

INFORMATION

Location

Lat. 37°54'~38°04' N
Long. 140°41' ~140°51' E
Located in Sennan District of Miyagi Prefecture, Tohoku region
Approx. 300km (186 miles) north of Tokyo
Approx. 40 km (25 miles) south of Sendai, the prefecture's capital
13.3 meters (43.8 feet) above sea level (at City Hall)

Area

147.53 sq. km. (56.96 sq. miles)
15.15km (9.41 miles) Width E-W
18.35km (11.4 miles) Length N-S

Topography

The City Kakuda lies in the Igu valley which is nestled between the Zao and the Abukuma Mountain Ranges. The gentle slopes are ideal for cultivating fruit and the base of the valley is a flat plain littered with rice paddies. The Abukuma River meanders through Kakuda from the southwest to the northeast towards the Pacific Ocean and is fed by several smaller streams. The network makes the plain one of the richest rice producing areas in Miyagi Prefecture. Kakuda is well-known for its 'hitomebore' and 'sasanishiki' strains of rice.

Climate

Kakuda's climate is temperate. Summers are typically very hot and humid and feature a short rainy season during the months of June and July. Winter is cold with a moderate amount of snowfall. The spring and fall months are typified by normally clear skies.

The climate averages in 2013 were as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Average temperature | 12.2°C (53.9F) |
| Annual max temperature | 36.3°C (97.3F) |
| Annual min temperature | -15.7°C (3.7F) |
| Annual rainfall | 1,040.5mm |

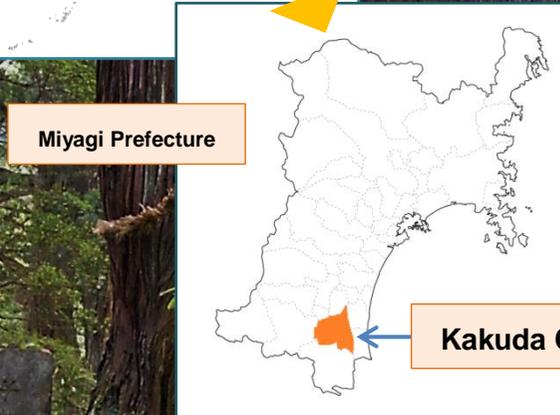
Population

30,392 as of January 31, 2016

History

In 1598 the Ishikawa Clan took over the area surrounding encompassing Kakuda and built a castle town from which the streets of modern-day Kakuda sprang. The castle was located on the hill where Kakuda High School currently rests. Shipping along the Abukuma River flourished and at the beginning of the Meiji Era in 1868 it was known as the hub of commerce for the south area of Sendai. However, with the advent of the railway, which initially bypassed Kakuda, the area's trading activities gave way to agriculture.

In 1889, a law governing municipal organization went into effect and the present area of Kakuda City was organized into Kakuda Town and six villages: Edano, Fujio, Higashine, Sakura, Kitago, and Nishine. Later, in October 1954, a new law was enacted to merge all seven areas, and the Town of Kakuda was created. The town was formally made a city in October 1958. Since then it has built on its agricultural and metropolitan foundations.



Miyagi Prefecture

Kakuda City

KAKUDA

角田

ACCESS

By train : 50 minutes from Sendai
hour from Fukushima

By car : 45 minutes from Sendai Airport
25 minutes from Shiroishi Zao Station
20 minutes from Yamamoto IC

<http://www.city.kakuda.miyagi.jp/>

KAKUDA CITY MIYAGI PREF.



春 SPRING

As the cold of winter abates, signs of the long-awaited spring begin to appear in Kakuda. Around the beginning of April, trees come into full bloom with apricot and cherry blossoms. Along the banks of the Abukuma River, people join in the yellow rape flower blossom festival, and in parks everywhere people come out to view the beautiful cherry blossoms.

In the surrounding mountains, adorned with fresh greenery, spring is the time to go hiking and to gather wild vegetables.



AUTUMN 秋

Autumn is the time for enjoying picking 'nashi' (Japanese pears) and grapes in the orchards on the outskirts of the city. It is also the season for harvesting the rice.

At the beginning of November the annual Riverside Marathon attracts many runners to the banks of the Abukuma River.

By mid-November the nearby mountains are draped in the reds and yellows of autumn.



Four Seasons 四季 in Kakuda 角田の四季

夏 SUMMER



In summer the hills of Kakuda turn a deep green. Summer is also the season of festivals. The beginning of August each year is marked by the Kanadzu Tanabata Festival. It is a traditional festival that continued since the Edo Era. For years and years the lanterns were carried through the festival by schoolboys, now due to a decline in population both boys and girls carry the lanterns.

In mid-August there is the Kakuda Furusato (hometown) Festival, the main event of the year. On the day of the festival, Kakuda residents parade through the center of the city wearing their summer kimonos (yukata). Festivals in Kakuda maintain an authentic, non-commercialized feel that set them apart from larger and more well-known festivals in Sendai and elsewhere.

WINTER 冬

With the arrival of winter, snow periodically carpets the homes and fields of Kakuda. Hundreds of swans fly in from Siberia to visit as seasonal residents of the Teshiroginuma Pond and Uchimachiko Lake.

On January 14th, the Dontosai Festival livens up the city. Young people dressed as heroes march to five shrines around the city praying for safety at home, for protection from sickness and disasters, and for prosperous business in the new year. It is notable that the only clothing worn by participants is loincloths.



THE INDUSTRIES OF KAKUDA

Agriculture

Agriculture is the key industry of Kakuda City. The chief products are rice, vegetables, meat, and fruit. Kakuda is the prefecture's top producer of rice and pears. Recently Kakuda's agriculture industry has been pioneering new supply-chain strategies to reduce usage of agricultural chemicals and provide direct-to-consumer produce delivery services. Continuing efforts are made to improve quality and efficiency and reduce ecological impact; studies are carried out consistently with the future of agriculture in mind.

Manufacturing

Since the 1970s Kakuda has actively encouraged companies to expand manufacturing of machinery, automobile parts, and textiles into the area. In 2010, 61 companies employing 6,259 people shipped goods worth approximately 183.6 billion yen.

Commerce

In 2007, Kakuda City had 381 stores employing 2,112 staff and bringing in an annual sales average of about 33.4 billion yen. The city of Kakuda is working to arrange thoroughfares and transportation facilities that will ensure a pleasant, safe, and attractive shopping environment and will meet the diverse needs of consumers.

EDUCATION IN KAKUDA

Kakuda City provides the following educational facilities :

| Grade Level | Number of Facilities | Number of Students* |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Kindergarten | 5 (2 city, 3 private) | 329 |
| Elementary | 8 (city) | 1,573 |
| Junior High | 3 (city) | 826 |
| Senior High | 1 (prefectural) | 523 |
| Schools for Handicapped | 1 (prefectural) | 102 |

*as reported on 5/1/2015

GOVERNMENT

The city's mayor and council members are elected for four-year terms. The City Council has 2-3 week sessions four times each year to discuss the important issues facing Kakuda City.