

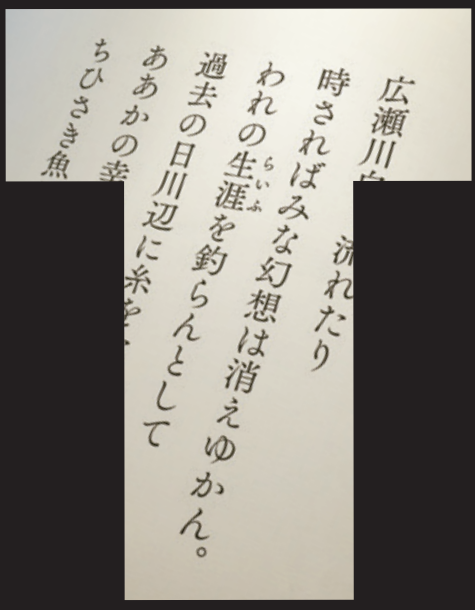




THE GUIDE TO







MUSEUMS IN GUNMA PREFECTURE

A Guide to Art and Literary Museums in Central Gunma







Central Gunma Section of the Gunma Tourist Promotion Council

An art-based journey.
A chance to experience deep-felt emotions.

**An art-based stroll visiting museums of art and literature. A chance to enrich your mind and emotions.
You'll be amazed. You'll be jolted. You'll feel comforted.
Deep emotions and new realizations await you on a journey of self-discovery.**

Central Gunma — Shibukawa Ikaho

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1 Artistic Walking Course Artenade



Kokoro, Jean-Michel Othoniel, 2009 Photo: Yuichi Shiraku▲

A walking course to enjoy art-based activities and the cultural legacy of artists from Ikaho. "Arte" means "the arts" in Italian, and "nade" is taken from the English word "promenade." The name was selected via a contest open to the general public. It was chosen due to the concentration of museums and amusement facilities along the roughly 9 km-long stretch of road connecting the Shibukawa Station area and Ikaho Onsen, and also because Shibukawa and Foligno, Italy, both located in the center of their respective countries, are sister cities. Starting from the bottom of the street and heading towards Ikaho, you will find in this order: Japan Chanson Museum, Shibukawa Skyland Park, Gunma Glass Art Museum, Ikaho Green Bokujo, Hara Museum ARC, Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum, Ikaho Hoshina Art Museum, and Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum of Literature. The surrounding area is dotted with outdoor sculptures, such as works by Hiromori Kuwahara, a sculptor from Gunma Prefecture. Artenade is on a slope and encompasses a difference in elevation of more than 300 meters, so you can experience variations in temperature. This creates an atmosphere removed from daily life, one that is ideal for enjoying art.

2 Common features shared by The Great Spa Towns of Europe (a World Heritage Site) and Ikaho Onsen



Former Kingdom of Hawaii Minister's Villa

The Great Spa Towns of Europe is a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage consisting of 11 hot spring towns located in seven countries. In addition to bathing facilities, facilities such as hotels and theaters have been built in those towns, making them a place for interactions between people such as aristocrats and cultural figures.

It is said that Ikaho Onsen was also a designated recreation area for residents of the foreign settlement in Yokohama during the Meiji period. International interactions flourished in Ikaho; many famous foreigners visited it between the final years of the Edo period and the Meiji and Taisho eras, including the British diplomat Ernest Satow, and Lieutenant Descharmes, a French cavalry officer, who served as an instructor for Tokugawa Shogunate forces. In the early Meiji period, the town received systematic instruction on topics such as the hygienic environment of hot springs from Dr. Baelz, a German doctor who is known as the "Father of Japanese Hot Spring Medicine".

Robert Irwin, the Kingdom of Hawaii's Minister to Japan during the Meiji period, had a villa in Ikaho and was very fond of the area. This connection led to Shibukawa and Hawaii County being twinned, and every summer the Hawaiian Festival is held in Ikaho, which bustles with people from all over the world, including Hawaii. Irwin's residence is open to the public as the Former Kingdom of Hawaii Minister's Villa.



3 Ikaho Tenugui art by Gunma Prefectural Women's University students

Gunma Prefectural Women's University, located in Tamamura in the central area of the prefecture, and Ikaho Onsen hold an annual artistic collaboration called the Ikaho Tenugui Project. (A tenugui is a traditional cotton hand towel.) Students in the Department of Aesthetics and Art History design original towels for use at hot springs as part of their seminar studies. The Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association lines the famous stone steps with banners carrying those designs, and visitors vote for the ones they like. This is a unique project as the higher-ranked designs are then used for actual products. It is truly a perfect fit for Ikaho, a hot spring resort where art has taken root. Incidentally, Ikaho Onsen is said to be where the custom of Japanese inns presenting visitors with their original tenugui first began.







4 Ikaho's connections with artists and writers

Yumeji Takehisa, an artist who exemplifies Taisho Romanticism, first heard about Ikaho through a fan letter from a girl who lived there. You can trace his course through life at Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum. Roka Tokutomi spent his final years in Ikaho, the setting of his novel *The Cuckoo*. The inn cottage where he died has been moved to the Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum of Literature grounds and renovated into a memorial hall. The poem *Ikaho Town* by Akiko Yosano, who loved Ikaho deeply, is engraved on a middle section of the stone steps. Soseki Natsume also spent some time in Ikaho. Some people say that he may have summoned to Ikaho a friend who was recuperating at home in Maebashi and gave up his first love to that friend, who was his rival for her love.

The connection between Ikaho and art is still alive today, and Shibukawa Art Rela is an annual event where artists create works in Ikaho. (The name Rela comes from the first letters of "relation" and "relay.") The scope of the event was expanded to include sound in 2025, and original soundtracks were created using sounds recorded on the streets of Ikaho or out and about in nature. Ikaho is transforming into an even more attractive hot spring resort with the power of art.

The Takasaki area

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- 16 Takasaki City Yamada Kamachi Art Museum
- 17 Takasaki Museum of Art
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Gunma Prefecture
Central Gunma

Shibukawa Ikaho
Along the Artistic Walking Course Artenade

Artenade. Enticed by the pleasant ring of its name, enjoy an art-based stroll caressed by the breezes of the Mount Haruna foothills. So much awaits you along its route, from contemporary art to the worlds created by Ikaho artists.



01 Japan Chanson Museum

The world's only chanson museum. Music-related exhibitions and concerts are held, and you can enjoy an elegant atmosphere redolent of France.

Address Shibukawa 1277-1, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-24-8686
HP https://www.chanson-museum.com/

02 Gunma Glass Art Museum

The works on display focus on pieces by Gallé, Daume and Walter, artists who exemplify the Art Nouveau period from the late 19th to early 20th century. It is relaxing to stroll around the glass display cases. There are also various corners for hands-on experiences and a museum shop.

Address Shibukawa 4204, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-20-1101
HP http://www.ggart.co.jp/



Experience the world of Art Nouveau!



Glass painting workshop From 800 yen ▶
Glass clay workshop From 1,300 yen



05 Ikaho Paper-Cutting Museum

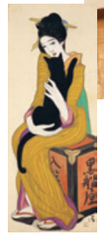
Displays intricate paper-cut art which, despite being monochrome, entrances with its rich expressiveness. Runs a popular paper-cutting workshop accompanied by detailed instructions.

Address Ikaho 530-108, Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-72-2780
HP https://ikahokirie.com/



Taisho Romanticism hall houses more than 16,000 items connected with Yumeji.

◀ ▲Photos by Web magazine Colla:J



◀ Yumeji Takehisa
Kurofuneya, 1919

Kurofunekan, the main building, was built to commemorate the donation of the masterpiece *Kurofuneya*

06 Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum

A museum devoted to Yumeji Takehisa, an artist who exemplifies Taisho Romanticism. The main building displays works by Yumeji in a diversity of genres. The antique furnishings, lighting, and musical box performances that surround Yumeji's various works are also a must-see.

Address Ikaho 544-119, Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-72-4788
HP https://yumeji.or.jp/

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum is a place where you can immerse yourself in Yumeji's world of Taisho Romanticism. The venue itself is like a work of art where you can enjoy visiting the various buildings and gardens, taking in the music, light, and natural environment. Please come and visit this special space where the extensive collection and the beauty of the buildings form a harmonious balance.



Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum
Chief Director
Kaneko Kogure





07 Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum of Literature

On display are letters, first-edition books, and personal belongings of Roka Tokutomi, a Meiji period author famous for his novel *The Cuckoo*. The cottage of an inn where Tokutomi was a regular guest has been moved here and renovated into a memorial hall.

Address Ikaho 614-8, Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-72-2237
HP https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kosodate/shougaigakushuu/bungakukan/p000148.html

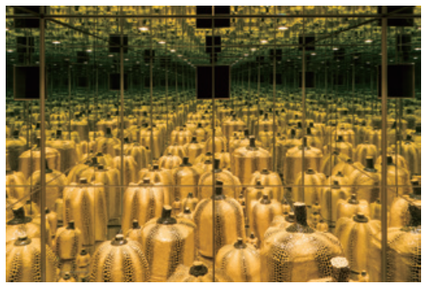
See the back cover for more about the reasonably-priced pass that gives you access to eight Artenade facilities.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Hara Museum ARC is an art museum that mediates the artistic expression of creators who still live on along Artenade. The highlight is that, in a natural environment, you can see collaborations between the world's leading contemporary art and antique art that transcends historical periods. A work can look completely different depending on factors such as your mood and the weather. I hope you will visit our museum many times, enjoying it afresh each time.



Hara Museum ARC Director
Kazuko Aono



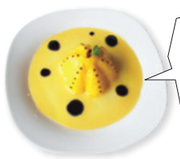
▲ *Mirror Room (pumpkin)*, Yayoi Kusama, 1991/1992 ©YAYOI KUSAMA
Photo: Shinya Kigure



03 Hara Museum ARC

A chance to encounter a variety of art from Japan and abroad in a natural environment, such as contemporary art masterpieces by Yayoi Kusama and Andy Warhol, as well as Asian antiques. The building designed by world-famous architect Arata Isozaki is another must-see.

Address Kanai 2855-1, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-24-6585
HP https://www.haramuseum.or.jp/en/arc/



The museum cafe serves pictorial cakes which match the exhibition♪ (Limited availability)

04 Ikaho Hoshina Art Museum

The art on display includes works by Kaichi Kobayashi, who was active during the Taisho and Showa periods, and also modern Japanese-style paintings. There is also an observation lounge with a 180 degree panoramic view of the mountains, so you can enjoy viewing art as well as the seasonal scenery.

Address Ikaho 211-1, Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-72-3226
HP http://www.hoshina-museum.com/





*** Last entry at the art museums is 30 minutes before closing time. It is 15 minutes before closing time at Gunma Glass Art Museum, one hour before at Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum, and right up until closing time at Ikaho Hoshina Art Museum.**

Gunma Prefecture
Central Gunma

A little further from Artenade

Experience the culture of art.
Enjoy Artenade and museums that expand your horizons.

08 Shibukawa City Museum, Hiromori Kuwahara Sculpture Museum

Reopened in its current location in March 2024. In addition to the permanent exhibition of works by Hiromori Kuwahara, a sculptor born in Gunma Prefecture, occasional special exhibitions are held, as well as exhibitions in the citizens' gallery.

Address Ishihara 6-1, Shibukawa. Located on the 1st floor of the Shibukawa City Hall No. 2 West Wing
☎ 0279-25-3215
HP https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kyouiku/000141/000142/p010271.html



Haru no Yorokobi, Hiromori Kuwahara, 2024 [1992] ▶







09 Ikaho Literature Museum

Precious exhibits, such as first editions by famous Japanese writers, are displayed according to era. Experience the history of literature via items handwritten by authors, including postcards, sealed letters, manuscripts, shikishi (square cards used for poetry), and tanzaku (strips of paper used for poetry).

Address Ikaho 396-20, Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa
☎ 0279-72-3880
HP https://www.tenbo.com/ikaho-bungakukan/

*** Last entry at Shibukawa City Museum is 30 minutes before closing time. Entry is possible right up until closing time at Ikaho Literature Museum.**

Gunma Prefecture

Central Gunma

The Maebashi area

Maebashi is the birthplace of the modern poet Sakutaro Hagiwara.
The scent of literature breathes life into a world of art.
Treat yourself to some downtime as you stroll through the streets.




Arts Maebashi Museum Shop amenbo





1 *Aria of Calmness*, Yuken Teruya, 2013
2 *Tiny Thing I Lost*, Mitsuhiro Yamagiwa, 2013

10 Arts Maebashi

A municipal art museum located in the center of Maebashi. The striking building has a white perforated metal facade and a sophisticated interior design. It engages in projects that bring people closer to art.

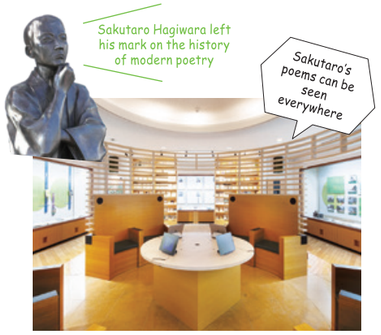
Address Chiyoda-machi 5-1-16, Maebashi
☎ 027-230-1144
HP https://artsmaebashi.jp/

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

In addition to holding exhibitions, Arts Maebashi has been promoting activities that involve citizens, such as regional art projects. There are works that can be understood by participating in them, not just looking at them. We hope you will look at contemporary art works from a free-wheeling perspective without being bound by stereotypes.



Arts Maebashi Director
Hitoshi Dehara



11 Maebashi City Museum of Literature

Displays many valuable exhibits such as manuscripts and writings by literary figures connected with Maebashi, with a particular focus on the poet Sakutaro Hagiwara. Events such as Sakutaro Day and Sakutaro Music Festival are also held.

Address Chiyoda-machi 3-12-10, Maebashi
☎ 027-235-8011
HP https://www.maebashibungakukan.jp/



12 Hirosegawa Museum

Local artist Yoshio Kondo built an atelier and classroom beside the Hirosegawa River. After his death, it was remodeled and opened as a museum. The building has been designated by the state as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property (structure).

Address Chiyoda-machi 3-3-10, Maebashi
☎ 027-231-7825
HP http://www.hirosegawamuseum.sakura.ne.jp/



13 Hirosegawa Zokei-Kan

Works by Maebashi-born sculptors Masaharu and Kaoru Ikeda, who were husband and wife, have been installed under the same roof. Visitors engage in inner dialogs with the works and feel enriched by their time here.

Address Joto-machi 2-1-18, Maebashi
☎ 027-212-7022
HP https://hsg-zokei-kan.jp/



14 Nakanosawa Museum

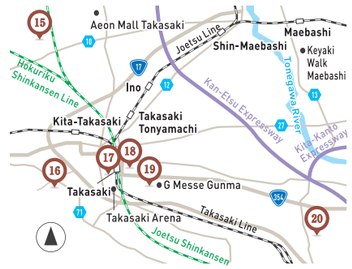
A museum where nature and art coexist, located on the slopes of Mt. Akagi. Relax and enjoy looking at the art as sunlight pours through the skylights.

Address Nakanosawa 249, Kasukawa-machi, Maebashi
☎ 090-6356-8005
HP https://www.instagram.com/nakanosawamuseum/



*** Last entry at the art museums is generally 30 minutes before closing time, however last entry at Hirosegawa Zokei-Kan is one hour before closing time. Entry is possible right up until closing time at Hirosegawa Museum.**

The Takasaki area, and other areas in Gunma



15 Gunma Prefectural Museum of Literature in Commemoration of Bunmei Tsuchiya

Address Hodota-machi 2000, Takasaki
☎ 027-373-7721
HP https://bungaku.pref.gunma.jp/

A place to explore literary materials and special exhibitions related to Bunmei Tsuchiya, a poet born in Gunma.

16 Takasaki City Yamada Kamachi Art Museum

Address Kataoka-machi 3-23-5, Takasaki
☎ 027-321-0077
HP https://www.city.takasaki.gunma.jp/page/3327.html

Displays 120 works by the painter and poet Kamachi Yamada, who died at the age of 17.

17 Takasaki Museum of Art

Address Yashima-cho 110-27, Takasaki
☎ 027-324-6125
HP https://www.city.takasaki.gunma.jp/site/art-museum/

A city-center museum showcasing works by Kaoru Yamaguchi and Masao Tsuruoka, as well as contemporary art from around the world.

18 Takasaki Tower Museum of Art

Address Sakae-cho 3-23, Takasaki
☎ 027-330-3773
HP https://www.city.takasaki.gunma.jp/site/tower/

A two-minute walk from Takasaki Station. A tranquil space to enjoy masterpieces of modern and contemporary Japanese art.

19 Takasaki City Theatre

Address Sakae-cho 9-1, Takasaki
☎ 027-321-7300
HP https://www.takasaki-foundation.or.jp/theatre/en/index.php

One of the largest theatres in the Joshinetsu and Kita-Kanto areas. The Grand Theatre has 2,027 seats and one of the largest and widest stages in Japan, suitable for large-scale performances of music or performing arts.

20 The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma

Address In Gunma-no-Mori Park, Watanuki-machi 992-1, Takasaki
☎ 027-346-5560
HP https://mmag.pref.gunma.jp/

Located in a lush green park, displays masterpieces by international artists and works by artists from Gunma.

21 Tomioka City Museum of Art

Address Kurokawa 351-1, Tomioka
☎ 0274-62-6200
HP https://www.city.tomioka.lg.jp/www/genre/1387242529968/index.html

Includes a memorial museum for Ichiro Fukuzawa, an artist from Tomioka.

22 Art Museum & Library, Ota

Address Higashihon-cho 16-30, Ota
☎ 0276-55-3036
HP https://www.artmuseumlibraryota.jp/eng/

A platform for the knowledge and sensitivity that stimulates local creativity.

23 Gunma Museum of Art, Tatebayashi

Address Hinata-cho 2003, Tatebayashi
☎ 0276-72-8188
HP https://gmat.pref.gunma.jp/en/

Home to a collection of modern and contemporary art from Japan and overseas on the theme of "Nature and Humankind."

24 Okawa Museum of Art

Address Kosone-cho 3-69, Kiryu
☎ 0277-46-3300
HP https://okawamuseum.jp/

Focuses on works by Japanese and overseas artists collected by Eiji Okawa, a native of Kiryu.

25 Tomihiro Art Museum

Address Kusagi 86, Azuma-cho, Midori
☎ 0277-95-6333
HP https://www.city.midori.gunma.jp/tomihiro/

Houses a permanent exhibition of around 80 works by the poet and artist Tomihiro Hoshino. Enjoy a world of artlessly beautiful poetry.

*** Last entry at the art museums is 30 minutes before closing time. (Excluding Takasaki City Theatre)**

International Art Festivals in Gunma and Niigata

Experience the appeal of local areas and the power of creativity through works that blend with the nature and lifestyles of the Gunma and Niigata regions.

Maebashi, Gunma

Maebashi Biennale

Address Various locations in Maebashi
☎ 027-212-2117
HP https://maebashi-biennale.com

An international art festival first held in 2026 in central Maebashi, Gunma. Featuring works by artists from Japan and around the world, the festival transforms the city into a stage for art, architecture, music, theater, and food, creating new interactions between people and the city.

Nakanojo, Gunma

Nakanojo Biennale

Address Various locations in Nakonojo, Agatsuma, Gunma
☎ 0279-75-3320
HP https://nakanojo-biennale.com/english

An international contemporary art festival held every two years in Nakanojo, Gunma. Artists reside and work in this unique mountain village community and present their creations during the Nakanojo Biennale.

Tokamachi, Niigata

Echigo-Tsumari Art Field

Address Various locations in Tsunan, Tokamachi, Niigata
☎ 025-761-7767
HP https://www.echigo-tsumari.jp/en/

An international art festival held every three years in Tokamachi and Tsunan in Niigata Prefecture, it features artworks scattered throughout the satoyama area. Art that connects people and nature vividly evokes local memories and landscapes.

Check More!
There are 27 art museums in Karuizawa,in neighboring Nagano Prefecture.
Karuizawa Tourist Association website

Event Calendar

April
- Shibukawa Shiroijuku Double Cherry Blossom Festival
- Maebashi Akagi Nanmen Senbonzakura Cherry Blossom Festival

May
- Maebashi Mt. Akagi azaleas in full bloom
- Maebashi Rose Garden Festival

June
- Shibukawa Hydrangea Festival at Onoike Ajisai Park

July
- Maebashi Maebashi Tanabata Festival
- Tamamura Tamamura Fireworks Festival

August
- Shibukawa Ikaho Hawaiian Festival
- Shibukawa Shibukawa Dashi (Float) Festival (Held every other year)
- Shinto Yoshioka Grape picking (until October)
- Maebashi Maebashi Fireworks Festival

September
- Shibukawa Shibukawa Heso (Navel) Festival
- Shibukawa Ikaho Festival
- Isesaki Isesaki Festival

October
- Maebashi Maebashi Festival

November
- Maebashi Takasaki Gunma Marathon


Akagi Nanmen Senbonzakura Cherry Blossom Festival


Maebashi Tanabata Festival


Ikaho Hawaiian Festival


Maebashi Festival



Retreats in Gunma

Reconnect with yourself in the natural setting of a relaxing hot spring resort. Gunma has a wealth of spots where you can enjoy a healing retreat.

Access the website

GUNMA リトリートぐんま

Valid for one year from purchase date!

Artenade Pass for all the facilities

Great value price gives you entry to all eight facilities!

Facilities covered by the pass, and where to buy it

1. Japan Chanson Museum
2. Shibukawa Skyland Park
3. Gunma Glass Art Museum
4. Ikaho Green Bokujo
5. Hara Museum ARC
6. Takehisa Yumeji Ikaho Memorial Museum
7. Ikaho Hoshina Art Museum
8. Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum of Literature

Access further details

Contact

Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association
TEL: 0279-72-3151

* This pass only covers the entrance fee of each facility. An extra fee may be charged for rides within the facility, workshops, etc.
* The sale of this pass may be terminated, or its price revised, without any prior notice.

Bicycle rental services

Ikaho Onsen Rentacycle IKALIN

Using these e-bikes you can easily travel around the onsen district and surrounding areas. You can ride around hilly Ikaho without much effort.

Access further details

Maebashi Bike-sharing cogbe

Bicycles can be rented and returned at any of the large number of locations (ports) within the service area.

Access further details

Planning and publishing

Published September 2026

Central Gunma Section of the Gunma Tourist Promotion Council

- Maebashi Administrative Prefectural Tax Office, Central Gunma Promotion Bureau
  Kamihosoi-machi 2142-1, Maebashi
  TEL. 027-231-2765
- Shibukawa Administrative Prefectural Tax Office, Northern Gunma and Shibukawa Promotion Bureau
  Kanai 395, Shibukawa TEL. 0279-22-0777

Facebook Instagram

Access Gunma tourist info here

Contact

Maebashi City Tourism Policy Division	TEL. 027-257-0674
Isesaki City Culture and Tourism Division	TEL. 0270-27-2759
Shibukawa Tourism Division	TEL. 0279-22-2873
Shintomura Industrial Promotion Division	TEL. 0279-26-2559
Tamuramachi Economy, Trade and Industry Division	TEL. 0270-64-7709
Maebashi Tourism and Convention Association	TEL. 027-235-2211
Isesaki Tourism and Products Association	TEL. 0270-24-5111
Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association	TEL. 0279-72-3151
Yoshiokamachi Industry and Tourism Division	TEL. 0279-26-2280
Tamamuramachi PR Office	TEL. 080-3529-1515

Works shown on the cover *Verse for Mt. Haruna*, Yumeji Takehisa, 1931 *Kanojo no Seishun (Her Youth)*, Kaichi Kobayashi

* The photos of the art and literary museums introduced in this guide may vary from their actual appearance. Please contact the relevant municipal offices and facilities directly for further details.
* Fees may be revised without prior notice. Please check with the facilities for the latest information and fees.
* Please note that some of the maps in this guide are rough sketches and there may be discrepancies between them and accurate maps. * The information in this guide is current as of January 31, 2026.