

# K O B E

Kobe City PR Paper English April 2023

Let's celebrate the 100th anniversary of Kobe jazz everywhere in the city!



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



Call the Kobe International Community Center (KICC)!

☎ 078-742-8721 (11 languages)

↑ Tap here to visit the website!



Edited by: Kobe City International Division

## Let's celebrate the 100th anniversary of Kobe jazz everywhere in the city!

In 1923, Kobe became the birthplace of jazz in Japan when the first jazz performance by a professional band was conducted in the city's former foreign commercial district, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of jazz in Japan. To commemorate this momentous occasion, there will be many events even for people who are new to jazz to enjoy!

**April:** KOBE JAZZ DAY 2023



**May:** Infiorata Kobe -Kitano Hill 2023, 22nd Shinkaichi Jazz Vocal Queen Contest, 21st Kobe Shinkaichi Music Festival +KOBE-JAZZ 100th

**June:** Spring Jazz Cruise, 40th NABL (Nippon Amateur BigBand League) Big Band Jazz Festival

**July:** Hyogo Terroir Journey -KOBE JAZZ 100th Anniversary LIVE concert, Jazz Concert in Tarumi Ward Office & Nagata Ward Office

**August:** Arima Ryofu River Festival (beer garden, jazz stage), 38th Japan Student Jazz Festival 2023

**September:** Harbor Jazz Night, Swing Jazz Cruise, KOBE JAZZ Academy "STUDENTS LIVE"



**October:** 40th Kobe Jazz Street, Family Fun Jazz Concert, Kobe Jazz Centennial, Rokko Island Halloween Festival (jazz stage), Kobe Friendship Big Band Jazz Festival, Hyogo-no-Tsu JAZZ LIVE concert

**November:** 1 DAY JAZZ ROAD

Official Kobe Jazz 100th Anniversary site (JP) →



## Kobe's jazz history

**1923:** A professional band plays jazz in Japan for the first time at the Oriental Hotel in Kyukyoryuchi (the former foreign commercial district)

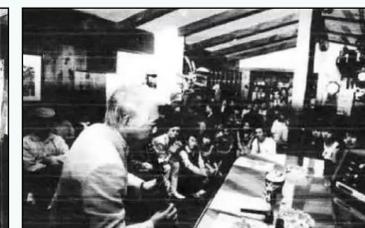


**1953:** JAVA (presently the oldest jazz café in Japan) opens for business (Chuo Ward)



**1971:** The first high school jazz band in Japan is formed at Kobe Murano Technical High School

**1982:** Kobe Jazz Street is held for the first time



**1993:** The Japan Student Jazz Festival changes venues from Osaka to Kobe

**2014:** April 4 is registered as "Kobe Jazz Day" by the Japan Anniversary Association

**2016:** The Kobe Youth Jazz Orchestra is formed by junior and high school senior students



**2023:** 100 years since a professional band first played jazz in Japan

## COVID-19 information

### Mask-wearing recommendations have changed

From March 13, the decision to wear a mask is left to the individual, regardless of indoors or outdoors. Please do not force others to wear a mask. However, you should wear a mask if you have COVID-19-like symptoms, live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or are visiting/working at a hospital or elderly care facility.

### COVID-19 vaccination schedule for 2023 (for ages 5 & up)

#### For 3rd-dose & later vaccinations:

① Seniors aged 65 & up, or people with underlying health conditions: Can be vaccinated twice a year, in spring-summer (May - Aug.) and autumn-winter (Sep. - Dec.). We will make an announcement about when vaccination vouchers will be mailed out and other details at a later date.

② All others aged 5 & up: Can be vaccinated once a year, in autumn-winter (Sep. - Dec.).

#### For 1st- & 2nd-dose vaccinations:

Vaccinations are still available now.

## Syphilis cases have rapidly risen

Syphilis cases rapidly increased in 2022 all over Japan, and in Kobe the cases have increased about 17-fold within the past 10 years. Most of the cases have occurred among men aged 20-50, and women in their 20s. If you are not experiencing symptoms but are worried you may have caught syphilis, you can get tested anonymously for free through the city's public health centers. If you do have symptoms, please see a doctor.

Tap here for details (JP)→



## Working towards the bright future of Kobe

Part of Kobe City's budget for the 2023 fiscal year is going towards a number of initiatives, including **these 3 projects**.

### ① The new Community Engagement and Development Bureau

There are many people who want to do more to help their local communities, so this new bureau was created to help make it easier for NPOs and other groups to become involved in city policies.



### ② Expansion of the Children's Medical Expense Subsidy!

Children up to senior high school age will be eligible for subsidization of outpatient medical fees.

\*1 Per hospital/clinic or pharmacy

\*2 Hospitalization is free up to SHS age

	Until Sep. 2023	From Oct. 2023
0 - 2 y.o.	Free	Free
3 y.o. - JHS	Pay up to 400 yen/day Up to twice a month (*1)	Pay up to 400 yen/day Up to twice a month (*2)
SHS age	No subsidy	

### ③ Preparing Kobe Airport for international flights!

To start with, we will expand the airport apron (plane parking area) and construct a sub-terminal by 2025!

We will also make transportation between the airport and Sannomiya/Shin-Kobe more convenient, and draw more tourists by making the city more attractive!



## Ride cross bikes through the Kande-Yamada Cycling Road

Running through the rural woodlands of Kobe's Kita and Nishi Wards, the Kande-Yamada Cycling Road lets you experience the beauty of nature. In the spring, you can cycle through paths lined with cherry blossom trees. Even if you don't own a bicycle, you can easily enjoy this cycling experience with a rental cross bike.

There are 4 rental/return locations along the cycling road, including a café right by the train station. Electric-assisted bicycles are also available at some locations. Won't you come feel the spring breeze and get your fill of nature?



**Rentals Available:** March 25 - May 28

**Cost** • **Cross bike:** Adult 1,500 yen (500 on weekdays), ES & under 500 yen

• **Electric-assisted bicycle:** 2,000 yen [Bicycle reservations & more \(JP\) ↑](#)



## By your side from pregnancy to birth to childrearing

Under the Support Program for Expecting, New & Childrearing Families, we offer emotional and financial support during every step of a family's journey from pregnancy to child-rearing.

If you ever need to seek advice about birth or childcare during/after pregnancy, you can talk to the Health and Welfare Division of your local ward office at any time. You can also receive a subsidy to help offset the personal costs of baby products and childcare services.

### About the subsidy

**Eligibility:** On or after April 1, 2022, either:

- ① Expecting mother filed a Notification of Pregnancy, OR
- ② A newborn was born (and is in the care of a caretaker)

**Amount:** 50,000 yen at the time the notification was filed, then 50,000 yen per child after birth

**How to apply:** e-KOBE smart application system

● **Notification/birth as of February 28, 2023:**

Application information will be sent from late March via simplified registered mail

● **Notification/birth on or after March 1, 2023:**

In principle, a staff member will discuss this when you file the pregnancy notification, and application information will be provided during the newborn visit

[Details \(JP\)→](#)

