

**Sakai** (堺市, *Sakai-shi*) is a city located in Osaka Prefecture, Japan, on the edge of Osaka Bay at the mouth of the Yamato River. It has been one of the largest and most important seaports of Japan since the medieval era. Following the February 2005 annexation of the town of Mihara (from Minamikawachi District), the city grew to the fourteenth most populous city in Japan,<sup>[2]</sup> with 828,741 residents as of June 1, 2019.<sup>[3]</sup>

# Contents

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## **Overview**

### **History**

- [Origins](#)
- [Middle Ages](#)
- [Early modern period](#)
- [Modern Sakai](#)

### **Geography**

- [Wards](#)
- [Cityscape](#)

### **Education**

- [Universities](#)
- [Primary and secondary schools](#)

### **Transportation**

- [Airways](#)
  - [Airport](#)
- [Railways](#)
  - [Subway](#)
  - [Tramway](#)
- [Bus](#)
- [Roads](#)
  - [Expressways](#)
  - [Japan National Route](#)

### **International relations**

- [Sister cities](#)
- [Friendship cities](#)

### **Notable people**

### **See also**

### **References**

### **External links**

Sakai is known for its keyhole-shaped burial mounds, or *kofun*, which date from the 5th century. The largest of these, Daisen Kofun, is believed to be the grave of the Emperor Nintoku and is the largest grave in the world by area. Once known for samurai swords, Sakai is now famous for the quality of its kitchen knives; most high-quality Japanese cutlery originates in Sakai, and its production is a major industry in the city.

The area that would later become known as Sakai has been inhabited since approximately 8,000 BC.<sup>[5]</sup>

During the Yamato dynasty between 300 and 500 AD, the Moju Tumulus Cluster was built from over one hundred burial mounds.<sup>[5]</sup> The name "Sakai" appears in Fujiwara Sadoyori's poetry by 1045.<sup>[6]</sup>

Tradition holds that 10,000 homes burned to the ground in 1399.<sup>[6]</sup>



## Daisen Kofun



## Mozu Tombs



Ōtori taisha



Yamato  
Takeru







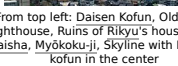


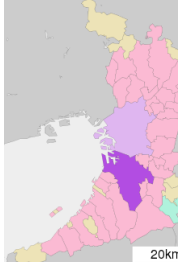

Medieval Sakai was an autonomous city run by merchant citizens. During the *Muromachi* and *Sengoku* periods from about 1450 to 1600, Sakai became one of the richest cities in Japan by using its location at the mouth of the Yamato River to connect foreign trade with inland trade to the Yamato Province. It was a leading producer of textiles and ironwork.<sup>[2]</sup> In those days, it was said that the richest cities were *Umi no Sakai*, *Riku no Imai* (tr. "along the sea, Sakai; inland, Imai"; the latter is now a part of Kashihara, Nara). The famous Zen Buddhist priest Ikkyū chose to live in Sakai because of its free atmosphere.

The first reliable account of the city is dated to the 1480s and contains publicly issued legal notices, which suggests that the city had a governing council at that point. By the 1530s, the population was around 40,000 residents, almost all of which earned a living through commercial enterprises and some of which were the wealthiest people in Japan. At this time, Sakai was administered by an oligarchy of powerful merchants. The government had ten divisions *machi* that were subordinate to the representative council of wealthy townsmen known as the *egoshu*.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

Sen no Rikyū, known as the greatest master of the tea ceremony, was originally a merchant of Sakai. Because of the close relationship between the tea ceremony and Zen Buddhism and because of the prosperity of its citizens, Sakai was one of the main centers of the tea ceremony in Japan.

In the Sengoku period, some Christian priests, including Francis Xavier in 1550, visited Sakai and documented its prosperity. Gaspar Vilela described the town as the safest place in the area when he visited in 1561.<sup>[9]</sup> He also mentioned that the city was "governed by consuls like Venice in Italy", although he didn't elaborate on what he meant by "like consuls".<sup>[7][10]</sup>

After the coming of Europeans, Sakai became a manufacturing base of firearms and a *daimyō*, Oda Nobunaga, was one of their important customers. During his ambitious attempt to unify Japan, Nobunaga attempted to take the autonomy privilege from Sakai. Sakai's citizens denied his order and pitched a desperate battle against his army. Most citizens fled and Sakai was burned and seized by Nobunaga.

<div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Sakai</div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>堺市</div></div></div></div>	
Designated city	
Sakai City: <sup>[1]</sup>	
<div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div></div></div> <div>From top left: Daisen Kofun, Old Sakai Lighthouse, Ruins of Rikyū's house, Ōtori taisha, Myōkoku-ji, Skyline with Daisen kofun in the center</div>	
<div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div>Flag</div></div>	<div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div>Seal</div></div>
<div><div>Wikimedia    OpenStreetMap</div></div>	
Location of Sakai in Osaka Prefecture	
<div><div>20km</div></div>	
<div></div>	
Location in Japan	
Coordinates: <span><span><span><span><span>34°34′24″N</span> <span>135°28′59″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>34.5733°N 135.4831°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>34.5733; 135.4831</span></span></span></span></span>	
Country	<span><span><span></span></span> </span> Japan
Region	<span><span><span></span></span> </span> Kansai
Prefecture	<span><span><span></span></span> </span> Osaka Prefecture
First official recorded	5th century AD
City Settled	April 1, 1889
Government <div></div>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Mayor	Hideki Nagafuji (from June 2018)
Area <div></div>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	149.82 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> (57.85 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi)
Population <span>(June 1, 2019)</span>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	828,741
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Density	5,500/km <sup>2</sup> (14,000/sq <span> </span> mi)
Time zone	UTC+09:00 (JST)
City hall address	3-1 Minami-Kawaramachi, Sakai-ku, Sakai-shi, Osaka-fu 590-0078
Website	<span>www.city.sakai.lg.jp/index_en.html</span> ( <span>http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp/index_en.html</span> )

After the death of Nobunaga in 1582, one of his men, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, seized power and abolished the autonomous system of Sakai and reportedly forced the local merchants to move to central Osaka near his stronghold to weaken the powerful business community there.<sup>[11]</sup> Sakai became a prosperous city again under his reign.



Old house of Firearm Factory gunsmiths in Sakai Toyotomi Hideyoshi

	<b>Symbols</b>
<b>Bird</b>	Shrike
<b>Flower</b>	Iris
<b>Tree</b>	Willow

Sakai	
Japanese name	
Kanji	堺市
Hiragana	さかいし
Katakana	サカシ
Transcriptions	
Romanization	Sakaishi

Edo Period

In 1615, Sakai burned to the ground in the Osaka summer battle.<sup>[6]</sup>

Sakai was still an important trade center during the Edo period but was involved only in inland trade due to the *sakoku* policy of the Tokugawa government. At the end of this era, Westerners again landed in Sakai but it resulted in a tragic incident because the Japanese citizenry and the foreigners were ignorant of each other's ways. French sailors from the *Dupleix* and Sakai citizens clashed; some French were killed, and subsequently the Japanese responsible for these deaths were sentenced to death by seppuku. This incident is called the Sakai incident (堺事件, *Sakai-jiken*).



Sakai incident (1868)

Modern Sakai

In modern times, Sakai is an industrial city with a large port. As such, its western area suffered widespread damage from bombing raids during the Second World War. It is now known for its knives and is the home of Shimano bicycle parts. With a population of over 800,000, it is the largest suburb of Osaka City and the fourteenth-largest city in Japan.

Geography

Wards

Sakai has seven wards (*ku*):

Wards of Sakai						
	Place Name		Population	Land area in km <sup>2</sup>	Pop. density per km <sup>2</sup>	Map of Sakai
	Rōmaji	Kanji				
1	Sakai-ku (administrative center)	堺区	147,863	23.65	6,252	
2	Higashi-ku	東区	84,755	10.49	8,080	
3	Kita-ku	北区	159,426	15.60	10,220	
4	Naka-ku	中区	121,383	17.88	6,789	
5	Nishi-ku	西区	134,608	28.62	4,703	
6	Mihara-ku	美原区	37,752	13.20	2,860	
7	Minami-ku	南区	137,736	40.39	3,410	

Cityscape

Gallery



Education

Universities

- Osaka Prefecture University
- Hagoromo International University
- Kansai University SakaiCampus
- Poole Gakuin University
- Taisei Gakuin University
- Tezukayama Gakuin University

Primary and secondary schools

The city previously had a North Korean school, Sakai Korean Elementary School (堺朝鮮初級学校).<sup>[12]</sup>



Osaka Prefecture University

## Transportation

### Airways

#### Airport

#### Railways

##### JR West

- Hanwa Line: [\(Sumiyoshi\)](#) - [Asaka Station](#) - [Sakaishi Station](#) - [Mikunigaoka Station](#) - [Moza Station](#) - [Uenoshiba Station](#) - [Tsukuno Station](#) - [Ōtori Station](#) - [\(Takaishi\)](#)

##### Nankai

- Nankai Main Line: [\(Suminoe\)](#) - [Shichidō Station](#) - [Sakai Station](#) - [Minato Station](#) - [Ishizugawa Station](#) - [Suwanomori Station](#) - [Hamaderakōen Station](#) - [Hagoromo Station](#) - [\(Takaishi\)](#)
- Koya Line: [\(Sumiyoshi\)](#) - [Asakayama Station](#) - **[Sakaihigashi Station](#)** - [Mikunigaoka Station](#) - [Mozuhachiman Station](#) - [Nakamoza Station](#) - [Shirasagi Station](#) - [Hatsushiba Station](#) - [Hagiharatenjin Station](#) - [Kitanoda Station](#) - [\(Ōsakasayama\)](#)

##### Semboku

- Semboku Rapid Railway: [Nakamoza Station](#) - [Fukai Station](#) - [Izumigaoka Station](#) - [Toga-Mikita Station](#) - [Kōmyōike Station](#) - [\(Izumi\)](#)

#### Subway

##### Osaka Metro

- Midōsuji Line: [\(Sumiyoshi\)](#) - [Kitahanada Station](#) - [Shinkanaoka Station](#) - [Nakamoza Station](#)

#### Tramway

##### Hankai Tramway

- Hankai Line: [\(Sumiyoshi\)](#) - [Yamatogawa Station](#) - [Takasu-jinsha Station](#) - [Ayanochō Station](#) - [Shimmeicho Station](#) - [Myokokuji-mae Station](#) - [Hanataguchi Station](#) - [Oshoji Station](#) - [Shukuin Station](#) - [Terajicho Station](#) - [Goryomae Station](#) - [Higashi-Minato Station](#) - [Ishizu-Kita Station](#) - [Ishizu Station](#) - [Funao Station](#) - [Hamaderakōen Station](#)

#### Bus

- [Nankai Bus Company, Limited](#)
  - [Nankai wing Bus kanaoka Company, Limited](#)
- [Kintetsu Bus](#)
- [Osaka City Bus](#)

#### Roads

##### Expressways

- [E26 Hanwa Expressway](#)
- [E90 Sakai Senboku Road](#)
- [E59 Minami-Hanna Road](#)
- [Hanshin Expressway](#)
  - [4 Bayshore Route](#)
  - [6 Yamatogawa Route](#)
  - [15 Sakai Route](#)

##### Japan National Route

- [Japan National Route 26](#)
- [Japan National Route 309](#)
- [Japan National Route 310](#)

## International relations

### Sister cities

- [Berkeley, California, United States \(1967\)](#)
- [Lianyungang, China \(1983\)](#)
- [Wellington, New Zealand \(1994\)](#)

### Friendship cities

- [Tanegashima, Japan \(1986\)](#)
- [Higashiyoshino, Japan \(1986\)](#)
- [Da Nang, Vietnam \(2019\)](#)

## Notable people

- [Kataoka Ainosuke VI](#) (Real Name: *Hiroyuki Yamamoto*, [Nihongo](#): 山元 寛之), Japanese [Kabuki](#) actor, actor, [television presenter](#) and [entertainer](#).
- [Yuki Morisaki](#), Japanese [chef](#) and [entertainer](#)
- [Reon Kadena](#), Japanese [glamour model](#) and [actress](#)
- [Emperor Nintoku](#), the 16th [Emperor of Japan](#)
- [Gyōki](#), Japanese [Buddhist priest](#) of the [Nara period](#)
- [Ikkyū](#), Japanese [Zen Buddhist monk](#) and [poet](#).
- [Sen no Rikyū](#), Japanese [tea master](#)
- [Tsuda Sōgyū](#), Japanese [tea master](#)
- [Imai Sōkyū](#), Japanese [tea master](#) and [merchant](#)
- [Ōuchi Yoshihiro](#), [Muromachi period](#) [samurai](#) clan head and [military leader](#)
- [Takeno Jōō](#)
- [Oreskaband](#), all-female [ska band](#)
- [Nobuaki Kakuda](#), retired [karateka](#) and [kickboxer](#)
- [Hiroki Suzuki](#), Japanese [actor](#) and [singer](#)
- [Kentaro Kobuchi](#) and [Shunsuke Kuroda](#), the members of the music group [Kobukuro](#)
- [Akiko Yosano](#), Japanese [poet](#) and [novelist](#)



Kansai International Airport



Hankai Tramway



Semboku New Town & Semboku Rapid Railway



Mihara JCT

- Ryumon Yasuda, Japanese Painter and sculptor
- Hideo Nomo worked in Shin-nittetsu Sakai and played on its club team before he was scouted by the Kintetsu Buffaloes
- Yudetamago, manga artist duo (attended Hatsushiba High School in Higashi-ku)
- Akio Mori, a well known K-1 kickboxer known as Musashi (kickboxer)
- Akira Nagata, actor and singer/vocalist, member of J-pop group Run&Gun
- CIMA (Real Name: Nobuhiko Oshima, Nihongo: 大島 伸彦, *Ōshima Nobuhiko*), Japanese professional wrestler

### See also

- Osaka Metropolis plan
- Sakai City Museum
- Sakai Matsuri

### References

- ↑ Sakai official English name (http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp/index\_en.html) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20100226235309/http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp/index\_en.html) February 26, 2010, at the Wayback Machine
- ↑ Sakai City profile (http://www.city.sakai.osaka.jp/foreigner\_en/profile/profile1.html) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20061211235529/http://www.city.sakai.osaka.jp/foreigner\_en/profile/profile1.html) December 11, 2006, at the Wayback Machine. Accessed March 13, 2007. Note that although the reference refers to Sakai as the fourteenth-largest city in Japan, this reference excludes Tokyo.
- ↑ Sakai City Department of Planning, Head of Statistical Research (堺市企画部調査統計担当, *Kikakubu Chōsa Tōkei Tantō*). Accessed January 19, 2018.
- ↑ "Tokyo pollsters in the money" (http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20070217TDY03003.htm), *Yomiuri Shimbun*, February 17, 2007. Accessed March 13, 2007.
- ↑ http://www.sakai-tcb.or.jp/english/about\_sakai/
- ↑ http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp/english/visitors/whats/history.html
- ↑ The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History edited by Peter Clark https://books.google.com/books?id=z09oAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA331&pg=PA331&dq=Gaspar+Vilela+sakai+consuls
- ↑ An Introduction to the History of Japan by Katsuro Hara https://books.google.com/books?id=k-IBAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA241&pg=PA241&dq=sakai+japan+autonomous+merchant
- ↑ http://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2015/04/11/travel/sakai-keyhole-history-osaka/#.Vr2jV\_krjIU
- ↑ "Japan's oldest 'autonomous' city splits over Osaka Metropolis Plan - Xinhua | English.news.cn" (http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/19/c\_132733667.htm). *news.xinhuanet.com*. Retrieved May 8, 2016.
- ↑ http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/19/c\_132733667.htm
- ↑ "[script-title=ja:ウリハツキョー覧]publisher= (https://web.archive.org/web/20051106010302/http://www.chongryon.com/jj/cr/link3.html)Chongryon [date=November 6, 2005 [accessdate=October 15, 2015]]}} {{https://www.webcitation.org/6cHKwmz4m?url=http://web.archive.org/web/20051106010302/http://www.chongryon.com/jj/cr/link3.html Archive.

### External links

- ↑ Sakai City official website (http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp) (in Japanese)
- ↑  Sakai travel guide from Wikivoyage
- ↑  Geographic data related to Sakai (https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/358759) at OpenStreetMap

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