

English

Take free

Float Festival of the Kawagoe Hikawa Matsuri Festival, a Nationally Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property.
Yama, Hoko, Yatai, float festivals in Japan — an intangible cultural heritage of UNESCO.

October 2023
14 Sat. 15 Sun.

Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine/
Reitai-sai Oct. 14 Sat.
Regular ritual festival for Hikawa-shrine.

Jinko-sai Oct. 15 Sun.
Traditional ritual parade with mikoshi carrying the spirits of deities.

川越祭



Contact Kawagoe City, Kawagoe Station Tourist Info. Tel.049-222-5556 (9:00-16:00) On the day of festival (9:00-21:00) TEL 049-222-5556

Kawagoe Matsuri Official Website
<https://www.kawagoematsuri.jp/English/index.html>
Kawagoe Festival Official Mobile Site QR code



Kawagoe Matsuri Navigation
Official Kawagoe Festival app QR code
[Japanese version only]



Hosted by the Kawagoe Festival Support Association
Supported by Kawagoe City, Kawagoe City Education Board, (Public corporation) Koedo Kawagoe Tourist Association, Kawagoe Chamber of Commerce and Industry

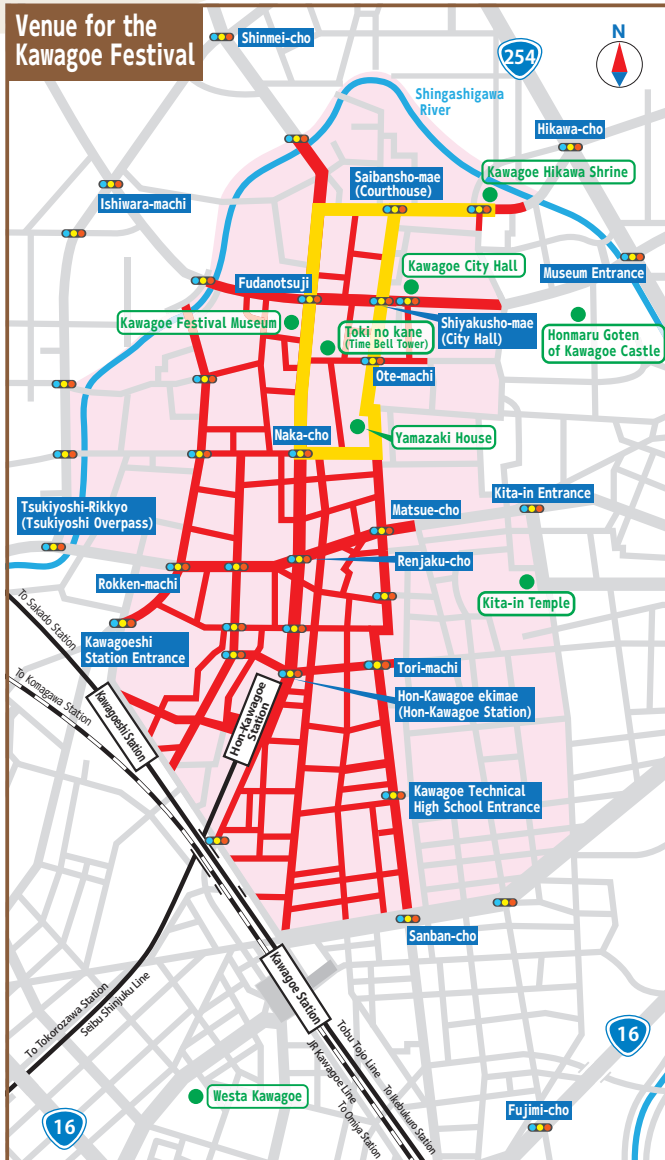
What is the Kawagoe Festival?

History A festival with a tradition of over 370 years

The Kawagoe Festival was designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Japan in February 2005 under the name of the Float Festival of the Kawagoe Hikawa Matsuri Festival and was included on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List in December 2016. The festival started in 1648, the Keian period, when Matsudaira Nobutsuna, the lord of the Kawagoe Domain at the time, contributed the lion's face masks and mikoshi (portable shrines) to Hikawa Shrine. Three years later, the mikoshi first paraded through the neighborhood. The citizens joined in at the tail end of the parade. Those are the roots of the current Kawagoe Festival. At that time, Koedo Kawagoe had a close relationship with Edo through Shingashigawa-River transportation. Soon, the style of the Festival was deeply influenced by the Edo Tenka Festival and began to feature the pulling of spectacular festival floats. While the festivals in Edo switched to using mikoshis principle, the Kawagoe Festival carries on the tradition of the old Edo Tenka Festival to the present.

Hikkawase

Hikkawase is one of the highlights of the Kawagoe Festival. When a float passes another float, they perform Hikkawase as a greeting between townspeople. A particular highlight of the festival is when several floats gather at an intersection and the stage rotates to face each other, creating a spectacular musical performance. During the nighttime Hikkawase, when lanterns are held up and cheering for the musicians is heard, the mood of the festival reaches its climax.



- Vehicle traffic prohibited (10:00~22:00)
- The Jinko-sai parade routes on October 15th.
- Traffic congestion area.

*The parade may be canceled depending on weather conditions.
★Please use public transportation.

Access to Kawagoe

- About 20 minutes from Omiya to Kawagoe Station on the JR Kawagoe Line
- About 26 minutes from Ikebukuro Station to Kawagoe Station by Tobu Tojo Line Kawagoe Limited Express
- About 28 minutes to Kawagoeshi Station
- About 50 minutes from Shinjuku Station to Kawagoe Station by JR Saikyo Line Rapid Express
- About 44 minutes (shortest possible time) from Seibu-Shinjuku Station to Hon-Kawagoe Station by Seibu Shinjuku Line Limited Express
- About 78 minutes (shortest possible time) from Yokohama to Kawagoe Station on the Tokyu Toyoko Line,
- Tokyo Metro Fukutoshin Line, Tobu Tojo Line
- Shortest possible time about 80 minutes (Kawagoeshi Station)

Highlights

14 Yoiyama

Sat. ●Around 18:00 - 19:00

Festival floats are illuminated with traditional lanterns. You can thoroughly enjoy the festival floats and hayashi music.



14 Ladder Acrobatic Performance

Sat. ●Around 18:20 - 18:40

In Kawagoe Festival, you can enjoy traditional ladder acrobatic performance. The audience erupts in applause and cheers each time the skill of the performers is demonstrated.



14 15 Hikkawase

Sat. Sun.

When the festival floats meet each other, they face the front and play hayashi music together. Japanese lanterns are swung vigorously, and the festival reaches its climax.



15 Jinko-sai

Sun. ●10:15 Starts from Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine
●Around 11:45 Returns to Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine

Deities of Hikawa are put on the mikoshi and paraded through the city, which brings benefits and wishes for happiness and prosperity of the town. It is the traditional ritual and the origin of the current float festival.



15 Festival floats parade in front of the city hall

Sun. ●Around 13:30 - 15:30

Festival floats parade in front of the city hall. You can see many floats at a time.

※Floats will not be displayed lined up in front of City Hall

