



JAPAN INFORMATION
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SAPPORO SNOW FESTIVAL

One of the largest wintertime festivals in the world, the Sapporo Snow Festival has been around since 1950, when local middle and high school students created six snow sculptures at Odori Park. The next year, they were joined by the Japan Self-Defense Forces from the nearby base joined in and the first massive snow sculptures, for which the Snow Festival has now become famous, were built.

There are three main sites: the Odori Site, Susukino Site and Tsu Dome Site. The main site is the Odori Site, where the festival's famous large snow sculptures, some measuring more than 25 meters wide and 15 meters high, are exhibited. The Susukino Site, located in and named after Sapporo's largest entertainment district, exhibits about one hundred ice sculptures. Tsu Dome Site is a family oriented site with three types of snow slides, snow rafting and more snow sculptures. Most sculptures are lit up with colorful lights until late at night.

Today, it has become a major wintertime spectacle, attracting over 2 million visitors from all over Japan and abroad during the weeklong festival in February. Attractions this year will also include a large scale Star Wars themed snow stage.