

Ando Town Historical Folklore Museum Information



Zip code

〒639-1061

1332 Higashi-Ando, Ando Town, Ikoma District,
Nara Prefecture

Ando Town Historical Folklore Museum

Tel:0743-57-5090

Website

<http://mus.ando-rekimin.jp/>

<http://www.town.ando.nara.jp/> (Ando Town website)

Admission

	Charge(for one person)	
	Individual	Group
Adult	¥200	¥150
Student	¥100	¥80
Child	¥50	¥30

- ※Student … High school or University students
Child … Elementary and Junior high school students
Group … more than 30 people with a person in charge

Opening hours

AM 9:00~PM 5:00
but, please enter before PM 4:00

Closing days

Every Tuesday and December 27 ~ January 5

Access Information

●Train & Bus

- ① JR Horyuji station and Bus to “Kashinokidai 1cho-me” or Community Bus to “Hirahata-station”, get off at “Noukyo-mae”, and walk for 3minutes.
- ② Kintetsu Railway Hirahata station and Community Bus to “Horyuji station”, get off at “Higashi-ando higashiguchi” or “Noukyo-mae”, and walk for 3minutes.

●Car

Nishi-Meihan highway,

- ①Horyuji exit, continue northeast for 3km.
- ②Yamato-Mahoroba smart exit, continue west for 1km (ETC only).

IMAMURA house

To this day, the IMAMURA family has continued to exist as a part of the KITAGAITO family of Higashi-ando village. The family has played an important role in political decisions in the village. The family were also members of the Shinto shrine of the village, named “Akunami-jinja”. We do not know exactly when the IMAMURA family actually started, but this family name has been found in the document which dates back to the Jokyo Nenkan era(1684-1688).

The family established a private school in the village. BUNGO IMAMURA took an active part in ending the Edo era along with another well known figure MITSUHIRA TOMOBAYASHI. KINZO IMAMURA let Nara prefecture in its drive for independence from Osaka. Both BUNGO IMAMURA and KINZO IMAMURA were born in this house.

The house has a front gate, two tea rooms, a main house, a storehouse and a garden which dates back to the end of the Edo era.

In 1991, the IMAMURA family, kindly donated their land, buildings, and historical documents to the town of Ando. In the same year, Ando town began to restore the family's former possession.

Restorations was completed in October of 1993, and the house was made open to the public. It is now known as the Ando Town Historical Folklore Museum.

Traditional industry

“Toshin-hiki”

Ando town is located at the point where the Yamato, Tomio and Okasaki rivers meet. The people of Ando have taken advantage of their soil (which is marshy lowland) to grow “Igusa” (Igusa is a plant used to make candle wick). Every year, both “Igusa” and “Kome (=rice)” are grown alternately. In the middle of June which is the rainy season in Japan, “Igusa” is cut and dried on the riverbanks. This is typical of Ando town.

Since 1968, “Igusa” has not been grown in Ando, but rather produced in other areas and sent to Ando. To this day, people continue to make candle wicks so as to preserve this tradition.

Once the skin of “Igusa” has been removed, it is known as “Zui (=Toshin)”. “Toshin” soaked in oil is very suitable as candle wick because it burns well.

To make “Toshin”, people remove the skin of “Igusa” with a cutting instrument known as a “Hikidai”. They must be very careful not to cut the Zui (Toshin) in half. Once this is completed, the Toshin are bundled and dried.

Nowadays, the Toshin are mainly used in temples and for tea ceremonies among other uses.

June 1, 2015, “Toshin-hiki” was designated as “Ando Town intangible folk cultural property.”