



Walking With Rugby Gifu Prefecture Seki City

RUGBY×SEKI



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Greetings

Seki City Mayor, Ozeki Kenji



Located close to the center of Japan Seki City was born of plentiful mountains and crystal clear rivers. It is a town where culture and commerce thrive and where there remains the aroma of history. On the beautiful Nagara River the National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Treasure of Ukai Cormorant fishing is performed. From the Kamakura era the traditions of sword smiths continue and these skills are being transformed to make Seki a production center or cutlery on the world stage.

Seki City is a town that is closely familiar with rugby. The beginnings of rugby in Seki was in Seki Commercial and Technical Senior High School (Seki Technical Senior High School at the time) with the inaugural rugby club and continued when Yamaguchi Masaaki was hired as coach and in year 44 of the Showa era (1969) led the team to their first National High School Rugby-Football Tournament. Since then the team has been a regular participant in the tournament. Furthermore the Seki City Rugby-Football Association was established, social club teams and junior high school teams have been started along with a rugby school for elementary school students and tag rugby in elementary schools.

Also every year we hold our Rugby-Football Festival in which there are rugby classes and strong teams from outside the prefecture come for matches. Many of our citizens watch these matches and enjoy the beauty of rugby.

In the 2015 World Cup in England Tournament, the Japanese team scored a victory over South Africa and inspired the nation. In 2019 the first World Cup to be held in Asia will take place in Japan. In a city that Japanese culture raised, where rugby thrives, it would be an honor for Seki to be able to be of assistance.



Inviting 2019 Rugby World Cup Team Camps

[The reason Seki City is inviting team camps]

In the 2012 Gifu Seiryu National Sports Tournaments the Boy's Youth Rugby-Football Competition was held at Green Field Nakaïke. With the booming cheers from the crowd, teams from around the country played their hearts out. With the facilities, accommodation, and transportation and in other areas of preparation we conducted a successful Gifu Seiryu National Sports Tournament.

The tournament allowed people of Seki City to witness the top level of rugby in Japan and furthered our deep interest.

The people of Seki wish for more than to just feel a level of emotion so moving that we almost can't imagine. We wish to help in the production of such an event! By doing this, our citizens' interest in rugby will grow and we can further develop as "Rugby Town Seki".

Thus we will promote and develop rugby in the Gifu and Tokai regions.



[The Organizing Committee's message to World Cup Ltd]

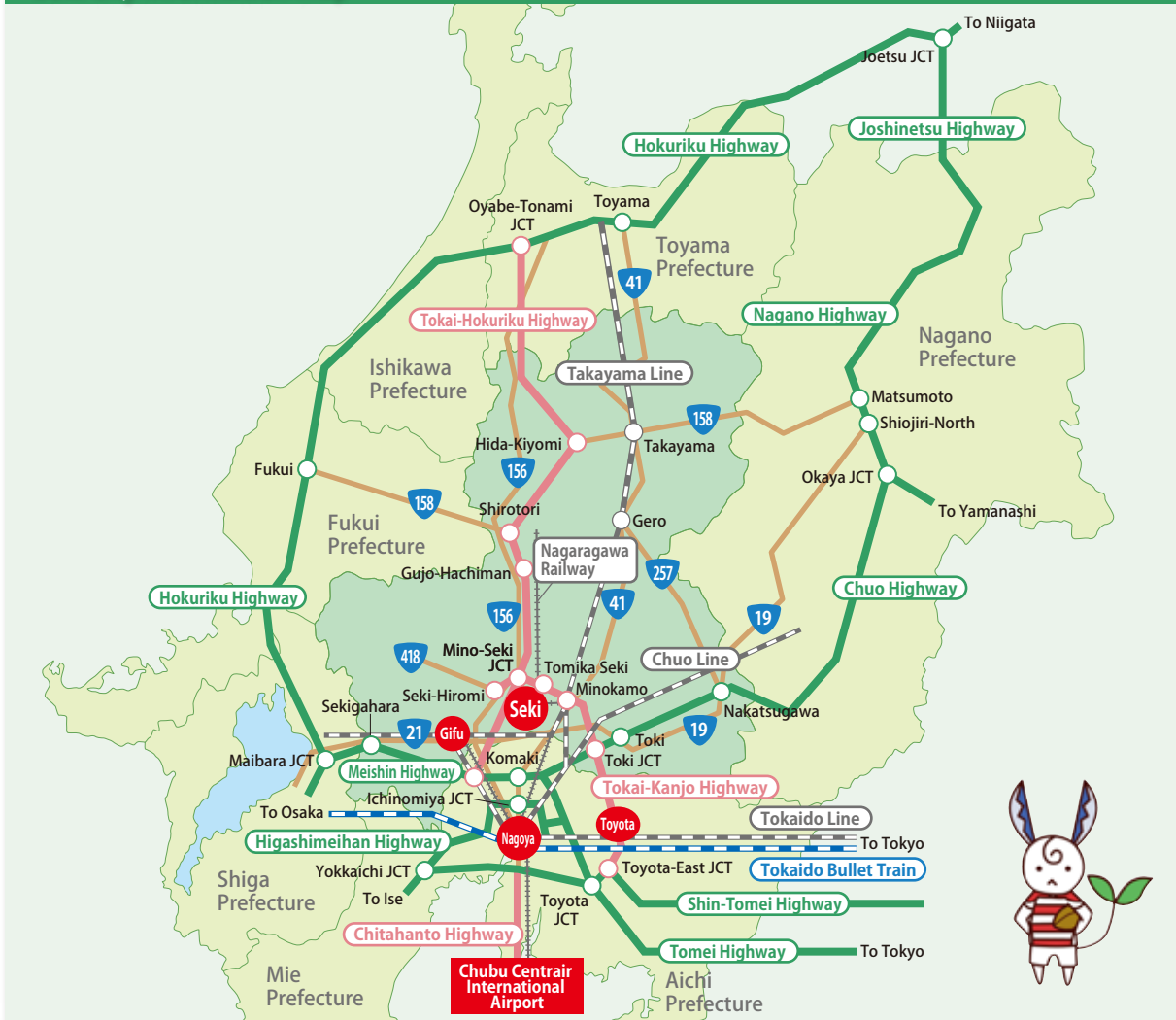
At present in Seki City, in addition to the National Sports Team Camp Invitation Board the citizens are united in preparation.

Located one hour from Toyota Stadium, where the beautiful Nagara River flows through abundant nature, Nakaïke Park, and the Seki City Combined Gymnasium and other facilities are in an energized Seki City.

Furthermore the people of Seki City love rugby. In a hometown environment the people of Seki City will come together to provide the ideal situation so that you can prepare for competition. You can have a stress free camp with the ground training facilities being compact and closely located. With the Combined Hospital (Chuno Welfare Hospital) and the location of governance (Seki City Hall) are located five minutes from the sports grounds you can rest assured in the case of medical or language emergency. We will support you so that you can be in the best condition for competition.



Seki City Information Map



Access to Seki

[Car]

Nagoya	Nagoya Highway Approximately 10 minutes	Ichinomiya IC	Meishin Highway Approximately 5 minutes	Ichinomiya JCT	Tokai-Hokuriku Highway Approximately 30 minutes	Seki IC
Osaka	Meishin Highway Approximately 2 hours					
Tokyo	Tomei Highway Approximately 3 hours 15 minutes	Toyota JCT	Tokai-Kanjo Highway Approximately 30 minutes	Toki JCT	Tokai-Kanjo Highway Approximately 20 minutes	Tomika IC
	Chuo Highway Approximately 2 hours	Okaya JCT	Chuo Highway Approximately 2 hours			
Toyota City			Tokai-Kanjo Highway Approximately 60 minutes			Seki IC
Chubu Centrair International Airport	Chitahanto Highway Approximately 40 minutes	Nagoya	Nagoya Highway-Tokai-Hokuriku Highway Approximately 45 minutes			Seki IC

[Public Transportation]

Nagoya	Highway Bus Nagoya Line 1 hour-1 hour 20 minutes		Gifu Bus Gifu-Seki Line Approximately 50 minutes	Seki City Terminal
	JR Tokaido Line Nagoya Meitetsu Line Approximately 25 minutes	Gifu		
	JR Takayama Line Approximately 25 minutes	Unuma	JR Takayama Line Approximately 15 minutes	Mino-Ota
	Meitetsu Inuyama Line Approximately 30 minutes	Shin-Unuma		
Toyama	JR Takayama Line Approximately 3 hours 15 minutes		Nagara Railway Approximately 20 minutes	Seki

Seki City's Connection with Rugby

Looking back at results and the history of our relationship with rugby.

[The roots of Seki City rugby, Seki Commercial High School]

Rugby-Football was first introduced to Seki City in year 22 of the Showa era (1947). Hattori Takeshi of the inaugural rugby team says this: "I was introduced to rugby by the team's first coach Ota Kazuro. It is a rather aggressive sport but for us, with limitless energy and pimples it was perfect. From our first year to our third year around 20 of the club members were gathered and sorted according to our strength, speed, agility and decision making. In the classroom we were taught tactics on the blackboard in the classroom over and over but we could never get our heads around a sport that we had never seen or even heard of."



[Participating 36 times in the Hanazono National Tournament]



Since then rugby in Seki City has developed in conjunction with the activities of the Seki Commercial and Technical Senior High School Rugby Club. In year 41 of the Showa era (1966) Yamaguchi Masaaki of Nittai University took coaching responsibilities and the team pushed each other in friendly competition, finally achieving their first appearance in the All Japan Tournament in year 44 of the Showa era (1969). Seki City's name has resonated in the All Japan Tournament with 36 appearances, one best four performance and five best eight performances. We have produced three national representatives, one national team selection, one U19 representative, and eleven Japanese high school representatives.

[Seki Prefectural High School Rugby Club inauguration]

In year 42 of the Showa era (1967) the Seki City Rugby –Football Association was formed and has been promoting Rugby. Not only Seki Commercial and Technical Senior High School but also Seki High School in year 51 of the Showa era (1976) started a rugby club and reached the top level of a few well known teams and also produced many players that have gone on to university and social teams.

[All Japan Tag-rugby Tournament victory]

In year 47 of the Showa era (1972) Midorigaoka Junior High School, and in year 63 of the Showa era (1988) Sakuragaoka Junior High School formed rugby clubs. The two schools have continued to improve through friendly competition. At present, the two teams make up the central part of the Prefectural Representative Team and have achieved a best eight placing in the National Tournament and have won the Kansai Championship. Furthermore the Seki Rugby Association realized the importance of developing the junior categories and in year 63 of the Showa era (1988) opened the Seki Rugby School. Many groups have graduated from the school and have continued to play rugby.

In addition, in order to improve the fundamental skills of rugby, from year 16 of the Heisei era (2004) tag rugby has been incorporated in to schools and in the following year a tag rugby competition was held. At this point Sakuragaoka Elementary School (twice) and Asakura Elementary School (twice) have both been to the National Tournament and in March of 2015 Sakuragaoka Elementary School was rewarded with a victory the National Bowl Tournament.



[Social Team Activity]

Seki doesn't have a corporate team but the training of social teams has been achieved. In year 57 of the Showa era (1982) the Seki Cosmos Club was formed and won the Prefectural Tournament 22 years in a row from then. Currently they are playing as the Seki Kingfishers.

[Annual Seki City Rugby-Football Festival]

In year 12 of the Heisei era (2000) Seki City celebrated our 50th anniversary and built the natural grass playing field (Green Field Nakaike) in the Nakaike Athletic Park and since then in commemoration, every year we hold the Rugby-Football Festival. In this festival the city's elementary, junior high schools, high schools and strong teams from outside the prefecture have matches. We have a rugby classroom and in recent years have also had girl's rugby competitions. Many citizens watch the games and enjoy the annual festival as it displays the power, speed and tactics on the field.



[National Tournament Competition Ground]

In year 24 of the Heisei era (2012) in the Gifu Seiryu National Tournament, (Boy's Youth) Rugby-Football Competition was held at Green Field Nakaike. Many of our citizens witnessed rugby's beauty and it became a great opportunity for new fans emerge.

Detailed Facility Information

[The Perfect Rugby Ground Sewn with Natural Grass]

Green Field Nakaïke

Completed in year 12 of the Heisei era (2000) Green Field Nakaïke has a combined area of approximately 26,000m². The natural grass field covers 12,495m² (147m x 85m) and conforms to soccer and rugby field regulations.

In the main stand there are the central rooms, changing rooms, meeting rooms, showers, etc and 1087 spectator seats.

In year 12 of the Heisei era (2000) to commemorate the completion of the grounds a rugby event was held. This included a rugby classroom and matches between the city's junior high school teams, high schools, social teams and top teams from outside the prefecture. Following this, every year the Rugby Festival has been held.

Area	Field 12,495m² (147m x 85m)
Applicable usage	One field for both rugby and soccer.
Field	Natural grass.
Spectator seating	Main 1087, back 1000.
Facilities	Main room, changing rooms, meeting room, showers, scoreboard.



[Rugby, Soccer and Other Events]

Nakaïke Multi-purpose Field

Next to Green Field Nakaïke is the 9,700m² natural grass Nakaïke Multi-purpose Field. It is an open area for rugby, soccer and other events.

Area	Open area 9,700m²
Applicable usage	Rugby, soccer, ground golf, etc.
Field	Natural grass.
Facilities	Open air stage.



[All-weather Category 3 Certified Athletics Area]

Nakaïke Park Athletic Competition Grounds

The all-weather category 3 certified athletics area was completed in year 24 of the Heisei era (2012)

The sixth in the prefecture and the only category 3 certified grounds in the Chuno area, it is sewn with natural grass and can hold rugby and soccer games.

Applicable usage Athletics (Category 3 Certified), rugby and soccer.

Field Natural grass inner field.



[Gymnasium with a Heated Pool and Training Room]

Seki City Combined Gymnasium

Seki Combined Gymnasium where boisterous voices always reverberate. On the first floor there is the Main Arena and the Sub-arena. The Main Arena has an area that is capable of supporting three volleyball courts, has seating for 1,600 spectators and holds sports competitions and events on a national scale. There are also martial arts facilities that are used for judo and kendo among others. Underground there is a heated pool and training room.

Main Arena 37 x 55m, 15.5m ceiling, three volleyball courts, two basketball courts.

Spectator seating first floor 620 seats (portable), second floor 980 seats (fixed).

Sub-arena 34m x 21m 15m ceiling, one volleyball court, one basketball court.

Martial arts area 33m x 16.5m, one kendo area, one judo area.

Heated pool 25m x 6 lanes.

Training room Training machines.

Meeting rooms One 13m x 9m room, one 10m x 9m room.

Japanese rooms One 5.5m x 5.5m room, one 4.5m x 5.5m room.



Accommodation Information

[Perfect for Summer Oze Cormorant Fishing]

Seki Kankou Hotel

A peaceful quietness that will allow you to forget the bustle of the city, Oku-Nagara gorge. A gorgeous yet relaxed hotel that stands on the banks of the Nagara River.

Please use our large and small auditoriums, wedding ceremony and reception facilities.

Perfect for the summer Oze Cormorant Fishing (5/11-10-15).

Address	Gifu Prefecture, Seki City, Ikejiri 91-2
Telephone	0120-753-277
URL	http://www.sekkankouhotel.jp/



[Complimentary Breakfast and a Man-made Radium Bath]

Hotel Route Inn Seki

A business hotel chain with a complimentary breakfast buffet and a large, man-made radium bath. Please relax comfortably in individual rooms. We heartily await business users and private users.

Address	Gifu Prefecture, Seki City, West-Hongo Dori 4-3-30
Telephone	0575-21-2511
URL	http://www.route-inn.co.jp/



[Mt. Kinka overlooking this Resort Hotel beside the Nagara River]

Gifu Grand Hotel

In front of the hotel Mt. Kinka dominates as the beautiful Nagara River flows by. Mt. Kinka is loved for hiking and at the summit Gifu Castle offers grandiose scenery.

On the Nagara River from May until October Cormorant fishing with a history and tradition of 1300 years is undertaken.

Address	Gifu Prefecture, Gifu City, Nagara 648
Telephone	058-233-1111(rep)
URL	http://www.gifugrandhotel.co.jp/



Seki City Amenities Map



Required time and distances for travel

Travel Area	Distance	Time
Green Field Nakaikke ~ Seki Combined Gymnasium	Approximately 3km	Approximately 5 minutes
Green Field Nakaikke ~ Hotel Route Inn	Approximately 3km	Approximately 5 minutes
Green Field Nakaikke ~ Seki Kankou Hotel	Approximately 7km	Approximately 15 minutes
Green Field Nakaikke ~ Gifu Grand Hotel	Approximately 18km	Approximately 30 minutes
Seki Combined Gymnasium ~ Route Inn Seki	Approximately 500m	Approximately 5 minutes' walk
Seki Combined Gymnasium ~ Seki Kankou Hotel	Approximately 4km	Approximately 10 minutes
Seki Combined Gymnasium ~ Gifu Grand Hotel	Approximately 16km	Approximately 25 minutes
Chubu International Airport ~ Seki City	Approximately 95km	Approximately 90 minutes
Toyota Stadium ~ Seki City	Approximately 72km	Approximately 60 minutes

Rugby Girl's Dream

Sakuragaoka Elementary School / Watanabe Hima

What I think is important in tag rugby is to improve teamwork by using a big voice and moving practice along myself. This year as a 6th grade student I want to give tag rugby a boost. I'm really excited that Japan will hold the World Cup!



Rugby Girl's Dream

Sakuragaoka Elementary School / Kawabe Haru

What I would like to hold important this year in my tag rugby activity is to express what I feel. This is because I saw the 6th grade students last year value the importance of one's voice. I think we can improve the level of our playing and teamwork through valuing the importance of our voice.

I would be very happy if Seki City became a training camp venue for the World Cup and I could see the best players in the world up close.



A Guardian's Dream

Nakashima Koji

My daughter plays tag rugby at elementary school. The volume of exercise in tag rugby is high so it is good for her health as well as for making friends. The level of conversation about rugby in our house has increased. Through tag rugby I hope children can understand the good points about the sport of rugby. I pray that Seki City can become a camp venue for teams in the 2019 World Cup so I can show children the world's top level of play.



Rugby School Boy's Dream

Asakura Elementary School / Koyama Taichi

I started rugby after my friends invited me. When I first started, the ball not being round was strange but after getting used to it, ironically I think it's more interesting now. This year after doing a lot of practice I want to win a lot of games.

I'm really excited about the World Cup in Japan. I want to go see it and cheer the players on!



Junior High School Rugerman's Dream

Midorigaoka Junior High School / Tsunefuji Arashi

Getting a pass and eluding the other players to run is fun. I'm really happy when I can get a try. After winning the Tokai Championship, we in the Junior High School Representative Team are training with an eye on participating in the All-Japan Tournament. We want to beat other strong teams at the Seki City Rugby Festival. I was really impressed with the Japanese representative team's match at the 2015 World Cup. I want to watch the match between the Japanese team and the Scottish team at Toyota Stadium this year. I hope to become a player that can play in a stadium like that.



High School Rugerman's Dream

Seki Commercial and Technical Senior High School / Aoyama Shunpei

The activity of the Japanese representatives' World Cup 2015 performance moved me deeply. I'm still unskillful and mentally weak in areas but I, with my friends want to impress people with our play. One day I want to be a good enough player to perform on a stage like that. I'm proactively volunteering and if I can help the athletes perform well then I'll be happy.



Seki Commercial and Technical Senior High School

Manager's Dream

Seki Commercial and Technical Senior High School / Taga Anna, Ozawa Kaho, Sugata Megumi, Nishimura Misaki, Ono Yuzu, Ozawa Rei



We will never forget the joy when we became rugby club managers and won at the Hanazono Tournament. We think that rugby has a power and interesting points that aren't present in other sports. We're really happy we became managers.

We are really looking forward to the World Cup in Japan. Without a doubt, we'll go watch! If Seki City can hold team camps we'll definitely volunteer to help.

Old Rugerman's Dream

Naganuma Yoji

I saw rugby on TV when I was a baseball kid. In the first World Cup the New Zealand All Blacks overwhelming strength impressed me a lot. I started playing rugby and to this day am enjoying it with my wonderful friends.

My son was also inspired by the Japanese Representative Team's activity and started playing rugby. I think that seeing the top players in the world will be a great influence on the development of our children. I really hope that my son and his friends can have this experience.



Citizen's Dream

Kawashima Ryoko



I became interested in rugby after my son started going to rugby school. I gleefully watched with my friends when the Japanese team dramatically won in the 2015 England World Cup. I couldn't be happier that the competition to decide the world's best will be held in Japan. It will be a long wait until 2019. I hope to go to the stadium and watch the intense competition with my friends. I think Seki City is a great town for rugby. I really hope that the world's teams will come and practice in Seki City. I hope to cheer on with all my might the teams that have camps in Seki City.

Goromaru's Float

Seki Festival

The appearance of Goromaru in the "Andon Float Contest"

In the cutlery town one of the key parts of the big event in spring, the Seki Festival is the Andon Float contest in which around 50 large and small floats are decorated and illuminated spectacularly and hauled around the festival area for display.

Community organizations and workplaces work on how to improve the quality of the floats they place in the contest.

In 2016 a Buddhist statue posing in the likeness of Goromaru in Seki City's Zenko-ji Temple gained national attention. Since then floats in the image of Goromaru Ayumu have been enjoyed by the spectators who see them. From this we can know that Seki City has a deep connection with rugby.



Seki City Combined Gymnasium
Rugby Support Corner



Gifu Prefecture, Seki City, Town of Cutlery and Cormorant Fishing

Seki Swordsmiths



Sword making said to have started in the Kamakura era. Seki City flourished as a production center of famous swords and the swordsmiths of Seki today are still making swords. The skill of these swordsmiths is introduced at the Seki Traditional Sword Smith Museum. Sword history, sword related equipment and import documents are on display. In the sword display room swords made by famous Seki swordsmiths Kanemoto and Kanesada are exhibited. Also once a month a display of traditional tempering of swords and related skills is undertaken.

Legendary Cutlery Production

The skills of sword making from long ago have been preserved and are now being reborn for use in the production of cutlery today. With an artfulness and usefulness combined Seki City is proud to have an enormous share of cutlery production in Japan and stands alongside Solingen as one of the world's great production areas.



Oze Cormorant Fishing

On the beautiful Nagara River the National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Treasure of Ukai Cormorant fishing is performed every year from May 11th until October 15th. A scene from an old scroll painting of a bonfire floating upon the water may be enjoyed.



Monet's Pond

Within the temple grounds of Nemichi Temple lays a pond with a high degree of clearness. Carp swimming among the water lilies resembles the French artist Claude Monet's "Water Lilies" painting and is therefore known as Monet's Pond and is one of Seki City's most popular places.



Zenko-ji Temple

The Buddhist statue Hokandainichinyoraizo, inside Seki City's Zenko-ji Temple became famous for sharing a similar hand pose to the routine of Japanese Rugby representative Goromaru. It is the only Buddhist statue in Japan with this hand pose and many worshippers come every day from within and without the prefecture.



Unadon

Seki City's cutlery production has a history of over 700 years. It is said that the root of the power of the swordsmiths that produced many famous swords is 「Eel」. There are many famous eel restaurants in Seki.



Ayudon

A gourmet food from the region where the symbol of cormorant fishing on the beautiful Nagara River, 「Ayu」 is used 「Seki Ayudon」. Many visitors have been left satisfied.



