

Chapter 14
Profile of Saitama Prefecture



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1 Municipality Map



Land Area:	3,797.75 km ² (“Municipality Area Statistics,” Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, as of July 1, 2021)
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:	7,342,261 (Estimated population as of Nov. 1, 2021)
Number of Foreign Residents:	198,235 (As of Dec. 2020; Surveyed by the Ministry of Justice)
Average Yearly Temperature:	16.0 °C (Saitama City in 2019; Source: Japan Meteorological Agency website)
※ Other data:	“Sai no Kuni Statistical Information” (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

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 “ <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* 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 Prefectural Citizen's Affairs Division website)

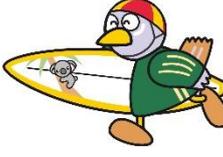
URL: <http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/theme/mascot/index.html>

3 Sister States and Provinces

Saitama Prefecture has established sister- and friendship-city relationships with five states and provinces 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>

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.