

SAITAMA



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In collaboration with
Tourist Information Centers in the area

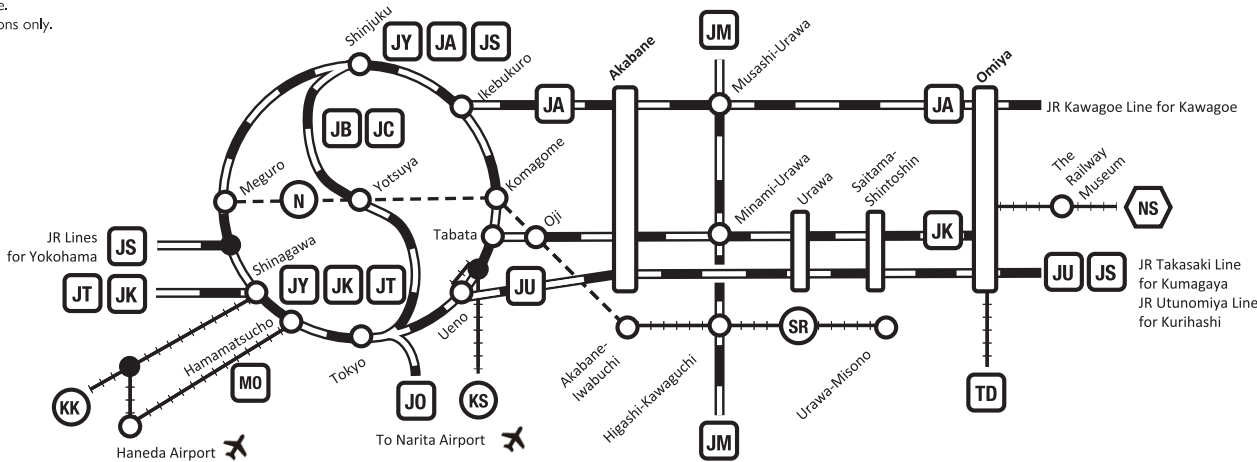


Saitama Prefecture, pop. 7,325,251, (as of Jan. 2019) located in the middle of the Kanto Plain area, is blessed with an abundance of nature. Visitors can encounter beautiful scenery with clear spring waters and greenery. Apart from the mountainous northern region, and the

Chichibu region (see **PG-303 “Chichibu & Okutama”** for the details), most of the prefecture consists of level ground, and it has the same warm climate as the Central Tokyo.

Railway Network

*Not in scale.
*Major stations only.



Access by Train:

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Narita Airport (Terminal 1)	Tokyo	JR LEX “Narita Express” JR Rapid “Airport Narita”	1 hr. 1 hr. 20 min.	¥3,070 ¥1,340
Haneda Airport (Int’l Terminal)		Tokyo Monorail & JR Yamanote Line (change at Hamamatsu-cho)	30 min.	¥660
		Keikyu Line & JR Yamanote Line (change at Shinagawa)	35 min.	¥470
Shin-Osaka		JR Shinkansen “Nozomi” JR Shinkansen “Hikari”	2 hrs. 35 min. 3 hrs. 5 min.	¥14,720* ¥14,440*
Narita Airport (Terminal 1)	Ueno	Keisei Line “Skyliner” Keisei Line “Access Express”	45 min. 1 hr.	¥2,520 ¥1,270
	Nippori	Keisei Line “Access Express”	55 min.	¥1,270
Tokyo	Urawa	JR Takasaki Line / JR Utsunomiya Line / JR Ueno-Tokyo Line	25 min.	¥400
Ueno			20 min.	¥400
Nippori		JR Keihin-Tohoku Line (via Tabata)	40 min.	¥310
Tokyo	Omiya	JR Takasaki Line / JR Utsunomiya Line / JR Ueno-Tokyo Line	35 min.	¥570
Ueno			50 min.	¥480
Nippori		JR Keihin-Tohoku Line (via Tabata)	40 min.	¥400

* Fare + express charges (with seat reservation,nomal season)

Access by bus:

From	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Ticketing & Operator
Narita Airport (Terminal 1)	Omiya Sta.	1 hr. 50 min.	¥2,850	Kokusai Kogyo Bus
Haneda Airport (International)	Omiya Sta.	1 hr. 40 min.	¥1,570	
	Urawa Sta.	1 hr. 50 min.	¥1,570	

*See p. 4 for admission and opening times.

Places of Interest:

① – ⑨ correspond to those on the map on pages 3/4.

① **Hikawa Jinja (Hikawa Shrine)** (氷川神社), 10 min. walk from Kita-Omiya Sta. on Tobu Urban Park (Noda) Line, or 15 min. walk from Omiya Sta. is one of the very few historic and formal shrines in Japan. Omiya, meaning, “Great Shrine” received its name from the Hikawa Shrine. It is said that the shrine was founded more than 2000 years ago, during the reign of the 5th Emperor Koshō. When you exit the 2km road leading up to the shrine, you will arrive at the compound where the main hall and worship hall stand side by side, and will be impressed by the dignified calm of the surroundings. A number of ceremonies are held here throughout the year. The whole area is surrounded by the abundant natural setting of the Omiya Park. Open: 5:00–18:00 (May–Aug.), 5:30–17:30 (Mar., Apr., Sep. and Oct.), 6:00–17:00 (Nov.–Feb.). Admission: Free.

② **SOPIA (Store of Saitama Prefecture Products and Tourism)** (埼玉県物産観光館「そぴあ」) 3 min. walk from Omiya Sta., located in Omiya Sonic City 2nd floor, displays and sells more than 950 products made in Saitama Prefecture. Operated in collaboration with the Saitama Product Promotion Association, the center has implemented a system to promote fine products from “Sai no Kuni”. These items include foods, traditional handicrafts, and other items that have been produced and processed in the prefecture. Open: 10:00–18:00. Closed: Sun. & National holiday & Year-end period.

③ **Minuma Tsusenbori (Minuma Canal)** (見沼通船堀) 8 min. walk from Higashi-Urawa Sta., is one of the oldest canals in Japan, built in the same way as the lock gate of the Panama Canal. It was opened in 1731 to facilitate the transportation of goods between Urawa and Edo (old Tokyo). It provides a connection between the Minuma Irrigation Canal and the Shiba River and has a rise and fall of 3m. It shows the strength of the technology at the time, and has been designated a national historic landmark. The residence of the canal caretaker (Suzuki Residence) remains as it stood at the time. Currently, the whole area around the canal has become the Minuma Tsusenbori Park. Admission: Free.

④ **The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama (MOMAS)** (埼玉県立近代美術館) 3 min. walk from Kita-Urawa Sta., has an entrance hall built in a well-hole style to let in natural light. It has an exterior like an enormous sculpture. It is located in Kita-Urawa Park. Its exhibits include works by famous Japanese artists as well as masterpieces by the world's greats including Renoir, Rouault, Monet, Chagall, and Picasso. The museum also has a number of well-designed chairs that visitors are free to use. Open: 10:00–17:30. Closed: Mon. (open when Mon. falls on a national holiday), New Year holiday and some maintenance periods. Admission: ¥200 for MOMAS exhibition (separate charge for each special exhibition).

URL: <http://www.pref.spec.ed.jp/momas/>

⑤ **Saitama-Shintoshin (Saitama New Urban Center)** (さいたま新都心), the newly established metropolitan city center of Saitama aims to become the center of government and culture in the 21st century. Three separate cities of Urawa, Omiya and Yono were integrated in May 2001 to form the city of Saitama. 18 national government offices are to be transferred to the newly established Saitama-Shintoshin area, the core of the new Saitama City with a feel of the 21st century. Saitama Super Arena, the site of numerous music and sports events, has been constructed, and there are many places to see including high-tech buildings and the Keyaki Hiroba (Zelkova Plaza) built with an image of a grove of mixed trees.

Access: Saitama-Shintoshin Sta. on JR Utsunomiya, Takasaki, Ueno-Tokyo and Keihin-Tohoku Lines.

⑥ **The Omiya Bonsai*¹ Art Museum** (大宮盆栽美術館), 5 min. walk from Toro Sta. on JR-Utsunomiya Line, opened in 2010, is the world's first publicly-run Bonsai Museum. Its purpose is to spread a comprehensive bonsai culture. About 40 to 50 bonsai are displayed in the garden according to the season. In the gallery, collections of bonsai, bonsai pots and suiseki are on display with some displayed as Zashiki-kazari. Open: 9:00–16:00 (Nov.–Feb.), –16:30 (Mar.–Oct.). Closed: Thr. except National Holiday and the New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥310. *¹ Bonsai is the horticultural miniature art of potted trees and plants.

⑦ **Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum** (河鍋曉斎記念美術館) 20 min. walk from Nishi-Kawaguchi Sta. on JR Keihin-Tohoku Line, exhibits the works of Kyosai Kawanabe, one of the most famous artist of Japanese painting next to Hokusai, as well as works by his apprentices. Kyosai was active as an artist from the end of Edo Period to the middle of the Meiji Period. This museum is known for its wide variety of works from oil and watercolor paintings to woodblock prints and paintings with humorous themes. The museum also houses roughly 3,000 drawings and sketches. Open: 10:00–16:00. Closed: Thr., from 26th through the end of each month & 1 week around the New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥500, ¥600 during special exhibition period.

⑧ **Omiya Bonsai Village** (大宮盆栽村) Following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, groups of Bonsai gardeners moved to Omiya from Tokyo and established Bonsai Village. There are 5 Bonsai nurseries most of which are open from 9 am to 5pm. Closed: Thr. 5 min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. (two stops from Omiya Station on Tobu Urban Park (Noda) Line).

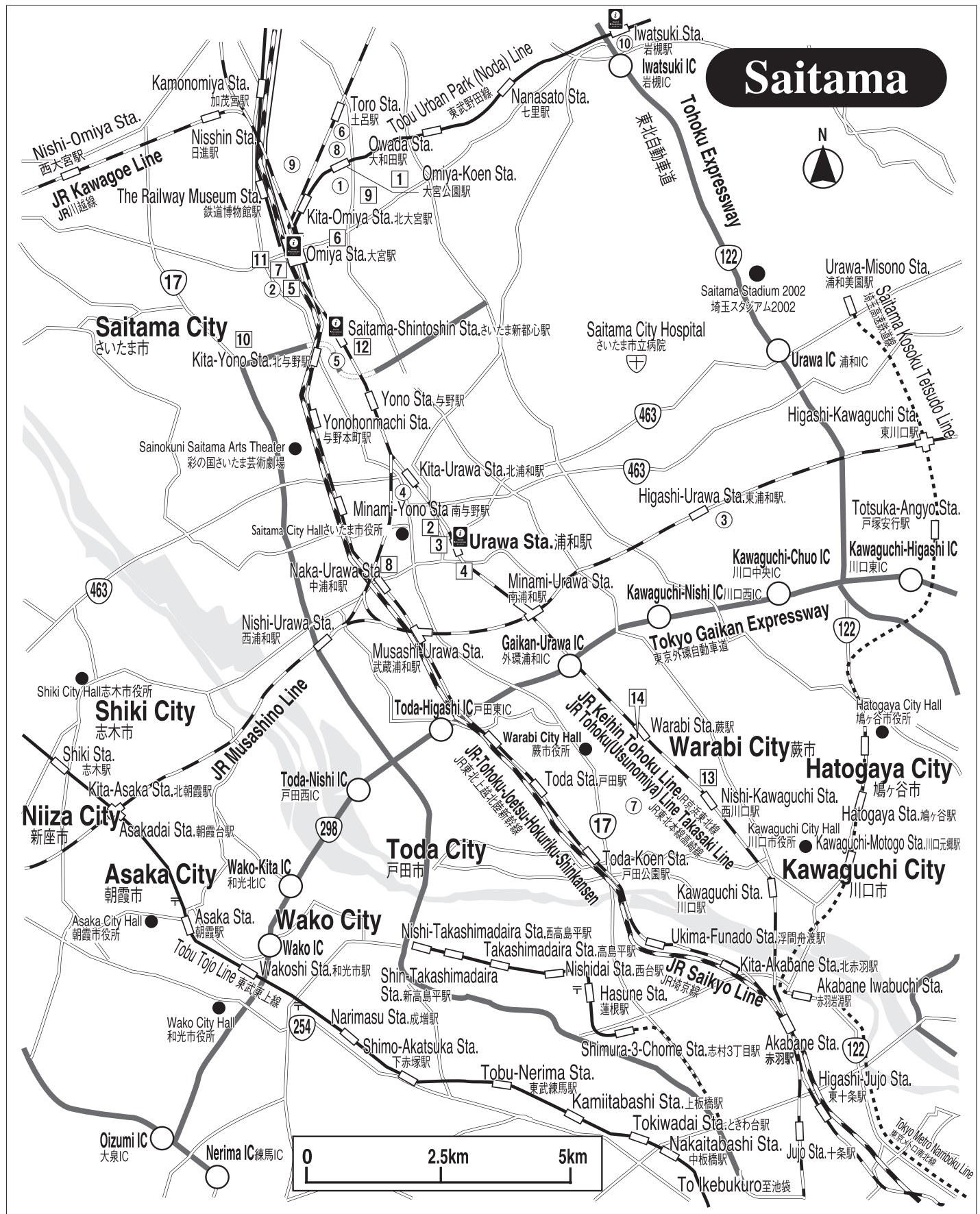
⑨ **The Railway museum** (鉄道博物館), 1 min. walk from the Railway Museum Sta. on New Shuttle Line, on the concepts of railways, history and education, comprises the rolling stock zone which relates the role and influence of railways in Japan and 4 educational zones where visitors can learn about railway principles and mechanisms as well as the state-of-the-art railway technology through hands-on experience of using models, simulation and play equipment. Open: 10:00–18:00. Closed: Tue. (except designated days) and New Year holiday. Admission: ¥1,330. URL: <http://www.railway-museum.jp/>

⑩ **Iwatsuki** (岩槻) is a town famous for Japanese dolls made from Kiri (Paulownia) sawdust hardened with glue. About 380 years ago, doll art flourished using Kiri, a special product of this area, and these dolls are still the best in Japan. The dolls for the Boys' Festival in May (Gogatsu-ningyo) and the Girls' Festival in March (Hina-ningyo) are shipped all over the world.

Tougyoku Doll Museum (東玉人形の博物館), 1 min. walk from Iwatsuki Sta. on Tobu Urban Park (Noda) Line, is developed based on the outstanding Tougyoku collection. The collection is diverse and the exhibits include imperial court dolls, hina (Girls' Festival) dolls, hagoita (battledore) dolls, samurai (Boys' Festival) dolls, costume dolls, puppets, windup mechanical dolls and the superb works of contemporary master dollmakers as well as dolls from overseas. In addition, besides a doll workshop for observing doll making and a shop that sells small Japanese style articles, there is also a workshop for hands-on experiences in actually making ema (horse picture tablets), dolls and other items. Open: 10:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. (between May and Sep.), mid Aug. and New Year holiday. Admission: ¥300.

URL: <https://www.tougyoku.com/english/>

*See p. 4 for admission and opening times.



Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
Saitama City:			Kawaguchi City:		
1 Urawa Royal Pines Hotel (H)	(048)827-1111	¥¥¥	13 APA Hotel Nishikawaguchieki-Higashiguchi (BH)	(048)254-2400	¥
2 Urawa Washington Hotel (BH)	(048)825-4001	¥¥¥			
3 Hotel Metz Urawa (BH)	(048)826-0011	¥¥	Warabi City:		
4 Shindo-yamaya Inn (R)	(048)641-0501	¥¥	14 E-hotel Warabi (BH)	(048)432-6080	¥
5 Palace Hotel Omiya (H)	(048)647-3300	¥¥¥			
6 Pioland Hotel (BH)	(048)648-0010	¥¥	Kawagoe City:		
7 Marroad Inn Omiya (BH)	(048)645-5111	¥	Kawagoe Tobu Hotel (BH)	(049)225-0111	¥
8 Plaza Hotel Urawa (BH)	(048)863-5111	¥	Kawagoe Prince Hotel (H)	(049)227-1111	¥¥¥
9 Kapporyokan Higashiyama (R)	(048)641-2615	¥¥			
10 Yono Dai-ichi Hotel (BH)	(048)852-6161	¥¥	Tokorozawa City:		
11 Super Hotel Saitama-Omiya (BH)	(048)645-9000	¥¥	Chugoku Kappo (Chinese cuisine)		
12 Toyoko-Inn Saitama-Shintoshin (BH)	(048)657-1045	¥¥	Ryokan Kikusuitei (R)	(04)2925-7111	¥¥¥

Remarks:

1 – 5 correspond to those on the map of Urawa, and 6 – 12 to those on the map of Saitama City.

1 – 14 correspond to those on the map of Saitama. Rate per person.

Rate per person

H = Hotel

R = Ryokan

BH = Business Hotel

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

¥ = 8,000 yen or less


* Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)



Japan Official Travel App







JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan)
Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/>



Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website

<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>

[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout / a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29–Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each place / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.

JNTO Website: <https://www.jnto.go.jp>

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of November 2019, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

Urawa Tourist Information Center:

(JR Urawa Sta.)

Atre urawa South Area, 1-16-12 Takasago, Urawa-ku Saitama City, Saitama

Hours: 10:00-18:30. Closed: Dec. 29 - Jan. 3.

Tel. (048) 883-1055

Saitama Shintoshin Tourist Information Center:

(JR Saitama-Shintoshin Sta.)

2 Kamiochiai, Chuo-ku Saitama City, Saitama

Hours: 10:00-18:30. Closed: Dec. 29 - Jan. 3.

Tel. (048) 600-0070

Omiya Station Information Center:

630 Nishiki-cho, Omiya-ku Saitama City, Saitama

Hours: 9:00-19:00.

Tel. (048) 644-1144

Iwatsuki Tourist Information Center:

(TOBU URBAN PARK Line [Tobu Noda Line] Iwatsuki station)

1-1-1 Hon-cho, Iwatsuki-ku, Saitama City, Saitama

Hours: 10:00-18:30. Closed: Dec. 28 - Jan. 3.

Tel. (048) 797-7585

To find

other Tourist Information Centers,
visit <https://tic.jnto.go.jp/>

