

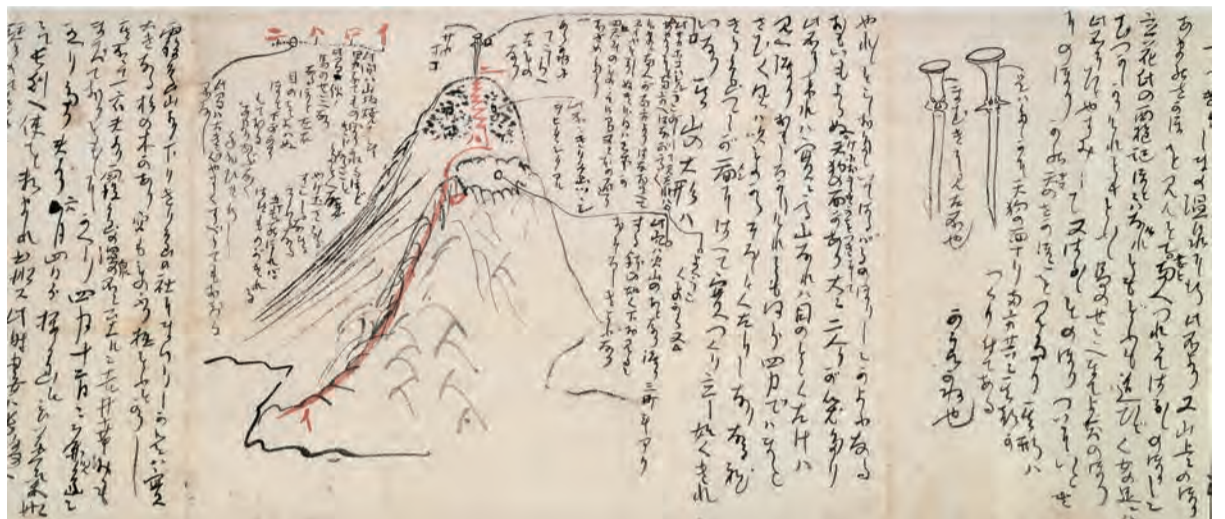


Special Exhibition

150th Year Commemorative Special Exhibition Sakamoto Ryōma: Japan's Favorite Hero

Apr. 29 Sat. — Jun. 18 Sun. 2017
 1F Special Exhibition Room

Admission: Adults ¥1,350 / Students ¥1,080 / Elementary, junior high, high school students and seniors (65 and over) ¥680 **Closed:** Mon. (When Mon. is a national holiday, closed on the following weekday. Open on May 1, 15.)



Letter of Sakamoto Ryōma to his elder sister Sakamoto Otome, dated the 4th day of the 12th month of Keiō 2 (detail)

Kyoto National Museum

*Exhibition period: May 23-Jun. 4

Mirror decorated with sea creatures and grapevines used by Sakamoto Ryōma

China, Ming (1368-1661) or Qing (1644-1912)
 Kyoto National Museum



Photograph of Sakamoto Ryōma

Edo Period (1615-1868), circa 1866-1867
 Collodion wet plate albumen print
 Kochi Prefectural Museum of History

*Exhibition period: Apr. 29-May 1
 The photograph will be displayed for three days only.
 A copy will be exhibited on all other days.

Special Exhibition

Sakamoto Ryōma was born in 1835 in Tosa (today's Kochi Prefecture). He contributed to the modernization of Japan until his death in 1867 in Kyoto. Ryōma supported the return of governance to the Imperial Court and mediated the Satsuma-Choshū military alliance, even while being a masterless samurai.

Commemorating 150 years since the death of Ryōma, Edo-Tokyo Museum will hold an exhibition that re-shines the spotlight on the human side of Ryōma. The exhibition, featuring his handwritten letters that demonstrate Ryōma's free-spirited life and love for his family, will allow visitors to leave with a clearer understanding of why he is Japan's favorite hero.

A sword signed "Yoshiyuki" worn by Ryōma when he was assassinated in Kyoto is also on exhibit, along with objects and materials associated with him near the end of the shogunate, the era when Ryōma was very active.

Highlight 1:

This exhibition features and provides a look into the fascinating letters written by Ryōma.

Sakamoto Ryōma remains a highly popular figure, none other than because the letters he wrote and left behind are so fascinating. This exhibition displays as many of these handwritten letters as possible, and their content is presented in a clear and engaging way. By reading his humor-filled letters, visitors will be able to gain a firsthand sense of Ryōma's flexible thought process and love for his family.

Highlight 2:

This exhibition displays associated materials that were newly discovered in the last 10 years.

New materials associated with Ryōma continue to be discovered in piecemeal in the 21st century. Ryōma being a popular historical figure that he is, constant efforts are made to uncover materials and such discoveries never cease. For example, a written record created by a descendant of the Sakamoto family was recently discovered in the Sakamoto family archives in Sapporo. The record sheds light on how Ryōma's objects including swords were passed down through the generations. These latest research findings are also available for viewing.

Highlight 3:

This exhibition presents a clear, visual picture of the history of the end of the shogunate.

The era when Sakamoto Ryōma was born and was influential coincided with Japan's gradual opening to the world. This exhibition displays visual contents illustrating the end of the Tokugawa shogunate, the period when Ryōma was active. The contents include: newspapers dating back to this era; color prints from the early Meiji period (1868-1912); and picture scrolls depicting the unrest at the end of the shogunate. Also on display are crafts from this period. Furthermore, the Tokyo showing of this exhibition includes the Museum's collection of "Objects Associated with the Shogunate Warship *Second Nagasaki Maru*." The objects provide a glimpse into the Navy at the time—something that cannot go unmentioned in discussing Ryōma.

Permanent Exhibition Area

Edo-Tokyo Museum Permanent Exhibition Catalogue is now available

At last the wait is over! We are pleased to announce the release of *Edo-Tokyo Museum Permanent Exhibition Catalogue*, full of information on the permanent exhibition that reopened with a brand new face. It includes commentaries on the exhibits of all 20 corners of the permanent exhibition, such as the new corners—"From Edo to Tokyo" and "Tokyo Today"—that are gaining much attention, information on the major exhibits, an introduction to the popular hands-on exhibits, and columns about the highlights of the permanent exhibition written by the curator in charge of the renovation. The catalogue is well worth the read. Get your very own copy to find out more about the museum's vast permanent exhibition. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

[Main Contents]

■ Edo Zone

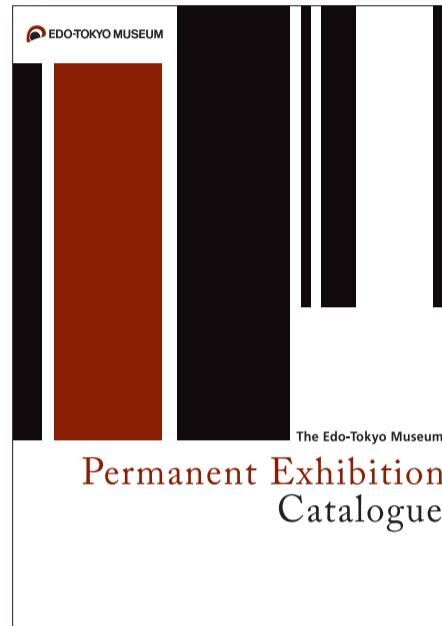
- E1 Edo Castle and the District Zones
- E2 Life of the Townspeople
- E3 Publication and Information
- E4 Commerce of Edo
- E5 Villages and Islands Linked with Edo
- E6 Edo's Four Seasons and Its Entertainment Districts
- E7 Cultural City Edo
- E8 Aesthetics of Edo
- E9 Theatres and Pleasure Quarters
- E10 From Edo to Tokyo

■ Tokyo Zone

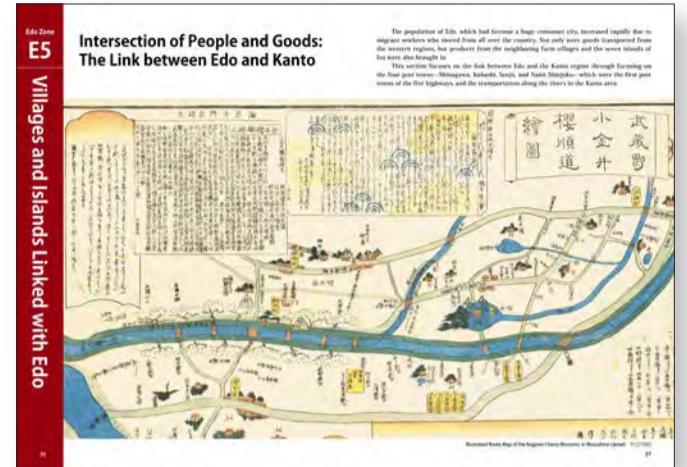
- T1 Tokyo in the Age of "Civilization and Enlightenment"
- T2 Behind the Scenes of "Enlightenment"
- T3 Tokyo and the Industrial Revolution
- T4 Urban Culture and Recreation
- T5 The Great Kanto Earthquake
- T6 Modern Tokyo
- T7 Air Raids and Citizens of Tokyo
- T8 Tokyo Revived
- T9 Tokyo during the Times of Rapid Economic Development
- T10 Tokyo Today

■ Events and Services at the Permanent Exhibition Gallery

- Museum Laboratory
- Hands-On Exhibits
- Events at the Permanent Exhibition Gallery
- Support Services at the Permanent Exhibition Gallery



Price: 1,546 yen (incl. tax)



Visitor Information

■ Hours

9:30 - 17:30
Saturdays 9:30 - 19:30
Last admission 30 minutes before closing

■ Closed

Mondays
(When Monday is a national holiday, the next business day)
Year-End and New Year Holiday

■ Admission for Permanent Exhibition

	Individual	Group (20 and over)
Adults	¥600	¥480
Students*	¥480	¥380
Ages 65 and over	¥300	¥240
Junior high** and high school students	¥300	¥240

* Includes university and vocational college students
** Free admission for junior high school students resident or studying in Tokyo.

■ Free Admission to Permanent Exhibition

- Pre-school and elementary school children
- Junior high school students who are residents of Tokyo
- Those in personal possession of disability certificates Mental disability, psychiatric disability protection and atomic bomb survivor chart holders upon showing of the document (documentary proof of age also required) and their two custodians

■ Silver Day

Admission is free for ages 65 and over on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (documentary proof of age required).

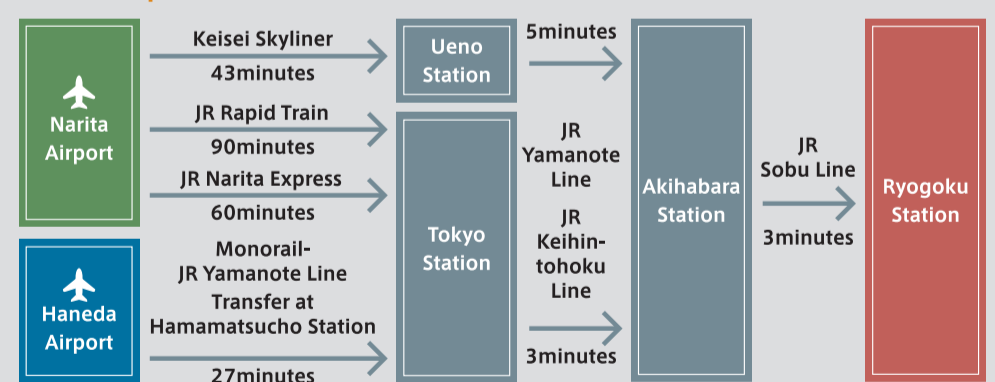
■ Family Day

The admission for two adult custodians (Tokyo residents) who bring children aged below 18 on the 3rd Saturday and the next day (Sunday) will be reduced by half for entrance to permanent exhibition.

A separate admission fee applies to special exhibitions.

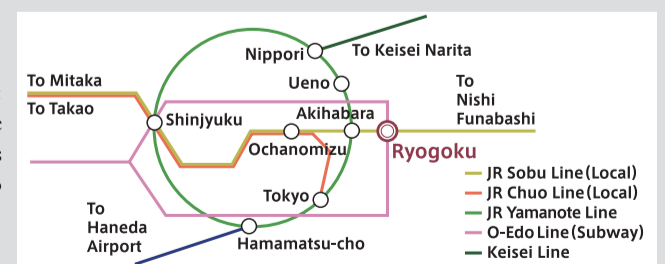
Getting Here

■ From Airports



■ by Train by Subway

- 3-minute walk from West Exit of Ryogoku Station, JR Sobu Line
- 1-minute walk from A3•A4 Exits of Ryogoku Station (Edo-Tokyo Hakubutsukan-mae), Toei Subway O-Edo Line



Museum Closure Due to Renovation

The entire museum is scheduled to close for facility renovation from October 01 (Sunday) 2017 until March 31 (Saturday) 2018. (Certain areas will be closed from September 2017.)

Each area is scheduled to reopen in accordance with the following schedule. We hope to see you again then.

- Permanent Exhibitions (5th and 6th floors) and the library (7th floor) → Scheduled to reopen in April 2018
- Special Exhibitions (1st floor) → Scheduled to reopen in April 2019