

Chapter 14 Profile of Saitama Prefecture

- 1 Map of Municipalities
- 2 Symbols
- 3 Sister States and Provinces



1 Map of Municipalities



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Land Area: | 3,797.75 km ² ("Municipality Area Statistics," Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, as of July 1, 2024) |
| Number of Municipalities: | Cities: 40 Towns: 22 Villages: 1 |
| Total Population: | 7,330,697 (Estimated population as of November 1, 2024) |
| Number of Foreign Residents: | 234,698 (As of December 2023; Surveyed by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan) |
| Average Yearly Temperature: | 17.2°C (Japan Meteorological Agency website, 2023) |

- ※ Other data: "Sai no Kuni Statistics and Information Center" (Statistics Portal website, Saitama Prefectural Government) <http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/theme/tokei/>
- ※ Profile of Saitama Prefecture (Prefectural Citizen's Affairs Division website, Saitama Prefectural Government) <https://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0314/saitama-profile/index.html>

2 Symbols

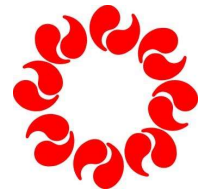
(1) Nickname

Saitama Prefecture's nickname is "*Sai no Kuni*", which means "the land of many colors".

This nickname was chosen as a phrase to build a sense of familiarity and affection towards Saitama. It is representative of the diverse characteristics and beauty of Saitama Prefecture, an area blessed with bountiful nature that changes with the four seasons, as well as its development across various fields, such as industry, culture, and the arts and sciences.






(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 ornamental objects. The circular *magatama* design represents the sun, development, passion, and strength.



(3) Prefectural Symbols

Saitama Prefecture, blessed with abundant nature, has designated a local and familiar bird, tree, flower, butterfly, and fish as prefectural symbols.

| Prefectural bird | Prefectural tree | Prefectural flower | Prefectural butterfly | Prefectural fish |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| " <i>Shirakobato</i> " (Eurasian collared dove) | " <i>Keyaki</i> " (Japanese elm) | " <i>Sakurasou</i> " (Japanese primrose) | " <i>Midorishijimi</i> " (<i>Neozephyrus japonica</i>) | " <i>Musashi-tomiyo</i> " (Musashi ninespine stickleback) |
|  |  |  |  |  |

(4) Kobaton and Saitamatch, the Saitama Prefectural Mascots

Inspired by the prefectural bird *shirakobato* (Eurasian collared dove), Kobaton was designated as Saitama's first prefectural mascot in 2005. Known for its cute expressions, Kobaton travels far and wide, and has appeared in movies, flown into space on a space shuttle, and lent its name to an asteroid. As both the prefectural mascot and the leader of the Yurutama Cheering Squad, Kobaton flies around promoting Saitama Prefecture to everyone.

Saitamatch, Saitama's second mascot, was born on Saitama Prefectural Citizens Day, November 14, 2014. Saitamatch's trademark features are its cute, round eyes and striped stomach. Together with Kobaton, Saitamatch enthusiastically promotes Saitama Prefecture.



Kobaton and Saitamatch

For more information on Saitama's Mascots, Kobaton and Saitamatch, see the Saitama Prefectural Government Prefectural Citizen's Affairs Division website:






<https://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/kense/saitamaken/kobaton/index.html>

3 Sister States and Provinces

Saitama Prefecture has currently established friendship- and sister-state relationships with five states and provinces, promoting various exchanges.

For more information on Sister States and Provinces of Saitama Prefecture, see the Saitama Prefectural Government International Division website:

<https://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/kouryukyoryoku/shimaiyuko.html>

| State of Mexico (Mexico) | Shanxi Province (China) | Queensland (Australia) | Ohio (U.S.A.) | State of Brandenburg (Germany) |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |

The above illustrations of Kobaton are associated with each sister state and province.