

Admission fees to the Tower

	Single	Group (30 or more)
Adults	¥ 1,000	¥ 900
Junior and high school students	¥ 750	¥ 680
Elementary school students	¥ 500	¥ 450

☆ Children under 5 free

Hours (open throughout the year)

9:00-18:00 (Observation tickets available until 17:50)

A pay parking lot only for sightseeing buses 30 (pay)

☆ Those who visit the Tower by cars are kindly requested to use the nearby pay parking lots.

☆ Goryokaku Fort in four seasons ☆

Spring begins with the cherry blossoms at Goryokaku Fort. Approximately 1,500 cherry trees that were planted here during the Taisho era, including the Yoshino cherry variety, come to full bloom.

The Hakodate Goryokaku Festival is held in early summer, when the Meiji Restoration Parade proclaims the history of Goryokaku Fort that began with the arrival of Commodore Perry as its theme.

With leaves fallen from the trees, the star shape of Goryokaku looks especially sharp and impressive from autumn to winter. It has a stately atmosphere befitting a special historic site among cultural properties.

During the Dream of Pentagonal Stars (Hoshi-no-Yume) which starts in December, approximately 2,000 lights illuminate the star-shaped moat. Currently, Goryokaku Fort serves as a place where unique aspects of our civic culture can be shared with the rest of the world.

Toshizo Hijikata standing on Goryokaku Fort
(Bronze statue by Machiko Kodera)



Goryokaku Park, a popular cherry blossom-viewing spot



Hakodate Goryokaku Festival (the third Sat. and Sun. of May)



Goryokaku covered with snow



Illuminations during the Dream of Pentagonal Stars (Hoshi-no-Yume) (Dec. - Feb.)

Main data of Goryokaku Tower

Date of opening: April 1, 2006

(The Goryokaku Tower was originally opened on December 1, 1964.)

Site area: 2,938 m² Total floor area: 5,783 m²

Height: 107 m (including the lightning rod); 98 m (tower height)

Height of observatory: 86 m for the 1st floor, 90 m for the 2nd floor

Area of observatory: Observatory 1F 314 m², Observatory 2F 464 m²

Capacity of observatory: approx. 500 people

Elevators: elevator that can accommodate 30 people x 2

Time required to reach the 1st floor of the observatory: approx. 30 seconds



P Pay parking lot open to the public **P** Unauthorized vehicles cannot be parked here

Access

Hakodate Bus: Get off at the "Goryokaku Koen Inguchi" Bus Stop and walk 5 min.

Streetcar: Get off at the "Goryokaku Koen mae" Bus Stop and walk 10 min.

For those who visit the Tower by cars

The Goryokaku Tower does not have parking facilities. When you come by car, please use the nearby pay parking lots. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Smoking is prohibited in the Goryokaku Tower.

No pets are allowed. (Exceptions are made for dogs for the visually or hearing impaired and dogs for the physically handicapped.)

For the latest information, click here

www.goryokaku-tower.co.jp

Goryokaku Tower Corporation

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Goryokaku Tower



A symbol of the unfulfilled dreams from the twilight of the shogunate years

Goryokaku Fort in Hakodate



History Storyteller "Goryokaku Fort"

The construction of "Goryokaku Fort" dates back to 1853, when a U.S. fleet arrived at a Japanese port. This historically significant event is referred to as the "arrival of the black ships." Succumbing to the U.S.'s demands that Japan open its doors to the rest of the world, the Tokugawa shogunate concluded the Treaty of Peace and Amity between the United States of America and Japan in 1854 and opened Hakodate Port for international trade. Until the Meiji era, the name 函館 (Hakodate) was written as 箱館. Aiming to maintain governance over Hakodate, the Tokugawa shogunate instituted the Hakodate Magistrate's Office, which promoted land reclamation and industrial development while fortifying the defensive capabilities of the area. When the Magistrate's Office building was later moved, Ayasaburo Takeda, a researcher of Dutch studies, was ordered to design a new fort. Takeda was also a gifted educator and served as an instructor at the Hakodate Shojutsu Shirabesho, a research and educational institution dedicated to Western studies and technical research. He devised a fort modeled after European citadel towns. After approximately seven years of construction, Goryokaku Fort was emerged literally as the cornerstone of Ezo, serving as the political, diplomatic and defensive base of the area.



Ayasaburo Takeda (1827-1880)
Ayasaburo Takeda entered Koan Ogata's school as a Western studies major. When Commodore Perry arrived at Uraga with the black ships, he was studying under Shozan Sakuma. As a scholar specializing in Western militaries, he was well versed in steel manufacturing, shipbuilding, gunnery, castle construction and so forth. After Hakodate Port was opened to the rest of the world, he served as an instructor at the Hakodate Shojutsu Shirabesho. He designed and supervised the construction of Benten and Goryokaku Forts on the order of the Tokugawa shogunate.

"Upheaval during the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate"

Discontent with the Tokugawa shogunate, which bowed to the U.S. demands, escalated into a campaign to overthrow the shogunate. The campaign led to the outbreak of the Boshin War and divided the nation. With the Restoration of Imperial Rule and the surrender of the Edo Castle, for example, the Tokugawa shogunate was in an extremely precarious position. Under those circumstances, Takeaki Enomoto, a former Vice-Admiral in the Tokugawa shogunate's Navy, led a fleet consisting of various military units to Ezo and occupied Goryokaku Fort. In December 1868, Enomoto and his men established a provisional government and asked the new government for permission to reclaim Ezo and make it under the control of a vassal of the shogun. In the spring of the following year (1869), however, the new government sent troops to subjugate the area and launched attacks against the forces consisting of deserters from the shogunate's Army, thereby causing the outbreak of the Hakodate War. Despite the tenacious resistance of Toshizo Hijikata and his experienced troops, Goryokaku Fort was placed under siege by the new government forces, which were on the offensive with their overwhelming military might, forcing the former shogunate's Army forces to surrender. The turbulent period that marked the end of the Tokugawa shogunate and the start of the Meiji Restoration thus came to a close.



Takeaki Enomoto (1836-1908)
After studying in the Netherlands, Takeaki Enomoto became a Vice-Admiral in the Tokugawa shogunate's Navy. After the Meiji Restoration, he refused to hand over war vessels to the new government and went into hiding. Although he established the provisional government under the authority of a former vassal of the shogun in Hakodate, it was defeated in the Hakodate War, and Enomoto was forced to surrender. Later, he assumed an important position within the Meiji Government.



Toshizo Hijikata (1835-1869)
While dealing in medical supplies, Toshizo Hijikata attended school and met Isami Kondou, Soji Okita and others. He had an opportunity to visit the capital, where he participated in establishing a special force called the Shinsengumi, which was charged with policing the capital. Hijikata became known as the Shinsengumi's hard-hearted vice-captain. He later joined the forces led by Enomoto and perished in the war.

Goryokaku Fort was created as a symbol of a new era and turned out to be the place where the feudal system was abolished. However, the history of Goryokaku Fort did not end there. It was opened to the public as a park in 1914, serving as a place of relaxation and recreation for the citizens of Hakodate. In 1952, it was designated as a special historic site by the national government, and has since waited in all of its serenity for visitors as the storyteller of the history of the Bakumatsu-Ishin Period, that is, the period at the twilight of the Tokugawa shogunate and Meiji Restoration.

Photos: exclusive property of the Hakodate City Central Library

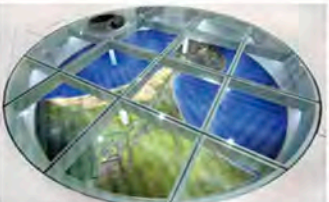
View of Mt. Hakodate and the Tsugaru Straits from the observatory
The star-shaped vista that shines on the grounds of Goryokaku Fort, a special historic spot



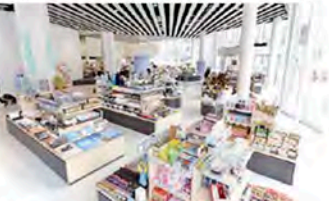
Tower Ticket Counter



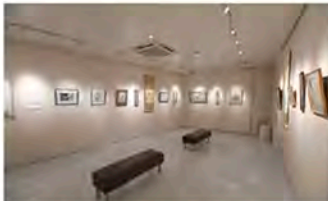
Elevator Hall



Hakodate in the days when Goryokaku was constructed



Shop 1F

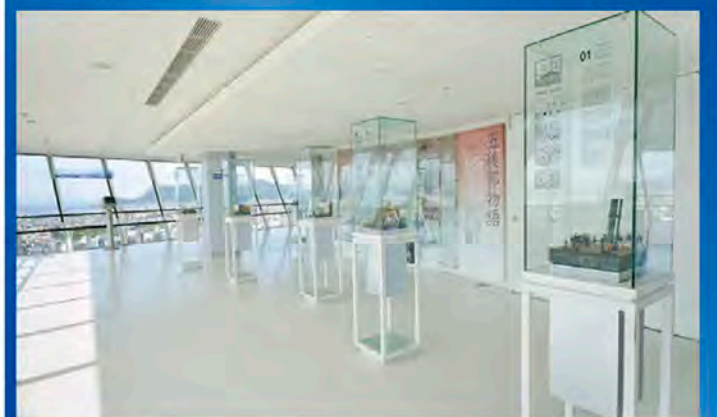


UEKI Soetsu Gallery 2F

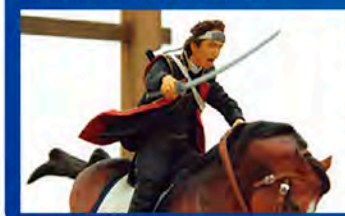
Goryokaku's original goods that are only available at the fort

On the first floor is a shop offering a wide assortment of original items that can only be found here. This is the place to come when looking for souvenirs of Goryokaku and Hakodate. Under the glass floor of the elevator hall on the first floor, there is a topographic model in which the appearance of Hakodate when Goryokaku was built is reproduced elaborately based on historic documents. The topography of a land-tied island, which has greatly influenced the history of Hakodate, can be seen at a glance. On the second floor is a gallery where works of UEKI Soetsu, a solitary painter from Hakodate, are exhibited. The gallery introduces his unique artistic world, including works featuring "Kappa (a mythical water-dwelling creature)", which is his central motif, by changing the exhibition according to the season. (Admission free)

Observatory 2F Exhibition space **Goryokaku History Corridor**



Memorial Pole | Graphic Exhibition



On May 11, 1869, the new government forces that placed Hakodate and Goryokaku Fort under siege, mounted a full-scale attack. An elite team of the new government forces climbed the cliffs behind Mt. Hakodate and occupied the city. Learning about the occupation, Toshizo Hijikata launched a counterattack in an effort to recapture Hakodate, but was shot to death.

Memorial Pole 13 "Full-scale attack in Hakodate"

On the second floor of the observatory, you can both command an impressive view of Goryokaku, a special historic site, and learn about the history of Goryokaku Fort in the exhibition space. The model of Goryokaku Fort accurately reproduced Goryokaku as it was at the time of its construction, enabling visitors to compare the present Goryokaku with the old one. "Goryokaku Story," a graphic exhibition, aims to introduce the history of Goryokaku, which began with the arrival of Commodore Perry, in an easily understandable manner, using chronological tables, pictures and diagrams. The Memorial Poles, which consist of 16 scene models, demonstrate the turbulent history and drama that unfolded in Goryokaku. If you have questions about Goryokaku, you can find the answers with the information terminal called the Goryokaku Guide. Touchable models of Goryokaku Fort and Tower are also located here. Everything about the history of Hakodate is encapsulated in this space.



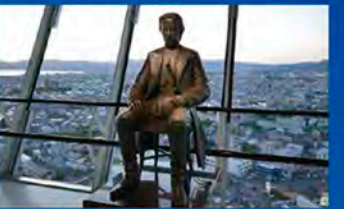
Model of Goryokaku Fort (1/250)



Goryokaku Guide (information terminal)



Touchable models

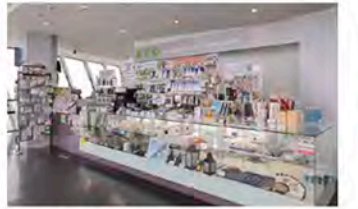


Toshizo Hijikata (seated bronze statue) Produced by Machiko Kodera

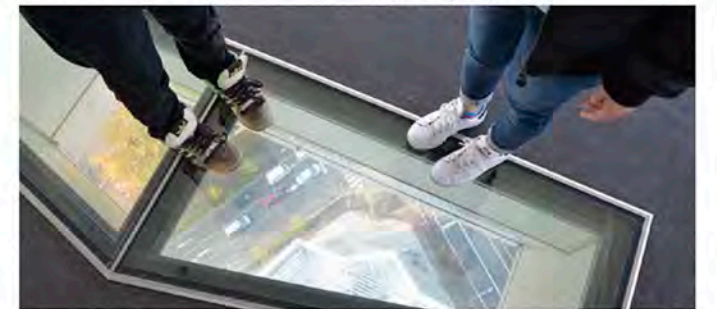
Observatory 1F How about pausing a little before going down to the ground? Try a thrilling experience and look for original merchandise!



Bastion Forts of the World

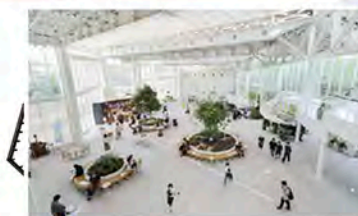


Observatory shop

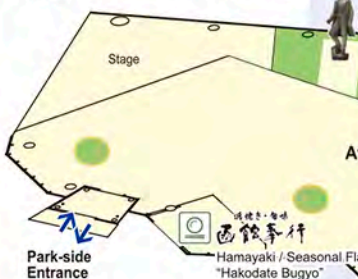


See-through floor

The shop offers original goods limited to the Tower, which will preserve your memories in a tangible form. Part of the floor of the shop is made of tempered glass. Walk on this "see-through floor", and you will feel as if you were walking on air 86 meters above the ground! With the panel exhibition "Bastion Forts of the World", you can learn about forts similar to Goryokaku all over the world.



Atrium
 In this all-weather glazed square with planting, visitors can leisurely take a break from strolling around Goryokaku amidst a comfortable sun-soaked space brimming with greenery. Please delight in the atrium's leisurely atmosphere.

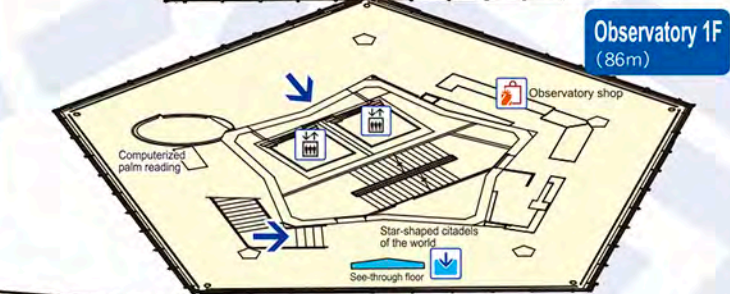


Statue of Toshizo Hijikata at Goryokaku (standing bronze image; sculptor: Machiko Kodera)

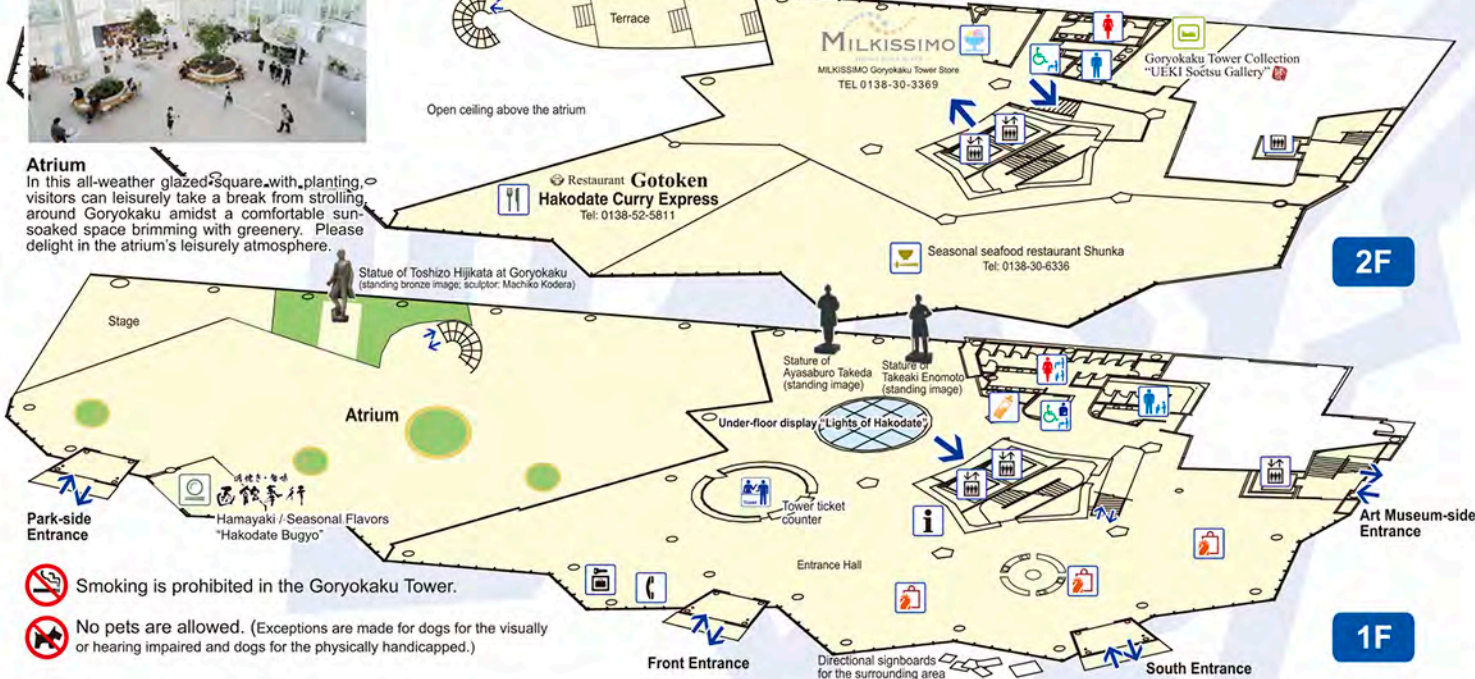
- Suggested route
- Tower ticket counter
- Tower elevator
- Exhibition space Goryokaku History Corridor
- Touchable models
- Goryokaku Guide (Computerized information retrieval)
- See-through floor
- Shop
- Information Counter
- Pay phone
- UEKI Soetsu Gallery
- Food & Beverage
- Restaurant
- Gelato
- Men's restroom
- Women's restroom
- Multi-purpose restroom
- Ostomate toilet (1F only)
- Nursing room
- Coin locker



Observatory 2F (90m)



Observatory 1F (86m)



Smoking is prohibited in the Goryokaku Tower.

No pets are allowed. (Exceptions are made for dogs for the visually or hearing impaired and dogs for the physically handicapped.)

2F

1F