

Introduction To Abiko

市案内

我孫子市の概要

Outline of Abiko City

我孫子市の地理
abikoshi no chiri

Location

Abiko City, located in the northwest of Chiba Prefecture, covers an area of 43 square kilometers, 4 to 6 km north-south and 14 km from east-west. Lying between the Tonegawa River to the north and Lake Teganuma to the south, Abiko is rich in natural features. From central Tokyo, Abiko is about 35 km or only a 35-minute ride on the JR Joban Line. This location makes Abiko an ideal place to live for the commuters to the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

我孫子市の歴史
abikoshi no rekishi

History

Historically, the name Abiko first appears as *Ahiko* in a document *Miike-Monjyo* written in the Muromachi Era (1338-1573).

The history of Abiko is believed to have begun in the Paleolithic Age since lots of relics of that age remain. Habitation sites, village sites and middens of the Jomon Period have been excavated around the high ground between Lake Teganuma and the Tonegawa River. A number of ancient burial mounds scattered in Abiko area speak to us eloquently of the distant past.

In the Edo Era (1603-1867), 36 villages, both old and new, existed; the latter on the land reclaimed at the time. The reclamation work for increasing rice field was made heavily around Lake Teganuma through trial and error processes. On the other hand, accompanying many floodings to the misery of the local people, the Tonegawa River channel shifted gradually eastwards.

The dawn of modern Abiko broke in the middle of the Meiji Era (1868-1912) with the opening of a railroad, the Joban line. A changeover from water transport to railways drove the modernization of Abiko. Large-scale silk and machine tool factories started up and many intellectuals in Tokyo had their cottages built in old Abiko.

In 1955, Abiko town, Kohoku village, Fusa town and a part of Tomise village were incorporated into Abiko town. Then in July 1970, Abiko City as it is today was born.

我孫子市の人口
abikoshi no jinkou

Population

Thanks to its rich natural environment and convenient location, for commuting the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Abiko has made rapid growth in population. In 1970 when the town became a city, the population was no more than 50,000, and today it is over 130,000. The number of foreign residents is also increasing gradually, and now exceeds 900. The largest group is Chinese, followed by Korean, and Filipino.

City Flower : Azalea

As Azalea, like cherry blossoms, is a favorite of the Japanese and is tolerant of hot and cold climate, it was named the city flower as a symbol for the thriving city on July 1, 1970 to commemorate the birth of the city. Azalea can be seen in full bloom in May.



市の花 つつじ
shino hana tsutsuji



City Tree : Zelkova

As the towering and growing Zelkova fits the future image of the city, Abiko named Zelkova as the city tree on July 1, 1970 to commemorate the birth of the city.

市の木 ケヤキ
shino ki keyaki

City Bird : Coot

Coots are the most numerous around Lake Teganuma and are seen throughout the year. The Coot was named the city bird on December 1, 1988.



市の鳥 オオバン
shino tori ooban



City Crest : Katakana character “ア”

A stylized “ア”, which is the initial of Abiko. The upper part of the design represents Lake Teganuma, and the curvy central part symbolizes great progress of the city. The city crest was designated on August 1, 1955.

市章 アの字
shishou a no ji