

## FESTIVALS IN SAKAIDE

### SAKAIDE OHASHI FESTIVAL

Sakaide Ohashi Festival has been held every August since 1966 where all the citizens participate in this event. Starting with the Seto Ohashi Parade, men and women of all ages passionately dance, and then a fireworks display is held to bright up the summer night. More than 10 Taikodai drum floats from each neighborhood gather around the Sakaide Station Square to demonstrate the “Kakikurabe” lifting competition and the festival reaches its climax. About 150 citizens lift up the more-than-2-ton Taikodai and fascinate the spectators.



### HIKARI (LIGHTS) FESTIVAL

Residents of Sakaide, business leaders, and the municipal government cooperate to hold this event every December at Hanamizuki Square and Civic Square at the north exit of the Sakaide Station. With Christmas lights illuminating the winter town, the Christmas event is a must to see.



### TENGU FESTIVAL

In Sakaide, the legends of Tengu, a supernatural flying goblin, remain to this day. Saganbo at Mt. Shiramine is one of the eight Tengus in Japan and he often appears in the tales such as “*Hogen Monogatari (The Tale of Hogen)*,” “*Genpeiseisuiki (The Rise and Fall Record of the Genji and Heike Clans)*,” “*Taiheiki (The Record of the Great Peace)*,” “*Ugetu Monogatari (Tales of Moonlight and Rain)*.” In order to recognize and promote the cultural assets associated with these Tengu legends, the Tengu Festival is held annually in February. Many events in the festival such as the Tengu Walk, the Tengu Marathon, and the Tengu Bazaar are destinations of many people from both within and outside of Kagawa Prefecture.



## LOCAL SPECIALTIES

### SAKAIDE THREE KINTOKI

The local specialties of Sakaide include “Kintoki Imo sweet potatoes,” “Kintoki Ninjin carrots,” and “Kintoki Mikan mandarin oranges,” and all of these are collectively called “Sakaide Three Kintoki.” Kintoki means red and it is popular because of its high sugar content and rich nutrition as well as its vivid color. Moreover, the city of Sakaide has created a certifying system for the products which use the city’s local specialties such as Three Kintoki and salt or which have a relation to Sakaide. This system has recognized and many products have come into the world as “Sakaide Brand” trademark.



### SANUKI UDON NOODLES

Kagawa Prefecture is known as the “Udon Ken” or Udon Prefecture. There are about 700 udon restaurants in Kagawa, and a population of only 980 thousand people. The recipe for udon, along with wheat, is said to have been brought to Kagawa from the Tang Dynasty of China, by Kobo Daishi, a Buddhist monk also known as Kukai. The production of wheat increased under the local climate, which is suitable for growing wheat. Also, Kagawa boasted quality dried baby sardines, the soy-sauce production, and the salt production from the old days. It was natural that Sanuki udon became the inevitable “comfort food” of people of Kagawa Prefecture. The hallmarks of Sanuki udon are its inexpensive prices and its firm and chewy texture which other kinds of udon do not have. Many people rush to Kagawa, looking for udon restaurants on pilgrimage from all over the country on weekends.

The wheat for making udon around Kagawa is now imported from Australia, and the Port of Sakaide handles imports to Shikoku. Australian wheat accounts for 100% of the wheat imported through the Port of Sakaide.

### SAKAIDE’S LOCAL MASCOT “SAKAIDE-MARO”

In 2014, Sakaide certified its local mascot (known as yuru-kyara) “Sakaide-marō,” which was elected by residents’ vote, aiming for promoting the city’s allure and improving its image. Sakaide-marō was designed after the patron of scholarship, Sugawara Michizane, who was sent to Sakaide as the government officer when there was the government of Sanuki Province in Sakaide. He holds a Kintoki Imo sweet potato and a Kintoki Ninjin carrot in his hands and places a Kintoki Mikan mandarin orange on his head.



# Sakaide

## Visitors Map

### ABOUT SAKAIDE CITY

Area: 92.46k m<sup>2</sup> (35.699 sq. mi)

Population: 52,919 (as of November 2015)

Sakaide City is located in the central part of Kagawa Prefecture, west of Takamatsu City, which is the prefectural capital. In the north, Sakaide faces the Seto Inland Sea, which boasts its beautiful scattering of islands. Since the Seto Ohashi Bridge was built in 1988, the city has been known as the gateway of Shikoku, linking the island to the mainland of Honshu. Sakaide historically flourished as a city of numerous salt fields and a salt shipping port. The Port of Sakaide was designated as a Major Port in 1951 and as a Specially Designated Major Port by the nation in the 2010 fiscal year. The coastal industrial region boasts the largest scale in the prefecture.



### SAKAIDE CITY EMBLEM

The city emblem was created at the same time that the City of Sakaide was established in July, 1942. The emblem is patterned after a Chinese character (出) in Sakaide (坂出), and it depicts two seagulls soaring high in the air. It symbolizes the development and prosperity of the port city, Sakaide.



### SAKAIDE CITY TREE AND FLOWERS

City Tree: Coral Tree

City Flower: Cherry Blossom and Cosmos Flowers

