

# Mozu Area

## A powerful bastion against the continent



The Mozu area has a two-kilometer radius and is located in Sakai City.

More than 100 tombs were created here from the late 4th century to the late 5th century. Half of them, however, have been lost due to urbanization and other reasons, and currently 44 tombs remain. These include giant keyhole-shaped kofun, notably Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun, one of the world's largest burial mounds.

*Haniwa* (earthenware funerary sculptures) in various shapes as well as many grave goods, including gilt bronze accessories, iron horse trappings, and weapons, have been excavated from the tombs in the Mozu area. These excavated artifacts show the influence of the Korean peninsula and China, proving that Japan had active exchanges with other East Asian countries at that time.

### World's largest symbol of power

## Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun



With a mound 486 meters in length, this is the world's largest keyhole-shaped tomb. Square projections are attached to both sides of the constricted part of the keyhole mound, and the mound is surrounded by a triple moat. It was built in the early 5th century, with more than ten satellite or subsidiary tombs surrounding it.

In 1872 (during the Meiji period), a stone chamber with a stone coffin, a helmet and breastplate, and other grave goods were discovered, and sketches drawn at that time survive to this day.

### Appearance of Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun in the 18th century (Edo period)

Drawings depicting how kofun looked in the past still exist today. We can see that, at Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun, there was a big stone on top of the round part at the rear, and the mound was surrounded by a double moat. Why don't you compare this with the appearance of the tomb today?



Drawing of Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun (early 18th century)  
(Possessed by Sakai City Central Library)

Symbol of cultural property protection

### Itasuke Kofun

Itasuke Kofun is a keyhole-shaped tomb with a mound length of 146 meters, located to the southeast of Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun. Several tombs are considered to be its satellites. It is dated to the early 5th century.

This tomb was threatened by urban development in 1955; however, it came to be preserved, mainly thanks to a civic opposition movement, and was designated as a national Historic Site in 1956. The helmet-shaped haniwa excavated here is now used as the symbol for the preservation of cultural properties in Sakai City.



Helmet-shaped haniwa  
excavated from Itasuke Kofun



Magodayuyama Kofun



Osamezuka Kofun

### Close relationships with Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun

## Magodayuyama Kofun

The scallop-shaped tomb with a mound length of 65 meters is located on an imaginary line extending from Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun's main axis.

## Osamezuka Kofun

The 59-meter-long scallop-shaped tomb is located adjacent to the southeast corner of Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun. The original location of the currently buried moat is shown by the colored blocks that pave the ground around it.

Haniwa sculptures unearthed at these two small tombs were produced in the same period as those found at the dominant Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun, indicating that they were constructed at approximately the same time.

# Furuichi Area

## Unbroken line of the kings



The Furuichi area has a two-kilometer radius and is located between the cities of Fujiidera and Habikino in the southeastern part of Osaka Prefecture.

The group of huge mounded tombs, constructed from the late 4th century to the middle of the 6th century, originally comprised more than 130 examples of various shapes and scales, ranging from the 425-meter-long, keyhole-shaped Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun (the second largest in Japan) to very small square tombs. Of the 45 tombs that remain, no fewer than seven are keyhole-shaped kofun over 200 meters in length.

The notable grave goods found in this area include iron weapons and armor. More than 200 swords were once excavated from a single tomb. Other excavated burial goods include magnificent accessories made of gold or silver; the gilt bronze horse trappings, a designated National Treasure excavated from Konda-maruyama Kofun, are another representative example.

### Giant kingly tomb

## Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun



Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun, with a mound 425 meters in length, is the second-largest kofun after Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun. In terms of volume, it is the largest in Japan. The mound has a three-tier structure, with each side featuring a square projection. The mound is surrounded by a double moat and bank.

The sloping sides of the mound and both the inner and outer banks are decorated with paving stones, and there are more than 20,000 cylindrical haniwa displayed on the terraces. The characteristics of the haniwa discovered at this location suggest that this tomb was constructed in the early 5th century.

### Visitors' guidebook from the 19th century (Edo period)

An illustrated guidebook, called "*Kawachi-Meisho-Zue*," was published in the late Edo period. In the guidebook, Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun is introduced. It depicts a hexagonal hall on the mound, dedicated to Emperor Ojin, and shows an avenue of cherry blossom trees.



Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun from the *Kawachi-Meisho-Zue*

A shrine and park: places of recreation and relaxation for local people

### Tsудо-shiroyama Kofun

Tsудо-shiroyama Kofun is a large, keyhole-shaped tomb with a mound length of 210 meters, located in the northernmost part of Habikino Hill. It was the first to be constructed in the Furuichi area. In the Muromachi period (1336-1573), the tomb was used as a small fortress, known as "Koyama-jo." It is now cherished by local people as a park where they can enjoy the cherry blossoms in spring.

The mound was surrounded by a double moat and bank. In the excavation carried out in 1983, a row of three waterfowl-shaped haniwa was found.



Waterfowl-shaped haniwa  
excavated from Tsудо-shiroyama Kofun  
(important Cultural Property)



### Understanding kofun construction technology

## Mitsuzuka Kofun

Mitsuzuka Kofun is a group of three mounded tombs, lined up from the east to the west, to the south of the gigantic Nakatsuhime-no-mikoto-ryo Kofun.

From the east, the three square mounds are named Yashimazuka Kofun, Nakayamazuka Kofun, and Suketayama Kofun. Yashimazuka and Nakayamazuka have sides measuring about 50 meters while Suketayama's sides are 36 meters in length. They are believed to have been constructed in approximately the same period.

In the excavation of the moat between Yashimazuka and Nakayamazuka, two fragments of wooden shura (sleds)—one large and one small—were discovered.



Shura (important Cultural Property)  
Sled-like tools for carrying heavy goods