

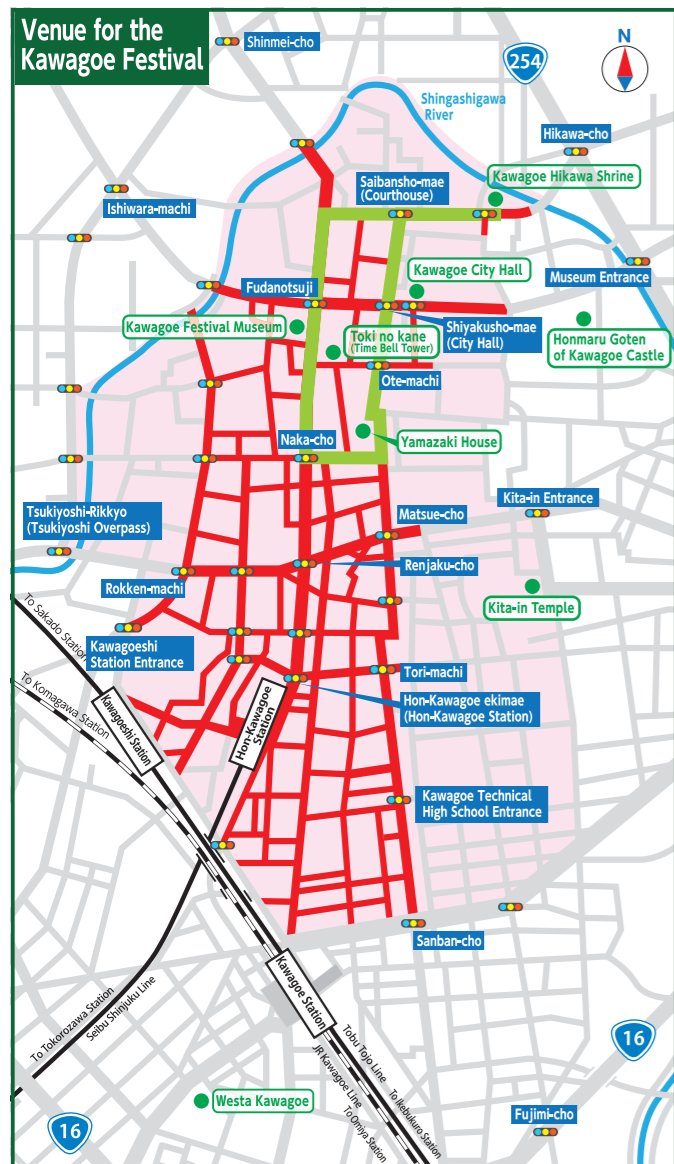
What is the Kawagoe Festival?

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.

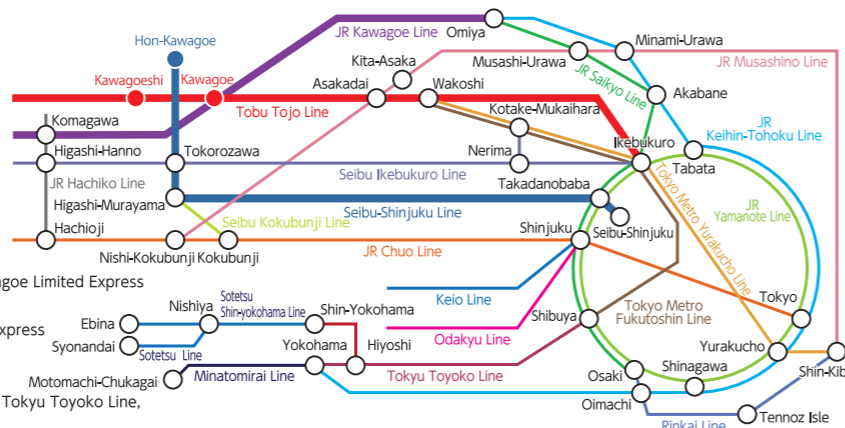


Vehicle traffic prohibited (10:00~22:00)
The Jinko-sai parade routes on 19th October.
Traffic congestion area.

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

Access to Kawagoe

About 23 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 60 minutes from Shinjuku Station to Kawagoe Station by JR Saikyō 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

18 Yoiyama

Sat. ●Around 18:00 - 19:00

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



18 Ladder Acrobatic Performance

Sat. ●In front of Kawagoe Sei-Ko-Kai Church
 ●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.



18 19 Hikkawase

Sat. Sun. ●at different times

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.



18 Jinko-sai

Sat. ●13:00 Starts from Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine
 ●Around 14:30 Returns to Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine

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



19 Festival floats parade in front of the city hall

Sun. ●Around 13:30 - 16:00

Festival floats parade in front of the city hall. You can see many floats at the place.
 ※All floats are not lined up and displayed here.



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.

KAWAGOE MATSURI

川越祭



October 2025
18-19
 Sat. Sun.

Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine/
Reitai-sai Oct.14 Tue
 Regular ritual festival for Hikawa-shrine
Jinko-sai Oct.18 Sat
 Traditional ritual parade with mikoshi carrying the spirits of deities

Contact

Kawagoe Station Tourist Info.

Tel.049-222-5556 (9:00-17:00) On the day of festival (9:00-21:00)

Kawagoe Matsuri Official Website

<https://www.kawagoe-matsuri.jp/English/index.html>
 Kawagoe Festival Official Mobile Site QR code



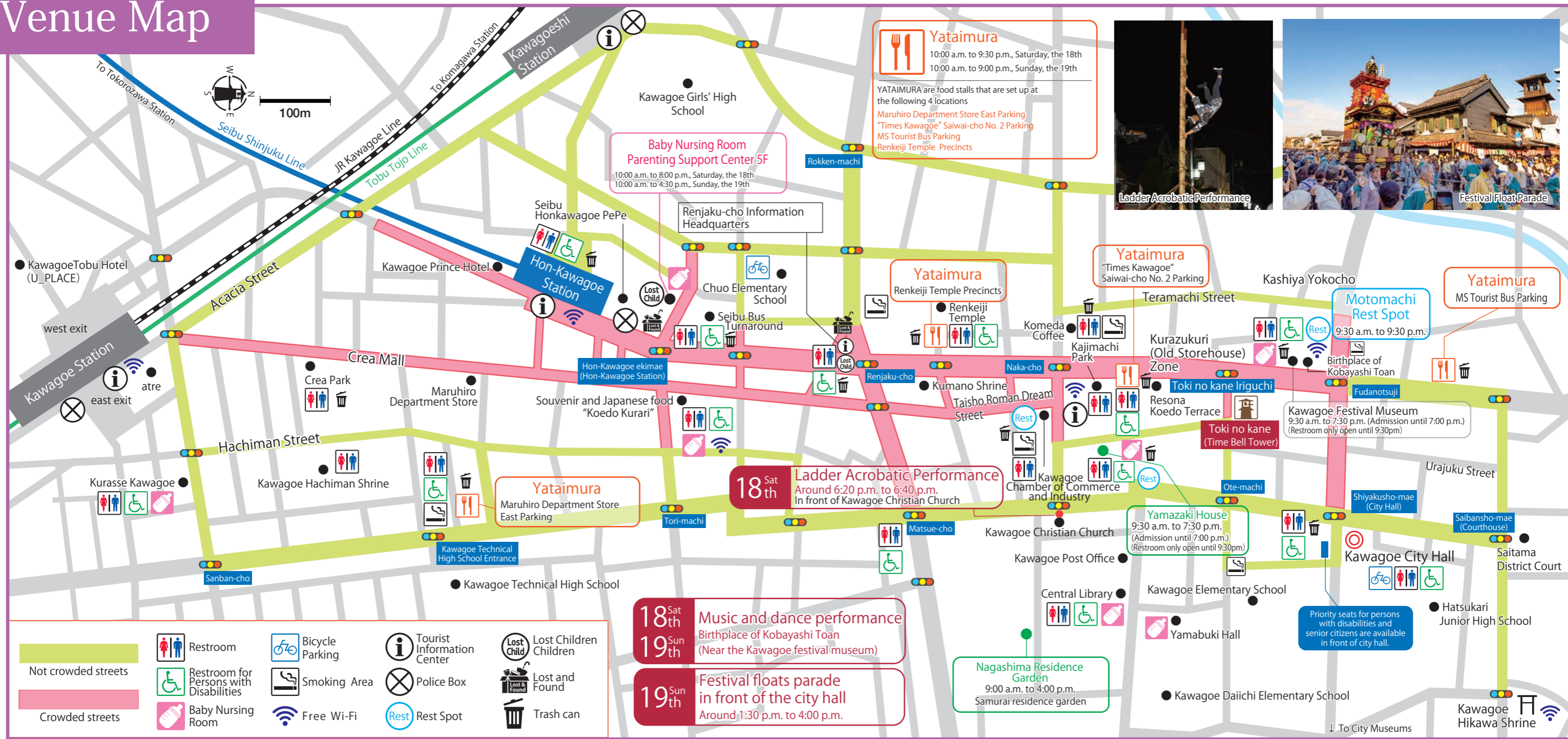
Kawagoe Matsuri Navigation

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, Destination Management Organization Kawagoe

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 7:30 p.m.
Motomachi Rest Spot	9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Yamazaki House	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 8:00 p.m., Saturday, the 18th 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, the 19th

Free Wi-Fi available for 24 hours

Available Spots
Kawagoe Station Tourist Information Center
Hon-Kawagoe Station Tourist Information Center
Nakacho Tourist Information Center
Kawagoe Festival Museum
Koedo Kurari
Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine

Tourist Information Center

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