

Setouchi × Bizen Osafune City Japanese Sword Museum



日本刀の聖地
長船
OSAFUNE

BIZEN OSAFUNE JAPANESE SWORD MUSEUM

備前長船刀剣博物館



Setouchi City

In South-East Okayama Prefecture, nestled on the coast of the Seto Inland Sea, known as the 'Japanese Aegean', Setouchi City combines a Mediterranean climate with deep history and a vibrant craft culture stretching back millennia.

Today, it is known as a regional centre for water sports; for its local delicacies, such as oysters; and for being a focal point for the national art-sword industry.



The Museum



Founded in 1983, it was renovated as a specialist sword museum in 2004 to celebrate the region's history as the nation's most important area for sword production.

The museum is the only one of its kind in Japan, housing both regular exhibitions of Japanese art swords and hosting craftsmen in its onsite workshops for customers to meet any day of the week.

Battōjutsu
Demonstration

1





Battōjutsu 1 Demonstration

1. **Session lead** Kanzaki Masaru (Shojitsu Kenrikata Ichiryū Kacchū Battōjutsu school of swordsmanship)
2. **Duration** 20 mins
3. **Participants** Up to 20 people
4. **Price** ¥ 60,000/ day
※ Additional costs: Travel to and from Okayama and accommodation costs for 2 people.
5. **Possible days on request**
6. **Content** The *Shojitsu Kenrikata Ichiryū Kacchū Battōjutsu* school of swordsmanship, founded over 300 years ago in Tsuyama City, Okayama, is known for practicing techniques like *todome wo sasu*, or 'finishing blow', which have their roots in the practical styles of the battlefields of the Warring States period. Witness a master of the school in full antique armour demonstrate these skills, passed down over generations.
7. **Video**
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1174113201157231>

Replica Sword Test-Cutting 2

1. **Session lead** Kanzaki Masaru (Shojitsu Kenrikata Ichiryū Kacchū Battōjutsu school of swordsmanship)
2. **Duration** 60-80 mins
3. **Participants** Up to 8 people/ session
4. **Price** ¥ 60,000 for first 2 people (+ ¥ 15,000/ additional person. Max. total cost ¥ 150,000)

✂ Translation included.

5. **Possible days on request**
6. **Content** After a demonstration by the instructor, learn to wield a replica sword. Under the watchful eye of the sensei, practice cutting various materials in a safe and controlled environment.





An Introduction to Japanese Art Swords 3

1. **Session lead** Tumi Grendel Markan (International Coordinator, Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum)
2. **Duration** 40-60 mins
3. **Participants** Up to 20 people
4. **Price** ¥ 30,000/ session
5. **Possible days** on request
6. **Content** Dive into the beauty and secret history of Japanese art swords with British sword educator and 2-time featured guest on the hit variety show *'Matsuko's Unknown World'*, Tumi Markan. This talk covers Japan's culture of sword appreciation; the history and development of the Japanese sword; a closer look at the history of Osafune, the most important area for sword making in Japan; as well as an explanation of the making process.

Hands-on Sword Appraisal Session

4



Hands-on Sword Appraisal Session 4

1. **Session lead** Koike Satoru (Okayama Branch Head, Society for the Preservation of Japanese Art Swords (NBTHK))
2. **Duration** 60-90 mins
3. **Participants** Up to 20
4. **Price** ¥ 100,000/ session

※ Translation will be provided by Tumi Markan. The translation fee will be an additional ¥ 10,000/ session.

5. **Possible days** on request

6. **Content** With no similar traditions abroad, most people are unaware of the artistic value of Japanese swords and how to properly appreciate them. Here, our sword expert will explain the appraisal process, as well as some of the most famous artistic motifs. This will be followed by a hands-on session where participants can hold and view real masterpieces.

※ This workshop can only be done with groups of 20 or less. Children under 16 may not hold the blades. The teacher may use his discretion to expel any participants acting irresponsibly.



**Traditional Smithing
Demonstration**

5





Traditional Smithing Demonstration 5

1. **Session lead** All Japan Swordsmiths Association member
2. **Duration** 60 mins
3. **Participants** Up to 20 people
4. **Possible days** on request
5. **Content** Experience intense heat, sounds, and sparks as you watch Japanese swordsmiths up close in this traditional forging demonstration. You can even have a go striking the hot steel yourself!
6. **Video** <https://fb.watch/AskptpN1V9/>

Traditional Engraving Demonstration

6





Traditional Engraving Demonstration 6

1. **Session lead** Katayama Kou (Craft name: Shigetsune)
2. **Participants** Up to 20 people
3. **Price** ¥ 60,000/ day
4. **Possible days on request**
5. **Content** Many swords feature engravings, ranging from simple grooves, which reduce weight without sacrificing strength, to elaborate designs, often of religious imagery. Famous designs are often Buddhist in origin and include the 'god of war' Fudo Myoo, the dragon Kurikara, Sanskrit inscriptions, and many more. See these intricate relief carvings be rendered before your eyes and discover how they enhance the overall beauty of these unique blades.
6. **Video** <https://fb.watch/AsqM9w7wqT/>





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