

# Nagaoka Sites Overview

Nagaoka, city, Niigata ken (prefecture), Honshu, Japan, on the middle reaches of the Shinano River. A castle town in the 1600s, it prospered with the discovery of the Higashiyama oil well in the early 20th century. Despite heavy damage suffered during World War II, the city continued to grow, its industries producing chemicals, machinery, and processed foods. Nagaoka is a hub of rail and road transportation and serves as a base for the popular ski grounds on nearby Mount Yūkyū. (Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2016, March 3). Nagaoka. Encyclopedia Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Nagaoka>)

Nagaoka is known worldwide for their fireworks festival held the first three days in August every year. The predecessor of the Nagaoka Festival was the "Nagaoka Reconstruction Festival" held on August 1, 1946, the day after the Nagaoka air raid. On the night of August 1, 1945, a large B29 bomber attacked and transformed about 80% of the city area into a burnt field overnight, killing 1,488 people. In order to make this sad day a meaningful day for the reconstruction of Nagaoka City, the "Nagaoka Reconstruction Festival" was held the following year, and it continues to the current Nagaoka Festival.