

Zushi Local Museum

<Scenery>

The Zushi local museum is a part of the Roka Memorial Park. It is located on a small hill facing the beach, in the residential area of the city. From the museum's hill top location, you can see the entire city of Zushi. The museum has a garden with beautiful flowers. When the weather is good, you can see Mt. Fuji over Enoshima Island.

There is an ancient tomb near the museum. The name of the tomb is Nagaesakurayama. Nobody knows who was buried there. It remains a mystery.

When you go up to the museum, you may see some interesting signs. For example, "Be careful of snakes!"



<Building>

The Zushi Local Museum building was the home of Duke Iesato Tokugawa, the 16th Master of the head family of Tokugawa. Tokugawa family ruled Japan as Shogun through the Edo era, until the 15th Master. The building was built in 1922, The old building is made of wood, is one story high, has a tile roof, and corridor which is eight tatami mats in length.

The building was built by a businessman who thought that having a view of the sea was important. The bay of Zushi can be seen from all rooms, and depending on the weather conditions, Mt. Fuji, too.

Smoking is not allowed in this area, because the building is an old wooden Japanese style house.



<Tokutomis>

Tokutomi Roka, whose name was adopted as the name of the park, was a novelist. He was born in Kumamoto in 1868 and moved to Zushi in 1897. His house was very close to the Zushi Local Museum. He lived in Zushi for four years and wrote essays and novels about the nature of Zushi while he lived there. He published 'Hototogisu' and 'Nature and Life', which were very famous novels. His older brother Soho was a journalist, so Roka published his novels and essays in Soho's newspaper. In the museum, there is a big work of calligraphy which displays '不如歸(Hototogisu).'

Thanks to Roka's novels and essays, Zushi became famous for its beautiful nature.



<Exhibits>

The Zushi Local Museum is a unique place. Inside, there are many important and valuable Japanese costumes, such as 'Happi' and 'Samurai armour.'

In addition, the museum displays the history of the people in the area, including scales, vases, an old camera and so on.

The most interesting feature is that the floor is covered with 'tatami.' So you must take off your shoes when you enter the museum building. It is a unique Japanese custom. Through these things you can experience and learn about the costumes and history of Zushi.



<History of Zushi City>

Era	Period	Main Event
Muromachi	1471	The Hohjo Family ruled the area
Edo	1638	The Matsudaira Family(a relative of Tokugawa Shogun) ruled the Miura area
	1867	The area came under control of the Tokugawa Family
Meiji	1868	The Town of Miura was merged into Nirayama Prefecture In December, Nirayama Prefecture was changed to Kanagawa Prefecture
	1889	The name Miura was changed to Tagoe village and then changed again to Zushi town
Showa	1943	Zushi town and Yokosuka city merged together
	1950	Zushi and Yokosuka separated again
	1954	Zushi became a city

<Zushi Geology>

Zushi lies on the coast of Sagami Bay which was formed as a result of shifting tectonic plates. The movement of the Philippine Sea Plate which is subducting underneath the North American Plate has contributed to the formation of the current coastline of Zushi. The sea level on the coast of Zushi was 3 to 5 meters higher approximately 6000 years ago. Due to this change, we can find coral fossils as high as 20 meters above current sea level. Around Zushi city there about 140 excavation sites where ancient cultural artifacts can be found. Some of these artifacts are on display in the museum.

Special thanks to Shibaura Institute of Technology Senior High School English SUPER Class of 2016

(この英語版は、芝浦工業大学高等学校 **super** クラス 2016 年卒業生により製作されました。)