

## 守谷市 Moriya City

### ☆History

People started to live in this area back in the Stone Age, about 20,000 years ago. Stone tools and earthenware have been found at dwelling sites.

In the Heian Era, Taira-no-Masakado exercised his power and authority in this area and it is said that Masakado built his residence in Moriya.

In the Kamakura Era, Chiba Morotsune, of the Soma Family(Clan) built Moriya Castle. That was in the first half of the Kamakura Era.

The castle was respected and called Soma Castle and it lasted for 400 years until the beginning of the Edo Era. The surrounding villages prospered for many years as castle towns. But the castle was abandoned around 1700.

In the Edo Era, transportation by water developed after the Tokugawa Shogunate had overhauled the Tone River Water System. Flat boats and steamboats visited the port in Nogisaki en route to Edo and brought people and economic growth. However, water transportation declined and disappeared around the 1920s.

In 1913, the Joso Line started its railway transportation service between Toride and Shimodate, and Moriya Station was opened.

In 1955, Moriya Town, Koya Village, Ono Village and Oisawa Village were united to Moriya Town with a population of 12,095 people. Its main industry was agriculture.

In the middle of 1970s, when Japan was enjoying a period of rapid economic growth, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation started to prepare a big housing site in Moriya. Soon the population doubled.

In 2002, Moriya City was born with the population of about 50,000 people.

In 2005, Tsukuba Express started its service between Tsukuba and Akihabara. Moriya Station is the first stop in Ibaraki Prefecture on the TX line.

At present Moriya has a population of over 55,000 people.