

History of Arita Ware [Exhibition Room 1]

The first Japanese porcelain was created about 400 years ago in Arita. In this room the 400-year history of Arita ware, from its beginning to the present-day, is introduced along with masterpieces in an accessible manner utilising digital video and spatial design. Please enjoy the diverse range of stories behind Arita ware while exploring the seven rooms featuring themes such as history and culture.



1 Birth of Japanese Porcelain

Japanese porcelain was born in and around Arita during the early Edo period. Then, the area developed into a porcelain-producing region under the protection and management of the Saga domain after the discovery of high-quality porcelain stone in Arita.

2 Technical Innovation

A series of innovations led to Japan's first overglaze polychrome enamel porcelain, whose high level of quality approached that of Chinese porcelain.



Lobed Dish with Plum, Peony, and Scrolling Vine Design in Overglaze Polychrome Enamels, 1650–1660s

3 Perfection of Japanese Porcelain Kakiemon and Nabeshima

During the second half of the 17th century, the two great styles of Japanese porcelain, Kakiemon and Nabeshima, were perfected.



Decagonal Dish with Chinese Lion and Peony Design in Overglaze Polychrome Enamels, 1670–1690s



On the dish-shaped screen, beautiful designs of each style are projected in order of the production processes, including decoration and firing processes.

4 Crossing the Ocean

As a result of the civil war accompanying the transition from the Ming dynasty to the Qing dynasty in China, the volume of Chinese porcelain exports declined precipitously, and in its place Arita ware began circulating around the world.



Kanbara Collection (Owned by Arita Town)

5 Enrichment of Daily Life

As the once-booming overseas exports declined, the porcelain-producing regions pivoted to the domestic market. Various forms of Arita ware enriched daily life in Edo.

6 Dawn of a New Era

Exports of Arita ware resumed in earnest on the eve of the opening of Japan's ports during the Bakumatsu period. New types of Arita ware spurred on modern developments to the form.



Large Flower Vase with Rooster and Flower Design in Underglaze Polychrome Colours, 1875–1880s

7 Now and in the Future

Arita ware has transcended the waves of history as it developed over the course of 400 years. Arita continues to realise technological innovation building on the traditional techniques and manufacturing versatile products that enrich people's lives.

Themed Exhibitions:

How Arita Ware Is Made

(Traditional production process of overglaze polychrome enamel porcelain)

Arita Ware Q&A

Map of Ceramic-Producing Areas

(Arita, Hizen, and Kyushu)



Arita Ware Designs

This is an interactive exhibition where you can make an original dish on a monitor by selecting shapes and motifs. You can also take a photo in front of a screen showing the dish design you created.

Kyushu Ceramic Museum is located in Arita, the birthplace of Japanese porcelain. The museum is engaged in the collection and exhibition of ceramics from all over Kyushu, including Arita and Karatsu ware. In the exhibition rooms, visitors can enjoy a broad range of ceramic collections from locations throughout Kyushu – from old ceramics to works by contemporary Kyushu ceramic artists. The permanent exhibition (Exhibition Room 1), entitled History of Arita Ware, introduces Arita ware's turbulent history in narrative form to provide a better understanding of this unique ceramic.

Mr. and Mrs. Shibata Collection [Exhibition Room 2]

This vast collection features more than 10,000 pieces of Arita ware produced during the Edo period, which were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Shibata. About 1,000 selected works are regularly exhibited in this room.



Dish with Hare, Moon, and Blown Ink Design in Underglaze Cobalt Blue, 1630–1640s



Large Dish with Bird and Peony Design in Overglaze Polychrome Enamels, circa 1650s

Old Ceramics of Kyushu [Exhibition Room 3]

Old ceramics from all over Kyushu and Okinawa, including Karatsu ware, Shoki Imari (Early Imari) and other excellent porcelain in the Kakiemon style or Nabeshima style are on display.



Jar with Bush Clover Design in Underglaze Iron Brown, 1590–1610s



Dish with Cherry Tree Design in Overglaze Polychrome Enamels, 1700–1720s

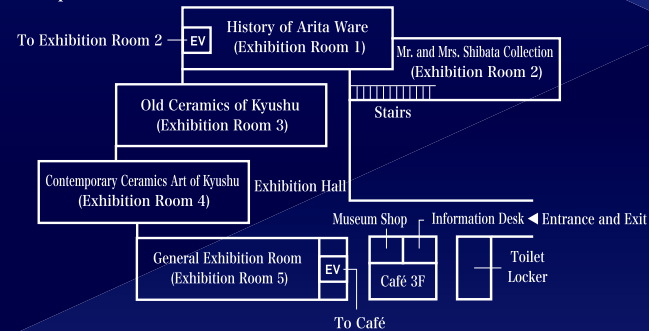
Contemporary Ceramics Art of Kyushu [Exhibition Room 4]

This room features various works created by ceramic artists representing each prefecture in Kyushu with a total of about 100 objects.

Exhibition Hall

Works created by representative ceramic artists in Saga Prefecture, including members of the Japan Art Academy and preservers of Intangible Cultural Property (Living National Treasure) are displayed.

*The works may not be on display due to exhibition changes or removal for special exhibitions.



Café Opening Hours 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The café offers coffee, tea or cakes which are served in antique Ko-Imari wares from the Edo period.



Museum Shop

Museum goods such as notepads and magnets bearing Arita ware designs, as well as exhibition catalogues are available at the museum shop.

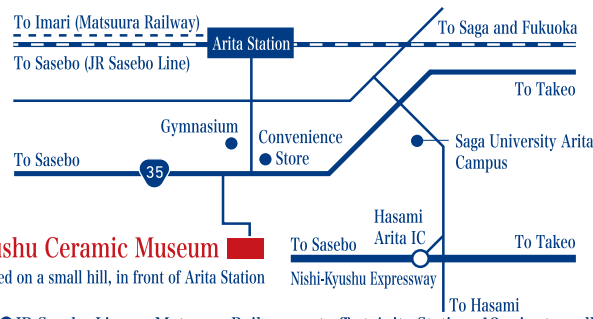


Arita Ware Karakuri Musical Clock (Exhibition Hall)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm *Entrance until 4:30 pm

Closed: Mondays (the following day if a Monday falls on a national holiday) and December 29 to January 3

Admission: free *An admission fee may be required for a special exhibition



Kyushu Ceramic Museum

Located on a small hill, in front of Arita Station

- JR Sasebo Line or Matsuura Railway: get off at Arita Station, 12-minute walk
- Airport Limousine Taxi: 80 minutes from Kyushu-Saga International Airport (reservation required)
- Nishi-Kyushu Expressway: 10-minute drive from Hasami Arita IC
- Free Car Park: capacity for 300 cars



Kyushu Ceramic Museum

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KYUSHU CERAMIC MUSEUM

A Museum Specialising in Ceramics Boasting a Collection of Thirty-thousand Works Exploring the History of Arita Ware through Masterpieces and Digital Images

