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City Life

ISSUE 189

August/September 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

Otori Taisha (Otori Grand Shrine)

Address: 1-1-2 Otorikita-machi, Nishi-ku, Sakai City

Access: Get off at Otori station (JR Hanwa line) or the Otori-Jinja Shrine bus stop (Nankai bus)

Opening hours: April to September 5:30-18:00, October to March 6:00-18:00 (reception open 9:00-16:30 all year-round)

Otori Taisha is the most prestigious shrine in the southwestern part of Osaka Prefecture, known as the highest-ranked shrine of the former Izumi Province. During the first shrine visit (hatsumode) of the New Year's period, it welcomes approximately 400,000 visitors over the first three days.

The shrine worships Yamato Takeru no Mikoto as its main deity, a heroic figure renowned for his bravery, who appears in Japan's ancient chronicles, the *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki*. According to a legend, about 1,900 years ago, after Yamato Takeru no Mikoto passed away, his spirit transformed into a white bird and flew away. The place where the bird finally descended is said to be where Otori Taisha was founded. There is even a legend that, to prevent the bird from flying away again, trees grew thick overnight. Today, the shrine grounds remain surrounded by a lush forest.

In March of this year, the main hall and worship hall etc. were designated as Tangible Cultural Properties of Sakai City. The current shrine buildings were reconstructed between 1905 and 1909, after the original main hall was destroyed by fire. While the architectural style follows that of ancient Shinto shrines, it also reflects the exploration of shrine designs befitting the modernized Japan in the midst of the Meiji era, when many shrines across Japan were being revitalized. The entire structure showcases a blend of ancient imperial style and modern creativity.

In front of the worship hall stands a rare octagonal *tori* gate, and to the east of the main hall is a camphor tree over 600 years old. The shrine is also known for Japan's first "clear-vision omamori" (transparent amulet that helps you see your path ahead), which has become very popular. In October, the area hosts the Danjiri Festival. At night, elaborately decorated danjiri floats race through the streets with a thunderous roar, a breathtaking sight unique to the Otori district's festival. Be sure to check it out!



Futon Daiko and Danjiri Festival

Both of these are autumn traditional festivals of Sakai. At Futon daiko festivals you will see large portable shrines being shouldered and paraded around. At Danjiri festivals you will see giant floats with exquisite wood carving barreling down the streets pulled by many people.

Futon Daiko

The most prominent Futon daiko event takes place at Mozu Hachimangu Shrine, with the following schedule:

October 4th (Sat): Procession into the shrine, 11:00-22:30

October 5th (Sun): Procession out of the shrine, 9:00-22:00
In addition to this, various Futon daiko celebrations are held

at multiple locations across the city from September through October.

Danjiri

The most renowned Danjiri celebration is the Otori Taisha Danjiri Festival, held from October 3rd (Fri) to October 5th (Sun).

October 4th (Sat): Ten Danjiri floats enter the shrine in the morning, followed by their departure later in the day.

October 5th (Sun): A Nishi Ward Danjiri Parade takes place around noon. Other Danjiri festivals are also held at different venues throughout the city during the month of October.



Detailed information on opening hours, admission costs, access etc. of Harvest Hill, Sakai City Museum, Mihara History Museum, Sophia Sakai, Fenice Sacay, Alphonse Mucha Museum and Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko can be found on the Sakai City Government English website.

Museums &
Facilities



Events



☆Lunchboxes of the World

This is a workshop where children can experience the lifestyles and cultures of various countries by creating lunchbox-themed crafts and illustrations, and by looking at picture books that feature lunchboxes. Be sure to join!

Date/time: August 8th (Fri), 10:30-12:00

Venue: Naka Library, 1F meeting room

Access: Fukai station on the Nankai Semboku line, located in Sophia Sakai (Library building)

Fee: Free

Eligibility: Children aged 4 and up

Capacity: 20 participants (first-come, first-served)

Registration: Accepting applications in person at the library, by phone (072-270-8140), or by fax (072-270-8149)

☆Hand-Shaved Kelp Demonstration

Hand-shaved kelp (kombu) is one of the traditional industries of Sakai. You can watch the process of shaving kombu by hand. Discover the charm of kombu, rich in umami, dietary fiber, and minerals, an essential and healthy ingredient in Japanese cuisine! Admission is free.

Date/time: September 13th (Sat), 13:00-15:00

Location: Sakai Traditional Crafts Museum, 2F Exhibition Room



☆Orchestra to enjoy with the family

Date/time: August 9th (Sat), performance starts at 14:00 (all seats reserved)

Ticket prices: Adults 2,000 yen, Children (ages 5 to elementary school) 1,000 yen, parent & child set (1 adult + 1 child) 2,500 yen.
※Children 4 years old and under are not permitted to enter.

Venue: Artebell Hall (Sakai City Mihara Cultural Hall)

Programme:

・Tchaikovsky: *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* from *The Nutcracker*

・Czech Folk Song: *Green Pastures*

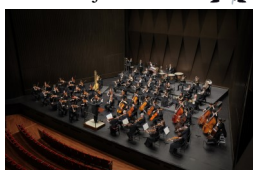
Ticket Purchase:

Available at the Mihara Cultural Hall ticket counter (same-day tickets may be available), or reserve online through their website via the QR code. Also available through CN Playguide (TEL: 0570-08-9999).

Website



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☆Harvest Hill

Seventy thousand sunflowers

Two flower fields yielding 70 thousand sunflowers in total will bloom. Ideal viewing period is forecasted from early-August. Please check their official website for information about the blooming conditions.



Jabu-jabu hiroba

A popular spot for kids to play in the summer! It is open daily until September 28th (Sun). Canceled in case of rain and free entrance.

Summer festival

August 3rd (Sun), 10th (Sun), 13th (Wed) ~ 15th (Fri), 17th (Sun), 24th (Sun), 31st (Sun)

September 14th (Sun) & 21st (Sun)

10:00-20:30 (last entrance 19:30)

※cancelled in case of rain.

For more information scan the “Museums and Facilities” QR code above.

◆Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence Thematic Exhibition: Architecture of the Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence – Secrets Above and Below Ground

The Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence is the only remaining Edo-period building of its kind in Japan, where visitors can learn about Edo-period gunsmithing through interactive exhibits and displays. This exhibition introduces the architectural charm and historical value of the residence through original materials such as old drawings and plans showing changes to the site and building over time, and old timber that was once used for its construction.

Exhibition period: Until November 24th (Mon, public holiday).

Scan the QR code for more details (Japanese only).



◆Sakai City Museum Thematic Exhibition: Sakai's Treasures

This exhibition features exquisite items and related works owned by the museum and associated individuals, centered around the themes of gold and black.

Period: Until September 7th (Sun)

Let's make Magatama Ancient Jewellery

Date/time: September 13th (Sat),

① 10:00-12:00, ② 13:00-15:00

Location: Sakai City Museum Hall

Fee: Free of charge

Eligibility: Elementary school students and older

Capacity: 20 participants per session

Registration: Not required (open admission during the event)



☆ASEAN Photo Contest 2025

We invite you to submit photos that highlight the appeal of the ASEAN nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam) in scenery, people, history, culture and more. We also accept photos such as ASEAN food that you've made at home, or where you could feel the ASEAN culture in Japan, too.



The winners (the top 10 entrants) will be awarded famous goods of Sakai. In addition, the photographs of the top 50 entrants will be displayed between October 21st (Tue) ~ November 3rd (Mon, public holiday), on the first floor of Sakai City Hall high rise building.

Application period: Until 23:00, August 31st (Sun) 2025

For more details, scan the “Events” QR code above.

※Pools



Hot days are still continuing. Enjoy yourself to the fullest at the pool!



Scan the QR code for more information.

☆Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Japan is underway! Until October 13th (Mon)

To showcase the appeals of Sakai to visitors from both Japan and abroad, a special cultural exchange event is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th at the Expo venue. The event will feature live stage demonstrations and hands-on experiences of Sakai's traditional industries.

For the official Expo website, scan QR Code 1. For more information about Sakai's events, scan QR Code 2.

1.



2.



☆Sakai-India Children's Art Exhibition

Period: August 12th (Tue) ~ 22nd (Fri), 9:00-21:00

Starts at 13:00 on the first day and ends at 16:00 on the last day

Venue: Sakai City Hall high rise building, 1F, north lobby

The exhibition will be displaying drawings about what Indian and Japanese children learn about each other's countries.



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!

※National Health Insurance Deadline for August and September

If you do not make payments from pension, the deadline for national health insurance payments (June through to March 2026) is the **last day of every month**, aside from December which is the 25th. The deadline for elderly person health insurance payments is the **last day of every month** between July and March 2026 (December 28th for account transfer). If the payment date falls on a closure date of financial institutions, it will be moved to the next business day. The payment deadline dates for August and September are as follows:

August: September 1st
September: September 30th



※Beginners' Japanese Lessons

Date/time: September 26th ~ November 21st, every Tuesday and Friday, 14:00-16:00
Venue: Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai
Eligibility: For people living, working or studying (at university etc.) in Sakai City
Content: Speak in Japanese with classmates and Japanese people about things you like or want to do. Study useful everyday conversational Japanese.
Fee: Free
To inquire/place of application: Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai
To apply: Fill in the application form and fax, mail, email or hand-in directly
Application form: Scan the QR code



※Tax Payment

August will be the second appointed time for the City and Prefectural Resident Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The deadline is **September 1st**. Please pay at the nearest banking facility, convenience store etc. Payment can also be made using Pay-easy, mobile payment methods and credit cards on the regional tax payment site (eLTAX). Scan the QR code for more details about the site (eLTAX). For those that use the account transfer, the payment will automatically be deducted on **September 1st**, so please check that you have sufficient funds.



● Specific Health Check-up

Those aged 40-74 years old who are covered by the National Health Insurance are eligible for a free specific health examination once a year. We are providing this examination for early detection of life-style related diseases. Those who are eligible will be sent a check-up card/ticket enclosed in an envelope like the image. Please apply directly at a medical institution written in the enclosed guide. Scan the QR code for participating medical institutions (Japanese only).



●Watch out for food poisoning!

There are many cases of bacterial food poisoning across the country from June to October every year. Please take the necessary measures to prevent it happening to you. For more information visit the QR code.



※Accepting Students for the Sakai Multicultural Literacy Class "Tsudoi"

This is a classroom where people who, for various reasons, have not had the opportunity to learn to read and write, as well as non-Japanese residents, can learn together through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Would you like to connect with diverse cultures and engage in meaningful exchange? Scan the QR code for the official website of the venue (Japanese only).

Please inquire by email: sakai-soudan@jinken-fureai.jp

Class Days: Every Tuesdays and Fridays
Time: Daytime class (13:00-15:00), evening class (18:30-20:30)

Eligibility: Anyone aged 15 or older who lives, works, or studies in Sakai City

Venue: Human Rights and Friendship Center, 2F, Learning Room 3
(Address: 2-61-1 Kyowa-cho, Sakai-ku, Sakai City)



※Supplementary Adjustment Benefit for Flat-amount Tax Cut

As a measure against rising prices, flat-amount tax cuts were implemented for 2024 income tax and FY2024 resident tax. If the amount you received through the initial adjustment benefit is insufficient, you may be eligible to receive the difference as a supplementary adjustment benefit for flat-amount tax cut. If you are eligible, a notification was sent in late July. Please check your mail.
· If the city already has your bank account information, the benefit will be directly deposited into that account.
· If the city does not have your account information, please apply by September 30th via the Sakai electronic application system or by post.



After document review, payment will be made to the account under your name:

- In about 15 days for online applications
- In about 1 month for postal applications

Inquiries: Call center

TEL: 0120-326-472

Support is available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

※Emergency Hospital Hours For Obon

Please bring your My Number health insurance card, health insurance card, an eligibility certificate, and/or medical cost support certificates (for children, the elderly etc.). For details such as consultation hours at each institution, please see here (QR code).



●Tuberculosis and Respiratory Infections Prevention Week (September 24th ~ 30th)

The period before the autumn and winter seasons, when respiratory infections tend to spread, is designated as Prevention Week. Basic infection prevention measures such as wearing masks, practicing proper cough etiquette, handwashing, and ventilation are very important. Tuberculosis (TB) is not a disease of the past. In Japan, over 10,000 new TB cases are reported each year, and approximately 1,600 people die from it annually. More than 1,000 foreign-born individuals are also diagnosed with TB each year, with increasing cases among younger age groups. Early symptoms of TB include coughing, phlegm, mild fever, chest pain, and fatigue. If a cough persists for more than two weeks, please consult a medical institution. Early detection not only prevents the condition from worsening but also helps stop the spread of infection to family members, coworkers, and others around you. In Sakai City, residents aged 40 and over are eligible for **one free TB screening per year**.



Scan the QR code for a list of participating medical institutions (Japanese only).

●Beware of Heatstroke!

Summer in Japan is very hot and humid. There are around 400,000 cases of heatstroke reported every year, with over 40,000 people taken to the hospital. Please seek help if you start to feel unwell in the extreme heat. Make sure to stay hydrated and avoid direct sunlight and hot environments. If someone loses consciousness or is unable to drink water by themselves, call 119 for an ambulance.



※National Census

As of October 1st this year, a national census will be conducted. The national census is the most important statistical survey conducted by the Japanese government every five years, based on the Statistics Act. The data collected is used as fundamental information for national, prefectural, and municipal administration. All people residing in Japan, regardless of nationality, are required to participate. Survey materials are available in 28 languages. Among them, responses can be submitted online in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. If you need materials in other languages, please contact the census enumerator or the Multicultural Exchange Plaza Sakai.

The information collected in this survey will never be used for any purpose other than statistical analysis. Starting September 20th, census enumerators will distribute survey materials to mailboxes etc.

Online responses: Accepted from September 20th to October 8th.

Mail-in paper forms: Please send them between October 1st and October 8th. Scan the QR code to visit the website.



☎ 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 (closed on public holidays and New Year's break December 29th to January 3rd)

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 Confidential Consultation

August 20th & September 17th, 14:00-17:00

Consultations on naturalizations and immigrations with an administrative procedure specialists are available for discussing the status of or changes to applications. Three slots available (Reservations re-



quired). Those that require an interpreter must apply at least 10 days before the date of the consultation.

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 Online Consultations for Foreign Residents

The Plaza of Multicultural Exchange Sakai are offering free online consultations using Zoom for foreign residents living, working, or studying at school in Sakai City in 13 languages. Get advice from immigration and law experts. Please make an appointment by phone or e-mail one week in advance of your consultation day.

Administrative: September 26th, 18:00-20:00

Labour: September 5th, 13:30-16:30

Law: Not available

Immigration: September 12th, 13:30-16:30

Daily Life: September 19th, 13:30-16:30



☎ “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 at a convenience store.
- Get confirmations of automatic withdrawal payments.
- Apply for temporary stop and start of water services.
- Pay bills with your credit card (registration required).

For more details and to download the app, scan the QR codes (Japanese only).

For Android users



For iPhone users



Waterworks and Sewage Bureau Web-site



● No smoking or littering on the street

The area in front of Sakaihigashi station, the public road on the south side, the squares in front of Sakai station (west and east), Oshoji street, and the area around the city hall are designated as non-smoking and no littering zones. Violations will result in a fine of 1,000 yen. Additionally, the areas around the west side of Sakaihigashi station, Nakamozu station, Miku-nigaoka station, Sakaishi station, and Komyoike station are designated as priority areas for improving smoking and littering manners. We appreciate your cooperation.



※Parking Ban-Zones for Bicycles & Minibikes

Abandoned bicycles (including minibikes) obstruct the safe passage of pedestrians and the entry of emergency vehicles. The areas around 27 stations in Sakai City (within approximately 300 meters of railway stations, excluding the Hankai line) are designated as a parking ban zone for bicycles. Bicycles and minibikes left in the zone will be removed, and a removal and storage fee will be required for their return. Please park your bicycles and minibikes in designated parking areas.



※Emergency Numbers

110: Police

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

When you call 119, the operator can set up a three or four-way call with an interpreter/s. It can take up to 10 seconds to connect, during which the caller should wait on the line and not hang up.

For sudden injuries or illnesses, there is a national 'Ambulance Use Guide'.

It is available in multiple languages, so scan the QR code to access it.



※Storing Water and Toilets in Case of Disaster

It is said that a person needs about 3 liters of water per day. Immediately after a major disaster, water supply will be cut off. Prepare three days' worth of drinking water to be ready for a disaster. From the fourth day after a disaster occurs, you will be able to receive water at evacuation centers. Prepare portable toilets for times when your home toilet cannot be used.



Obon (お盆) in Japan:

Obon is an annual Buddhist event that commemorates the spirits of ancestors, where the spirits are believed to temporarily return during this brief period. Usually celebrated from August 13th-16th, this holiday is traditionally celebrated by hanging lanterns in front of doorways to guide the way for the ancestors, obon dancing, visiting graves and making food offerings at home alters.



Sakai City CIR Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Get the most up-to-date information on what's happening in Sakai. Sakai is a beautiful place and we would love it if you shared with us what amazing places you know. Please follow and add #hellosakai to your posts! Find us by searching 'Sakai City CIR' on Facebook and Instagram!

