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Tourist Information Center (TIC)

10th Fl., Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan Bldg., 2-10-1,

Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006

Tel. (03)3201-3331



"YOKOSO" means "welcome"

SAITAMA

Saitama Prefecture, pop. 6,938,000 located in the middle of the Kanto Plain area, is blessed with an abundance of nature. Visitors can encounter beautiful scenery with clear spring waters and greenery.

Apart from the mountainous northern region, and the Chichibu region, most of the prefecture consists of level ground, and it has the same warm climate as the Central Tokyo.

Access: (From Narita / Haneda Airport, Shin-Osaka / Nagoya Sta.)

To	From	Type of train	Time required	Fare(¥)
Tokyo Sta.	Narita Airport	JR LEX "Narita Express"	1 hr.	2,940
		JR Rapid "Airport Narita"	1 hr. 24 min.	1,280
	Haneda Airport	Tokyo Monorail & JR Yamanote Line (change at Hamamatsu-cho Sta.)	28 min.	620
		Keikyu Line & JR Yamanote Line (change at Shinagawa Sta.)	30 min.	560
Shin-Osaka Sta.	JR Shinkansen "Nozomi"	2 hrs. 40 min.	14,720	
	JR Shinkansen "Hikari"	3 hrs.	13,750	
Nagoya Sta.	JR Shinkansen "Nozomi"	1 hr. 36 min.	11,340	
	JR Shinkansen "Hikari"	1 hr. 50 min.	10,580	
Ueno Sta.	Narita Airport	Keisei Railways "Skyliner"	56 min.	1,920
		Keisei Railways LEX	1 hr. 16 min.	1,000
Nippori Sta.		Keisei Railways LEX	1 hr. 13 min.	1,000
Omiya Sta.		Keisei Bus "ON Liner"	2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 30 min.	2,750
Saitama-Shintoshin Sta.	2 hrs. 20 min. - 2 hrs. 40 min.			
Urawa Sta.	Tokyo Sta.	JR Keihin Tohoku Line (Keihin-Tohoku Line doesn't stop at Nippori during mid-day hours. Use Yamanote Line instead)	35 min.	380
	Nippori Sta.		28 min.	290
			29 min.	380
	Ueno Sta.	JR Takasaki Line & JR Tohoku Honsen Line	20 min.	380
Saitama-Shintoshin Sta.	Tokyo Sta.	JR Keihin Tohoku Line (Keihin-Tohoku Line doesn't stop at Nippori during mid-day hours. Use Yamanote Line instead)	42 min.	450
	Nippori Sta.		35 min.	380
			36 min.	450
	Ueno Sta.	JR Takasaki Line & JR Tohoku Honsen Line	22 min.	450
Urawa-Misono Sta.	Tokyo Sta.	Subway Marunouchi Line, Namboku Line and Saitama Kosoku Tetsudo Line (Change at Korakuen Sta.)	1 hr	690
	Ueno Sta.	JR Keihin Tohoku Line, subway Namboku Line and Saitama Kosoku Tetsudo Line (Change at Oji Sta.)	50 min.	780
	Nippori Sta.	JR Yamanote Line, subway Namboku Line and Saitama Kosoku Tetsudo Line (Change at Komagome Sta.)	45 min.	780
	Any central Tokyo Sta.	Use any station that intersects with subway Namboku Line which will take you to Urawa-Misono Sta.		

* Saitama Stadium 2002 North Gate is a 15min. walk, and South Gate is a 20min. walk from Urawa-Misono Sta.

* The shuttle bus service to the north gate of the stadium is to be operated when J-league soccer games are held from JR Urawa and JR Higashi-Urawa Stations; to the south gate from JR Saitama-Shintoshin and Tobu Railway's Kita-Koshigaya Stations.

Places of Interest:

① - ⑨ correspond to those on the map on pages 3/4.

① **Hikawa Jinja (Hikawa Shrine)** (氷川神社), 5-min. walk from Kita-Omiya Sta., or 20-min. walk from Omiya Sta. is one of the very few historic and formal shrines in Japan. Omiya, meaning, "Great Shrine" received its name from the Hikawa Shrine. It is said that the shrine was founded more than 2000 years ago, during the reign of the 5th Emperor Koshu. When you exit the 2km road leading up to the shrine, you will arrive at the compound where the main hall and worship hall stand side by side, and will be impressed by the dignified calm of the surroundings. A number of ceremonies are held here throughout the year. The whole area is surrounded by the abundant natural setting of the Omiya Park. Open: 5:00-18:00 (May-Aug.), 5:30-17:30 (Mar., Apr., Sep. and Oct.), 6:00-16:30 (Nov.-Feb.). Admission: Free.

② **Omiya Sophia - Fine Prefectural Products Sales Center** (優良県産品販売センターそびあ) 5-min. walk from Omiya Sta., located in Omiya Sonic City B1 floor, displays and sells more than 900 products made in Saitama Prefecture. Operated in collaboration with the Saitama Product Promotion Association, the center has implemented a system to promote fine products from "Sai no Kuni". 609 products (as of Jul. 2005) have been certified as fine brands (2-year certification period). These items include foods, traditional handicrafts, and other items that have been produced and processed in the prefecture. Open: 10:00-17:00, Mon.-Sat. except National holiday.

③ **Minuma Tsusenbori (Minuma Canal)** (見沼通船堀) 8-min. walk from Higashi-Urawa Sta., is the oldest canal in Japan, built in the same way as the lock gate of the Panama Canal. It was opened in 1731 to facilitate the transportation of goods between Urawa and Edo (old Tokyo). It provides a connection between the Minuma Irrigation Canal and the Shiba River and has a rise and fall of 3m. It shows the strength of the technology at the time, and has been designated a national historic landmark. The residence of the canal caretaker (Suzuki Residence) remains as it stood at the time. Currently, the whole area around the canal has become the Minuma Tsusenbori Park. Admission: Free.

④ **Saitama Prefectural Modern Art Museum** (埼玉県立近代美術館) 3-min. walk from Kita-Urawa Sta., has an entrance hall built in a well-hole style to let in natural light. It has an exterior like an enormous sculpture. It is located in Kita-Urawa Park. Its exhibits include works by famous Japanese artists as well as masterpieces by the world's greats including Renoir, Rouault, Monet, Chagall, and Picasso. The museum also has a number of well-designed chairs that visitors are free to use. Open: 10:00–17:30 (Until 20:00 on some Fri.) (Enter by 30 min. before the closing time.) Closed: Mon. (the following day if Mon. is a national holiday). & year-end-New Year's holiday. Admission: Standing exhibition. ¥200, Special exhibition. changes depend on the exhibition. http://www.saitama-j.or.jp/momas/022eng/e_index.htm

⑤ **Saitama-Shintoshin (Saitama New Urban Center)** (さいたま新都心) The newly established metropolitan city center of Saitama aims to become the center of government and culture in the 21st century. Three separate cities of Urawa, Omiya and Yono were integrated in May 2001 to form the city of Saitama. 18 national government offices are to be transferred to the newly established Saitama-Shintoshin area, the core of the new Saitama City with a feel of the 21st century. Saitama Super Arena, the site of numerous music and sports events, has been constructed, and there are many places to see including high-tech buildings and the Keyaki Hiroba (Zelkova Plaza) built with an image of a grove of mixed trees.

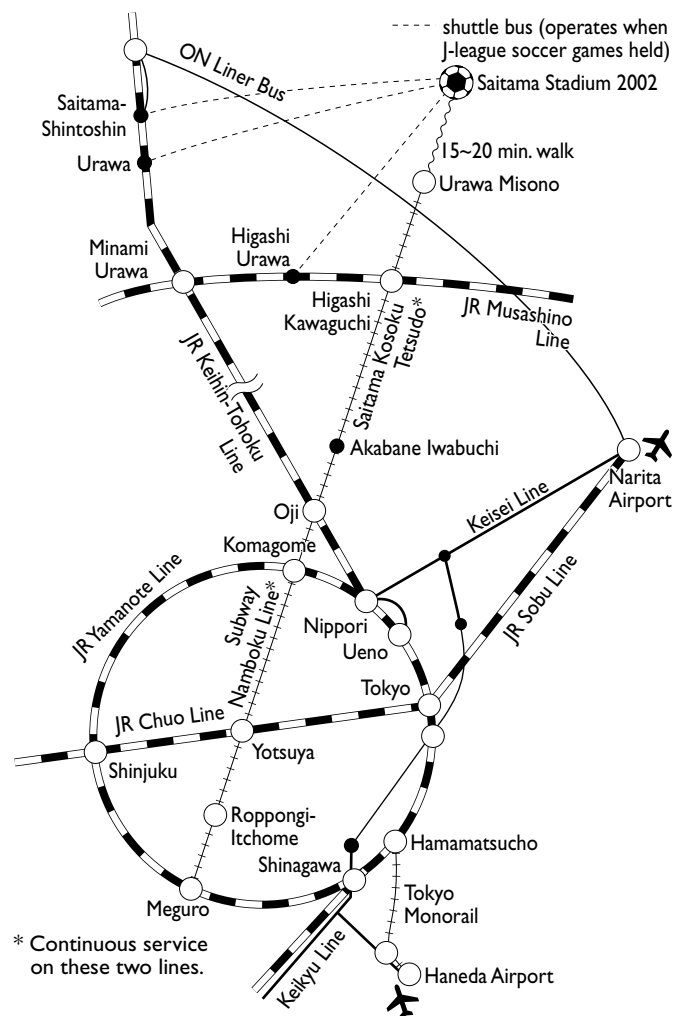
Access: JR Tohoku (Utsunomiya) Line, Takasaki Line, Keihin Tohoku Line, Saitama Shintoshin Sta..

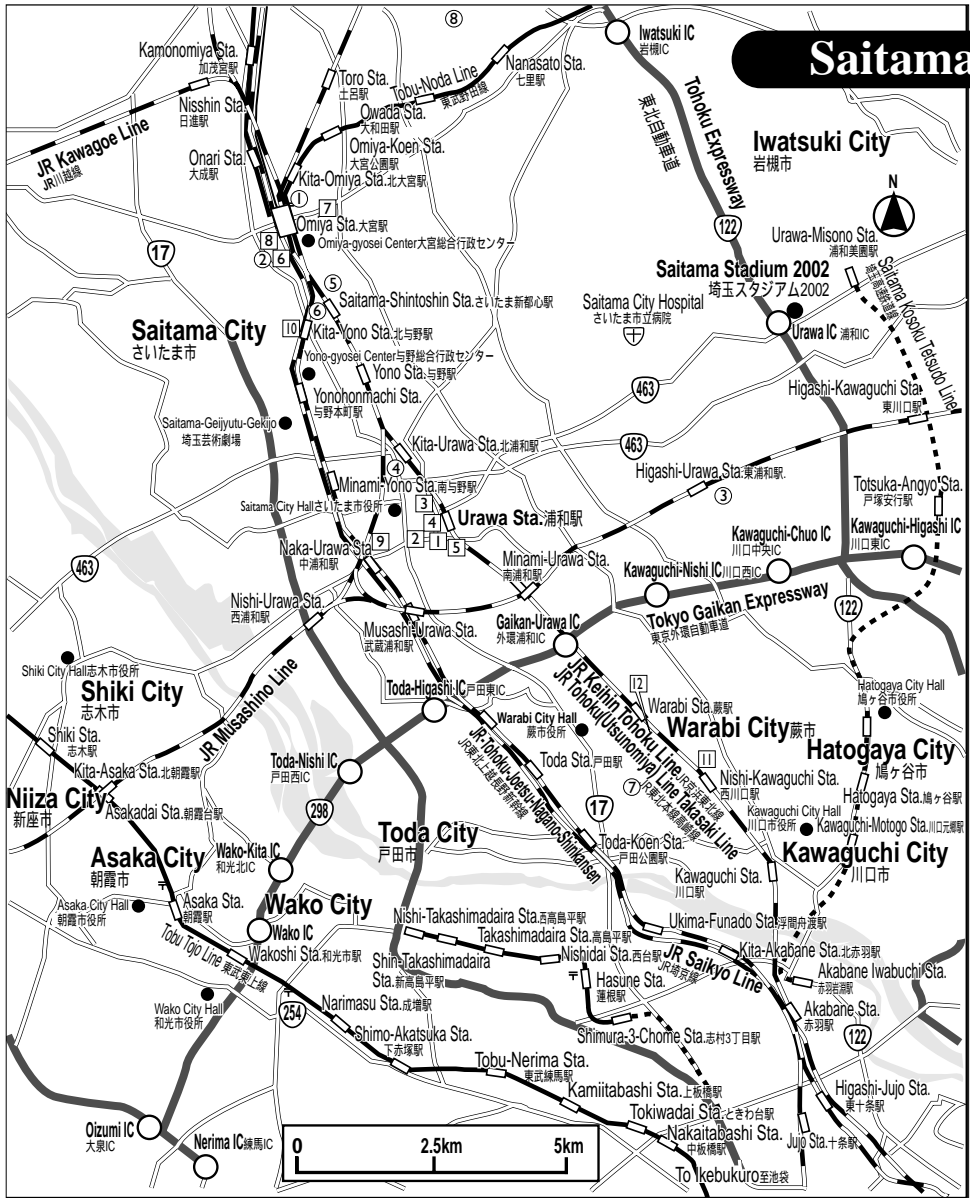
⑥ **John Lennon Museum** (ジョン・レノン・ミュージアム) 3-min. walk from Saitama-Shintoshin Sta. The first permanent John Lennon Museum in the world, is located on the 4th and 5th floors of Saitama Super Arena, the core facility of Saitama New Urban Center. The museum was built to extend to the people of the 21st century an accurate image of the life and works of John Lennon, who had an enormous influence on the people of the 20th century through his music. The museum displays a number of articles, including his musical instruments and clothes and memorabilia belonging to Yoko Ono. It's a must-see for his fans. Open: 11:00–18:00. Closed: Tue. & Year-end-New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥1,500.

⑦ **Kawanabe Kyosai Memorial Museum** (河鍋曉齋記念美術館) 15-min. walk from Nishi-Kawaguchi Sta., exhibits the works of Kyosai Kawanabe, one of the most famous artist of Japanese painting next to Hokusai, as well as works by his apprentices. Kyosai was active as an artist from the end of Edo Period to the middle of the Meiji Period. This museum is known for its wide variety of works from oil and watercolor paintings to woodblock prints and paintings with humorous themes. The museum also houses roughly 3,000 drawings and sketches. Open: 10:00–16:00. Closed: Thur., from 26th through the end of each month & 1 week around the New year's holiday. Admission: ¥300.

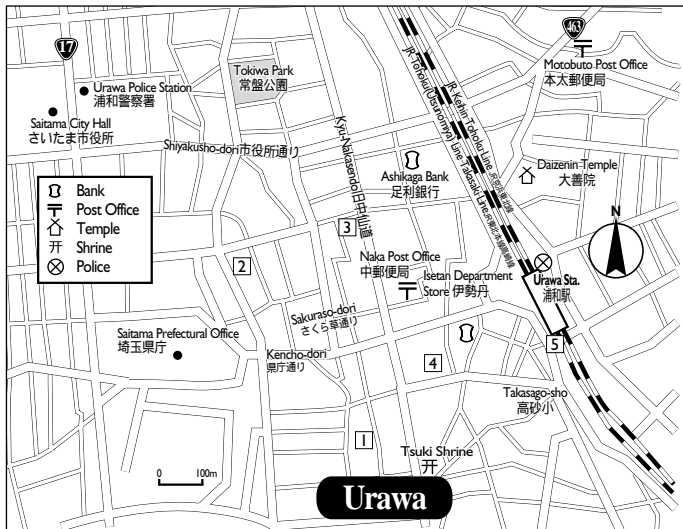
⑧ **Omiya Bonsai Village** (大宮盆栽村) Following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, groups of Bonsai gardeners moved to Omiya from Tokyo and established Bonsai Village. There are 9 Bonsai nurseries most of which are open from 9 am to 5pm. Closed on Thursday. A 45-min. ride from Shinjuku Sta. on JR Saikyo Line or a 45-min. ride from Tokyo Sta. on JR Keihin Tohoku Line to Omiya Sta., and change to Tobu Noda Line to Omiya-Koen Sta. (two stops from Omiya Station.)

Traffic Network

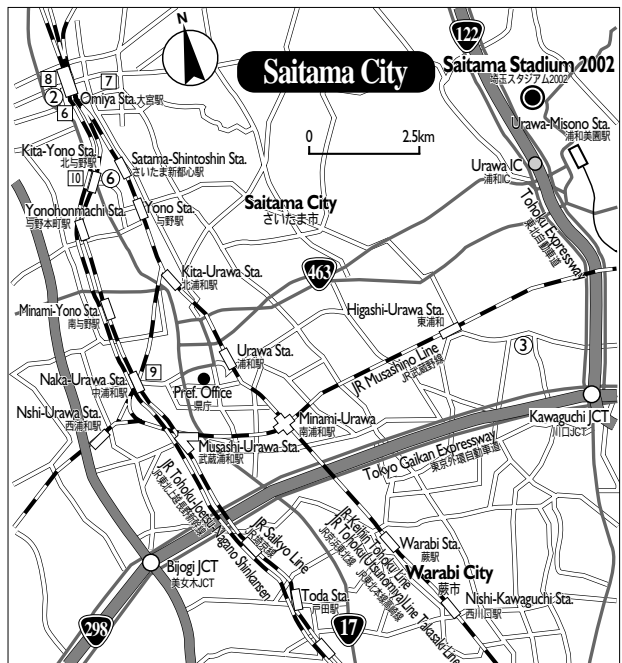




① - ⑧ correspond to those on page 2/4. ⑪ - ⑫ correspond to those on the accommodations list.



①-⑤ correspond to those in the above accommodations list.



②, ③, ⑥, correspond to those on page 2/4. ⑥-⑩ correspond to those in the above accommodations list.

Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
Saitama City:			Kawaguchi City:		
① Ryokan Ikeda (R)	(048)829-2881	¥¥	①① Marks Inn Nishi Kawaguchi (BH)	(048)254-2400	¥
② Urawa Tobu Hotel (H)	(048)825-4711	¥¥¥	Warabi City:		
③ Urawa Royal Pines Hotel (H)	(048)827-1111	¥¥¥	①② E-hotel Warabi (BH)	(048)432-6080	¥
④ Urawa Washington Hotel (BH)	(048)825-4001	¥¥¥	Kawagoe City:		
⑤ Hotel Metz Urawa (BH)	(048)826-0011	¥¥	Kawagoe Tobu Hotel (BH)	(0492)25-0111	¥
⑥ Palace Hotel Omiya (H)	(048)647-3300	¥¥¥	Kawagoe Prince Hotel (H)	(0492)27-1111	¥¥¥
⑦ Pioland Hotel Honkan (BH)	(048)648-0010	¥	Tokorozawa City:		
⑧ Marroad Inn Omiya (BH)	(048)645-5111	¥	Chugoku Kappo (Chinese cuisine)	(042)925-7111	¥¥¥
⑨ Plaza Hotel Urawa (BH)	(048)863-5111	¥	Ryokan Kikusuitei (R)		
⑩ Hotel Arusa Shimizuen (BH)	(048)855-2222	¥			

Remarks:

① - ⑤ correspond to those on the map of Urawa, and ⑥ - ⑩ to those on the map of Saitama City.

① - ② correspond to those on the map of Saitama.

H = Hotel Rate for a twin room.

R = Ryokan Rate per person

BH = Business Hotel Rate per person

¥¥¥ more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ 8,001 yen - 15,000 yen

¥ 8,000 yen or less

TOURIST INFORMATION

(Visit Japan Information Network)

Urawa Tourist Information Center:
 In front of West exit of JR Urawa Station, 1-16-20, Takasago,
 Urawa-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Pref. Tel.(048)824-0333
 10:00 -18:30; Closed on Dec.29 - Jan.3

Kita-Urawa Tourist Information Center:
 In front of East exit of JR Kitaurawa Station, 3-3-1, Kitaurawa,
 Urawa-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Pref. Tel.(048)834-6166
 10:00 -18:30; Closed on Dec.29 - Jan.3

Saitama Shintoshin Tourist Information Center:
 Tozai-jiyuu Street of Saitama-Shintoshin-Station, 2, Kamiochiai,
 Cyuou-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Pref. Tel.(048)600-0070
 10:00 -18:30; Closed on Dec.29 - Jan.3

Omiya Station Tourist Information Center:
 Omiya Station, 630, Nishikicyo, Omiya-ku, Saitama City, Saitama
 Pref. Tel.(048)644-1144
 10:00 -18:30; Closed on Dec.29 - Jan.3

Kawagoe City Tourist Information Office:
 24-9, Wakitamachi, Kawagoe City, Saitama Pref.
 9:00 -16:30; Tel.(049)222-5556

Welcome Inn Reservation Center (WIRC) is here to help you book economical accommodations at participating inns throughout the country. Our participating establishments, called "Welcome Inns", comprise a range of accommodations from hotels, business hotels, Ryokan, minshuku, pensions and Shukubo (temple lodgings) to youth hostels. Most of them have guest rooms at rates which do not exceed ¥8,000 yen per night (excluding tax and service charges) for a single room.

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 Application deadline - generally 5 days ahead of your check-in date

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 To take advantage of our service, you must appear in person at any of the Welcome Inn reservation counters located at the Tourist Information Centers (at Narita International Airport and Kansai International Airport) and Kyoto Tourist Information (on the 9th Fl. of JR Kyoto Sta. Bldg.).

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 c/o International Tourism Center of Japan
 Kinseisha-Kanda Bldg. 3F, 3-15 Kanda-Nishikicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0054
Tel:03-3233-3303 Fax:03-3233-3305

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of July 2006, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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