

NATIONWIDE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL IN ICHINOSEKI



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The **19th National Local Beer Festival in Ichinoseki (第19回全国地ビールフェスティバル in 一関)** will be held in Iwate Prefecture (岩手県) from August 19th through 21st. Ichinoseki City (一関市) is the second most populous city in Iwate Prefecture, after the capital city of Morioka (盛岡市). Ichinoseki boasts a number of interesting places to visit and local foods to eat, and is very close to the World Heritage sites of neighboring town Hiraizumi (平泉町). While the beer is what may draw the most visitors in, there are plenty of other things around to make for a nice weekend trip.



The festival is held just a few blocks away from Ichinoseki Station (一関駅), making it easily accessible by local train or Shinkansen. As the name implies, there are microbrews from all over Japan represented at the festival—not to mention Ichinoseki's own Iwate Kura Beer (いわて蔵ビール). For the 2015 festival, no less than 300 beers crafted in 84 different Japanese breweries were made available! This year, in addition to Japanese breweries from each region of the country, a few German and Belgian companies will be represented as well.





Of course, there is more than just beer. Many of Ichinoseki's local foods are served, including vegetables, meat, and mochi. Shops from seaside cities, like Ofunato City (大船渡市), set up shop at the festival to sell fresh seafood.

The event takes place in the public square in front of the Ichinoseki Cultural Center (一関文化センター広場) and includes an indoor area so event goers need not be concerned about the weather.



There are a few things that guests should look out for, namely time and tickets. Each day of the festival has different hours of operation. On Friday, August 19th, the event starts at 4:00pm and ends at 8:00pm. Saturday gets going early at 11:00am and ends at 8:00pm. The final day (Sunday) also begins at 11:00am but ends at 6:00pm. Tickets are available both in advance and on each respective day of the festival. One ticket gets the bearer one drink, and there are large- and medium-size drink tickets. If you buy tickets before the event starts, six large tickets or eight medium tickets cost 2000 yen. During the festival, 2000 yen will buy five large tickets or seven medium tickets. Individual tickets are also available during the festival, with one large drink costing 400 yen and a medium going for 300 yen. If you're interested in taking advantage of the discounted ticket rate, they can be bought in bars and restaurants throughout Iwate, as well as in similar establishments in Osaka, Sendai, Kanagawa, and Tokyo Prefectures. A complete list of vendors can be found [here](#). Tickets are also available online [here](#).

The Nikkei Plus 1 (日経プラス1) newspaper has named the event the best beer festival in the country. It really is the place to be for a beer lover in Japan. Plan accordingly!

General Information	Access Information
 Festival Information (Japanese) http://www.ichitabi.jp/event/data.php?no=64&m=8	
 Dates August 19th - 21st, 2016	
 Hours 19th: 4:00pm - 8:00pm, 20th: 11:00am - 8:00pm, 21st: 11:00am - 6:00pm	
 Tickets Bulk ticket - 2,000 yen (5 large beers or 7 medium beers), Individual Beer Tickets - 400 yen for a large beer and 300 yen for a medium beer	

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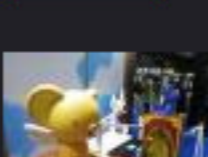
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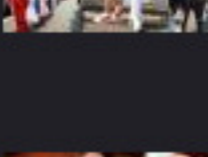
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