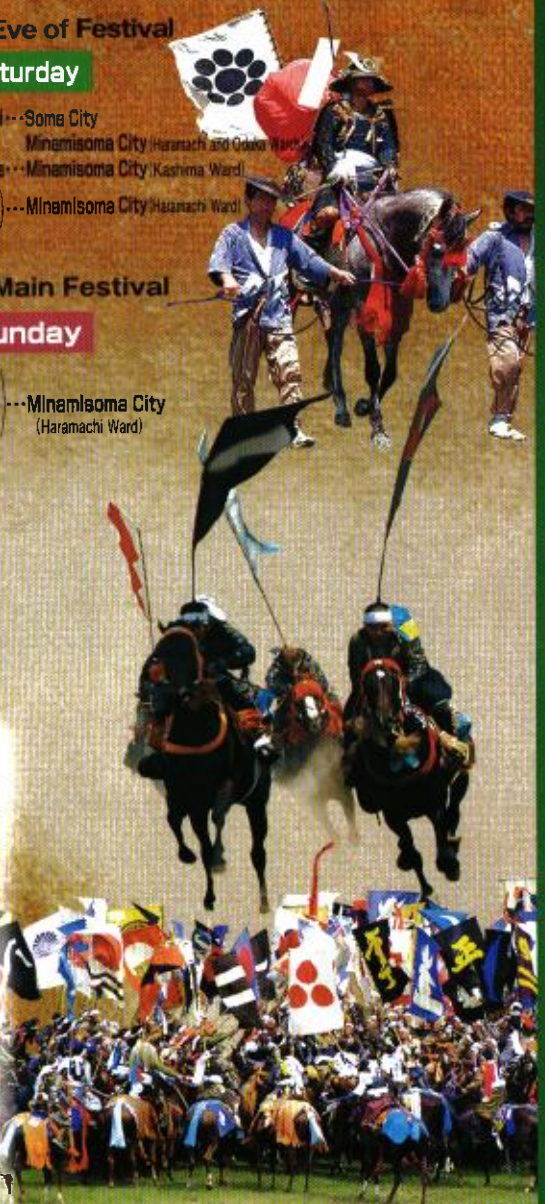
Day 1 Saturday

- Okuridashi...Soma City
Minamisoma City (Haramachi and Odaka Ward)
- Soutaishou-Omukae...Minamisoma City (Kashima Ward)
- Yoinori...Minamisoma City (Kashima Ward)
- Gunjakai...Minamisoma City (Kashima Ward)

本祭り Main Festival

Day 2 Sunday

- Ogyouretsuo
- Kacchu-Keiba...Minamisoma City
(Haramachi Ward)
- Shinki-Soudatsusen



野馬追 Wild Horse Capture

Day 3 Monday

- Nomakake...Minamisoma City
(Odaka Ward)



[Event Outline]... A Living Tradition Woven Over 1,000 Years

The sound of a conch shell horn and a wave of the commander's flag signal it is time to depart for the front.

■Okuridashi (Departure Ceremony) (Day 1/Saturday)

The departure ceremony is held at Soma Nakamura Shrine, Soma Ota Shrine, and Soma Odaka Shrine, all of which enshrine Myoken Bosatsu, the guardian bodhisattva of the Soma Clan. A prayer and a toast are offered at each of the three shrines, and when all the preparation for the departure is finished, the commander issues the departure order. When the flagman waves the commander's flag, a conch shell horn is blown to signal the warriors' departure.

(Soma Nakamura Shrine (Soma City))



Departure of the Supreme Commander

■Soutaishou-Omukae (Reception of the Supreme Commander) (Day 1/Saturday)

At the Kita-go military headquarters, the reception of the supreme commander is held. This is where the deputy supreme commander, samurai chiefs, deputy strategists, cavalry chiefs, and other high-ranking samurai wait with a conch shell blower for the supreme commander to arrive. This reception ceremony is performed in accordance with ancient customs and traditions. After receiving orders from the supreme commander, all the samurai warriors advance to Hibarigahara Field. (Kashima Ward, Minamisoma City)

■Yoinori Keiba (Pre-Event Horse Race) (Day 1/Saturday)

At 2pm, the pre-event horse race is held at Hibarigahara Field. After a ritual to purify the riding grounds, several races are conducted, each consisting of samurai dressed in field attire (nobakama), tabards (jinbaori), and white headbands (hachimaki) racing against each other while controlling their horses with traditional harnesses.

(Hibarigahara Field (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City))



A large cavalry of around 400 riders march majestically towards the military headquarters.

■Ogyouretsuo (Armored Samurai Parade) (Day 2/ Sunday)

At 9:30am, when the conch shell horn is blown and the battle drums are sounded, the samurai who have gathered from different regions set out for Hibarigahara Field three kilometers away. This procession is called Ogyouretsuo. The first group in the parade is made up of samurai from the Nakano-go Region (modern-day Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City), led by a portable shrine from Soma Ota Shrine. They are followed by a group of samurai from the Odaka-go Region (modern-day Odaka Ward, Minamisoma City) and from the Shineha-go Region (modern-day Namie Town, Futaba Town, and Okuma Town) led by a portable shrine from the Soma Odaka Shrine. The last group is from the Kita-go Region (modern-day Kashima Ward, Minamisoma City) and the Uda-go Region (modern-day Soma City), led by a portable shrine from the Soma Nakamura Shrine.

The parade recreates the valiant and majestic atmosphere of ancient times with around 400 riders dressed in traditional armor inherited from their ancestors. This breathtakingly magnificent procession is also a "moving exhibition" of valuable cultural assets, which draws admirers back to watch Nomaoui again and again.

(Nomaoui Street (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City))



Ogyouretsuo

Reenactments of the Fortitude and Bravery of Samurai From Ancient Times

■Kacchu-Keiba (Armored Horse Race) (Day 2/ Sunday)

At noon, the sound of conch shell horns and battle drums signals the start of this valiant horse race. Young samurai warriors take off their helmets and tighten their white headbands, using traditional Otsubo school riding techniques to become a single unit with their horses as they race around the track, their ancestral banners streaming behind them.

(Hibarigahara Field (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City))



Kacchu-Keiba

■Shinki-Soudatsusen (Sacred Flag Competition) (Day 2/ Sunday)

At 1pm, a conch shell horn is blown at the military headquarters on the mountain top to signal the start of the sacred flag competition. Samurai, who have been eagerly waiting for the mock battle to begin, spread across Hibarigahara Field and wait for sacred flags to be shot into the air with cannons, two at a time. Hundreds of riders race their horses towards the sacred flags, brandishing their whips and competing relentlessly with each other to catch a flag. The Nomaoui Festival reaches its climax as Hibarigahara Field becomes a battlefield.

(Hibarigahara Field (Haramachi Ward, Minamisoma City))

■Nomakake (Wild Horse Capture) (Day 3/Monday)

The wild horse capture is the only event in the modern-day Soma Nomaoui festival that remains the same as it was in ancient forms of the festival. This event is performed in accordance with the ancient ritual in which dozens of horseback samurai drive unsaddled horses into a corral made of bamboo that is set up within the premises of the Odaka Shrine. Men called "okobito," clad in white outfits and white headbands, then try to capture the wild horse that suits their god's will with their bare hands and present it as an offering to the god.

(Soma Odaka Shrine (Odaka Ward, Minamisoma City))



Nomakake



Shinki-Soudatsusen



[Kacchu-Keiba-Shinki-Soudatsusen-Nomakake]... Reenactments of the Fortitude and Bravery of Samurai From Ancient Times