

K O B E

Kobe City PR Digest English January 2025

阪神・淡路大震災から30年

Toward a Resilient and Disaster-Prepared Community



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)

↑ Scan here to visit the website!



Edited by: Kobe City Community Engagement Division;

Translated by: Kobe City International Division

Connecting the 30th Anniversary of The Great Hanshin- Awaji Earthquake to the Future



Friday, January 17 2025, marks the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Make this an opportunity to once again reflect on disasters and the importance of preparedness.

Port of Kobe Earthquake Memorial Park Exhibit Renewal



Come and observe the exhibition panels and digital displays that compare our current and restored Kobe Port to when the earthquake first struck.

Date: From Friday, January 10

Location: Meriken Park

Admission: Free



[Further Details \(JPN\) ↑](#)

Support Training for Displaced Persons

A practice training for city residents, conducted in cooperation with temporary evacuation shelters for individuals displaced due to disasters. Participants will use the "Displaced Persons Support System" to experience the entire process, from evacuation to relocation, firsthand. Anyone is welcome to participate.



※During the training, announcements will be made via drones.

Date: January 22 (Wednesday)

Time: 1:00PM~3:00PM

Venue: Kobe International House



[Further Details \(JPN\) ↑](#)

Light-Up Events in Kobe City

Kobe Illuminage

Experience the brilliance of 6 million LED lights at the largest illumination event in the Kansai area, themed "Starlight Dream," which showcases the beauty of stars and space. Also, don't miss "Wanwan Park," where you can enjoy the display together with your pet!



Date and Time: Until Sunday, February 16, 5:00PM~10:00PM
(Light-up time: 5:30PM~9:30PM)

Venue: Kobe Fruit Flower Park Ozo

Admission: Adult (junior high school and above): 2000円
Junior (1 year old~elementary school): 1000円
Infants: Free Pets: 500円

※Fees are subject to change depending on the season and ticket type

Inquiries: 06-6452-6452

**Further Details
(Multilanguage)→**



Street Illumination in Kobe Former Foreign Settlement

The trees along Akashimachi street are strewn with approximately 200,000 lights, creating a magical atmosphere. The illumination beautifully complements the surrounding retro buildings, enveloping the area in a captivating ambiance.



Date and Time: Until the end of February,
5:00PM~10:00PM

Admission: Free

**Further Details
(JPN)→**



Rokko Island Projection Mapping

Enjoy stunning projections that showcase the beautiful seasons of Kobe, and the graceful movement of sea creatures swimming in water.

Date and Time: Friday to Sunday, National Holidays.
6:00PM~9:30PM (Once every 15 minutes)

Location: Kobe Fashion Plaza (2 Koyochonaka, Higashinada ward), west side

Admission: Free

Inquiries: 078-846-2630

**Further Details
(Multilanguage)→**



30th Annual Kobe Luminarie

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, this year's Luminarie will be held under the theme "30 Years of Light, and Eternal Hope." In addition to the three main venues, a collaborative project will feature an exhibition titled "Rosone" ("rose window" in Italian) at locations such as Kitanocho.



Courtesy of Kobe Luminarie O.C.

※The image above is for illustration purposes only and may differ from actual appearance.

Date and Time: Friday, January 24 to Sunday, February 2
From dusk until 21:30

Venues:

Free admission: Higashi Yuenchi Park, Kobe Former Foreign Settlement (including the plaza in front of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Kobe Head Office building, among others)

Paid entry: Meriken Park

Meriken Park Admission:

- Advance tickets: 500円 (weekdays), 750円 (weekends)
- Same-day tickets: 1000円 (weekdays), 1500円 (weekends)

Please note that if a large number of advance tickets are sold, same-day tickets may not be available.

Inquiries: 078-391-6371



Further Details
(JPN/ENG) ↑

Application for High School Commuter Pass Subsidy Program



In September 2024, a subsidy program was introduced to assist with the cost of commuter passes for senior high school students who either live in Kobe City or attend school in the city. Applications submitted by parents or guardians are currently being accepted online through e-KOBE.

Eligible Persons:

- Senior high school students (and other students of equivalent education) who are registered as residents of Kobe during the eligibility period
- Senior high school students (and other students of equivalent education) who are between the ages of 16 and 18 years old within the applicable year

※There are no household income restrictions.

Apply: via electronic application (e-KOBE)

Application Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2025

Requirements for Application: Photo of school ID and the commuter pass for the eligibility period

Inquiries: 078-291-5952

Further Details (JPN) →



Celebrate the New Year with Kobe's Historical Performing Arts!

As the new year is ushered in, traditional and religious ceremonies are held all over the city to ward off evil spirits, and to pray for protection, good health, safety, bountiful harvests, etc. Start 2025 with a refreshing feeling and come observe these traditions handed down from ancient times!

● **Tsuinashiki (Evil-Warding) Ceremony**

Nagata Ward: Nagata Shrine (3 Nagata-cho)
February 2 (Sunday) | 2:30~| 8:00



Nagata Shrine
(Prefecture designated important intangible folk cultural property)

At Nagata Shrine, there will be a performance of a family of seven demons, dancing vigorously onstage. The highlight of this Shinto ceremony is the final "Mochiwari Ceremony", in which the demons tirelessly smash a large rice cake with an axe and mallet.

Further
Details
(JPN)→



Nishi Ward: Kinko-ji Temple (147 Kinko, Oshibedani-cho)
Tuesday, February 11 | 1:00PM~4:00PM



Kinko-ji (Nishi Ward)

There are six types of "demon dances" at Kinko-ji Temple. In the Flower Dance, demons dance holding artificial flowers; it is said that taking home some of the flowers used for the dance will ward off bad luck and evil spirits.

Further
Details
(JPN)→



● **Archery Ritual**

Tarumi Ward: Okuhata Otoshi Shrine (3143 Kitayashiki, Myodani-cho)
Tuesday, February 11 | 2:00PM~3:00PM



Okuhata Otoshi Shrine

Each year, selected participants use bows to shoot arrows at large and small targets, driving away evil spirits lurking in the village, and praying for good health and a bountiful harvest.

This will be a 2-day event held at Okuhata Otoshi Shrine, inspired by the ancient tales of the famous samurai, Minamoto no Yoshitsune.

Further
Details
(JPN)→



Must-Try Events!

Special Winter Exhibition: Room of Mysteries (Chuo Ward)

In this peculiar exhibit, you can take photos with ghosts, draw using LED lights and contemplate various mysteries with magicians!



Date & Time: Until Sunday, January 26
9:30AM~4:30PM

Venue: Bando Kobe Science Museum

Fee: Exhibition room admission fee required

Inquiries: 078-302-5177



Further Details
(Multilanguage) ↑

Disaster Risk Reduction Collaboration Event: Iza! Mikaeru Big Caravan! (Chuo Ward)



A disaster prevention event with educational programs for children and adults to learn in an engaging and enjoyable ways. Come learn practical knowledge and skills that can be useful in times of disaster!

Date & Time: Sunday, January 26, 1:00PM~
4:00PM (Reception starts at 12:45PM)

Venue: JICA Kansai, Disaster Reduction and
Human Renovation Institution

Fee: Free

Inquiries: 078-335-1335



Further Details
(JPN/ENG) ↑

Lunar New Year at Nankinmachi (Chuo Ward)

Come celebrate Lunar New Year, when Nankinmachi is at its most vibrant! You can snag special promotions at restaurants and shops, lucky red envelopes, and catch some amazing performances of traditional Chinese arts!



Date & Time: Wednesday, January 29, to
Sunday, February 2

※Time varies depending on the events and stores

Fee: Some charges may apply

Inquiries: 078-332-2896



Further Details (JPN) ↑