

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.

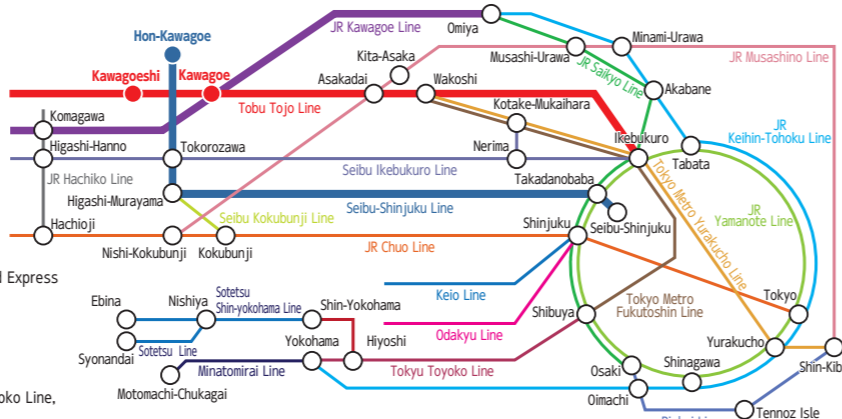


- Vehicle traffic prohibited (10:00-22:00)
- The Jinko-sai parade routes on October 15th.
- Traffic congestion area.

*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)



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.

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 the floats at the same place.
 ※Floats will not be displayed lined up in front of City Hall



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.

川越まつり



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

☎049-222-5556

Kawagoe Matsuri Official Website

https://www.kawagoe-matsuri.jp/english/index.html



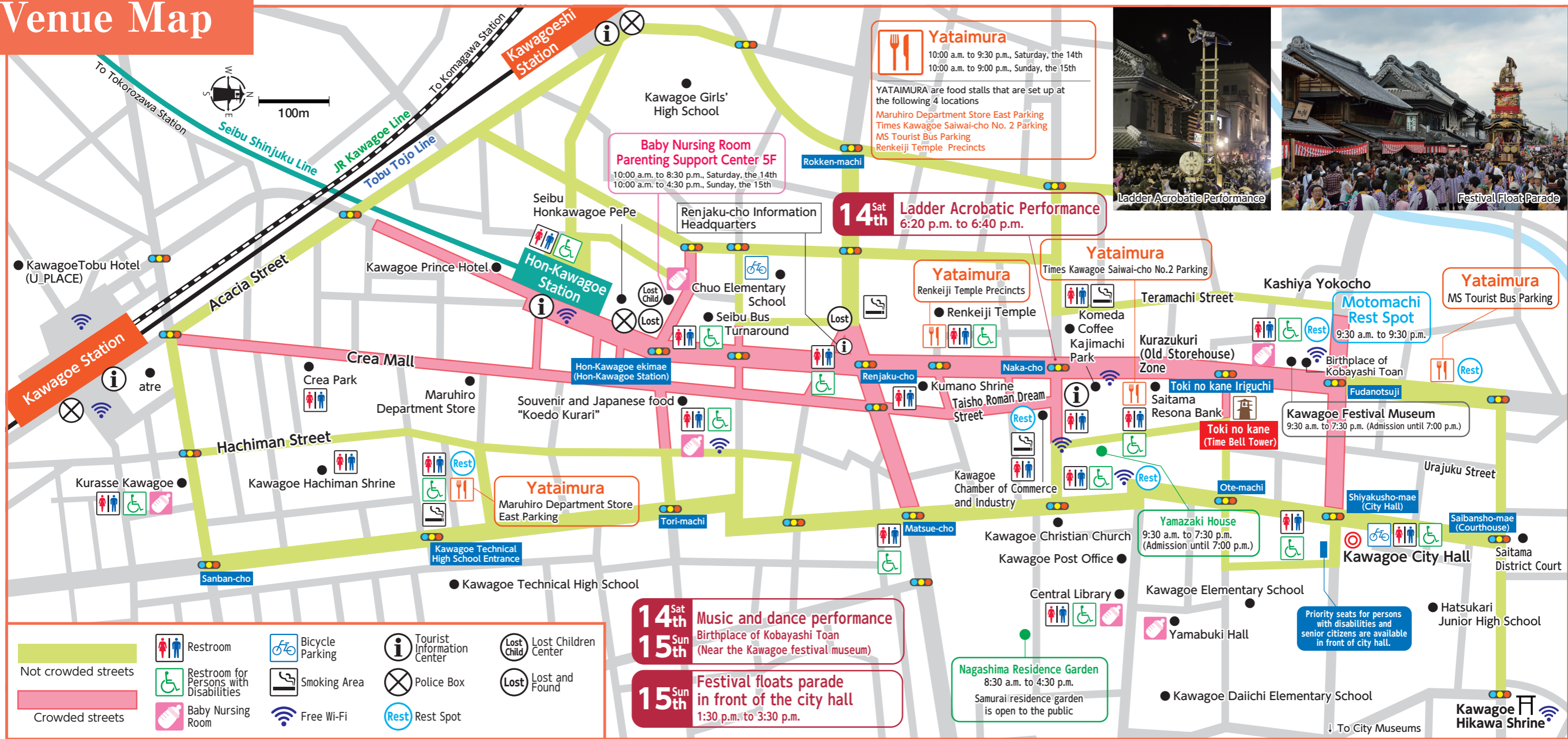
Kawagoe Matsuri Navigation

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

Venue Map



Baby Nursing Room

Please ask the staff for the assistance when using the facility.

Facility Name	Open Hours
Kawagoe Festival Museum	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Yamabuki Hall	9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Central Library	9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Souvenir and Japanese food "Koedo Kurari"	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Kurasse Kawagoe	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Kawagoe City Museum	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Kawagoe City Art Museum	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Parenting Support Center 5F	10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, the 14th 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, the 15th

Free Wi-Fi available for 24 hours

Available Spots
Near Kawagoe Station East Exit Pedestrian Deck
Near Kawagoe Station West Exit Pedestrian Deck
Kawagoe Station Tourist Information Center
Around Hon-Kawagoe Station East Exit Rotary
Hon-Kawagoe Station Tourist Information Center
Kajimachi Park
Nakacho Tourist Information Center
Yamazaki House
Kawagoe Festival Museum
Motomachi Rest Spot
Koedo Kurari
Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine

Tourist Information Center

Facility Name	Open Hours
Permanent Kawagoe Station Tourist Information Center	9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Permanent Hon-Kawagoe Station Tourist Information Center	9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Permanent Nakacho Tourist Information Center	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Temporary Renjaku-cho Information Headquarters (Times Kawagoe Renjaku-cho Parking)	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Temporary Hon-Kawagoe Station Temporary Information Center (near the East Exit Bus Terminal)	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Temporary Kawagoe Station Temporary Information Center (inside the East-West Free Passage)	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Temporary Kawagoeshi Station Temporary Information Center (in front of the ticket gates)	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Permanent/Temporary Rest Spot

Facility Name	Open Hours
Permanent Motomachi Rest Spot	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Permanent Yamazaki House Management Bldg.	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Temporary Yataimura Maruhiro Department Store East Parking	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Temporary Yataimura MS Tourist Bus Parking	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Temporary Daiei Parking place, near Kawagoe Chamber of Commerce and Industry	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Permanent/Temporary Restroom

Facility Name	Open Hours	Facility Name	Open Hours
City Hall North Parking	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Permanent Central Library	9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
City Hall South Parking	24 hours	Permanent Kurasse Kawagoe	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Kawagoe Festival Museum Parking	24 hours	Temporary Kajimachi Park	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
1F Restrooms inside the Kawagoe Festival Museum	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Temporary Kawagoe Chamber of Commerce and Industry Parking	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Motomachi Rest Spot	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Temporary Kumano Shrine	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Times Kawagoe Saiwai-cho No.2 Parking	24 hours	Temporary Times Kawagoe Renjaku-cho No.2 Parking	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Renjaku-cho Crossing Public Restrooms	24 hours	Temporary Seibu Bus Turnaround	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Matsue-cho Crossing Pocket Park	24 hours	Temporary Koedo Kurari	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Renkeiji Temple Precincts	24 hours	Temporary Crea Park	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Hon-Kawagoe Station West Exit	24 hours	Temporary Kawagoe Hachiman Shrine	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Yamazaki House Management Bldg.	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Temporary Komeda Coffee Parking	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
		Temporary Maruhiro Department Store East Parking	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.