

Kumamoto Castle Marathon 2026 Runner's Guide

Before the Event Day

■ Runner check-in

▶ Date and time/venue

Friday, February 13, 2026 (12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Saturday, February 14 (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Hanabata Hiroba Square (Kumamoto Town Naka Hiroba)

※Please complete check-in (pick up your athlete's bib) in person during the above hours.

※Proxy check-in is not accepted.

※When you enter the venue, a facial recognition system will be used to verify your identity

※Please note that check-in for race entry will NOT be available on the day of the marathon. Make sure to complete check-in on either February 13 (Fri) or 14 (Sat).

※Runners who try to complete check-in late will be refused, even if there are delays with public transportation. Please allow yourself plenty of time to arrive at the venue.

※Use public transportation to avoid congestion.

▶ Things to do before check-in (photo and ID registration)

When entering the check-in venue, you will be required to undergo facial recognition to confirm your identity. Therefore, you will need to register your photo and ID in advance. Please make sure you have done this before entering the check-in venue.

1) Access the system from the entry guide email or the Kumamoto Castle Marathon 2026 item listed in the "Entry History" section of My Page in Run Japan.

2) Follow the on-screen instructions to upload your photo and ID.

※If you have registered in advance, you will be able to enter the check-in venue smoothly. If for some reason you are unable to register in advance, we will help you to register at the facial recognition pre-registration support booth on the day of the event. However, if you register on the day, it may take some time before you can enter the venue. Therefore, we ask that you register in advance if possible.

► Things to bring with you on the day

1) Athlete Bib Voucher

- If you have a smartphone

Bring up the 2D code on your smartphone and come to the check-in desk.

- If you do not have a smartphone

Download the PDF file of the Athlete Bib Voucher, print it out on A4 paper, and bring it with you.

You may have difficulty displaying the 2D code depending on network conditions at the venue. Before coming to the check-in desk, make sure to print out the Athlete Bib Voucher and bring it with you, or if you are using a smartphone, take a screenshot and save it to your device.

2) Proof of Identity

Please bring a valid form of photo ID, such as one of the following:

- International driver's license • Passport • Residence card

► Pick up the following items during check-in:

Athlete bib, safety pins, runner's chip (full marathon and Kumanichi 30k only), official bag, official bag sticker

※ Athlete bib will not be reissued for any reason.

※ The runner's chip will be collected after the finish.

► Participation souvenir

Collect your participation souvenir T-shirt at the T-shirt pick-up point in the EXPO, in the size you requested at the time of entry (printed on the athlete bib bag). **※You cannot change the size of your T-shirt or receive a T-shirt if you selected "Not required" at the time of application.**

► Escort runners

If you have a visual impairment and have applied in advance to participate with an escort runner, please go to the help desk. Please note that the organizers do not act as an intermediary for introducing escort runners.

► Notes

You will not be able to complete check-in unless you have the 2D code displayed on your smartphone or an Athlete Bib Voucher. If you forget your Athlete Bib Voucher, you can get it reissued at the help desk in the check-in area **for a fee of 300 yen.**

※Please be sure to bring proof of identity.

※ During runner check-in, parking on the streets around the venue

(Hanabata Hiroba Square) is strictly prohibited.

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From Kumamoto Airport	<Kumamoto Limousine> Aso Kumamoto Airport Bus stop → Kumamoto Sakuramachi Bus Terminal Fare: ¥1,000 Time: Approx. 50 min.	Runner check-in/EXPO Hanabata Hiroba Square (Kumamoto Town Naka Hiroba)
From JR Kumamoto Station	<City Tram> Kumamoto Station → Karashimacho Fare: ¥200 Time: Approx. 10 min. <Bus> Kumamoto Station → Kumamoto Sakuramachi Bus Terminal Fare: ¥200 Time: Approx. 10 min.	
From Expressway Kumamoto Exit	<Car> Expressway Kumamoto Exit → Kumamoto City center Time: Approx. 30 min.	
From Each Bus Stop	<Buses in/outside of Kumamoto Pref. (incl. highway buses)> Each bus stop → Kumamoto Sakuramachi Bus Terminal	

On the Event Day

■ Event schedule

Date: February 15 (Sun), 2026

Starting point: Torichosuji

- 7:00 a.m. Changing rooms open
- 7:20 a.m. Start area opens/line up at start blocks
Bag drop starts
- 8:00 a.m. Entrance to changing rooms closes
- 8:15 a.m. Changing rooms close
- 8:30 a.m. Bag drop ends
- 8:40 a.m. Start blocks close
- 8:15 a.m. Changing rooms close
- 9:00 a.m. Kumanichi 30k Road Race starts
- 9:02 a.m. Full Marathon starts
- 9:15 a.m. Fun Run starts
- 10:30 a.m. Fun Run finishes
- 11:00 a.m. Kumanichi 30k Road Race finishes
- 12:15 p.m. Awards ceremony for Kumanichi 30k Road Race
- 12:30 p.m. Awards ceremony for Full Marathon
- 4:02 p.m. Full Marathon finishes
- 4:30 p.m. End of the events

※The schedule is subject to change.

■ Final decision on whether the marathon will go ahead as planned

- ▶ Date and time of final decision: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 5:00 a.m.

- ▶ Where to check for announcements

Announcements regarding whether the marathon will be held or canceled due to disasters, bad weather, etc. will be made on the official Kumamoto Castle Marathon website.

Official marathon website (PC, smartphone, tablet):

<https://www.kumamotojyo-marathon.jp>

Mobile site (announcements only):

<https://www.kumamotojyo-marathon.jp/m>

■ Transportation on the day of the event

※Traffic controls will be in place along the course on the day of the event.

Heavy traffic is expected in the area around the venue on the day of the event (the center of Kumamoto City). Depending on the time of day, you may not make it to the start line in time. Also, you will have used up a lot of energy by the time you have finished the marathon. As driving when you are tired could cause a serious accident, please do not come by car. If you do come by car, do not park illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance on the roads around the course or to nearby shops.

■ Start area

- ▶ Please show your athlete bib when entering the runner area.
- ▶ People accompanying runners, spectators, and vehicles (including bicycles) are not allowed to enter the runner area.
- ▶ On the day of the event, please remember to bring your athlete bib, runner's chip (Full Marathon & Kumanichi 30k Road Race only), and official bag (sticker).

■ Flow until start

1) Changing rooms ※Opens at 7:00 a.m.



2) To the start area ※Opens at 7:20 a.m.



3) Bag drop



4) Line-up start blocks (Sub-3, A-G, Fun Run)



5) Start

■ Changing rooms

Full Marathon/Fun Run

- ▷ Changing room for women (City Hall Main Bldg. B1F)
- ▷ Changing room for men (City Hall parking 2F - 5F)
<Time> 7:00 - 8:15 a.m. (Entrance closes at 8:00 a.m.)
- ▷ Changing rooms for men/women (Kumamoto Prefecture-run toll parking 2F)
<Time> 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. (Entrance closes at 7:45 a.m.)

■ Bag drop

Full Marathon/Fun Run

<Time> 7:20 - 8:30 a.m.

<Place> Trucks stop within the start area

- ▶ Check the bag truck number on the official bag sticker and drop off your bag in the corresponding bag truck.
- ▶ Place your bag in the special official bag that you were given at check-in. We cannot accept any other type of bag.
- ▶ Make sure to attach the official bag sticker that you were given at check-in to the official bag. (The sticker will not fall off as easily if you attach it when the bag is empty.)
- ▶ You will need to show your athlete bib when drop off and claim your bag. Once you have dropped off your bag, you will not be able to collect it until you have finished the race.
- ▶ Make sure to tighten the string around the opening of the official bag when dropping off your bag so that the items inside do not spill out.
- ▶ No fragile or valuable items, animals, plants, or perishable foods will be accepted. The organizers will not be held responsible for the damage or loss of valuables.
- ▶ Items that protrude from the official bag (umbrellas, carry-on bags, etc.) cannot be dropped off.
- ▶ There are no coin-operated lockers near the starting blocks.

■ Line up at start blocks

Full Marathon/Fun Run

<Time> 7:20 - 8:40 a.m.

※Entrance to the start blocks closes at 8:40 a.m. Sharp!

<Place> Torichosuji

- ▶ The starting line is divided into 9 blocks: Sub-3, A to G, and Fun Run.
Your block is printed on your athlete bib.
- ▶ You cannot enter the starting blocks until 7:20 a.m.
- ▶ Please wear your athlete bib when entering the starting blocks.
- ▶ Warming up on the road is prohibited.
- ▶ Make sure to line up at your starting block by 8:40 a.m.
- ▶ You will not be able to run if you do not make it to the start block before it closes.

- Finish area
<Place> Kumamoto Castle Ninomaru Park (in Kumamoto Castle Park)
- Flow after finish (Full Marathon/Fun Run)
-

1) Finish



2) Finisher towel pick up ※For Full Marathon runners only



3) Finisher medal pick up ※For Full Marathon runners only



4) Drink & Meal Service



5) Runner's chip return ※For Full Marathon runners only



6) Bag claim/change of clothes

- ▶ Only participating runners are permitted to enter the runner area in the finish area.
- ▶ Only runners are allowed in the runner area. Please note that once you leave this area, you will not be allowed to re-enter.
- ▶ Please show your athlete bib when claiming your bag from the truck.
- ▶ Various restrictions will be in place in the area around Kumamoto Castle, where the finish venue is located. Please follow the instructions and guidance of the staff.
- ▶ Kumamoto Castle is a designated Special Historic Site of Japan. Please help us protect our historic sites and cultural assets.

- Proxy runners

Running on behalf of someone else as a proxy runner is strictly prohibited. If it comes to light that someone has run on behalf of someone else, both the proxy runner and the registered runner will be banned from participating in this tournament in the future.

- Clothes

- ▶ **Runners who do not attach their athlete bib will not be allowed to run in the race. The athlete bib must be kept visible from the front during the race.** Please note that you may be disqualified from the race if you do not display your athlete bib properly.
- ▶ **If rain is expected, please come prepared for rain by wearing a raincoat or other rainwear.**
- ▶ Please be careful not to get in the way of other runners when disposing of plastic sheeting, etc. that you are using to keep warm.
- ▶ Costumes that go against the event rules, other laws and regulations, or public order and decency, as well as costumes that may be offensive to other runners or supporters, or costumes that are not suitable for a sporting event, are not permitted. If the organizers deem that a costume is in violation of any of these rules, etc., the person wearing it will not be permitted to participate in the event, and may be asked to withdraw from the race, even after it has started.

- Vehicles/distance signs

- ▶ Please take care as there may be cases where general and event vehicles will be driving side-by-side or in opposite directions on certain parts of the course.
- ▶ Distance signs will be placed every kilometer up to the 42 km mark, and at the halfway point. When there is 5 km left to go, distance signs will be placed every kilometer displaying the remaining distance.

- Dropping out of the race

- ▶ If you wish to drop out of the race outside of the cut-off points, please notify a judge or a member of staff along the course and move to the sidewalk.
- ▶ If you drop out of the race, please choose one of the following ways to proceed to the finish area.
 - 1) If you can walk, go to the nearest cut-off point and board a rescue bus.
 - 2) If you cannot walk, wait by the side of the course and board the final rescue bus behind the last runner.

- Cooperation with emergency vehicles, etc.

- ▶ Please note that emergency vehicles take priority on the race course in cases where an accident occurs during the race. Follow the instructions of the staff members to allow emergency vehicles to pass.
- ▶ Pedestrians may be allowed to cross the race course depending on the runners' progress and other conditions. In such cases, please follow the instructions of staff.

■ Health management

- ▶ **Before participating in the marathon, please ensure you are in good physical condition by training sufficiently beforehand, undergoing a health check-up, and consulting a doctor if you have any existing medical conditions. If you have any health concerns, we strongly advise you not to push yourself and to refrain from participating.**

If any of the items below apply to you, please consult your regular doctor regarding your ability to participate in the event. Under your doctor's guidance, undergo a health check-up or treatment if necessary.

- You have been diagnosed with or are currently being treated for heart disease (myocardial infarction, angina, cardiomyopathy, valvular disease, arrhythmia, etc.);
 - You have experienced any sudden loss of consciousness (fainting spells);
 - A blood relative has died suddenly from a heart attack;
 - You have not had a health check-up in over a year.
- ▶ Marathons can be a dangerous sport if you fail to prepare properly. In past Kumamoto Castle Marathons, there have been instances of runners experiencing cardiac arrest.
- ▶ While the organizers have taken extensive measures to provide first aid, they assume no responsibility whatsoever beyond first aid for any illness or accidents not attributable to the organizers. Please participate only after thorough preparation at your own responsibility.
- ▶ If you feel unwell during the race, contact the nearest staff member and have the courage to drop out of the race.
- ▶ Note that household medicines are not available from first-aid stations (stomach medicine, cold medicine, compresses, taping, cold spray, etc.). Also, we do not provide treatments such as taping or massages.

■ Official record

- ▶ Times are measured from the starting signal (starting gun) to the finish line.

■ Runner's chip (Full Marathon & Kumanichi 30k Road Race only).

- ▶ This event uses a runner's chip to track times. A runner's chip will be given to you at the same time as the athlete bib when you check in. You must ensure that you have received it at that time (runner's chips are attached to runner's shoes, and times are instantly recorded when passing over the timing mats to determine race times and finishing positions).

- ▶ **Make sure to securely attach the runner's chip to your shoe.**

Exercise due caution, as no time or ranking will be recorded if not properly attached. Lost chips will not be reissued, so please make sure it is properly attached before race start.

- ▶ **The runner's chip will be collected after race completion.**

- ▶ The chip will also be collected from participants who board rescue buses at cut-off points.

- ▶ How to attach your runner's chip



1) Pass the enclosed twist ties through your shoelaces, and then thread the ends through the holes in the runner's chip.

2) Twist the twist tie firmly to secure the chip to your shoes and prevent it from coming off.

■ Finisher Certificate (Preliminary Results) (Full Marathon & Kumanichi 30k only)

- ▶ **Finisher Certificates will not be issued in paper form.**

After the event, you can download an online Finisher Certificate from the official marathon website.

※ Finisher certificates will only be issued to runners who complete the full marathon within the time limit and will not be issued to runners who finish outside the time limit.

※ Note that the following runners may not receive a finisher certificate, even if they finish within the time limit:

- 1) Runners who ran without wearing their athlete bib or runner's chip;
- 2) Runners who attached the athlete bib or runner's chip somewhere other than the designated location;
- 3) Runners who lost their athlete bib or runner's chip during the race.

■ Awards

- ▶ Full Marathon (award ceremony venue: Kumamoto Castle Ninomaru Park)

※ There will be no awards for the Castle Town Fun Run.

1) Overall: Top 1–8 for both men and women

2) By age group: Top 1–3 for both men and women

(Men's and women's categories: Under 29, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70 and over)

※ There will be no awards ceremony for age groups, and awards will be sent by mail at a later date.

■ Sub-Three Premium

Runners who have achieved a sub-three (completed a full marathon in under 3 hours) in any of the past three years of the Kumamoto Castle Marathon will receive preferential starting block placement if selected to run in the marathon.

In addition, runners who post a sub-three time will have their name, runner number, and time posted on the official Kumamoto Castle Marathon website.

■ Other precautions

- ▶ Please take home any personal waste, such as from food and drinks you brought.
- ▶ Smoking is prohibited in the check-in area, start area, finish area, and on the course.
- ▶ Refrain from sitting or squatting to eat or drink on the course.
- ▶ Do not camp out at the start and finish areas, etc., as it may cause inconvenience to local residents or businesses.
- ▶ Do not enter or use toilets in hotels or buildings near the course before the start or during the race.
- ▶ Do not cross the road to use toilets/restrooms on the opposite side during the race (including convenience store toilets). This may result in disqualification.
- ▶ Running while pushing a baby stroller or being accompanied by a family member or pet is not allowed.
- ▶ Only registered runners are allowed on the course.

■ Suspicious items

- ▶ If you discover a suspicious item, do not touch it and immediately inform the nearest police officer or staff.
- ▶ Bringing dangerous materials to the marathon venue is strictly prohibited. Note that any suspicious belongings may be subject to inspection.

■ Accidents during the race

- ▶ While the organizers have taken extensive measures to provide first aid, they assume no responsibility whatsoever beyond first aid for any illness or accidents not attributable to the organizers. Please participate only after thorough preparation and at your own responsibility.
- ▶ In the event of death or injury during the race, compensation, such as condolence payments, may be provided under the event organizer's insurance coverage (death: 3 million yen; hospitalization: 2,000 yen (per day); outpatient: 1,300 yen (per day)).

■ Oath of participation

- ▶ Be sure to read the terms of the agreement presented when the Athlete Bib Voucher is issued and complete the necessary procedures.

■ Weather on the day of the marathon

- ▶ In the past five years, the temperature on the day of the marathon has fluctuated significantly. Please check the weather forecast in advance and prepare appropriate clothing to manage the hot or cold conditions.
- ▶ Do not leave your heat or cold protection clothing or items near the start area or on the course. Any items left behind will be disposed of by the organizers.

<Reference>

Temperatures in Kumamoto on the day of the marathon in the past 5 years

Year	High	Low
2025	12.4°C	2.6°C
2024	22.0°C	3.4°C
2023	17.1°C	8.0°C
2020	17.1°C	6.2°C
2019	11.8°C	2.5°C

(Source: Japan Meteorological Agency)

■ Drink & Meal Service

- ▶ Fluid and meal stations will be set up at the following points along the course (signs will be displayed 500 meters in advance).
- ▶ The organizers are not responsible for any drink or meal services outside of these points.
- ▶ Fluid stations are also provided at the finish area of the Castle Town Fun Run.
- ▶ Items available at each fluid and meal station are subject to change.

Point	Fluid station	Mineral water	Isotonic drink	Meal
Start	City Hall main entrance	○	—	○
4.8 km	Fluid Station 1	○	○	—
6.7 km	Fluid Station 2	○	—	—
9.5 km	Fluid Station 3	○	○	—
12.1 km	Fluid Station 4	○	—	○
15.6 km	Fluid Station 5	○	○	○
18.9 km	Fluid Station 6	○	○	—
22.0 km	Fluid Station 7	○	○	○
25.2 km	Fluid Station 8	○	○	○
28.4 km	Fluid Station 9	○	○	—
30.9 km	Fluid Station 10	○	○	○
32.4 km	Fluid Station 11	○	○	—
35.4 km	Fluid Station 12	○	○	○
37.9 km	Fluid Station 13	○	○	—
40.6 km	Fluid Station 14	○	○	○
Finish	Ninomaru Park Runner area	○	—	○

- Toilets
 - ▶ Portable toilets will be set up at various points along the course (signs will be displayed 500 meters in advance). Be sure to only use the designated locations.
- Cut-off points and first-aid stations
 - ▶ For reasons related to traffic, safety, and the operation of the race, cut-off points will be set at the locations below.
 - ▶ **Once a cut-off point is closed, runners who have not passed cannot continue on the course and must move to the sidewalk. Afterward, either board the last rescue bus or proceed to the next cut-off point and board the rescue bus there.**
 - ▶ Even before the closure time, if you fall significantly behind or if the organizers determine that your presence will affect the lifting of traffic restrictions, you may be asked to stop running on the course. Pacemakers will run the course, aiming for the following finishing times: 3 hrs., 3.5 hrs., 4 hrs., 4.5 hrs., 5 hrs., and 6 hrs. There will also be cutoff point pacers.
 - ▶ **The first-aid stations at the event are focused on life-saving measures and will only provide first-aid treatment. No further treatment or responsibility beyond this can be provided.**
 - ▶ **Cold spray or other non-emergency items are not available from first-aid stations.**
 - ▶ **They also do not provide taping, massages, or other such services.**

Point	Cut-off point	Cut-off time	First-aid station	Location
Start	—	—	○	City Hall Assembly Bldg.
6.1 km	Cut-off point 1	10:15	○	Near FamilyMart Ryutsudanchi store
14.5 km	Cut-off point 2	11:18	○	Renesas
17.4 km	—	—	○	Meiwa Gakuen facility
21.0 km	Cut-off point 3	12:21	○	Aidomimachi Foods town
24.8 km	Cut-off point 4	12:55	○	Akita Higashi ES
29.8 km	Cut-off point 5	13:45	○	Daily Yamazaki Sunahara store
33.3 km	Cut-off point 6	14:18	○	Rendaiji Park
36.0 km	—	—	○	Kai clinic
37.9 km	Cut-off point 7	15:00	○	Omura Ushiro Park
40.6 km	Cut-off point 8	15:30	○	Daiichi HS main gate
Finish	—	(16:02)	○	Ninomaru Park Fujisakidai First-aid Station



KUMAMOTO Castle



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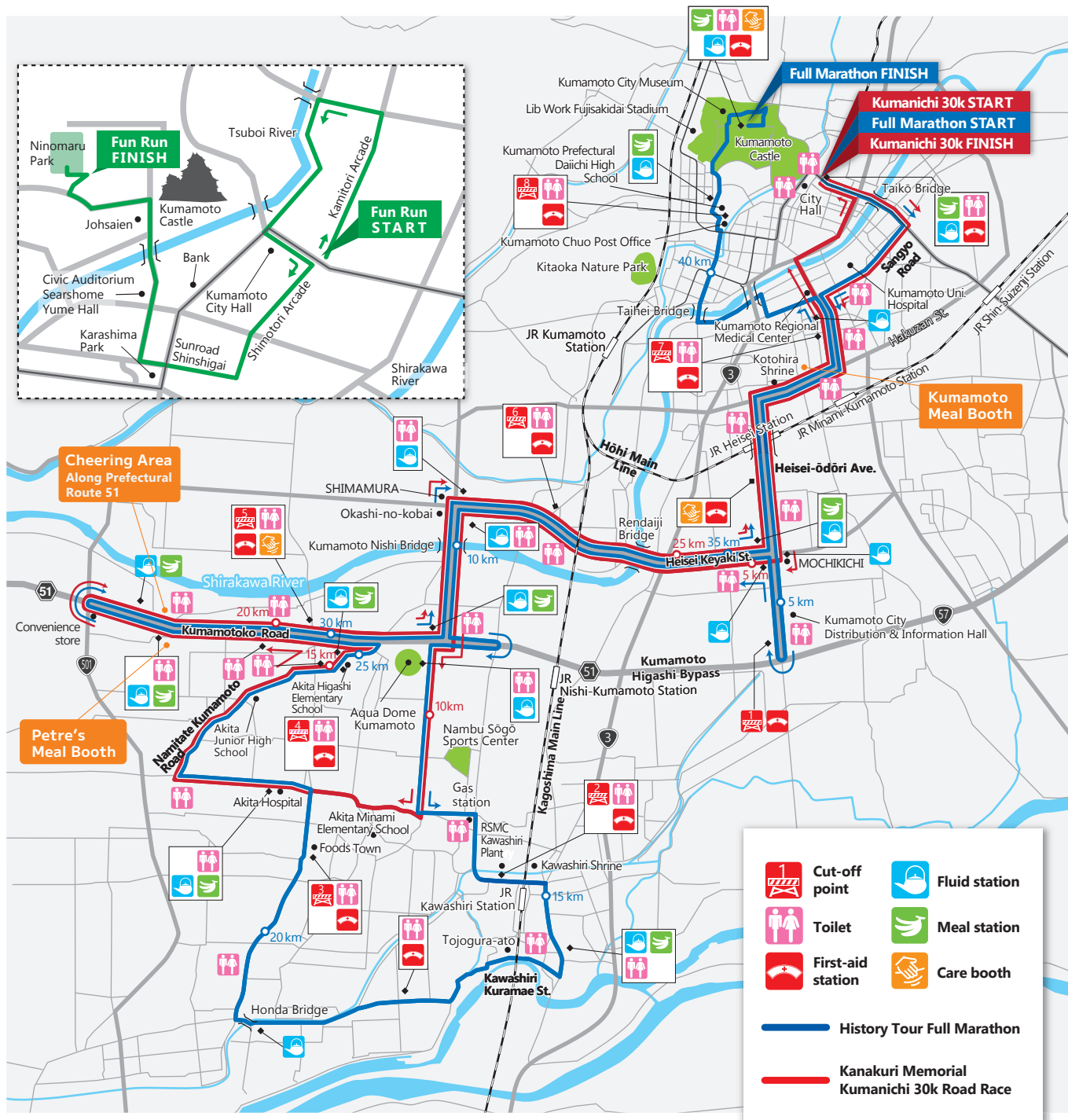
Opening hours: 9:00 ▶ 17:00 (last entry at 16:00)

※Participating runners can enter for free from February 13 to 16 by showing their athlete bib (distributed at the runner check-in area).

Kumamoto Castle Marathon Official Website: <https://castle.kumamoto-guide.jp/info/>

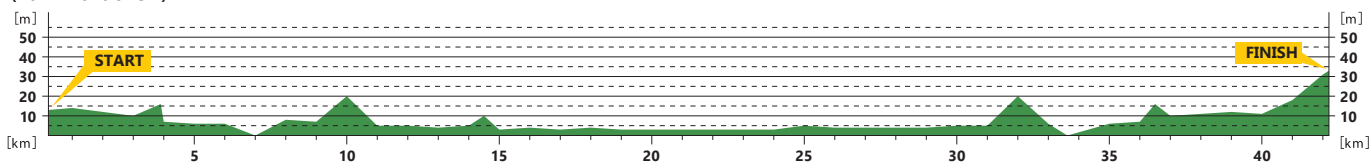


Course Map Full Marathon/Kumanichi 30k/Fun Run

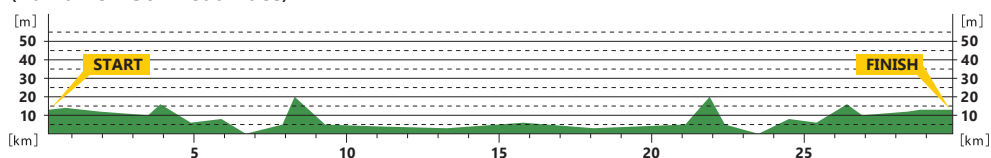


Course elevation profiles (Full Marathon / Kumanichi 30k Road Race)

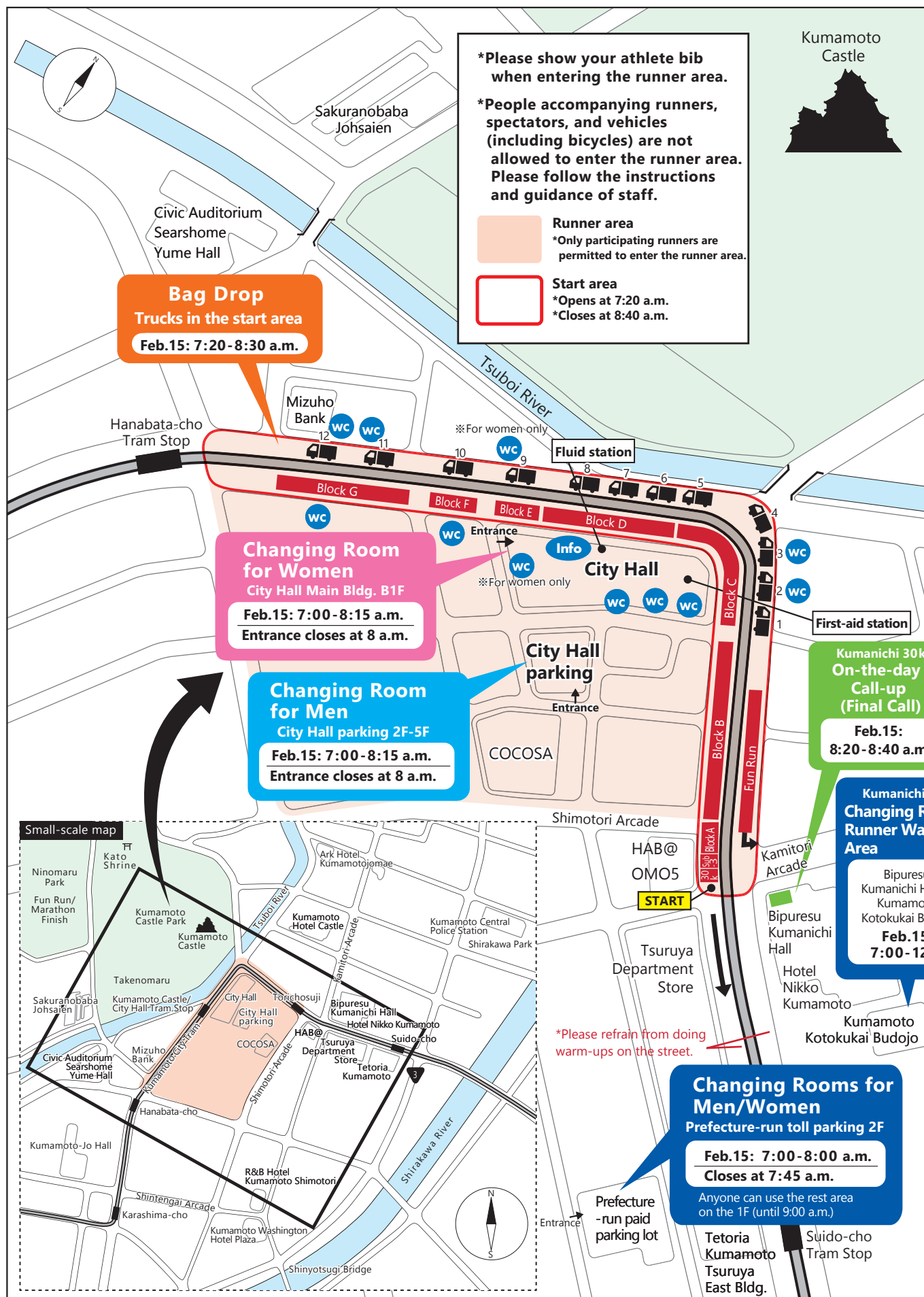
〈Full Marathon〉



〈Kumanichi 30k Road Race〉

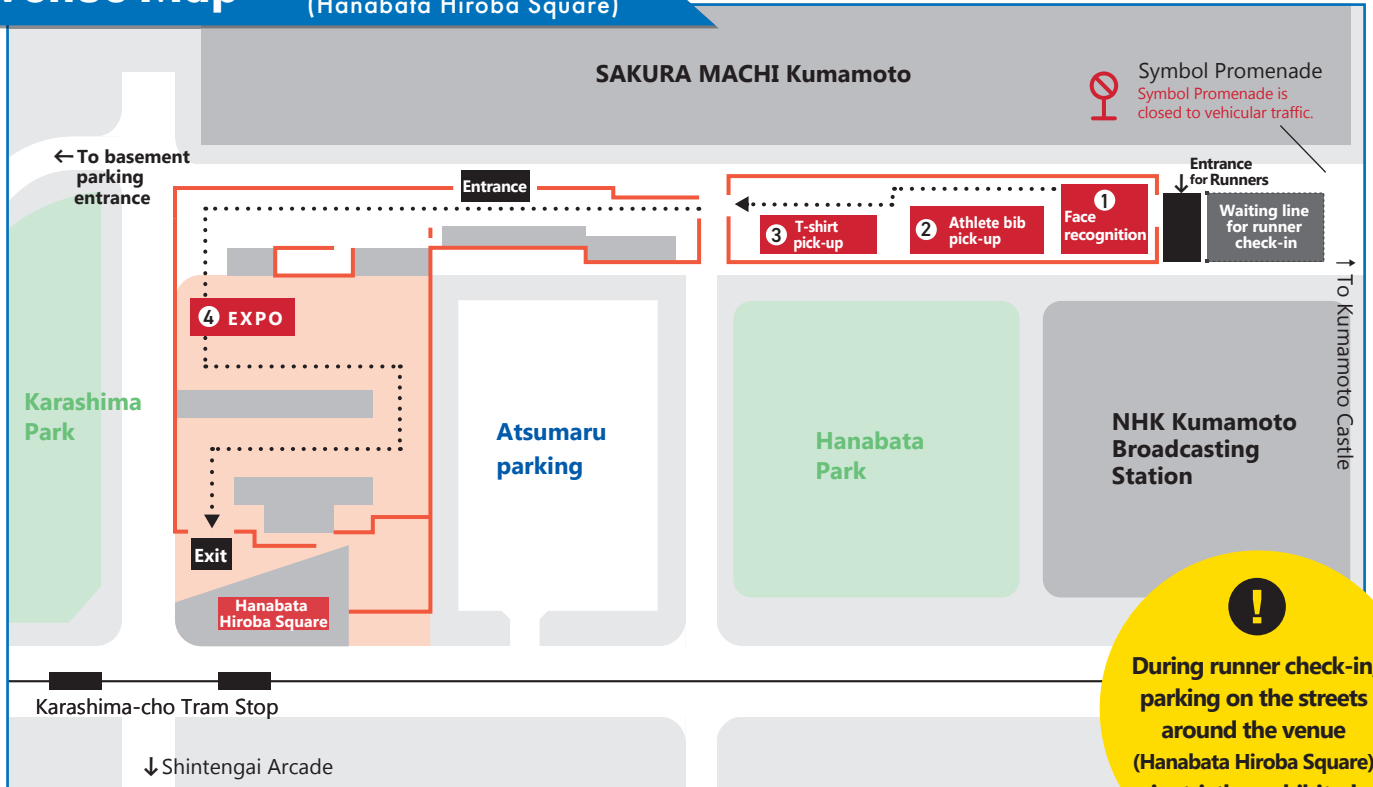


Venue Map Start



Venue Map

Runner check-in/EXPO
(Hanabata Hiroba Square)



Venue Map

Finish
(Ninomaru Hiroba Square)

