

Chapter 14
Profile of Saitama
Prefecture



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Land Area	3,798.08 km ² (“Municipality Area Statistics,” Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, as of Oct. 1, 2011)
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
Total Population	7,208,122 (Estimated population as of Oct. 1, 2012)
Number of Foreign Residents	116,044 (As of Dec. 31, 2012; Surveyed by International Division, Saitama Prefectural Government)
Average Yearly Temperature	15.3°C (Saitama City in 2011; Source: Website of Japan Meteorological Agency)

- ※ Other data: “Sai no Kuni Statistical Information” (Website of Statistics Division, Department of General Affairs, Saitama Prefectural Government)
<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/soshiki/c08/>
- ※ Profile of Saitama Prefecture (Website of Public Relations Division, Department of Public Services, Saitama Prefectural Government)
<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/site/saitama-profile/>

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.

Prefectural bird “ <i>Shirakobato</i> ” (Eurasian collard dove)	Prefectural tree “ <i>Keyaki</i> ” (zelkova serrate)	Prefectural flower Primrose	Prefectural butterfly “ <i>Midorishijimi</i> ”	Prefectural fish “ <i>Musashi-tomiyo</i> ” (Musashi ninespine stickleback)
				

(4) Prefectural Mascot “kobaton”

“Kobaton” is inspired by the *shirakobato* or Eurasian collard dove, the prefectural bird.

There are many “kobaton” designs that can be used by residents in the prefecture for business cards and pamphlets.



Mascot of Saitama Prefecture “kobaton” (Website of Public Relations Division, Department of Public Services, Saitama Prefectural Government)






<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/site/kobaton/>

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 (Website of International Division, Department of Public Services, Saitama Prefectural Government)

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/site/kouryukyoryoku/shimaiyuko.html>

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

The above illustrations are *kobatons* in costumes inspired by each sister state and province.