

HAKODATE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE

Hakodate Magistrate's Office was established here in Hakodate by the Edo Shogunate when the port of Hakodate opened under the Japan-US Treaty of Peace and Amity. The office was initially built at the foot of Mt. Hakodate. However, when its location was regarded disadvantageous for defense, they decided to move the office further inland. In order to guard the new magistrate's office, western-style earthworks were contrived by a Dutch Scholar Takeda Ayasaburo and the fort came to be known as Goryokaku due to its star-pentagonal configuration.

The construction of Goryokaku was started in 1857. When it was completed in 1864, the new Hakodate Magistrate's Office was inaugurated and became the center for shogunate government's northern policies and its diplomatic outpost as well as the administrative center of Ezo region and its development.

The function of the magistrate's office was then transferred to the new Meiji government. Goryokaku was the site of the Battle of Hakodate, the last phase of the Boshin War during the Meiji Restoration. After the war, most of the buildings in Goryokaku were dismantled by the new government in 1871, and the area became a park after the Taisho period.

The repair project of Goryokaku was launched by the city of Hakodate with the recreation of Hakodate Magistrate's Office as its main goal. The archaeological investigation of Goryokaku was started in 1985. The building plan was carefully detailed on the basis of old photographs, documents and drawings as well as the results of the excavation. In 2006 the reconstruction was finally started, and in 2010 the building came back to our time for the first time in 140 years.



Old photograph of Hakodate Magistrate's Office
Hakodate City Central Library collection

Information

Opening Hours

Apr.1 - Oct.31	9:00am - 6:00pm
Nov.1 - Mar.31	9:00am - 5:00pm

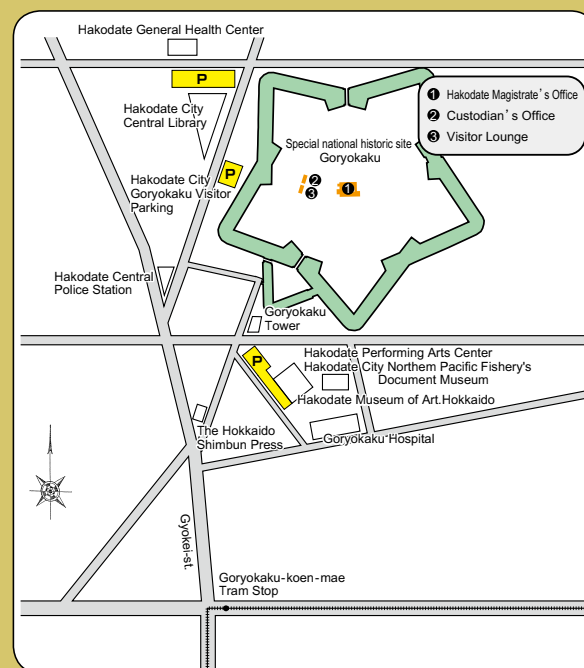
Closed

Dec.31 - Jan.3, and for maintenance

Admission Fees

	Individuals	Group (20 people or more)
Adults	¥500	¥400
Students/pupils/children	¥250	¥200

*Preschool children are free.



Hakodate Magistrate's Office
44-3, Goryokaku-cho, Hakodate 040-0001
TEL:0138-51-2864 FAX:0138-51-2548
URL <http://www.hakodate-bugyosho.jp>

Hakodate city designated administrator Meibi Kogyo Co., Ltd.

Hakodate Bugyosho

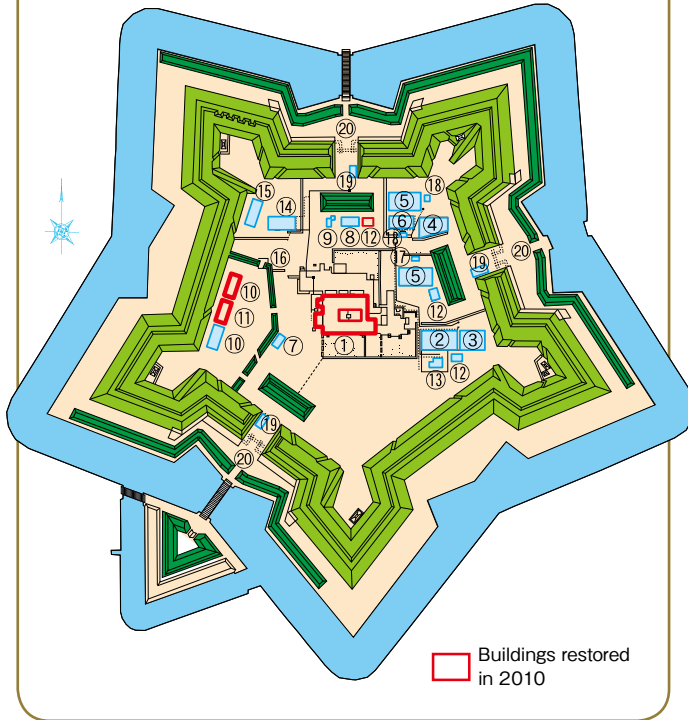
箱館奉行所

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Lost buildings in Goryokaku

Literatures and excavation research revealed that more than 20 annexes (Fig.2 to 20) stood around Hakodate Magistrate's Office building (Fig.1) in the Goryokaku.



Reconstruction of Hakodate Magistrate's Office

The reconstruction of Hakodate Magistrate's Office took four years from 2006 to 2010. In approximately 1,000 square meters site, "Miyadaiku" carpenters gathered from all over the country. Their arts of building Japanese traditional architectures reproduced these historic buildings in the way it used to be.

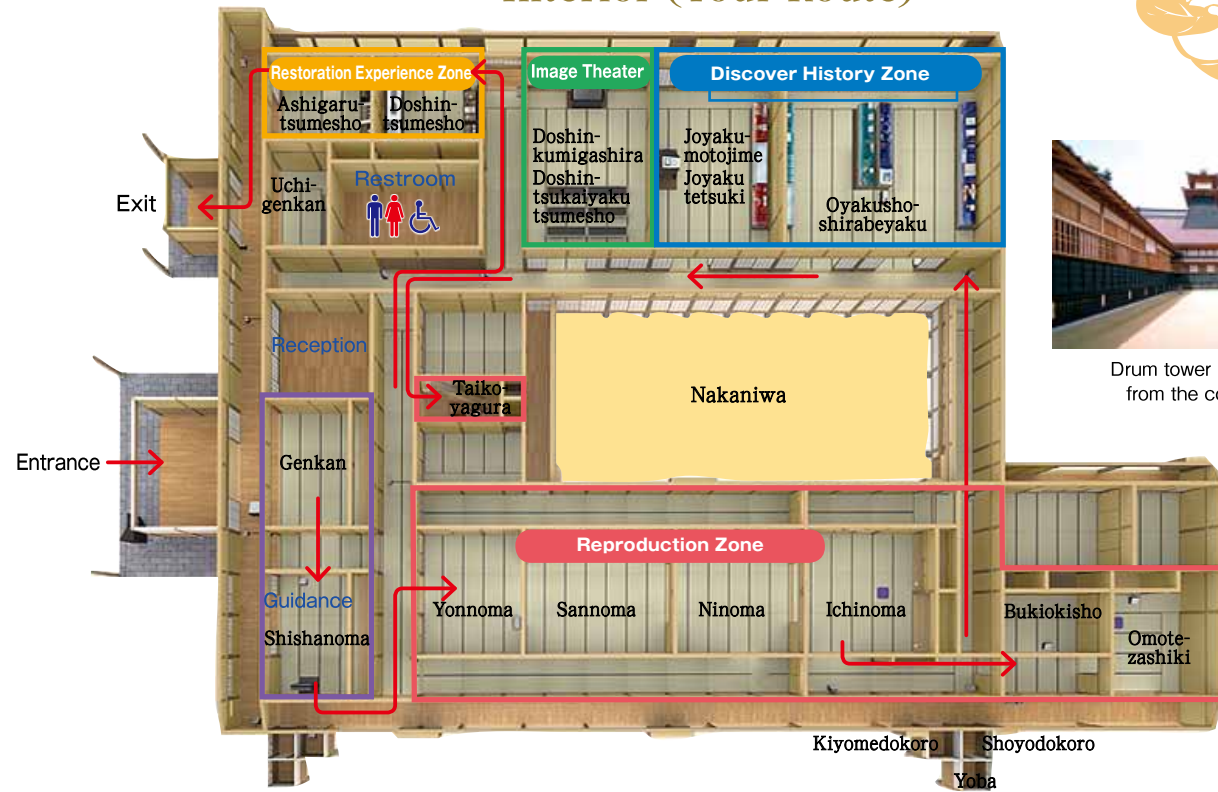


Half-built magistrate's office building (2008)



Completed tile roofing (2009)

HAKODATE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE Interior (Tour Route)



Drum tower looked up from the courtyard

Reproduction Zone



Hakodate Magistrate's Office with an atmosphere of the end of Edo period

The sweeping stateroom and the magistrate's own office room were recreated as authentically as possible to convey the delicacy of the Japanese traditional architecture.

Discover History Zone



Histories of Goryokaku and Hakodate Magistrate's Office

The opening of the port of Hakodate, the construction of the Hakodate Magistrate's Office and the Battle of Hakodate are chronologically illustrated here. Some of the important figures from this era are also presented.

Image Theater



Reconstruction - On the film

Every process of the reconstruction of Hakodate Magistrate's Office was captured on HDTV. The film displays arts and craftsmanship of Japanese traditional architectures demonstrated by Miyadaiku carpenters in every reconstruction work.

Restoration Experience Zone



Restoration works for Hakodate Magistrate's Office

We will present the restoration project of the Hakodate Magistrate's Office which is an embodiment of the mastery of the Japanese traditional architecture based on the combining results of the excavation research and the 20-year-long diligent study on old photographs, documents and drawings.