

About Us

SAKAI – a perfect place to enjoy a relaxing, fun, educational, and culturally rich day!

We students of Kansai University have created two types of brochures with support from many people. Our compact-sized brochures are easily carried around and packed with carefully selected sightseeing information necessary for your day in Sakai. We hope that many foreign tourists will visit Sakai, and that our brochures will help you feel the rich history and the warmth in the hearts of the people in Sakai.



Special thanks to

- KONISHI (KONISHI PRINTING CO., LTD)
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Learn

From construction to World Heritage Site inscription

More than 160,000 kofun were made between A.D. 250 and A.D. 650. Even now, 1,300 years later, there are still many kofun remaining in various parts of Japan.

A.D. 250 Large-scale burial mounds, kofun, started to be made across Japan.

What are kofun?
Tombs built for the ruling class elites at the time

Why were kofun made?
People used them to show their power. Kofun's shapes and sizes mirrored their ranks.

Ranks indicated by shapes

- Keyhole shaped**
 - For emperors and their families
 - For clans who supported and joined the Yamato Court
- Round and Square**
 - For lower-ranked aristocrats and clans who had less connections with the Yamato Court

400 The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group was formed.

These kofun were built in the cities of Sakai, Fujiidera, and Habikino in Osaka, between A.D. 250 and A.D. 650 and have been registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site. Out of more than 100 kofun built during the period in the Mozu area of Sakai, 44 remain.

What makes these kofun special?

- Variety of the large-scale kofun group**
This group is defined by its large-scale kofun. While key-shaped kofun are the most famous, there are a wide range of kofun in different shapes and sizes.
- Power of the person buried**
Swords and armor made of precious iron by expert craftsmen were found inside the kofun, which indicates that the person had great power.

700 The popularity of kofun construction declined over the years.

Reason 1 Introduction of Buddhism to Japan
Due to Chinese influence, beliefs and rituals related to kofun were considered out of fashion.

Reason 2 Development of social system
The development of social structures and writing systems led to the decline of kofun construction as a means to display one's social status.

1300 The usage of kofun as castles

Many castles were built in Japan during the Warring States Era. Some kofun were converted into castles.

Chuai-tenno-ryo-Kofun

This kofun is located in the Furuichi area and is one of those that were later converted into castles. This kofun is also believed to have been used as a castle during the "Summer Campaign of the Siege of Osaka" in 1615.

1900 Kofun replaced due to large-scale urbanization

Due to high economic growth, many kofun had to be replaced in order to accommodate the growing need for urban development.

The first in Osaka

Itasuke Kofun

The kofun was supposed to be replaced around 1955, but protests by locals prevented that from happening. A bridge, originally constructed to access the kofun to replace it, has been left as a symbol of their perseverance.

2019 Registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site

Kofun as the key to unlock ancient Japanese history

The varied shapes and sizes of kofun are believed to indicate the social ranks of people buried, and each kofun can uncover the details of how the nation was formed.

Local support

Even now kofun are cherished by the local people. Many local volunteers are actively engaged in cleaning activities to preserve the beautiful kofun for future generations.

Discover

Let's become kofun experts!

What is great about kofun?

3 great things that you should know about Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun!

1 Comparison of the world's largest ancient tombs

Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun is one of the largest ancient tombs at 486m in length. It is considerably larger than the others. You can see how enormous this is when compared with the Pyramid of Khufu (230m) in Egypt and the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor (350m) in China (see the illustration on the right).

2 The large-scale kofun built by many people over the years

The construction of a huge mound required the time and effort of so many people. At the time when neither electricity nor machinery was available, a total of 6.8 million people came together, and it took more than 15 years to build the burial mound. This considerable amount of time and effort led to the completion of this grand tomb.

3 Tales of Emperor Nintoku, the Compassionate

Life was not easy for people in those times. However, according to the oldest chronicles of Japan, it is believed that Emperor Nintoku worried about the welfare of his people and suspended taxes and labor, and that the emperor saved expenses by wearing simple clothes despite his high status. Because of those noble actions, the emperor was much admired by his people, which might have been a reason why people built a massive tomb for him.

Enjoy the scenery

Spring In spring, you can see hundreds of cherry blossoms.

Richu-tenno-ryo Kofun and **Itasuke Kofun**

Fall In fall, you can enjoy the majestic foliage.

Hase Nisanzai Kofun and **Richu-tenno-ryo Kofun**

View Spot

Sakai City Hall 21st Floor (Observation Deck)

The top floor of the city hall is an observation deck. From here you can enjoy the fantastic views overlooking Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun as well as the whole of Sakai city.

Let's find out more!

1 Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun
Why was it built? Why is it important for Sakai?

Kofun Tour Guide Video

2 Richu-tenno-ryo Kofun
Who is buried here? Why were two moats around the kofun replaced? What is the relation between the kofun and the local areas?

3 Itasuke Kofun
The plan to replace this kofun was abandoned. But why?

Dine

※ All listed prices include tax and are correct as of October 2019.
※ The admission fees may vary depending on the age.

Card accepted, Wi-Fi available, Souvenirs available, English menu available

A Chakura-zen (Chakura set meal)

"We hope our dishes will please everyone!"
A vegan restaurant where you can enjoy a variety of Japanese-style vegan dishes made with carefully selected ingredients.

Chakura
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (L.O. 2:00 p.m.)
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (At least 1-day advance reservation is required.)
Closed on select days
¥1,980~

B Mamenoka Lunch (set meal)

Enjoy their original dishes made with homemade tofu and locally grown vegetables and rice. With their beautiful wooden tables, the restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere.

Mamenoka
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Closed: Sunday
¥1,000~2,000

C Kofun Curry (curry with kofun-shaped rice)

Enjoy their homemade Japanese dishes
This Japanese-style curry restaurant is famous for its Kofun Curry served in a homemade kofun-shaped plate with a shovel-like spoon. Dig in!

Restaurant Hanachawan
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Closed on select days
¥1,000~2,000

Double Kofun Set

Chiffon cake with marmalade, jam and whipped cream

A popular Japanese-style café near Mozu Station
Why not buy their kofun-shaped cookies as souvenirs as well?

Cafe SATO
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
¥1,000~2,000

E Co.FUN Kakigori (Co.FUN shaved ice)

A cozy café offering a variety of matcha dishes
A friendly owner welcomes you with tasty homemade dishes and drinks using matcha. Enjoy a leisurely meal in a relaxed atmosphere.

Co.FUN Cafe
Lunch Sat to Wed: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thu & Fri: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner Wed to Sat: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Closed on select days
¥1,000~2,000

F Gelato (double scoops)

You can choose from nine seasonal flavors!

Gelato available at an authentic Italian restaurant
Following the concept "You are what you eat," this gelato shop offers healthful seasonal dishes using carefully selected ingredients. Why not try homemade pizzas available at WINGTIP as well?

La Dolce Vita (available only at WINGTIP)
11:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Closed: Monday and two Tuesdays of the month
¥400~

Our Recommended Itinerary for Your Day in Sakai

Start

JR Mozu Station

2 min
Bicycle

5 min
Walking

1. Cafe IROHA

2-160, Mozusekiuncho, Sakai Ward, Sakai

Sakai Nama-Pudding (custard flavor) ¥280

12:00 P.M.

Café right next to Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun

Why not try their Goryo Burger set? We also recommend trying their homemade pudding for dessert. In addition, there is a counter where you can buy original souvenirs hand-crafted by local people.



Goryo Burger set ¥1,430
You can choose from beef, chicken, or pork cutlet.

Tue. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat., Sun., and National Holidays
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed: Monday (closed Tuesday if Monday is a National Holiday)

¥1,000 - 2,000

Card, Wi-Fi, Present, ABC English

30 sec
Bicycle

1 min
Walking

2. Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun

7-1, Daisencho, Sakai Ward, Sakai

1:00 P.M.

Known as Japan's largest kofun, Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun is a must-see place where you can feel the vastness of its size and enjoy the scenic views created by the beautiful trees that have naturally grown on the kofun over the centuries. The inside of the kofun, which is regarded as a sacred site, is managed by the Imperial Household Agency and is not open to the public.



Card, Wi-Fi, Present, ABC English

2 min
Bicycle

5 min
Walking

3. Sakai City Museum

2, Mozusekiuncho, Sakai Ward, Sakai

1:30 P.M.

Here you can learn about the history of kofun as well as the history and the traditional industries of Sakai City, which once flourished as an industrial port city. If you want an even more exciting experience, why not try their VR contents, "Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun tour"? Using the virtual reality headset, you can see the kofun from above and the sacred section of the inside (for an additional ¥800).



9:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
(admission by 4:30 p.m.)

¥50 - 200

Card, Wi-Fi, Present, ABC English

3 min
Bicycle

6 min
Walking

4. Daisen Park Japanese Garden

2, Mozusekiuncho, Sakai Ward, Sakai

2:00 P.M.

Here you can stroll around the pond and enjoy many kinds of seasonal flowers and trees. Japanese tea and sweets are served in a tea room inside (for an additional ¥300).



[Apr. - Oct.] 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(admission by 4:30 p.m.)
[Nov. - Mar.] 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(admission by 4:00 p.m.)

¥100 - 200

Card, Wi-Fi, Present, ABC English

5 min
Bicycle

10 min
Walking

5. Mozuan

2-150-4, Mozusekiuncho, Sakai Ward, Sakai

4:00 P.M.

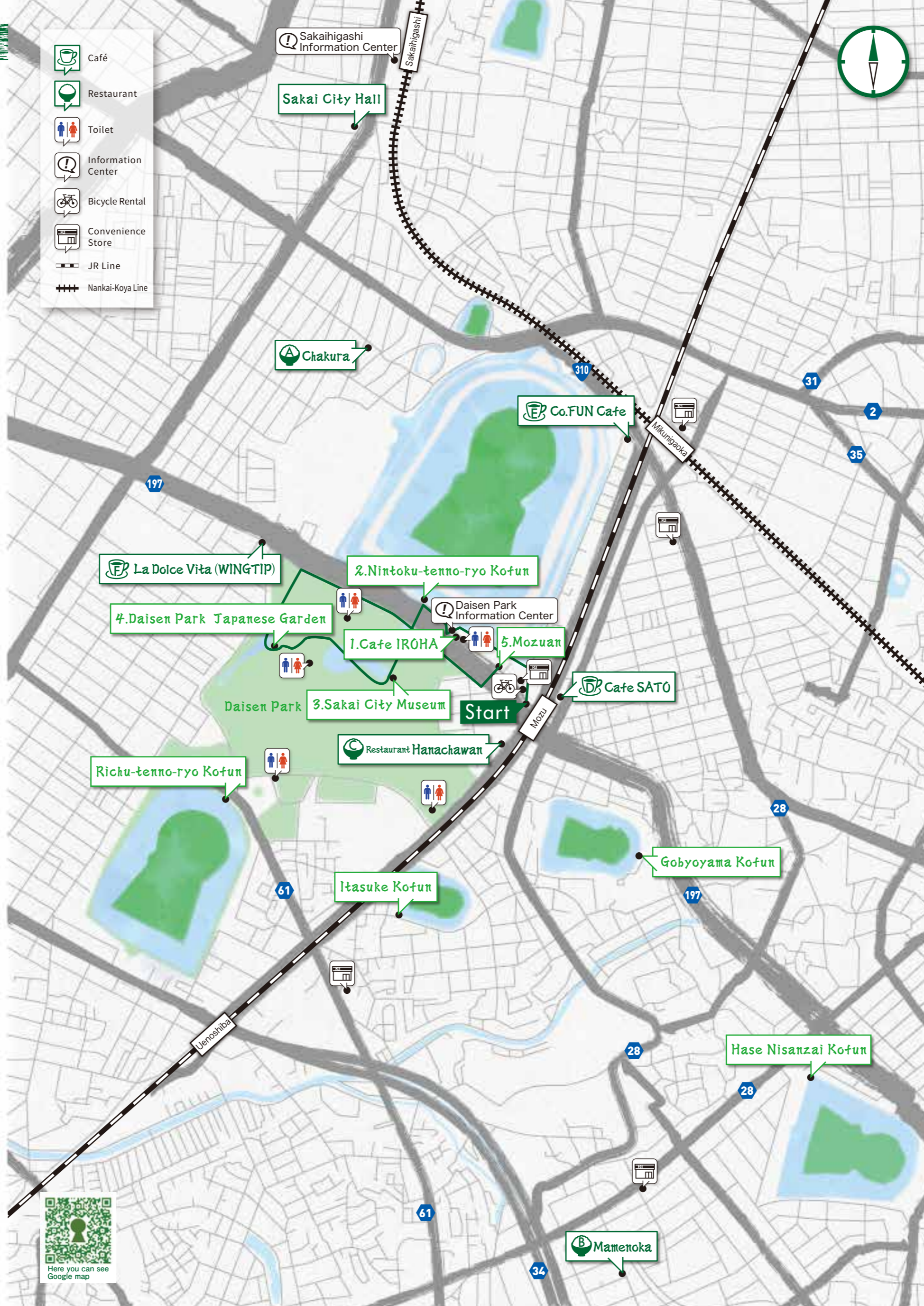
A souvenir shop near Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun. You can buy many kinds of kofun-related souvenirs and other gifts only available in Sakai.



10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Card, Wi-Fi, Present, ABC English

- Café
- Restaurant
- Toilet
- Information Center
- Bicycle Rental
- Convenience Store
- JR Line
- Nankai-Koya Line



Here you can see Google map

Travel Tips

1. Tourist Information Center helps you plan your day in Sakai.

Here you can use free Wi-Fi, leave your luggage, rent a bicycle, or buy "omotenashi ticket (tram day ticket)." English-speaking staff is also available.



2. Services & facilities available at convenience stores

※ Not all stores have these services and facilities.



3. Renting bicycles is a great way to look around various kofun in Sakai City.

You can rent bicycles at the following places:

1. Sakai Community Cycle (near Mozu Station)
2. Sakai Sightseeing Rental Bicycles (at Daisen Park Tourist Information Center)



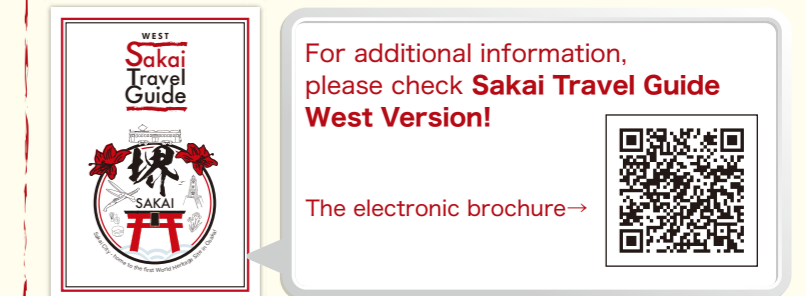
4. Keep an eye out for signboards like this while looking around kofun!

These signboards, which you can find in the kofun area, will provide you with the useful information in many languages that will help you find the best way to get to the kofun you would like to visit.



Additional places you can see in Sakai!

At one time, Sakai flourished as a merchant city through trade with foreign countries. Sakai then experienced many difficulties following the outbreaks of war. But Sakai overcame these difficulties each time, and by developing traditional industries, Sakai transformed itself into a city of craftsmen. Craftsman skills have been passed down through the generations, and even now Sakai craftsmen are renowned for their outstanding skills and techniques. In this area you can find unique souvenirs and enjoy experiences available only here in Sakai.



Access to West Area

Train	Mozu	JR Hanwa Line	Mikunigaoka	Nankai Koya Line	Tengachaya	Nankai Line	Sakai	30 min
Bus	Mozu Ekimae	Denen Line	Sakaihigashi Ekimae	J Green Sakai Line J-1	Sakaieki-nishiguchi			30 min
Bus	Umekita-2chome	Kitanoda Line ①, ②, ③-1		Sakaieki-minamiguchi				20 min
Bicycle	Mozu Station			Sakai Station				25 min
Walking	Mozu Station			Sakai Station				50 min