

# August 16 Daimonji Gozan Okuribi Ritual Fires



On the evening of August 16, the Gozan Bonfires are lit as follows; (There may be some delays depending on the weather.)

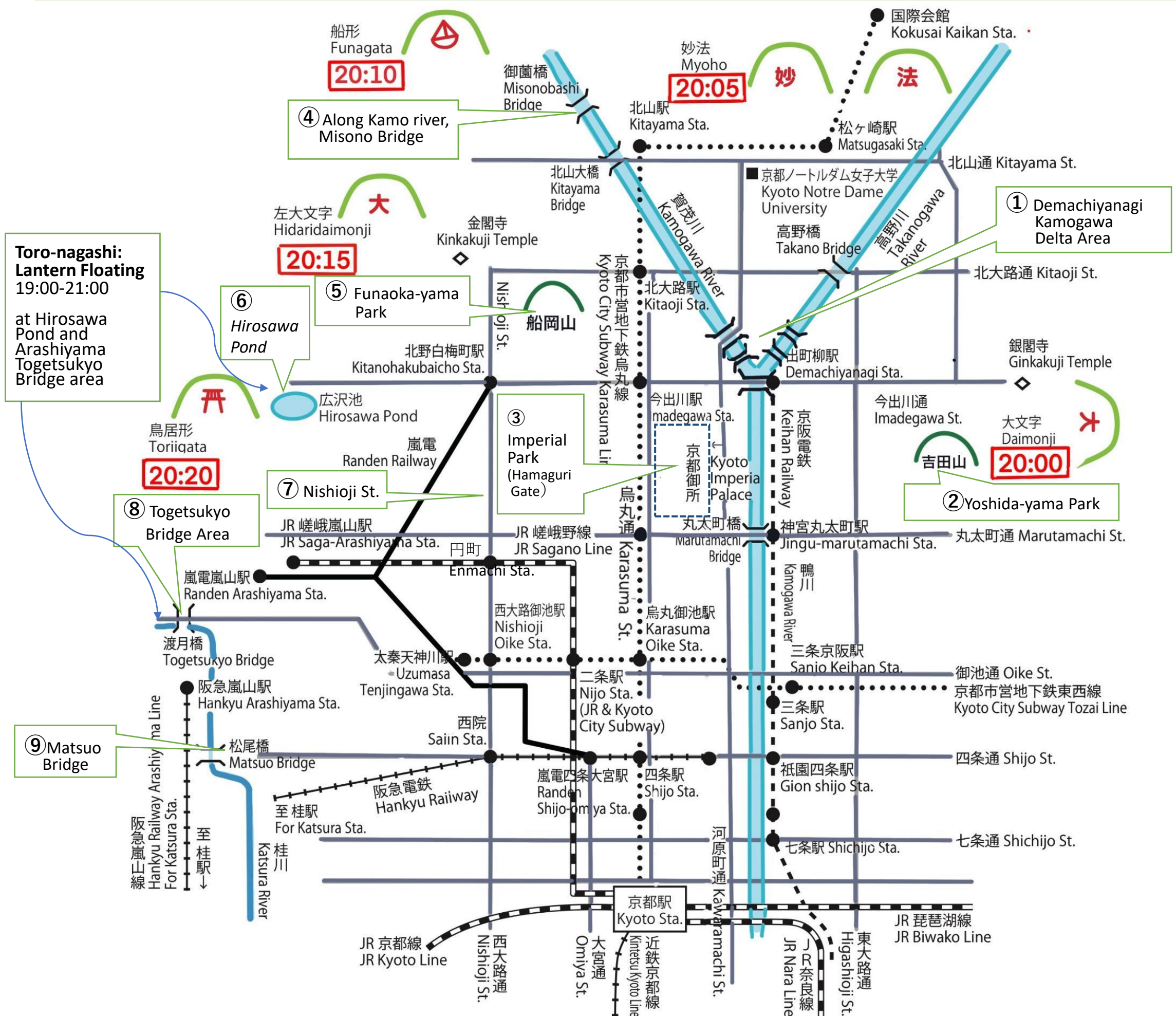
<b>20:00</b> Daimonji	<b>20:05</b> Myo Ho
<b>20:10</b> Funagata	<b>20:15</b> Hidaridaimonji
<b>20:20</b> Toriigata	

Each fire is lit for about 30 minute

The No. ①, ② ..... ⑨ on the map show the places to see Okuribi Bonfires.

- ① Demachiyanagi, Kamogawa Delta area ...*Daimonji*
- ② Yoshidayama park (hill) ...*Daimonji*
- ③ Imperial Park ... *Daimonji*
- ④ Along Kamo river, Misono Bridge ...*Funagata*
- ⑤ Funaokayama park ... *Daimonji, Myo Ho, Funagata, Hidari Daimonji*
- ⑥ Hirosawa Pond ...*Toriigata* and Lantern Floating
- ⑦ Nishioji St. ....*Hidaridaimonji*
- ⑧ Togetsukyo Bridge ...*Toriigata* and Lantern Floating
- ⑨ Matsuo Bridge ...*Toriigata*

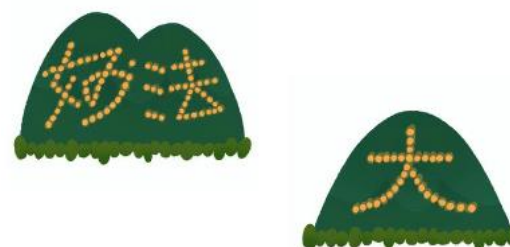
Notice: No. ②, ⑤ and ⑥ are the popular places that you can see bonfires very well. However, there will be a lot of people and terribly crowded. Please be careful as there are few streetlights in the area



**Toro-nagashi:  
Lantern Floating**  
19:00-21:00  
at Hirosawa Pond and Arashiyama Togetsukyo Bridge area



## Viewing Spots



	Five Mountains	Time of Lighting	Viewing Spots
大	<b>Daimonji</b> <i>Mt. Daimonji or Nyoigatake</i> This character 大 means greater	20:00	Along Kamo River [Marutamachi Bridge to Misonobashi Bridge ④] Kamogawa Delta, Demachiyanaagi ①, Ginkakuji Michi, Yoshidayama ② and Kyoto Imperial Park ③
妙 法	<b>Myo</b> <i>Mt. Mantoro</i> “Myo Ho” means Buddha’s remarkable teaching (The lotus sutra) This character 妙 means remarkable or mysteries	20:05	Kitayama St. [Near Notre Dame Women’s College to Matsugasaki Sta.]
	<b>Ho</b> <i>Mt. Daikokuten</i> “Myo Ho” means Buddha’s remarkable teaching (The lotus sutra) This character 法 means teaching or law		Along Takano River [North of Kamogawa Delta] Kitayama St. [East of Matsugasaki Sta.]
舟	<b>Funagata</b> <i>Mt. Funa</i> Ship	20:10	Kamogawa River [Kitayama Bridge to Nishigamo Bridge]
大	<b>Hidari (left) Daimonji</b> <i>Mt. Okita</i> This character 大 means greater	20:15	Nishioji St. ⑦ [Enmachi Sta. to Kinkakuji Temple]
开	<b>Toriigata</b> <i>Mt. Mandara</i> Shrine Gate	20:20	Togetsukyo Bridge ⑧, Matsuo-bashi Bridge ⑨ Hirosawa Pond ⑥

### What is Gozan Okuribi?

Gozan Okuribi (bonfire) held on the evening of August 16 is one of Kyoto’s symbolic religious ceremonies in summer. Okuribi (bonfire) is said to send off ancestors’ spirits to the other side. People believe ancestral spirits come back to their homes from August 13 to 16 (obon). It is said that Gozan Okuribi became an annual event after the Muromachi and Edo periods (15C-17C).

Gozan Okuribi consists of five different characters on five mountains: “Daimonji” (Greater), “Myo-Ho” (Buddha’s remarkable teaching), “Funagata” (ship), “Hidari Daimonji” (left Greater) and “Toriigata” (shrine gate). These five characters are lit one by one every 5 min. from 8 pm.

There are several views on the beginning; however the origin of the ceremony is unknown. Some historical sources say there used to be a custom to send off ancestors’ spirits by throwing burning torches into the air. In contrast, the present Gozan Okuribi adopts the style to light up the fire bed of each mountain.