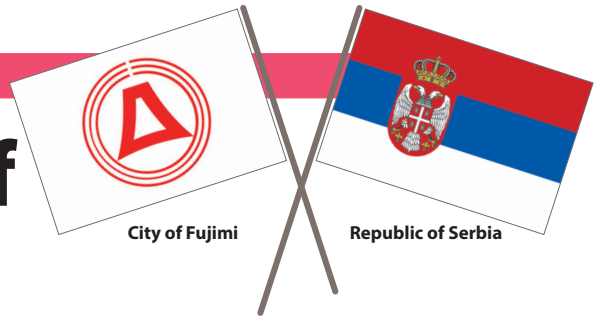




Sister Cities for Close to Four Decades! A Deeper Look...



City of Fujimi

Republic of Serbia

Experience the Charms of Serbia Right Here, in Fujimi City in Saitama!

About Serbia...

Over here!

Dobar dan! (Good day)

- Population: About 7 million
- Language: Serbian
- Area: 77,474 km²
- Popular Sports: Soccer, basketball, water polo
- Tourist Spots: Temple of Saint Sava; Kalemegdan Park & Belgrade Fortress
- Notables: Nicola Tesla (inventor), Novak Djokovic (tennis pro)

Situated in southeast Saitama Prefecture and adorned with magnificent seasonal flowers and yellow nanohana fields, our city of Fujimi is delighted to serve as a host town for Serbia—building on a relationship that began 38 years ago, when Šabac became our sister city. Here we review the history of our relationship, and introduce some of the Serbian-themed events hosted in our city.

Our actions as a host town will intensify our relationship with our sister city, and create new bonds.

The Republic of Serbia lies inland within the Balkan peninsula, where southern Europe reaches out to to Asia. Fujimi and the Serbian city of Šabac have enjoyed a deepening relationship ever since becoming sister cities in 1982. As the Olympics approach, Fujimi is ready with pre-game accommodations for handball and wrestling teams, as we also look forward to engaging with Paralympic athletes, and to hosting numerous special events within our city. Our host activities will build even stronger bonds between our cities.



Participants at the Serbia Festa, in November 2019, experienced Serbian folk dancing and enjoyed Serbian cuisine prepared by students from Saitama's Kagawa University of Nutrition.

Rural settings close to capital cities...

Like Fujimi, Šabac is an agricultural city located close to its country's capital. Fujimi representatives have visited Šabac seven times to date, and we have each donated to the other in times of crisis.



Second trip to Šabac, in 1983, with our mayor in attendance. The visit included a performance by the Fujimi Drum Group in the city's assembly hall.

Agreeing on pre-game accommodations...

In March 2018, after receiving our city's offer to provide pre-game accommodations, Serbia's Olympic Committee came to investigate. In November we met with Committee chairman Božidar Maljković, and in December we officially became a host town.



Inspection by representatives of the Serbian Olympic Committee, in connection with our invitation to host the handball and wrestling teams.

United support for Serbian athletes...

After becoming a host, we began more active engagement with our Serbian friends—producing support videos for Serbian athletic teams, holding a Serbian food sampling event, and planning for further activities.



Presenting video message to athletes at the 2019 World Women's Handball Championship.

Mayor of Fujimi
Mitsuhiro Hoshino



Our city is united in our support for Serbian athletes. I also want us to use this opportunity as a way to deepen our relationship with Serbia, and to introduce the country's charms to our citizens. We warmly welcome everyone to our city, where we too offer natural beauty and a rich history. čekamo vas.

* čekamo vas = We await you.



Timeline of Serbia–Fujimi Relationship

- 1982-10-23 ▶ Sister cities!
- 2017-8-4 ▶ Meet with Serbian Olympic Committee representatives.
- 2018-3-29 ▶ Serbian Olympic Committee representatives inspect the camp area.
- 2018-12-28 ▶ Officially register as host town for Serbia.
- 2019-7-10 ▶ Sign agreements related to pre-game camp for 32nd Olympic athletes.
- 2019-12-17 ▶ Officially register as "barrier-free host town" for Serbia (first in Saitama).



5 Events about Serbia

Keep Learn and Experience!



Experience A Concert with Singers from Serbia! Kirari ☆ Fujimi Culture Center

This center of art and culture, with its 800-seat main hall, is home to many “host town” events. It’s a main venue for the Serbia Festa, and in February 2020 it hosted a mini-recital featuring a Serbian-born soprano.

Where: 1803-1 Oaza Tsuruma, Fujimi-shi, Saitama

Phone: 049-268-7788

Getting there: Loop-line bus from any of these Tōbu-Tōjō-line stations: Mizuhodai, Tsuruse, or Fujimino

<http://www.kirari-fujimi.com/>



Booth at the Fujimi Furusato Festival attracted many visitors. Recital by Evgenia Jeremić, also showcasing local primary-school students presenting a choral performance of a Serbian folk song “Tamo Daleko.”

Eat Students from Kagawa Nutrition University create Serbian-style delicacies.

Nine students, with the aid of Serbian cookbooks, developed special selections for our Serbia Festa. The group is planning to cook up new original recipes for events planned in 2021.



As Serbia is the world’s third largest raspberry producer, the Festa offered raspberry sponge cakes (Serbian berries) filled with blueberry-flavored white bean jam.



Colorful badges with various designs—plums, Mt. Fuji, and more. (Production is limited to 10,000 badges.)

Eat Local confectionery offers “Serbia” host-town candy.

The Chigusa candy store offers original “Serbia” confections modeled on the Serbian flag (¥200 each), blending the sweet and tart flavors of blueberries and raspberries.

Where: 2-15-4 Kaizuka, Fujimi-shi, Saitama Phone: 049-251-7596

Open from 8 AM to 7 PM Closed on Mondays (except if holiday)

Getting there: From Shiki Station on Tōbu Tōjō line, take the Tōbu bus bound for Lalaport Fujimi, exit at Terashita-Danchi (about 12 min.), walk 2 min.



The display also introduces prominent Serbian natives such as Nicola Tesla, an inventor of the fluorescent bulb.

Shop Original badges distributed at events!

Created jointly with students from the city of Hōfu (in Yamaguchi Prefecture)—also a Serbia host town. Ten designs, all featuring the city’s Fuwappi mascot, shall be distributed at events within the city.

Learn Exhibition booths throughout the city introduce various aspects of Serbian culture.

This photo exhibit introduces Serbian cultural treasures, such as traditional clothing and St. Mark’s church. The exhibit alternates among various venues—including the central library and the Fujimino Cultural Exchange Center.

<Anticipated future display venues>

Lalaport Fujimi (2/13–3/12, 2021)

Where: 1-1313 Yamamuro, Fujimi-shi, Saitama

Phone: 049-257-5200

Event Report



Secretary introduces Serbian cookery

In May 2015, the embassy secretary presented a hands-on lecture about Serbian cutlets and other delicacies. Participants were surprised at the simple process and tasty results.



Serbian-born city employee talks to kids...

“Ana Logo,” a short-term Fujimi municipal employee, presented playful talks about Serbian lecture and culture at local primary schools and other venues.



Serbian ambassador makes special appearance at festival!

In June 2018, Ambassador Nenad Glišić joined in the Nanbata Castle Festival’s main event, playing the role of an Edo-period inspector at a musketeering performance.