



# Ei **GoKoriyama!**

News and Information about Koriyama City in English

March 2019

Spring is the time for one of Japan's most iconic natural and cultural phenomena: cherry blossoms (sakura). Fukushima Prefecture has a number of amazing cherry-blossom watching locations, such as the ancient Takizakura-tree in neighboring Miharu, or Hanamiyama in Fukushima. Koriyama City itself too is home to a number of great spots, many of which have their own sakura festivals with stalls lined up for the crowds who flock to see the beautiful blossoms. The most popular ones are listed on this Google Map: <http://goo.gl/4Vx6sZ>. Why don't you try to catch them all? More information on sakura in Koriyama is presented by the Koriyama Tourism Association. Visit their website at [www.kanko-koriyama.gr.jp/sakura](http://www.kanko-koriyama.gr.jp/sakura)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Cherry-Blossoms of Kaiseizan Park

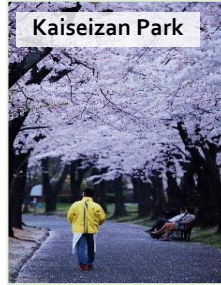
The cherry-blossoms of Kaiseizan Park are closely connected to the story of the development of modern-day Koriyama. Koriyama was once a small town on the road northwards from Edo. The Asaka Plains to the west could not be used for farming due to the lack of a water source. Local merchants started the *Kaiseisha* company, with the aim of developing the lands. One of the works was the digging of the irrigation pond where Kaiseizan Park now lies. They surrounded the pond with thousands of cherry trees, to symbolize the dreams they shared towards the development of the area. The trees still blossom every year, and have become Koriyama's most popular destination for cherry-blossom watching.



Benishidare Jizo-zakura



Fujitagawa Fureai-zakura



Kaiseizan Park



Due to the relatively warm winter this year, the sakura-season is expected a bit earlier than usual. At the time of writing, the expected blossoming period is **early April** (April 5<sup>th</sup>, according to the Japan Weather Association ([tenki.jp](http://tenki.jp)), may change depending on weather conditions).

## Event Calendar

- March
- 16 **Re-Opening: Dreamland**  
(Koriyama City Culture Park)
  - 21 **Tetsuya Kumakawa K-BALLET COMPANY Spring Tour 2019**  
(Koriyama City Cultural Center)
  - 22-24 **FCT: Chu-Tele Matsuri**  
(Big Palette Fukushima)
  - 23~ **Robotto de Asobotto (Let's Play with Robots) (until April 7<sup>th</sup>)**  
(Koriyama City Fureai Science Center – Space Park)
  - ~31 **Brueghel: 150 Years of an Artistic Dynasty**  
(Koriyama City Museum of Art)
  - 31 **DA PUMP – LIVE DA PUMP 2019 THANX!!!!**  
(Koriyama City Cultural Center)
- April
- 2 **Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band**  
(Koriyama City Cultural Center)
  - 6 **Junichi Inagaki Concert 2019**  
(Koriyama City Cultural Center)
  - ~7 **Planetarium Show: Ultraman Zero VR**  
(Koriyama City Fureai Science Center – Space Park)
  - 27~ **Fukushima Ramen Show 2019 (until May 6<sup>th</sup>)**  
(Big Palette Fukushima)
  - 29 **Koriyama City Marathon 2019**  
(Kaiseizan Athletics Stadium)
  - 29 **Koriyama Wind Orchestra (GunSui) Spring Concert ft. Akira Miyagawa**  
(Koriyama City Cultural Center)

### Fukushima Ramen Show

Do you love ramen? You're in luck! The Fukushima Ramen Show has all the kinds of ramen you could ask for. For the first time this year, the venue will be indoors at Big Palette Fukushima. The full line-up of ramen-shops will be released soon, but you will be sure to find last year's no. 1 most popular 'Hirugao' and no. 2 'Kanazawa Mentatsu Kenrokukai'. Admission is free; prices for the ramen can be found on the official website below.

**Date:** April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup> (10:00 – 20:00) (~15:00 on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>)  
**Venue:** Big Palette Fukushima (<https://goo.gl/maps/yA29TTEAJL2>)  
**WEB:** <http://www.fct.co.jp/event/ra-men/>



### Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents

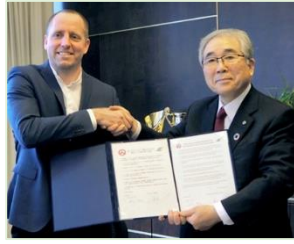
The Koriyama International Exchange Association (KIEA) organizes a Japanese language course for foreign residents. Enjoy studying Japanese with residents from many different countries. Apply now for the next course-period: **May 9<sup>th</sup>~July 11<sup>th</sup>, every Thursday** (10 classes) (*morning*: 10:00~11:30 or *evening*: 19:00~20:30; please note that there are no first-time learners' classes in the morning, so the ability to read/write Hiragana/Katakana and to understand the teacher's instructions in easy Japanese is required). **Please apply before the 7<sup>th</sup> of May!**

**Venue:** Sogo Fukushi Center (behind City Hall)  
**Fee:** ¥3,000 for 10 classes (pay during 1<sup>st</sup> class)  
 Please apply by e-mail or phone (EN/JP) or the online form at <https://goo.gl/5gRKGz>  
**E-mail:** [intl-salon@city.koriyama.lg.jp](mailto:intl-salon@city.koriyama.lg.jp)  
**TEL:** 024-924 2970 (JP/EN)



### Agreement with Hungarian Swimming Association

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, Koriyama signed an agreement with the **Hungarian Swimming Association** for the organization of training camps towards the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. The agreement was signed in the Hungarian capital of Budapest by the head of the Hungarian Swimming Association, and Mayor Shinagawa of Koriyama City. The Hungarian Swimming Team, including bronze medalist **Tamás Kenderesi**, spent two weeks at the Koriyama Shinkin Kaiseizan Pool in October 2018, to the great satisfaction of both parties. The next training camps are scheduled for later this year (more details to follow).



### Koriyama City Website Renewed

The Koriyama City official website ([www.city.koriyama.lg.jp](http://www.city.koriyama.lg.jp)) got a complete overhaul starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Besides the domain-change, the new design lends itself more smoothly to find the information you are looking for, and even comes with a functionality to chat with the city mascot Gakuto-Kun. Information relevant to foreign residents and visitors can be found on the top of the homepage, with the button **'Multilingual'** ([www.city.koriyama.lg.jp/multilingual](http://www.city.koriyama.lg.jp/multilingual)). This page includes the 'Koriyama Living Guide', which is full of information that can make your life in the city easier and is available in 5 different languages. It also lists various other city publications such as tourism guidebooks and available in several languages (most of them incl. English).



### Koriyama City's Celebrity: Yumena Yanai

Koriyama's very own **Yumena Yanai** is a promising young actress and fashion model. She currently plays in '*Mr. Hiiragi's Homeroom (3-Nen A-Kumi)*', one of the most popular series on TV right now, as well as in the recently released feature film '*Yuki no Hana.*' Despite her rising popularity and success, she is still involved with the goings-on in her hometown. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, she became an honorary chief of the Fire Department for classes on fire safety at local schools. She also plays the lead in Koriyama City's **promotion videos**; a series of short tv-drama-style videos depicting the story of a girl from Koriyama who moves to Tokyo for college, but discovers how strong her connection is to her hometown. For the promotion videos (and other videos from the city), visit the channel: [youtube.com/user/KoriyamaCityChannel](https://youtube.com/user/KoriyamaCityChannel). Also, be sure to follow Yumena Yanai's career on her Instagram ([@yumenayanai\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/yumenayanai_official/))!

### Do you know Koriyama?

#### The 'Koriyama City Wide-Area' Partnership

Koriyama City, together with its 14 surrounding municipalities, launched a new initiative to promote collaboration and jointly promote the wider-Koriyama area: the **'Koriyama City Wide-Area' Partnership** (こおりやま広域圏). The Koriyama Wide-Area consists of: **Koriyama, Sugakawa, Tamura, Motomiya, Otama, Kagamiishi, Ten'ei, Inawashiro, Ishikawa, Tamagawa, Hirata, Asakawa, Furudono, Miharu and Ono**. With Koriyama's high accessibility as a hub of the region and the great diversity and attractiveness of the surrounding cities and towns, the project is mutually beneficial. One of the projects that the cities have undertaken together is the joint tourism PR website **Fukunaka15** ([www.fukunaka15.jp](http://www.fukunaka15.jp)).



For more information, questions or tips, contact:

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