

「なまはげの里」 男鹿

秋田県男鹿市

なまはげは、年の節目の大晦日の晩に、家々を巡り、悪事に訓戒を与え、厄災を祓い、豊作・豊漁・吉事をもたらす来訪神として扱われており、男鹿の伝統的な民俗行事として伝承され、昭和53年には国の重要無形民俗文化財に指定されています。

毎年2月の第2金・土・日曜日に、真山神社で開催される「なまはげ柴灯まつり」は、男鹿の冬を代表する観光行事で、神社境内に焚き上げられた柴灯火のもとで繰り広げられる勇壮で迫力あるナマハゲの乱舞は見る人を魅了します。

秋田県男鹿市で「なまはげ」とともにお待ちしております。

※ なまはげ館・男鹿真山伝承館では、いつでも「なまはげ」を体感することができます。

※ アクセス

① 成田空港から

成田空港→（85分）→羽田空港→（60分）→秋田空港からオンデマンドタクシー（95分）※予約制 →男鹿 → レンタカー（20分）→なまはげ館・真山伝承館

② 東京駅から

東京駅→秋田新幹線こまち（217分）→秋田→JR 男鹿線（60分）→男鹿

→ レンタカー（20分）→なまはげ館・真山伝承館

Oga: the Town of *Namahage*

Oga, Akita Prefecture

According to Oga's local legends, *Namahage* are mythical creatures who appear on New Year's Eve. They go from house to house and warn people not to do bad things in the coming year. Their visits also protect the town from natural disasters, and are thought to mean a good haul for fishermen, a good harvest for farmers, and good business for all other workers. *Namahage* are part of Oga's local folk tradition, and in 1978 became designated an Important Intangible Folk Culture Asset.

Every year on the 2nd Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of February the "Namahage Sedo Festival" is held at Shinzan Shrine. This festival is Oga's major winter event. At night, bonfires are lit on the grounds of the shrine and *Namahage* walk around with torches. They also perform a powerful dance, to the excitement of spectators. The *Namahage* are waiting for you!

*Visitors may also enjoy *Namahage* year-round at **Oga's Namahage Museum** (*Namahage-kan*) and the **Oga Shinzan Folk Museum** (*Shinzan denshō-kan*).

***Getting there:**

From Narita, airport shuttle or train to Haneda Airport (approximately 85 mins.) Then from Haneda fly to Akita Airport (approximately 1 hour). Taxis, airport shuttles, and city buses are available to take you to Oga Station at which point it is recommended that you rent a car for easy access to all the sites in the area.

From Tokyo Station, take the Akita Komachi Shinkansen to Akita Station (approximately 3.5 hours). Then take a local train to Oga Station. From Oga Station it is recommended that you rent a car for easy access to all the sites in the area.

Namahage are said to be messengers of the Shinto *kami* (gods/spirits). On New Year's Eve, the *Namahage* go from house to house warning people to be good. Their visits also ward off bad luck and protect against disasters. According to local folklore, their visits also mean good harvests, fish-hauls, and business in the upcoming year.