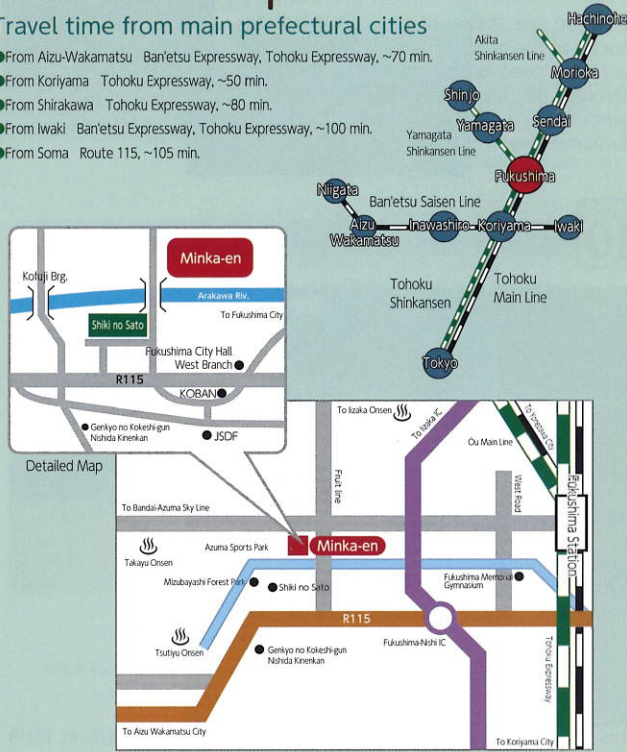


Access Map

Travel time from main prefectural cities

- From Aizu-Wakamatsu Ban'etsu Expressway, Tohoku Expressway, ~70 min.
- From Koriyama Tohoku Expressway, ~50 min.
- From Shirakawa Tohoku Expressway, ~80 min.
- From Iwaki Ban'etsu Expressway, Tohoku Expressway, ~100 min.
- From Soma Route 115, ~105 min.



- Open : 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.
- Closed : Tuesdays (if a national holiday, the following day)
December 29th ~ January 3th
- Admission fees free
- Transportation
 - 1 Buses from JR Fukushima Station.
· Bus for "Sabara," get off at "Muroishi," then an 8-minute walk.
 - 2 Taxis from JR Fukushima Station, 25 minutes.



Fukushima City Minka-en
Oishimaechinai, Kaminagura,
Fukushima City
TEL/FAX 024-593-5249

Events throughout the year

January	Lunar New Year 	February	Setsubun
March	Doll Festival 	May	Boys' Festival
May	Rice-field flooding 	May	Rice-planting
June	Muke no Tsuitachi 	July	Tanabata
August	Obon 	September	Mid-Autumn Festival
October	Autumn Festival 	October	Harvesting & Threshing
October	Harvest Festival 	December	Lead-up to New Year



Fukushima City Minka-en

The Museum of Old Lives in Fukushima



Stop 1 "The Former Granary of the Sakuma Family"



- Former location : 7 Kato, Sakurashita, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : Latter half of 19th century
- Area : 24,19m²
- Structure : Wood, single-story, chestnut shingles
- Year reconstructed : February 1985

This wooden granary has only one story, with a roof made of chestnut shingles. It may have been built in the latter half of the 19th century. A large-scale granary of this type is rare in this city. Usually this type of granary is called an "ita-gura," but it is sometimes called "koku-gura," and it is mainly used for storing rice seeds.

Stop 2 "The Former House of the Ono Family"



This farmhouse was built the year of Meiji (around 1873 or 1874). Except for its living room, the entire house was used for growing silkworms. The thatched half-gable roof was designed to let in sunlight for the silkworm bed, and is a characteristic feature of silkworm farmhouses in this region. Exhibited in this house are various farm tools used for raising silkworms.

- Former location : 17 Minamiyashiro, Fushiguro, Date-machi, Date-gun
- Year constructed : 1873-1874
- Area : 337.7m²
- Structure : Wood, Hankiri-zuma (Azuma), two-story, thatched
- Year reconstructed : March 1982

"Battara" (a water-powered rice mill)

You can mill rice with this machine. The name comes from the knocking sound of the machine.

- Year reconstructed : March, 1988



Stop 3 "The Former House of the Kakei Family"



- Former location : 14 Kannoji, Kamitoriwata, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : 1880s
- Area : 109.64m²
- Structure : Wood, Yosemune-zukuri, thatched
- Year reconstructed : March 1982

This inn, said to have been built in the 1870s, was located at the intersection of two major roads in Kamitoriwata, Fukushima City. The inner rooms on the first floor were probably used as living rooms, while the second floor rooms were bedrooms for travelers. The inn was open from about the second decade of Meiji (around 1890) to the Taisho era (1920s), but after the construction of a new big road and railway, the inn was closed because of a decrease in traveler numbers. The folding shutters, the inn sign, and pictures may remind visitors of the travelers who rested here before departing for their destinations. Exhibited here are items used in the inn.

Stop 4 "Kakujiken" (Later called "Koyo-Kan")



This structure was originally built in Kitamachi, Fukushima City as an inn and restaurant in the latter half of the Edo era. It is known as being the site various important historical events have taken place in this house. A simplified Sukiya-zukuri style of construction can be seen here — the construction materials were not as stout as those used in other construction styles, one common characteristic of the Machiya-zukuri style of construction in this era.

- Former location : 3-33 Kitada, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : late Edo period
- Area : (East structure) 75.07m²
(North structure) 144.92m²
- Structure : (East structure) Wood, kirizuma-zukuri, one-story, cedar shingles
(North) Wood, yosemune-zukuri, two-story, cedar shingles
- Year reconstructed : August 1992

Stop 5 "The Former Hirose-za Theater"



- Former location : 7-1 Kitamotomachi, Yanagawa-machi, Date-gun
- Year constructed : 1887 (estimated)
- Area : 785.52m² (includes cellar of 54.08m²)
- Structure : Wood, partial two-story, irimoya style, cedar shingles
- Year reconstructed : September 1994



A theater used even now for Kabuki performances.

This theater building was constructed in 1887 next to the Hirose river that flows through the town of Yanagawa, and it was used for plays. Situated in the center of the stage is a revolving stage. Housed under the floor of the revolving stage is the equipment to operate this operating devices. The theater building was equipped with all of the other necessary facilities. Behind the stage were rooms used by the performers, and their graffiti remains on the walls of these rooms. As only a few older theater buildings of this type remain in the country, the Hirose-za Theater is one of the oldest of its kind, and therefore is an important historical building.

"Yashiki-gami" (house Gods)

You often find small shrines made of wood or stone in the northeast corner of Japanese houses. These miniature shrines are dedicated to the family god, ancestral gods, and other gods specially worshipped by the family.



1

"The Former Granary of the Sakuma Family"

2

"The Former House of the Ono Family"

"Battara" (a water-powered rice mill)

3

"The Former House of the Kakei Family"

4

"Kakujiken" (later called "Koyo-Kan")

Stop 6 "The Former House of the Abe Family"



- Former location : 44 An'yoji, Osazo, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : Mid Edo-period (estimated)
- Area : 68.91m²
- Structure : Wood, yosemune-zukuri, one-story, thatch
- Year reconstructed : November, 1984

This typical farmhouse, the former residence of the Abe family in the latter half of the 18th century, was once located in Ozaso, on the outskirts of the mountains in the northwestern part of the city. The house is slightly smaller in size than the average farmhouse in the northern part of the prefecture. A unique feature of this house is that the "Nakanoya" or the "Center room," used as the family's main living room is not wooden floored. This style of construction is known as "OHKABE-ZUKURI," characterized by smaller openings, and made of a mixture of clayish soil and rice straw. Exhibited here is a daily living scene in the "Center room."

Stop 7 "The Former House of the Watanabe Family"

- Former location : 13 Yoshiuchi, Kaminagura, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : Start of 19th century
- Area : 175.8m²
- Structure : Wood, yosemune-zukuri, one-story, thatch
- Year reconstructed : March 1984



This one-story house with a thatched roof was formerly located in Kaminagura, Fukushima City. This seems to have been the house of an upper-class, prominent farmer in the early 19th century. It has a "tori-no-ma" (passageway), a "toko" (miniature alcove) in a "nando" (walk-in closet), a wooden floor, and an outlet for smoke under the roof of the "do-ma" (a kitchen with dirt floor). Exhibited here are cooking tools from that eradays.

"Toilet and Bathroom"



The toilet and bath were built in the same shed. In the old days, it took a lot of work to fill and heat the bath. Therefore, after the bath water was used by the whole family, the used water was poured into the toilet to then be used as fertilizer.

"Kuruma-ido" (a well with a wheel)

This contraption makes it easy to scoop up water from a deep well.



5 "The Former Hirose-za Theater"

"Yashiki-gumi" (house goods)

6 "The Former House of the Abe Family"

7 "The Former House of the Watanabe Family"

"Toilet and Bathroom"

"Kuruma-ido" (a well with a wheel)

Stop 8 "The Former House of the Narawa Family"



- Former location : 53 Joraguchi, Yamada, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : Mid-18th century (estimated)
- Area : 165.9m²
- Structure : Wood, yosemune-zukuri, one-story, thatch
- Year reconstructed : May 1981

This one-story farmhouse has a thatched roof. It was formerly located halfway up a small hill in Yamada, Fukushima City. It was built in the middle of the 18th century by a ruling family of the village. It has a big room with a dirt floor and a guest room. It has common elements of old houses: small wooden doors, an outlet for smoke only on the south side, and thick walls which keep the inside very dark.

"The Former Granary of the Akama Family"

This one-story granary with its roof of chestnut shingles was formerly located in Sasakino, Fukushima City. Granaries as large as this one were commonly used for storing various crops.

- Former location : 8 Kamagoya, Sasakino, Fukushima City
- Area : 3.3m²
- Structure : Wood, one-story, chestnut shingles
- Year reconstructed : May 1981



"Fire-pump storage shack"

A fire-watch tower always had a fire-pump storage shack in rural communities. The fire-pump storage shack in this photo was originally situated at Higashiyuno, Iizakamachi, Fukushima City.



"Hinomi-yagura" (a tower for a firewatcher)

In olden times, the highest building in a village was this tower. People would find out what had happened by the sound of the bell on the top of this tower.



Stop 9 "The Former House of the Kanno Family"



- Former location : 44 Kumanoden, Matsukawa-machi, Fukushima City
- Year constructed : Mid-late 18th century
- Area : 84.94m²
- Structure : Wood, yosemune-zukuri, one-story, thatch
- Year reconstructed : March 1984

This house with its thatched roof was formerly located on a hillside in the suburbs of Matsukawa-machi, Fukushima City. It was built in the latter half of the 18th century, a little later than the house of the Narawa Family. Its size was a little smaller than the average farmer's house. In such old style houses, the size of the "do-ma" usually comprises over 45% of the whole area. There are big walls on all sides except in the front, and there is a screen between the rooms of the "zashiki" (a living room) and the "nando" (walk-in closet). Exhibited here are clothes from that period those days.

"Hanetsurube" (balanced well)

This well-balanced device makes it easier to scoop up water from this draw well.



"Teibo" (a bank)

You can see stacks of stones behind the house of the Narawa Family. Although they are now piled up along one of the paths through the Minka-En, they used to be a part of the river bank to prevent the nearby Arakawa River from flooding.



Stop 10 "The Former House of The Baba Family"



- Former location : 8 Idaira, Miyatoko, Nango-mura, Minamiaizu-gun
- Year constructed : 1807-8
- Area : 200.8m²
- Structure : Wood, yosemune-zukuri, one-story (two-story in parts), curved roof, thatch
- Year reconstructed : March 1995

This farmhouse belonging to an upper-class family was built in 1808 in Nango-mura Village in Minami-Aizu County, a part of Fukushima Prefecture which experiences exceptional snowfall horrendous in the prefecture. The construction style of this house is known as "Umaya-Chumon-zukuri," and is characterized by its distinctive L-shaped structure that sticks out, called the "Chumon," or the middle gate. Through this gate, the family members were able to go to the bathroom and tend horses that were kept under the same roof, without having to leave the house. This unique style of construction was a result of the farmers' wisdom and inventiveness in making living and caring for their horses easier in the harsh climate of winter.

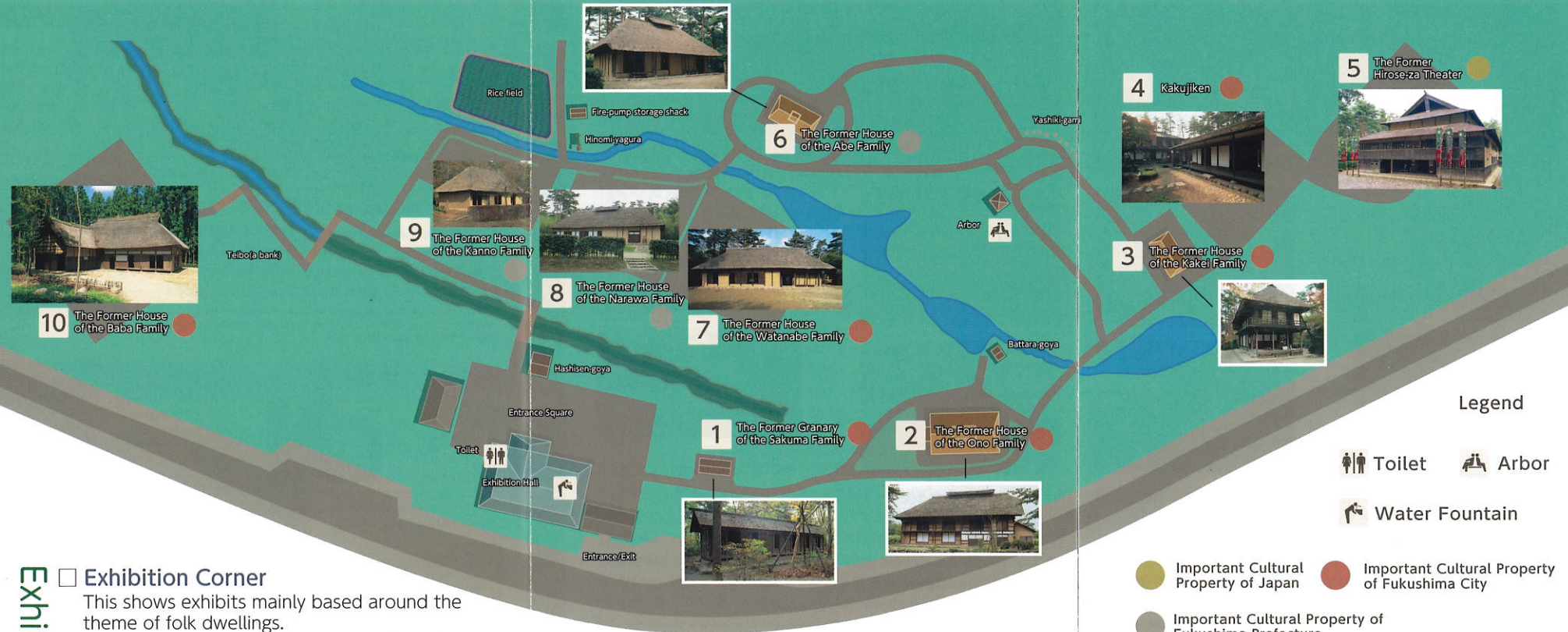
"Hashisen-goya" (a bridge toll)

After the early period of Meiji, "hashisen" (bridge tolls) were collected to pay for construction expenses of bridges all over the country.



Fukushima City Minka-en

Fukushima City MINKA-EN (the Fukushima City Historical Architecture Park) recreates the surrounding of the northern area (Kenpoku area) of Fukushima Prefecture that existed from the Mid-Edo to Meiji Era (Around 1700 - 1912). The Park is about 110,000m² wide, and landscaped as the gardens and fields with traditional structures from that time. The centerpieces of the park's architectural works are private homes that were relocated from northern area (Kenpoku area). There are also a theater from Yanagawa Village (now Date City), an inn, a restaurant and storehouses from Fukushima City, and a private house from Aizu area. Many of the buildings are designated as cultural properties of Japan, Fukushima Prefecture, or Fukushima City.



Exhibition Pavilion

Exhibition Corner

This shows exhibits mainly based around the theme of folk dwellings. "Folk customs"/Folk architecture and rituals, homestead living

Experience Corner

With the aim of passing on every-day skills, you can learn how to create mats, sandals, and other items out of straw, and enjoy old-fashioned play.



Interior of exhibition pavilion



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 "The Former Granary of the Sakuma Family" ● | 6 "The Former House of the Abe Family" ● | ○ "Hinomi-yagura" (a tower for a firewatcher) |
| 2 "The Former House of the Ono Family" ● | 7 "The Former House of the Watanabe Family" ● | 9 "The Former House of the Kanno Family" ● |
| ○ "Battara" (a water-powered rice mill) | ○ "Toilet and Bathroom" | ○ "Hanetsurube" (balanced well) |
| 3 "The Former House of the Kakei Family" ● | ○ "Kuruma-ido" (a well with a wheel) | ○ "Teibo" (a bank) |
| 4 "Kakujiken" (later called "Koyo-Kan") ● | 8 "The Former House of the Narawa Family" ● | 10 "The Former House of The Baba Family" ● |
| 5 "The Former Hirose-za Theater" ● | ○ "The Former Granary of the Akama Family" | ○ "Hashisen-goya" (a bridge toll) |
| ○ "Yashiki-gami" (house Gods) | ○ "Fire-pump Storage Shack" | |