

2026

Sakurai

Step into ancient Japan

ENGLISH



Welcome to ancient Japan

Sakurai was the capital of old Japan from approximately the 3rd to the 6th century and is home to many temples and shrines, including Omiwa Shrine, the oldest shrine in Japan. Here, visitors can explore cultural sites with a history that reaches further back than even Kyoto and Nara. So slow down and take a trip back into Japan's ancient days.



Hase Dera Temple

Nestled among the mountains, this awe-inspiring temple is also called the "Flower Temple" for the incredible variety of flowers that bloom there all year round. The temple's magnificent architecture and the stunning view from its mountain heights will take your breath away.
Established in the 7th century / national treasure





Omiwa Jinja Shrine

One of the oldest shrines in Japan. Built in honor of Mt. Miwa, this shrine, which has observed traditional Shinto customs since ancient times, is also well-known as a spiritual power spot center and draws scores of worshippers from all over the country.





Tanzan Jinja Shrine

Located deep in the mountains, this shrine is isolated from the outside world. The name "Tanzan" comes from the many discussions of "Taika Reform" conducted on this mountain, reforms that were a major turning point in Japanese history. The shrine's beautiful fall foliage attracts visitors from all around Japan.

Established in the 8th century



Abe Monjuin Temple

This temple houses a Buddha statue (national treasure) created by the great 11th century sculptor Kaikei. Powerful yet incredibly detailed, the sculpture is popular among visitors.

Established in the 7th century





Yamanobe no Michi (Yamanobe Road)

Japan's oldest road, which connects Nara and Sakurai. Today, it is approximately 16 kilometers long and serves as a hiking trail that takes about 4 hours to complete. The path is dotted with temples, shrines, tombs, Buddha statues, and other relics of historical interest. The subject of much waka poetry, this road still inspires visitors with scenery evocative of days long past.

Shorin-ji Temple

Home of the Eleven-Faced Kannon, a masterpiece of 8th century sculpture (national treasure). The beautiful, dignified figure will lead you to a place of reflection and meditation.

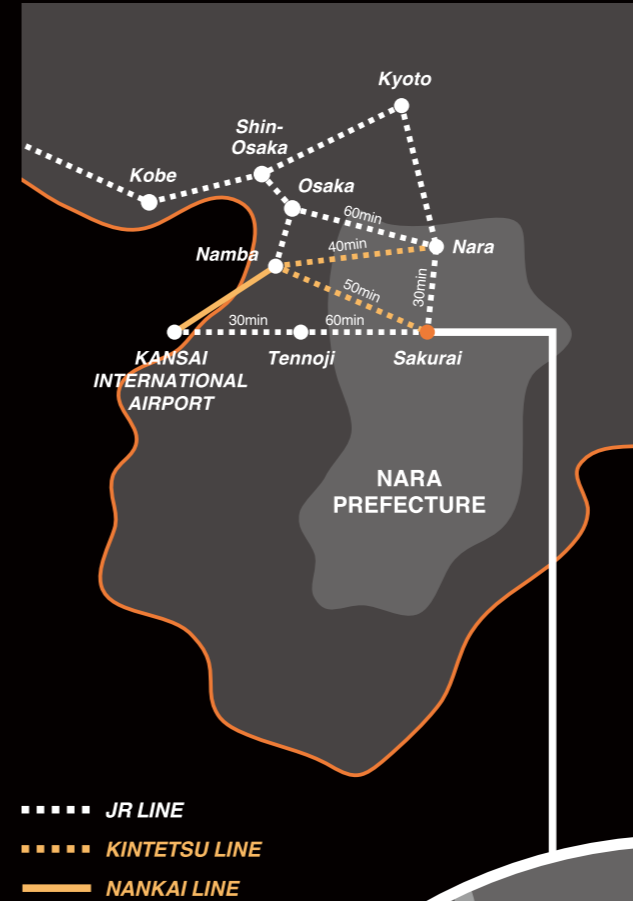
Specialty Products



Miwa Somen Noodles

Miwa somen noodles, which are very thin and made of wheat, are the specialty product of this region. Born in Sakurai, they are still made using traditional methods in the winter.

Access Map



From Kansai International Airport

About 1 hour and 40 minutes from Kansai International Airport(Osaka) to JR/Kintetsu Sakurai station by Limousine Bus. (In case the Limousine bus only goes to Kintetsu Yamato Yagi station, 5 minutes from Yamato Yagi station to Kintetsu Sakurai station by train.)

From Osaka

By train (excluding time required to change trains) 40 minutes from Kintetsu Osaka-Uehommachi or Tsuruhashi by Express (Kyūko) to Sakurai station. 1 hour and 30 minutes from JR Osaka station to JR Sakurai station, changing at Nara.

From Kyoto

By train (excluding time required to change trains) 1 hour and 10 minutes from Kintetsu Kyoto station to Kintetsu Sakurai station by Rapid Express (Tokkyū), changing at Yamato Yagi station. 1 hour and 30 minutes from JR Kyoto station to JR Sakurai station, changing at Nara.

CONTACT

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Sakurai City Map



Japanese Sake

Here, Japanese sake is made from water gathered from Sakurai's rich natural environment. This sake is presented as an offering to the gods at Tanzan Shrine.

