

---

# 1. Welcome to Ashiya City

---

## 1-1 【Historical Sketch】

The name “Ashiya” is said to have been a general term that referred in ancient times to the region from eastern Kobe to the southern foot of Mt. Rokko, and included the current city of Ashiya and parts of Nishinomiya. The natural environment in this area is pleasant, a condition perfect for residence, which accounts for its development from earliest times. Traces of ancient inhabitants are scattered throughout the city, beginning with some remains from Japan’s earliest historical eras, the Jomon period and the Yayoi period. The latter includes the Yayoi highland settlement, Egenoyama in Sanjo-cho, which was designated a national historical site in 2011. Ashiya is an area rich in history, including folklore, as well as many other historical sites, such as the tomb of Prince Abo Shinno (792–842) in Midorigaoka-cho and the remains of the villa of the poet-aristocrat Ariwara no Narihira (825–880), located near where the Ashiya City Community Center is today.

In 1905, in conjunction with the opening of the main Hanshin railway line, the stations of Ashiya and Uchide were built. The area, designated as the agricultural village of Seido, received further attention as an excellent location between Osaka and Kobe offering an outstanding environment when the Ashiya station (JR) was built on the Tokaido main line in 1913. These developments helped transform the area into a location for villas and residences built on the alluvial land near the Ashiya River. The transformation of the area from agricultural village to residential city was complete in 1940 when Ashiya was designated as the country’s 173<sup>rd</sup> city.

When the Hankyu rail line to Kobe opened in 1920, a bus stop was built near the Hankyu Ashiyagawa Station, spurring the building of residential homes in the direction of Yamate Ashiya. Development continued in the early Showa period (1926–1989) with the building of magnificent mansions in Rokurokuso, which established an image of Ashiya as an exclusive residential district. Ashiya further developed as a city with the opening of the Hanshin National Route, an inter-city tram line on present Route 2 between Osaka and eastern Kobe.

Although Ashiya was affected by the great Hanshin flood of 1938 and sustained damage in 1945 from air raid attacks the promulgation in 1951 of the “Act on Construction of Ashiya as a City of International Culture and Good Residential Environment” clearly underscored their desire to make Ashiya into a residential city of international character and culture.

With development of the Royu Highway and Okuyama, and construction of a sewage system, rezoning, and opening of Route 43 from 1955, the city’s infrastructure base became further consolidated. A steady increase in population continued from 1965, resulting in the spread of residential housing from the foot of the mountains to the south.

Construction of Ashiyahama Seaside Town began with landfill work on the seaside from 1975. At the same time, redevelopment work around the JR Ashiya Station continued to create a new “Ashiya.”

In the dawn of January 17, 1995, however, it took only twenty seconds for a massive earthquake that occurred directly under the Hanshin-Awaji district to take away the lives and property of many of Ashiya’s citizens, destroying in an instant the green, international, cultural center of Ashiya that had taken years to build. The town was reduced to rubble. Subsequently, Ashiya overcame the unprecedented level of damage caused by the earthquake by engaging in the work of rebuilding, creation, and restoration.

Occupancy of the southern part of Ashiya began in April, 1998, followed in rapid succession by the opening of the Ashiya Canal Park and hospital, the water park (sewage treatment plant), Grand Park, an artificial harbor, and the *Shinsui* Water Park. Chic residential neighborhoods were built on either side of *Shinsui* Water Park. A yacht harbor, restaurant, sports gym, and residences with mooring facilities appropriate for a seaside resort were also built. Everyone is now familiar with this new face of our city.

In 2004 Ashiya began promoting itself as a “garden city.” The following year, in 2005, it became the site for canoeing and pistol competitions sponsored by the 61<sup>st</sup> National Sports Festival of Japan.

With nearly 100,000 residents, Ashiya continues to develop into a city filled with lush and beautiful greenery and flowers. Ashiya seeks to become a city that people throughout the world will want to visit at least once in their lifetimes.

## 1-2 【An Outline of Ashiya City】

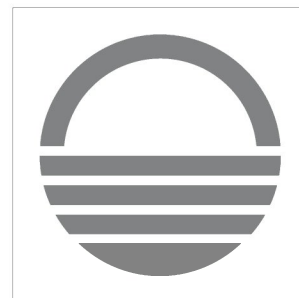
Blessed with rich natural surroundings, rivers, the sea and the green mountains of the Rokko range, Ashiya extends gently towards the south as a bright and open city between the metropolises of Osaka and Kobe, offers convenient access to transportation, and has the features of a prime residential city where you can fully enjoy all four seasons.

Area: 18.57 km<sup>2</sup>. Population: 96,816 (as of January 1, 2014).

### City Emblem

Officially adopted in 1940

It dates back to March 31, 1922 when the municipality was known as Seido Village. The emblem represents places of scenic beauty surrounded by mountains and the sea in the four small townships of Ashiya, Uchide, Sanjo and Tsuji, which combined to form Seido Village. The semi-circle depicts the mountains and rising sun, the four horizontal lines the four townships, and they are symbolic of harmony, peace and prosperity.



### City Tree — City Flower

Officially adopted in 1970

As part of the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the municipality, the Japanese Black Pine was chosen as the City Tree because of its superb shape and resistance to insects, and the Azalea (*Rhododendron Reticulatum* D. Don) as the City Flower because of its beauty and abundance in the surrounding mountains.



City Tree: Japanese Black Pine



City Flower:  
Azalea (*Rhododendron Reticulatum* D. Don)

### Ashiya Citizens' Charter

Officially adopted in 1964

We, the citizens of Ashiya, proud to be citizens of the International Cultural Residential City, will strive for the following goals, in order to make our city an even more beautiful, bright and refined place to live.

We hope each and every citizen will abide by this charter, in which we resolve to take responsibility for our own actions as individuals to live in consideration of the others we share this city with.

We, the citizens of Ashiya, shall strive to:

- Further improve the cultural and educational sophistication of the city.
- Have regard for nature and cover the city with greenery and flowers.
- Nurture the dreams and hope of our youth.
- Build an even healthier, brighter and happier city.
- Maintain a clean, safe city, free from pollution and disasters.

### 1-3 【Ashiya City Consultation Services for Foreign Residents】

Ashiya City opened the Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center as an information hub for foreign residents as well as a venue for international exchange. The Center is operated by a designated administrator, the NPO Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association (ACA). At present, it provides services in both English and Japanese, and if you have a question or a problem, please feel free to contact us.

Name of Facilities	Reception Hours	Address	Phone
Ashiya City Hall Public Relations and International Exchange Section	Mon. to Fri., 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Except 12:00 noon -12:45 p.m., Sat., Sun., and public holidays	7-6 Seido-cho Ashiya City Hall North Wing 3F	38-2008
Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center	Every day, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Except Wed. and Year-end & New Year's Holidays (Dec. 28 - Jan. 4)	7-1 Kaiyo-cho	25-0511
		<a href="http://www.ashiya-sec.jp/">http://www.ashiya-sec.jp/</a>	

### 1-4 【 National and Prefectural Consultation Services for Foreign Residents】

Consultations	Organization	Address/Phone	Languages						
			E	C	K	S	P	Ta	Th
General & Legal	HIA Information and Advisory Service Center	1-1-3 Higashi-Kawasaki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe Kobe Crystal Tower 6F Tel. (078)382-2052	☆	☆		☆	☆		
		<a href="http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/information_center/en/">http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/information_center/en/</a>							
Multilingual Hotline	NGO Network for Foreigners' Assistance KOBE	1-28-7 Nakayamate-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe Catholic Kobe Central Church Tel. (078)232-1290	☆	☆		☆	☆	☆	
		<a href="http://gqnet.webcrow.jp/">http://gqnet.webcrow.jp/</a>							
Job Placement	Kobe Employment Service Corner for Foreign Workers	Tel. 0120-279-338	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆
		<a href="http://279338.jp/yorisoi/foreign/">http://279338.jp/yorisoi/foreign/</a>							
Job Placement	Osaka Employment Service Center for Foreigners	1-3-1 Aioi-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe Within Hello Work Kobe Tel. (078)362-4570	☆	☆		☆	☆		
		<a href="http://hyogo-roudoukyoku.jsite.mhlw.go.jp/riyousha_mokuteki_menu/english/info_hellowork/hellowork_kobe.html">http://hyogo-roudoukyoku.jsite.mhlw.go.jp/riyousha_mokuteki_menu/english/info_hellowork/hellowork_kobe.html</a>							
Job Placement	Osaka Employment Service Center for Foreigners	8-47 Kakuda-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka Hankyu Grand Bldg. 16F Tel. (06)7709-9465	☆	☆		☆	☆		
		<a href="http://osaka-foreigner.jsite.mhlw.go.jp/e-toppage.html">http://osaka-foreigner.jsite.mhlw.go.jp/e-toppage.html</a>							
Multilingual Living Information	Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)	Information about daily life necessary for foreigners to live in Japan is included on this website in 13 languages.  <a href="http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/">http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/</a>							

- Languages: E=English, C=Chinese, K=Korean, S=Spanish, P=Portuguese, Ta=Tagalog, Th=Thai
- Please call in advance for consultations.

## 1-5 【Shio-ashiya Exchange Center】

The Shio-ashiya Exchange Center opened on April 12, 2011 and is envisioned to be Ashiya's core venue for international exchange and community communication. The Center is comprised of three main facilities: the Shio-ashiya Assembly Hall, the International Exchange Center and the Outdoor Exchange Plaza (tennis courts), which are available for International exchange, community communication, cultural, and sports activities for a fee.

The Center is operated by a designated administrator, the NPO Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association (ACA).

- ◆ Facilities: 8 meeting rooms, 1 Japanese style room, 1 kitchen, 3 tennis courts, parking space for 23 cars
- ◆ Open: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. (Outdoor Exchange Plaza: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.)
- ◆ Reception Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Closed: Wednesdays and Year-end & New Year's Holidays (Dec. 28 – Jan.4)
- ◆ Programs:
  1. Various exchange programs with foreign residents in Ashiya
  2. Foreign language lessons / Japanese lessons
  3. Support programs for foreign residents in Ashiya
  4. Sister city exchange programs, etc.

Inquiries: ☎ 25-0511  
 (7-1 Kaiyo-cho #659-0035)  
 🌐 <http://www.ashiya-sec.jp/>



## 1-6 【Japanese Lessons】

One-on-one lessons in Japanese conversation for daily life, reading and writing are offered at Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association (ACA) and at *Kominkan* Community Center.

For fees and dates, please contact the following addresses:

Name	Place	Address	Phone
ACA Japanese Lessons	Shio-ashiya Exchange Center, the others	7-1 Kaiyo-cho	25-0511
<i>Kominkan</i> Japanese Classes	Citizens' Center ( <i>Kominkan</i> )	8-24 Narihira-cho	35-0700

## 1-7 【Publications in English】

1	Ashiya Newsletter (published 4 times a year)
2	Ashiya City Guide Map
3	Ashiya City Guide Map 2011 (published by the Economics Section)
4	Information and Map for Disaster Prevention
5	Garbage Collection Calendar (published annually)
6	Copies of the Garbage Disposal Guide
7	List of Ashiya City Consultation Services (published annually)