

TO VISITORS



Traffic Control Announcement for THE 102nd HAKONE EKIDEN on Jan. 2 (Fri.) and 3 (Sat.), 2026

The Hakone Ekiden is a tradition of the New Year season in Japan. It is held over two days every year on January 2nd and 3rd.

Twenty one teams from universities in Kanto race over five sections from Tokyo to Hakone/Lake Ashinoko, then return over the five sections, for a total of ten sections (about 200 km). The Ekiden is a kind of relay-race marathon, with each runner in the Hakone Ekiden running 20 kilometers. One of the highlights of the Ekiden is how each university creates a strategy based on the characteristics of its runners and the features of the section.

Route 1, the race course in the Hakone Area (from the area near the Hayakawaguchi Exit to the Lake Ashinoko Finish Area) experiences congestion from spectators even in the opposite lane of traffic.

Particularly on Jan.2, the course and surrounding roads are expected to be congested. Coming into contact with the runners or vehicles involved may lead to accidents and is dangerous, so we ask everyone starting around the area for their cooperation with traffic control in the Hakone mountain area.

Traffic will be temporarily restricted when runners are passing through. We ask drivers to avoid these roads during these times. To bypass this, please consider the Hakone Shindo or the Hakone Turnpike toll road (¥900 for a normal car).

A Request for Spectators along the Hakone Ekiden course

The Hakone Ekiden has grown thanks to the support of roadside spectators. We'd like spectators to mind their manners and to cheer the runners on.

- To avoid inconvenience to the public, as well as from the perspective of SDGs, please refrain from using a large number of flags or banners. Participating schools are requested to do the same as well.
- To relief congestion, don't post displays (such as school flags, team flags, banners with school names or emblems) at the start point, finish point, or 100 meters within relay points, bridges and intersections.
- Don't stand on a stepladder and cheer the runners on.
- To protect the runners and avoid traffic accidents and traffic jams, don't follow the race in cars, motorcycles or bicycles.
- Cheering on the roads is dangerous. Always cheer on the sidewalk.
- For those bringing pets, make sure they don't go into the road.
- Runners run very closely to the sidewalk, so don't step out on the course to cheer them on.
- Refrain from placing your belongings on the ground along the course to reserve space.
This is especially dangerous near the start, finish, and relay points where crowds gather.
Please note that organizers may remove any belongings found in such locations.
- Running alongside the participating runners is dangerous. Do not do so.
- **Roping a banner or flags to the public property, such as a roadside guardrail or bridge parapet, is prohibited stated by the Road Traffic Law. Hold it straight to avoid hitting athletes.**
- Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (e.g., a radio controlled device or drone) and selfie sticks are prohibited.



Inquiry—— The Inter-University Athletic Union of Kanto TEL: 03-5411-1488

The Inter-University Athletic Union of Kanto/Kanagawa Prefectural Police Department