

Hours 9:00 - 17:00

Closed Tuesdays (open on national holidays)
December 29 - January 3

Admission Adults: 300 yen
Junior and senior high school students: 200 yen
Elementary school students: 150 yen
* 50-yen discount for groups of 20 or more.
* Those who show a disability certificate will receive a 100-yen discount.

Indigo Dyeing Fee Handkerchiefs, etc.: from 1,000 yen
* The indigo-dyeing experience is available until 3:30 p.m.

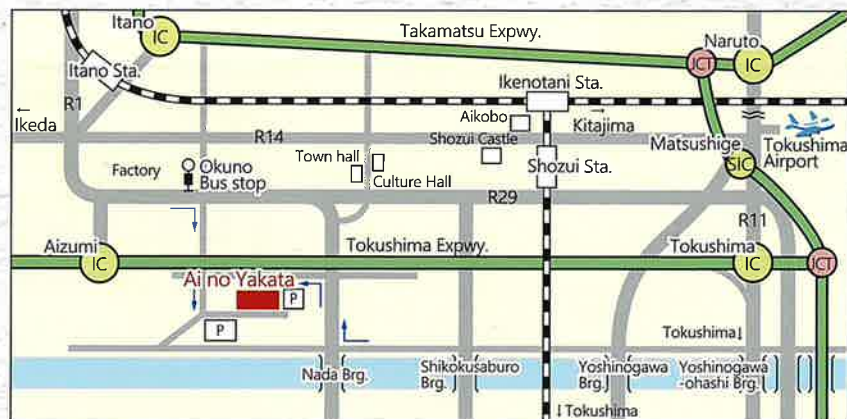
Payment by Credit Card — Accepted
(VISA, MasterCard, JCB, AMEX, UnionPay, DISCOVER)

Inquiries Aizumi-cho History Museum "Ai no Yakata"

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Access to Ai no Yakata

- From Tokushima train station, take a local bus (Kajiyabara line), get off at Okuno bus stop and walk for approx. 10 minutes.
- Approx. 10 minutes by car from Shōzui train station or 25 minutes by car from Tokushima train station
- Approx. 30 minutes by car from Tokushima Airport.
- Approx. 5 minutes by car from Aizumi IC or 10 minutes by car from Itano IC



Aizumi-cho History Museum

Ai no Yakata

Welcome to the world of "Awa Ai" (Tokushima indigo)



AI NO YAKATA
Instagram



The Aizumi-cho History Museum "Ai no Yakata" opened in August 1989 after the thirteen buildings of the former residence of the Okumura family, a large indigo merchant, were donated to Aizumi town by the 11th head of the family, Takeo Okumura (1907-1991), in 1987. The museum preserves and utilizes "Awa Ai Cultivation and Processing Tools" (a nationally designated Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property), the "Okumura Family Residence" (a Tokushima Prefecture-designated Tangible Cultural Property), and the "Okumura Family Archives" (an Aizumi Town-designated Tangible Cultural Property) so that visitors can learn about the history of indigo making in Tokushima, and how this industry affected the lives of the people around Japan. As well, "Ai no Yakata" acts as an information center about indigo to promote the Japan Heritage story, "Awa - The Home of 'Ai' - Searching for the Supreme Blue of Japanese indigo."



The history and distribution of indigo, as well as the process of indigo cultivation, indigo dye processing, and indigo dyeing, are displayed in an easy-to-understand manner in several languages with paper dolls and actual tools used in the process. Visitors can also experience indigo dyeing using natural dye.



Okumura Family Residence - Tangible Cultural Property Designated by Tokushima Prefecture

The Okumura family developed as an indigo merchant from the Bunka era (1804-1818) under the trade name "Aiya." In addition to selling aidama (balls of dried indigo dye) to the Osaka market, they acquired the rights to sell merchandise in Chikuzen (present-day northwest Fukuoka prefecture) at the end of Edo period (1603-1867), and further expanded their sales channels by establishing a branch in Fukagawa, Tokyo in 1873.

The Okumura Residence, a representative example of the grandiose residences known as aiyashiki of the



indigo makers and merchants was built between 1804, when the Okumura family started their business as indigo merchants, until around 1887. The main house on the north side of the large site faces south, and is surrounded by thirteen buildings on the south, east, and west sides, including a place where indigo dye was processed, a luxurious west room, and a servant's room, which is rarely seen in the prefecture. The main building, which was built in 1808, has a frontage of 19.8 meters and a depth of 9.5 meters. The second floor was added in 1827. The three buildings called nedoko, where indigo dye is made, are unique to aiyashiki and were designed in various ways for the indigo fermenting process.

There are only a few indigo houses where the buildings have been almost completely preserved, and the Okumura Family Residence is a valuable resource for conveying the culture of indigo production.

It was designated as a tangible cultural property building by the Tokushima Prefecture in 1987.

Okumura Family Documents

These documents, donated to the town by the late Takeo Okumura, are a vast collection of historical materials totaling approximately 130,000 items. Not only are there documents related to the administration of the Okumura family, who were a well-known indigo master and merchant, but there are also various other records about the management of fertilizer, sake brewing, and landowners during the Meiji era (1868-1912). As well, because the Okumura family was appointed to the rank of guntsuki rōnin (i.e. de facto samurai) from the Tempō period (1831-1845), and at the same time appointed to be a land tax collector, a considerable number of local documents have survived, and are worthy of attention. The collection also contains educational materials and more than 30,000 letters, making it an unparalleled repository of historical documents.

