

Observation and Reservation Information

Individual visits Individuals can visit anytime from 26th April to 14th November.

Please make a reservation before visiting by making a call during the office hours.

※ It cannot respond to any languages other than Japanese.

Groups For a group of more than 10 people, please make a reservation 2 weeks before the scheduled date. Priority is given to groups who reserve earlier.

Please check the homepage for more details about group reservations.

Group Reservations Please see the website for a group reservation.

URL : (<http://sjpm.hansen-dis.jp/>)

School Group Reservations As an arranged meeting is required, please inquire at least one month before the date of the museum visit.

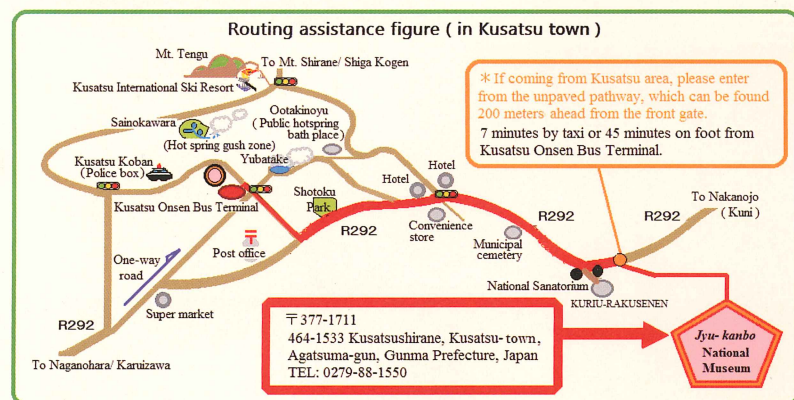
※ It cannot respond to any languages other than Japanese.

Note Guides are available only for group visitors.

※ It cannot respond to any languages other than Japanese.

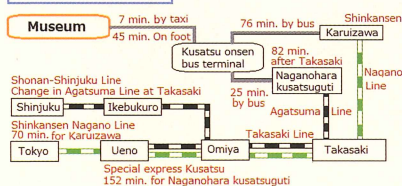
Other Information **ADMISSION FREE**

Period	General admission April 26 ~ November 14	Group Visitors Only November 15 ~ April 25
Targeted Customers	Individuals and Groups	Groups and Schools with reservation
Visiting Hours	9:30 AM to 4:00 PM (Last Admission: 3:30 PM)	10:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Last Admission: 3:00 PM)
Closed	Every Monday, Tuesday (If a public holiday falls on either day, the museum will be closed on the following Wednesday) The day after Public Holidays Facility maintenance	Every Saturday, Sunday Public Holidays New Year Holidays Facility maintenance

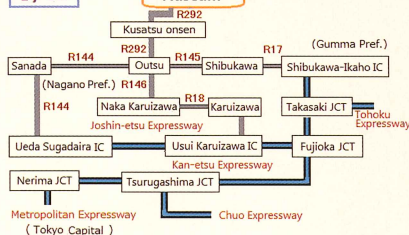


Access Information

By Public transport



By car



Jyu-kanbo National Museum of Detention for Hansen's Disease Patients



Appearance

What is "Jyu-kanbo" ?

"Jyu-kanbo" ("special hospital ward") was a detention center for Hansen's disease patients, which had once existed on the premises of the national sanatorium Kuriu-Rakusen, Kusatsu town, Gunma Prefecture, Japan. Despite its name, this "special hospital ward" had been used as a prison for disobedient Hansen's disease patients. As sixty years have passed since its construction, only the foundations of the actual building still remain until nowadays.

Purpose of "Jyu-kanbo" Museum

Jyu-kanbo National Museum of Detention for Hansen's Disease Patients was established with the intention to contribute to eliminating the discrimination and prejudice against people with Hansen's disease. The purpose of the museum is to increase the knowledge about the Hansen's

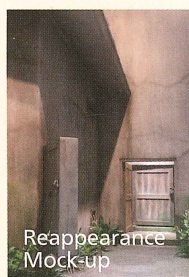


Ruins of "Jyu-kanbo"

disease and respect to the value of life. In order to achieve this purpose, the museum is devoted to collecting and preserving the historical facts concerning the Jyu-kanbo "special hospital ward," raising the knowledge about the Hansen's disease itself, and conveying the results of the excavations and research to a wider audience.

Foundational Idea

The Museum hopes to convey the negative legacy of "Jyu-kanbo" and raise respect for human rights through eliminating the prejudice to Hansen's disease patients and their discrimination.



Reappearance Mock-up

〒377-1711

464-1533 Kusatsu-shirane, Kusatsu town,
Agatsuma county, Gunma Prefecture, Japan
TEL: 0279-88-1550 Fax: 0279-88-1553
URL: <http://sjpm.hansen-dis.jp>

ADMISSION FREE

This Museum was established by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and it is open to all visitors.



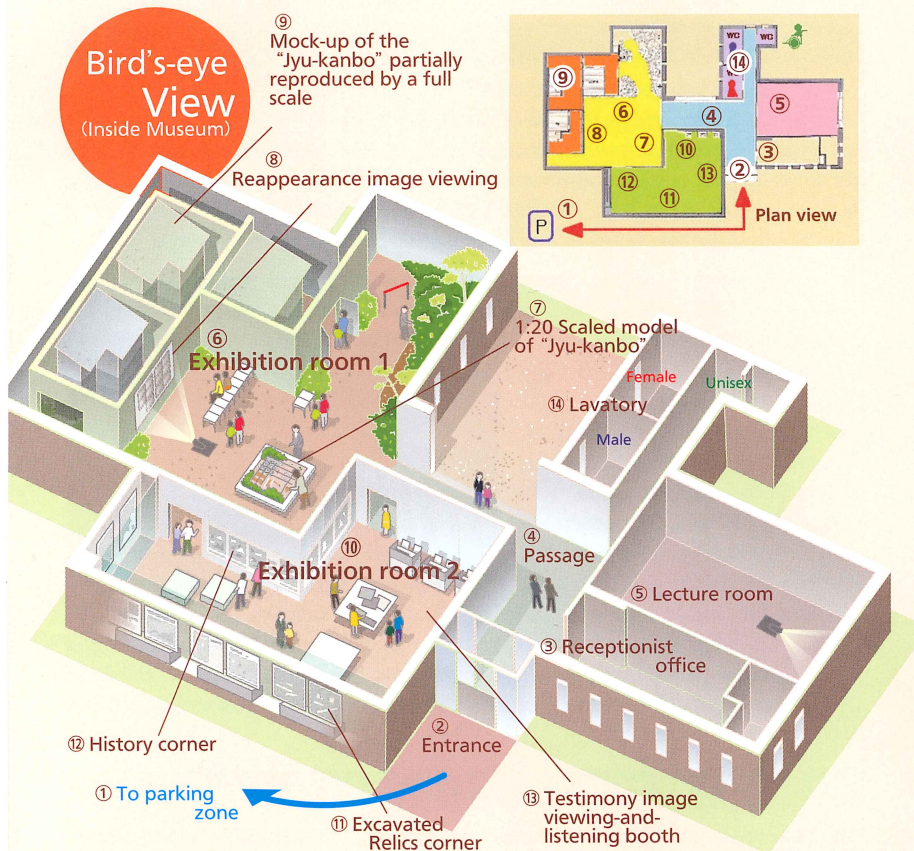
厚生労働省

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

“Jyu-kanbo” Outline

Under the *Hansen's disease isolation policy*, patients frequently revolted and escaped. As a result, in each Hansen's disease sanatorium, there were confinement prisons built before the World War II. They were called “kanbo.” In the “special hospital ward,” disobedient patients were punished more harshly, and it was thus renamed “Jyu-kanbo.”

This particular “Jyu-kanbo” was built in 1938 and was in use until 1947. During that period of nine years, 93 patients judged as rebellious were imprisoned there under the claim of being “hospitalized”. In all, 23 of the 93 patients died. Now, 60 years later, only the main part of the prison remains. The execution of the prisoners depended solely on the decision of the head of each sanatorium. By the law, the head of the sanatorium was given the right to punish the detained patients. There were no court trials and, therefore, the human rights of patients were completely ignored.



About Hansen's disease

Hansen's disease is a chronic infection caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*. In the past, it was called *leprosy*, but now, it is called *Hansen's disease*, taking the name of the Norwegian doctor, G. H. A. Hansen. In 1873, Dr. Hansen discovered the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae* and identified it as the cause of the disease. Not everyone infected would have the disease, and nowadays, there are only less than a few people in Japan, who are diagnosed yearly with the Hansen's disease. Even if a person has the disease, the symptoms do not worsen drastically. Initial symptoms are rash and stupor. If not cured, this disease can cause physical malformations, and strong aftereffects might sometimes remain. The physical malformations were the main reason for the social discrimination of the Hansen's disease patients. Nowadays, effective medication has been developed, and Hansen's disease can be completely cured by early detection and appropriate treatment. There are currently only few cases of infected patients in Japan. It is certain now that the Hansen's disease is not hereditary.

Excavated Relics

During the excavations in 2013, some important relics were found from the remains of “Jyu-kanbo” (“special hospital ward”).

(Bowl)

Broken wooden bowls were excavated according to the testimonies of the patients. Patients were given only little amount of hot water from these bowls.



(Padlock)

The padlocks show that “Jyu-kanbo” served as a severe imprisonment facility.



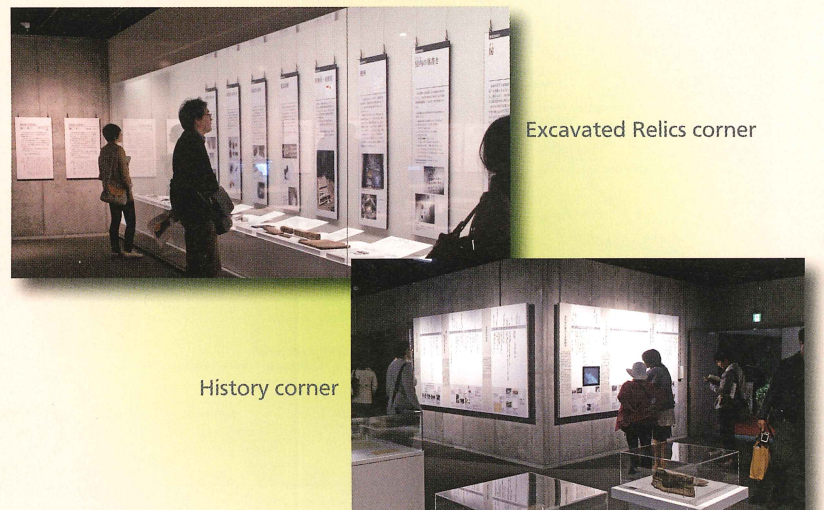
(Glasses)

This pair of glasses seems to have belonged to a patient. Although glasses were important to people who were short-sighted, the patients could not get back their glasses when they left the “Jyu-kanbo.” The glasses remained buried in the soil until excavated.



There is a saying “Avoid disease,” which means avoid the disease itself, but not those affected by the disease. However, Hansen's disease patients were stigmatized and isolated from the society as if they were the disease itself. It was wrong to personify the disease through its victims, the Hansen's disease patients. If people could feel empathy to others with all their heart, the glasses found at “Jyu-kanbo” would have never been buried in the soil but would have been given back to the patient they belonged to. The tragedy of not treating people as human beings must never repeat itself. Thus, the museum believes that it is important to convey this tragic legacy to future generations in the name of eliminating discrimination and restoring respect to human rights.

Exhibition Hall



The exhibition has reconstructed a part of “Jyu-kanbo.” Visitors can watch documentary programs about “Jyu-kanbo” and see a 1:20 scaled model of “Jyu-kanbo.” In addition to precious paneled testimonials and records, there are lecture rooms and other places available to visitors which will help them understand and reconsider the human and social problems related to the Hansen's disease.