

# Danjiri

Danjiri Town Higashinada

Higashinada Ward's spring tradition, Danjiri.

Every May, the danjiri of each district rushes around the ward with musical accompaniment.



## Features of Kobe / Higashinada Danjiri

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Danjiri is made by placing decorations such as people, plants, birds and beasts on a car with wheels, and then pulling and kneading them. It is also referred to as "easy car", "danjiri", "dajiri", "danjiri", "float", and "ground car".

Danjiri can be divided into two types: "towed danjiri" and "carrying danjiri". Higashinada's danjiri is classified as a towed danjiri and is called "Kobe type", and it is characterized by having "decorative curtain, Yamagata lantern, and outer sesame seeds".

**Decorative curtain:** Gold thread, silver thread, and colored thread are used to express dragons and myths in three dimensions.

**Yamagata lantern:** It comes from the fact that the lantern is attached to the top of the roof in the shape of a mountain. Each has a different angle.

**Outer sesame:** Wheels (tops) attached to the outside of the base. This is a feature that can only be seen in Kobe's Danjiri.

## History of Higashinada Danjiri Festival

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In the Edo period, it seems that danjiri was drawn to the festivals of each village, a unit of a small area. In the Meiji era, the festival has become like it is now.

The actual danjiri is from the teahouse district of Sumiyoshi in 1838 (Tenpo 9) and is one of the oldest existing danjiri, but it was purchased from Tennoji in Osaka in 1979, so it is pure. The oldest surviving one is said to be the Danjiri in 1887 (Meiji 10).

## Transition

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1892 (Meiji 25): Hokura Shrine (Sanjo, Tsuchi, Kitahata, Tanabe, Koji, Nakano) begins towing Danjiri Town.

1920s (early Showa period): The Showa Emperor's Encyclopedia triggered a gradual purchase and new boom.

During World War II: Suspended for about 3 years due to the war.

From 1965 (Showa 40): Due to traffic restrictions and a decrease in the number of young people who carry danjiri, town towing is suspended in each district.

From 1975 (Showa 50): Danjiri revival boom in each district.

1980 (Showa 55): For the first time in 35 years, the 7 districts of Sumiyoshi Village are lined up at Motosumiyoshi Shrine.

1987 (Showa 62): May 4th With the opening of the Yamate Kansen, the "Motoyama Danjiri Parade" begins.

1990 (Heisei 2): November 12 Higashinada Danjiri Parade was held to celebrate the throne of the Heisei Emperor.

1993 (Heisei 5): June 9th, 40th anniversary of the ward administration, Higashinada Danjiri Parade was held. 28 cars participated.

1995 (Heisei 7): January 17, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred. About 1,400 people died in Higashinada Ward. The shrine and danjiri were also severely damaged, and the danjiri festival in each district was cancelled.  
May 4th Only a danjiri hayashi was performed in front of JR Settsu Motoyama station.

1996 (Heisei 8): From May 3rd to 19th, 28 danjiri were pulled out with the flag of earthquake reconstruction.

1998 (Heisei 10): Higashinada Danjiri Association was formed.

2000 (Heisei 12): April 29, 50th anniversary of ward administration, earthquake disaster reconstruction commemorative celebration parade held. 29 cars participated.

2010 (Heisei 22): October 10 Held a parade to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ward administration. 31 cars participated.

2014 (Heisei 26): March 29, the 20th anniversary parade of the earthquake was held.

2019 (Reiwa 1st year): May 1st Reiwa celebration parade is held. Forty-five Higashinada, Nada, Ashiya, Nishinomiya, and Takarazuka danjiri gather on the Yamate kansen on the north side of Settsu Motoyama station.