

Yabusame and Kasagake to
Wish for the Safe Holding of
Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan

EXPO 2025

安全祈願奉納
流鏑馬
笠懸

Saturday, April 5 &
Sunday, April 6
10 am–5 pm

* Canceled in case of heavy rain

Venue EXPO Arena “Matsuri”

Program Yabusame, kasagake, and cultural exhibits and experiences relating to yabusame and Kamakura

<Spectator experiences>

Yabusame

Kasagake

Horseback archery in *o-yoroi* armor

<Hands-on experiences and exhibits>

Meet-and-greet with archers

Horse feeding

Kamakura-bori lacquerware

Yabusame by Kobe Rokkosan Pasture

Japanese saddlery and archery equipment, *o-yoroi* armor

* Due to limited space, admission may be restricted if capacity is reached.

Presented by The Japan Equestrian Archery Association

YouTube
Livestream

Session 1
4/5



YouTube

Session 2
4/5



YouTube

Session 3
4/6



YouTube

Session 4
4/6



YouTube



2025年

大日本弓馬会 行事紹介

2025 Events by the Japan Equestrian Archery Association

Fuji Omuro Sengen Jinja Yabusame Ritual

Date Tuesday, April 29

Location Fuji Omuro Sengen Jinja, Shikkogo Park
(Fuji Kawaguchiko-machi, Yamanashi Prefecture)

Organizer Kai no Katsuyama Yabusame Festival Executive Committee

A unique form of *yabusame* dating back to the Heian period was discontinued in the Meiji era, and the Japan Equestrian Archery Association revived the event in 1978. The track is set up on a grass field along the shore of Lake Kawaguchi. Despite its short distance of about 160 m and two targets, it is a challenging course due to its tight curvature, as well as the uphill climb and right-angle turn near the end.



Miura Dosun Festival Kasagake

Date Sunday, May 18

Location Araiama Beach (Aburatsubo)
(Misakimachi Koajiro, Miura-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture)

Organizer Dosun Festival Executive Committee

The site is where Miura Yoshiatsu—the last head of the Miura clan, which prospered in the Miura Peninsula from the Kamakura to Muromachi periods—met his death, and the event is held in conjunction with a memorial service for the clan. *Kasagake* is rarely practiced in Japan today, being a more combat-oriented and challenging form of mounted archery that features low-lying targets on both sides. The track is set up on the sandy beach of Aburatsubo Bay, which lies below a cliff. Although the track is only 150 m long with two targets, its arched shape further adds to the difficulty of *kasagake*.



Mishima Taisha Yabusame Ritual

Date Sunday, August 17

Location Mishima Taisha
(Mishima-shi, Shizuoka Prefecture)

A *yabusame* ritual had been conducted here since its inception by Minamoto no Yoritomo in 1185 but was discontinued in 1871; the Association revived the tradition in 1984. The proximity between the second and third targets makes it difficult to nock the next arrow in time. The horses coming to an abrupt halt after making a sharp turn is an intense sight. Mishima Taisha is focused on preserving *yabusame*, with some of its priests performing as archers.



Samukawa Jinja Yabusame Ritual

Date Friday, September 19

Location Samukawa Jinja
(Samukawa-machi, Kanagawa Prefecture)

Yabusame had been passed down here since the Kamakura period through generations of a lineage known as *umadayū*. After a brief hiatus, it was revived in 1966 by the Association. The track has three targets despite its short distance, making it a particularly challenging course. The shrine places priority on preserving *yabusame*: some of its priests serve as archers, it owns two horses for *yabusame*, and it also has a permanent practice ground.



Kamigamo Jinja Kasagake Ritual

Date Sunday, October 19

Location Kamigamo Jinja
(Kyoto-shi, Kyoto Prefecture)

The *kasagake* at Kamigamo Jinja was revived in 2005 based on the fact that Retired Emperor Go-Toba held a *kasagake* here in 1214. The shrine has deep ties with equestrian rituals, being home to an ancient horse-racing ritual called Kamo Kurabeuma, and is the only place where *kasagake* is conducted as a Shinto ritual. The track is located on the west lawn, where archers shoot at targets while riding one way and then back again. On the outward run they aim at three targets to the left, and on the return run they shoot at two targets to the lower left and right. The track is conducive to high speeds, but the distance is short, making it difficult to stop the horse.



Meiji Jingu Yabusame Ritual

Date Monday, November 3

Location Meiji Jingu
(Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Commenced in 1932, the Meiji Jingu Yabusame Ritual was resumed in 1953 after an interruption due to World War II. The horse track on the west lawn of the shrine grounds features a beautiful landscape surrounded by a deep forest and pine trees. The sight of the horseback archers darting out of the woods and disappearing back among the trees is a must-see. The track is roughly 218 m long, which is the formal length, and the high speed of the horses makes it a challenging course.



JAPAN CULTURAL EXPO 2025



YouTube



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