



KYUSHU NATIONAL MUSEUM 2024

海の道、アジアの路  
OCEAN WAYS, ASIAN PATHS

*Kosode kimono of rinzu (white figured satin) woven in a snowflake design embroidered with pine, bamboo, plum tree and other motifs*





# To be a museum that eng

## Message from the Executive Director



**TOMITA Jun**  
Executive Director,  
Kyushu National Museum

Founded on the philosophy of mapping the formation of Japanese culture within the context of Asia's history, Kyushu National Museum (affectionately known as Kyuhaku) opened our doors in 2005. We are situated in Dazaifu city, Fukuoka Prefecture, a strategic diplomatic location stretching back to antiquity. Thanks to the enthusiastic support we have received from near and far, we are pleased to have welcomed over 18 million visitors since our opening.

In 2025, Kyuhaku will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our founding. As we continue to grow and develop, we aim to lead our visitors on an unforgettable journey through time, exploring the unfolding drama of Japan's history of cultural exchange with Asia and Europe while offering a fresh and moving experience each time. Amidst the rapidly changing social and cultural milieu, we remain committed to our mission of protecting and communicating the cultural heritage of our ancestors to our visitors. We endeavor to be a museum where everyone feels welcome, which anyone can enjoy visiting time and again.





# ages the local residents

## ■ Mission and Vision

### Mapping the formation of Japanese culture within the context of Asia's history

The mission statement above was formulated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in June 1994, when our museum was still in the stages of its conception. Our operations are guided by the following concepts:

#### Concept 1

A museum that focuses on how cultural exchange with Asia has impacted the formation of cultures in Japan as a whole.

#### Concept 2

A museum that not only engages in the collection, preservation, exhibition, and research of cultural properties, but also advocates for and supports lifelong learning through the provision of educational outreach services.

#### Concept 3

A progressive museum that engages in internationalization and digitization whilst taking an interdisciplinary approach to all its research, with a particular focus on reflecting the latest developments in exhibition science, educational outreach, and the promotion of lifelong learning.

#### Concept 4

A museum that is jointly managed by the national government and the local government working in mutual collaboration.

Kyushu National Museum is jointly managed by the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH; an operational agency of the government) and the Fukuoka Prefectural Asian Cultural Exchange Center.



# Museum Floor Map

4F

## Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall

Ocean Ways, Asian Paths  
Covering 3,900 square meters and boasting a 7-meter-tall ceiling, this hall houses our permanent exhibition in one main gallery space and 11 adjoining rooms.



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3F

## Special Exhibition Hall

The 1,500 square meters of floor space in this hall are divided into three rooms of different sizes, making it a versatile space that can be transformed to suit the needs of each Special Exhibition.



P9

2F

## Storage Area

Our cultural properties are carefully kept and protected inside this storage area in the central part of the museum building.



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## Conservation and Restoration Facilities

The museum has six rooms dedicated to conservation and restoration of cultural properties, which the public can visit during our Backyard Tours.



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1F

## Entrance Hall

The first floor is equipped with many facilities such as a multilingual Information Desk and the Museum Cafe. Most visitors begin their visit to our museum in this sizable hall. In addition to its many facilities and amenities, it also plays host to special displays, concerts, and events. Visitors can also take a stroll outdoors to relax and enjoy the museum's natural surroundings.



Seminar Rooms A and B



Seminar Room C  
(Tatami Room)



Open-air Cafe  
Arched over the entrance hall are logs felled from forests all over Kyushu.

## Teahouse



Large tearoom



Small tearoom

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The gently sloping blue roof of Kyushu National Museum's main building allows it to complement its surrounding scenery. Our museum was constructed with a variety of facilities. There are exhibition rooms and halls, a cafe, a shop, seminar rooms and storage spaces. Special care was taken during the museum's construction to preserve the natural features around that now transform the museum grounds with every passing season.



**YAMADA Shingo**  
Deputy Executive Director  
Kyushu National Museum

#### ○Fact Sheet

Project Managers: Agency for Cultural Affairs,  
Fukuoka Prefecture, Kyushu National Museum  
Establishment Foundation  
Architect Firms: Kikutake Architects, Kume Sekkei  
Planning: September 1999–March 2001  
Construction: March 2002–March 2004

#### ○Specifications

Length: 160 m (East-West)	Width: 80 m (North-South)
Height at peak: 36.1 m	Eave height: 35.0 m
Floors: 5 + 2 basement levels	Net floor area: 30,675 m <sup>2</sup>
Building floor area: 14,623 m <sup>2</sup>	Construction area: 159,844 m <sup>2</sup>
Structural features: Steel-frame compression vault (roof); steel and concrete-encased steel (underground structures); seismic isolation system (exhibition and storage areas)	

Events and exhibitions on the first floor provide visitors of all ages with fun, interactive experiences.

#### Museum Hall

This multipurpose auditorium hosts various events, such as lectures and concerts. It is available for rental subject to usage fees (please refer to page 23 for more details).



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#### Ajippa (Interactive Exhibition Gallery)

Ajippa is a unique exhibition space where visitors of all ages can get up close and personal with some of the games, costumes, and musical instruments from Asian and European cultures with which Japan has had historical interactions.



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#### Museum Shop

Our museum shop offers an extensive lineup of museum-exclusive merchandise, including postcards, stationery, as well as books and catalogs from our exhibitions.

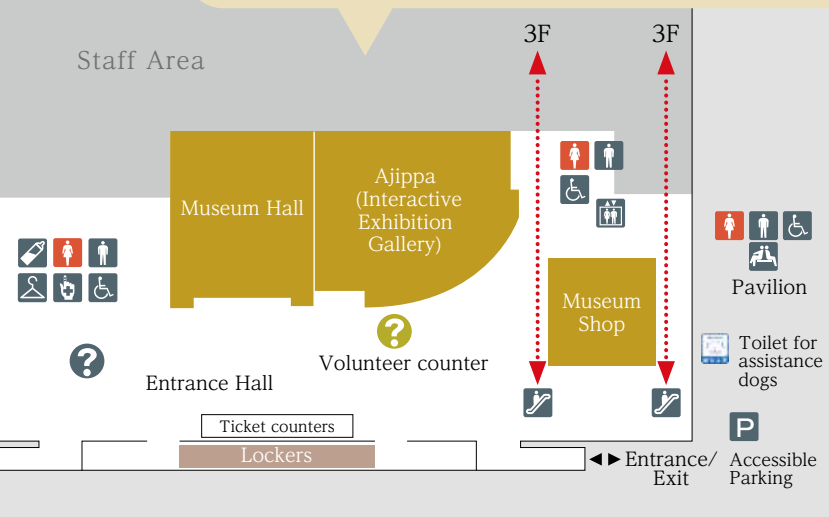


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Staff Area



Visitor Parking (South) **P**



# Cultural Exchange Exhibition

## Ocean Ways, Asian Paths



Bringing the features of every exhibit into focus

# Every visit a new experience

Subtitled “Ocean Ways, Asian Paths,” Kyushu National Museum’s permanent exhibition allows visitors to travel back in time and experience Japan’s history of cultural exchange with Asia and Europe.

Located in close proximity to the Korean peninsula and the Asian continent, Kyushu has played a central role in international exchange since antiquity. Situated in this historically significant region, our museum centers our permanent Cultural Exchange Exhibition on an approach to Japan’s history that examines how Japanese culture formed with reference to its place in Asia’s history.

Separated into 5 themes based on Japanese history, our exhibits cover ages from the Paleolithic to the end of the Edo period, when Japan reopened to the world. The central exhibition space displays key objects of cultural exchange during each period. It is surrounded by eleven themed rooms that delve deeper into historically significant aspects of cultural exchange. We also use videos as well as replicas crafted with the same processes and techniques as the originals to make our visitor experience more immersive.

Photography is allowed inside the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall (exceptions apply). Visitors can now take photos of their favorite exhibits and displays and post about them on social media.

### Column | Color-coded labels for greater clarity



ITÔ Shinji  
Head  
Planning Division  
Curatorial Department

Each main theme has its own color, which is used to label all the exhibits under that theme. This helps visitors locate the object before them within a larger historical context.



Color-coded exhibit label

## Five Main Themes

### 1 Jōmon Culture: Ocean-Bound

In the Paleolithic period, humans lived nomadic lifestyles, hunting large animals and gathering plants. As the climate warmed after the ice age, forests bore nuts and berries aplenty, the seas grew rich in fish, and smaller animals came into existence. People settled down and began to make earthenware to cook with. They also accessorized and performed rituals. The abundance of prey such as salmon in eastern Japan provided the foundation for the blossoming of Jōmon culture.

### 2 Political Power: Cultivating Rice

The Yayoi period began as rice farming and metalwork arrived in Kyushu from the Asian continent. As people began to work together, leaders who oversaw tasks soon emerged, eventually becoming kings ruling the area. By the Kofun period, most of the Japanese archipelago came under the rule of a Great King. This period also saw many immigrants from the Asian continent, who brought over horseback-riding culture and *sue* pottery-making techniques. A unique culture of building large tumuli in which people laid their chiefs to rest also emerged in Kyushu.

### 3 Nation Building: The Age of the Envoys

In the Nara period, Japan began sending envoys known as *kentōshi* to Chang’an, the capital of Tang China, to learn about the nation’s advanced governmental system and Buddhism. These envoys then brought back many items full of international influence via Dazaifu, which had been Japan’s center for diplomacy and trade with other Asian countries then. The Japanese built on these foreign influences and cultures to create new, uniquely Japanese cultural practices, such as inventing a new script known as *kana*. New forms, beliefs, and practices of Buddhism also made their way to Japan during this era.

### 4 Merchants of the Asian Seas

The samurai class’s rise to power in the Kamakura period marked the beginning of a “medieval period” that lasted until the end of the Muromachi period. During these five centuries, merchants from various Asian countries frequently sailed the seas to trade, and commerce developed in many cities in Japan. Amid the samurais’ battle for supremacy, imported art forms such as ink paintings and tea emerged as symbols of wealth and power. These cultural symbols eventually developed into full-fledged tea ceremonies, which are now taken to embody traditional Japanese culture.

### 5 Smaller World, Closer West

The European Age of Discoveries coincided with the end of the Muromachi period through the Azuchi-Momoyama period in Japan. European traders arriving in Asia brought guns and Christianity into Japan, and left with Japanese silver and crafts. In the subsequent Edo period, the nation entered a period of societal stability. Though this period is famous for being one of national isolation, Japan had actually maintained contact with the outside world via Nagasaki, Tsushima, Ryukyu, and Ezo. Japan exported ceramics and lacquerware that mesmerized the world, while importing new fields of knowledge and cultures from Europe which helped pave the way for the nation’s modernization.

- A** Guidance Area
- C** Room 2 Kaneko Kazushige Memorial Gallery: Asian Ethno-forms
- E** Room 4 Ancient Tombs: Colorful Murals and Ornaments
- B** Kentoshi envoy ship replica
- D** Room 6 Images of Ideal Asians
- F** New Year Special Display  
*Hatsune Maki-e Lacquer Trousseau, National Treasure from the Tokugawa Art Museum*



## Eleven Adjoining Rooms

### Room 1 Donors' Gallery

This room exhibits valuable cultural assets that were donated to our museum. These include Important Cultural Properties such as Katsushika Hokusai's *Daily Sketches for Exorcism and Longevity* and a wine jar depicting pine, plum, and bamboo motifs in overglaze enamels, as well as a lidded iron pot embossed with interlocking circles and other treasures such as swords.

### Room 2 Kaneko Kazushige Memorial Gallery: Asian Ethnoforms

Named for Kaneko Kazushige's generous donation of over 1,000 valuable objects relating to Asian ethnography, this gallery has been permanently dedicated to displaying a selection of these objects that will paint a colorful picture of Asian cultures.

### 2 Political Power: Cultivating Rice

### Room 3 The Emergence of the Ancient Japanese in East Asia

During the Yayoi period, rice farming took root in northern Kyushu, where people also traded metals and other resources. This room presents artifacts left behind by these imported cultures as well as technologies which contributed to the formation of Japanese civilization.

### Room 4 The Ancient Tombs: Colorful Murals and Ornaments

Enter a room filled with *haniwa* terracotta figurines and stone figures that once decorated ancient tombs. Also on display are photographs and replicas of beautiful murals found inside the same tumuli, reflecting the aesthetics of ancient people living in northern and central Kyushu.

### Room 5 Screening Room

In addition to an overview of Dazaifu's history and heritage sites, this room offers visitors a virtual tour inside an ancient burial mound, an experience that is usually restricted. (Videos play on a continuous loop.)

### 3 Nation Building: The Age of the Envoys

### Room 6 Image of Ideal Asians

This room is dedicated to showcasing depictions of deities or targets of worship in various religions all over the Asian continent. In particular, visitors can expect to learn about Buddhist art and its development in Asia.

### Room 7 A Short Trip to Asia

The limitations of time and place dissolve in this room, where we showcase a selection of artifacts, mainly those in our possession. It's just like taking a stroll through Asia here!

### Room 8 The Voyage of the Envoys and the Silk Road

This room features objects from all over the Eurasian continent, painting a picture of the prosperous Tang Chinese capital of Chang'an to which Japanese *kentoshi* envoys traveled, as well as trade along the Silk Road. A highlight of this room is an authentic replica of an envoy ship's cargo hold.

### 4 Merchants of the Asian Seas

### Room 9 The Exchanges of People and Objects During the Middle Ages

The exhibits in this room present regional variations that have developed in cultural elements common to various Asian nations as a result of trade and travel.

### 5 Smaller World, Closer West

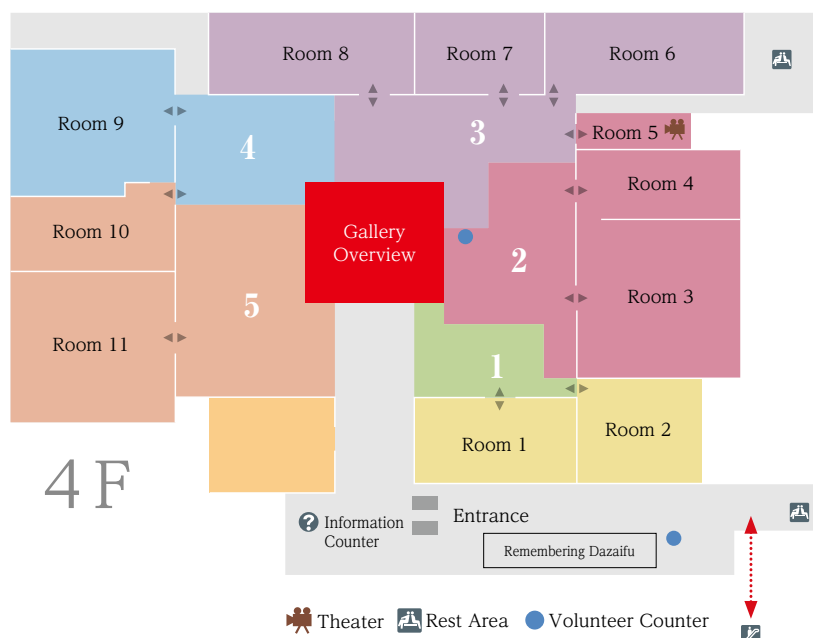
### Room 10 Ceramics of Kyushu: The Tanakamaru Collection

Visitors can feast their eyes on some of the finest works from Tanakamaru Zenpachi's collection of Kyushu ceramics, which are on display in this room.

### Room 11 Edo: A Multifaceted Culture

Edo-period Japan saw the blossoming of fine arts and crafts all over the nation. This room features a selection of these works, produced in local regions such as Nagasaki and Ryukyu.

## Gallery Map



Experience how the Japanese peoples of the past lived  
and interacted with the rest of Asia



# Cultural Exchange Exhibition

## Feature Exhibitions and Special Displays

Dynamic themes offer deeper cultural insights and bring greater variety to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition.

### Highlights from 2023-24



#### Feature Exhibition

#### *New Perspectives*

#### *A Glimpse into the World of Akita-Ranga Paintings*

29 April–11 June 2023

Akita-Ranga paintings originated 250 years ago in 1773, when Akita domain lord Satake Shozan and his retainer Odano Naotake met naturalist Hiraga Gennai. This encounter led to Naotake being commissioned the following year to illustrate Sugita Genpaku's *Kaitai shinsho* (*A New Text on Anatomy*), the first full Japanese translation of a Western medical text. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of Akita-Ranga, this exhibition presented masterpieces from the Akita Senshu Museum of Art, renowned for its excellent collection of this genre.

#### Exhibition Highlights:

- *Kaitai shinsho* (*A New Text on Anatomy*): Translated by Sugita Genpaku; illustrated by Odano Naotake, Dated 1774, Akita Senshu Museum of Art
- *Lion*: By Odano Naotake, 18th century, Akita Senshu Museum of Art
- *Hawk*: By Odano Naotake; inscription by Tōshū, 18th century, Private collection (on loan to the Akita Senshu Museum of Art)



#### Feature Exhibition

#### *The Beauty of Prayer*

#### *Buddhist Art from the Goryeo and Joseon Dynasties*

5 September–15 October 2023

Buddhism first arrived on the Korean Peninsula in the 4th century, about 200 years before it came to Japan. From that time, Buddhist art developed unique aesthetics, especially during the Goryeo and Joseon dynasties, when many sculptures and paintings were created. By focusing on one part of the millennium-long history of Goryeo and Joseon Korea, we showcased a selection of Buddhist works of art spanning the 11th to 16th centuries, introducing the historical contexts behind them.

#### Exhibition Highlights:

- Important Cultural Property: *Willow Avalokiteshvara*, Goryeo dynasty, dated 1310, Kagami Shrine, Saga
- Important Cultural Property: *Kshitigarbha Bodhisattva*, Goryeo dynasty, 13th–14th century, Engaku-ji Temple, Kanagawa
- Celadon Jōhei ewer incised with willows, reeds, and waterfowl: Goryeo dynasty, 12th century, The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka



#### Feature Exhibition

#### *The Cutting Edge of Beauty*

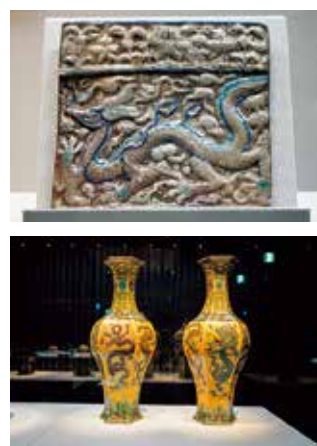
#### *Japanese Swords from the Kitazaki Tetsurō Collection*

30 January–14 April 2024

In 2022, Kyushu National Museum received a donation of 31 Japanese swords. Donor Kitazaki Tetsurō dedicated much of his life to community medicine in Kitakyushu while pursuing his lifelong passion for collecting these masterpieces. With accessible explanations of the unique jargon regarding swords, this exhibition introduced to the public for the first time a wide variety of works in the Kitazaki Collection.

#### Exhibition Highlights:

- *Tachi* signed: Sadatsuna: Heian period, 12th century, Kyushu National Museum
- *Tachi* signed: work of Sadahide of Bungo Province: Heian period, 12th century, Kyushu National Museum
- *Tantō* signed: Kunimitsu: Kamakura period, 13th century, Kyushu National Museum



#### Kyuhaku New Year Tour

#### *Catch the Dragon!*

1 January–4 February 2024

One of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac, dragons have been depicted in statuary, paintings and used as design motifs since antiquity. This tour celebrated the beginning of the Year of the Dragon by displaying dragon motifs throughout the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall in honor of the Chinese zodiac sign of 2024. Visitors could enjoy searching for dragon motifs in works transcending time, type and religion displayed throughout our museum.

#### Exhibition Highlights:

- National Treasure: Bronze Bell, Asuka period, 7th century, Kanzeon-ji Temple, Fukuoka
- *Unsun karuta* card game of Portuguese origins: Edo period, 17th century, Kyushu National Museum
- Important Cultural Property: *Nirvana*, By Myōson, dated 1323, Kyushu National Museum



# Delving deeper into cultural exchange



Interior of the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall  
(Stone stele of a thousand buddhas and numerous treasures)



In the screening room, videos show Dazaifu's history.

## Museum Talks

Our researchers periodically host talks in the exhibition hall to share their insights into the exhibits with our visitors.

- Museum Talks  
Dates and times: 15:00, Tuesdays (except the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)  
Duration: Around 30 minutes  
Venue: Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall  
Cost: Free for all visitors with admission tickets into the Cultural Exchange Exhibition
- Kyuhaku in 3D: Deep Dive Discoveries  
Dates: Irregular (around four to six times a year)  
Duration: Around 60-90 minutes  
Venue: Museum Hall  
Cost: Free-of-charge

### Past topics

- Treasures from Okinoshima Island
- Secrets of Buddhist Statuary from Korea's Goryeo dynasty
- The Story of *Sancai* Ceramic Ware
- Winding-Stream Banquets: Legendary Drinking Parties
- "I have a stomach bug!" Medical Texts from the Muromachi and Sengoku periods



## Column | Hearing from our researchers

During Museum Talks and Deep Dive Discovery Lectures, our museum researchers help visitors appreciate the exhibits better by explaining their history and what makes them special. There is also a Q&A session at the end of each talk.

We also run an official YouTube channel, "Kyuhakuchannel," where we post videos featuring fun and informative commentary by museum staff on various topics.



**SAIBE Maya**  
Head  
Exhibitions Division



# Special Exhibitions



Special Exhibition, *Odes to Nature: Art Nouveau Glasswork by Gallé and Daum*

Special Exhibitions present treasure troves of knowledge and cultural objects gathered from all over the world.

Our museum hosts several Special Exhibitions spanning a wide variety of themes every year. The objects on display have all been carefully selected from collections both in Japan and from overseas, bringing the world into our halls for our visitors.

## 2024-25 Special Exhibitions Schedule



National Treasure  
*Haniwa* Armored Man  
Tokyo National Museum

21 January-11 May 2025

Marking 50 years since *Haniwa* Armored Man was designated a National Treasure & Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Kyushu National Museum *Haniwa*



Important Cultural Property  
*Haniwa* terracotta in the shape of a deer  
Kyushu National Museum

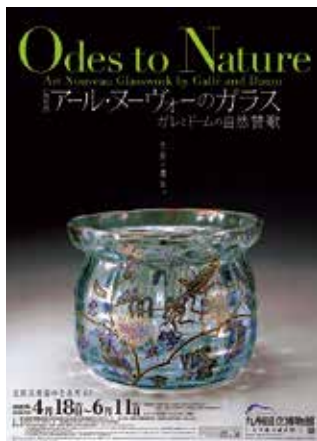
※Please be aware that the exhibition period and contents are subject to change without notice.  
※To facilitate repairs and upgrades to our lighting equipment,  
the Special Exhibition Hall on 3F is closed from 1 April to December 2024 (tentative).

# A world of knowledge and beauty like no other



Special Exhibitions are major events on our annual calendar. Bold and exciting, these exhibitions featuring priceless artifacts never cease to amaze our visitors from all over Japan and the world.

## Special Exhibitions



### *Odes to Nature* Art Nouveau Glasswork by Gallé and Daum

18 April-11 June 2023 49,485 visitors

Influenced by Japanese art, the Art Nouveau movement at the turn of the 20th century spread from Europe throughout the world. Featuring the world-renowned collection of the Kitazawa Museum of Art, this exhibition, the first of its kind at Kyushu National Museum, brought together masterpieces by French glass artists at the vanguard of this movement, Emile Gallé and the Daum brothers.



### *Captivating Form, Timeless Beauty* Masterpieces from the Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka

11 July-3 September 2023 20,851 visitors

The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka is renowned for their collection, including the priceless *Yuteki tenmoku* tea bowl, a National Treasure. A total of 88 pieces were displayed from this valuable collection, including National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. Along with paintings and archaeological artifacts, this exhibition introduced visitors to the long history and deep connections between Japan and East Asian ceramics.



### *Ancient Mexico* Maya, Aztec, and Teotihuacan

3 October-10 December 2023 88,895 visitors

For more than 3,000 years, ancient civilizations flourished in Mexico. This definitive exhibition of ancient Mexican civilizations focused on those of the Maya, Aztec, and Teotihuacan people. Among the approximately 140 items exhibited was the mask of the Red Queen, on display for the first time in Asia. Through unique world views and forms informed by diverse natural environments, this exhibition explored the fascinating depths of ancient Mexico.



### *Celebrating the 270th Anniversary of His Birth* *Nagasawa Rosetsu* *Life, Legacy, and Boundless Imagination*

6 February-31 March 2024 83,080 visitors

The works of Nagasawa Rosetsu (1754-99), an eccentric painter based in Kyoto in the late 18th century, are now very popular within and beyond Japan. This exhibition was the first full-scale exhibition in Kyushu to trace Rosetsu's career, exhibiting works from his early through late years. Among the 64 pieces introducing Rosetsu's unique ideas and freedom of expression were the door panels of *Dragon and Tiger* (Kushimoto Ōkyo Rosetsu Art Museum, Wakayama Prefecture).



SHIRAI Katsuya  
Head  
Curatorial Department

## Column | The making of a special exhibition

Special Exhibitions are the products of several years—often more—of investigative work by researchers in their respective fields. They span a wide range of topics from precious objects from shrine and temples to the history of international exchange between Japan and the world via Kyushu, and even Western art. Here at Kyuhaku, we leverage the expertise of our researchers to put together exhibitions that are both engaging and easy to understand.



# Special Exhibitions [Past Special Exhibitions]



FY 2005

Japan, Country of Beauty

16 Oct-27 Nov 2005 441,938 visitors

China: Crossroads of Culture

1 Jan-2 Apr 2006 251,963 visitors



FY 2006

Uruma: Beautiful Island Ryukyu

29 Apr-25 Jun 2006 177,478 visitors

Shell Stories of the South

29 Jul-3 Sep 2006 63,560 visitors

Gods of the Sea

8 Oct-26 Nov 2006 139,981 visitors

The Price Collection: Jakuchu

and the Age of Imagination

1 Jan-11 Mar 2007 300,171 visitors



FY 2007

Eternal Presence: Buddhism Treasures

10 Apr-10 Jun 2007 77,380 visitors

Yakimono, the Art of Japanese Pottery

7 Jul-26 Aug 2007 50,986 visitors

Treasures of Hongwanji

22 Sep-18 Nov 2007 197,697 visitors

Zen Treasures from the Kyoto Gozan Temples

1 Jan-24 Feb 2008 171,336 visitors



FY 2008

National Treasures: Emaki from the Kyoto National Museum

22 Mar-1 Jun 2008 131,197 visitors

National Treasure of Shimazu

and the Era of Atsuhime

12 Jul-24 Aug 2008 152,420 visitors

National Treasures:

Tenjin-sama

23 Sep-30 Nov 2008 174,698 visitors

Craftworks of Today in Kyushu and

Okinawa: Tradition and Creation

1 Jan-16 Mar 2009 72,637 visitors



FY 2009

Tibet—Treasures from the Roof of the World

11 Apr-14 Jun 2009 140,917 visitors

The National Treasure ASHURA and Masterpieces from Kofukuji

14 Jul-27 Sep 2009 711,154 visitors

Legendary Treasures of Kyushu

20 Oct-29 Nov 2009 72,741 visitors

Masterpieces of Zen Culture from Myoshinji

1 Jan-28 Feb 2010 130,231 visitors



FY 2010

Ko-Imari in Paris-Enchanting Beauty

6 Apr-13 Jun 2010 84,738 visitors

The Drama of Man and Horse

13 Jul-5 Sep 2010 42,022 visitors

The Birth of Chinese Civilization

5 Oct-28 Nov 2010 53,409 visitors

van GOGH: The Adventure of Becoming an Artist

1 Jan-13 Feb 2011 354,311 visitors



FY 2011

OBaku

15 Mar-22 May 2011 55,539 visitors

Treasures for the Future: The Story of Conservation in Japan

28 Jun-28 Aug 2011 118,528 visitors

The Splendor of the Khitan Dynasty

27 Sep-27 Nov 2011 75,880 visitors

The Lineage of Culture

—The Hosokawa Family Eisei Bunko Collection

1 Jan-4 Mar 2012 113,290 visitors



FY 2012

HIRAYAMA Ikuo—Great Traveler and Patron of the Past

3 Apr-27 May 2012 110,047 visitors

Magnificent Fifteen: Painters of Eighteenth Century Kyoto

10 Jul-2 Sep 2012 75,415 visitors

From Renaissance to Rococo

9 Oct-2 Dec 2012 224,324 visitors

Japanese Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts, BOSTON

1 Jan-17 Mar 2013 236,725 visitors



FY 2013

The Great Story of Vietnam

16 Apr-9 Jun 2013 71,192 visitors

China: Grandeur of the Dynasties

9 Jul-16 Sep 2013 77,554 visitors

Treasures of the Owari Tokugawa Family

12 Oct-8 Dec 2013 139,448 visitors

Grand Exhibition of Sacred Treasures from Shinto Shrine

15 Jan-9 Mar 2014 89,561 visitors



FY 2014

Precious Treasures of the Konoe Family

15 Apr-8 Jun 2014 60,808 visitors

Admired from Afar

8 Jul-31 Aug 2014 70,794 visitors

Treasured Masterpieces from the National Palace Museum, Taipei

7 Oct-30 Nov 2014 256,070 visitors

The Age of Dramatic Interaction in East Asia

1 Jan-1 Mar 2015 59,629 visitors



FY 2015

Sengoku Daimyo

21 Apr-31 May 2015 77,455 visitors

A History of the World in 100 Objects

14 Jul-6 Sep 2015 133,174 visitors

Japan, Country of Beauty

18 Oct-29 Nov 2015 160,753 visitors

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

1 Jan-14 Feb 2016 67,641 visitors



FY 2016

The Great Terracotta Army of China's First Emperor

15 Mar-12 Jun 2016 191,222 visitors

Kaii Higashiyama: Nature, Men, and Towns

16 Jul-28 Aug 2016 133,002 visitors

Kosan-ji Temple and Myoe

4 Oct-20 Nov 2016 161,172 visitors

Sacred Island of OKINOSHIMA in Munakata Region and the Yamato Imperial Court

1 Jan-5 Mar 2017 75,966 visitors





FY 2017

Thailand: Brilliant Land of the Buddha  
11 Apr-4 Jun 2017 56,314 visitors  
Lascaux: Cave Paintings of the Ice Age  
11 Jul-3 Sep 2017 118,555 visitors  
Shin Momoyama: Japanese Art in the Age of Discovery  
14 Oct-26 Nov 2017 87,413 visitors  
Wang Xizhi and Japanese Calligraphy  
10 Feb-8 Apr 2018 70,111 visitors



FY 2018

Bührle Collection  
19 May-16 Jul 2018 198,489 visitors  
Okura Collection  
2 Oct-9 Dec 2018 63,069 visitors  
Daigoji Temple—A Shingon Esoteric Buddhist Universe in Kyoto  
29 Jan-24 Mar 2019 74,748 visitors



FY 2019

The Buddhist Sculptures of Daihō'onji, Kyoto Masterpieces by Kaikei and Jōkei  
23 Apr-16 Jun 2019 53,524 visitors  
The Muromachi Shoguns  
13 Jul-1 Sep 2019 86,399 visitors  
Three Kingdoms: Unveiling The Story  
1 Oct 2019-5 Jan 2020 140,155 visitors  
The Splendor of French Paintings  
4 Feb-29 Mar 2020\* 45,636 visitors  
\*Closed from 27 Feb



FY 2020

Manifestations of Mercy: Treasures from Chūgūji Temple  
26 Jan-21 Mar 2021 50,432 visitors



FY 2021

The Reproduction of Shosoin Treasures  
20 Apr-13 Jun 2021 18,157 visitors  
Aesthetic Connections  
20 Jul-29 Aug 2021 43,197 visitors  
In the Embrace of the Mountains and Seas  
9 Oct-5 Dec 2021 17,383 visitors  
Buddhist Art of the Tendai School  
8 Feb-21 Mar 2022 29,518 visitors



FY 2022

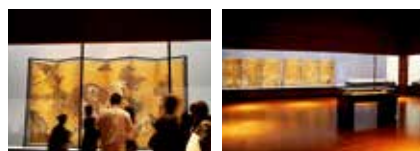
Hokusai  
16 Apr-12 Jun 2022 135,955 visitors  
Ryukyu  
16 Jul-4 Sept 2022 41,054 visitors  
Pompeii  
12 Oct-4 Dec 2022 79,919 visitors  
The Gaya Confederacy  
24 Jan-19 Mar 2023 26,990 visitors



FY 2023

Odes to Nature  
18 Apr-11 Jun 2023 49,485 visitors  
Captivating Form, Timeless Beauty  
11 Jul-3 Sept 2023 20,851 visitors  
Ancient Mexico  
3 Oct-10 Dec 2023 88,895 visitors  
Nagasawa Rosetsu  
6 Feb-31 Mar 2024 83,080 visitors

## Spotlight

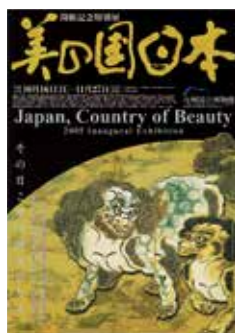


### Japan, Country of Beauty

16 October-27 November 2005 441,938 visitors

Paying tribute to the subtle beauty of Japanese culture.

Held in celebration of Kyushu National Museum's opening, our inaugural Special Exhibition featured 122 exhibits, including 7 National Treasures and 30 Important Cultural Properties. The exhibits charted Japan's development from a fledgling East Asian nation to a country rich with art and culture by the Azuchi-Momoyama period, when it saw its first interactions with European traders who sailed to Asia during the Age of Discovery. We also organized a similarly titled exhibition in 2015 to celebrate our 10th anniversary.



## Column | Captivating our visitors

Kyushu National Museum holds and hosts many Special Exhibitions yearly, covering themes related to Japan, Asia, as well as many other nations and cultures all over the world. We also organize associated events that allow visitors to enjoy and engage with the subject matter. Some exhibitions also come with tie-up displays in our permanent Cultural Exchange Exhibition aimed to help situate the issues and objects in the Special Exhibition within the larger context of Japanese and Asian history.



KOIZUMI Yoshihide  
Deputy Executive Director  
Kyushu National Museum





# Educational Outreach and Volunteer Activities



Providing multi-sensory experiences for our visitors

## More Engaging than the Classroom, More Illuminating than a Textbook



Together with our volunteers, we pride ourselves on bringing the local community together with our engaging, interactive exhibitions and unique educational programs.

### Ajippa (Interactive Exhibition Gallery)

A portmanteau of *ajia* (Japanese for “Asia”) and *harappa* (Japanese for “field”), Ajippa is a gallery that allows visitors of all ages to get up close and personal with Asian and European cultures that have had historical interactions with Japan. The items and displays are curated specifically to create an interactive and engaging experience for children visiting a museum for the first time, as well as for adults who enjoy a more hands-on approach to learning about cultures and artifacts.



#### Ajippa Hut

This corner of Ajippa is dedicated to seasonal displays. Visitors can even try on traditional costumes from various cultures.



#### Mini Gallery

This smaller exhibit space features rotating themed exhibitions, as well as a space for workshops where visitors can experience what it is like to be a curator or an archaeologist.



#### Curious Cabinets

These shelves contain small models and sound clips that offer a glimpse into the lives of people from different countries.



### Kyupack

Kyupacks are interactive learning tools based on Kyushu National Museum’s collection, and are primarily intended as supplementary tools for classroom-based teaching. Organized by theme, they come in 16 different versions and contain state-of-the-art replicas that help bring the museum closer to schools.

Due to their portability, Kyupacks are also ideal for school events, training sessions, and pre-museum visit briefing sessions. They can be borrowed for free from the museum. Users who opt to borrow and return them via third-party delivery services are responsible for delivery charges (details on pg. 23).





## Inclusive Programs

As a museum, we pride ourselves on creating fun and inclusive program initiatives that are accessible to all visitors and guests.

Last year, we organized experiential workshops to bring aspects of history featured in our exhibition halls even closer to participants. In our interactive workshop “The King is dead. Let’s bury him in the Jar-Coffin,” participants re-enacted ancient Yayoi burial rituals with replicas of jar coffins, a type of burial vessel used in Northern Kyushu. Our “Fun with Costumes: Dress like the Ancient Japanese!” event saw visitors try on various historical clothing, including pieces from the Yayoi, Kofun, and early Heian periods.

We also hosted various accessible workshops for persons with disabilities. These include a gamelan instrument workshop for visitors with visual impairments, and a Backyard Tour for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Our outreach mobile, the Kyuhaku Caravan, also brought the museum to those who could not come to us, enabling the public to have fun with the museum’s instruments and traditional costumes. Last but not least, we are pleased to share with you the launch of our new sensory map for visitors who may wish to identify sensory-friendly spaces prior to their visit.

### Highlights



#### Interactive jar coffin burial workshop

Conducted in simple Japanese, participants re-enact an ancient Yayoi burial ritual in the “The King is dead. Let’s bury him in the Jar-Coffin” workshop.



#### Fun with Costumes: Dress like the Ancient Japanese!

In this event, participants can try on clothing from the Yayoi, Kofun, and early Heian periods.



#### Accessible gamelan workshops

This workshop is geared towards people with disabilities. During the workshop, participants try their hands at playing the gamelan, a bronze instrument from Indonesia.



#### Backyard Tour with sign-language interpretation

With Japanese sign-language interpretation, participants are introduced to parts of the museum that are usually off limits to visitors in our Backyard Tour.



#### Kyuhaku Caravan

This outreach initiative brings instruments and costumes from the museum to the public in the Kyuhaku Caravan mobile.



#### Sensory map

With this map, visitors may identify sensory-friendly and resting spaces prior to their visit.

## Museum Volunteers

Dazaifu, where Kyushu National Museum is located, is inextricably intertwined with early Japanese history. As an institution that aims to further this relationship on a more individual level, our museum has put much effort into developing our volunteer initiatives by recruiting volunteers from communities in and around Dazaifu. Our volunteers are involved in nearly every aspect of our museum’s day-to-day operations, and have become symbolic of our commitment to these values. Volunteer work is currently split across 12 divisions, including but not limited to exhibition guidance, foreign language support, and educational outreach.

### Volunteer Divisions

Exhibition guidance	Volunteers at the information desk in the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall and other counters in the museum handle queries and requests for guidance. Guided tours are available for individual patrons (walk-ins available), as well as schools and organizations (by appointment only).
Educational outreach	Volunteers here assist visitors in Ajippa, the interactive exhibition gallery on the first floor. They also plan and execute craft workshops and other hands-on activities for the public.
Museum support	Volunteers in this division conduct Backyard Tours of the museum, during which they provide visitors with more information about the museum building and facilities. This team also provides multilingual support in English, Chinese, and Korean.
Environment	This division supports Integrated Pest Management (IPM) activities undertaken by the museum.
Data management	This division supports Ajippa, the interactive exhibition gallery, by keeping track of its folk dolls in a central database. It also helps to plan exhibits for its Mini Gallery space.
Support	Volunteers help create in-house publications, and support other volunteer divisions where necessary.
Student volunteers	High school and university volunteers plan and execute various events for the public.
Landscape	This division helps to maintain the natural scenery surrounding the museum.
Sign language	This division, comprising local volunteer groups, provides support for our hearing impaired patrons.



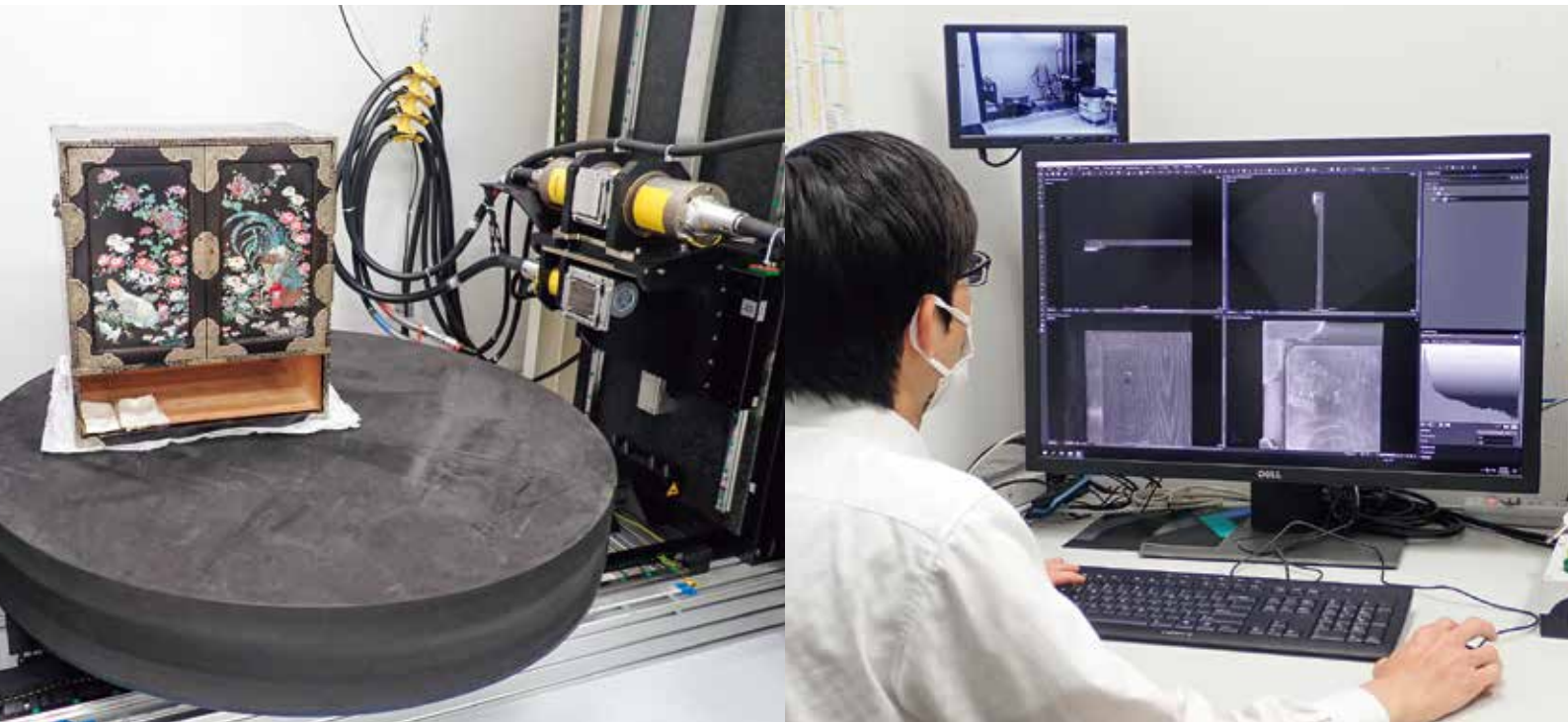
### Column | Backyard Tours



**TAMECHIKA Yuichiro**  
Head  
General Affairs Division

Conducted by volunteer museum guides, these behind-the-scenes tours of our storage and conservation facilities bring visitors quite literally into the heart of the museum. These spaces, which are ordinarily not open to the public, reflect our commitment to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of cultural properties.





## In pursuit of new discoveries

Unlocking the secrets of the past through a culture of inquiry.

Kyushu National Museum has about 30 researchers (as of 1 April 2024) of varied specializations conducting research work daily. As our researchers continue to push boundaries within their respective fields, their efforts also help to enrich the kind of content and activities brought forth by the museum. They also work hard to expand our network of international researchers and experts.

### Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Kakenhi)

This program is administered by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). It is one of the largest local competitive research funding programs and accounts for over 50% of government-allocated funding in Japan. These programs require proposals from research institutes to be first submitted and then approved before any grants are disbursed. As a research institution, Kyushu National Museum makes use of external funds like Kakenhi to broaden and advance our research achievements in the conservation science and cultural heritage sectors.

#### List of Kakenhi-funded Research Projects in FY 2024-25

(As of 1 April 2024)

Group Leader	Position	Grant Type	Title	Duration
Tomita Jun	Executive Director	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)	A Comprehensive Study on the Attachments of Colophons in Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy	2020-24
Kigawa Rika	Head, Museum Science Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)	Survey of Impacts and Study of Countermeasures for Organic Acid and Sulfur Compound Emissions Generated by Museum and Packaging Materials	2024-27
Kawabata Noriko	Head, Special Exhibitions Section, Planning Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)	Investigating the Development of Chinese Lacquerware with Gold Inlay ( <i>Qiangjin</i> ): Examining the Interplay of East Asian Lacquer Works on Each Other	2021-26
Matsuura Kosuke	Researcher, Cultural Properties Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)	Uncovering Early Modern Society in Japan through Comparative Studies of Daimyo Family Collections: The Matsuura Family Collections	2021-26
Nojiri Tadashi	Head, Cultural Properties Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)	Research into the Transmission and Introduction of Buddhist Scriptures based on the Collection and Analysis of Ancient Japanese Sutra Manuscript Sites	2024-26
Li Mei	Associate Fellow, Planning Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)	A New Chronological Study of the Murals at Maijishan Grottoes in Tianshui, China	2024-26
Watanabe Hiroki	Researcher, Museum Science Division	Grant-in-Aid for Early Career Scientists	Improving Detection Accuracy of Cultural Heritage Pests Based on Mathematical Models and Nondestructive Evaluation Methods	2022-24
Kigawa Rika	Head, Museum Science Division	Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (International Collaborative Research)	Detailed Investigation of the Light Fading Process of Dyes Used for Traditional Japanese Paintings and Application of the Data Set to Online Risk Assessment Tools	2023-26



## Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B): A Comprehensive Study on the Attachments of Colophons in Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy

Works of Chinese calligraphy and painting that have been passed down to the present day often come with additional markings that convey the subject and provenance of these artifacts. For example, admirers and collectors of these works expressed their own thoughts on them by writing appreciative critiques known as *daibatsu*, stamped with a seal of ownership. The boxes these works have been kept in may also have inscriptions, and in some cases, accompanying letters. These ancillary materials possess their own academic value, whether they are evaluated on their artistic, literary, or historical merits.

However, such critiques and other ancillary materials have conventionally been neglected in favor of the main piece of work. This study aims to show the potential for developing individualized studies of *daibatsu* and their accompanying materials, as well as to uncover and publicize their academic value.



Conducting research at Asakura Museum of Sculpture in Taito Ward



Conducting research at Kyoto National Museum



Conducting research at Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art

## Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center

In recent years, Japan has seen mega earthquakes, tropical cyclones, and extreme rainfall events occurring at a higher frequency—in addition to disrupting everyday life, these natural disasters pose a serious risk to cultural properties across the country. To address these issues, the Agency for Cultural Affairs established the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management Center on 1 October 2020, an institution that aims to protect and preserve cultural properties for posterity. In the event where cultural properties are compromised by natural disasters, the Center's three core objectives are to mitigate the risk of damage to cultural properties, to assist in cultural property salvage efforts, and to develop protocols and systems for treating affected properties swiftly and efficiently.

As one of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, we have built networks with local governments, museums, and specialist institutions in Kyushu to enhance the region's support infrastructure for cultural properties. In the aftermath of the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes, we took part in rescue efforts for affected cultural properties. Following the July 2017 northern Kyushu floods, we also conducted a range of cultural heritage disaster-management education and awareness activities, including practical workshops on emergency treatment of water-damaged paper objects, as well as seminars on issues faced when disaster-proofing cultural properties for museum curators and government employees involved in cultural property administration.



Workshop on the initial stages of treating water-damaged documents



Seminar on cultural heritage disaster risk management

## Column | Publication of research findings



**KIGAWA Rika**  
Head  
Museum Science Division  
Curatorial Department

We share our research findings with the public in a myriad of ways, ranging from exhibitions, lectures, and symposiums, to our internal research publication, the *Kyushu National Museum Bulletin*. We have also used computed tomography (CT) scans of our artifacts to create replicas for use in educational outreach efforts. These replicas convey additional structural data that might not be immediately evident to the naked eye. We hope that these initiatives will help enrich the fun, exciting atmosphere in the museum.



Replicas for the *Recreating Our Past* display, created using results from 3D measurement tools



# International Exchange

Striving to become a globally-connected museum

Connecting Japan to the rest of the world via culture and art, and promoting active exchange with other Asian museums.

Kyushu National Museum strives towards becoming an institution that promotes cultural exchange between Japan and Asia by developing international cultural exchange projects. This includes academic exchange programs with museums abroad, collaborative research projects, overseas exchange programs for our curators, and international symposiums.

Our museum has fostered ties with several international academic and cultural organizations thus far, including South Korea's Buyeo National Museum, Gongju National Museum, and the Korea National University of Cultural Heritage; and China's Nanjing Museum, Inner Mongolia Museum, Chengdu Museum, and the Shenyang Palace Museum. We also have agreements in the Southeast Asian region, such as with the National Museum of Vietnamese History, and the Thai Ministry of Culture's Fine Arts Department. These relationships are vital in ensuring that our museum has a strong foundation on which to enter an increasingly globalized age.

## Academic and Cultural Exchange Partnerships (Eleven institutions as of 1 April 2024)



## Collaborative Projects and Programs

Exchange programs with Buyeo National Museum and Gongju National Museum



We are pleased to share that after 4 years, personnel exchange with our Korean partner institutions has resumed. In these programs, researchers conduct joint museum and archaeological surveys, as well as field visits to improve accessibility measures for visitors with disabilities. Through this exchange, researchers also engage in mutual learning on best practices in exhibition planning and display.

Joint studies with the Thai Fine Arts Department



Researchers joined our Thai counterparts in undergoing technical training in preserving wooden artifacts excavated from underwater ruins conducted by the Matsuura City Board of Education and Tohoku University of Art and Design.

Collaborative restoration efforts in Vietnam



With the assistance of the Sumitomo Foundation, we have partnered up with the Vietnam National Museum of History in projects related to conservation and restoration of cultural properties.

## Activities by our Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs)

Exchange Student Event



We celebrate International Student Day every year on November 3 by organizing workshops and activities for exchange students. Participants are treated to mini talks by our researchers, Backyard Tours, and hands-on workshops to help deepen their understanding of Japanese history and culture.

Multilingual digital content



We make use of social media, such as YouTube and X (formerly Twitter). With translations in English, Chinese, and Korean, the Kyuhaku website brings our digital content to the international community. Our official Facebook page, managed by the CIR team, also posts regular updates in four languages (English, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese).





Calligraphy contest



Tohoku tourism and specialty products fair

## Offering an exciting array of events all year round.

In addition to exhibitions, Kyushu National Museum hosts various events and activities in our venue space all year round. From the Museum Hall to the Teahouse, we hope that you will become as fond of the museum spaces as we are.

### ■Café concerts

We periodically invite students of music in our indoor concerts held in front of M Café (1F).



### ■Kyuuhaku Children's Day festival

During Golden Week, we organized an event for families with our neighbors, Dazaifu Tenmangū and Dazaifu Amusement Park.



### ■Tea ceremony classes

Alongside beginner-friendly sessions introducing our visitors to the Japanese tea ceremony, our seasonal sessions such as the Spring "Sakura Tea Ceremony" and Autumn "Kōyō Tea Ceremony" celebrate the changing of the seasons.



### ■Traditional performance art workshop

Our shamisen and noh workshops allow participants to directly experience Japanese traditional performance arts for themselves. Along with these workshops, we also hold lecture performances by maestros in our hall.



## Column | Annual display of decorative *yamakasa* floats



**TAKAMUKU Gōta**  
Head  
Cultural Exchange Division

The Hakata Gion Yamakasa, an annual festival originating in Fukuoka, is an Important Intangible Folk Property in Japan and a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. Since our opening in 2005, Kyushu National Museum is proud to have introduced countless visitors to this unique regional tradition through our annual decorative *yamakasa* float display. This display is accompanied by information about the festival float and its symbolisms. We hope that our visitors from all over Japan and the world can feel the energy and spirit of the festival as they gaze upon the float.





# Museum Collection



Corridor inside the storage area

## Preserving cultural properties for future generations

Cultural properties are symbols of our historical and cultural legacies. As an institute involved in cultural heritage management, we collect, safekeep, and maintain these cultural properties such that they can continue being bridges between past and future generations.

### Storage Area

Museums bear the responsibility of collecting and safekeeping cultural properties left behind by preceding generations. Kyushu National Museum's purpose-built storage rooms are located in the center of the building, where they are best protected from any earthquakes that may occur in the region. The double-walled structure of these rooms, which resembles that of a vacuum flask, ensures that the collection is insulated by a layer of air, and is shielded from direct contact with the elements. The museum also uses a heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system that maintains constant temperature and humidity levels within the storage area.

The ceilings and walls of the storage area are made from Japanese cedar sourced locally from Kyushu, while the floors are made of Japanese beech from Hokkaido. These types of wood function as moisture buffers, providing an additional, non-mechanical method of regulating humidity.

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Our museum owns many artifacts made out of organic materials, such as wood, paper, leather, and fabric. These objects are especially vulnerable to insect damage, as they are prime materials for insects to feed upon or even inhabit. Protecting our collection from pest damage is hence of paramount importance.

Conventional methods of museum pest management often rely on harsh chemicals, some of which contribute to global warming, and have hence been banned internationally. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an eco-friendly method that places emphasis on prevention through daily manual inspections and cleaning processes, has thus emerged in the museum field as an alternative method to tackling pests.

As a cultural heritage management institution, our museum believes that the present generation has a responsibility towards preserving cultural properties so that they can be passed on to later generations. For this reason, we have chosen to implement IPM since our opening, and we continue to do so with the help of local volunteers. In addition to training these volunteers, our museum is also involved in educational programs for IPM support staff. These are funded by the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Kakenhi) program, commissions from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and other government subsidies.



Storage facility

This facility is constructed using locally sourced Japanese cedar, which is known to have excellent humidity-controlling properties.



Storage rooms

The internal conditions of each room are adjusted to suit the size, material, and shape of the cultural properties stored within.



Viewing panel

This window allows visitors to see the interior of the storage rooms from a safe distance.



IPM strategies

The storage rooms are monitored closely and cleaned meticulously to protect the artifacts from insect and mold damage.



At Kyushu National Museum, we believe in preserving our cultural properties to the best of our current abilities so as to pass them on to future generations. To that end, we are always looking to build our collection of artifacts related to cultural exchange from all fields, including but not limited to fine arts, crafts, archaeology, and history.

## New Acquisitions

In line with our mission, the Kyushu National Museum collection consists mainly of items relevant to the history of cultural exchange between Japan and mainland Asia. Objects in our collection have either been directly purchased by the museum or were generously donated or loaned to us by external parties. These are then exhibited in our halls so that their stories may reach a wider audience. Here are some of the 10 purchased works and 78 donated items that joined our collection in FY 2023.

## Purchases

### ① Seated statue of a male deity

Important Cultural Property  
12th century

Shintoism and Buddhism amalgamated during the Nara period, when statues depicting deities began to appear. From the Heian period, such statues became more common. The facial features and thin body of this figure are characteristic of 12th-century religious statuary. Retaining much of the original coloring on its surface, this valuable piece is exemplary of the artistry of that time.

This statue and another seated female deity in our museum collection are thought to have been originally carved from the same piece of wood. Once enshrined at the same location, Kyushu National Museum is pleased to reunite them.



### ② *Tantō*, signed, inscription: Sa/Chikushū

Important Cultural Property  
14th century



Here is a tanto short sword made by Sa, a swordsmith active during the 14th century in Chikuzen Province (present-day Fukuoka). This swordsmith was also known as “Sa-Moji” because he engraved the character for “left” on the stem that fits into the handle.

A rare sword inscribed on the stem where it was initially struck, this is the longest of all the daggers Sa made. The blade is clearly marked with linear patterns called *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*. *Kinsuji* is a thin, straight, shiny back line of *nie*, distinct crystalline particles that twinkle like stars along the temper line, while *sunagashi* are temper lines resembling broom-swept sand. These features combine to form a dynamic and gorgeous piece.

## Donations

### ③ Brocaded robe known as *chuba*

18th century  
Kyushu National Museum (donated by Mr. Kaneko Kunio)

Known as *chuba*, the clothing of the Tibetan people, this round-necked garment features gold brocade that was originally woven in a Qing-dynasty (1644–1911) government workshop for use by court officials. It is a rare imperial Qing court robe that was converted into a *chuba*.

The status of the intended wearer determined the motif patterns and ground colors of the fabrics used in Chinese government workshops.

Decorating the outer coat of this *chuba* are several five-clawed boa constrictor snakes. This motif, formerly the official costume of ministers, suggests that it was a gift from China’s emperor to the political and religious leaders of Tibet, or that it was passed on to their subjects.



## Column | Cataloging, managing, and protecting our cultural properties

Collecting and storing cultural properties are two major responsibilities of our museum. Here at Kyushu National Museum, we are dedicated to protecting the cultural artifacts in our care to the best of our current abilities so that they may be passed on to future generations. An essential part of this process involves creating an inventory that contains the particulars of every object we have. Each object has a corresponding inventory entry that details their provenance, storage location, exhibition methods, conservation history (if any), and their past and present physical conditions.



NOJIRI Tadashi  
Head  
Cultural Properties Division  
Curatorial Department



# Conservation Science

- A** Examination using a free arm stand and microscope
- B** Restoring a lacquered chest depicting birds and plants in mother-of-pearl inlay from the museum collection
- C** Restoring artifacts from the museum collection associated with the Tsushima Sō clan
- D** Restoring a Nirvana painting from the museum collection
- E** High-precision 3D measurement



Preserving cultural properties from past generations for the benefit of future generations with state-of-the-art technology.

## New Technology, New Frontiers

Our museum employs state-of-the-art tools to examine cultural properties closely. This allows us to gain a fuller understanding of their conditions upon acquisition, so we can decide how best to conserve them. Our conservation studio is made up of 6 rooms. Besides a paper-making room, we have rooms for conserving the following: calligraphy and ancient documents, paintings, sculpture and large-sized artifacts, archaeological relics, and lacquerware.

Our cultural properties are kept safe from insects by environmentally friendly methods of pest management, such as with the use of anoxic treatments.

### Restoration of a document related to the Sō family of Tsushima (Important Cultural Property)

This document was restored after experiencing insect damage.



Before restoration



After restoration

### Outreach activities



Museum staff participating in our yearly conservation glue-making session

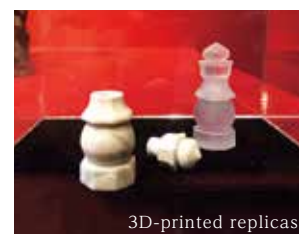


Foundational course on ancient document conservation



### X-ray CT examination of a seated bodhisattva (reportedly Chintamanichakra) from Tōmyōji Temple, Ehime

X-ray CT scans revealed an approximately 5.2-centimeter-tall octagonal wooden pagoda in the bodhisattva's head. The pagoda contained metal objects resembling organs, representing Buddhist relics.



3D-printed replicas



# Seismic Isolation System

Kyushu National Museum is committed to ensuring the safety of our visitors and cultural properties, and protecting the natural environment around us.

## Seismic Isolation Structures

Japan is a famously earthquake-prone region due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire. To address this issue, our museum makes use of three types of seismic isolators in order to stabilize the building. This system, which utilizes 232 isolation units to separate the main structure of the building from its base, helps to reduce the amount of vibrational energy transferred to the majority of the building during an earthquake. This ensures that our exhibition halls and storage area are protected. These structures have proven to be highly efficacious, resulting in no significant impact or damage being made to our museum during the earthquake in March 2005 that struck off the west coast of Fukuoka Prefecture.

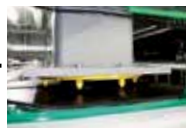


Tour of the seismic isolation structure layer

Seismic isolation = structure layer



Natural rubber isolators



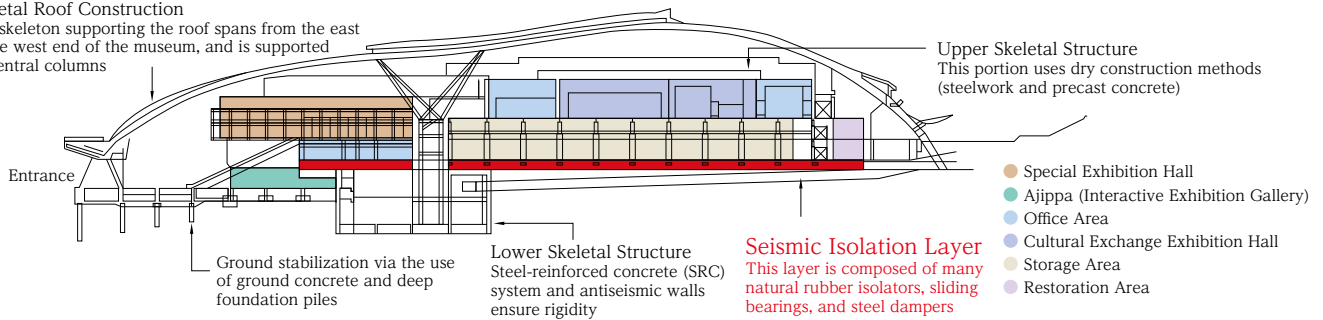
Sliding bearings



Steel dampers

### Skeletal Roof Construction

The skeleton supporting the roof spans from the east to the west end of the museum, and is supported by central columns



## Double-Walled Facade

The walls of our museum are constructed with about 3,100 double-glass panes, measuring approximately 16,000 square meters. In addition to eliminating up to 99 per cent of ultraviolet rays, this double-paned glass wall also reduces condensation. The air cavity functions as an insulating layer, which allows the interior temperature to fluctuate less dramatically compared to the exterior, maintaining a comfortable indoor climate throughout the year. As a whole, this facade allows a great amount of natural light into the building, offering patrons a view of the surrounding mountains to complement their experience at our museum.



## Renewable Energy

The eco-friendly design of our museum helps to save energy and resources, and is not limited to its architectural features. Here are some of the other features of our building, as well as measures we are taking to conserve our resources.

### Solar panels

...These panels, which are installed on the roof of the museum, generate up to 40 kilowatts of power.



### Rooftop sprinkler

...This system uses rainwater to cool the attic of the museum, preventing indoor temperatures from rising.

### Rainwater reservoir

...Rainwater collected from the roof is filtered and stored underground. The museum uses the filtered water for our toilet facilities and landscape irrigation.

### Solar thermal panels

...This system collects solar thermal energy and uses it to power the system that heats and cools the floors of the museum.

### Air washer

...This type of air conditioning uses water to purify the air circulating in the museum. This system is used primarily in the storage and gallery areas.

### Geothermal heating

...Earth tubes, or earth-air heat exchangers, help maintain the indoor climate of the museum. Concrete underground ducts draw in outside air and distribute it to the indoor air-conditioning system and the air layer of the double-walled glass facade.

Corrosion-resistant titanium roof

Protecting cultural properties and our natural environment with state-of-the-art technology



# Museum Facilities

Aside from our exhibition halls, Kyushu National Museum boasts many facilities that provide an enriching, relaxing, and educational experience for all our visitors. In addition to viewing exhibitions, we invite you to enjoy eating, shopping, attending events and gathering information here.

**NODA Tomoko**  
Head  
Public Relations Division



## Museum Shop



From postcards to stationery and even confectionery, the museum shop offers a variety of exclusive merchandise.  
Tel: 092-918-8818

A selection of our merchandise is also available online at  
<https://kyuhaku-museum.shop/>

## Restaurant and café offerings



### Restaurant Iinoji

Savor the flavors of Kyushu with Iinoji's offerings of Kuroge Wagyu beef and Fukuoka specialty Yame green tea.  
Opening hours: 11:00-17:00  
(Last Order Food 16:00  
Drinks 16:30)  
TEL: 092-555-3099  
(in Japanese only)



### Kyuhaku Garden Footbath and Teahouse

Located next to Restaurant Iinoji, why not enjoy an unagi musubi or try some regional Kyushu tea and sweets while taking a soak in our open-air footbaths.  
Opening hours: 11:00-17:00  
(Last Order 16:00)  
TEL: 092-555-3099  
(in Japanese only)



### M Café

Offering seasonal menus inspired by current special exhibitions, we serve delicious Yame green tea in traditional Koishiwara cups and saucers made in Fukuoka prefecture.  
Opening hours: 10:00-17:00  
(Last Order 16:30)  
TEL: 092-408-5777  
(in Japanese only)

## Rental Facilities

### Teahouse

Our teahouse comprises a large tearoom and a smaller one. The former is suitable for hosting tea parties, while the latter regularly plays host to tea ceremony events organized by the museum for members of the public.



### Museum Hall

Specs:  
Stage—approx. 45.5 m<sup>2</sup> (3.5 m×13.0 m)  
Stalls—approx. 240.5 m<sup>2</sup> (18.5 m×13.0 m)  
Exhibition Space—approx. 208.0 m<sup>2</sup> (16.0 m×13.0 m)  
Seating Capacity—288 pax

This auditorium can be used for lectures and concerts. The seats in the stall can also be removed to create an exhibition space. Eating and drinking is not permitted in this space.



### Seminar Rooms A and B

Area: approx. 121.8 m<sup>2</sup> (14.0 m×8.7 m)

These rooms can be combined into one large seminar room, as seen on the right. It is suitable for lectures and activities.



### Seminar Room C (Tatami Room)

Area: approx. 39.8 m<sup>2</sup> (26 tatami mats)

This room can be used to host activities. Food and drinks are allowed in this room.



### Rental and Inquiries

Please contact the Cultural Exchange Division for venue rates and availability. Reservations can be made up to four months in advance for the tearooms and the Museum Hall, and up to two months in advance for the seminar rooms.

Tel: 092-929-3602  
Fax: 092-929-3980

## Other Facilities and Amenities



Satoyama nature trail



Rainbow Tunnel



Visitor parking



Barrier-free amenities  
(e.g. toilet for assistance dogs, accessible restrooms)

## Kyupack

Kyushu National Museum is pleased to present Kyupack, a series of learning tools curated into 16 themes around specific groups of artifacts owned by the museum. These materials are packed into trunks for convenience, and can be loaned out to schools for classroom enrichment.

- Jōmon Culture: Ocean Bound • The Birth of Chinese Civilization
- Political Power: Cultivating Rice • Goguryeo Culture
- Nation Building: The Age of the Envoys • Islamic Prayers • Ajippa: South Korea
- Introduction to Common Crops • Ajippa: Five Senses • Introduction to Spices
- Introduction to Pottery • *Morin Khuur*, the Mongolian Fiddle
- Introduction to Bronzeware • Jōmon Earthenware Figurines
- Hands On!! Muromachi Period Tally Trade
- Introduction to Growing Rice

Please call beforehand to verify availability before sending in your Kyupack reservation application.  
Cultural Exchange Division  
Tel: 092-929-3294  
Fax: 092-929-3980





# Membership and Publications

## Membership

To provide better service for our visitors and to foster closer ties with our community, we have set up membership programs of our own, as well as with the other National Museums. We also have a special Campus Members program for educational institutions.

\*Please refer to our website for more information.

### National Museum Members' Pass

¥2,500 for adults, ¥1,200 for students Valid for one year from the date of issue

#### Benefits

- Free admission to permanent exhibitions at Kyushu, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara National Museums
- Discounted tickets to special exhibitions at Kyushu, Kyoto, and Nara National Museums

### Friends of Kyushu National Museum

Annual membership fee: ¥7,500 Valid for one year from the date of issue

#### Benefits

- Free admission to permanent exhibitions at Kyushu, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara National Museums
- Up to six complimentary tickets valid for any Special Exhibition at Kyushu National Museum
- Discounted tickets to special exhibitions at Kyoto and Nara National Museums

## Campus Members

In 2007, Kyushu National Museum launched the Campus Members program. This program is designed for educational institutions, including universities and vocational schools, and aims to foster closer ties by providing an opportunity for these institutions to get to know us better. Students and staff of member institutions are eligible for a variety of benefits that will promote better understanding of our cultural properties.

### Membership Fees (tax included)

Size of institution	One-year membership	Three-year membership
< 250 persons	¥51,000	¥131,000
250-499 persons	¥103,000	¥262,000
500-1,499 persons	¥206,000	¥524,000
1,500-2,999 persons	¥309,000	¥786,000
3,000-4,999 persons	¥411,000	¥1,048,000
≥ 5,000 persons	¥514,000	¥1,310,000

## Patrons of Kyushu National Museum

This is a special membership program for individuals and organizations whose generous donations help fund our museum's operations. Our patrons' donations are carefully allocated to museum endeavors such as collection acquisitions, as well as education and outreach programs. In this way, they play a part in promoting arts and culture through our work.

### Membership categories (by annual contribution)

- Group: Premium (5 million yen and above)  
Special (1 million yen and above)  
Ordinary (200,000 yen and above)
- Individual: Premium (1 million yen and above)  
Special (200,000 yen and above)  
Ordinary (50,000 yen and above)

### Major benefits (subject to change by category)

- Free admission to all exhibitions in Kyushu National Museum
- Invitation to Special Exhibition opening ceremonies
- Free subscription to museum publications, e.g. *Asiage Quarterly*

### Current members (as of April 2024)

Group	Individual
Premium Member	Special Members
Kyushu National Museum Promotion Foundation	Ms. Takaki Chizuko
Special Members	Mr. Ishige Keidō
Fukuoka Jisho Co., Ltd.	Mr. Furō Yasumasa
Dazaifu Tenmangū Shrine	Mr. Enomoto Kazuhiko
Ordinary Members	Mr. Kuroda Ken'ichi and 1 other
Fujinaka Co., Ltd.	Ordinary Members
Seihitsukai	Mr. Takaki Sei'u
Seiko Co., Ltd.	Mr. Yamaguchi Kōun
Kyushu University	Mr. Matsumoto Sekishū
Maeda Shokai	Mr. Matsukiyo Shūsen
Chikushi Gas Co., Ltd.	Mr. Koki Seikan
Television Nishinippon Corporation	Mr. Aramaki Shigehiko
Dazaifu Tourist Association	Mr. Yabumoto Shun'ichi
The Nishinippon Shimbun Co., Ltd.	Mr. Yabumoto Eisuke
Nissha Printing Communications, Inc.	Mr. Saita Toshimi
The Yomiuri Shimbun, Seibu	Mr. Ishida Katsuyo
Nippon Calmic Ltd.	Mr. Kamata Michisada
Asahi Shimbun	Mr. Horiuchi Hiroshi
Mitsumura Tosho Publishing Co., Ltd.	Mr. Yatsugi Takayuki
Kurume Transportation Co., Ltd.	Mr. Hokama Kazutomo
Selcon Co., Ltd.	Mr. Toriyama Rei
Tanseisha Co., Ltd.	Mr. Hayata Kenji
and 2 others	Mr. Hiseada Yoshio
	Ms. Kuroishi Makiko
	and 6 others



### Kyushu National Museum Premium Members' Pass

¥3,800 for adults, ¥2,500 for students Valid for one year from the date of issue

#### Benefits

- Free admission to permanent exhibitions at Kyushu, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara National Museums
- Up to four complimentary tickets valid for any Special Exhibition at Kyushu National Museum (up to two complimentary tickets per Special Exhibition)
- Eligibility for discounted tickets to Special Exhibitions at Kyushu National Museum from fifth visit onward
- Discounted tickets to special exhibitions at Kyoto and Nara National Museums

#### Benefits

- Free admission to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition
- Discounted tickets to Special Exhibitions
- Discounted fee for the Kyushu National Museum Premium Members' Pass
- Free subscription to museum publications
- Preferential registration for museum internships, external lectures, and other museum programs
- Preferential use of facilities and access to events
- Discounts at the museum shop

### Current Campus Members (21 schools as of 1 April 2024)

#### Universities:

Kyushu Sangyo University; Kyushu Institute of Information Sciences; Kyushu University; Kurume University; Daiichi University of Pharmacy; Chikushi Jogakuen University; Japan University of Economics (Fukuoka Campus); Fukuoka Institute of Technology; Fukuoka University; Video Study Center in Fukuoka, Open University of Japan

#### Junior Colleges:

Kyushu Sangyo University, Zokei Junior College of Art and Design; Fukuoka Institute of Technology Junior College; Fukuoka Women's Junior College

#### Vocational Schools:

School for Medical Technology, Kurume University School of Medicine, Hiraoka Nutritionist School

#### High Schools:

Kurume University Senior High School; Chikushi Jogakuen Senior High School; Chikushidai High School; Jyoto High School; Fukuoka Institute of Technology; Fukuoka University Ohori High School; Fukuoka University Wakaba High School

\*School names are noted in Japanese syllabary order

## Publications

Our museum's various publications help promote better understanding of our projects and exhibitions.



**Kyushu National Museum Bulletin**  
Our researchers publish their findings in this annual research bulletin.



**Asiage Quarterly**  
Released quarterly, this brochure features upcoming Special and Feature Exhibitions.



**Special Exhibition catalogs**  
These catalogs are published in conjunction with our Special Exhibitions.



**Feature Exhibition catalogs**  
These catalogs are published in conjunction with our Feature Exhibitions.



**Vietnamese Picture Book**  
The Vietnamese translation of our *Umi no mukō zutto mukō* book, describing Edo Japan's history of trade with Vietnam, has been distributed to Vietnamese organizations.

**Kyuhaku's Picture Books** Filled with colorful pages, these original books make learning about Japanese history and culture fun for children.





# Fact Sheet

## Basic Information

<b>Contact</b>	4-7-2 Ishizaka, Dazaifu, Fukuoka 818-0118, Japan www.kyuhaku.jp/en/
<b>Hours</b>	09:30-17:00 (last admission: 16:30) The museum is open till 20:00 on some Fridays and Saturdays (last admission at 19:30) as part of Kyuhaku After Five. More information is available on our website.
<b>Closed</b>	Mondays (except public holidays, in which case the following working day), end-of-year holidays
<b>Admission</b>	Cultural Exchange Exhibition Adults: ¥700; University Students: ¥350 *Free admission for individuals with disability documentation, and up to one minder; students of high school level and lower; visitors under the age of 18; and visitors aged 70 and above. Relevant documentation required. *Admission fees for Special Exhibitions are charged separately.

Admission to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition hall is free of charge on the following days:

- International Museum Day (18 May)
- Respect for the Elderly Day
- Culture Day (for international students only)
- Family Day (3rd Sunday of November, for up to 2 people per family with a child age 15 or younger)

## Parking Fees

Bicycles	free
Motorcycles	¥ 250
Semi-medium-sized passenger vehicles	¥ 500
Minibuses	¥ 1,300
Full-sized buses	¥ 2,000

\*Parking reductions and waivers are available for people with disabilities upon verification of relevant documentation. Please inquire for more details.

## Parking Spaces

Standard passenger vehicles	313
Buses	9

\*Carpark opening hours: 8:30-19:00 (last entry: 16:30)

\*Carpark opening hours on Kyuhaku After Five days: 8:30-21:00 (last entry: 19:30)

Guide and assistance dogs are welcome.



## Overview of the Facilities

Overview of the Facilities			(m <sup>2</sup> )
Land area	159,844		
Building	Building area	14,623	
	Total floor area	30,675	
	Breakdown	NICH: 9,300; Prefecture: 5,780; Joint: 15,595	
Exhibition & storage areas	Exhibition area	5,444	
	Breakdown	NICH: 3,844; Prefecture: 1,375; Joint: 225	
	Storage area	4,518	
	Breakdown	NICH: 2,744; Prefecture: 1,335; Joint: 439	

## Collections (As of 31 March 2024)

Classification	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
Kyushu National Museum (NICH)	18,292	4	48
Registered objects: 2 (not included in total)			
Asian Cultural Exchange Center	405	0	3

\*Due to the difference in method of accounting between Kyushu National Museum and other organizations in NICH, our method of account has changed as of 31 March 2024.

## Entrusted objects (As of 31 March 2024)

Classification	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
Kyushu National Museum (NICH)	1,275	1	13

## Annual Visitorship

### Number of Visitors

	(People)
FY 2005	1,280,314
FY 2006	1,879,855
FY 2007	1,386,388
FY 2008	1,219,487
FY 2009	1,739,503
FY 2010	1,143,666
FY 2011	884,633
FY 2012	1,235,018
FY 2013	893,154
FY 2014	932,935
FY 2015	1,024,008
FY 2016	1,067,831
FY 2017	842,577
FY 2018	893,393
FY 2019	829,655
FY 2020	149,919
FY 2021	236,468
FY 2022	535,611
FY 2023	648,701

### Number of Visitors to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition

	(People)
FY 2005	831,180
FY 2006	1,094,386
FY 2007	762,809
FY 2008	589,777
FY 2009	760,255
FY 2010	422,843
FY 2011	358,366
FY 2012	460,525
FY 2013	349,848
FY 2014	357,362
FY 2015	412,621
FY 2016	393,590
FY 2017	350,848
FY 2018	349,114
FY 2019	348,563
FY 2020	81,230
FY 2021	104,898
FY 2022	239,282
FY 2023	287,160

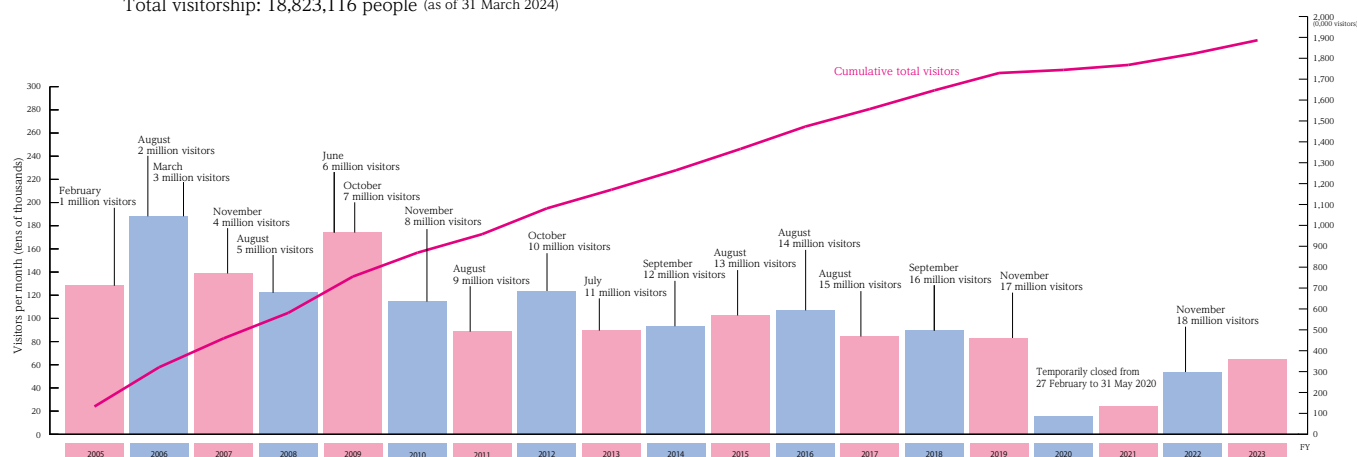
### Number of Visitors to Special Exhibitions

	(People)
FY 2005	683,211
FY 2006	691,880
FY 2007	512,856
FY 2008	515,495
FY 2009	1,055,043
FY 2010	543,489
FY 2011	354,228
FY 2012	646,511
FY 2013	377,755
FY 2014	447,301
FY 2015	471,507
FY 2016	528,878
FY 2017	317,421
FY 2018	351,277
FY 2019	325,714
FY 2020	50,432
FY 2021	108,255
FY 2022	283,918
FY 2023	242,311

\* Certain facilities within the museum are free of charge. The total number of visitors per year thus reflects other visitors in addition to those for the Cultural Exchange Exhibition and the Special Exhibitions.

\* The museum closed temporarily from 27 February to 31 May 2020 as part of nationwide efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Total visitorship: 18,823,116 people (as of 31 March 2024)

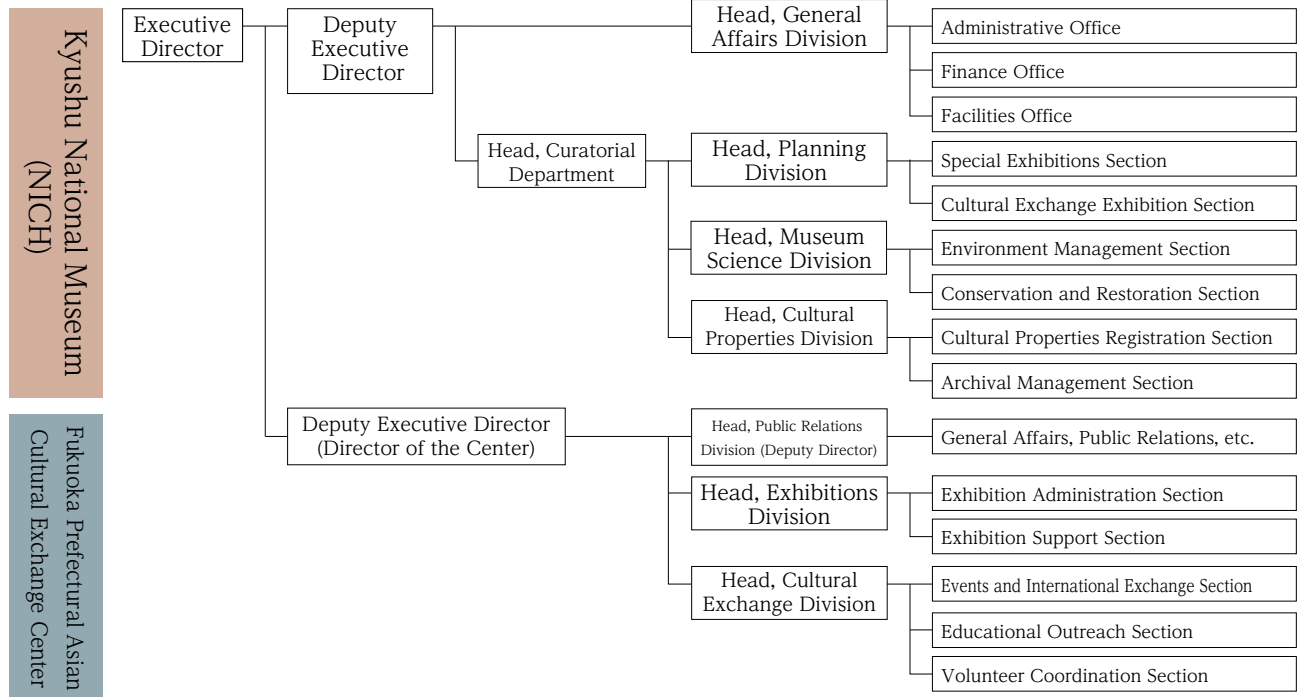


# Organization and History

## Organization

Kyushu National Museum is jointly managed by the national government and Fukuoka Prefecture.

Our museum is jointly managed by the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (NICH; an operational agency of the government) and the Fukuoka Prefectural Asian Cultural Exchange Center. This organizational structure, which promotes cooperation between the national and regional governments, was proposed during our museum's conceptualization. NICH is mainly responsible for the management and exhibition of cultural properties, as well as endeavors in museum science. The Center covers public relations, education outreach, and international exchange.



Number of staff (As of 1 April 2024)

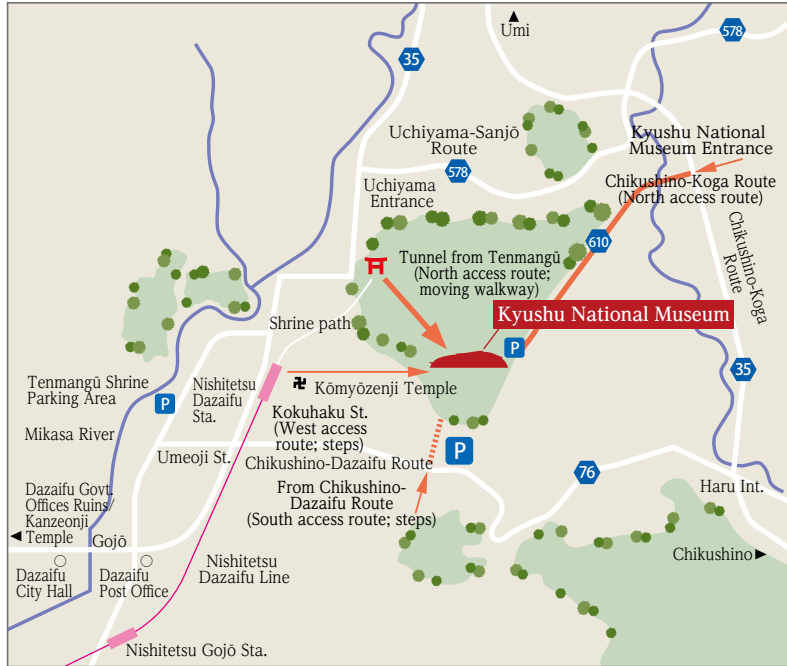
Organization	Total staff	Administrative staff	Researchers
Kyushu National Museum (NICH)	28	10	18
Fukuoka Prefectural Asian Cultural Exchange Center	19	11	8

## History

Jun 1994	Creation of the Committee to Investigate the Establishment of a New Concept-Based Museum ("the Committee") by the Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA)
Mar 1996	Selection of Dazaifu City, Fukuoka Prefecture as a potential location for the new museum, tentatively named, "Kyushu National Museum"
Jun 1997	The Committee outlines basic plans for Kyushu National Museum
Mar 1999	The Committee submits basic plans to the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs
Jun 1999	Creation of the Expert Committee for the Establishment of Kyushu National Museum ("the Expert Committee") by the ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture
Mar 2000	The Expert Committee draws up concept plans for the museum's permanent exhibition
Apr 2000	Finalization of basic architectural plans for the museum
Mar 2001	The ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture finalize the detailed architectural plans and concept plans for basic exhibition design
Apr 2001	Establishment of the Independent Administrative Institution (IAI) National Museums to merge administration of the Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara National Museums Addition of the Kyushu National Museum Project Office within the IAI National Museums
Mar 2002	The ACA and Fukuoka Prefecture launch a three-year-long Construction Work phase
Apr 2002	Groundbreaking ceremony on 10 April
Apr 2003	The IAI National Museums and Fukuoka Prefecture begin a two-year-long Exhibition Work phase
Mar 2004	Completion of the museum building
Oct 2004	The ACA, IAI National Museums and Fukuoka Prefecture officially announce the museum's finalized name, "Kyushu National Museum"
Mar 2005	Completion of the Exhibition Work phase
Apr 2005	The IAI National Museums establishes Kyushu National Museum Fukuoka Prefecture establishes the Asian Cultural Exchange Center
Oct 2005	Opening ceremony for the museum on 15 October Kyushu National Museum opens to the public on 16 October
Apr 2007	Establishment of the IAI National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) following the merger of IAI National Museums and the IAI National Research Institutes for Cultural Properties
Aug 2008	Cumulative visitorship reaches 5 million on 14 August
Dec 2008	Kyushu National Museum hosts the China-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit on 13 December
Oct 2012	Cumulative visitorship reaches 10 million on 9 October
Oct 2015	Kyushu National Museum celebrates our 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary on 17 October
Aug 2017	Cumulative visitorship reaches 15 million on 19 August
Oct 2020	Kyushu National Museum celebrates our 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary



## Access Map



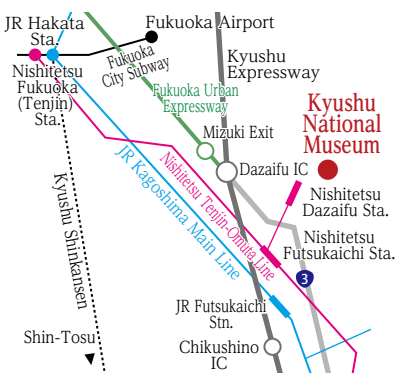
## Getting Here

**Nishitetsu Train** ○From Nishitetsu Fukuoka (Tenjin) Sta., take the Nishitetsu Tenjin Ōmura Line to Nishitetsu Futsukaichi Sta. (about 16 min. by Limited Express train and about 18 min. by Express train). Change to the Nishitetsu Dazaifu Line and alight at Nishitetsu Dazaifu Sta. (about 5 min.). The museum is about 10 min. on foot from the station.  
\*No additional charge required for the Ltd. Exp. and Exp. train services.

**JR Kyushu Railway** ○From JR Hakata Sta., take the Kagoshima Main Line to JR Futsukaichi Sta. (about 15 min. by Express train). Disembark and walk (about 12 min.) or take a bus (about 6 min.) to Nishitetsu Futsukaichi Sta. Take the Nishitetsu Dazaifu Line to the museum as explained above.

**By Car** ○Kyushu Expy.: about 20 min. from either the Dazaifu IC or the Chikushino IC via the Takao intersection. ○Fukuoka Urban Expy.: about 20 min. from the Mizuki exit via the Takao intersection.

**By Taxi** About 15 min. from JR Futsukaichi Sta.; about 30 min. from Fukuoka Airport.



**Nishitetsu Bus** From Hakata Bus Terminal, take the bus bound for Dazaifu from bus stop no. 11 (1st floor), and alight at Nishitetsu Dazaifu Sta. (about 40 min.). The museum is 10 min. on foot from the station. \*This bus makes a stop at the Fukuoka Airport International Terminal.

## Heritage Sites Around Us



### ■Dazaifu Tenmangū Shrine

Tenmangū are shrines dedicated to Tenjin, the god of scholarship and the deification of Heian poet Sugawara Michizane. The Dazaifu Tenmangū serves as one of the two head shrines of Tenjin, the other being Kyoto's Kitano Tenmangū. More than two million people visit the Dazaifu Tenmangū on the first three days of the year to make prayers for the New Year.



### ■Ruins of the Dazaifu Government Offices

Once known as the "Distant Imperial Court," the government offices at Dazaifu had served as the administrative center of Kyushu from the late seventh to twelfth century. The site where these buildings once stood has now been transformed into a park, marked only by their foundational stones. Visitors to the area may wonder what this area would have looked like in the past.



### ■Kanzeonji Temple

Historically, Kanzeonji was one of only three temples in Japan where devout Buddhists could be ordained as monks. This temple dates back to the eighth century, and is home to many important Buddhist statues made from the Heian to Kamakura period. Also on its grounds is one of the oldest bronze bells in Japan, which has been designated a National Treasure. It is now on display at Kyushu National Museum.



### ■Kōmyōzenji Temple

This Zen temple is located along the western access path leading to the museum. Established by Buddhist monk Enshin Tetsugyū, a member of the Sugawara clan, Kōmyōzenji is the only temple in Kyushu that has a dry landscape garden.

Photographs courtesy of Dazaifu City and Dazaifu Tenmangū.

