



## **SAGA International Balloon Fiesta Location & Weather Information**

### **About Location of SAGA**

The main launch area is located on Kase Riverbank, the western side of Saga City, Japan. It is a nice flat and green launch site along north to south stretch of the bank. Competition flights will be routed in an area, about 30 km to four points of the compass around Saga City.

The area selected for this event is mostly big flat fields. Rice is the main crop in Japan, and it will be harvesting season in October. After the harvest, the drained and dried-up rice fields are available for takeoff and landing.

The north and west of flight area are surrounded by mountains, which are not very high but not good for landing due to the thick bushes. The east area is rather developed with cities and power lines. There is Ariake Sea in the south side of the area. It is a beautiful inland sea. During flights the sea is always visible.

There are three airports (Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Saga) close to Saga city. We will set 4,000 ft as a maximum altitude. The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's Metabaru Base is located to the east and Saga Airport is located south of the competition area.

### **About Weather of SAGA**

Temperatures in Saga during early November will range from highs of 15 - 25 degrees Celsius to lows of 5 - 15 degrees Celsius.

Generally, the climate is mild, and the wind is quite calm and variable. During past balloon events in Saga, the weather has been generally calm with winds that shift quite interestingly, and pilots were able to keep flying in the same areas for two to three hours. Perhaps because of the complicated island geography of the country of Japan, and a few small-scale inland characteristics here, the weather in Saga is quite difficult to read but calm and interesting.