

A town to explore
and discover: Akaoka.

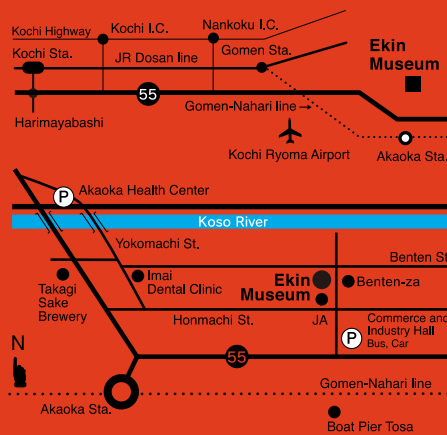


まち歩き
の楽しみ
付き
歩く町、
赤岡。

Akaoka is a small 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-gulping Dorome (raw baby sardines) Festival and spine-tingling Ekin Festival.

Outside of these times there is still plenty to offer. Once a flourishing town of trade and home to many prosperous merchants, the town's legacy of plaster 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. Many people become a fan of Akaoka after walking around the town.



[Getting There]

By Car 40mins from Harimayabashi (Kochi City)
10mins from Kochi Ryoma Airport
30mins from Nankoku Interchange

By Train 40mins from Kochi Station
(Gomen-Nahari line)
10 mins walk from Akaoka Station

[Ekin Museum]

Opening Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Entry until 4:30 p.m.)

Admission Fee Adults ¥520 (¥470)
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
(If Monday is a national holiday, the Museum is open Monday and closed the following weekday.)
29th December - 3rd January (inclusive)

*Masterpieces displayed in the museum
Twenty-three Shibai-e byōbu are registered as Kochi Prefecture Protected Tangible Cultural Property.
Shibai-e byōbu stored in Ekin Museum are for display once a year on the festival nights. Therefore, all Shibai-e byōbu displayed in the museum other than 2 pieces in the peep room are all replicas to protect works against degradation.

[Tea Room]

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[Ekin Museum]

Exhibition Hall 1 [Ekin's Night]
Exhibition Hall 2 [Storeroom Peep]
Exhibition Hall 3 [The Many Stories of Ekin]
Cinema
Storeroom

538 Akaoka Town, Konan City, Kochi Pref., Japan
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恐ろしくて美しい



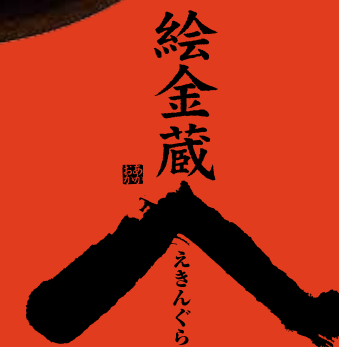
EKINGURA - Ekin Museum -

Kinzo the Painter, Ekin.

In his youth, Ekin enjoyed a privileged lifestyle as an official painter of the Tosa aristocracy, until allegations of forgery saw him stripped of his honors and made him leave the town of Kochi.

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

絵
えきんぐら
金蔵



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 from scenes of kabuki plays stands almost six feet by six feet and, filled with a vibrancy born from a master's hand. They do not simply adorn the room, but 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.

You can see these screens in darkness reproducing the nights of the festival with background sound of waves.



Yami to Ekin

Exhibition Hall ②

Storeroom Peep

To keep the culture alive

Until now, the twenty-three paintings that remained in the town were housed under the care of their respective owners and were displayed just in front of their houses at the annual Ekin Festival.

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, which we change regularly for visitors.



Kura no Ana

蔵の穴

Exhibition Hall ③

The Many Stories of Ekin

The rise, fall and rise of Ekin

This hall guides the visitor through the pivotal events of Ekin's dramatic life. On display is a recreation of the town Akaoka, the painter reached and settled in after 10 years' wandering at the end of the Edo period. He began to live in an old sake cellar restored to his studio.

Let's retrace the life of this mysterious painter through various stories about him in Akaoka, where he lived during the end of the Edo period.



Ekin Hyakubanashi



Ekin's Night



Storeroom Peep

金蔵、美高、洞意、敬載、徳固、観潤、柳栄、友竹、友竹、雀七、雀翁

The Many Stories of Ekin



The Forgery

A plot hatched in the night?



贋作事件

By age of eighteen, Ekin's talent with a brush had him studying the esteemed Kanoha style of art. Then he found a patron in the Tosa aristocracy when he was twenty one.

During his tenure, he was commissioned by an art dealer to produce a copy of a work by another famous 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.

Ekin's Shibai-e byōbu are awakened from their slumber but once a year during July, when they appear at the annual Suruda-Hachimangu Shrine Summer Festival and Akaoka's Ekin Festival.

The artworks were originally commissioned pieces by the patrons of the town, intended as religious offerings at

Awakened from a year-long sleep

Ekin Festival

絵金祭り

Ekin Matsuri

Suruda-Hachimangu Shrine. Toward the end of the Edo period, it became common practice for the buyer to display his purchase in front of his home on the eve of the festival.

Building on this custom, in 1977 Akaoka launched its Ekin Festival to be held on the third Saturday and Sunday in July, hoping for prosperity of the town.



Suruda-Hachimangu Shrine Summer Festival 14th & 15th July



Ekin Festival 3rd Weekend in July