

# KYUSHU NATIONAL MUSEUM

—  
2023

海の道、アジアの路

OCEAN WAYS, ASIAN PATHS



*Haniwa terracotta deer*



# To be a museum that eng

## Message from the Executive Director



SHIMATANI Hiroyuki

Executive Director  
Kyushu National Museum

Kyushu National Museum (affectionately known as Kyuhaku) opened its doors on 16 October 2005. As a museum, we focus on mapping the formation of Japanese culture within the context of Asia's history. To date, we have welcomed over 18 million visitors into our halls, an achievement made possible by enthusiastic support we enjoy from people near and far.

Like much of the world, we were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This was, however, an opportunity for us to explore new ways of serving the people around us, such as through developing new online programs that allow our audience to enjoy content from our museum from the safety of their homes. Now, more so than ever, we remain firmly committed to our mission of communicating the cultural heritage of our ancestors to our visitors in a way that is more engaging than the classroom, and more illuminating than a textbook.



# 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 of 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 Institute 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.



P5

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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## Entrance Hall

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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)



Entrance Hall  
Arched over the entrance hall are logs felled from forests all over Kyushu.

## Teahouse

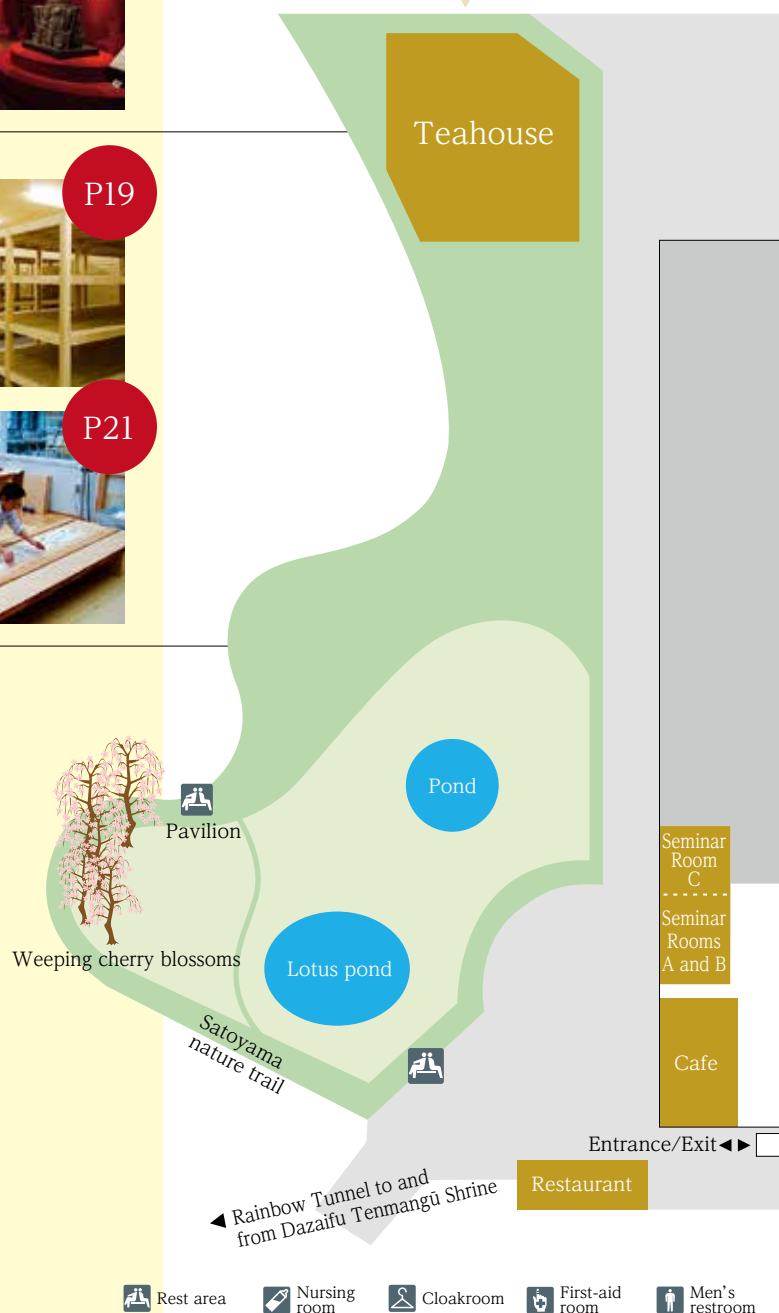
P23



Large tearoom



Small tearoom



The gently sloping blue roof of Kyushu National Museum's main building allows it to complement its surrounding scenery. 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. Inside the building, our exhibition halls, alongside many facilities, amenities, and services, ensure all visitors will enjoy their visit.



**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 fun, interactive experiences for young and old visitors alike.

### Museum Hall

This multipurpose auditorium plays host to 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.

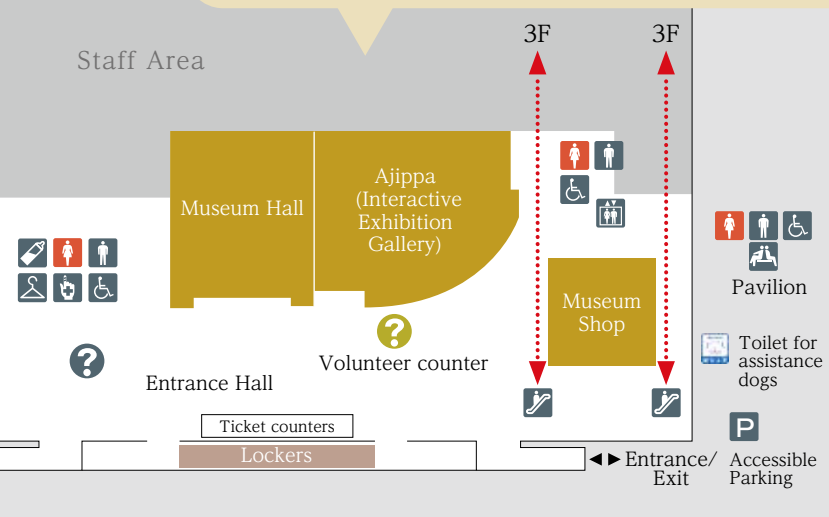


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Staff Area



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.

Since antiquity, Kyushu has been an important center of exchange between Japan and continental Asia by virtue of its proximity to the Korean Peninsula. 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.

Occupying around 3,900 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall is divided into five main themes covering Japan’s history from the Paleolithic period to early modernity in the nineteenth century. 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 replicas crafted using the same processes and techniques as the originals, as well as videos 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 Gallery Overview
- C Donors' Gallery
- E Display case of Imari porcelains donated by the Ogōri Country Club

- B Model of a *kentōshi* envoy ship
- D Themed display, *Recreating Our Past*
- 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 exhibition room features valuable objects that have been generously donated to us. Highlights include a bottle with pine, bamboo, and palm motifs in polychrome overglaze enamels, a folding screen depicting scenes in and around Kyoto, and a *katana* sword inscribed with "Chōgi" in red lacquer.

### 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 stood around ancient tumuli as decoration. 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

The program in this room includes a virtual tour of a stone chamber that has been digitized using the latest technology, as well as an overview of Dazaifu's history and heritage sites.

### 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 limits of political boundaries and time do not apply in this room, where we showcase a selection of artifacts that allows visitors to learn more about certain aspects of cultures all over Asia.

### 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 *kentōshi* envoys traveled, as well as trade along the Silk Road. Visitors can also see a 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

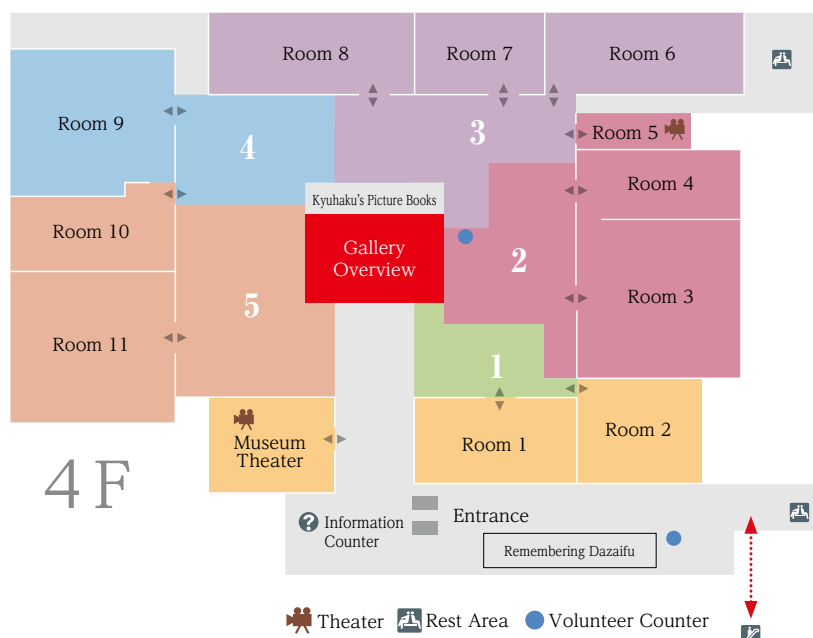
### Room 10 Ceramics of Kyushu: The Tanakamaru Collection

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 2022



#### Feature Exhibition *It's a "Smol" World Archaeology at Its Cutest*

19 April–24 July 2022

To encourage our visitors to look at archaeology in fresh, new ways, we saddled up our *haniwa* horses and put on the cutest exhibition ever, featuring a few of the most adorable artifacts in Kyuhaku's collection. These objects were selected by members of the Kyuhaku Women's Archaeology Club, established in 2015 as a space for likeminded women to explore this field together. Data from our surveys showed that this exhibition was popular with young women who would have otherwise avoid archaeology-related events.

##### Exhibition highlights:

- Haniwa terracotta horse: 6th century. Owned by Kyushu National Museum
- Compound comma-shaped beads: 6th century. Owned by Kyushu National Museum
- Bead resembling a person's face: Roman period, 2,200–1,600 years ago. Owned by Kyushu National Museum (donated by Ms. Shibata Emiko)



#### Feature Exhibition *Vessels from the Imperial Court Imari Porcelain from the Yamashina Family Collection*

27 September–20 November 2022

From the Edo period onward, the Japanese imperial family began using blue-and-white porcelain produced in Arita exclusively as their tableware. These exquisite bowls and plates, decorated with the imperial chrysanthemum seal, were replaced monthly. Old crockery would be gifted to noble families, imperial priests and priestesses, and ladies-in-waiting of the court. This exhibition invited viewers to view this stunning collection of once-imperial, once-noble ceramic tableware in its entirety.

##### Exhibition highlights:

- Smoking set presented by Empress Dowager Shōken: 19th century. Owned by Yamashina Yūsoku Research Center
- Plates decorated with imperial crest and bamboo stem motifs in underglaze blue: 18th–19th century. Owned by Yamashina Yūsoku Research Center
- Braziers decorated with imperial crest, phoenix, chrysanthemum, peony, and *nadeshiko* motifs in underglaze blue: 19th century. Owned by Yamashina Yūsoku Research Center



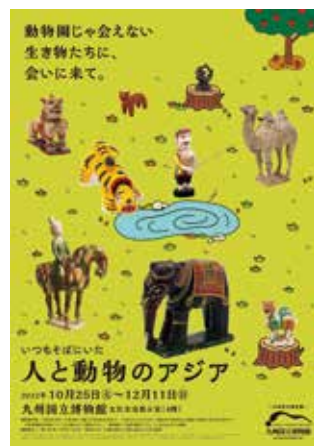
#### Feature Exhibition *Tanegashima A History Born from the Wind and Waves*

13 December 2022–12 February 2023

Located off the shores of southern Kyushu is Tanegashima: an island where guns were first brought to Japan, and now where rockets are launched. While its culture and historical development were more intertwined with Kyushu than the Amami and Ryukyu islands to its south, Tanegashima's people actively interacted with those islands. This exhibition explored this island's unique history through excavated artifacts, as well as objects of cultural heritage passed down through the ages.

##### Exhibition highlights:

- Elephant fossil from Nishi-no-Omote: 1,370,000 years old. Owned by Nishi-no-Omote City Board of Education, Kagoshima
- Wooden tablet with the characters "Tanenoshima": 8th century. Owned by Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
- Coastal map of Ōsumi no Kuni, Kumage-gun, Tanegashima, by Inō Tadataka: 19th century. Owned by Kyoto University Library



#### Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall *Walking Together The People and Animals of Asia*

25 October–11 December 2022

Humans have enjoyed a long history of coexistence with animals, and objects inspired by and featuring our animal friends have accompanied us from early history to the modern day. This exhibition explored Kyuhaku's collection of animal-related objects from Japan and Asia.

##### Display highlights:

- Cat-shaped coconut grater: 20th century, Thailand. Owned by Kyushu National Museum (donated by Mr. Kaneko Kazushige)
- Tiger-mask bamboo basket: 20th century, Vietnam. Owned by Kyushu National Museum (donated by Mr. Kaneko Kazushige)
- *Sancai* tri-color glazed figurine of a female horse rider: 8th century, China. Owned by Tokyo National Museum



# Delving deeper into cultural exchange



Stone stele depicting a thousand buddhas and numerous treasures within the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall



Video, *Ōtomo no Tabito and Dazaifu*, on show in the screening room.

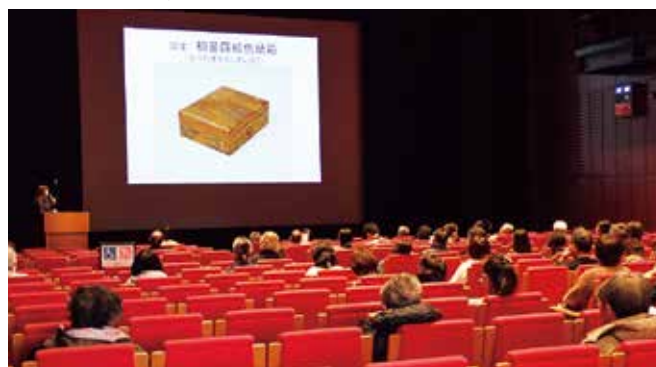
## Museum Talks

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

- Exploring the world of the Ramayana through *wayang kulit*
- An introduction to Okinoshima
- Textiles from the Liao dynasty, China
- The chemistry of lye water and its effects on old documents
- Bugs from the *Treatise on Acupuncture*



## Column | Hearing from our researchers

During Museum Talks and 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



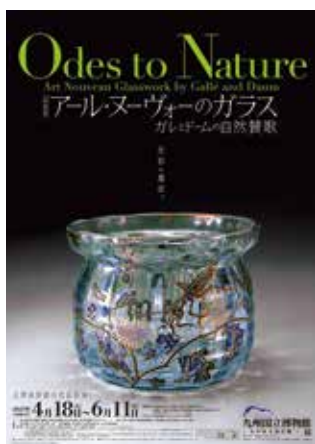
Special Exhibition, Pompeii



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.

## 2023-24 Special Exhibitions Schedule



18 Apr-11 Jun

Odes to Nature  
Art Nouveau Glasswork by Gallé and Daum

11 Jul-3 Sept

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

3 Oct-10 Dec

Ancient Mexico  
Maya, Aztec, and Teotihuacan

6 Feb-31 Mar 2024

Celebrating the 270th Anniversary of His Birth  
Nagasawa Rosetsu

※ The Special Exhibitions schedule is subject to change.

# A world of beauty and knowledge like no other

Special Exhibitions are major events on our exhibition calendar. The wide range of subjects they cover and the precious artifacts displayed have sparked interest in residents and tourists alike.

## Special Exhibitions in 2022-23



### Hokusai

16 April-12 June 2022 135,955 visitors

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849)—a name that has become synonymous internationally with Japanese art, and one of the most famous artists to come out of Japan. This exhibition presented the entire series of 219 paintings from his *Daily Sketches for Longevity and Exorcism* to the public for the very first time alongside other iconic works, such as the *Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji* woodblock print series and ceiling paintings from the Higashimachi festival float.

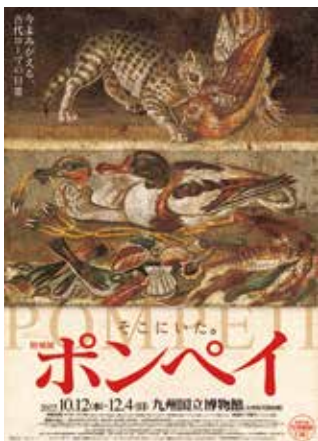


### Special Exhibition Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion to Japan

### Ryukyu

16 July-4 September 2022 41,054 visitors

The Ryukyu Kingdom was once an island nation that ruled modern-day Okinawa. From the Second Shō dynasty to recent history, its people have worked steadily and diligently to preserve, pass on, and celebrate their history and culture. This exhibition of unprecedented scale featured 42 objects relating to the royal Shō family and explored the establishment of the Ryukyu Kingdom as well as the distinctive aesthetic of its culture.



### Pompeii

12 October-4 December 2022 79,919 visitors

Pompeii: an ancient city with rich culture, buried during the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius two thousand years ago. What remains of their society has been preserved under a blanket of volcanic ash—a snapshot of life in an age now lost to us. This exhibition, which was organized in collaboration with the National Archaeological Museum of Naples (MANN), presented 125 works of art and objects used in daily Roman life.



### The Gaya Confederacy

A History of Co-Existence in Ancient East Asia

24 January-19 March 2023 26,990 visitors

"Gaya" refers to a confederation of nations once located in the central and southern parts of the Korean Peninsula that influenced Kofun-period Japan in no small way. This exhibition drew on recent findings and research to trace the rise and fall of Gaya. It also featured artifacts that showed how migrants from various Korean nations brought aspects of their culture and new technologies to Japan, inadvertently shaping Japanese culture in the process.



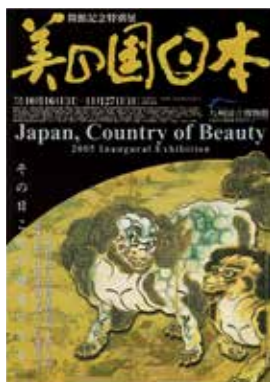
SHIRAI Katsuya  
Head  
Curatorial Department

## 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

## 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.

## 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 Atsumi

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–2 Dec 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 for 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

## Past Special Exhibitions



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 Admired from Afar

15 Apr-8 Jun 2014 60,808 visitors  
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  
Kaai 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 Aesthetic Connections

20 Apr-13 Jun 2021 18,157 visitors  
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

## 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



A museum that provides multi-sensory experiences for its visitors

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

Kyushu National Museum prides itself on its engaging, interactive exhibitions and unique educational programs that help bring the local community together.

### Ajippa (Interactive Exhibition Gallery)

Despite its name being a portmanteau of *asia* (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).



## Diversity and Inclusion

Kyushu National Museum prides itself on creating new initiatives that allow a wide range of visitors to learn more about the museum's facilities and exhibitions.

Last year, we organized two workshops related to content featured in the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall. Participants were introduced to jar coffins, a type of burial vessel used in Northern Kyushu during the Yayoi period, and were also invited to role-play in a traditional king's burial using a life-sized replica.

We also launched a Yasashii Nihongo ("easy Japanese") museum tour designed specifically for foreign residents. Our researchers treated participants to a disassembly of a Japanese sword, as well as explanations on *dogu* clay figurines, early Imari ware, and other key displays in the exhibition space.

We held several events designed for disabled visitors, such as special Backyard Tours, and workshops featuring musical instruments and replicas of artifacts for people who are visually impaired. We also designed Backyard Tours and further introductions to the museum building that used sign language interpretation and subtitles.

Last year also marked the launch of *NaviLens* at Kyuhaku, an audio and video guidance system to the Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall aimed at visitors who are vision-impaired, Deaf, or hard-of-hearing. This system has allowed us to support an even wider audience than previously possible.

### Highlights



#### Jar coffin burial workshop

This workshop allowed participants to be "buried" inside a life-sized replica of a jar coffin.



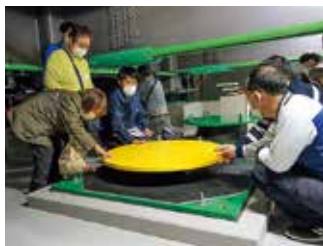
#### Jar coffin burial roleplaying workshop

Participants experienced what an ancient Yayoi burial ritual would have been like from start to finish.



#### Yasashii Nihongo ("Easy Japanese") museum tour

Designed specifically for foreign residents, this tour introduced participants to the museum by using simple, easy Japanese, panels, and illustrations.



#### Backyard Tour for people with vision impairments

Visitors were introduced to the museum building's various facilities using tactile models. They also rode the extra-large elevator used to move cultural heritage objects.



#### Sign language-assisted online Backyard Tour

This interactive tour, which included mini quizzes and question-and-answer segments, made use of sign language interpretation and subtitles to bring participants behind the scenes of the museum.



#### NaviLens at Kyuhaku

This initiative utilizes the NaviLens and NaviLens GO mobile applications to provide visitors of all backgrounds with audio and sign language guides, respectively, on their smartphones.

## 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 its 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 its 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 visually impaired patrons.

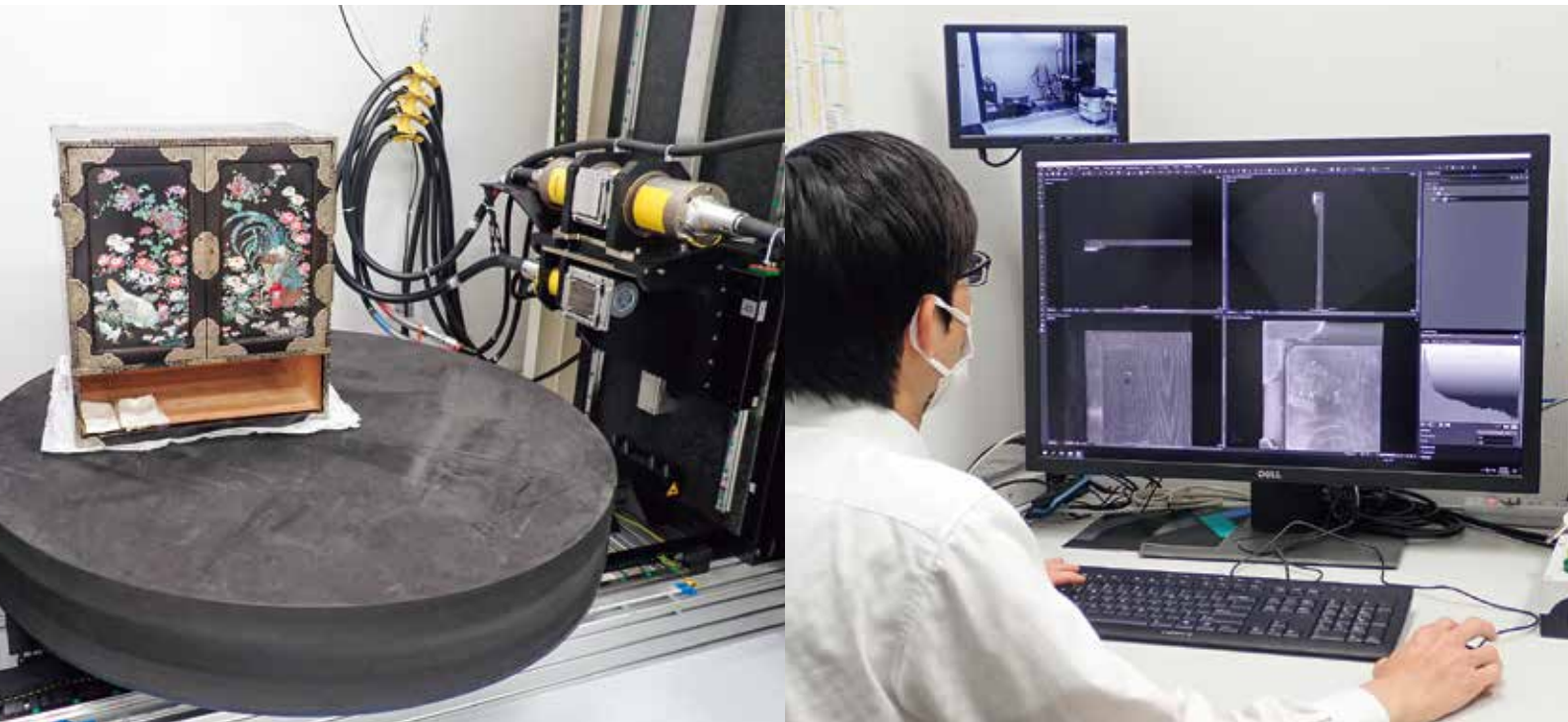


### Column | Backyard Tours



SHIGYŌ Shōichi  
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 2023) of varied specializations conducting research work daily. As they 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 the Kakenhi to broaden and advance its research achievements in the conservation science and cultural heritage sectors.

#### List of Kakenhi-funded Research Projects in FY 2023-24

(As of 1 April 2023)

Group Leader	Position	Grant Type	Title	Duration
Shimatani Hiroyuki	Executive Director	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)	Comparative Studies of Conservation, Restoration and Handling of Japanese Artworks in Foreign Collections for Effective Presentation and Conservation Practices	2022-25
Kigawa Rika	Head, Science Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B)	Feasible Measures to Decrease VOCs in Museum Environments	2021-24
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
Shiga Satoshi	Head, Conservation and Restoration Section, Science Division	Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)	Empirical Research on the Distribution of Red Iron Oxide Pigment Found in <i>Kofun</i> Tumuli in Kyushu	2021-24
Matsuura Kōsuke	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 Collection	2021-26
Kuwabara Yuzuko	Researcher, Planning Division	Grant-in-Aid for Early-Career Scientists	An Investigation into the Historical and Technical Background of the Development of Prized Textiles from Before the 16th Century ( <i>Meibutsugire</i> )	2020-24
Watanabe Hiroki	Researcher, 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

## Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B): The birth of sacred places in Southeast Asia: A study of the Buddhist cultural exchange network from antiquity to early modernity

Following its inception in India, Buddhism spread throughout Asia, taking on a variety of forms over time. From the Sukhothai Kingdom (13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> century) onwards, Theravada Buddhism gained widespread popularity, and monks frequently traveled between Thailand and present-day Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Replicas of the sacred footprints of Buddha in Sri Lanka, as well as temples made in the image of Bodh Gaya, the holy site in India where Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment, contributed to the growth of Buddhism in Thailand itself.

This research project investigates the spread of this religion in Southeast Asia following its decline in India. It traces the emergence of Buddha footprints (icons that are said to prove the Buddha's existence) in Thailand, as well as how Thai Buddhism developed in relation to sacred Buddhist sites in India, through the examination of relics and sutras.

### Investigations of various Buddha footprint sites in Thailand



Sukhothai site



Bangkok site

## 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 of 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 2023)



## Collaborative Projects and Programs

### Exchange programs with Korean partner institutions



Academic exchange with Buyeo National Museum



Hybrid event introducing objects from Buyeo National Museum's collection

### Joint investigations with the Thai Fine Arts Department



Researchers from both countries worked together to investigate Buddhist sculptures in Thailand and shared information on how to approach the conservation and usage of cultural heritage objects.

### 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 support for digital content



We have stepped up efforts to reach out to the international community by providing English, Chinese, and Korean translations of digital content published on our website, Youtube, and Twitter. We have also set up an official Facebook page with posts in English, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.



Calligraphy contest



Tanegashima photo exhibition and tourism fair

## Providing a rich range of events enjoyable all year round.

In addition to organizing exhibitions, Kyushu National Museum uses its venue space to hold various events throughout the year. These events are free of charge, and are a means for visitors to experience the museum space in a new, refreshing light.

### ■Museum concerts

These concerts include genres such as classical, jazz, traditional Japanese, and traditional folk music. The museum also holds seasonal events such as *rakugo* performances and book readings.



### ■Cherry blossom festival

Visitors enjoyed choir performances and traditional *miko* dances in front of the museum's cherry blossom grove.



### ■Tea ceremony classes

These classes are designed for people who are new to Japanese tea ceremonies, and are held in the teahouse located on the museum's grounds. Participants of all genders, ages and nationalities are welcome.



### ■Gamelan workshops

Participants get an opportunity to learn about and play the gamelan, an ensemble of bronze instruments from Southeast Asia.



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



**TAKAMUKU Gōta**  
Head  
Cultural Exchange Division

The Hakata Gion Yamakasa is an annual festival designated as an Important Intangible Folk Property by the Japanese government. It was also added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in December 2016. Kyushu National Museum is proud to have a decorative *yamakasa* float on display throughout the year as a fixture that has followed the museum ever since its opening in 2005. Information about how the float was decorated and what it symbolises is also displayed around it. We hope that at all our visitors, local and foreign alike, will feel the energetic spirit of the festival when they look upon this 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 2022

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 29 purchased works and 41 donated items that joined our collection in FY 2022.

### Purchases

#### ① Crowned Buddha Amitabha

Hanging scroll

Southern Song Dynasty, China, 13<sup>th</sup> century

Executed with exquisite brushwork, the Buddha Amitabha is depicted with a crown on his head and his hands resting in *jō-in*, a gesture of meditation also known as *samādhi mudra*. This is an orthodox portrayal of the Buddha from China's Southern Song dynasty (1127–1279). It shares similar characteristics with a portrayal of the Buddha Shakyamuni at the Seikado Bunko Art Museum in Tokyo, as well as the *Buddha Shakyamuni with Two Attendants* portrait at Kenchōji Temple in Kanagawa Prefecture, a work attributed to its founder, Rankei Dōryū (1213–1278). Since these three depictions may have been created in the same environment, this piece is significant when considering Buddhist paintings produced in the Southern Song dynasty. This work was likely brought to Japan during the Kamakura period (12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century), where it influenced painting and sculpture in medieval Japan in no small way.



#### ② Artifacts from the Takeshima tumulus

Important Cultural Property

From the Takeshima tumulus, Shūnan City, Yamaguchi Prefecture  
Kofun period, 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century

This group of artifacts was excavated in 1888 from the Takeshima tumulus, a 56-meter-long keyhole-shaped burial mound dating from the early Kofun period. In 1988, they were designated as an Important Cultural Property. Among this collection of objects are two triangular-rimmed mirrors decorated with deities and beasts, one of which is inscribed with 240, a year in the Wei dynasty (220–266) during the Three Kingdoms period in China (221–280). Artifacts like this mirror are extremely valuable as they are proof of cultural exchange between the Japanese islands and China at the start of the Kofun period. This group of objects is essential for further archaeological research as it is a textbook example of a nearly complete set of accessories that would have been buried with local chiefs of this period.



### Donations

#### ③ *Tachi* sword signed “Sadatsuna”

Heian period, 12<sup>th</sup> century

Donated by Mr. Kitazaki Tetsurō



This *tachi* sword boasts a beautiful curvature and was inscribed with the name of its maker, “Sadatsuna.” Sadatsuna was part of a group of swordsmiths who were active in Hōki Province (present-day Tottori Prefecture) from the late Heian period to the early Kamakura period (12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century). This group, collectively known as *ko-hōki*, included makers such as Yasutsuna, one of Japan's most well-known swordsmiths, Mamori, Moritsuna, Manatsuna, and Aritsuna. This sword is valuable both as an example of *ko-hōki* smithing and as a work of craftsmanship by Sadatsuna, as extant works by him are extremely rare. It is also worth noting that a tang rubbing of this sword appeared in *Ōjakushō*, a reference book for swords dating from the late Muromachi period (14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> century).

#### 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. The museum's conservation studio is divided into six rooms: a paper-making room, and rooms for conserving 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

## Cultural Properties Rescue Program

This program was launched by the Agency for Cultural Affairs following the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. As part of this initiative, we participate in on-the-ground efforts to rescue cultural properties affected by natural disasters. In this vein, we have worked with various prefectures in Kyushu following the April 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes, the July 2017 northern Kyushu floods, the July 2018 western Japan floods, and the July 2020 Kumagawa floods.



### 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



Papermaking equipment for repairing calligraphy and ancient documents



Museum staff participating in our yearly conservation glue-making session



Foundational course on ancient document conservation



Cultural properties conservation and restoration workshop for students



Special Museum Science and Restoration Area tour for the public



# Seismic Isolation System

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

## 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.

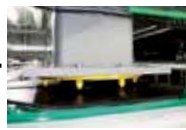


Tour of the seismic isolation structure layer

Seismic isolation = structure layer



Natural rubber isolators



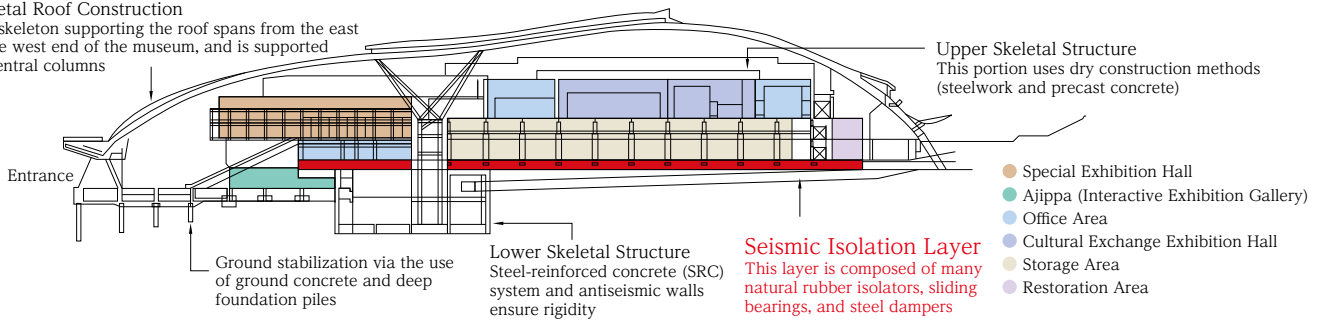
Sliding bearings



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



Upper Skeletal Structure  
This portion uses dry construction methods (steelwork and precast concrete)

- Special Exhibition Hall
- Ajippa (Interactive Exhibition Gallery)
- Office Area
- Cultural Exchange Exhibition Hall
- Storage Area
- Restoration Area

Seismic Isolation Layer  
This layer is composed of many natural rubber isolators, sliding bearings, and steel dampers

## 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 its 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.

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

Bring a piece of the museum home with you!



Plastic folder inspired by a shrine with bird and flower motifs in *maki-e* lacquer and mother-of-pearl inlay



Spinning tops featuring works from Hokusai's *Daily Sketches for Longevity and Exorcism*



Konpeitō sugar candy in a *Harikigigaki (Treatise on Acupuncture)* novelty tin

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

## 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 2023)

Group	Individual
Premium Member	Special Members
Kyushu National Museum Promotion Foundation	Mr. Ishige Keidō
Special Members	Ms. Takaki Chizuko
Dazaifu Tenmangū Shrine	Mr. Furō Yasumasa
Fukuoka Jisho Co., Ltd.	Mr. Enomoto Kazuhiko
Ordinary Members	Mr. Kuroda Ken'ichi
Fujinaka Co., Ltd.	Ordinary Members
Seihitsukai	Mr. Ishida Katsuyo
Seiko Co., Ltd.	Mr. Takaki Sei'u
Kyushu University	Mr. Yamaguchi Kōun
Maeda Shokai	Mr. Matsumoto Sekishū
Chikushi Gas Co., Ltd.	Mr. Matsukiyo Shūsen
Television Nishinippon Corporation	Mr. Koki Seikan
Dazaifu Tourist Association	Mr. Aramaki Shigehiko
The Nishinippon Shimbun Co., Ltd.	Mr. Yabumoto Shun'ichi
Nishinippon Printing Communications, Inc.	Mr. Yabumoto Eisuke
The Yomiuri Shimbun, Seibu	Mr. Saita Toshimi
Toyota Motor Kyushu, Inc.	Mr. Aoyama Keiji
Nippon Calmic Ltd.	Mr. Kamata Michisada
Asahi Shimbun	Mr. Horiuchi Hiroshi
Mitsumura Tosho Publishing Co., Ltd.	Mr. Yatsugi Takayuki
Kurume Transportation Co., Ltd.	Mr. Rikihisa Wataru
Selcon Co., Ltd.	Mr. Hokama Kazutomo
Tanseisha Co., Ltd.	Mr. Shimada Takashi
and 1 other	Mr. Toriyama Rei
	Ms. Ichikawa Minami
	Mr. Hayata Kenji
	and 9 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 (20 schools as of 1 April 2023)

#### Universities:

Kyushu Sangyo University; Kyushu Institute of Information Sciences; Kyushu University; Kurume University; Daichi 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

#### 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**  
A brochure released quarterly featuring upcoming Special and Feature Exhibitions.



**Special Exhibition catalogs**  
Catalogs published in conjunction with our Special Exhibitions.



**Feature Exhibition catalogs**  
Catalogs 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. 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

Contact	4-7-2 Ishizaka, Dazaifu, Fukuoka 818-0118, Japan www.kyuhaku.jp/en/
Hours	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.
Closed	Mondays (except public holidays, in which case the following working day), end-of-year holidays
Admission	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 two persons per families who have a junior high school-level child 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.

Guide and assistance dogs are welcome.

## 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)



## 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 2023)

Classification	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
Kyushu National Museum (NICH)	1,581	4	46
	Registered objects: 2 (not included in total)		
Asian Cultural Exchange Center	404	0	3

## Entrusted objects (As of 31 March 2023)

Classification	Total	National Treasures	Important Cultural Properties
Kyushu National Museum (NICH)	1,400	2	14

## 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

### 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

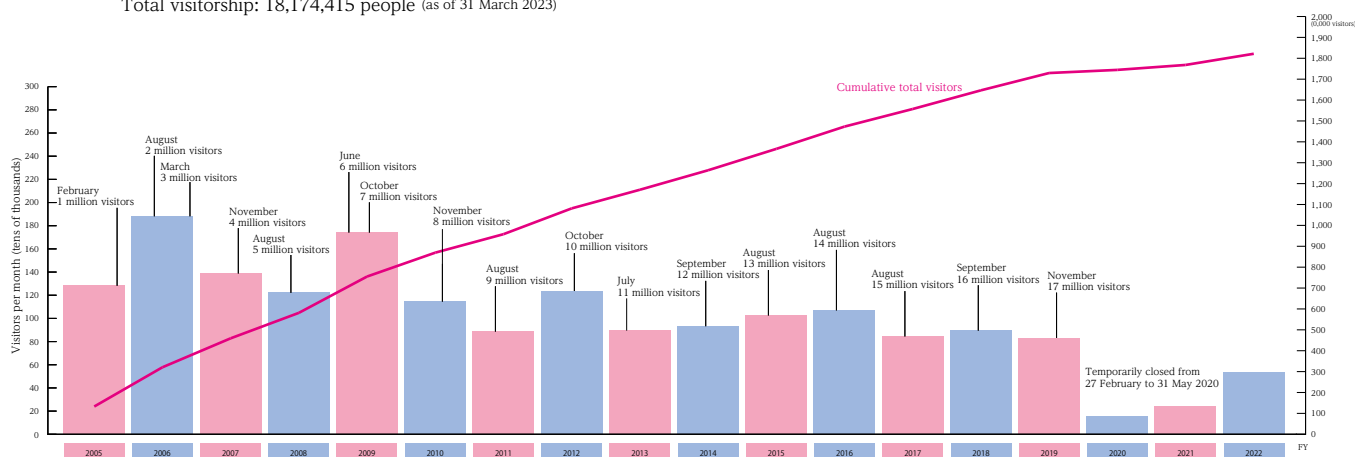
### Number of Visitors to Special Exhibitions

	(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

\* 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: 18,174,415 people (as of 31 March 2023)

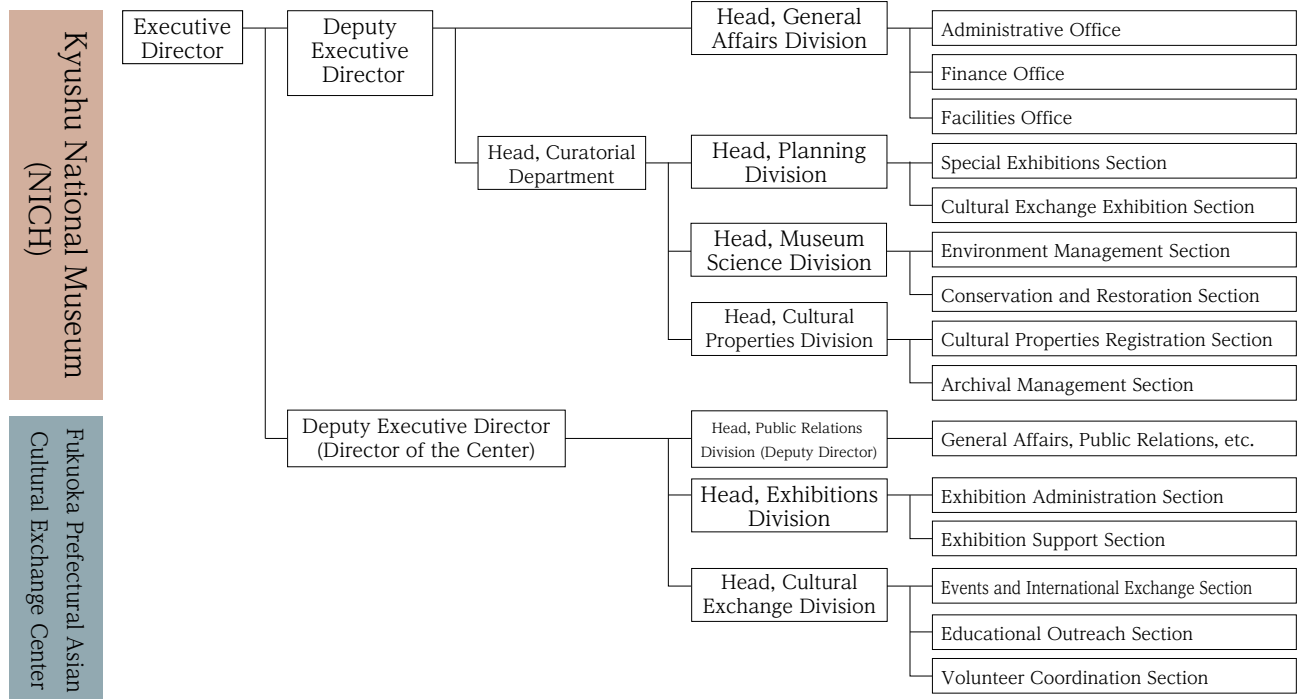


# Organization and History

## 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.



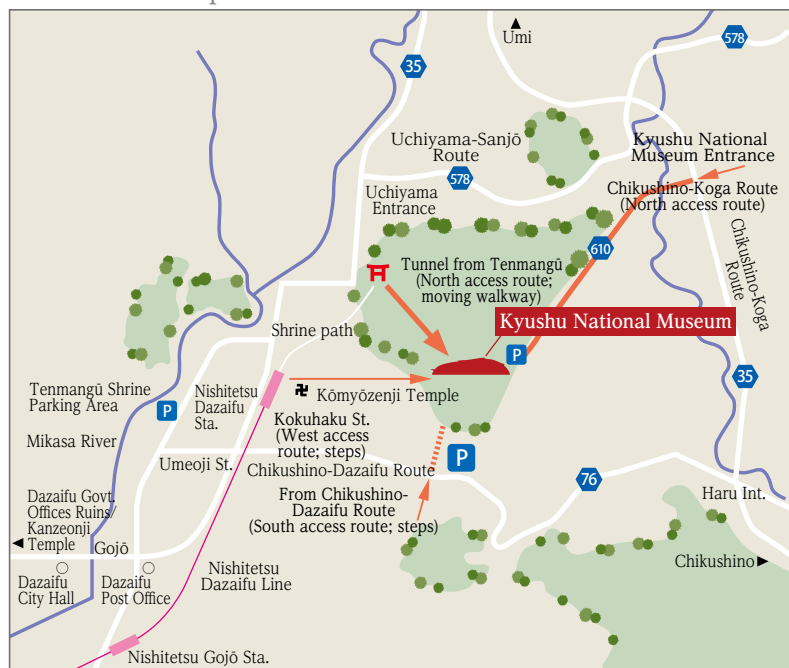
Number of staff (As of 1 April 2022)

Organization	Total staff	Administrative staff	Researchers
Kyushu National Museum (NICH)	29	11	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 its 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary on 17 October
Aug 2017	Cumulative visitorship reaches 15 million on 19 August
Oct 2020	Kyushu National Museum celebrates its 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary

## Access Map



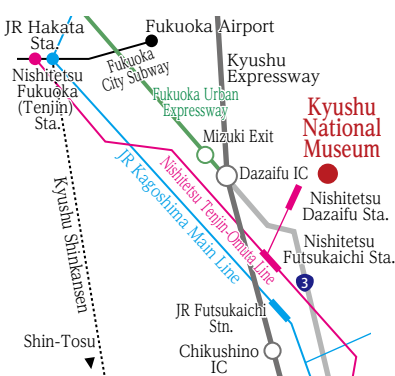
## Getting Here

**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.



### ■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.