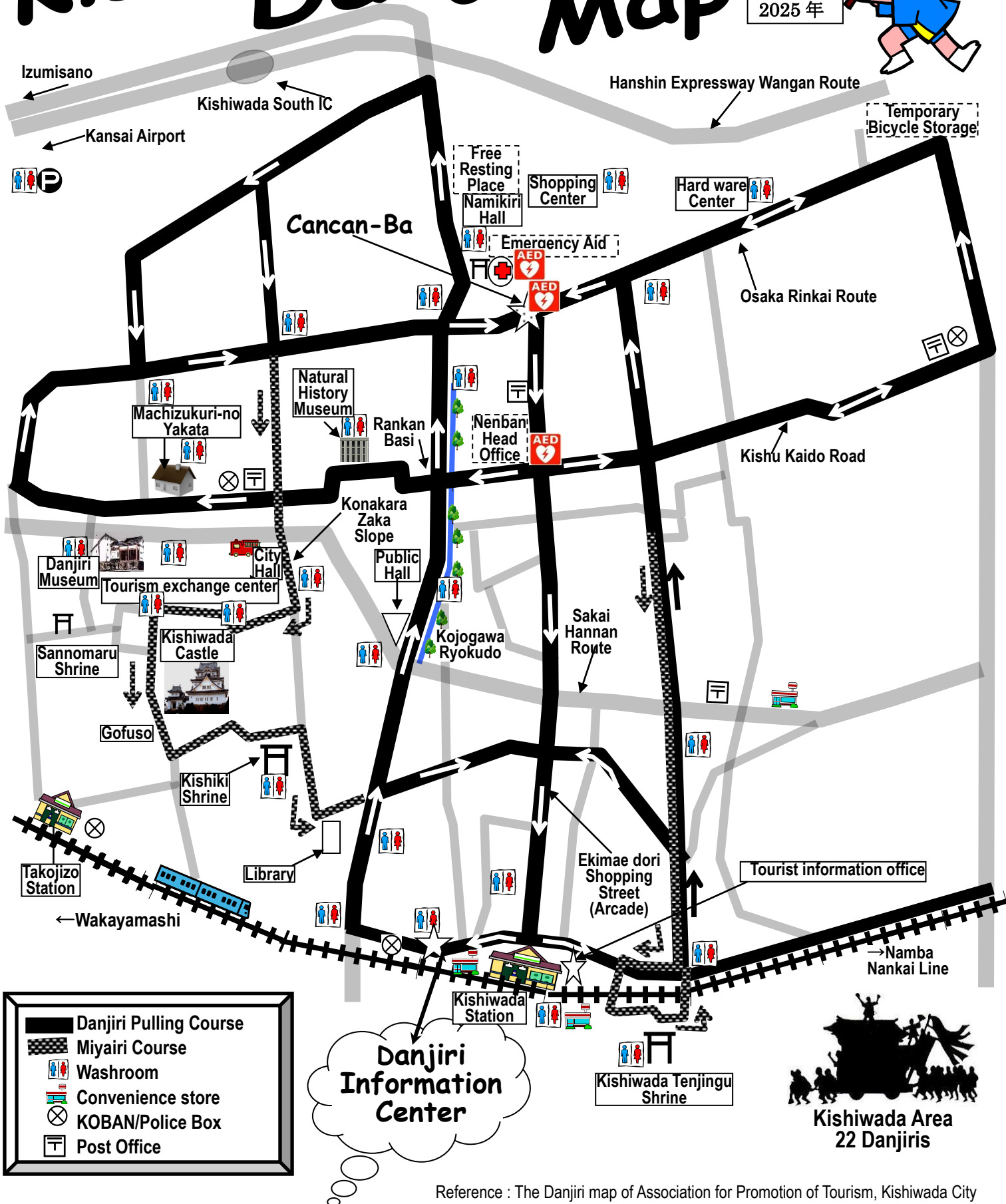


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Kishiwada Danjiri Map

英語
English

2025 年



Reference : The Danjiri map of Association for Promotion of Tourism, Kishiwada City

Published by: International Friendship Association of Kishiwada



① Kishiwada Castle

It is said that the donjon have been built by Hidemasa Koide In the Keicho period (1596-1615). The castle, however, was occupied by 13 lords of the Okabe family for 230 years, starting with Nobukatsu Okabe, who became the lord of the castle in 1640, and extending to Nagamoto Okabe.

② Sannomaru Shrine

In the Genroku period (1688-1704), an Inari god of harvest shrine was introduced from Inari Taisha in Fushimi, Kyoto Prefecture, into Kishiwada Castle and the lord allowed general townsfolk and farmers to worship it. The people were so pleased to be given such an opportunity that they danced their way to the shrine to the accompaniment of drums and Shamisen players. This is said to be the beginning of today's Danjiri Matsuri float parade.

③ Gofuso

This large Japanese-style go-round landscape garden, designed by Rikichi Terada II, was completed in 1939 after some 10 years of construction. It was built on the site of the pond and herb garden in the compound of Kishiwada Castle.

④ Tenshoji Takojo Statue

Passers-by may be interested in an eye-catching temple erected at a point about 300 meters to the seaside from Takojo Station of Nankai Railway. This is Tenshoji Jizodo, one of Japan's largest Jizodo temples. (Jizo is an abbreviation of Jizo-bosatsu or Ksitigarbha-bodhisattva, a guardian deity of children) A stone monument standing on the left of the approach to the shrine carries inscribed letters reading "Tako Jizo" which are said to be written by Ikeno Taiga, a famous calligrapher in the Edo period (1603-1867). A stone image of Jizo enshrined in a small hall on the northeast corner of the temple's main hall is a designated cultural asset of the city. It is the oldest stone artwork found in Kishiwada City.

⑤ Kishiwada Danjiri Museum

This new place of interest opened on September 1, 1993, in Kishiwada City. Inside the hall, a state-of-the-art video system entertains visitors all year round with scenes of the 300-year-old Danjiri festival of elaborate wheeled float. The hall symbolizes the devotion of some 200,000 Kishiwada residents to one of Japanese greatest festivals.

⑥ Rows of traditional houses in Hommachi

This part of Kishiwada, extending 500 meters north to South and 200 meters east to west on the old Kishu Kaido Highway, preserves the bygone images of this castle town.

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KISHIWADA DANJIRI FLOAT FESTIVAL

The Danjiri Float Festival is said to have its origin in Inari-Sai (Festival of the Grain God), which had been held to pray for a rich harvest of grain by Lord Nagayasu Okabe, the then feudal lord of Kishiwada Castle during the Genroku Era (1688–1704). On those days the castle gate was opened to the public and the townspeople pull Danjiri into the castle ground to show various performances to the Lord.

Later, this festival became the whole events for three villages called SANGO, that is, for merchants, farmers and fishermen. It was really the great for a number of townspeople and greatly supported by them.

In the old days, “Kishiwada Kenka Matsuri” (The Fighting Festival) became the festival’s unofficial name as the excitement turned to competition, and each Danjiri raced and sometimes collided and crashed.

Danjiri Matsuri, whose tradition more than 300 years is the very pride of Kishiwada townspeople, is held on Saturday and Sunday, previous days of Respect for the Aged Day (Monday) of every year with 34 Danjiris playing a soul-stirring and heroic show in the castle town. Today in Japan, we can’t find out similar festivals which are so traditional and cultural as the scale seen in Kishiwada Festival that is excellently managed under orderly control.

Danjiri Terms

Hiki-dashi (Opening Pull) :

The opening of Danjiri Matsuri with high spirits and speed. Danjiris begin a mad dash around the streets of castle towns at the sound of the siren of the city hall at 6:00 AM.

Yari-mawashi (Corner turning) :

Working both front and rear levers in unison, Danjiri can change the direction at each street corner. Done quickly to the beat of drums and shouts of the pullers, this corner turning is one of the most dramatic elements of the festival.

Daiku-gata (Carpenters) :

The privilege and risk of dancing upon the upper roof of each Danjiri belong to the carpenters. The most visible member of Danjiri team, each daiku-gata creates his own style of performances. “Hikoki-nori”, (the airplane dance) performed with arms spread wide and standing on one foot, is particularly famous. He gives the instruction using Uchiwa (fan) which way to go.

Horimono (Wood carving) :

Each of the massive Danjiris is adorned with a number of intricate wood carvings. The carvings depict celebrated battles and records of war in ancient Japan.

Miya-iri (Going to worship at the shrine) :

In the morning on the second day, 34 Danjiris divide into three groups and go to worship at the three major Shinto shrines.

Hi-ire Eikou (Parade of lantern-lit Danjiris) :

In the evening, Danjiris are decked with Chochin red lanterns and do the parade in a slow procession along the main route. The bright lanterns, the rhythmical drums and chants mix harmoniously with the barkers and food smells of the night stands to envelope the whole city in a warm and peaceful atmosphere.

PULLING DANJIRIS SCHEDULE:

1st Day

6 : 0 0	–	7 : 3 0	Hiki-dashi (Opening pull)
9 : 3 0	–	1 1 : 3 0	Parade
1 3 : 0 0	–	1 7 : 0 0	Parade
1 9 : 0 0	–	2 2 : 0 0	Parade of lantern-lit Danjiris

2nd Day

9 : 0 0	–	1 2 : 3 0	Miya-iri (Going to worship at the shrine)
1 3 : 0 0	–	1 7 : 0 0	Parade
1 9 : 0 0	–	2 2 : 0 0	Parade of lantern-lit Danjiris

A Danjiri is built of all zelkova-wood. It weighs about 4 tons and is 3.8 meters high, 4 meters long and 2.5 meters wide. A pulling rope is from 100 to 200 meters long and it is pulled by 500 – 1,000 pullers. The baroque styled Danjiri has the beautifulness as the Yomei-Mon of Nikko Toshogu, which is said to be one of the most beautiful structures of old Momoyama Culrure.

Through the rapid spread of the Internet, many foreign tourists more than about 300 people from about 35 countries visit Danjiri Information Center for Foreigners managed by our International Friendship Association of Kishiwada. They, also, dispatch immediately this Danjiri Festival news through Face Book etc. to the world.

The best known three viewing spots of passing Danjiris are Konakara Zaka (Sunday AM only), Ekimae Dori and Cancan-Ba. In the latter spot, the paid seats are available for reservation in advance.

- STRUCTURE**
- ① Oo-yane (Upper Roof)
 - ② Ko-yane (Lower Roof)
 - ③ Mae-teko (Front Lever)
 - ④ Ushiro-teko (Rear Lever)
 - ⑤ Daiku-gata (Carpenters)

