



TATEYAMA MUSEUM OF TOYAMA

The Tenji-kan

The Tenji-kan Hall displays items related to the nature, history and culture of Tateyama. Start by exploring the nature of Tateyama on the third floor.

❖ Beech Forest

This is the beech forest of Bijodaira, an area found at an altitude of 1,200 meters on Tateyama. The beautiful colors indicate how it appears around mid-October, at the peak of the fall foliage season.

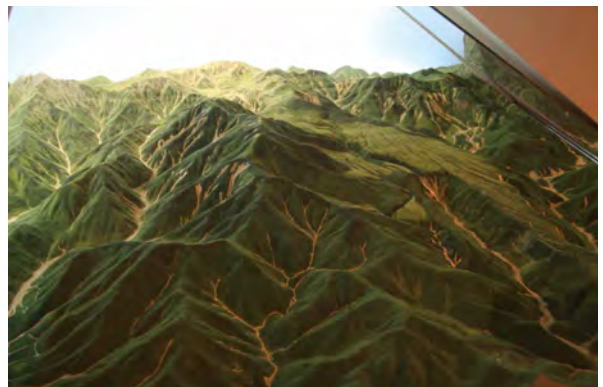
When beech trees shed their leaves and branches in autumn, they produce a layer of soft soil that can hold a large amount of water, like a sponge. This acts like a reservoir. As water filters through the soil layers, it is purified and becomes mineral-rich. This clean water is part of what makes Toyama rice and seafood from Toyama Bay so delicious.



❖ Tateyama's Geography

This is a 1/7,000th scale model of the area surrounding Tateyama. The trapezoidal mountain in the center is Tateyama. On the left side, rising sharply, is Mt. Tsurugidake. Behind Tateyama the Kurobegawa River flows to the Kurobe dam, the highest dam in Japan. The punch bowl-like depression on the right side is the Tateyama Caldera. In the Midagahara Plateau, which you see at the front, there's an Alpine Route.

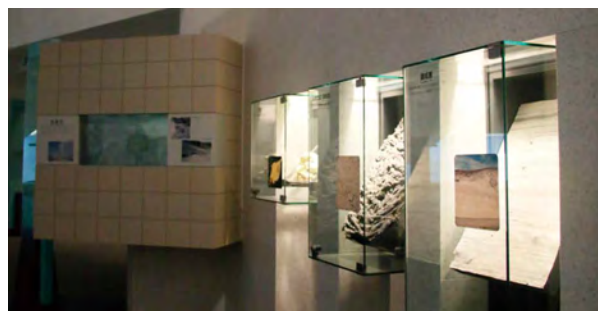
As you can see, the Tateyama terrain has a rich variety of geographical features.



❖ Unique Scenery

In Tateyama you can see many peculiar landscapes. The diorama on the left side recreates a boiling lake in Jigokudani, or Hell Valley. You can also see bright yellow sulfur crystals.

Japanese people's imaginations have been richly inspired by all these unique natural scenes. Above all, the Tateyama landscape was linked with many Buddhist legends.



❖ Shinto Shrine on the Summit of Tateyama

On the second floor you will explore the culture of Tateyama. Look at the model at the entrance. This is the Shinto shrine built on the 3003-meter-high Oyama peak of the Tateyama mountain range. Since ancient times Japanese people have climbed this peak to pray at the shrine. They had a particular regard for the mountain which was called "Tateyama Shinko" or "Tateyama Belief".



❖ Nunobashi kanjō-e (Cloth-bridge Consecration Ceremony)

The Nunobashi kanjō-e is a ritual for salvation in which people cross a bridge carpeted with white cloth and perform an ascetic rite at the Uba Hall, which symbolically takes the place of climbing Tateyama. Because women were promised rebirth in Buddhist paradise for participating in this ritual, it attracted many female worshippers.



❖ Tateyama Hell

A hallmark of Tateyama worship is the belief that hell exists in the mountains. When Buddhism was introduced from the mainland, Japanese people absorbed the concepts of Buddhist paradise and hell and came to believe in a hell in the mountains. The natural features of Mt. Tsurugidake and Jigokudani caused people to fear them as "the hell of Tateyama."



❖ Tateyama Mandala

Preachers from the villages of Ashikuraji and Iwakuraji, at the foot of Tateyama, propagated Tateyama Belief throughout Japan using Tateyama Mandalas.

These Mandalas convey traditions related to Tateyama by depicting scenes of Buddhist paradise and hell, the legend of Ariyori Saeki, the Nunobashi kanjō-e bridge-crossing ritual, sightseeing spots, and other stories of the region. By looking at a Tateyama Mandala and hearing a preacher's teachings, even people who couldn't climb the mountain were able to understand the world of Tateyama Belief.



Kyosan-bō and Sangaku-shuko-miraikan

Kyosan-bō has a traditional Japanese garden, and Sangaku-shuko-miraikan displays portable shrines used at festivals as well as materials related to modern mountain climbing culture. Both facilities are free of charge.

❖ Kyosan-bō Building

During the Edo period, when Ashikiraji village was crowded with pilgrims to Tateyama, there were many shukubo or religious lodges. A shukubo is a facility that combines a residence for a monk and his family, a place to worship, and accommodations for visitors. Kyosan-bō was one of the many shukubo from that time. Inside the building, the monk's family lived close to the entrance. The central part of the building is called a "butsuma," which means a room containing a Buddhist altar. Travelers would stay in the back rooms.

This house was donated to Toyama Prefecture in 1982, and is believed to have been built around 1820, during the late Edo period.

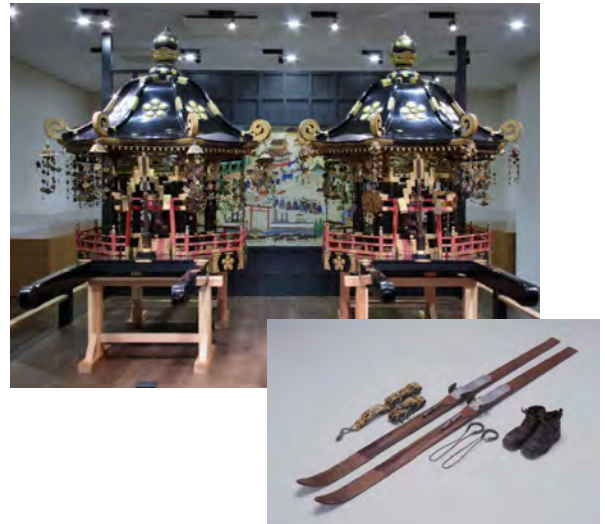


❖ Sangaku-shuko-miraikan

This building contains both an archive and an exhibition space for materials related to mountaineering culture.

Exhibitions are on the first floor. Cultural assets are displayed in the area near the door, including a pair of portable shrines believed to have been donated to a shrine in Ashikuraji village by a feudal lord in the early 17th century, or the early Edo period.

In the rear you will find a rotating exhibition of pictures, films, mountain-climbing gear and documents relating to modern-day mountaineering.



❖ Yobo-kan

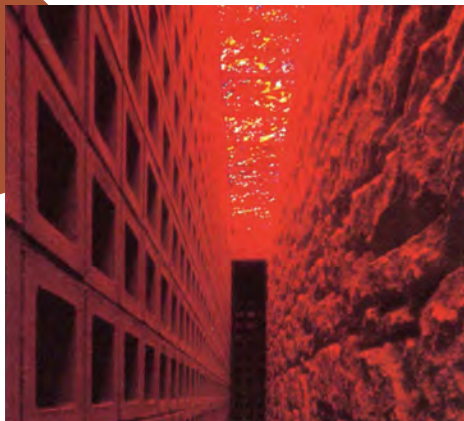


Mandala Yuen Park

Mandala Yuen park creates an immersive experience that expresses the world depicted in the historical mandalas of Tateyama. Through art, sound effects, lighting and even smells, that world is brought to life. The facility is divided into four areas: Chi-kai represents Hell; Hi-no-michi is the path to Mount Tateyama's peak; Ten-kai is Buddhist Paradise; and Yami-no-michi represents the Nunobashi Kanjō-e, the Cloth Bridge Purification Ceremony believed to help women to be reborn in paradise.

Nearby you can also visit Japanese Serow Park, a preserve for kamoshika or Japanese serows, a type of antelope designated as a Special Natural Monument of Japan, or see traditional Toyama-style private houses.

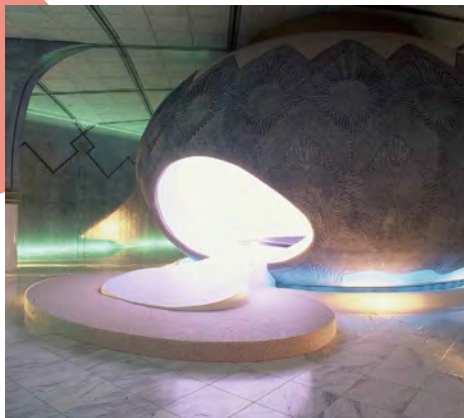
Chi-kai



Hi-no-michi



Heaven



Dark Road



Japanese Serow

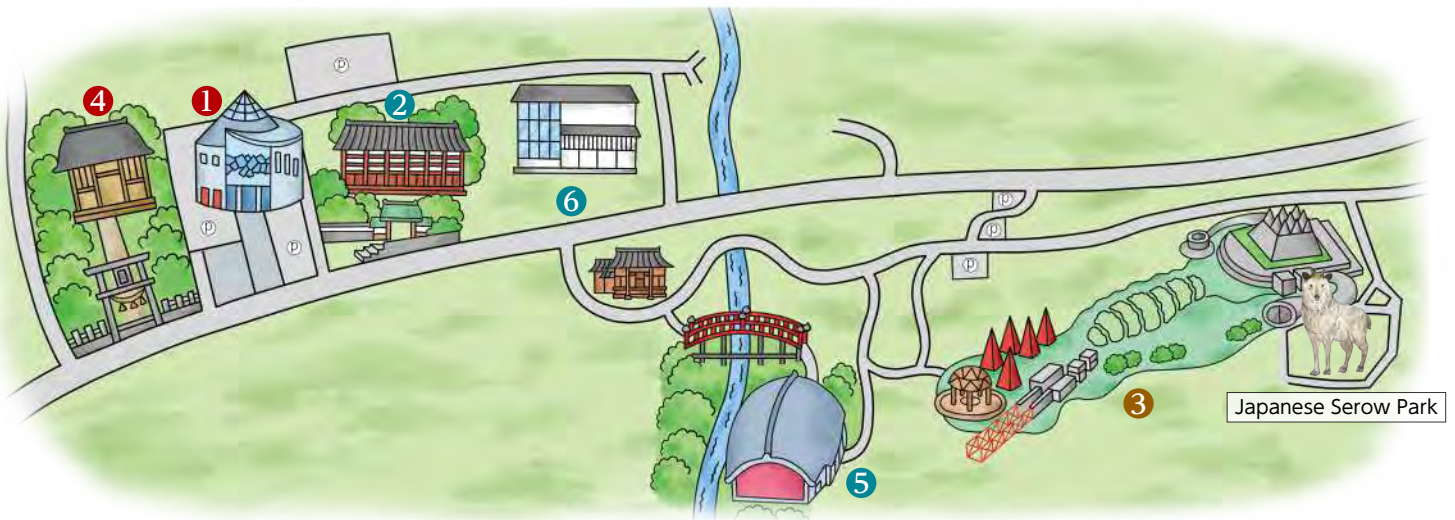


Toyama-style private houses

MAP

Since ancient times, buddhist conceptions of Hell and Paradise were overlaid onto Tateyama's highly diverse natural landscape, and the mountain became popular as a place where the living could obtain a firsthand experience of Hell and Paradise. How previous generations of Japanese perceived the mountain range.

We look forward to seeing you here at the TATEYAMA MUSEUM OF TOYAMA!



① Tenji-kan

As the museum's central facility, it offers a general overview of the museum and houses important cultural properties, models and specimens. (Fee required)



2 Kyosan-bō Building

A reconstructed lodging where Tateyama worshippers once stayed. The surrounding garden is a typical Japanese landscape garden. (Free)



3 Mandala Yuen Park

Mandala Yuen a facility which uses a variety of works of art, sound effects, lighting and fragrances to express the universal representation of Tateyama Mandala. (Fee required)



4 Oyama Jinja Kiganden

People prayed for a safe journey up Tateyama at this Shinto shrine. The many Tateyama cedars lining the path help to create a solemn and awe-inspiring atmosphere. (Free)



5 Yobo-kan

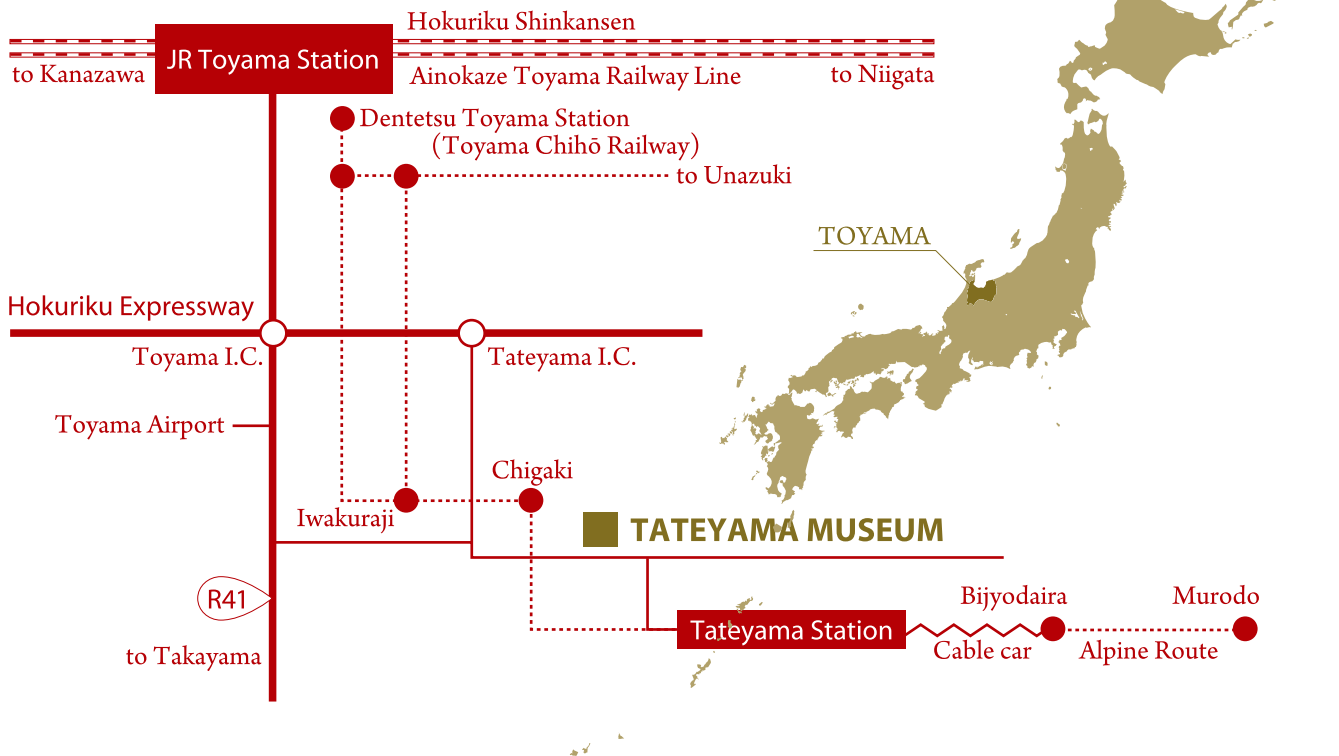
A 3-screen, 15 meter video display introduces visitors to Tateyama's natural environment and Tateyama Worship. (Fee required)



6 Sangaku-shukomiraikan

Portable Shrine and modern mountain culture exhibits. (Free)

ACCESS



Via car or bus:

30 minutes from the Tateyama Interchange on the Hokuriku Expressway

35 minutes from Toyama Airport

10 minutes from Tateyama Station on the Toyama Chiho Railway

Via train:

Take the Toyama Chiho Railway Tateyama Line from Dentetsu Toyama Station (next to JR Toyama station).

Get off at Chigaki Station and either walk two kms or use local bus (unavailable on Sundays) and get off at Oyamajinja-mae.

Guidance

Open

9:30-17:00 (Please enter by 16:30)

Film exhibition in Yobo-kan starting at 10:00, 11:00, 13:00, 14:00, and 15:00 (Running time: approx.40min.)

Closed

Mondays except National Holidays (closed next day) Mandala Yuen closed December 1-March 31.

Admission Fee

	Individual	Group
Tenji-kan	¥300	¥240
Yobo-kan	¥100	¥80
Mandala Yuen	¥400	¥320
Passport for all three	¥650	¥650

Free admission for those under high school age and for the disabled Special admissions for special exhibition



TATEYAMA MUSEUM OF TOYAMA

<http://www.pref.toyama.jp/branches/3043/3043.htm>

93-1 Ashikuraji Tateyama-Town, Toyama 930-1406,JAPAN
Tel:076-481-1216 Fax:076-481-1144