

## History of Koshigaya City

Koshigaya had commercially developed and flourished as the 3rd post town along Nikko-Kaido Road. As called "Riverside Koshigaya", many rivers and irrigations, such as Moto-Arakawa River and Kasai Irrigation Canal, run through the city. Agriculture prospered and mainly rice and vegetables have been growing.

Toward modern times, Tobu Skytree Line was opened in 1899 and the city was modernized. In 1954, 2 towns and 8 villages merged together and became "Koshigaya Town". In the next year, a part of Soka City joined and it became one city as municipality in 1958.

In 1962, Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line was connected to Tobu Skytree Line and it triggered the population to grow greatly. Koshigaya City became the bedroom suburbs of the capital. Later, JR Musashino Line was opened, and the quadruple track railway was completed along Tobu Skytree Line. With the development of infrastructure such as road network, and public facilities such as libraries and community centers, Koshigaya City has been growing as the core city of southeast Saitama.

In 2008, the construction of Koshigaya Laketown was completed around a large reservoir. It is a high quality residential area and has one of the largest shopping malls in Japan. In the next year, Koshigaya City Municipal Ordinance of Autonomy Regulations was enacted and it focused on citizen participation and collaboration, as the norm of city planning.

Currently, based on the 4th Koshigaya City Comprehensive Development Plan which started in 2011, the city has been proceeding to develop communities toward the future vision of city: "safe, secure, and blessed with water and greenery" through citizen participation and collaboration. Koshigaya City celebrates the 60th anniversary of its municipalization in November 2018.



City Emblem



City Symbol



City Tree: Zelkova



City Flower: Chrysanthemum



City Bird: Eurasian Collared Dove

City Official Website: <http://www.city.koshigaya.saitama.jp/>

\*For smartphone: <http://www.city.koshigaya.saitama.jp/smph/>



## Koshigaya Guide Map

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## Tourism & Local Products Center GAAYAchan no KURAYASHIKI

D-7



Located at the east exit of Koshigaya Station, which had been the entrance of old post town "Koshigaya-Juku" along Nikko-Kaido Road, this facility is open to provide information on new attractions of Koshigaya City in 2017.

With the image of "Kura (warehouse)" in the Edo Period, it appeals the attractions of Koshigaya in and out based on the concepts: "Eating in Koshigaya", "Bringing Home Koshigaya's Goods", "Experiencing in Koshigaya" and "Introducing Koshigaya".

Some popular goods produced in Tokushima City, with which Koshigaya has association through Awa-Odori, and in the cooperative cities along Nikko-Kaido Road are also sold. In this way, tourism public relations are broadly conducted.

Location: 505-2 Yayoicho  
(beneath the elevated railway on the northern side of Koshigaya Station east exit)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm  
•Sales Corner: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm  
•Kura Cafe: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm  
•Railroad Diorama Corner: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
•Hands-on Experience Corner: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Closed: Twice a month and Yearend & New year holidays  
Inquiries: GAAYAchan no KURAYASHIKI TEL 048-940-5550



### Eating in Koshigaya

Koshigaya's local foods are offered such as the frozen sweets "Ichigo-Yuki", made with the strawberries grown in Koshigaya, and the French fries "Kurayashiki-no-Long Potato".



### Ichigo-Yuki

The whole strawberries in the best season are frozen and shaved. Because of not using ice, the first mouthful tastes very fresh like snow and it spreads moderately sweetly in your mouth. Enjoy tasting the original strawberries first, with condensed cream next, and with special strawberry sauce finally.



### Experiencing in Koshigaya

The experiences of baking rice crackers and painting Daruma dolls are offered. The demonstration sale of local excellent products is also performed.  
\*Irregularly held. For detail, contact below:  
GAAYAchan no KURAYASHIKI (TEL 048-940-5550).



### Introducing Koshigaya

A large railroad diorama introduces the attractions of Koshigaya, such as "Minami-Koshigaya Awa-Odori" Dance Festival, Fireworks Festival, Rice Field Arts, etc. The N gauge model railway gives a grand tour between Asakusa and Nikko & Kinugawa.



### Bringing Home Koshigaya's Goods

Various products are sold such as Koshigaya's Brand Qualified Products and the GAAYAchan's goods. The popular goods produced in Tokushima City, with which Koshigaya has association through Awa-Odori dance, and the cooperative cities along Nikko-Kaido road are also sold.



## SPECIAL LOCAL PRODUCTS

### Arrowhead "Kuwai"

"Kuwai" is arrowhead, a perennial plant of Alismataceae. It is believed that Kuwai brings happiness because of sprouting. Therefore, it is served as one of New Year dishes. Koshigaya City is one of the leading areas in Japan, where Kuwai is produced; it is cultivated in Ogishima District and Dewa District.



### Green Onion "Koshigaya-Negi"

"Koshigaya-Negi" (green onion) has a long white body & a nicely toned body. This green onion does not fall apart while it is boiled for cooking. Its taste is sweet & spicy, with the exquisite balance. Some of Koshigaya-Negi are shipped to a green onion expert market and cooked at fine dining restaurants in such areas as Tokyo, as the nationwide famous "Senju-Negi".



## TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS

In Koshigaya which had developed as Shukuba-Machi (Post Town), various handicrafts have been produced. The handicrafts became famous in Edo and gradually they were recognized all over the country. Even after time passed, the traditional skill of handicrafts has been succeeded into the next generation and beyond. The handicrafts are still loved as special local products of Koshigaya.

### Koshigaya Daruma Doll



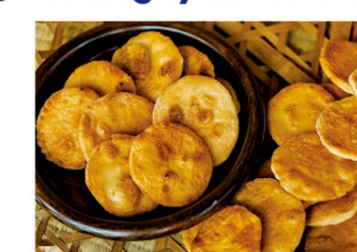
In the middle of Edo Period, "Koshigaya Daruma" dolls originated from a tumbler doll "Okiagari-Koboshi", on which Bodhidharma sitting in meditation was painted. Koshigaya Daruma has the special features: white skin, long nose and happy fullness body. Recently, Koshigaya Daruma dolls are shipped to all over Japan as memorial goods, good-luck charms, etc. The most part of "Koshigaya Daruma" is handcrafted; its mustache "hige", which is the most important part, is also drawn by hand.

### Koshigaya Hina Doll & Armor



In the middle of Edo Period, "Koshigaya Hina" dolls originated from the doll-making skills, which Mr. Soemon Aida learned at a doll shop "Jikkendana" in Edo and passed on to Koshigaya. Since then, Koshigaya has been keeping up the traditional skills for nearly 230 years. Koshigaya Hina dolls have the elegant & graceful facial feature. All parts of the doll such as the body, hands and feet are produced in Koshigaya City. Also, "Koshigaya Armor" is popular with people since it is the reproductions of the ones which Samurai had been putting on.

### Koshigaya's Homemade Senbei



The rice cracker "Koshigaya Teyaki Senbei" was sold at a tea house on Oshu-Kaido Road in Edo Period and it gradually became popular as one of Koshigaya's special products. Koshigaya has been famous for producing the high-quality rice and called "Rice Granary for Edo"; that is why the tasty "senbei" was produced in Koshigaya. The rice crackers are made by kneading well-examined rice well, brushing them with the producer's specially-made soy sauce on them, and baking one by one.

### Paulownia Box "Koshigaya Kiribako"



In Edo Period, the popular novelist Mr. Sanba Shikitei used the paulownia box "Koshigaya Kiribako" as the container for the lotion "Edo Water" and it gained a good reputation. Currently, Koshigaya Kiribako has been reevaluated for its excellent material of moisture-proof, high-class design, enough storage function, and stable handicraft. It is highly evaluated as one of essential goods for hanging scroll, chinaware, etc.

## TRADITIONAL EVENTS

### "Shishi-Mai" Performance in Shimomakuri



"Shimomakuri Shishi-Mai" was introduced from Kyoto in 1594 and it was designated as an intangible cultural asset of Saitama Prefecture in 1979. The traditional lion dance "Shishi-Mai" is performed on the 3rd Sunday in July every year. After being dedicated to a shrine, the parade of Shishi-Mai takes around from house to house in the neighborhood until late at night with wishes for the safety of family and good harvest.

### Farming Event "Mushi-Oi" in Kita-Kawasaki



The "Mushi-Oi" is held around Kita-Kawasaki District on July 24th every year and it has a long history since Edo Period. Mushi-Oi was designated as an intangible cultural asset of Saitama Prefecture in 2008. In this event, people pray for a good harvest by driving away harmful insects while marching through the footpaths.

### Plum Blossoms Festival C-5



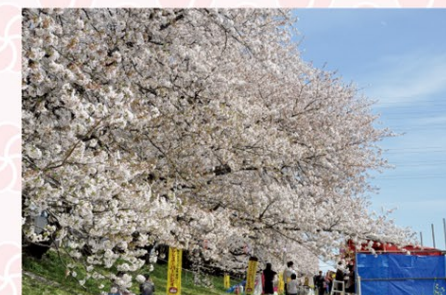
Koshigaya Bairin (plum-grove) Park has an area of 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> with 40 kinds & 300 plum trees planted. This park has been familiar to the community and it is the oasis for the people.

### Wisteria Festival D-6



Japanese wisteria trees located in Koshigaya-Hisaizu Shrine are about 250 years old. The light purple flowers hang down from a height of 1 meter.

### Cherry Blossoms Festival C-6



Cherry blossom trees along Moto-Arakawa River in Kita-Koshigaya range over 2 kilometers from Kita-Koshigaya Daigo Park to Osawa Bridge. They provide a spectacular view when about 350 cherry trees "Someiyoshino" are in full bloom. The row of cherry blossom trees is decorated with paper lanterns and many people visit here.

### Rice Field Art F-6



The rice field art "Tanbo Art" is a large picture created with differently colored-old rice plant in a huge rice field. The big-scale picture, which is visible from the First Plant of Higashi-Saitama Resources and Environment Association (REUSE), has the best view from early July to August every year.



### Koshigaya Fireworks Festival D-7

As many as 5,000 fireworks are magnificently launched and decorate the summer night sky.



### Minami-Koshigaya Awa-Odori Dance Festival D-8

The dance festival "Minami-Koshigaya Awa-Odori" is held for two consecutive days in late August. The vicinity of Minami-Koshigaya Station & Shin-Koshigaya Station is filled with the dancers. They demonstrate the outcome of their continuous efforts. Their powerful-male dancing and fascinating-female dancing attract the audience.

## THE FOUR SEASONS OF KOSHIGAYA CITY

### Koshigaya Takigi-Noh Performance E-6

## Autumn

"Takigi-Noh" is the torchlight performance on the Noh stage surrounded with firewood. Takigi-Noh performance is held in September every year in Koshigaya and this stage is the only outdoor Noh theater in Saitama Prefecture. In the fantastical mood, people can enjoy watching the Noh performance by highly skilled actors.



### Koshigaya Citizen Festival D-7



### Koshigaya Industry Festival E-6



This event is annually held in General Gymnasium by the collaboration of commercial, industrial and agricultural groups for the purpose of bringing deep understanding of Koshigaya City's industry to citizens through communication with them.

## Winter

### Engi-Ichi Market D-6

The "Engi-Ichi" market for believing in good omens is held in the precincts of "Koshigaya-Hisaizu Shrine". As good luck charms, the decorated rakes "Kumade" are sold at the street booths and the brisk sounds of hand-clapping are heard resonantly.



### Koshigaya Ichigo Town F-6



It is expansive agricultural farm of about 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> growing area, which is the largest class in Kanto area! Fresh and fully-ripe strawberries can be picked up and immediately tasted there. With elevated cultivated devices and less agricultural chemicals, the strawberries are cultivated in a clean environment. Children can have the fully-ripe and tasty strawberries safely.

### New Year Marathon D-7



This marathon event is held every New Year. Participants enjoy running with their best wishes for new year.

# KOSHIGAYA GUIDE MAP



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GAAYA

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