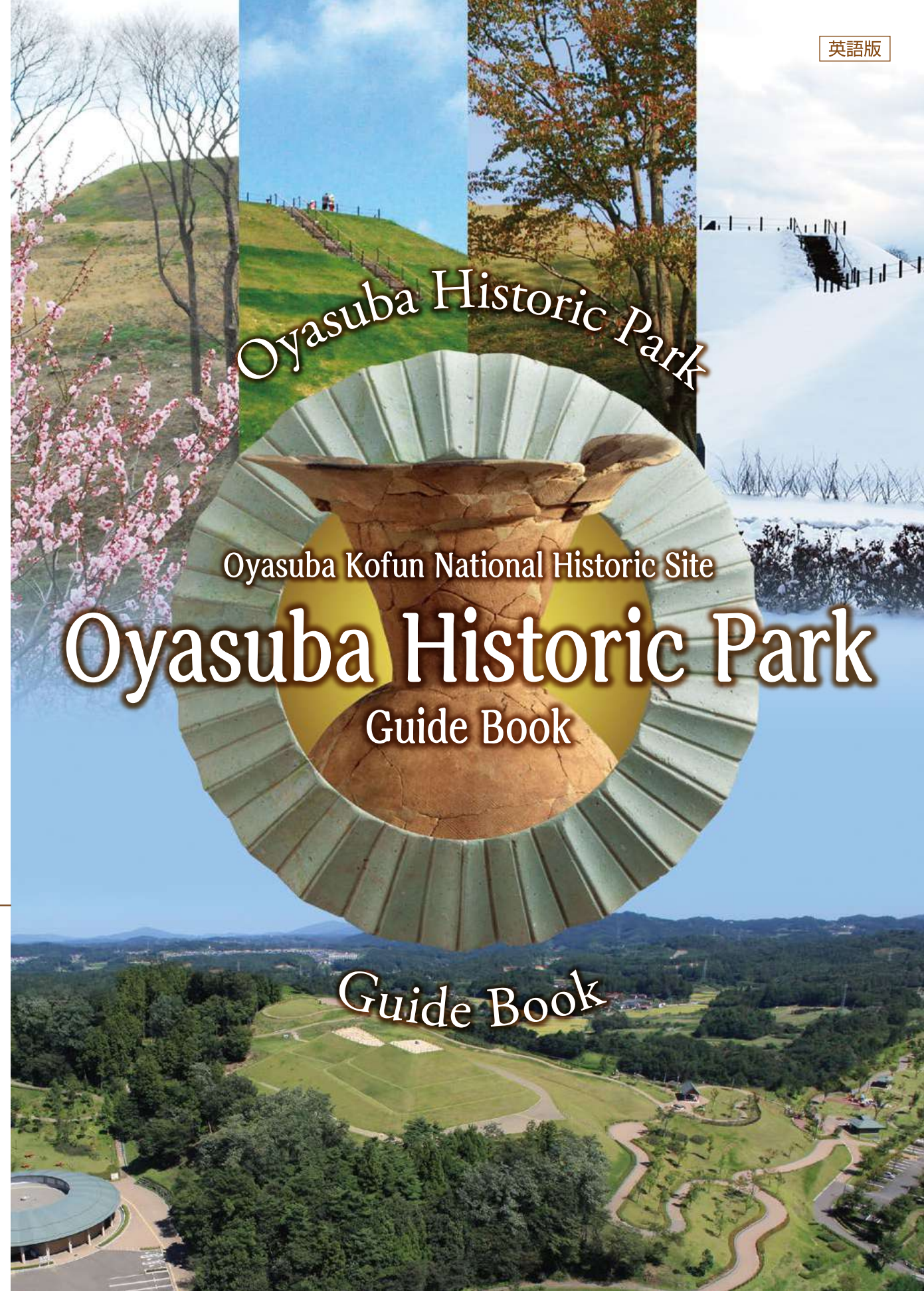
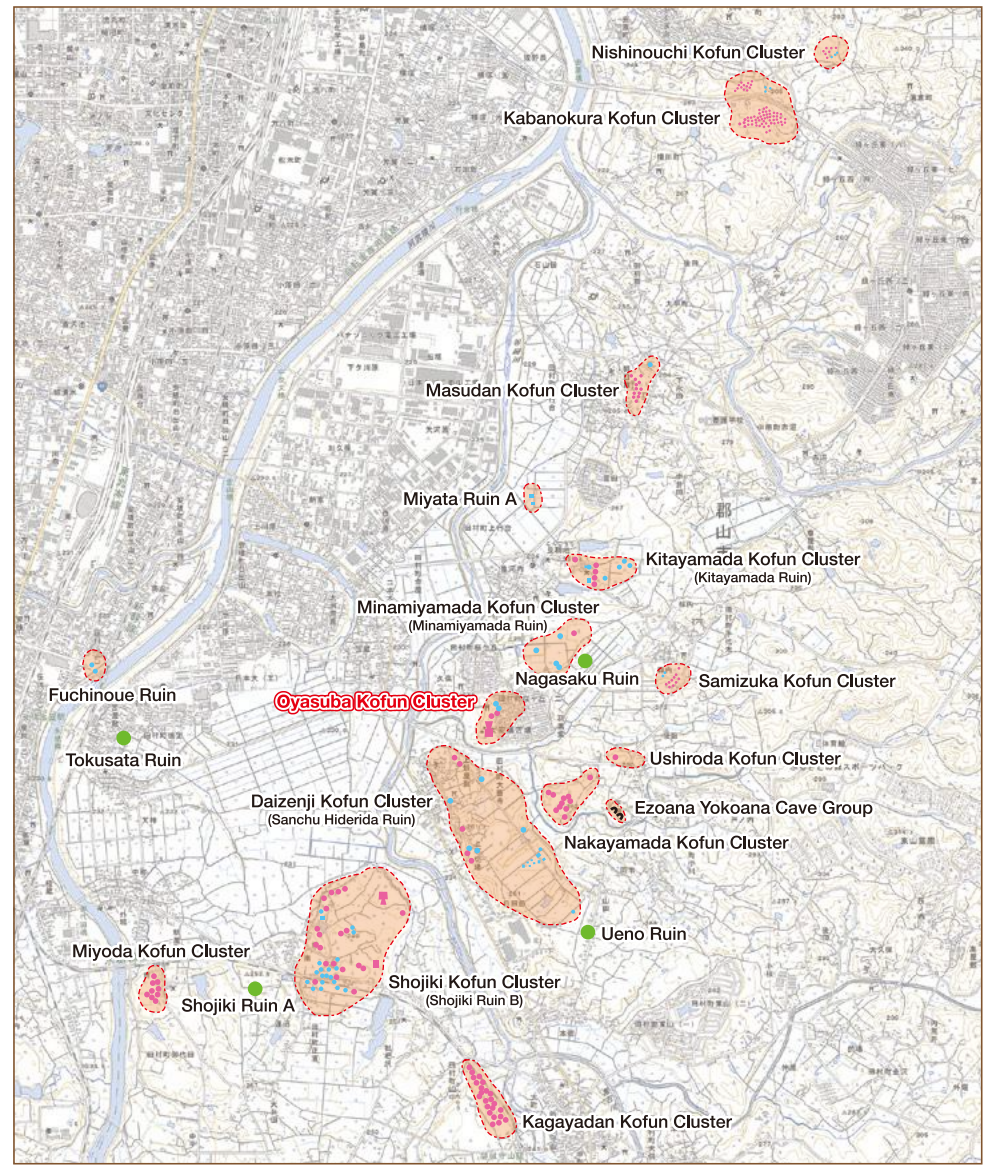


Map: Kofun-Period Ruins in the Oyasuba Area

--- Kofun cluster area ● Existing Kofun ● Former Kofun ● Settlement Ruins



Oyasuba Historic Park

The Koriyama Foundation for the Promotion of Culture and Learning

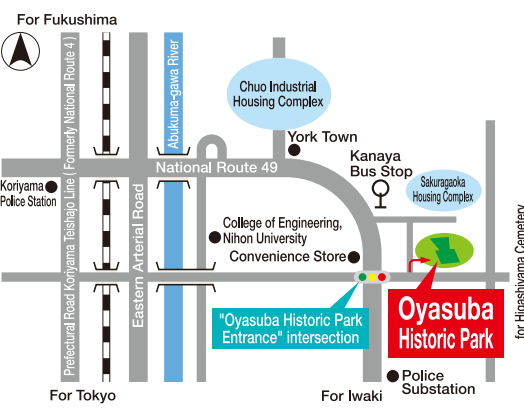
160, Oyasuba, Daizenji, Tamuramachi, Koriyama, Fukushima, 963-1161
TEL.024(965)1088 FAX.024(965)1090
E-Mail oyasuba@bunka-manabi.or.jp
Web <http://www.bunka-manabi.or.jp/oyasuba>

*See our website for special events and other offerings.

■ Guidance Facility is open:
9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. (Last entry at 4:30 p.m.)

■ Guidance Facility is closed on:
Mondays (When Monday is a public holiday, the facility will be closed on the next weekday.)

■ Park : Always open ■ Parking : 120 standard vehicle spaces / 7 large bus spaces



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Koriyama City mascot: Gakuto-kun the Ancient Man

Feel the changing of the seasons and breathe the air of ancient times.

Oyasuba Historic Park is home to Oyasuba Tomb Cluster, centered around the largest square front, square back tomb mound in Tohoku, as well as a Guidance Facility where you can learn all about kofun tombs. It also has beautiful mountain cherry trees, wisteria, and other plants that you can enjoy all year round. The park has an area of about 6.5 hectares, and it takes about 20 to 30 minutes to walk a circuit of the promenade, so you can take in the seasonal changes as you learn all about kofun.



Oyasuba Kofun 1

→ Details on p.3-4.

This kofun is designated as a National Historic Site. Climb up to the top where you can enjoy panoramic views of Koriyama city. See how it feels to be the lord of the kofun.

- ATTENTION -
Do not enter the slope of the kofun.

Guidance Facility

→ Details on p.5-6.

The shape of the Guidance Facility was inspired by the bracelet-shaped stone artifacts that served as grave goods for those buried in the kofun. Climb up to the top of the kofun to see the shape for yourself.

Open: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Last entry at 16:30)

Hands-On Experience Square

Enjoy events like hands-on excavation, firing earthenware on the ground, or using traditional hearths. The Kid's Playground also has a sandbox and other play equipment.

The Kid's Playground is not open on days when the Guidance Facility is closed.



Adventure Square / Discovery Hill

The square has a swing set and athletic equipment where kids can play while learning about kofun. The park also has tables, chairs, a waterway, and a flowerbed with designs inspired by the Kofun period. See if you can spot them for yourself!



The Adventure Square has recreation equipment. Recharge by stretching your back or massaging your pressure points!



Parking Lot Hours

- Parking Lot 1: 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.
- Parking Lot 2: 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. (Mar. to Sep.)
8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Oct. to Feb.)

*Parking Lot 1 is not open on days when the Guidance Facility is closed.
*Be sure to confirm the closing time.

Legend	
	Information panel
	Recommended photo spot
	Restrooms
	Diaper changing station
	AED facilities
	Rest area
	Coin lockers
	Wheelchair slope
	Vending machine

Oyasuba Kofun National Historic Site

There are five kofun sites within the park. Kofun 1, the main site, is a square front, square back tomb mound, and Kofun 2 through 5 are round tomb mounds.

A survey conducted from 1995 to 2004 revealed that Kofun 1 was built along the approximately 83-meter ridge about 1600 years ago, while Kofun 2 through 5 were built about 1500 years ago.

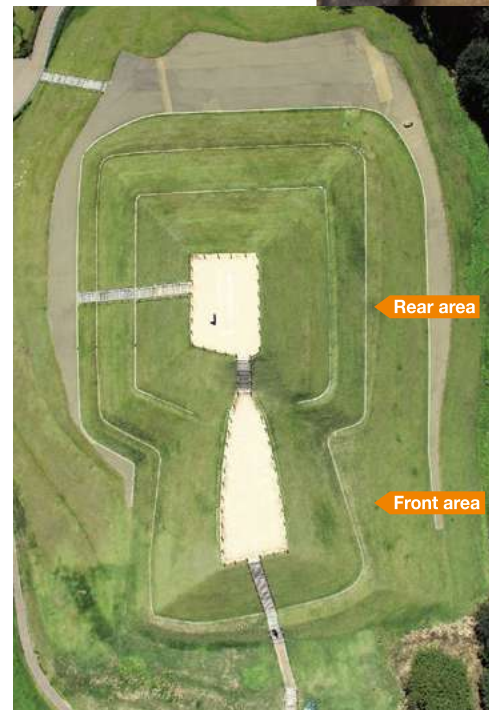
This group of five tomb mounds is known as the Oyasuba Kofun Cluster. In 2000, Kofun 1 and Kofun 2 were designated as National Historic Sites.

Oyasuba Kofun 1 Length: Approx. 83 m; Height: Approx. 12 m

Built about 1600 years ago, this is the largest square front, square back tomb mound in Tohoku, with a total length of about 83 meters.

Judging by its large size and the grave goods it contained, it is thought to have been the grave for an influential and powerful clan from the Nakadori area.

Front area: Where rituals were conducted for the lord of the kofun
Rear area: Where the lord of the kofun was buried



What is a kofun?

A kofun is a type of grave that was built about 1700 to 1300 years ago by influential and powerful clans in the area. The greater the clan's connection to major clans in the Kinki region, the larger their kofun would be. Kofun have a variety of different shapes, including square front/square back, keyhole, round, and square.



including square front/square back keyhole round square



View of survey work at Oyasuba Kofun 1

The coffin was about 9 meters long. Judging by excavations of other kofun, it was likely made of Japanese zelkova wood.

The lord of the kofun and their grave goods

What grave goods can tell us about the lord of the kofun

The bracelet-shaped stone artifacts indicate an alliance with the Yamato court. The long sword and blade, which represent military power, indicate control over military affairs. The iron axe head and scythe indicate that they had a position of leadership in agriculture and industry.

Vermilion

It is thought that vermilion pigment was sprinkled inside the coffin to ward off evil.

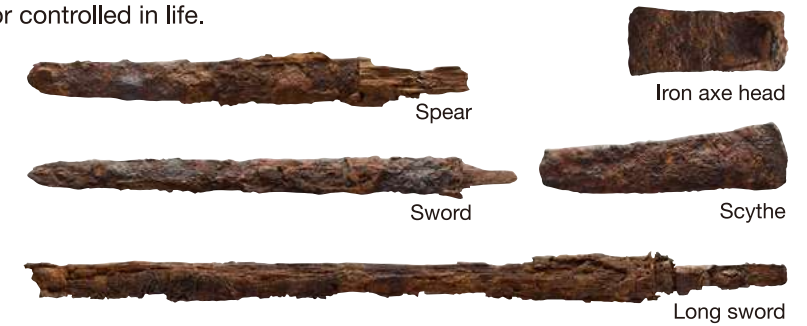
Bracelet-shaped stone artifacts

Exterior: 9.1 cm; Inner diameter: 5.6 cm; Thickness: 1.6 cm.
Made from green tuff, a rock with a beautiful green color, these artifacts are thought to have symbolized power.



Iron ware

Iron was a precious material that would not have been available to common farmers. The grave goods in the tomb mound were probably things that lord of the kofun owned or controlled in life.



The line of pots along the kofun

Double-rimmed pots / Pots with a boجومon pattern (pasted pattern of short sticks)

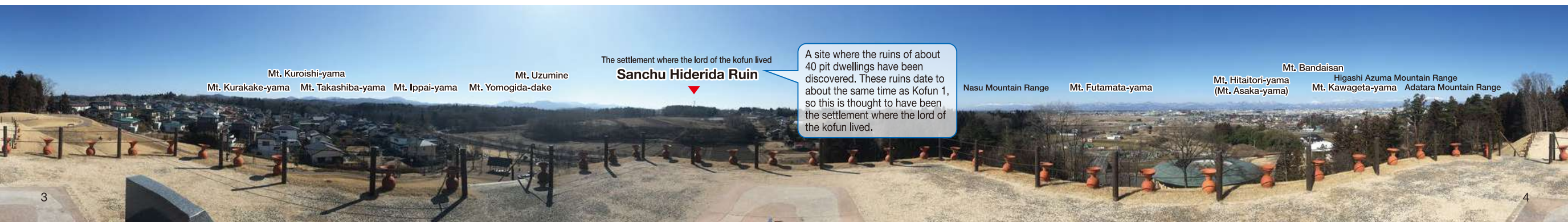
It is thought that about 50 pots of two different types were arranged in a line on top of the kofun. These pots were made for ceremonial purposes. They had holes on the bottom, and some were painted with red ochre. This was probably meant to mark holy places or to protect the lord of the kofun.



Kofun 2

Diameter: 15 m / Stone coffin - External dimensions: 2.2 m x 1.2 m

A round kofun built about 100 years after Kofun 1. Members of the powerful clan that was buried here were laid to rest in box-shaped stone coffins constructed of broken stones. It is thought that powerful leaders of settlements at the Minamiyamada Ruin or the Nagasaki Ruin were buried here.



Mt. Kuroishi-yama
Mt. Kurakake-yama Mt. Takashiba-yama Mt. Ippai-yama Mt. Yomogida-dake Mt. Uzumine

The settlement where the lord of the kofun lived
Sanchu Hiderida Ruin

A site where the ruins of about 40 pit dwellings have been discovered. These ruins date to about the same time as Kofun 1, so this is thought to have been the settlement where the lord of the kofun lived.

Nasu Mountain Range Mt. Futamata-yama Mt. Bandaisan
Mt. Hitaitori-yama (Mt. Asaka-yama) Higashi Azuma Mountain Range
Mt. Kawageta-yama Adataru Mountain Range

See, feel, and understand how our ancestors spent their lives.

At the Guidance Facility in the park, you can learn all about the lives of the ancient people from materials excavated from the Oyasuba Kofun site and other ruins around Koriyama City. You can also enjoy hands-on experiences of magatama bead making, fire building, and other ancient techniques.



Movie Room



A movie that makes it easy to learn all about Oyasuba Kofun.

*For group visits, contact the facility in advance.

*Check the exhibition board inside the building for what hands-on experiences are available.

Hands-On Corner



Every day, we offer hands-on experiences related to the ancient world.

Guidance Facility Exhibition Room

A fun way to learn about the traces of our ancestors that have been discovered at Oyasuba Kofun and other places around Koriyama City.

(1) From a single fragment

This double-rimmed pot was recreated from the single fragment of pottery that led to the discovery of Oyasuba Kofun. You can see this pot in the line on top of Kofun 1.



(2) Koriyama During the Paleolithic Age

Humans hunted animals, their main source of food, using tools made from rock and bone. The oldest stone implements found in Koriyama were discovered at the Tamura Machi Mimyo Ruin.



From the collection of the Fukushima Prefectural Cultural Properties Center in Shirakawa

Clay figurines called dogu are among the relics from this period. In Koriyama City, archaeologists have discovered many heart-shaped dogu, named for the shape of their face.

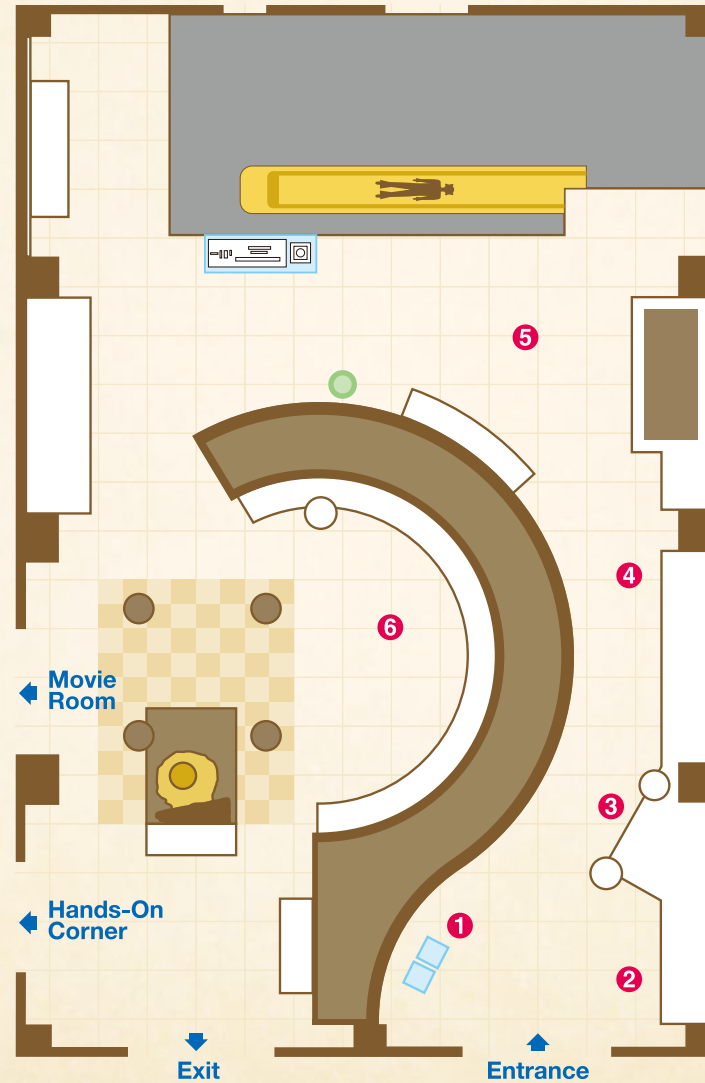


(3) Life in the Jomon Period

Humans began making Jomon ware pottery, which was decorated with rope impressions, and learned to stew meat and wild vegetables in earthenware pots. The dogu figurines that are the hallmark of the Jomon period are modeled after a pregnant woman.



See ...Take a peek at the actual tools used in site excavations and observe.
Hear ...Listen as the master of the kofun tells a story.
Feel ...Touch real earthenware vessels and feel what the ancient people felt.



Ruins in Koriyama City



Koriyama City is the third largest city in Fukushima Prefecture in terms of area (757.06 km²), and more than 1,200 ruins, dating from the Paleolithic age to the Edo period, have been confirmed all around the city.

◀ Look out over the streets of Koriyama from the sky above Oyasuba.

Guides

Our volunteer guides can show you around the exhibition halls and kofun sites. Feel free to ask at the office.

(4) Koriyama During the Yayoi Period

These are everyday items from an era of major societal changes brought about by the arrival of rice cultivation techniques and metal tools from the Asian continent. Yayoi earthenware is characterized by its simple decoration and functional shape.



(5) The Oyasuba Kofun Period

It is believed that it would have taken 100 people working daily for 200 days to build Oyasuba Kofun 1, and that about 50 pots were arranged in a line on top of the kofun. Let's listen to the lord of the kofun talk about it.



(6) Life in the Kofun Period

The period of about 400 years when kofun were built in large numbers in various areas is known as the Kofun period. Look at the shapes of the earthenware vessels, the changes in burial practices, and the clothing of the time. Also, look at the hearth and imagine the size of the spaces where our ancestors lived.



Timeline from the formation of the Oyasuba Kofun to the present

