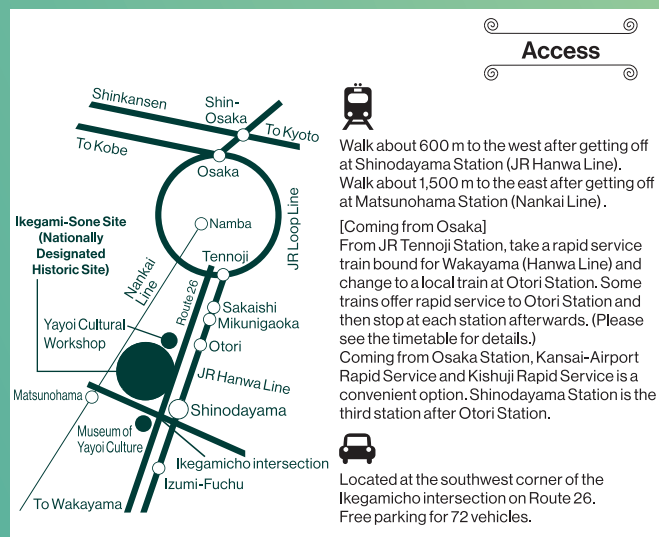
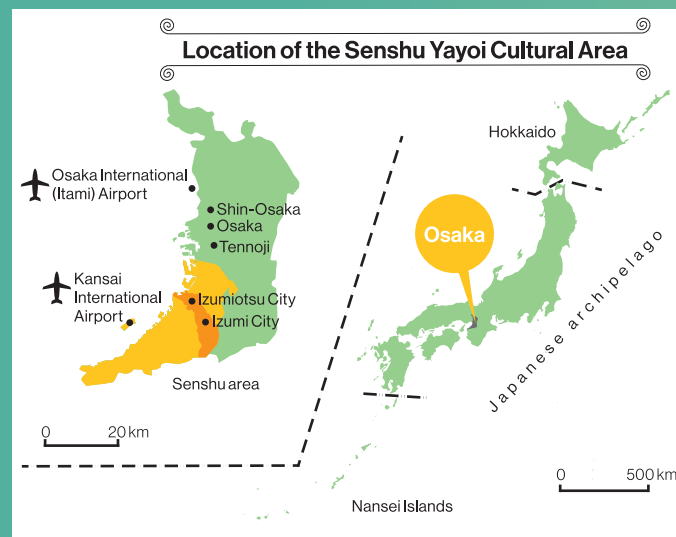
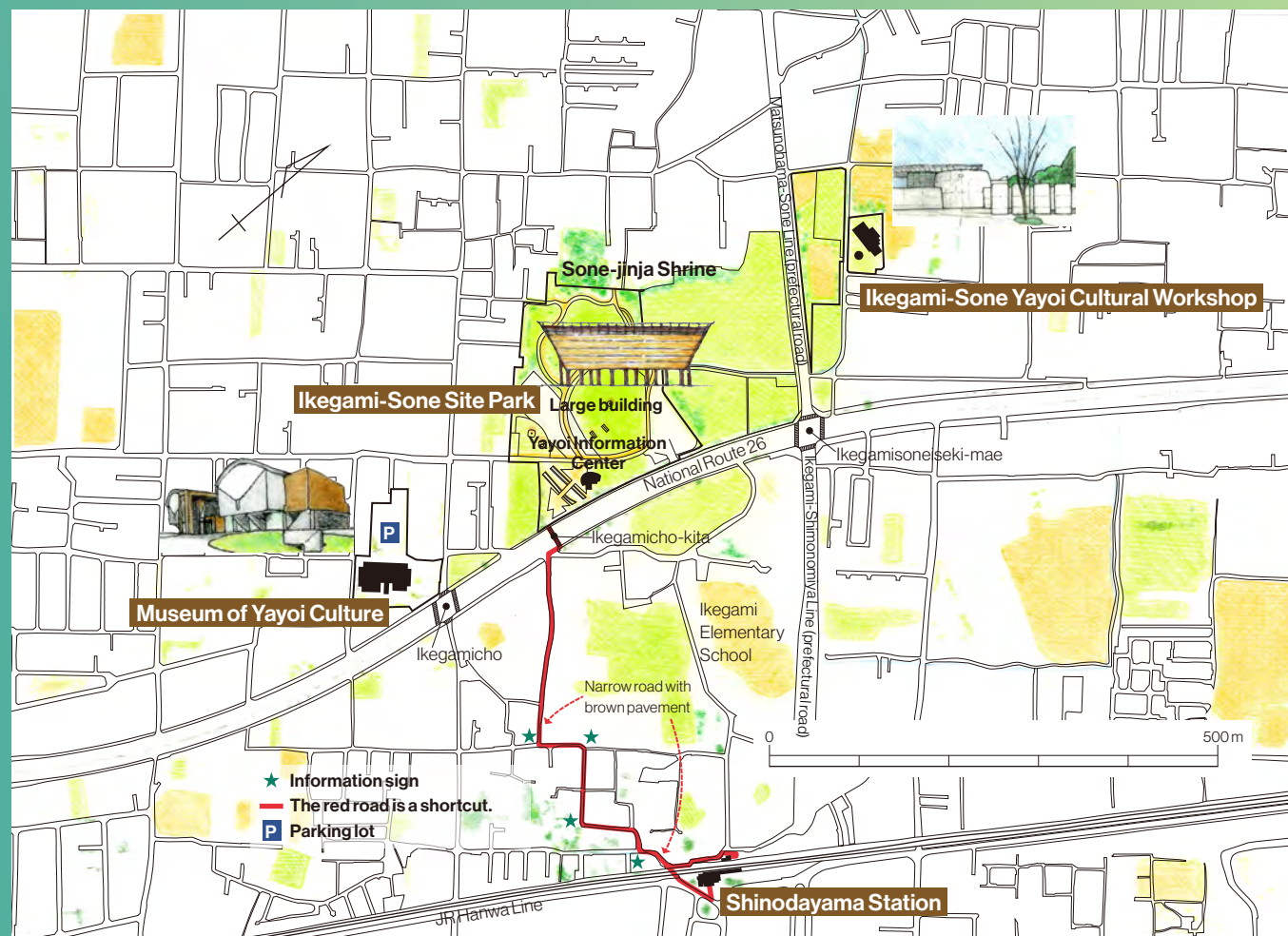
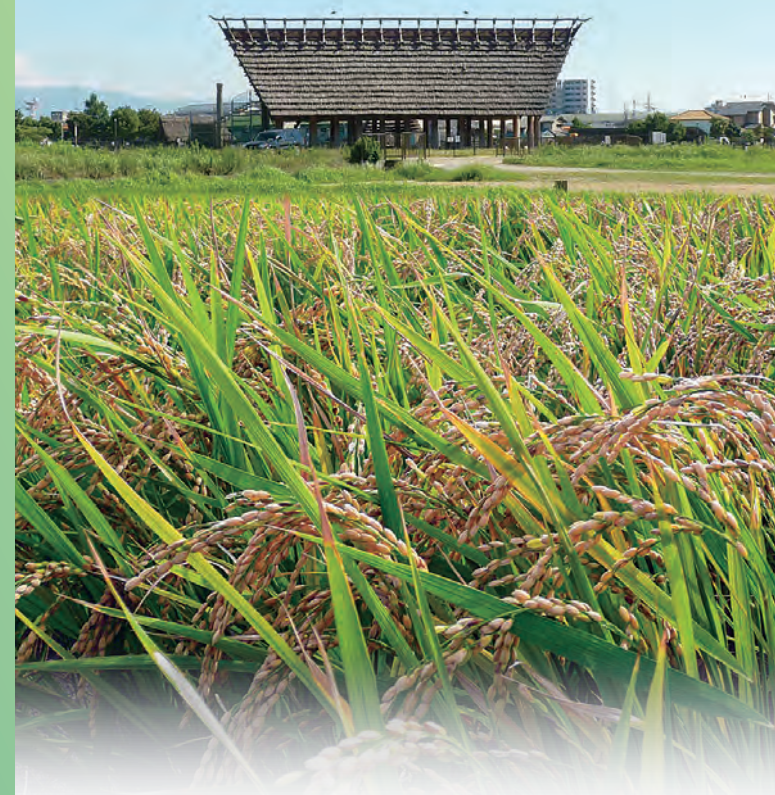




Guide to the Senshu Yayoi Cultural Area

Ikegami-Sone Site and Surrounding Area



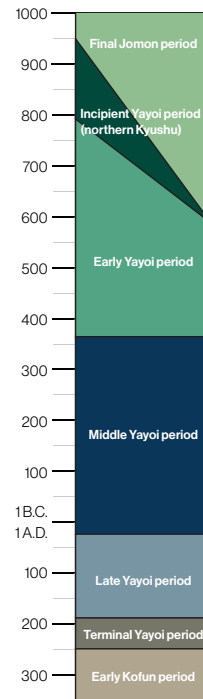
- Osaka Prefectural Museum of Yayoi Culture
- Ikegami-Sone Yayoi Cultural Workshop
- Ikegami-Sone Site Park
(Ikegami-Sone Yayoi Information Center)

■ What was the Yayoi period?

It was during the Yayoi period that paddy rice cultivation began in the Japanese archipelago. Ever since, for over 2,000 years leading up to the present day, an agriculture-centric way of life has continued uninterrupted.

During this period, many changes occurred beyond rice cultivation, including the introduction of metal tools, emergence of wealth disparity, and beginning of warfare. These developments had a profound impact on the subsequent history of the Japanese archipelago and the lifestyles of its people. For this reason, Yayoi culture is often referred to as the origin of Japanese culture.

Paddy rice cultivation was introduced to Japan from the southern Korean Peninsula and gradually spread southward and eastward. Along the way, it merged with the Jomon culture, which existed in Japan prior to the Yayoi period, creating a richly diverse Yayoi culture. This culture spread over an area of approximately 1,400 kilometers, excluding Hokkaido and the Nansei Islands.



■ Museum of Yayoi Culture

4-8-27 Ikegamicho, Izumi-shi, Osaka

Hours: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30 pm)

Closed: Mondays (when Monday is a public holiday, closed following day), New Year's holiday

Admission: Adults, ¥310; age 65 and older as well as high-school and university students, ¥210; junior high school and younger, free (Admission fees are subject to change during special exhibitions and themed exhibitions.)

Phone: 0725-46-2162 Fax: 0725-46-2165



Japan's only museum dedicated to Yayoi culture, the Museum of Yayoi Culture offers a clear and comprehensive introduction to Yayoi culture through authentic artifacts and replicas as well as models, dioramas, and videos. As the "museum that brings you face to face with Himiko," it boldly explores the figure of Queen Himiko, who ruled the Yamatai polity, which remains one of the greatest mysteries in Japan's ancient history.

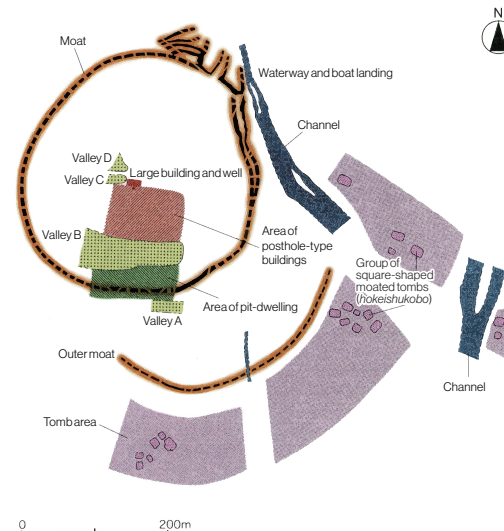
The museum also hosts special exhibitions and themed exhibitions several times a year to showcase various topics related to Yayoi culture.



■ Ikegami-Sone Site (Nationally Designated Historic Site)

The Ikegami-Sone Site is a large Yayoi-period settlement that spanned what is now the cities of Izumi and Izumiotsu in Osaka Prefecture. The site measures approximately 1,500 meters north to south and 500 meters east to west, for a total area of 600,000 square meters. Excavations have revealed that this settlement existed throughout the entire Yayoi period, and it is considered to be typical of the moated village found in Japan at the time.

To preserve this valuable cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations, the Japanese government designated an area of about 108,000 square meters, centered around the moated section, a Historic Site under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in 1976.



■ Communicating life as it was 2,100 years ago to contemporary visitors (Site Park)

To recreate the appearance of the Ikegami-Sone Site during its peak during the mid-Yayoi period (approximately 2,100 years ago), the site has been under development as a archaeological park since 1995.

Excavations conducted for the park's development uncovered a large posthole-type building (measuring approximately 19.3 meters east to west and 7.0 meters north to south) from the mid-Yayoi period, as well as Japan's largest and oldest log-hollowed well (approximately 2.2 meters in diameter, made of camphor wood). One of the building's pillars, analyzed through dendrochronology (tree-ring dating), was found to have been cut in 52 B.C.

Both the building and the well have been restored at their original locations, allowing visitors to appreciate the ingenuity and advanced craftsmanship of the people who lived at this site.



■ Senshu Yayoi Cultural Area

Adjacent to the vast archaeological park, you'll find Japan's only museum dedicated to Yayoi culture, the Museum of Yayoi Culture, as well as the Ikegami-Sone Yayoi Cultural Workshop, which emphasizes hands-on learning experiences.

To help visitors fully appreciate the significance of the Ikegami-Sone Site and its place in Yayoi culture research, the archaeological park and these two facilities work closely together through joint operations and activities.

■ Ikegami-Sone Yayoi Information Center (at the Site Park)

4-14-13 Ikegamicho, Izumi-shi, Osaka

Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Closed: Mondays (open on public holidays), days after public holidays

(expect Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays), New Year's holidays

Admission: Free Phone/Fax: 0725-45-5544



This is a guidance facility located at the entrance of the Site Park. It provides information about the site and offers visitor reception and guidance services.

■ Ikegami-Sone Yayoi Cultural Workshop

2-12-45 Chiharacho, Izumiotsu-shi, Osaka

Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30 pm)

Closed: Mondays (open on public holidays), days after public holidays

(expect Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays), New Year's holidays

Admission: Free (fees apply for hands-on learning programs)

Phone: 0725-20-1841 Fax: 0725-20-1866

Experience a variety of ancient crafting techniques, such as making pottery, comma-shaped beads (*magatama*), and fabrics, anytime you like. With advance reservations, you can also try glass bead-making using a burner.

The facility features displays centered around the large posthole-type building and large log-hollowed well, allowing visitors to view the excavation site as it appeared at the time through the glass floor panels. Additionally, there's an exhibit of an actual pillar from the building, which has been scientifically dated to have been cut in 52 B.C.

