

World
Kite
Museum

HIGASHIOMI OODAKO HALL

Opening Hours 9:00-17:00 (Last entry 16:30)

Closed on Wednesday, the day after public holidays, the fourth Tuesday, the Year-end and New Year holidays

Admission Elementary / Junior High School Students **150 Yen**
High School / University Students, Adults **300 Yen**

Access **By Public Transportations**

JR Omihachiman Sta.

>>> Ohmi Railway Yokaichi Sta. (17 min.)

>>> Chokotto Bus or Ohmi Bus (5 min.)

By Car (Free Parking Available)

7 min. from Yokaichi IC (Meishin Expwy.)

3-5, Yokaichi Higashihonmachi, Higashiomi-shi, Shiga 527-0025

Tel 0748-23-0081 **Fax** 0748-23-1860 **Web** oodako.net

Paper Folding Puzzle (Origami Puzzle)

You can make 3 different pictures by weaving this leaflet.



FLOOR GUIDE

1F

Higashiomi Oodako Exhibition Hall

At the main floor exhibition hall, you can learn about the history of magnificent giant kites through displays of 20-Tatami giant kites, miniatures of giant kites in the past, panels of how to make a giant kite, recorded photographs, and many other documents. An authentic 100-Tatami giant kite (13m × 12m) hangs on the front wall and you can enjoy a movie of a flying giant kite on a 100 inch screen in the movie room.



Japanese Kites Exhibition

The materials for Japanese kites, washi (Japanese paper) and bamboo, have long been abundant in Japan. Therefore we have many kites with various shapes and appearances. Around 500 traditional Japanese kites are on display here.

2F



World Kites Exhibition (Kites Passage)

Walking through the passage, you can see around 100 precious kites from all over the world. Kites are varied in their shapes and the methods to fly them, and many kites represent the ethnic culture of their nation.



History of Higashiomi Oodako (Giant Kite)

It is said that people started to fly giant kites in the middle of the Edo period (1603-1868), originally in May to celebrate the children's festival. At first small kites were flown, but with the competitive spirit of local Omi people, the development of techniques, and the strong wind from Lake Biwa, the kites got bigger and bigger. The biggest kite ever flown was the 240-Tatami giant kite in 1882 (Meiji 15).

The secrets of giant kites were passed down by local people, and in 1953, the Yokaichi Oodako Preservation Society (now the Higashiomi Oodako Preservation Society) was formed. "The custom of giant kite flying in Omi-Yokaichi" is designated as a national intangible folk cultural property.

Thanks to our predecessors' innovation of a special method to roll and carry giant kites, nowadays giant kites are flown into the skies of the U.K., France, China, Singapore, Malaysia, and around the world.

Important Features of Higashiomi Oodako

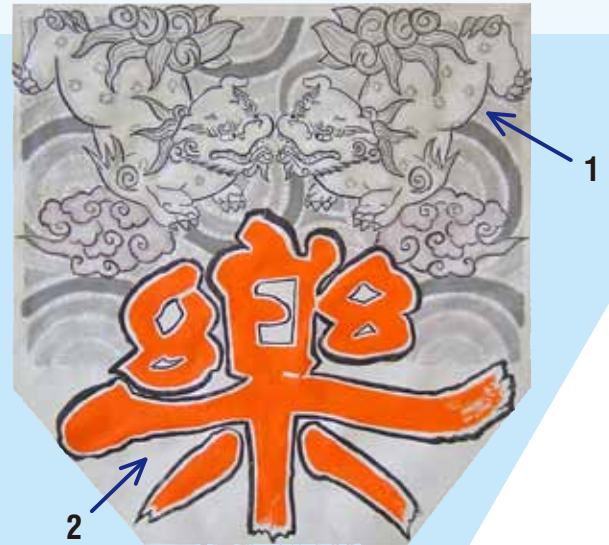
There are three special features of Higashiomi giant kites:

Nagamaki: rolling up a kite to carry it.

Kirinuki: cutting part of a kite to reduce wind resistance.

Hanjimon: a puzzle or wordplay drawn on a kite.

Hanjimon represents some message with the combination of pictures and a Japanese letter drawn on a kite. On the upper half of the kite, an image (typically an animal) is painted in black and white with Japanese ink, while on the lower half there is a big kanji character written in vermilion.



Hanjimon in the giant kite above:

1. Two dogs are doing handstands to show the meaning of *good* (*dog* turns to *god*, and then *good*).
2. The letter in vermilion is pronounced *laku*, similar to *luck*.

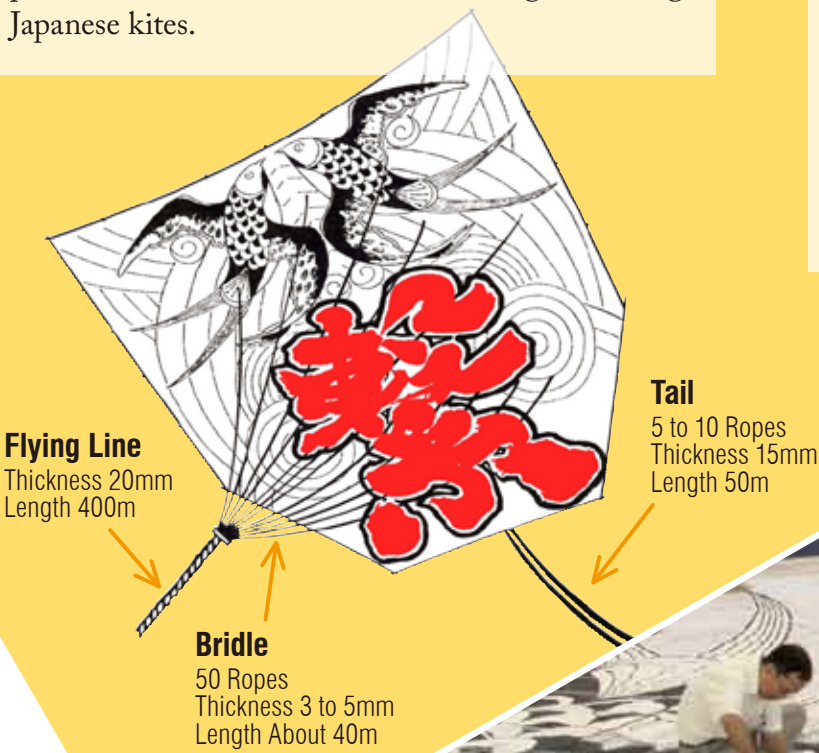
Altogether it represents the message of "Good Luck!"

History & Features

The Magnitude of a Kite

The most important feature of a giant kite is its magnitude. The average size of giant kites in the past is over 100 Tatami mats, the largest among Japanese kites.

Size	Height 13m, Width 12m
Weight	About 700kg
Frame	50 Roku-Shaku (Length 1.8m) Bamboos
Paper	360 Pieces of Special Handmade Washi (90cm × 60cm)
Glue	18L
Total Number of Kitemakers	About 600 People (for each person, 6 hours per day)
Working Period	About 1 Month
Number of People for Flying	About 130 People



Giant Kite

Making a Giant Kite

We make giant kites at the annex hall. Please contact us beforehand if you wish to visit when we are making a kite.

Higashiomi Giant Kite Festival

The Higashiomi giant kite festival is a big event held on the last Sunday of May every year. A 100-Tatami giant kite flies into the May sky in the hands of over 100 people. At the festival, you can also enjoy other events such as 20-Tatami giant kites flying, various kites flown by kite devotees from all over Japan, and a small-scale contest of Higashiomi giant kites.

Importance for Celebration

The traditional giant kites from the middle of the Edo period have been flown over and over for many important events and ceremonies of the region and country — for example, Japan's admission to the U.N. and the marriage of the Crown Prince.

Events

20-Tatami Giant Kite for Young Adults

On the Coming-of-Age ceremony day in January each year, a 20-Tatami giant kite flies into the sky to celebrate young adults in Higashiomi.

