

Welcome to the Cultural Museum of Aomori!

Thank you for visiting Aomori's unique composite cultural museum. In the museum our collections include many things that are registered as national cultural assets; these items are valuable treasures of Aomori Prefecture. At our eight major exhibits you can experience Aomori's rich natural sites and its history which dates back to primitive ages. Forget the time, and immerse yourself in the world of Aomori!

Archeology Exhibit ~Aomori's Mysteries of Prehistoric Culture~

This exhibit displays artifacts dating from Paleolithic times to the Yayoi Era. Particularly important are the cultural artifacts from the Kamegaoka and Tokoshinai historical ruins and the earthenware and clay figures from the Jomon period which represent the culture that developed on Aomori's rich natural setting.

In addition, there is an introduction to the rice crop-harvesting Yayoi culture which also resided in the northern limits of our prefecture.



Nature Exhibit ~Aomori's Nature Things the Four Seasons~

In the second exhibition area our prefecture's rich nature is on display. Native vegetation, animals, and insects are introduced in dioramas and taxidermy exhibits. There are also displays of the meteorite that fell on Aomori City in 1984, the Nauman Elephant (Aomori Elephant), the fossilized whale found at the foot of Mount Iwaki, and an opportunity to learn about the Geological Time Scale of our prefecture.



History Exhibit ~The Ups and Downs on the Road of History~



In this exhibit you can follow the history of our prefecture from the Nara era to the present time. There are relics from the villages of the Emishi or "northern people", information on religion and beliefs in the Middle Ages, as well as maps and pictures of castle ruins sites (Shirihachidate castle ruins, etc.), and items found there during excavation. In addition, there is information on the division of recent history and culture in the prefecture between the Tsugaru and Nanbu clans.

We also hope you will enjoy other subjects which include: the birth of our prefecture under modern Japan, air raids in Aomori, and the reconstruction after the war.

Folk Customs Exhibit ~The Life and Spirit of the Common People~

Aomori is the northernmost prefecture on the mainland of Japan. This exhibit introduces the tools, kimonos, and religious beliefs born from this natural area. There are farm tools which were used until as recently as ten years ago and embroidered “kogin” garments used as tunics or jackets. There are displays of customs such as the climbing of Mount Iwaki to pray for the safe of family and prosperous agriculture, or belief in the god Oshira who protects homes and crops. Here you can feel the life-force of the people of our prefecture.



Apple Exhibit ~Apples and Aomori~

This exhibit is about Aomori’s mainstay industry, the apple. You can see displays on the diverse types of apple products, the surrounding environment, as well as the improvements that have been made in cultivation technologies.



Personal Experience Room

In this room, there are original materials related to Aomori’s nature and history, and tools used in the olden days of Aomori that visitors can look at, touch, move, or play with. It’s a special area designed for an interactive experience.



Pioneers of Aomori Display ~Cultural Stars of the Prefecture~



Aomori has produced outstanding figures from a variety of different fields including politics, journalism, literature, and the arts; they are introduced in this exhibit. You can surround yourself by figures like Kuro Kikuchi, Kyouichi Sawada, Osamu Dazai, Noriko Awaya, and other local figures who have carved their place in Japanese history.

The “Refined” Collection Exhibit

This exhibit displays objects which were donated by a doctor living in Aomori when the museum opened. In his words “Its not that I should necessarily make these artifacts public, but that they need to be communicated for the sake of posterity.” There are even objects designated as prefectural treasures included in the 11,000 piece collection.

