

The Strangest Japanese Festivals

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Onbashira Matsuri (Log Riding Festival)

- Giant log riding festival for men
- Several casualties and dangerous festivals
- Festivals has been around 1,200 years



Hadaka- Matsuri (The naked festival)

- Participants wear a loin cloth or a minimum amount clothing
- Must search for a pair of lucky sticks that bring luck
- Over 9,000 men participate in the festival annually



Japan is known for its rich history and cultural ties to the matsuri (festivals). It is no surprise that matsuri are one of the most look forward to events for Japanese people. Many matsuri's originated from ancient Shinto religion and the purpose was to celebrate and worship the gods. Currently, many matsuri almost always involve costumes, portable shrines, and various stands. Japan is a country which has more festivals than any other country in the world. While the celebrations themselves vary widely depending on the occasion and region. The matsuri is a fun and enjoyable celebration for people of all ages. Noted below are some of the strangest Japanese festivals which vary by season and location.

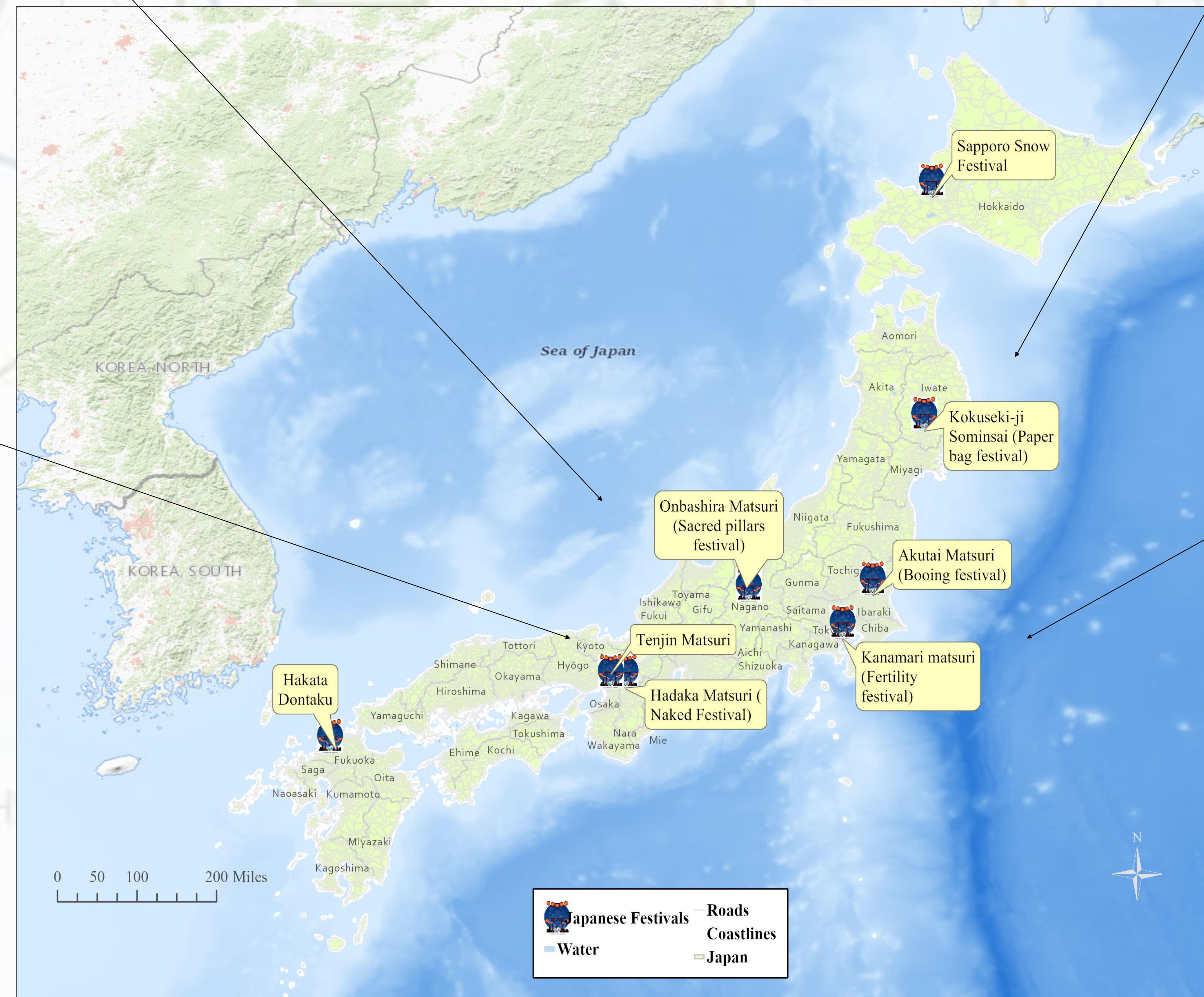
Kokuseki-ji Somininsai (Paper Bag Festival)

- 1000-year-old historical festival in which half-naked men compete to grab the sacred bags called "somin" bags
- Somin bags are believed to bring good luck and blessings



Kanamari matsuri (Fertility Festival)

- Fertility festival to celebrate fertility, long marriages, and healthy births
- Festival includes a portable shrine parade, exhibition, and phallus- shaped objects



References/ Data Source
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, IGISmap, ESRI, TsunaguJapan