

# Chapter 14 Profile of Saitama Prefecture



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## 1 Map of Municipalities



Land Area:	3,797.75 km <sup>2</sup> (“Municipality Area Statistics,” Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, as of July 1, 2023)
Number of Municipalities:	Cities: 40      Towns: 22      Villages: 1
Total Population:	7,331,296 (Estimated population as of October 1, 2023)
Number of Foreign Residents:	197,110 (As of December 2021; Surveyed by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan)
Average Yearly Temperature:	16.2°C (Japan Meteorological Agency website, 2020)

- ※ 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 (Saitama Prefectural Government Prefectural Citizen's Affairs Division website) <https://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0314/saitama-profile/index.html>

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**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 expresses the diverse characteristics and beauty of Saitama Prefecture, an area blessed with bountiful nature that reflects the four seasons, and symbolizes development in various areas, 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  “ <i>Shirakobato</i> ” (Eurasian collared dove)	Prefectural tree  “ <i>Keyaki</i> ” (Japanese elm)	Prefectural flower  “ <i>Sakurasou</i> ” (Japanese Primrose)	Prefectural butterfly  “ <i>Midorishijimi</i> ” (Neozephyrus japonica)	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, promoting Saitama Prefecture to everyone.

Saitamatch, Saitama's second mascot, was born on Saitama Prefectural 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.



Kobaton and Saitamatch

For more information on Kobaton and Saitamatch, Saitama's Mascots, 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 established sister- and friendship-city relationships with five states and provinces, promoting various exchange programs.

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)	State of Queensland (Australia)	State of Ohio (U.S.A.)	State of Brandenburg (Germany)
				

The above illustrations of Kobaton are inspired by each sister state and province.