





What is the Doll Festival?



The **Doll Festival**, also known as **Hinamatsuri** is observed to celebrate female children and pray for their continued health and happiness.

- Families set up a display of Hina dolls dressed in colorful kimonos and the family enjoys eating delicious food
- The most alluring aspect of the doll festival is the crafted dolls. These dolls are displayed on red-carpeted, stepped platforms called **hinadon**. On the top steps, the male **odairisama** and female **ohinasama** are the central figures.
- These are then followed by the **sannin kanjo** (three court ladies), the **gonin bayashi** (five musicians), and other attendants who sit on lower steps. These figures are said to represent the members of the imperial family.
- Interestingly, once the festival is finished, custom dictates that dolls and decorations get packed away as soon as possible, because it is believed that leaving them out too long will harm a daughter's chances of marriage.









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HISTORY



- Hinamatsuri was first observed during the Heian period (794–1185). Hinamatsuri (doll festival) is one of five sekku (seasonal festivals) that are celebrated through the year. They are known as gosekku and these events took shape through the influence of Chinese philosophy.
- Over time, the March sekku became a broader tradition involving the making of simple paper dolls called hitogata. These dolls were common toys for children of wealthy families and served as katashiro, or emblems used in purification rituals. The hinamatsuri gradually became a time to give thanks for the health and development of young girls, thanks to the influence of a traditional form of doll play called hina-asobi.
- In the past, the festival was also a day to thank women busy working for the family. This was a day when women could enjoy themselves, doing nothing and eating delicious food.

















Bommai Golu, is a festival of colourful dolls celebrated in the South. During this festival, women in South Indian households bring out their collections of colourful dolls and set them on steps, to celebrate the nine days of Navaratri. Every house follows a different tradition based on the kind of dolls that have been collected over the years. Pride of place is given to the dolls that have been handed down for generations, from mothers to daughters.



The delivery of the last doll is a special moment for father and daughter, who through the ceremony symbolize the passage to adulthood and in exchange for the daughter's interests towards more adult issues, leaving toys behind to assume their new roles, greater independence but also responsibilities.

This tradition takes place during quincieañera







SOURCES



IMAGES

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Information

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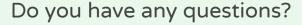
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