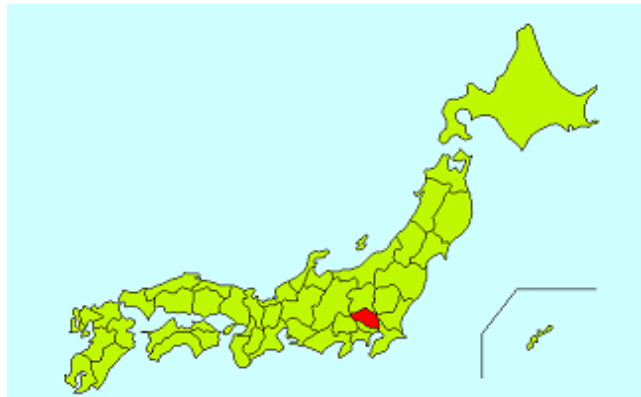


Chapter 14 Profile of Saitama Prefecture



- 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 July 1, 2022)
Number of Municipalities: City: 40 Town: 22 Village: 1
Total Population: 7,336,778 (Estimated population as of Nov 1, 2022)
Number of Foreign Residents: 197,110 (As of Dec 2021; Surveyed by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan)
Average Yearly Temperature: 16.2 °C (Saitama City in 2020; Source: Japan Meteorological Agency website)

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

2 Symbols

(1) Nickname

Saitama Prefecture's nickname 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, the arts and sciences, 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 strength.



(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 collared dove)	Prefectural tree “ <i>Keyaki</i> ” (zelkova serrate)	Prefectural flower “ <i>Sakurasou</i> ” (Primrose)	Prefectural butterfly “ <i>Midorishijimi</i> ” (<i>Neozephyrus japonica</i>)	Prefectural fish “ <i>Musashi-tomiyo</i> ” (Musashi ninespine stickleback)
				

(4) Saitama Prefectural Mascots: Kobaton and Saitamatch

Kobaton is inspired by the *shirakobato* (Eurasian collared dove), the prefectural bird, and was designated as Saitama's first prefectural mascot in 2005. Known for its cute appearance, Kobaton has traveled far and wide, appearing in movies, flying into space on a space shuttle, and giving its name to an asteroid. As both the prefectural mascot and the leader of the Mascots Cheering

Team, Kobaton flies around the country promoting Saitama Prefecture.

Saitamatch, Saitama's second mascot, was born on Saitama Citizens Day, November 14, in 2014. Saitamatch's trademark features are its cute round eyes and striped 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 Prefectural Citizen's Affairs 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, promoting 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>

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 Kobaton in costumes inspired by each sister state and province.