

EST. 1994

City Life

ISSUE 194

June/July 2026 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

Sophia Sakai Planetarium

The planetarium at Sophia Sakai was just renovated last year. Inside its massive 18-meter dome screen, an optical projector recreates a beautifully realistic starry sky and Milky Way, giving you the sensation of floating in outer space. A wide variety of programmes are shown, enjoyable for both children and adults. Why not spend a relaxing time gazing at the stars in a comfortable planetarium, perfect for the rainy season or the hot summer months?

Sakanaction – Goodnight Planetarium Kansai Premiere

A journey through the nocturnal world accompanied by the music of Sakanaction.

Screening period: Until June 19th (Fri)

Reservations can be made on the website. Scan the QR code to visit the projection schedule.

This collaborative work with the popular band Sakanaction lets you fully experience both music and the starry sky. Inside a dome transformed into a full-immersion art space, fantastical visuals blend with some of Sakanaction's iconic songs, such as "Music," "Goodbye," and "Eureka", surrounding the entire dome. The work has been highly praised overseas, earning two awards.

As you listen to the music, you find yourself transported from nighttime Tokyo to the starry sky and finally to outer space. It's a special experience only a planetarium can offer.

Having the chance to actually experience it myself, I found that the music and visuals wrap around you and envelop you in this immersive experience. What I found especially interesting was how seamlessly the ocean imagery blended with the starry skies. This connection felt fitting, as the ocean theme reflects the "sakana" (fish in Japanese) in the band name "Sakanaction". Furthermore, the sound of waves paired naturally with the constellations above, some even resembling fish, creating a quiet sense of harmony between sea and sky. If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss out!



(制作・配給) コニカミノルタプラネタリウム株式会社



©青山剛昌 / 小学館・読売テレビ・TMS 1996

Summer holiday programmes

Starting July 18th (Sat), programmes such as 'Detective Conan' and 'Night on the Galactic Railroad' will begin. Scan the QR code to visit the projection schedule.



Planetarium basic information

Address: 1426 Fukaishimizu-cho, Naka-ku, Sakai City

TEL: 072-270-8110

Nearest station: About 800m northwest of Fukai station on the Nankai Semboku line

Hours: 9:00-18:00 (varies depending on programme schedule)

Closed: Every Monday (open if Monday is a holiday), year-end/New Year holidays, and temporary closures

Admission: Adults - 600 yen (2-show ticket: 800 yen and 3-show ticket: 1,000 yen), ages 4 through junior high school: 250 yen (2-show ticket: 400 yen 3-show ticket: 500 yen)

All tickets are sold from 9:00 at the ticket machine on the 2nd floor.

Free admission for children 3 and under, persons with disabilities and their caregivers (with disability certificate, copies acceptable), and Sakai City residents aged 65 or older (with ID, copies acceptable). To visit the website, scan the QR code.



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.



Museums & Facilities



Events



☆Sakai Grand Evening Fish Market

Date: July 31st (Fri)

Location: Ohama Park

Nearest station/access:

Sakai station (Nankai line)

Believed to have begun during the Kamakura period and have an impressive history of about 700 years, this event is a seasonal summer tradition of Sakai. It is said to have originated when fishermen from various regions gathered on the bay of Sakai in conjunction with the purification ritual at Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine to pray for abundant catches and safety. The main attraction is the exciting fish auction scheduled for the evening. Also, there will be fireworks, night stalls and industry PR booths etc. For detailed times and more information, scan the QR code to visit the website (Japanese only).



✿Hydrangeas at Sambo

Date/time: June 4th (Thu) to June 7th (Sun), 10:00 to 16:00 (until 17:00 on weekends)

Location: Sambo Water Recycle Center
Access: Get off at Matsuya Yamatogawadori bus stop (Nankai bus) from Sakaihigashi station (Nankai Koya line), Sakai station (Nankai line), Shichido station (Nankai line) or Ayanochi station (Hankai line)

There are about 1200 hydrangea plants of 100 different varieties grown with recycled water processed at the Sambo Water Recycle Center. There are some rare varieties of hydrangeas too. Free and no reservation required.



☆Make Tea in a Tea Ceremony Room

A tea making experience for individuals held once every month. You are welcome to join even if it's your first time. In an authentic tea room you will be instructed by tea masters from the three major Sen family schools. The experience will be held in Japanese however they may use translation apps and there are documents in English and Chinese available. If space is available, feel free to join on the day!

Date/time: June 21st (Sun), July 19th (Sun)

Both days: ① 10:00~ ② 11:30~ ③ 13:00~ ④ 14:30~ ⑤ 16:00

Venue: Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko, tea room

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

Capacity: Each time 20 people (first-come first-served)

To apply: Through the reservation site via the QR code (Japanese only)



☆Mihara History Museum 'Mobile Aquarium of River Creatures'

Touch and explore the creatures living in the Ishikawa River basin of the Yamatogawa River system, including large carp, crabs, turtles, and more! Free of charge. Canceled in case of severe weather.

Date/time: July 26th (Sun), 13:30-15:30

Venue: Mihara History Museum, the terrace on the Mihara Furusato Park side



☉Sakai Pools

Another hot summer has arrived this year. Enjoy yourself to the fullest at the pool! For more details, scan the QR code to visit the Sakai City website.



◆Sakai City Museum Living Things Exhibition

Sakai City Museum Special Exhibition 'Parade of living things: a grand gathering of creatures in vessels and on paper'. Focused on the theme of living things, this exhibition presents ceramic artifacts discovered in Sakai's old moat area alongside paper craft creations by contemporary artists. Please enjoy the timeless perspective on animals passed down through generations, along with the beauty of forms created from familiar, everyday materials.

Date/time: June 27th (Sat) ~ September 6th (Sun)

Venue: Sakai City Museum

☆West Japan Businesspeople Sumo Championship Tournament

Last year, around 42 teams of corporations in West Japan with over 150 participants competed in team and/or individual events to win! Admission is free, and no reservation required.

Date/time: June 28th (Sun) from 9:00
Location: Sumo Stadium, Ohama Park



☆SAKAI Marche - Asian Pao Festival

Experience Asian culture with a special focus on ASEAN!

Enjoy performances by young artists from across Asia, along with food and goods from various countries. Free admission. Canceled in case of severe weather.

Date: June 28th (Sun), 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko

Scan the QR code for more information.



◆A Life with Mucha

In Paris at the end of the 19th century, prosperity spread alongside industrial development. As people grew wealthier, they began to find joy in incorporating beauty into their everyday lives. The world of Mucha, expressed through soft, gentle colours and delicate lines, awakens the desire not just to admire it from afar, but to place it within arm's reach and enjoy it up close. This exhibition focuses on the most familiar of spaces: the home. It explores how Mucha's works enriched ordinary home life and transformed daily moments into something special. Enjoy discovering the beauty of Mucha as it lives and breathes in everyday life.

Exhibition period: Until July 26th (Sun)

Venue: Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum

☆Traditional Townhouse Museums Tanabata decorations

Venue: Old Yamaguchi Family Residence, Old Seigakuin Mountain Priest Dojo, Old Gunsmith Workshop and Residence

Date/time: July 1st (Wed) to July 6th (Mon), 10:00-17:00 (last entry until 16:30).

Would you like to join us in decorating the bamboo tree with your wishes written on tanzaku (strips of paper)? You can participate freely so please come by.



※Free STI testing

June is Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention Month. Public health centers regularly offer free anonymous tests for HIV, syphilis and chlamydia. (However, it is only free if you take these three tests simultaneously.



Sun Square Sakai offers HIV and syphilis tests only).

Reservation: Unnecessary, you can go straight to the center.

Results notification: You will be notified roughly a week after. Details vary by testing location, so please inquire at a public health center or the Infectious Disease Control Division for more information. For more details scan the QR code.



※Beware of Smog

Photochemical smog tends to occur during the daytime when temperatures are high and winds are weak. When photochemical smog forecasts or warnings are issued, flags (green for forecast, yellow for precaution, orange for warning) and signs indicating 'Photochemical Smog Forecast Issued' will be displayed at public facilities such as ward offices and schools. During the issuance, avoid strenuous outdoor activities. If your eyes feel irritated or your throat hurts, please rinse your eyes and gargle. Additionally, Osaka Prefecture provides an information distribution service via email and app, so please register (you can select the displayed language within the service). Scan the QR codes to register for the email and download the app.



Osaka Disaster Prevention App



Osaka Disaster Prevention Email



※Sakai City Adult Dental Examinations

June 4th to June 10th is Oral Health Week. To maintain the health of your teeth and mouth, practice thorough brushing and getting dental check-ups.



Eligibility: Citizens aged 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70-74 as well as those aged 75 or older who receive public assistance or belong to households receiving support benefits for Japanese returnees from China, etc. can receive a dental check-up at a participating medical institution in the city for ¥500 once a year at the target age. Prior reservation is required.

*Those from households receiving public assistance, exempt from city tax or receiving support benefits for Japanese returnees from China etc. can receive the check-up for free by applying in advance at a public health center.

Please scan the QR code for more info on participating medical institutions (Japanese only).



※Tax Payment

June is the first payment period for Municipal Inhabitant Tax, Prefectural Inhabitant Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The deadline is **June 30th**. July is the second payment period for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax. The deadline is **July 31st**. Please make your payment by the deadline at your nearest financial institution, convenience store, etc. Payment can also be made using Pay-easy, mobile payment methods, and credit cards via the local tax payment site (eLTAX). Scan the QR code for the English user's guide on the website (eLTAX). For those using automatic withdrawal, the first payment period for Municipal Inhabitant Tax, Prefectural Inhabitant Tax and Forest Environment Tax will be withdrawn on **June 30th** and the second payment period for Fixed Property Tax and City Planning Tax will be deducted on **July 31st** so make sure you have sufficient funds.



※Sakai City Scholarships for FY2026 (High School Students)

For households with financial difficulties sending their children to senior high school etc., a grant-type scholarship is available. Financial assistance is granted to those selected, following a review of income and household conditions, prioritizing households with higher levels of need.

Those applicable to both of the following conditions are eligible:

- Students enrolled in one of the following senior high schools as of July 1st 2026, and has been commuting from a residence in Sakai. Senior high schools, private schools (senior levels only), technical colleges (1st -3rd grades), vocational schools (senior courses only), support schools (senior levels only)
- Total income of all persons in parental authority in 2025 must be within the criteria:

However, those receiving public assistance (livelihood assistance) or are exempted from prefectural and municipal inhabitant's tax (income-based portion) and also can receive Osaka Prefectural Government's "Support Payments for Attending School" are not eligible for this assistance. Scan the QR code for more information on the City's website.



※Specified Residence Card

From June 14th, the new "Specified residence card" will be introduced, merging the Residence card and My Number card together. If you wish to obtain this card, you can apply at your Regional Immigration Bureau or the Civic Affairs Division of your local ward office. For more details, scan the QR code to visit the Immigration Services Agency of Japan website.



※Tax Payment Notice

In early June, the payment notice of Municipal Inhabitant Tax, Prefectural Inhabitant Tax and Forest Environment Tax will be sent out. The Tax Statement enclosed with the notice and the Special Taxation Amount Notice for these taxes you will receive separately, can be used instead of income and taxation proof in applying for public housing or the school expense subsidy etc. Please confirm with the place you are submitting to.

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!

FOR YOUR REFERENCE

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 29 December to 3 January)

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.



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

POME Sakai is also 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 regarding visa, marriage and divorce etc. Please make an appointment by phone or e-mail one week in advance of your consultation day.



Daily life: Available Mon-Fri (excluding public holidays and year end and New Year's period), 9:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00

Administration: July 19th 13:00-17:00

Labour: July 10th 13:30-16:30

Law: July 3rd 13:30-16:30, July 24th 18:00-20:00

Immigration: July 10th 13:30-16:30



Free Confidential Consultation

June 17th (Wed) & July 15th (Wed), 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 required). Those that require an interpreter must apply at least 10 days before the date of the consultation.

Sakai City “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 past water usage and bills up to 2 years.
- 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 Website



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 an administrative fine of 1,000 yen. Additionally, the areas around the west side of Sakaihigashi station, Nakamozu station, Mikunigaoka station, Sakai station, Komyoike station, Fukai station and Izumigaoka station are designated as priority areas for improving smoking and littering manners. We appreciate your cooperation.



Emergency Numbers

110: Police

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

When you call 119, the operator will set up a three or four-way call with an interpreter/s. It can take up to 10 seconds to connect. Please stay on the line and do not hang up. For sudden injuries or illnesses, there is a national 'Guide for Ambulance Services'. 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.



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. Scan the QR code for more information.



Sakai City CIR Facebook & Instagram Accounts



“*tsuyu*” - rainy season
Typically occurring in the months of June to July, Japan experiences an unusually long period of rain due to the collision of hot and cold air masses.

