

K O B E

Kobe City PR Paper English May 2023

Let's go to the mountains in Kobe!



If you have any questions about ward office procedures, financial support for raising children, etc.

Call the Kobe International Community Center (KICC)!

☎ 078-742-872 | (11 languages)



↑ Tap here to visit the website!



Edited by: Kobe City International Division

Let's go to the mountains in Kobe!

Kobe is home to the Rokko and Tanjo mountain ranges, and because the city and mountains are close to each other, mountaineering has been popular in this area for a very long time. These are some of the city's ongoing initiatives for improving everyone's enjoyment in the mountains.

Mountaineering hub at Shin-Kobe Station

This summer, a hub for enjoying mountain climbing will open at this station, which also serves as the gateway to hiking in Kobe's mountains! The hub will provide hiking information, hiking tours tailored to each level, and hiking gear rentals.

Improvements to hiking trails and signage

Mountain trails are easy to enter but also easy to get lost in. Maintenance work is being done on dilapidated trails and signs, and the sign designs are being unified and made easier to understand.

New cabins for relaxation

New mountain lodge-style rest areas are being built where you can comfortably take a break. Surround yourself with birdsong, the sound of the wind, and the rustling of the trees, and let your tired body slowly recover from hiking!

Certified shops that support hiking

Come to Kobe, a hiker-friendly city! Shops that welcome climbers with rucksacks and other large luggage to rest and use the restrooms can be officially certified.

New ideas for the Tsukuhara Lake area

In addition to the Kande-Yamada Cycling Road, you can enjoy the scenery of the mountains from the shores of Tsukuhara Lake. Kobe City is working on developing new activities to be held on the lake's surface!



Tap here for the
latest info!
(JP)→



Kobe Matsuri is back after 4 years!

Kobe Matsuri, one of Kobe's most famous festivals, will be held for the first time in four years. With the theme of "shining smiles, a bright future, and unchanging excitement," the parade, on-stage performances, gourmet food, and sports trial areas will bring energy and enthusiasm to this **memorable 50th festival**. This year is also the **100th anniversary of jazz in Kobe!** You can enjoy a lot of jazz at the festival, including during the colorful parade.

Date: Sunday, May 28, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm



Tap for
details!

(JP) ↓



Kobe Marathon 2023 Call for runners & volunteers

The Kobe Marathon will be held on **November 19, 2023 (Sun.)** under the theme of "Thanks and Friendship." Have you considered joining in the excitement by either participating as a runner, jogging through the neighborhoods of Kobe, or as a volunteer who supports the marathon from behind the scenes?

Runner applications: Until Wed. May 31, 5:00 pm

**Volunteer applications: (Group) from Mon. May 8,
(Individual) from Mon. May 22**



Tap for details!

(JP) ↓



COVID-19 Information

From **May 8**, COVID-19 has been reclassified as a Category 5 infectious disease, the same as seasonal influenza, so various policies will change as follows.

Restrictions on activities: There will no longer be restrictions on activities for people who have contracted COVID-19 or are a close contact of someone who has.

(If you have tested positive, please refrain from going out while you have a fever or other symptoms, so as not to spread the infection to others. If you must go out, such as for hospital visits or shopping for daily necessities, avoid crowds and wear a mask.)

Consultation hotlines & support for at-home recuperation: Support will no longer be offered to people who are recuperating at home. The consultation hotlines are also consolidated into one.

Covid-19 Health Advice Hotline

TEL 078-322-6250 (multilingual support available)

FAX 078-391-5532

Every day 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Coordination of hospitalizations, etc.

•The Public Health Management Center will coordinate hospitalizations for people with severe symptoms through September. Hospitalizations for people with mild or moderate symptoms will be arranged between hospitals and clinics.

•Convalescence facilities for isolation will end

•2 convalescence facilities for elderly who require nursing care will remain for now (*A portion of out-of-pocket fees will apply)

Medical Fees

•Outpatient visits and hospitalizations will no longer be subsidized, and out-of-pocket fees will apply

•There will be no out-of-pocket fees for the cost of Lagevrio, Paxlovid, and other COVID-19 medications through September

•Hospitalization fees through September will be reduced up to 20,000 yen based on income, as part of the High Convalescent Expenses system

COVID-19 Vaccinations in Spring

Vaccinations for the 2023 fiscal year begin from May 8, free of charge, as follows.

People receiving their 3rd & later doses

- 1 Seniors 65 & up, people with underlying health conditions, healthcare professionals, etc.: Can be vaccinated **twice a year, in spring/summer (May-Aug.) and autumn/winter (Sep.-Dec.)**.
- 2 All other residents (5 & up): Can be vaccinated **once a year, in autumn/winter (Sep.-Dec.)**.

People who have not received 1st/2nd doses

Vaccinations will continue to be available.

Spring/summer vaccinations (May-Aug.)

Vaccination vouchers are sent from April 20. However, people with underlying conditions and healthcare professionals who have not received their 5th dose must apply for the new voucher.

Pink vaccination vouchers from May 8

- The old (blue) vouchers are valid through May 7.
- However, people who are receiving their 1st or 2nd dose, young children (5-11 years old), and infants/toddlers (6 months-4 years) can still be vaccinated using the blue vouchers.



Scheduling a vaccination

Vaccination appointments can be made from April 24, once you have received your spring/summer voucher in the mail (pink envelope containing an E-mail voucher).

New Kobekko Play Area opens in Seishin-chuo

A new Kobekko Play Area opens in Seishin-chuo on **May 15**.

The play space is furnished with wood-themed play equipment, so children can play indoors and still feel like they're playing in nature. The space also includes large play equipment, a safe space for parents to spend time with their infants, and a diaper changing area.

Target: Children at pre-compulsory education age (0-6 years) & their guardians

Hours: 9:30 am-5:00 pm (Closed Thursdays & Dec. 29-Jan. 3)

Location: Nishi Ward Cultural Center Bldg. 1F (5-6-1 Kojidai, Nishi-ku)

Fee: Free

Sign-ups: **Online**

Tap for details!

(JP) →



Shinkaichi Community Center for Arts and Interaction

Formerly named the Kobe Art Village Center (KAVC), this newly renovated culture and arts facility reopens **April 29**.

The facility has spaces for community members to mingle and kids to play, with plans for monthly events featuring artists of various genres. Its nursing rooms and other amenities also make it easier for families to bring their children. The Shinkaichi Mural Art 2023 is also on display nearby.

Location: 5-3-14 Shinkaichi, Hyogo-ku

Hours: 10:00 am-10:00 pm

(Closed Tuesdays, or the following day if Tuesday is a national holiday)

Fee: Free admission (events have fees)

Website (JP) →

