

Culture  
文化に  
恋する  
おぢや

Fall in love with  
culture in Ojiya



## Katakai Fireworks

The Katakai fireworks dedicated to Asahara Shrine by the people of Katakai to celebrate coming-of-age events, 60th birthdays, and so on are known as the Katakai mountain fireworks. These are known as one of Echigo's three major fireworks events, along with the Kashiwazaki seaside fireworks and the Nagaoka river fireworks. The finale of the festival features the world's largest and most spectacular Yonshakudama fireworks, which blossom in the autumn night sky of Ojiya! This attracts spectators from inside and outside of the prefecture.

History  
歴史に  
恋する  
おぢや

Fall in love with  
history in Ojiya



## Ojiya-chijimi fabric

Considered of outstanding quality, Echigo linen was presented to the Shogun during the Edo period. Around this time, Ojiya-chijimi fabric was born, characterized by the unique crispness of its warp yarn, powerfully twisted to produce a wrinkled texture known as shibo. This superior handcrafting technique is designated as an Important Intangible Cultural Property of Japan and is also registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

## Symbol of Katakai,

### town of fireworks

The full-size launching tubes are of impressive scale.

The monument that symbolizes Katakai, the birthplace of Sanshakudama fireworks, is open to visitors 24 hours a day. The launching tube used to launch 420-kilogram Yonshakudama fireworks is 5.2 meters long and 1.8 cm thick, made of steel, and is particularly eye-catching. Try to capture the fireworks and the monument in a single photo for a great Instagram shot.

### Katakai, a town of fireworks and artisans Monument



Address: Katakai-cho, Ojiya City  
(Search for "Fireworks and Artisan Town Katakai Monument")

## Hemp fabric

### with pleasant coolness and textured feel

Try and purchase fabrics at the Ojiya-Chijimi Textile Workshop

On the first floor of Ojiya City Sun Plaza, Orinoza showcases an exhibition of Ojiya-chijimi hemp fabric, a weaving demonstration, and a coaster weaving workshop. At Takumi-no-za on the second floor, purchase a wide variety of goods, trend-setting apparel, and interior goods made from woven fabrics.

### Ojiya-Chijimi Textile Workshop



Address: 1-8-25 Jonai, Ojiya City (inside Sun Plaza)

### Literary Monument to Ryotaro Shiba's Touge



The front and back of the literary monument are inscribed with the handwriting of Ryotaro Shiba, who depicted the life of Kawai Tsuginosuke in his novel "Touge." The book was made into a movie in 2022.  
Address: West end, Koshi-no-Ohashi Bridge, Takanashi-cho, Ojiya City

Japanese festivals are the best in the world.  
Feel the energy of people, culture, and history.  
I visit Katakai Fireworks every year.  
The power and beauty of the fireworks  
are amazing!



Emigrated from  
the Philippines  
Roel Yoshida

### Conveying the history and prosperity of Ojiya A long-established Japanese restaurant over three stories

A restaurant serving Japanese cuisine that has been in business since the Edo period. The building is a registered Tangible Cultural Property. The "Ume-no-Ma" room, where Kawai Tsuginosuke is said to have taken a late lunch after the Ojiya peace negotiations broke down at Jigen-ji Temple, is still carefully preserved.



### Tochu

Address: 11-11 Motomachi, Ojiya City

### Achieving education where everyone can learn The first public elementary school in Japan opened here

Born into a merchant family dealing in Ojiya-chijimi fabric, Hiroki Yamamoto actively advocated for the importance of education for children, and that everyone should have the opportunity to learn. He gave up his private fortune to open Japan's first public elementary school, Shintokukan (now Ojiya Elementary School), in Gochi-in.



### Gochi-in

Address: 14-7 Motomachi, Ojiya City

## Honorary Citizen Titles

Appointed July 28, 1964

Contributed to the development of Niigata  
Prefecture through his business acumen

**Saisaburo Nishiwaki**  
1880-1962



He made large donations to public works projects and invested in a scholarship fund to train human resources. Contributed to the development of industry and education in Niigata.

English literary scholar  
and great poet

**Junzaburo Nishiwaki**  
1894-1982



With works such as his first collection of poems, *Ambarvalia*, and *No Traveler Returns*, he made a major impact on the world of contemporary poetry.

Popular for their smooth texture and firm bite.  
A specialty dish from a town of textiles



Hegisoba noodles use a seaweed called *funori* as a binding agent. It was also used to glue down the threads when weaving Ojiya-chijimi fabric, unique to this textile-weaving town. The word *hegi* derives from a square plate-shaped container.

Appointed November 18, 1969

An authority in the field of forestry  
management during the Showa era

**Yataro Sato**  
1889-1971



He led forest management studies by conducting surveys and research on natural renewal of forests, which utilizes natural forces to regenerate (renew) forests.

An indomitable banker,  
and a huge baseball fan

**Toshi Kaneko**  
1900-1982



He contributed to the development of Japan's economy, culture, and sports. A bust commemorating his life can be found near the baseball field in Hakusan Sports Park.

I was so surprised at the beauty of the blotchy  
Ojiya-chijimi fabric when it was exposed  
in the snowy fields!  
This tradition keeps the wisdom of  
our ancestors alive,  
just like *hegisoba* noodles  
made with *funori* seaweed.



Relocated from Tokyo  
Urei Seino