



To Saiku, the City of Prayer

For those who visit, and those who dwell here.

Together, we protect and nurture the Thousand-Year
Palace



*"Toward a 'Thousand-Year Palace' We Can Pass On to the Next
Generation – Saiku"*

– Saiku Responsible Tourism

*Saiku Responsible Tourism Action Guidelines
Meiwa Town, Mie Prefecture*

What Kind of Place is Saiku?

Saiku was the capital where the **"Saio"** – a princess who offered prayers to Ise Shrine on behalf of the Emperor – once lived. Long referred to as the "phantom palace," ongoing excavations are now bringing its form back to life. For approximately 660 years, this sacred land was preserved as a place of prayer. In 2015, it was designated as Japan Heritage, reaffirming its outstanding historical value.



Duration

Approx. 660 Years

From the Asuka to the Kamakura Period



Japan Heritage Designation

2015

Designated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs



Location

Saiku, Meiwa Town, Mie Prefecture

Near Ise Shrine

The Light and Shadow of Tourism

What is Responsible Tourism?

Tourism brings vitality to local communities, but it can also create challenges. Responsible Tourism is the idea that everyone acting with a sense of responsibility can make tourist destinations even better. Visitors, residents, businesses, and local governments work together to build sustainable tourism.

Challenges (Shadow)

- Traffic congestion makes daily life difficult
- Manners and etiquette are sometimes not observed
- Increased litter harms the environment
- Quiet places become noisy

Our Vision (Light)

- Everyone can live together harmoniously
- Precious culture is preserved for the future
- Nature is kept clean and beautiful
- The local economy flourishes



Our Shared Promise

Together, we protect and nurture this thousand-year-old palace

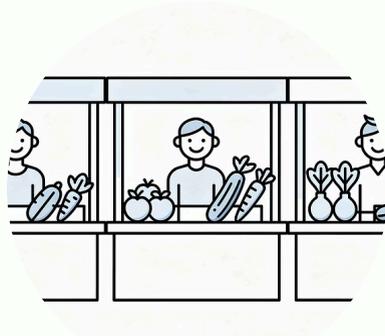
Residents and visitors alike – let's all work together to pass down the wonderful Saiku to future generations. With these three pillars as our guide, we will move forward in building a sustainable destination.



Culture

Passing our precious heritage to the future

- Preservation of historic buildings
- Continuation of traditional events
- Proper stewardship of cultural assets



Economy

Enriching both livelihoods and lives

- Supporting local businesses
- Creating sustainable employment
- Ensuring fair distribution of benefits



Experience

Creating memories that make everyone smile

- Offering meaningful, lasting experiences
- Fostering community interaction
- Delivering high-quality service

To Our Visitors

When visiting Saiku, we kindly ask that you respect the history and culture of this place, as well as the daily lives of its residents. By honoring the following 10 pledges, let us work together to create a Saiku where everyone can feel welcome and at ease.

1

Cherish history, culture, and good manners

Respect the traditions and customs rooted in this land

2

Handle cultural heritage with care

Treat precious treasures gently so as not to cause harm

3

Come prepared for an eco-friendly journey

Bring reusable bags and your own water bottle

4

Take your trash home or dispose of it properly

Help keep the environment beautiful by sorting waste correctly

5

Be kind to animals and plants

Be mindful not to disturb the natural ecosystem

6

Preserve the peaceful atmosphere

Refrain from loud voices and noise to maintain a calm environment

7

Shop and dine at local businesses

Make a conscious effort to support the local economy

8

Choose shops with eco-friendly practices

Support businesses that care for the environment

9

Engage with locals with a smile

Value greetings and words of gratitude

10

Share what you have learned

Spread the charm of Saiku to those around you



 FOR BUSINESSES

To Shops and Companies

We ask everyone involved in the tourism industry to operate with awareness of three key responsibilities: care for the environment, preservation of culture, and contribution to the local economy. By balancing these priorities and supporting the development of sustainable tourism, you help protect the future of Saiku.



Environmental Responsibility

- Efforts to reduce waste and plastic
- Active participation in eco-friendly initiatives
- Efficient use of resources and energy conservation
- Offering products with a low environmental impact



Cultural Responsibility

- Protecting and preserving historic sites
- Sharing the history of Saiku accurately and respectfully
- Actively encouraging visitors to follow proper etiquette
- Making efforts to pass culture on to future generations



Economic Responsibility

- Creating systems that keep money circulating locally
- Maintaining a work environment that values employees
- Operating with transparency and openness
- Strengthening collaboration with local businesses

Manners at Saiku

Saiku is a sacred historical space. To ensure everyone enjoys their visit and to protect our precious cultural heritage, please observe the following rules during your time here.



No Drones

Please do not fly drones without permission. We appreciate your cooperation in protecting historical sites and ensuring safety.



Please Sit Down to Eat

Please refrain from eating and drinking while walking. Enjoy your food and drinks at designated areas while seated.



No Littering

Please take your trash home or dispose of it at designated locations. Let's all work together to keep the environment beautiful.



Prayer Etiquette

Please visit ancient burial mounds, shrines, and prayer spots quietly and respectfully. We ask that you honor the sanctity of these sacred places.



Travel Light

Store large luggage in lockers and explore freely. This helps prevent any accidental damage to buildings and exhibits.



No Golf

Sports activities such as golf are not permitted. Thank you for your understanding in helping us maintain a peaceful environment.



Join Cultural Experiences

Participate in cultural experience programs unique to Saiku and feel history firsthand.



Protect Cultural Heritage

Please handle valuable cultural assets and historical sites with care, and help us preserve them for the future.



No Unleashed Pets

Please keep pets on a leash at all times and take waste home with you. We appreciate your consideration for other visitors and the historical sites.

We Look Forward to Welcoming You to Saiku!

Come and meet history and nature

Saiku – a sacred place of prayer that has been passed down through over a thousand years of time. To preserve this beautiful place for future generations, we ask for your cooperation. Together, let's create a Saiku where visitors and residents alike can share smiles. We look forward to seeing you.

“

"Toward a 'Millennium Palace' Saiku – Passed Down to the Next Generation"

– Saiku Responsible Tourism

”

Meiwa Town, Mie Prefecture

