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City Life

ISSUE 196

October/November 2026 Edition

Photo by Seiya Maeda on Unsplash

City Life is a free English newsletter published every even-number 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

☆53rd Sakai Festival October 17th (Sat) & 18th (Sun)

From Sakaihigashi station to Sakai station spanning around 1km, including Uchikawa River and a part of Daidosuji Street, the area will be completely transformed into a festival zone. There will of course be the majestic 'Gun squad demonstration', the 'Carrying of Futon daiko', as well as fun stage events, food stalls, food trucks, and tea ceremony experiences. This is a participatory street festival where you can enjoy the charm of Sakai, including its history, traditional culture, and modern industries. Last year, the event attracted approximately 410,000 visitors in total. Let's look forward to enjoying it again this year! Scan the QR code to access the official website (Japanese). (There is a possibility of a change in schedule. Cancellation in case of storm, go ahead rain or shine.)



1 – Mina Sakai Zone & Stage

Saturday 17th 16:00-21:00 (pre-event)

Sunday 18th 11:00-17:00

Mina Sakai (Citizens Plaza)

Stage events (Until 18:00 on 17th), food stalls

※Only on 17th: Futon daiko carrying competition (street in front of the city hall from 18:30-20:30)

Date/time: 2. ~ 8. are on Sunday 18th from 11:00-16:00

2 – Citizen Power Street & Stage

Yuya Elementary School east gate ~ west side

There will be an opening ceremony, dynamic citizen performances, sports experiences, and Sakai Cycle City PR booth

3 – Traditional Culture & International Exchange Street

Yuya Elementary School west side ~ Sankei Shimbun Sakai Branch west side

Tea ceremony experience, traditional industry workshops, ASEAN country booths, local specialty exhibits and sale booths

4 – Gun Squad Stage

Sankei Shimbun Sakai Branch west side ~ Ichinocho-higashi intersection

Gun squad firing performance!

5 – Futon Daiko Street

Ichinocho-higashi intersection ~ Oshoji intersection

There will be magnificent and dynamic Futon daiko performances

6 – Family Street & Stage

Kyoto Bank Sakai Branch ~ Ichi Elementary School

Exhibition of police cars, fire engines and construction vehicles, and stage performances by children

7 – South Osaka Gourmet Festival

SAKAI EBISUJIMA DOCK (Uchikawa Riverside)

Enjoy South Osaka gourmet booths and a cruise experience

8 – Daidosuji Café Terrace (pedestrian zone)

Oshoji station ~ Shukuin station (Hankai line)

Gathering of food stalls and food trucks

9 – Hometown of Rikyu Tea Ceremony Zones

- Nanshuji Temple: Saturday 17th 9:00~15:40 (accepting people until 14:50). Authentic tea ceremony by 3 major tea schools
- Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko: Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th 10:00-17:00 (accepting people until 16:30). Matcha tea service by students etc.

*Please note tickets may sell out



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



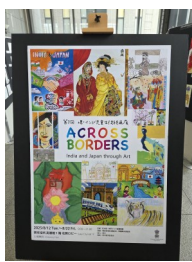
※Sakai-India Children's Art Exhibition

Date/time: November 4th (Wed) ~ 12th (Thur), 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, main building entrance hall

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



Last year's poster

◆Mucha Art Exposition Returns

Date: Until November 29th (Sun)

Venue: Sakai Alphonse Mucha Museum
For more information, scan the QR code.



☆Made in Sakai Fair 2026

This event brings together traditional industries, local specialties from Sakai, food offerings, and a variety of hands-on experiences in one place.

Date/time: November 14th (Sat), 15th (Sun) 10:00-16:00

Venue: Sakai City Industrial Promotion Center, event hall and others

Booths:

- Sakai hidden gems market
- Sakai sweets festival
- Freshly harvested Sakai vegetable market
- Knife-sharpening
- Hand-crafting experience
- Fire engines and police cars exhibition



☆Czech Festival 2026 in Kansai

An annual tradition and a very popular event. Enjoy 3 days of Czech culture, such as Czech cuisine, beer & wine, Czech music, and folk performances!

Date/time:

October 23rd (Fri) 16:00-21:00

October 24th (Sat) 11:00-20:00

October 25th (Sun) 11:00-19:00

Place: Mina Sakai (Citizens Plaza)

Admission: Free



☆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: October 11th (Sun), November 15th (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, tearoom

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)



◆ASEAN Photo Contest Exhibition 2026

Date/time: October 24th (Sat) ~ November 6th (Fri), 9:00-21:00

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

Admission: Free

Fifty works, including the winning entries from this year's ASEAN Photo Contest submitted during July and August will be exhibited. The contest invited professional and amateur photographers to submit photographs related to ASEAN countries. This year, marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Singapore and the 70th anniversary of the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines, two photographs that won the Special Award featuring the two countries will also be exhibited.



Last year's winning piece

※GIORNO ARTE 2026

Following the summer exhibition, the glass walls inside the Giorno shopping mall in Sakaihigashi have once again been transformed into works of art! Local children created paintings by applying paint directly to their hands and painting on the glass. This time's theme is "the night parade of one hundred yokai goblins and monsters".

Be sure to stop by and take a look while you're shopping! Admission is free.

Date/time: Until October 31st (Sat), 10:00-20:00

Venue: Giorno, 2F & 3F

Access: 200 meters south of Sakaihigashi station on the Nankai Koya line



☆Kanaoka Fishing Park & BBQ (Kanaoka Park Pool Site Utilisation Project)

The former Kanaoka Park Pool, which closed due to aging facilities, has been transformed into a recreational venue where visitors can enjoy fishing and barbecues year-round, as well as a water play area during the summer season (already closed for FY2026). The site also offers pickleball, a sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Hours: 10:00-16:00 on weekends, public holidays, and Wednesdays through Fridays (reservation required)

Activities: Fishing pond, pickleball, children's play area, barbecue facilities (poolside areas etc.) and a dog park. For more details, scan the QR code (Japanese).



☆Otohome's Holiday Festival

This is an event held along the Old Sakai Port waterside promenade where visitors can spend time at dusk while enjoying the sea breeze. You can enjoy all kinds of gourmet foods, workshops that children can join, music by artists.

Date/time: November 7th (Sat) 12:00-19:00, 8th (Sun) 11:00-18:00

Venue: Old Sakai Port (around 3 Ohama Kitamachi, Sakai-ku)

Closest station: Nankai line Sakai station, west exit

Fee: Free (food stalls and workshops are fee-charged)
Canceled in case of stormy weather.



▲Orange & Purple Ribbon Campaign



Stop! Child abuse and violence against women. November is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month (orange ribbon symbol) and November 12th ~ 25th marks the End Violence Against Women Campaign (purple ribbon international symbol). Scan the QR code for more details.



●Childcare Service Application

Application for childcare services for next fiscal year (April 2027 onward) are being accepted until **October 16th, 17:30** at the Child-raising Support Division counter at each ward office (closed weekends and public holidays). Online applications are open until **October 16th, 23:59**. Information on usage and application forms are available at the Child-raising Support Division at each ward office. To use the childcare service, it is necessary for the guardian(s) to have met certain conditions regarding employment, pregnancy, nursing care, around the time of childbirth, illness/disease or disabilities.



※Sakai City Scholarship Application FY2026 (University Students etc.)

Sakai City will grant a scholarship of 120,000 yen per year to those who have difficulty attending university etc. due to financial hardship. Through a screening, we will prioritize students with higher grades. (Quota: 120 people).

Eligibility is based on those who meet all the conditions below:

- Students who are consecutively receiving the grant-type scholarship from Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) (from 1st to 3rd division) from the April to September portions FY2026.
- The student in question or their primary income earner must have a registered address in the city for a continuous period from April 30th, 2026 to the date of application.
- From a 5 level, 0-4 scale, grades are an average of 3.0 or higher. First-year university students will be judged on their first to last year of high school grades, second-year university students and above will be judged on their first-year university grades up until the date of application.

Application period: October 1st ~ 31st

Please mail the application form, documents that show your grades and that you are continuously receiving JASSO's grant-type scholarship (from 1st to 3rd division) from the April to September portions of FY2026. If the documents that show your grades are sealed, submit without opening it. If it is not sealed, you can upload and submit the documents via the Sakai City e-application system. You will be given notice via mail around February about the screening result.



● Nobinobi Rooms, Sakaikko Clubs and Hokago Rooms (Afterschool childcare services)

Applications are being accepted for use beginning in April 2027. Application forms can be submitted via the Sakai City e-application system from **November 2nd 0:00 ~ November 30th, 23:59**. You can also submit the form in person to the After-School Children Support Division, from **November 2nd ~ 30th 9:00-17:30**, excluding weekends and public holidays or mail it (must arrive by deadline). The user guide including forms will be available from October 23rd until November 30th at Nobinobi Rooms, Sakaikko Clubs and Hokago Rooms, as well as the City Hall Administrative Information Center and Ward Office Administrative Information Corners.



※Sightseeing Shuttle Bus

A shuttle bus is operating between major sightseeing spots in Sakai City. You can easily explore the World Heritage Site area, home to a gas balloon offering panoramic views of the Mozu Mounded Tombs, the Old Moat area featuring Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko, and the Sakai Bay area, where the scenic Old Sakai Port is known for its beautiful sunsets. **Operating days:** Weekends and public holidays until March 28th, 2027. Service is suspended during the New Year holiday period (January 1st ~ 3rd). For more information, scan the QR code.

Bus stops:

1. Sakai Old Port, Porto Mare (Dorsett by Agora Osaka Sakai, drop-off area)
2. Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko (west-side road)
3. Mozu Mounded Tombs Visitor Center (Temporary bus stop located across the road from the center)



※Specified Health Check-up

Those aged 40-74 years old who are covered by the National Health Insurance are eligible for a free specific health check-up once a year. We are providing this check-up for early detection of lifestyle-related diseases so let's be proactive. Those who are eligible have been 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).



●Pink Ribbon Awareness Month: October

October is Pink Ribbon Month. The pink ribbon is the symbol for emphasising the importance for women to detect and treat breast cancer in its early stages. Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women worldwide, and the risk of developing it is considered to increase with age. It's recommended to go for examinations once you reach 40 years old. In addition, it is important to practice "breast awareness," which means being familiar with and regularly paying attention to the condition of your breasts. Sakai City offers a breast cancer examination (mammography) to women during their even-age year after turning 40 years old. Sakai City breast cancer examinations continue to be free this FY2026, too. Scan the QR code to find medical institutions near you (Japanese).



※Tax Payment

October is the third payment period for the Municipal Inhabitant Tax, Prefectural Inhabitant Tax and Forest Environment Tax. The deadline is **November 2nd**. 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 third payment for Municipal Inhabitant Tax, Prefectural Inhabitant Tax and Forest Environment Tax will be withdrawn on **November 2nd** so make sure you have sufficient funds.



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
(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.

Free Confidential Consultation

October 21st (Wed) & November 18th (Wed)

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

POME
Sakai



days before the date of the consultation.

Free Online Consultation 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

Immigration: November 13th 13:30-16:30

Labour: November 13th 13:30-16:30

Law: November 6th 13:30-16:30, November 27th 18:00-20:00

Administration: November 15th 13:00-17:00

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 started 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.



☎ 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).

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 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 Izumi-gaoka 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.



Kōyō - “Autumn leaves”
Momiji - “Maple leaves”

☎ Sakai City CIR Social Media



This is run by yours truly! I mainly post information on what's happening in Sakai, from upcoming events to emergencies & disaster warnings. It's operated completely in English.

