

Our experienced volunteers are here to help you with hands-on crafts!

Hands-On Learning Zone



The *Hands-On Learning Zone*, made up of four unique areas, offers an interactive learning space where you can learn about, share, and recreate the history and culture of Saitama through a variety of hands-on programs unique to the museum.

1 Hands-On Room

A space where you can choose from a variety of materials such as *Life and Tools from the Past* as shown in textbooks, hands-on exhibits, and enjoy trying on period costumes.



2 Learning Library

A learning space located within Zone 1. Books and catalogs related to Saitama Prefecture, municipal histories from across the prefecture, general books on history, folklore, art and educational comics for children are available.



3 Workshop Space

You can experience a variety of modes of craftsmanship. This is a learning space for experiencing the spirit of traditional culture passed down from local regions such as trying your hands at indigo dyeing or making ancient *Magatama* comma-shaped beads.



4 Playground (Simpler Times of the Showa Era)

An outdoor space recreating the nostalgia of the 1950s & 1960s Showa Era where you can try out traditional toys like spinning tops, hula hoops, and the *Kendama* wooden cup-and-ball game.



Workshop: Typical Experience Options

Indigo-dyed handkerchief



Magatama comma-shaped beads



Edo period braided cords



Activity Times
9:10-10:10 am
10:30-11:30 am
1:10-2:10 am
2:30-3:30 am

▶ **Reservations** can be made anytime by phone starting **one week before** your desired date to participate in these activities. **Same-day availability** if space is available.

▶ **No reservations required** for Mini Picture Scroll, Seasonal Mini Art, Ema Wooden Prayer Plaques, Historical Coloring, and Ukiyo-e Woodblock Printing.



About the Museum

The Saitama Prefectural Museum of History and Folklore was founded April 1, 2006 through the merging of the former Prefectural Museum and Prefectural Folklore Culture Center. It is an all-inclusive humanities museum covering history, folklore, and arts & crafts from broad, integrative, and multifaceted perspectives. It is affectionately known as *Rekimin Saitama*. The museum held its 50th anniversary from its founding in 2021.

Architecture - Another Highlight

This building was designed by Kunio Maekawa, a prominent Japanese architect and disciple of Le Corbusier, a master of modern architecture. It is one of Maekawa's later and most highly regarded works, having received numerous awards such as the Japan Art Academy Prize and the Mainichi Art Award, and was selected as one of the Top 100 public buildings in Japan. Everything from the lighting and furniture to the handrails is of original Maekawa design. This low-rise structure blends harmoniously with the natural setting of Ōmiya Park, its exhibition rooms are located underground, while the exterior tiles have subdued tones to match the native trees. Large windows allow visitors to enjoy seasonal landscapes from inside the museum.

Visitor Information

Opening Hours

9:00 am - 4:30 pm (last admission at 4:00 pm)
9:00 am - 5:00 pm in July & August (last admission at 4:30 pm)

Closed

Mondays (except national holidays, make-up holidays, Golden Week, and Prefectural Citizens Day) Year-end/ New Year holidays: Dec. 29 - Jan. 1
There are also unscheduled temporary closures or openings.

Fee for Admission to Permanent Exhibition

(Permanent Exhibition) Adults ¥300, Students ¥150

Group (20 or more): Adults ¥200, Students ¥100

(Special Exhibitions) Separate charge for each exhibition.

(Hands-on Learning Zone) free admission

▶ Free for junior high school students and younger, and for persons with disabilities (plus one caregiver).

▶ Exemptions available for educational programs sponsored by national/local education boards.

▶ **Annual Pass:** ¥1,500 for adults, ¥750 for high school students. Valid for one year from issue and can be used anytime, includes discounts on special exhibitions and other prefectural museums.

▶ We accept the **Gurutto Pass** for admission.

Auditorium/Lecture Rooms Reservation Fee

Available for meetings and lectures (pre-reservation required)
Auditorium: ¥630/hr Lecture rooms: ¥160/hr

Access

Train: 2 stops from Ōmiya Station on the Tobu Urban ParkLine (a.k.a. Noda Line). Get off at Ōmiya-Koen Station. Approx. 5-minute walk.

Car: Limited parking (15 spaces). Use public transport whenever possible.

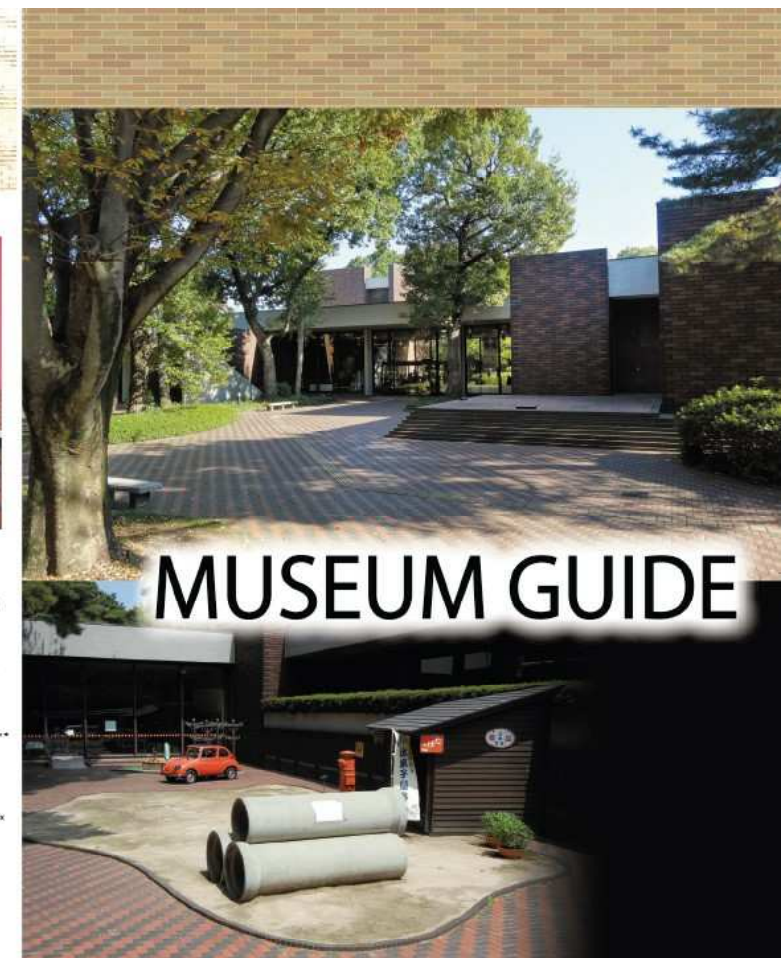
Groups arriving by bus must contact the museum in advance.



埼玉県立
歴史と民俗の博物館
Saitama Prefectural Museum of History and Folklore



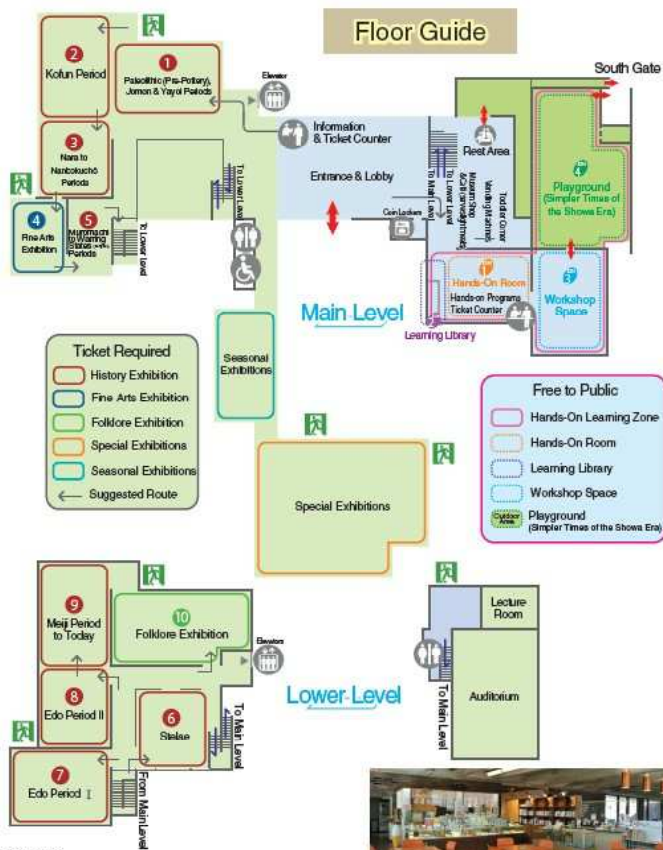
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彩の国
埼玉県



Permanent Exhibition

Life and Culture in Saitama

Room 1 Paleolithic (Pre-Pottery), Jomon & Yayoi Periods

— From Hunting to Rice Cultivation —

People are thought to have settled the Japanese archipelago around 35,000 years ago. This room introduces the changes in their lives and society from hunter-gatherers to rice farming through various artifacts excavated from archaeological sites.

Room 2 Kofun Period

— What the Iron swords tell us... —

Iron swords inscribed with gold letters excavated from the Inariyama Burial Mound (Kofun) bear the history of the warriors who supported the ruling power of the Yamato dynasty. This room introduces how new technologies and cultures were absorbed, how their development progressed and were integrated into local societies.

Room 3 Nara to Nanbokucho Periods

— Musashi Samurai —

The Nara period saw the establishment of Japan's national systems and the formation of Musashi Province (modern-day Saitama Prefecture). The Musashi Samurai emerged during the Heian period and contributed to the founding of the Kamakura Shogunate. This room introduces the genesis & activities of Musashi Samurai, as well as their beliefs and daily lives.

Room 4 Fine Arts Exhibition

This room is a small art museum within the museum. It introduces the charm and depth of Japanese art through various art & crafts exhibited based on the season and themes.



Room 5 Muromachi to Warring States (Sengoku) Periods

— Living in Turbulent Times —

Repeated warfare occurred between the Muromachi Shogunate, the Kamakura Shogunate, and opposing factions such as the Hojo and Uesugi clans in Musashi Province from the Muromachi to the Warring States periods. This room introduces the lives and culture of the people who lived through those chaotic times.

Room 6 Stelae

— The Samurai Spirit —

The stelae (*itabi* vertical stone tablets) are memorial markers made of stone erected from the Kamakura to Warring States periods. This room reveals the hopes of the people from the chaotic period of war as expressed in the stelae.



Room 7 Edo Period I

— Shogunate Rule and Village Life —

Musashi Province (modern-day Saitama Prefecture) played an important role in the defense and economy of Edo during the Edo period. This room introduces the establishment of a government system with a centralized Shogunate and its regional domains (the *Bakufu* system), the role of Northern Musashi Province using exhibits on the Kawagoe, Shinobi, Iwatsuki, and Okabe domains, as well as records of cultural and academic exchanges with Edo.



Room 8 Edo Period II

— Societal Growth and Unrest —

Agricultural production grew during the Edo period due to improvements to inland waterways, the development of new rice fields and thriving local industries. This room reveals the situation in Saitama at that time and the collapse of the Shogunate-domain system, which began to waver due to natural disasters and the opening of the nation.

Room 9 Meiji Period to Today

— Beyond the Turbulent Times —

This room traces Saitama's development from the Meiji Restoration to the present day. It focuses on Japan's rapid modernization, war, post-war reconstruction and growth, while also introducing the lives of the people and industries of Saitama.

Room 10 Folklore Exhibition

— Fire and Life —

Fire has been a constant presence in our lives and has brought with it many benefits. This room introduces the relationship between our daily lives and fire through exhibits on traditional skills, festivals, and events.



Volunteer guides provide easy-to-understand explanations on the history and culture of Saitama in the permanent exhibition rooms (Japanese only). Look for the guides wearing the red lanyard straps in the image here.



Translation support / David Rosasco