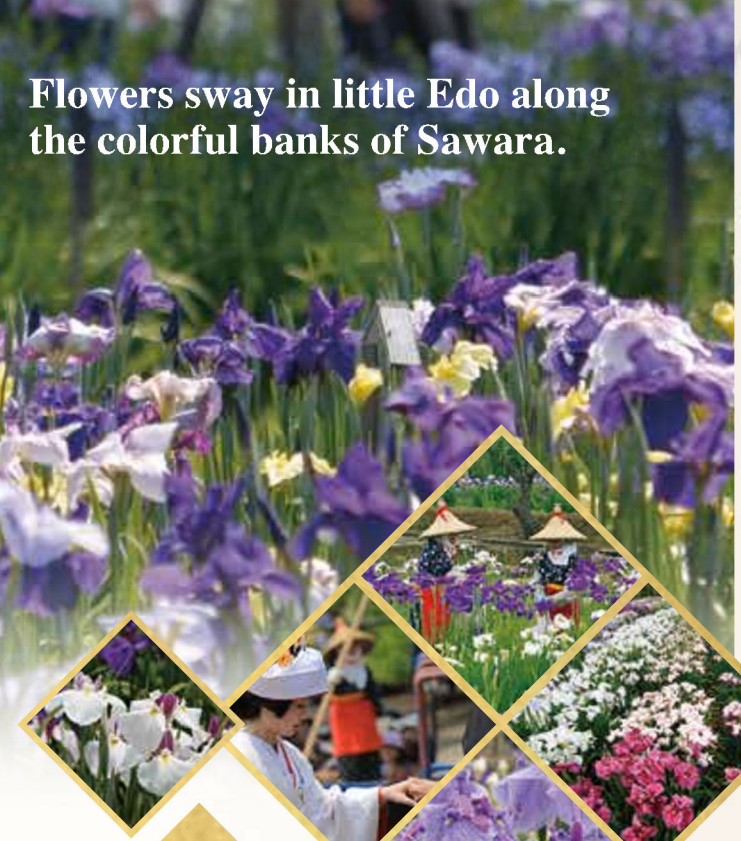


Flowers sway in little Edo along the colorful banks of Sawara.



水郷佐原
佐原の大祭
Suigo Sawara
Sawara Grand Festival

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage
Nationally-designated Important
Intangible Folk Cultural Asset

Sawara Float events used to be held as sub-festivals during each local deity festival. Each town would courageously - and sometimes solemnly - pull around extravagant floats decorated with giant effigies of people and other images accompanied by the music of Sawara musicians.



絢爛豪華
Gorgeous
Edo-masari (Superior than Edo) carries on 300 years of tradition

AYAME MATSUJAI X AYAME PARK
Iris Festival
Ayame-matsuri

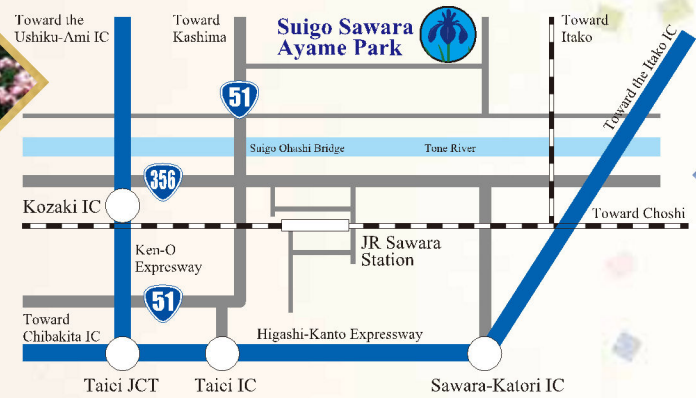
A total of 1,500,000 irises - in 400 different varieties - turn the entire area into a carpet of purple. In addition, Suigo Sawara Ayame Park is the only one of the numerous iris gardens all across the country where you can view the flowers from a water channel that passes through the garden while riding in a boat called a sappabune. Please enjoy the outstandingly beautiful irises along with the refreshing early summer breeze blowing across the water.

Lotus Festival
Hasu-matsuri
Cultivated over 300 varieties of lotus flowers and it boasts the largest scale in Japan. You can also see some extremely rare flowers, including the Oga lotus, which sprouts out of seeds from 2,000 years ago, and the senbenren lotus, which has more than one thousand petals. Please be sure to see the best lotus blossoms in Japan.



- ◆ Opening Hours 9:00 ~ 16:30 *Last admission one hour before closure.
- ◆ Iris-Festival time period 8:00 ~ 18:30 ◆ Lotus-Festival time period 7:00 ~ 15:00
- ◆ Holidays: Mondays and the period between Dec.28 and Jan.4
*No holidays during the wisteria viewing, Iris-Festival and Lotus-Festival periods.
- ◆ Admission fees

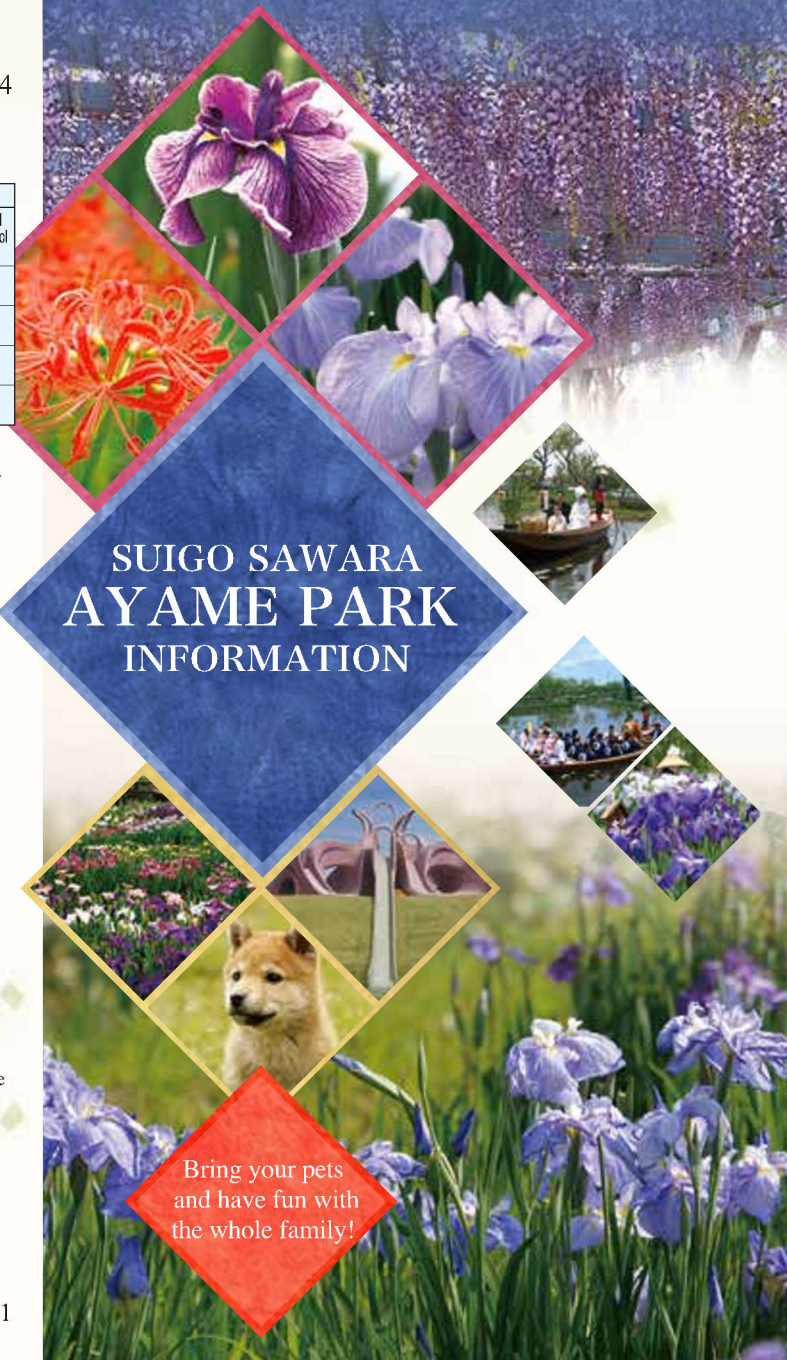
Division	General Admission			Groups (20 or more, per person)	
	Adults between 15 to 64 years old *excluding junior high school students	Seniors 65 years or older	Elementary and junior high school students	Adults 15 years old or older* *Excluding junior high school students	Elementary and junior high school students
Apr. - Sept. - Nov.	¥ 200	¥ 150	¥ 100	¥ 150	¥ 70
May ~ Aug. (Excluding the Iris-Festival period)	¥ 600	¥ 500	¥ 300	¥ 500	¥ 250
Iris-Festival period	¥ 800	¥ 700	¥ 400	¥ 700	¥ 350
Dec. - Mar.	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free



- ◆ Access
- When visiting by car :**
 - Approx. 30min from the Sawara-Katori IC on Higashi-Kanto Expressway
 - Approx. 30min from Taiei IC bound for Itako
 - Approx. 25min from the Kozaki IC on Ken-O Expressway
- When coming by train or bus :**
 - 15min by taxi from Sawara Station on the JR Narita Line
 - Take the Sawara Belt-line bus (Kita-Sawara and Shinshima Route) to the Ayame Park stop
- *Weekdays only
- *There is a shuttle bus service running from JR Sawara Station during the Iris Festival.



In addition to flowers such as irises, lotuses and wisteria, please enjoy other seasonal plant life.



SUIGO SAWARA AYAME PARK INFORMATION

Bring your pets and have fun with the whole family!

Suigo Sawara Ayame Park

1837-2 Ogishima, Katori-shi, Chiba-ken TEL: +81-478-56-0411
URL: <http://www.city.katori.lg.jp> e-mail: ayame@city.katori.lg.jp



水郷佐原
あやめパーク

SUIGO SAWARA
AYAME PARK

Suigo Sawara Ayame Park is located in Suigo-Tsukuba National Park. At this nearly 8-hectare park, which contains an island, bridge and water, you can enjoy a nostalgic riverside atmosphere.

During the Iris-Festival, a total of 1,500,000 irises - in 400 different varieties, including Edo, Higo and Ise types - are in bloom, and a various events are held, such as boat rides by new brides and touring boats of Sawara musicians.

In addition, the Lotus-Festival is held from July to August, and you can view more than 300 different types of lotus flowers.



Lotus gallery

300 different varieties of lotuses are cultivated in Ayame Park. The hottest period of the summer is when the most beautiful flowers bloom. There are also some very rare, valuable varieties cultivated in here, such as chodairen, which looks like a flower blooming inside the flower, and taiseikin, double-flowered lotus.



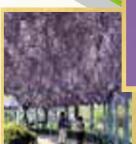
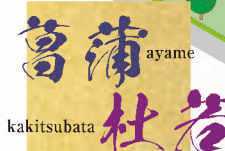
The best time to view the lotuses is in the early morning.

- 1st day: Slightly open in the early morning but closed during the day.
- 2nd day: Begins to open from early morning. Opens into beautiful full bloom, and closes around noon.
- 3rd day: Begins to open from early morning and reaches full bloom. Begins to close around noon, and continues to close into the night.
- 4th day: Completely open in the morning. Toward the evening, all the petals fall off.



Yui-no-Shima The island of weddings

One feature of the Suigo Sawara Ayame Festival is seeing new brides taking rides in boats. Weddings are held on "Yui-no-Shima," the island of weddings. The "Yui" of "Yui-no-Shima" means to tie a knot, so this island is called "Yui-no-Shima" because this is where couples "tie the knot" surrounded by irises and with the help of a priest from Katori Shrine.



Wisteria bloom from the beginning of May, and the whole garden is wrapped in the gentle fragrance of wisteria. The wisteria tunnel, a 70 meter long tunnel located near the garden entrance, is popular as a "road of happiness."



"Either an iris or a rabbit ear iris"

This is an old saying that expresses not being able to tell who is who in a crowd of beautiful women. Irises, rabbit ear irises and Japanese irises all look very similar, but they are distinguished by the following characteristics.

<p>Iris</p> <p>The roots of the outer flower petals display a mesh pattern.</p> <p>The central vein of the leaf is inconspicuous.</p> <p>Dry ground</p>	<p>Rabbit ear iris</p> <p>The roots of the outer flower petals are pale yellow.</p> <p>The central vein of the leaf protrudes.</p> <p>Damp ground with lots of sunlight</p>	<p>Japanese iris</p> <p>The roots of the outer flower petals are yellow.</p> <p>The central vein of the leaf protrudes.</p> <p>Prefers damp ground and sunlight.</p>
--	--	---

When the flowers are in full bloom, local specialties from Katori City, souvenirs and irises are sold in the shop building. Also, in the hands-on workshop building, a variety of events and classes are held, including workshops on separating the roots of irises to make more plants, photograph exhibitions, etc. Please make use of the facilities.

- P1-P2 Standard size car parking
- P3 Large vehicle parking
- P4 Standard size car parking