



Japan will host Rugby World Cup 2019!

20 September – 2 November 2019



Exciting journeys the Springboks will take across Japan

From 20 September to 2 November, the 2019 Rugby World Cup tournament will be held in 12 host cities across Japan. This will be the ninth World Cup, though it bears many firsts: it is the first Rugby World Cup tournament held outside the traditional heartland of rugby, the first time the tournament is held on Asian soil, and the first time consecutive tournaments have been staged in the same hemisphere. The opening match will be held in Tokyo Stadium in Chofu, Tokyo on 20 September.

The South African team will be setting up camp in several cities, including Omaezaki in Shizuoka. The first significant moment for the Springboks will be when they play a friendly match against Japan on 6 September at Kumagaya Rugby Stadium in Kumagaya City, Saitama prefecture.

South Africa's first RWC match against New Zealand will be held on 21 September at the International Stadium in Yokohama City, Kanagawa prefecture. The other pool matches that the Springboks are set to play are on 28 September, where they will play against Namibia at Toyota Stadium in Toyota City, Aichi prefecture; on 4 October against Italy at Shizuoka Stadium ECOPA in Fukuoka City, Shizuoka prefecture, where their camp will be, and finally, on 8 October against Canada at Kobe Misaki Stadium in Kobe city, Hyogo prefecture. If the Springboks get to the final, they will play again in Yokohama on 2 November.

RUGBY WORLD CUP 2019™ MATCH SCHEDULE 試合日程

POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D
IRELAND SCOTLAND JAPAN RUSSIA SAMOA	NEW ZEALAND SOUTH AFRICA ITALY NAMIBIA CANADA	ENGLAND FRANCE ARGENTINA USA TONGA	AUSTRALIA WALES GEORGIA FIJI URUGUAY
<small>Fri 20 Sept - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama Japan v Russia</small>	<small>Sat 21 Sept - 18:45 International Stadium Yokohama New Zealand v South Africa</small>	<small>Sat 21 Sept - 18:45 International Stadium Yokohama France v Argentina</small>	<small>Sat 21 Sept - 18:45 International Stadium Yokohama Australia v Fiji</small>
<small>Sun 22 Sept - 14:15 International Stadium Yokohama Ireland v Scotland</small>	<small>Sun 22 Sept - 14:15 International Stadium Yokohama Italy v Namibia</small>	<small>Sun 22 Sept - 19:15 International Stadium Yokohama England v Tonga</small>	<small>Sun 22 Sept - 19:15 International Stadium Yokohama Wales v Georgia</small>
<small>Tue 24 Sept - 19:15 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Russia v Samoa</small>	<small>Tue 24 Sept - 19:15 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Italy v Canada</small>	<small>Tue 24 Sept - 19:45 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium England v USA</small>	<small>Tue 24 Sept - 19:45 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Fiji v Uruguay</small>
<small>Sat 28 Sept - 14:15 Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa Japan v Ireland</small>	<small>Sat 28 Sept - 14:15 Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa South Africa v Namibia</small>	<small>Sat 28 Sept - 19:45 Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa Argentina v Tonga</small>	<small>Sat 28 Sept - 19:45 Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa Georgia v Uruguay</small>
<small>Mon 30 Sept - 19:15 International Stadium Yokohama Scotland v Samoa</small>	<small>Mon 30 Sept - 19:15 International Stadium Yokohama New Zealand v Canada</small>	<small>Mon 30 Sept - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama France v USA</small>	<small>Mon 30 Sept - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama Australia v Wales</small>
<small>Thu 03 Oct - 19:15 Kobe Misaki Stadium Ireland v Russia</small>	<small>Thu 03 Oct - 19:15 Kobe Misaki Stadium South Africa v Italy</small>	<small>Thu 03 Oct - 19:45 Kobe Misaki Stadium England v Argentina</small>	<small>Thu 03 Oct - 19:45 Kobe Misaki Stadium Georgia v Fiji</small>
<small>Sat 05 Oct - 19:30 City of Toyota Stadium Japan v Samoa</small>	<small>Sat 05 Oct - 19:30 City of Toyota Stadium New Zealand v Namibia</small>	<small>Sat 05 Oct - 19:45 City of Toyota Stadium France v Tonga</small>	<small>Sat 05 Oct - 19:45 City of Toyota Stadium Australia v Uruguay</small>
<small>Wed 09 Oct - 14:15 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Scotland v Russia</small>	<small>Wed 09 Oct - 14:15 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium South Africa v Canada</small>	<small>Wed 09 Oct - 19:45 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Argentina v USA</small>	<small>Wed 09 Oct - 19:45 Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Wales v Fiji</small>
<small>Sat 12 Oct - 19:45 Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium Ireland v Samoa</small>	<small>Sat 12 Oct - 19:45 Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium New Zealand v Italy</small>	<small>Sat 12 Oct - 19:45 Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium England v France</small>	<small>Sat 12 Oct - 19:45 Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium Australia v Georgia</small>
<small>Sun 13 Oct - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama Japan v Scotland</small>	<small>Sun 13 Oct - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama Namibia v Canada</small>	<small>Sun 13 Oct - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama USA v Tonga</small>	<small>Sun 13 Oct - 19:45 International Stadium Yokohama Wales v Uruguay</small>
QUARTER-FINAL 1 Sat 19 Oct - 16:15 International Stadium Yokohama WINNER POOL C RUNNER UP POOL D	QUARTER-FINAL 2 Sat 19 Oct - 19:15 International Stadium Yokohama WINNER POOL B RUNNER UP POOL A	QUARTER-FINAL 3 Sun 20 Oct - 16:15 International Stadium Yokohama WINNER POOL D RUNNER UP POOL C	QUARTER-FINAL 4 Sun 20 Oct - 19:15 Tokyo Stadium WINNER POOL A RUNNER UP POOL B

SEMI-FINAL 1

Sat 26 Oct - 17:00
International Stadium Yokohama

WINNER QF1

WINNER QF2

BRONZE FINAL

Fri 17 Nov - 18:00
Tokyo Stadium

RUNNER UP SF1

RUNNER UP SF2

SEMI-FINAL 2

Sun 27 Oct - 18:00
International Stadium Yokohama

WINNER QF3

WINNER QF4

FINAL

Sat 02 Nov - 18:00
International Stadium Yokohama

WINNER SF1

WINNER SF2

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一生に一度だ。

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

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#RWC2019

RWC 2019 WORLDWIDE PARTNERS

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RWC Pools and Match Schedule for the pool and knockout phases

Explore each city associated with the Springboks' trajectory

Those wanting to visit the cities where the Boks will be playing will certainly find plenty to see and do.

Shizuoka is where the Springboks will play against Italy at Shizuoka Stadium ECOPA in Fukuoka City on 4 October, which will be a very key match for the Boks to reach the knockout stage. The team will be setting up camp in the city of Omaezaki as well, so that the Boks will have a plenty of time to explore the place.

Shizuoka prefecture not only has one of the best climates in Japan, but is considered to be one of the most scenic areas in the country. Shizuoka combines access to the iconic beauty of Mt. Fuji and the exquisite hot spring resorts of the Izu Peninsula along the Pacific coast, and has historically been a popular holiday and tourism destination especially due to its beautiful beaches. Shizuoka is the birthplace of wasabi, the fiery green condiment famously served with sushi that is nowadays used in a variety of sweets and snacks – even ice cream! Shizuoka is also known as the tea capital of Japan, with over 40% of Japan's green tea being produced in the prefecture.

The city of Omaezaki is about 130km south of Shizuoka city, and is at the tip of the Omaezaki peninsula. As throughout the prefecture, Omaezaki is home to extensive tea plantations: try the local brand of green tea called Tsuyu Hikari, known for its refreshing taste and vibrant colour. Fishing is the city's other main industry, and fish such as bonito, grouper and seer fish are part of the local cuisine. Strawberries and aroma melons are also a specialty, with many fruit farms around this part of the prefecture. Thanks to its strong coastal winds and temperate climate, Omaezaki is well known as one of the best windsurfing spots in Japan. Other sports such as surfing and body boarding are equally popular, and avid surfers can enjoy the waters at Omaezaki Long Beach all year round. Another major attraction is the Omaezaki Lighthouse, where visitors can enjoy an unobstructed view of the Pacific Ocean from the 17 meter high observation deck.



A view of Mt. Fuji over the extensive tea plantations in Shizuoka prefecture

Kumagaya city in Saitama, where the friendly match between Japan and South Africa will be held on 6 September, is the northern-most outpost of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, and has a population of about 200 000. It was once considered to be Japan's hottest city, although that record has since been claimed by other cities more south. Japanese culture and tradition is important to the people of Kumagaya. One of its most famous attractions is the Menuma Shodenzan Kangiin Temple, built in 1851 in elaborate, colourful Edo-period design. There are many eateries around the temple offering its signature food, Shoden Inari Sushi: pickled vegetables and rice wrapped in deep-fried tofu called age. There are a few attractions around Saitama prefecture that are well worth the visit, such as the largest bonsai village in Japan in nearby Omiya, which is also home to the beautiful Omiya Park, a famous cherry-blossom viewing spot. Saitama also offers the experience of making and enjoying miso (fermented soybean paste), soba (buckwheat noodles) and even famous Japanese curry and rice. The Kumagaya Uchiwa festival, which is referred to as one of the Gion festivals, is also famous in Kumagaya.



Celebrating the Uchiwa festival in Kumagaya



The 12 Japanese host cities for the 2019 Rugby World Cup



Arakawa river line edge with thrilling majestic scenery in Kumagaya

Yokohama city, where the South African team will fight its first RWC match against New Zealand on 21 September, is the second largest city in Japan and is the capital of Kanagawa prefecture. It has a population of 3.7 million people, and is the second largest port in Japan, as well as a luxury cruise destination. It is often termed "Japan's portal to the world" since Yokohama was the first city to be opened for international trade after the borders had been closed to foreigners for two centuries. Today it still has a wholly cosmopolitan atmosphere, and is home to a smattering of historical sites and buildings, the futuristic Minato Mirai 21 development, and a flair for the international with venues such as Japan's largest Chinatown. There are a large number of museums in Yokohama, ranging from the prestigious Yokohama Museum of Art, famous for its surrealist and modern art exhibitions, to museums such as the Cup Noodle Museum where one can create a custom instant ramen flavour from 5 460 flavour combinations.

From 28 – 30 August, Yokohama will also host the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), where all African leaders are invited to join. TICAD is the largest initiative by the Japanese government to facilitate social and economic development within Africa, by respecting African ownership and international co-operation.



Minato Mirai 21, seaside urban area in Yokohama, which means harbor of the future

Toyota city, where the Springboks are set to play against Namibia at Toyota Stadium on 28 September, lies to the east of Nagoya in the Aichi prefecture. It was known as Koromo city until 1959, when the name was changed in honour of the city's largest employer – the Toyota Motor Corporation. Silk was Koromo's major production until the 1930's, when the heir to the Toyota Loom Company set up an automobile plant instead. Toyota itself has many interesting museums and galleries, most of which are funded by the Toyota Motor Corporation. A highlight of these is the Toyota Kaikan, which displays both the history and developments of the Toyota Corporation, and is the starting point for tours of the Toyota car plant. Toyota has a strong presence in South Africa as well, with its assembly plant in Durban contributing significantly to employment and skills development in the local supply chains.

Matsudaira-go in the east of Toyota City is an area of historic interest and natural beauty. It was in this place that the Matsudaira clan had its base. Matsudaira Takechiyo, who later changed his name to Tokugawa Ieyasu, became the supreme leader of Japan in 1603 and began the Tokugawa shogunate that was to rule Japan until 1867. Aichi Prefecture is also the birthplace of two other famous Feudal Lords, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Oda Nobunaga, and history buffs will find plenty to explore related to these three famous figures of Japan's history. The duality of the ancient with the modern technological advancement is clear all over Aichi prefecture, where one can explore the booming automotive industry along with historical sites such as Inuyama castle, which dates back to 1440 and is one of the oldest surviving Feudal era castles.

Toyota is very well recognised in rugby for the accomplishments of the club team affiliated with the corporation. The winner of a number of national championships and one of the most popular teams in the domestic Top League, the club enjoys a strong home fan base eager to see the best of world-class rugby.



The Matsudaira Toshogu shrine in Toyota, near to Matsudaira-go

Kobe city, where the Springboks are to fight against Canada at Kobe Misaki Stadium on 8 October, is the capital of the Hyogo prefecture, and the sixth largest city in Japan. The port of Kobe opened in 1868, and the influx of foreigners brought with it a surge in industry, particularly steelmaking, shipbuilding and machinery. The city is perhaps most famous for its wagyu or Kobe beef, the highest grades of meat with exceptional tenderness and flavour and exceptionally high levels of fat marbling. There are many ways to enjoy wagyu in Kobe, served as steak or as the highlight of sukiyaki or shabu shabu. Perhaps the best way to enjoy Kobe beef, however, is at a teppanyaki restaurant, where the chef will prepare the meat in front of the customer's eyes, showing off their grilling and slicing skills! Nearby Arima onsen (hot spring) is another worthwhile trip, for a restorative bath as well as the opportunity to enjoy traditional ozashiki culture, where guests are entertained by dances and shamisen performances by geisha.

Rugby fans will recognise Kobe as the hometown of the first champions of the professional Top League, the Kobelco Steelers. The team was founded by a Kobe-based steelmaking firm in 1928, and has maintained a strong winning tradition across both amateur and professional rugby in Japan throughout the years.

Kobe has also attracted the attention of football fans all over the world, as some world-famous players such as Andres Iniesta and David Villa, who both previously played for Barcelona, now play for the J.League club Vissel Kobe.

Nearby Kobe is Osaka, the second largest economic zone in Japan, served by three different airports, including Kansai International Airport with round-the-clock arrivals and departures. Osaka has become an international city bustling with over 10 million foreign visitors per year. Osaka will be hosting the G20 summit in June this year, of which South Africa is the only African member country. Osaka will also host the 2025 World Expo.



One of the breath-taking views of Kobe

There are many resources available for travellers looking to follow the Springboks to each city, with excitement for the arrival of rugby fans brewing strongly in each host city. Preparations are underway to warmly welcome not only the teams but all of the fans as well in the true spirit of omotenashi: the kind of hospitality one only finds in Japan.

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