

National Treasures Gold-inlaid Iron Sword

This sword, unearthed in 1968, is the most important historical artifact housed in the Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds. The 115 characters engraved on the sword show the lineage of an ancient powerful family, providing us with valuable clues in understanding the formation of Japan.

A simplified version of the inscription reads as follows:
 "Inscribed in the seventh month of the *shingai* year (471 C.E.). I, Wowake, and my ancestors have served as guards for the royal family for generations. I serve the great King Wakatakeru and have contributed to his rule over the whole land. I hereby engrave this grand sword as a commemoration of our families' distinguished achievements."

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Back Front



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Inariyama Burial Mound



Futagoyama Burial Mound



Shogunoyama Burial Mound



Maruhakayama Burial Mound

National Historic Site The Sakitama Burial Mounds

The Sakitama Burial Mounds, also known as the Sakitama Kofun Cluster, are located in Sakitama, Gyoda City and are also the origin of Saitama Prefecture's name. The nine burial mounds in the kofun cluster were built between the mid-5th century and the early 7th century and are one of the foremost examples of Japanese burial mounds. Designated as a national historic site in 1983, the Sakitama Burial Mounds are currently preserved and maintained by Saitama Prefecture.

The excavation and research of the Inariyama Burial Mound started in 1968, and many artifacts, such as a gold-inlaid iron sword, metal belt decorations, a comma-shaped bead called a *magatama*, and a mirror, were excavated. All of these artifacts were designated as national treasures in 1983 and are on display at the Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds. A reconstruction of the burial area where these artifacts were found lies on top of the burial mound. It is estimated that this burial mound was originally built in the second half of the 5th century.

The Futagoyama Burial Mound is the biggest keyhole-shaped burial mound in Musashi Province, which includes current Saitama, Tokyo, and a part of Kanagawa. It is estimated that this burial mound was made in the late 5th century.

The Maruhakayama Burial Mound is the biggest circular burial mound in Japan. Based on unearthed Haniwa (a general term for unglazed earthenware artifacts), it is estimated that this burial mound was made in the first half of the 6th century. It is said that the road leading from this mound to the parking lot was built on the ruins of a dike (Ishida Dike) that was created to attack and flood nearby Oshi Castle during the Sengoku Period (circa 1460s-1603 C.E.).

The Shogunoyama Burial Mound was excavated in 1984 by local residents. Many artifacts used in funerals, such as horse armor and equipment, metal flag holders, bronze bowls, and a ring-pommel sword, were unearthed from the corridor-shaped stone chamber within the burial mound. After the burial mound and the surrounding dike were restored, the Shogunoyama Burial Mound Exhibit Hall was built into the mound so that visitors could see directly into the stone chamber, the first such building in Japan. Restored Haniwa are placed on top of the mound. It is estimated that this burial mound was made in the second half of the 6th century.



Shogunyama Burial Mound Exhibit Hall, Burial Chamber Exhibit



Haniwa Warriors Head



Bell-Shaped Cylindrical Haniwa



House-Shaped Haniwa



Water Bird-Shaped Haniwa



Women-Shaped Haniwa



Human-Shaped Haniwa with Shield



Haniwa Boy Playing a Harp

Haniwa in the Sakitama Burial Mounds

Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds

Admission Guide

Admission Fee

	Individuals	Groups (for groups of 20 or more)
Elementary and Junior High School Students	Free	Free
High School and Other Students	¥ 100	¥ 60/person
General	¥ 200	¥ 120/person

Annual Admission Pass

This includes the admission for the Historical Museum of Ranzan.

General	¥ 1,200
High School and Other Students	¥ 600

Hours of Operation

9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Visitors are admitted until 4:00 PM)

Days Closed

• Every Monday

(Open on National Holidays; Saitama Prefectural Citizens' Day, November 14; and from April 29 to May 5, even if any of these dates falls on a Monday.)

• From December 29 to January 3

Directions

By Train/Bus

■ From JR Takasaki Line Fukiage Station.

Take the Asahi bus bound for Gyoda Orikaeshijo, General Education Center, and Gyoda Kogyo Danchi via Sama ("Sama Keiyu, Gyoda Orikaeshijo, Sogo Kyoiku Center, Gyoda Kogyo Danchi Yuki").

Get off at the "Sangyo Doro" stop and walk for 15 min.

■ From JR Takasaki Line Gyoda Station.

Take the City Loop Bus Tourist Destinations Course from the "JR Gyoda Station" stop.

Get off at the "Sakitama Kofun Koen Mae" stop and walk for 2 min.

■ From Chichibu Railway Gyodashi Station

Take the Asahi bus bound for Fukiage Station via Sama from the "Shinmachi 1-chome" stop. Get off at the "Sangyo Doro" stop and walk for 15 min.

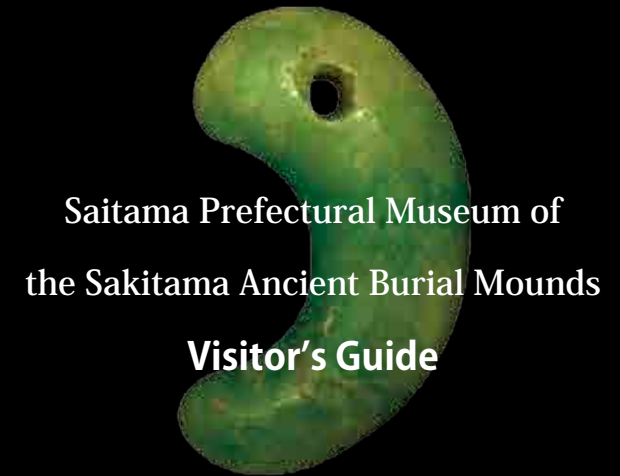
By Car

■ Tohoku Expressway

Approx. 17 km from Kazo IC
Approx. 15 km from Hanyu IC

■ Kan-Etu Expressway
Approx. 18 km from Higashi matuyama IC
Approx. 25 km from Hanazono IC

■ Ken-O Expressway
Approx. 17 km from Okegawa-Kano IC



Saitama Prefectural Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds

Visitor's Guide

Saitama Prefectural Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds

4834 Sakitama, Gyoda City, Saitama 361-0025

TEL 048-559-1111 FAX 048-559-1112

URL <http://www.sakitama-muse.spec.ed.jp/>



Shogunyama Burial Mound Exhibit Hall