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City Life

ISSUE 187

April/May 2025 Edition

City Life is a free English newsletter published every even month by the International Division at the Sakai City Government to provide information to the residents of Sakai City. It is available at libraries, ward offices and other city facilities, or you can view it online at the Sakai City Government English website. Don't forget to also sign up for emails to know when each new edition is published! Scan the QR code for more information. If you have any questions or feedback, or would like the paper version sent to you (free for foreign residents who live, work or study in Sakai), please contact Lena at the following email address: kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp



Legend: ☆Events ◆Exhibitions ※Important Notices ▲Campaigns ●Child & Healthcare ✿Environment ☎Help Lines

☆EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan: Promoting the appeals of Sakai to the World inside and outside of the EXPO

The EXPO 2025 Osaka will finally commence from April 13th (Sun). The theme raised is “our lives”, giving the world an opportunity to gather in one place.

Details of Event

Period	April 13 th (Sun) to October 13 th (Mon) 2025
Venue	Osaka Yumeshima Island
Theme	Designing Future Society for Our Lives
Access	Please use public transport such as trains or busses

Please scan the QR code for the EXPO homepage^{*1}
Please scan the QR code for the access method^{*2}

Pre-sale ticket information

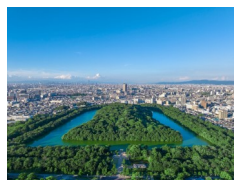
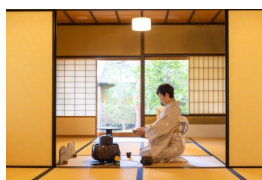
If you purchase entrance tickets by April 12th, you can get them on sale.

Ticket Type	Entrance period	18 years and up	12-17 years	4-11 years
Opening Ticket	April 13 th to April 26 th	4,000 yen	2,200 yen	1,000 yen
First-Half Period Ticket	April 13 th to July 18 th	5,000 yen	3,000 yen	1,200 yen
One-Day Early Bird Ticket	Anytime during the opening period of the EXPO	6,700 yen	3,700 yen	1,700 yen

Please scan the QR code for ticket purchase^{*3}

※The price for a 1-day ticket (1 x entrance anytime during the open period) will be 7,500 yen for 18 years and up, 4,200 yen for 12-17 years, 1,800 yen for 4-11 years.

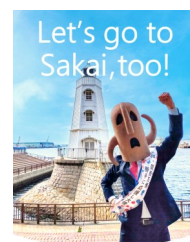
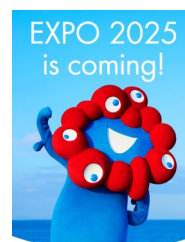
Courtesy of Expo 2025, OBAYASHI CORPORATION photo by Shinwa Co., Ltd.



During the EXPO, to promote the appeal of Sakai to domestic and international visitors, at the venue we plan to hold events to introduce *chanoyu* tea ceremony, traditional industries and the UNESCO World Heritage site Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group.

Period	Main contents of exhibition
May 10 th -13 th	Promoting the appeal of <i>chanoyu</i> tea ceremony
July 28 th - September 25 th	Interactive stage performances and experiences of traditional industries
May, July, September (about 10 days in total)	Promoting UNESCO World Heritage site Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group, local festivals and exhibition booths of local companies within the city etc.

Please scan the QR code for details of the events^{*4} (Japanese only).



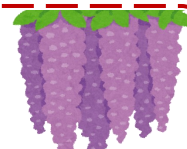
Events at city-affiliated facilities are updated on the Sakai City Government English website when City Life is released. Detailed information on opening hours, admission costs, access etc. is available there.



Parks & Gyms



Flower Calendar



☆Rose Garden in Hamadera Park

In May the spring roses in Hamadera Park bloom proud and beautifully. From wild roses that are native to Japan to the modern rose, you can enjoy 6,000 rose trees of 500 different varieties! On May 18th (Sun) children and adults alike can enjoy the 45th Hamadera Rose Carnival. ※In case of rain, it will be postponed to May 25th (Sun).



☆Sakai Knife Festival

This popular event will take place this year again!

Date/time: April 12th (Sat) ~ 13th (Sun), 10:00-16:00

Admission: Free

Venue: Sakai Industrial Promotion Center (in front of Nakamozu station)

- Exhibition and on the spot sale of Sakai knives
- Knife sharpening (fee-charging, until 14:00 on the 12th, 12:00 on the 13th)
- Traditional metal tempering performance* (handcrafting process of red-hot heated iron being hammered and shaped)

*Two performances on both days from 10:30 and 13:30.

There will also be food stalls selling Japanese style lunchbox (*obento*), small dishes, bread, sweets, drinks and more!



☆Otohome's Holiday Festival

The event will take place on the embankment of Old Sakai Port where you can spend the evening feeling the fresh sea breeze. You can enjoy all kinds of gourmet foods, workshops that children can join and music by artists.

Date/time: May 9th (Fri), 10th (Sat), 15:00-21:00

Venue: Old Sakai Port (Area around 3, Ohamakita-machi, Sakai-ku)

Closest station: Nankai line, Sakai station west or south exit

Fee: Free ※Food stalls and workshops are fee-charged
Canceled in case of stormy weather. For more information scan the QR code (Japanese only).



☆International Women's Sumo Invitational Championship, Sakai

Day of competition: April 13th (Sun) 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sumo Stadium, Ohama Park

Athletes from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand are set to participate. Come and see the intense matches for yourself!



☆Samurai Armour Display for Children's Day

(1) The Old Yamaguchi Family Residence, (2) Old Seigakuin Mountain Priest Dojo and (3) Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence will display samurai armour. You can see samurai armour decorations passed down from the Meiji period from the old prestigious family in the old moat area at (1), samurai armour decorations passed down for generations at (2), and samurai doll display at (3).

Exhibition Period: May 1st (Thu) ~ 27th (Tue), 10:00-17:00 (last entrance 16:30)

Workshop

Dates: May 3rd (Saturday, public holiday)

Contents: Painting a carp streamer

Time: 10:30~, 13:30~ (each session will take around 1 hour)

Capacity: 6 people per session (first-come, first-served)

Venue: Old Yamaguchi Family Residence (address: 1-2-31 Nishikino-cho Higashi, Sakai-ku)

Fee: 1,000 yen (admission to the venue is separate)

Application: Phone, FAX: 072-224-1155 or email: info@sakai-machiyamuseums.com



☆Wisteria in Ohama Park

Ohama Park is known for its wisteria. Within this park there are 3 areas with wisteria pergolas, and the wisteria that is north to a monkey breeding cage was planted around when Ohama Park was established in 1879, so it's over 140 years old. From late April, when the flowers start blooming, it produces clusters of white flowers around 25cm in length. There are 2 other wisteria pergolas with light purple-coloured flowers.



☆Make Tea in a Tea Ceremony Room

In an authentic tea house, anyone can join a tea ceremony experience. You are welcome to join even if it's your first time or alone. Under the guidance of the three tea ceremony schools, you will not only be able to learn the manners of *chanoyu* such as crawling on hands and knees through a low tearoom entrance (*nijiri*), to sit cross-legged (*seiza*), how to appreciate the alcove (*tokonoma*) and how to enjoy Japanese sweets and tea but also you can actually make your own tea.

Date: April 20th (Sun), May 18th (Sun)

Both days: ①10:00~ ②11:30~ ③13:00~ ④14:30~ ⑤16:00~ (each time 20 people)

Venue: Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko

Fee: Adults 1,000 yen, high school students 900 yen, junior high school students and below 800 yen

Application: Through the QR code (Japanese only).



☆Peonies at the Japanese Garden in Daisen Park

Mid to end of April is the ideal time to view the approximately 500 peony plants. You can admire the peonies at Togendai garden, inspired by the Chinese Shangri-la design. The gorgeous red, pink, white and yellow peonies proudly signal the arrival of spring.



◆Naniwa Honzome (Chusen) WEEK

May 26th (Mon) ~ 31st (Sat)

Venue: Naka Ward Office Entrance Hall

Exhibition of chusen products (26th ~ 31st)

- There will be an exhibition of *yukata* summer *kimono* and *tenugui* towels as well as panels showing the dyeing process.

Selling of products (30th ~ 31st 9:30-16:00)

- Tenugui, gauze handkerchiefs, and other chusen products are available for purchase.

Snowflake pattern tie-dyeing workshop

- (31st 10:00, 11:00, 13:30, 14:30, 15:30, 5 times in total, 8 people each time, 1,500 yen). It is a dyeing experience that children or first timers can easily do. The workshop is around 30-60 minutes long. You can take it home and use the tenugui that you make.

To apply: Through the Sakai City e-application system or by phone (072-270-8181), FAX (072-270-8101) addressed to the Naka Ward Office Planning and General Affairs Division. If there are free spaces, you may be able to join on the day.



☆Azaleas at the Asakayama Greenway

Azalea is Sakai City's official flowering bush. At Asakayama Greenway, every year in late April around 2,500 azalea bushes will reach peak bloom. Asakayama Greenway was originally part of Asakayama Water Filtration Plant. In 1937 azaleas were planted on this Water Filtration Plant for the public to enjoy, leading to them being widely loved and designated as the city's official flowering bush. Why don't you come enjoy the beautiful azaleas and also ponder such history?



☆The Third India Day in Sakai



It is a two-day event where you can enjoy Indian culture in Sakai. From food and drink, sale of goods, to dance, music and yoga stage performances there will be lots to enjoy. No need for reservation and entrance fee.

Date/time: April 26th (Sat), 27th (Sun), both days 11:00-18:00

Venue: Mina Sakai (in front of City Hall)

※School Expense Subsidies

Sakai City offers financial assistance to families with children in public elementary and junior high schools that are experiencing financial difficulties, to cover elementary school lunch fees and partial expenses for school supplies etc. Eligible families will fall into one of the groups based on their total household income from 2024 (please note the amount of income may vary depending on household members' ages). For more information scan the QR code.



▲Spring National Traffic Safety Campaign

There will be a Spring National Traffic Safety Campaign from April 6th to 15th.



Let's keep the following road rules.

- When riding a bike, always wear a helmet
- When driving a car, give way to pedestrians, wear seat belts and use child seats and avoid distracted driving

● Cancer Screening Test



The free screening tests for Sakai City residents are offered as part of the campaign to promote people to take them more often will be continued till March 31st, 2026. Let's get

checked regularly!

Cancer screening and target ages

Stomach cancer – even number ages *50 and over

Lung cancer – ages 40 and over

Colorectal cancer – ages 40 and over

Cervical cancer – women of even number ages *20 and over

Breast cancer – women of even number ages *40 and over

Stomach cancer risk check-up – once between ages 35-49

Prostate cancer – men of even number ages *50-69 (simultaneous implementation with stomach, lung or colorectal cancer screenings, or the specified health checkups for Sakai City National Health Insurance)

- *Those at an odd numbered age who didn't get tested the previous year are eligible for testing if they apply in advance at a Public Health center or Sakai City e-application system
- When you get tested, please bring a document that can confirm your identification (health insurance card or driver's license, etc.)
- All checkups available at individual medical institutions. Please make an appointment directly at a participating medical institution. For more details scan the QR code to visit the city's general health check-up (*kenshin sogo*) website (Japanese only).



※Tax Notice



May will be the appointed time for payment for the light vehicle tax (portion by type) and also the start of the first appointed time for the fixed property and city planning taxes. The deadline is **June 2nd**. Please pay at the nearest banking facility, convenience store, by mobile apps such as Pay-easy or by credit card through the regional tax payment site (eLTAX). For those that use the automatic transfer, payment will automatically be deducted on **June 2nd** so please check that you have sufficient funds.

Only in the case of payment of the light vehicle tax (portion by type) by account transfer, a tax payment certificate for the vehicle model subject to vehicle inspection will be sent around mid-June for the continuation inspection.

Furthermore, if you are taking a light vehicle inspection with either of the payment methods, the tax payment is linked to the 'light vehicle tax payment confirmation system (*kei JNKS*)', so you basically don't need to show a tax payment certificate at the counter when you receive your vehicle inspection.

※ Follow the rules when constructing a building



When constructing a house or building, prior application must be made to receive confirmation from the city. In addition, depending on the area, buildings with certain purposes cannot be built, or any building may not be allowed to be built in the first place. When you want to construct a house or a building, please consult with a professional and adhere to the rules while planning.

● Holiday medical treatment during Golden Week



Please make sure to bring official certificates, such as health insurance card, child and elderly medical cost support certificates. For more details about each institution, scan the QR code.



※Special Holiday Counter

Every ward office will have special holiday counters on April 5th and 6th from 9:00-12:00 to accommodate for the influx of people changing residences at this time of year. Major services you can receive are shown below. You can also pick up your My Number card.

Civic Affairs Division:



Procedures for changing residence (excluding cases where school enrollment consultations are necessary), name seal (*inkan*) registration, notification of family registration, issuance of copies of residence certificate etc., receiving My Number Card.

Health Insurance & Pension Division:

Qualification/disqualification for National Health Insurance, qualification/disqualification for Medical Expense Subsidies for Childcare etc.



Child-raising Support Division:

Application for Child Allowance

Please beware of the following points if you are applying:

- When requesting a certificate or submitting a notification, you need documents to prove your identity (such as a driver's license, passport, health insurance card, etc.) and depending on the process a name seal (*inkan*) too.
- Depending on the contents of the notification or application, you may have to enquire with other municipalities or receive attachments from them so it may not be possible to complete the procedures on the day. Please enquire beforehand.
- You can issue documents such as a copy of your residence certificate, name seal (*inkan*) registration certificate, city or prefectural tax certificate at the convenience store using your My Number card.



Hospital Hours from April 26th to May 6th

Sakai Children's Emergency Medical Center	April 26 th : 17:30-4:30 the next morning April 27 th , 29 th , May 3 rd -6 th : 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30, 17:30-4:30 the next morning
Senboku Emergency Medical Center	April 26 th : 17:30-20:30 April 27 th , 29 th , May 3 rd -6 th : 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30, 17:30-20:30
Sakai Dental Health Center	April 26 th : 17:30-20:30 April 27 th , 29 th , May 3 rd -6 th : 9:30-11:30, 12:45-16:30
Osaka Central Emergency Medical Clinic (eyes, ears, nose and throat care)	April 26 th : 15:00-21:30 April 27 th , 29 th , May 3 rd -6 th : 10:00-21:30

The Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai (POME Sakai) can help you with language assistance for any of the processes in the city notices listed here. Check the back page for all their contact information!

Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai

TEL: 072-228-7499

Email: kokusai@city.sakai.lg.jp

Address: 2-1 Minamikawara-machi, Sakai-ku (5F Sakai City General Welfare Hall)

Opening Hours: Sunday to Friday 9:00-17:30

Golden Week Closure: April 26th & 29th, May 3rd ~ 6th

General Consultations for Foreign Residents

Please drop by in person or call during these hours if you have any queries regarding daily life.

Mon to Fri 10:00-12:00 & 13:00-16:00

Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Thai.

*Tagalog, Indonesian and Nepali is only available for in person consultations. *Languages other than Japanese/English will be conducted through a 3-way call or through the use of translation devices and interpreting services.



Free Online Consultations for Foreign Residents

As the date is still undecided, we will update our website (online newsletter 'City Life') as soon as it's confirmed.

Volunteer Interpreter Service

Those who need interpretation can apply for a volunteer interpreter using the form available for download from the QR code. Please make sure to hand it in via post, fax or email **at least 10 days in advance.**

やさしい日本語 Facebook Page

POME Sakai has a Facebook page which posts about emergencies, disaster warnings, upcoming events, etc., in Easy Japanese. This is a great resource for those who want to attain information in Japanese.

Free Confidential Consultation

April 16th & May 21st 14:00-17:00. Three slots available (reservations required). Those that require an interpreter must apply at least 10 days before the date of the consultation.



Smoking and Littering Ban

In Sakai City, there is a ban on smoking and littering stretching from around Sakai Higashi station, the City Hall and Oshoji road to Sakai station (East to West). There is a **1,000 yen penalty fee** if caught.

The areas of western Sakaihigashi station, Nakamozu station, Mikunigaoka station, JR Sakaishi station and the shopping arcade in front of it and Komyoike Station have been marked as priority areas for improvement. We appreciate your cooperation.



Parking Ban-Zones for Bicycles & Mini Bikes

Each railway station in Sakai City (except for the Hankai Line) is designated as a parking ban zone. Bicycles and mini bikes left in the zone will be removed. In addition, we will collect the removal & storage fee for the return of a removed bike or mini bike. Please use the parking lot to park a bicycle or mini-bike.



“Suirin すいりん” App for Waterworks

Download the official Sakai City Waterworks and Sewage Bureau app for these convenient features!

- Get notices about checkups and view up to 2 years of past water usage and bills
- Get digital bills delivered through the app and pay using PayPay or by showing the barcode at your local 7-Eleven or Ministop.
- Get confirmations of bank transfer payments
- Apply for temporary stop and start of water pipes
- Pay bills with your credit card (registration required)



Emergency Numbers

110: accident or require police

119: fire or medical emergency (available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese)

- Ambulances are free to use however, they are only for emergencies, not for minor illnesses or injuries.

- When you call 119, the operator can set up a three way call with an interpreter. It can take up to 10 seconds to connect, during which the caller should wait on the line.



Storing Water in Case of Disaster

It's important to store drinkable water for at least 7 days in case of a disaster. One person drinks about 3 liters of water for one day. It is necessary to save water in case of a large earthquake that could result in water pipes being damaged, causing filthy or sewage water not being properly disposed. If this happens, it is recommended that you refrain from using the water from the pipes. By doing this, you can reduce the sewage up to about 70%.

Yamato River Riverside Cycling Route



The cycling route on the Yamato riverside is now complete, spanning 25kms (8kms of Sakai city) of nature and nice views you can enjoy. There is a unified sign used for within Osaka Prefecture and rest spaces provided so you can enjoy a safe and pleasant cycling environment. Whether it's for recreation or for health, please feel free to use it.



Sakai City CIR Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Please search Sakai City CIR on Facebook and Instagram!



“goruden ui-ku” - Golden Week, referring to the consecutive public holidays at the end of April to beginning of May.



April 29th - Showa Day
May 3rd - Constitution Memorial Day
May 4th - Greenery Day
May 5th - Children's Day
May 6th - Substitute Holiday