A Guide to Living in Saitama

Chapter 14
Profile of Saitama Prefecture

1 Municipality Map
2 Symbols
3 Sister States and Provinces

1 Municipality Map

Land Area: 3,797.75 km² (“Municipality Area Statistics,” Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, as of Oct. 1, 2019)
Number of Municipalities: City (Population of 50,000 or more): 40
Town (Population of 5,000 or more): 22
Village (Population of less than 5,000): 1
Number of Foreign Residents: 173,887 (As of June 2019; Surveyed by the Ministry of Justice)
Average Yearly Temperature: 15.3 °C (Saitama City in 2017; Source: Japan Meteorological Agency website)
※ Profile of Saitama Prefecture (Saitama Prefectural Government Public Relations)
2 Symbols

(1) Nickname

The nickname for Saitama Prefecture is “Sai no Kuni.”

This nickname was chosen as a phrase that expresses the prismatic characteristics and beauty of Saitama Prefecture, an area blessed with bountiful nature that changes its appearance every season. It also symbolizes development in areas such as industry, culture, science, and art and its potential for further growth.

(2) Prefectural Emblem

The emblem of Saitama Prefecture is a circle composed of 16 comma-shaped beads called magatama. Magatama were valued by people from ancient times as accessories. The circular magatama design represents the sun, development, passion, and vitality.

(3) Prefectural Symbols

Saitama Prefecture, blessed with natural beauty, has designated a familiar bird, tree, flower, butterfly, and fish as prefectural symbols.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefectural bird “Shirakobato” (Eurasian collard dove)</th>
<th>Prefectural tree “Keyaki” (zelkova serrate)</th>
<th>Prefectural flower “Sakurasou” (Primrose)</th>
<th>Prefectural butterfly “Midorishijimi” (Neozephyrus japonica)</th>
<th>Prefectural fish “Musashi-tomiyo” (Musashi ninespine stickleback)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(4) Saitama Prefectural Mascots: Kobaton and Saitamatch

Kobaton is inspired by the shirakobato or Eurasian collard dove, the prefectural bird. Kobaton was designated as Saitama's first prefectural mascot in 2005. Since then, Kobaton has traveled far and wide promoting Saitama, including appearing in movies, flying into space...
on a space shuttle, and giving its name to an asteroid. Kobaton, beloved for its cute face and fun Saitama PR, flies around the country as the leader of the Saitama Mascots Cheering Team and the prefecture’s first mascot.

Saitamatch, Saitama’s second mascot, was born on Prefectural Citizens Day, November 14, in 2014. Saitamatch has cute round eyes and striking lines on its stomach. Together with Kobaton, Saitamatch enthusiastically promotes Saitama Prefecture nationwide.

Kobaton    Saitamatch

For more information on Kobaton & Saitamatch, Saitama’s Mascots, see the Saitama Prefectural Government Public Relations Division website
URL: http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/theme/mascot/index.html

3 Sister States and Provinces

Saitama Prefecture has established sister- and friendship-city relationships with five states and provinces and promotes various exchange programs.
Sister States and Provinces of Saitama Prefecture (Saitama Prefectural Government International Division website)
URL: http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/kouryukyoryoku/shimaiyuko.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of Mexico (Mexico)</th>
<th>Shanxi Province (China)</th>
<th>State of Queensland (Australia)</th>
<th>State of Ohio (U.S.A.)</th>
<th>State of Brandenburg (Germany)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="State of Mexico" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Shanxi Province" /></td>
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<td><img src="image4" alt="State of Ohio" /></td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="State of Brandenburg" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The above illustrations are kobatons in costumes inspired by each sister state and province.