

The Takayama Museum of History and Art

FLOOR GUIDE



Outline of Takayama City



Central of Takayama city and Mt.Norikura

Hida is located in Gifu Prefecture, almost in the center of the Japanese archipelago. Here, narrow valleys stretch between countless steep mountains, dotted with villages.

※ Japan's largest city (approx 2,177.61km²)

The area is similar to Tokyo.

※ 92.5% of its area is mountainous forest, surrounded by great mountains such as Mt. Ontake, Mt. Norikura and others of The Hida Mountains are on the east and the Hakusan peaks on the west.

※ Population approx 90,747 (As of January 2016.)

※ Main industries

Tourism because of beautiful landscape, natural richness and hot spa.

Traditional furniture work and craftwork derived from Hida craftsman.

Agriculture of spinach Japan's No.1 production volume etc.

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About The Takayama Museum of History and Art

The Takayama Museum of History and Art was established for the preservation and utilization of cultural heritages in Takayama City in 1953.

The facility was expanded and renovated for renewal opening in 2011.

Its exhibition rooms were built using the original storehouses of the YAJIMA and NAGATA families, who were wealthy merchants, and use thick mud wall construction(Kura).

The storehouses were built between the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 20th century.

◆ Opening Hours

Exhibition Room 9:00 ~ 19:00

Conference Room 9:00 ~ 21:00

Garden 7:00 ~ 21:00

※ The opening hours may change according to the season.

◆ Closed Day No Regular Closed Day

※ The museum may be closed temporarily.

◆ Admission free

◆ Parking spaces for disabled people in front of the main entrance.



Streetlight Alley



Garden in spring



Courtyard

The YAJIMA Family

The family moved from Omi (Currently in Shiga Prefecture) at the beginning of the 17th century. It is said that the KANAMORI family, who had a close relationship with them, invited them over to Takayama, for development of its commercialism.

The family merchandised in timber and salt, as well as contributed to politics in the town as one of the town elders (machi-doshiyori).

The West Storehouse of the YAJIMA Family

Used as exhibition rooms ① and ⑦.

7.2 × 10 m, 2 storeys

The Bunko Library of YAJIMA Family

Used as exhibition rooms ② and ⑥.

7.2 sqm square 3 storey-storehouse for paintings, calligraphic works and documents

The Salt Storehouse of the YAJIMA Family

Used as exhibition room ③.

This is a 7.2 sqm 2 storey-storehouse for salt dealt by the YAJIMA family. "御白木蔵 (Oshirakigura: Palin Wood Storehouse)" written on the door shows that wood materials were also stored here during a certain period.

The storehouse was built in 1783 and renovated in 1878.

It is the oldest storehouse in the museum.

The North Storehouse of the YAJIMA Family

Used for exhibition rooms ④ and ⑤.

This is a narrow 13 m long storehouse. In an old diagram, it is named "Komegura (rice storehouse)".

The storehouses of the YAJIMA family had been used by a trading company until about 2007.

The NAGATA Family

The NAGATA family were in the brewing industry. They owned the largest agricultural firm in Takayama.

Besides the brewing industry, they initiated various businesses, such as dairy farming, yarn-making and banking, etc.

The head of the NAGATA family worked as the first town mayor of Takayama and a member of the House of Representatives.

6 of their storehouses with thick mud walls (kura) built in 1875 still remain, and 3 of them are used as exhibition rooms.

NAGATA Bunko Library

Used as exhibition Rooms ⑨ and ⑭.

Paintings, calligraphic works and important documents were stored in the bunko library. The building materials are all cypress except for the 9m beams made from high quality pine.

NAGATA Rice Storehouse

Used as exhibition rooms ⑩ and ⑬.

This is a 7 × 8 m 3 storey-storehouse with thick mud walls. Rice from the vast company owned by the NAGATA family was stored here.

Sake Brewery of the NAGATA Family

Used as exhibition rooms ⑪ and ⑫.

This is a large 14.5 sqm 2 storey-storehouse with thick mud walls. The storehouse was also used as a sake brewery. The center of the ceiling on the second floor is open and the pulley can be seen remaining on the beam.

Apart from the brewery, there were storehouses for koji malts, charcoal, and chests of draws. They are now used as storehouses for the museum's artifacts.

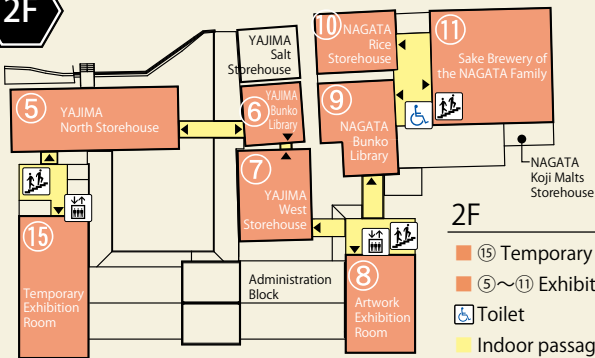


1F

- ①~④、⑫~⑭ Exhibition Rooms
- ⑮ Museum Library
- ⑯ Corner of the city offers
- ⑰ Conference Room
- ⑱ Museum Information and Office • Nursing Corner

- Toilet
- Indoor passage
- Outdoor corridors
- Garden

2F



2F

- ⑮ Temporary Exhibition Room
- ⑤~⑪ Exhibition Rooms
- Toilet
- Indoor passage

- No Smoking in Whole Area
- No Eating and Drinking in Exhibition Room



Spring



Spring



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

Museum in four Seasons



Exhibition Room ①

Welcome to The Takayama Museum of History and Art

In this exhibition room, the features and culture of various areas of Takayama Town are introduced. Various features of the castle town built in the 16th century still remain.



Rules among the merchant in Takayama (In the 17th century)

They were regulations given to the townspeople. The regulations forbid people to form cliques and gamble, as well as obligated them to report any foreigners and gave instructions at the time of fire and flood.



Model of the Ebisu-Tai (S=1/50)

One of the 12 floats (yatai) for the spring Takayama Festival (Sanno Festival).



Various cultural activities, such as carving, lacquerware craft, tea ceremonies and academic studies flourished.



Exhibition Room ②

Takayama Festival

Takayama Festival is the comprehensive name of the Sanno Festival on the 14th and 15th of April and the Hachiman Festival on the 9th and 10th of October.

The festival is a symbol of the culture of people who were born in the castle town of Takayama. In this exhibition room, the origin of the Takayama Festival and the features of the floats(yatai) used in the festival are introduced.



Picture scroll of the Sanno Festival Procession (Fragment) (The beginning of the 19th century)

The oldest picture scroll of the Sanno Festival procession. The roof shapes and decorations of the floats in the scroll are different from the float's today.

The float on the left, is Sanbaso, a float with a karakuri marionette. The karakuri doll dance is for the pleasing gods.



Exhibition Room ③

Old private houses of Takayama, and "Hida no Takumi"

In Takayama town there are rows of houses over 100 years old.

The features of the houses and tools and carpentry skills for their construction are introduced in this exhibition room.

Hida's master builders, called "Hida no Takumi ", were known as highly skilled builders. Therefore, a law in the 7th century obligated them to work in the capital as a type of tax payment. Hida no Takumi engaged in building palaces and temples, as well as bringing new skills back to Takayama and developing those skills. Their skills have been handed down to the present.



"Hida no Takumi monogatari

—The Magical carpenters of Japan."(1808)

These are stories told about legendary Hida's master builders.

The pictures on them were drawn by KATSUSHIKA Hokusai.



Ink Cord reel

This tool was used to mark lines on wood to be work.It was one of the most important carpentry tools and usually builders made them by themselves.



Exhibition Room ④

History of Takayama as a Castle Town.

The foundation of Takayama Town was established by the Lord KANAMORI of Hida in the 16th century.

Hida came under the direct control of the TOKUGAWA Shogunate at the end of the 17th century. The Castle Takayama was destroyed, but the townspeople area, temples and shrines survived.

After Hida came under the direct control of the TOKUGAWA Shogunate, head officers were dispatched from Edo, Japan's old capital, and ruled over the area. However, 3 machi-doshiyori (Town elders) ※ handled the matters regarding town politics. The YAJIMA family, whose house was located on the site of this museum, also served as town elders.

※ Machi-doshiyori (Town Elders)

Machi-doshiyori were selected from each district located in the center of the town, Ichi no Machi, Ni no Machi and San no Machi (first, second and third districts) and their positions were hereditarily succeeded. They handled permission for construction and travel, and civil suits at the town meeting place called Machikaisho.



Model of Entire Takayama Castle

The castle was located at the present site of the Shiroyama Park.

It was built on a mountain surrounded with samurai residences on the neighboring hills.

The commercial town was built in the low areas and it still remains as the Old Townscape.



Clothing of the YAJIMA Family

On the right is a kamishimo, men's formal wear.

The kamishimo was given by the KANAMORI family, and has the family crest, "umebachi-mon (plum blossoms)".



Exhibition Room ⑤

Lord KANAMORI's Family History

The first Lord KANAMORI Nagachika served ODA Nobunaga, TOYOTOMI Hideyoshi and TOKUGAWA Ieyasu and lived through the entire Sengoku Era. The KANAMORI family ruled over the Hida area through 6 generations for 107 years. In this exhibition room, the history of the KANAMORI family is introduced. KANAMORI Sowa, who established the Sowa-ryu tea ceremony was one of the family.



KANAMORI Nagachika (1524 ~1608)

Nagachika was born in Mino (south of Gifu Prefecture today). He conquered the Hida area in 1585 and ruled over it. The castle town that Nagachika designed is still remaining and known as the Old Townscape. He left significant contributions to Takayama Town through maintaining the roads and water supply as well as developing industry. He was also a disciple of SEN NO RIKYU, the most respected teacher of the tea ceremony.



KANAMORI Sowa (1584 ~1656)

Sowa was born as the first son of KANAMORI Arishige, the second feudal lord. However, he was disinherited and moved to Kyoto. In Kyoto, he had many opportunities to associate with various people, such as court nobles, the Imperial Family, Buddhist monk and samurai families, and devoted himself to the tea ceremony. He is also known as the person who discovered NONOMURA Ninsei, the potter. The Sowa-ryu tea ceremony which was established by Sowa is still performed today.



Exhibition Room ⑥

Folk events and the nature in the Hida area are introduced in this exhibition room.



Exhibition Room ⑦

Traditional Event

The events throughout the year in the Hida area are introduced in this room. Also, hina dolls (dolls displayed at the girls' festival) and samurai dolls (dolls displayed at the boys' festival) are exhibited in the room.



Ema (Votive Picture Tablet of a Horse)

Ema is a type of talisman put up on the entrance of houses. Ema market is held in August.



Samurai Dolls

(Dolls for the boys' festival)

The exhibition period is around the 20th of April to the 5th of June. The dolls are displayed for wishing for the health and growth of children.



Hina Dolls

(Dolls for the girls' festival, Hina Festival) The exhibition period is around the 20th of February to the 3rd of April.



Exhibition Room ⑧

Takayama Art Work

Artworks by artists related to Takayama are introduced in this exhibition room. Besides artwork, various project exhibitions are also held in the room.



"Birds and Flowers" (1893)
by Tsuchida Sekko



"HIDA NETSUKE –Wood carvings by SUKENAGA and other Hida Masters-" (2013)



Craftwork from the Hida area was introduced at the exhibition, "Traditional Craftworks" (2014). The exhibition is held annually in autumn.



Exhibition Room ⑨

Religion in Takayama

Enku (1632~1695) was a Buddhist monk born in Mino (currently south Gifu). He traveled around East Japan for priestly training and carved tens of thousands of Buddhas.

He stayed at Senko-ji Temple in Hida (Nyukawa-town, Takayama-city), and left many Buddhas on the periphery of the temple.

The Buddhas have been loved by the people and are subjects of worship.



17 Buddhas made by Enku are exhibited at the museum. (As of 2016).

In addition to the Buddhas, some documents, where ENKU is referred to, such as "Hishushi (History of Hida)" and "Kinsei Kijin-den (Stories of Extraordinary People in Recent Centuries.*)" are also exhibited.

Note: The Buddhas in this room are still objects of worship, and may not be exhibited during temple festivals.



An illustration from the book, "Kinsei Kijin-den (Stories of Extraordinary People in Recent Centuries.*)" Enku is carving a Buddha in the tree at Senko-ji Temple.



Exhibition Room ⑩

Life and Culture

Takayama Town is the center of the Hida area. The town became prosperous as a distribution center and had many active merchants. Some of them stored huge assets and owned luxury goods. In this exhibition room, livingware and ornaments are exhibited.



Kanko Dori (Rooster on the Drum)
Zashiki karakuri (an indoor karakuri marionette).



Fan
This is a manual fan. When turning the lever, the blades of the fan rotate.



Exhibition Room ⑪

Academics and Literature

In the 14th century, the provincial governor of Hida, ANEGAKOJI was dispatched from Kyoto. He helped to establish waka poetry in Hida.

In the 17th century, under the KANAMORI family's rule, there were some scholars patronized by the government, however, academic studies were mainly for the samurai class.

After the 18th century, under the direct control of the TOKUGAWA Shogunate, many of the head officers and their officials from Edo were intellectuals. Advanced academics from Edo were introduced in Hida. Eventually, academics, waka and haiku poetry and paintings became necessary parts of education for the townspeople.

Japanese classical scholar, TANAKA Ohide and AKADA Gagyu (1747~1822) who built the first school in Hida are well known people who came from Takayama town.



"Hishushi (History of Hida)"

Hishushi was compiled by a head officer, HASEGAWA Tadataka.

This is the topography of Hida completed in 1745.



TANAKA Ohide (1777~1847)

TANAKA Ohide was known for his research of classic literature, such as "Taketori Monogatari" (The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter)" and as a poet.



Exhibition Room ⑫

Massive Fire and Disaster Prevention

Frequent large scale fires occurred in Takayama Town, caused by the closely built wooden houses. Therefore, Hikeshi-gumi (fire fighter teams) were organized in 1783.

The way they fought against fire was by breaking down the surrounding houses to prevent the fire

spreading. The firefighters also worked as carpenters and sawyers.

The number of firefighter teams rose to 10. Each team had its own mark. During fire fighting operations, they bore their Matoi (fire fighter's standards with their marks) and wore firefighting costumes with their marks, including Hanten (quilted short coats) and hoods.



Matoi (Fire Fighter's standards) and Flags

A matoi (Fire Fighter's standard) was used also for indicating the source of the fires. Bearing a Matoi was a dangerous role, because Matoi holders had to be close to the fire source. Other fighters would demolish the houses around the Matois.



Hanten (quilted short coat)

Hantens were made of multiple layers of cotton. When they were soaked in water, they would be fire resistant. Bold illustrations of tigers and dragons were embroidered on the inside of Hantens.



Exhibition Room ⑬

Local Traditional Crafts

There are some traditional crafts, such as Shunkei Lacquerware, Ichii Ittobori (yew wood carving), and ceramics in Hida. Materials come from the rich forest resources.

Hida Shunkei Lacquerware beautifully utilizes the wood grain.

Ichii Ittobori is a way to carve while taking advantage of the characteristics of Japanese yew trees.

trees.

Production of ceramic products have existed since the 17th century and are currently produced at four kilns. The works from the 17th century to the modern day are displayed in this room.



Ceramics in the Hida Area



Ichii Ittobori (Yew Wood Carving)



Shunkei Lacquerware

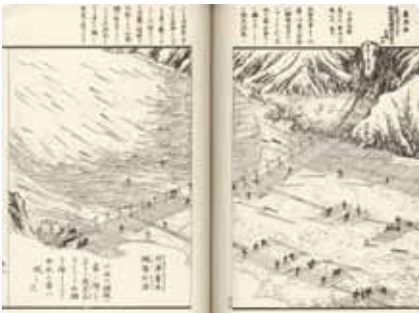


Exhibition Room ⑭

Takayama's Economic History

The Hida area has rich mountain forest resources. Measures, such as planting trees, have been taken since the 17th century.

Besides the timber industry, various industries were developed, including crude medicine, silk cultivation and breweries, etc. In this exhibition room, the economy in Takayama is introduced.



"Unzai Zue

(Pictures of Material Transport)" (1854)

by TOMITA Iyahiko

Timber from Hida was floated as rafts down rivers.



"Rokuju-yo Shu Meisho Zue Hida Kago Watashi

(Illustrations of Sixty-plus Famous Places

River Crossing by Basket)" (1853)

by UTAGAWA Hiroshige

A ropeway with a basket made of wisteria vine was built on a steep valley where building a bridge wasn't possible.



Temporary Exhibition Room

Unique exhibitions are held in The Takayama Museum of History and Art four times a year. You can enjoy different exhibitions each time.



Stories of Architectures in Takayama (2014)



39th Traveling Museum "**Masterpieces of Japanese Paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu**" (2014)



Museum New Collections (2015)



Experience Corner

The Experience Corner may be set according to exhibitions.

The Takayama Museum of History and Art Floor Guide

Date Published 31.March.2016

Edited by The Takayama Museum of History and Art
75 Kamiichino-machi, Takayama, Gifu 506-0844 Japan

Printed by Dairoku PRINTING LTD.