



A town to explore  
and discover: Akaoka.



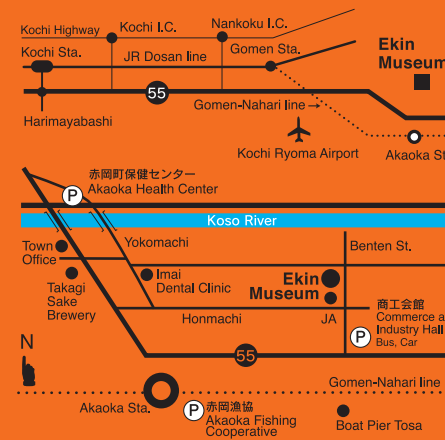
まち歩き  
の楽しみ  
付き  
歩く町、  
赤岡。

Stretching not quite two kilometers east to west and with an area of just over 1.6 km<sup>2</sup>, Akaoka is Japan's smallest town.

Akaoka's reputation, however, is anything but small. Each year its name echoes throughout Japan as it plays host to two must-see events: the sake-swilling *Dor-ome-matsuri* and spine-tingling *Ekin-matsuri*.

Outside of these times there is still plenty on offer. Once a flourishing port of trade and home to many prosperous merchants, the town's legacy of stone and wood villas presents visitors with a wonderful showcase of traditional Japanese architecture.

Equally endearing is the friendly community spirit and old-fashioned neighborly manners of the townsfolk. No small number of visitors form a life-long attachment to Akaoka, surprised that "towns



#### [Getting There]

**By Car** 30mins from Harimayabashi (Kochi City)  
10mins from Kochi Ryoma Airport  
30mins from Nankoku Interchange  
**By Train** 30mins from Kochi Station  
(Gomen-Nahari line)

#### [Ekin Museum]

**Opening Hours** 9am—5pm (Entry until 4:30pm)  
**Admission Fee** Adults ¥500 (¥450),  
Senior High Students ¥300 (¥250),  
Primary & Junior High Students ¥150 (¥100)  
Prices in parentheses indicate concession rates for groups of 15 members or more.

**Closed** Every Monday  
(Tuesday where the Monday is a public holiday)  
28th December—4th January (inclusive)

#### [Tea Room]

**Opening Hours** 9am—6pm  
**Closed** Every Monday  
(Tuesday where the Monday is a public holiday)  
28th December—4th January (inclusive)

#### [Ekin Museum]

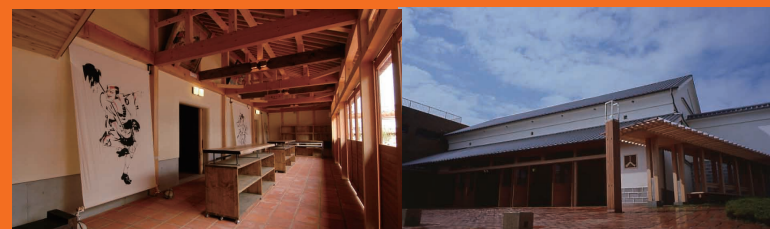
Exhibition Hall 1 [Ekin's Night]  
Exhibition Hall 2 [Storeroom Peep]  
Exhibition Hall 3 [Ekin's Story]  
Cinema  
Storeroom



Akaoka-cho 538, Kami-gun, Kochi-ken, 781-5310

Phone, Fax 0887-57-7117

From March 2006 our address will be Akaoka-cho 538, Konan-shi, Kochi-ken.



Gorgeous. Graphic. Gripping.

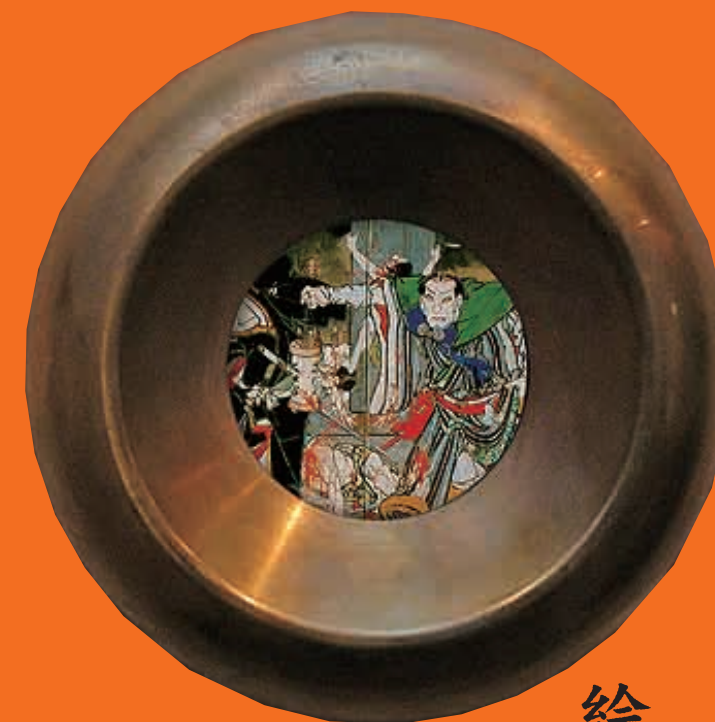
# Ekin Museum

Kinzo the Painter. Ekin.

In his youth, Ekin enjoyed a privileged lifestyle under the patronage of the Tosa aristocracy, until allegations of forgery saw him stripped of his honors and cast into exile.

Ekin drifted until finding succor with an aunt in Akaoka. Here he converted a sake cellar into a studio and pioneered his famed *byobu-e*. Twenty-three of these masterpieces remain in Akaoka today, and they are in safekeeping here, at the Ekin Museum. Welcome!

絵金蔵  
えきんぐら



Akaoka, Kochi



## Exhibition Hall ①

# Ekin's Night

## A world that comes alive in the darkness

As a recreation of the night of the annual Ekin Festival, this hall allows visitors to experience the thrill of the event, whatever the time of year.

Each of Ekin's dramatic artworks stands almost six foot tall and, filled with a vibrancy born from a master's hand, they do not simply adorn the room, they *inhabit* it.

Their blood-soaked scenes writhe in the candlelight as though seeking to escape the confines of the canvas. It is an eerie, yet fascinating world, certain to send shivers down your spine.

And as you hear the sound of the surf crashing on Akaoka's shore, you too will pray that these century-old screens can protect you from the ghosts inhabiting the sea.



Yami to Ekin

## Exhibition Hall ②

# Storeroom Peep

## 364 days of suspended animation

Until now, the twenty-three paintings that remained in the town were housed under the care of their respective owners.

With the opening of the museum, however, the decision was made to move them here, where they might benefit from a secure, controlled environment. We hope that the town's efforts to better preserve these artworks will mean that the tradition of their yearly display can continue for many more generations to come.

In this hall, you can take a peek at two of the slumbering originals through peepholes mounted in the wall. For those visitors after a face-to-face meeting, we invite you to visit us again during our festivities in July!



Kura no Ana

# 蔵の穴

## Exhibition Hall ③

# Ekin's Story

## The rise, fall and rise of Ekin

This hall guides the visitor through the pivotal events of Ekin's dramatic life. On display are some of Ekin's original sketchings and objects used by the painter himself.

Visitors should take a moment to reflect on Ekin's black-on-white ink drawings and how they stand in marked contrast to his vivid, polychromatic screens. Visitors can also learn about his color wash technique, and examine the objects that remain from his painting days.

Before you leave, be sure to take a close look at the walls of the hall, and witness Akaoka as it existed in Ekin's time.



Ekin Hyakubanashi

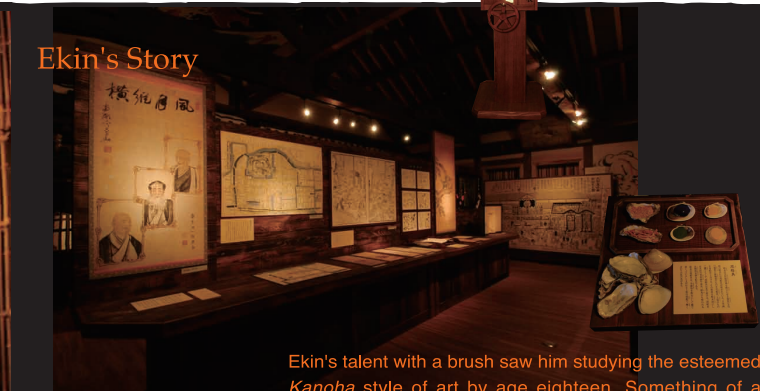
# 絵金百話



Ekin's Night



Storeroom Peep



Ekin's Story

## The Forgery

A plot hatched in the night?

贋作事件

Ekin's talent with a brush saw him studying the esteemed *Kanoha* style of art by age eighteen. Something of a prodigy, Ekin graduated in just three of the usual ten years, whereon he found a patron in the Tosa aristocracy.

During his tenure he was commissioned by an art dealer to produce a copy of a popular work by another *Kanoha* artist. When the work was completed, however, Ekin abruptly found himself facing charges of forgery. The resulting disrepute and stigma was enough to have him expelled from his art school and banished from high society forever.

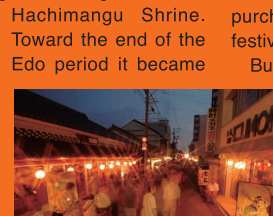
Today we can but speculate on whether Ekin was actually involved or was the unfortunate victim of jealous plotting, and it is likely that the truth of the affair will remain forever buried with the man himself.



金蔵、美高、洞意、敬載、徳固、観潤、柳栄、友竹、友竹文、雀七、雀翁



Suruta-Hachimangu Shrine Grand Festival 14th & 15th July



Ekin Festival 3rd Weekend in July

## Awakened from a year-long sleep

# Ekin Festival 絵金祭り

Ekin Matsuri

common practice for the buyer to display his purchase outside his home on the eve of the festival.

Building on this custom in the 1970s, Akaoka launched its Ekin Festival. If you are fortunate enough to be visiting in July, be sure to experience the electric atmosphere of this spine-tingling event for yourself!

