

# Rishiri Town Museum

- Harmony between Nature and People -

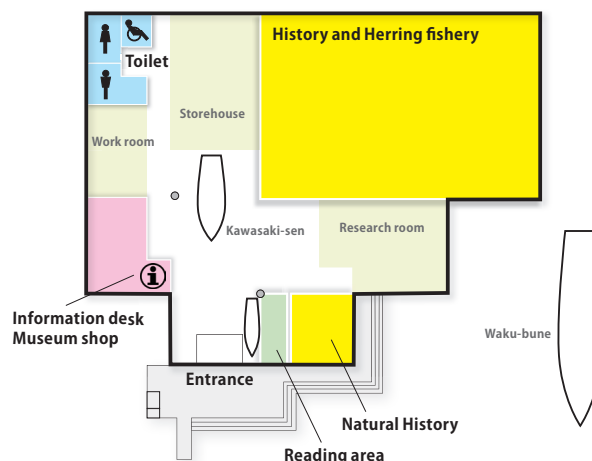
Our purpose is  
to collect and research materials and specimens  
from Rishiri Island,  
and to preserve and archive them  
for present and future generations.



## Museum Plan

The Rishiri Town Museum displays various photos, specimens, materials and models of Rishiri Island on the first floor. Average viewing time is 20 minutes.

No smoking, pets or dangerous materials are allowed inside the museum in order to protect the museum's collections.



## Reference Service

You may refer to books, illustrated materials, and local publications about Rishiri Island in the reading area of the museum.

## Museum Shop

Local publications (birds, dialect, local history, etc.), *Rishiri Studies* (the museum's annual report), *History of Rishiri Town*, and postcards are also available.

## Open Hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

## Museum Closures

Mondays and the day after a holiday  
The Year-End and New Year holidays

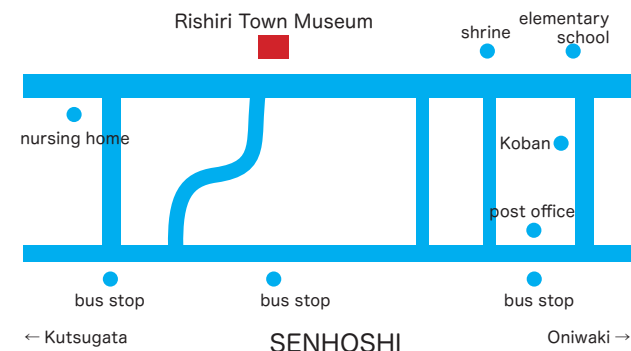
## Winter Season

It can be quite cold in the exhibition rooms during the winter season. Please be sure to dress warmly when visiting at that time.

## Admission Fees

	individuals	group (≥ 20)
Adults	¥200	¥160
High school students and below	free	free

## How to find us



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## Exhibition

### Kawasaki-sen

"Kawasaki-sen" is a wooden fishing vessel, used in the cod fishery during winter from Meiji Period (1868-1912)



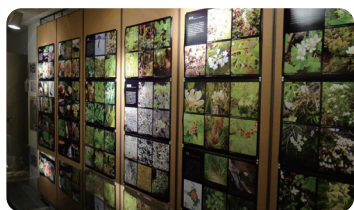
to the first half of Showa Period (1926-1989) on the island. A two-thirds scale model of this vessel gives us a sense of the fisherman's brave sprit in launching into stormy winter seas.

### Geographic Formation

The current landscape of this island was formed between about 200,000 and 10,000 years ago by the activities of Rishiri Volcano. The island's formation is illustrated in a panel and by several volcanic ejecta.

### Flora and Fauna

A meteorological observation of Mount Rishiri was made by



the Hokkaido Agency in 1896. This was the first official report about the natural history of Rishiri Island. Many researchers have visited since that

## Specimens



The museum collection contains numerous acquisitions relating to Rishiri: fishing gear for herring, a traditional folk utensil, audiovisual resources, documents, newspapers, reports, books, leaflets, posters, etc. About 5000 specimens of plants and animals containing paratypes are also preserved.

time. The number of recorded biological species on this small island currently approaches 3,200 taxa. There are a few endemic species, e.g. *Papaver fauriei* (Papaveraceae) and *Bdellocephala borealis* (Tricladida). Many photos and specimens are displayed in the natural history section of the museum.



### Ancestors

There are many archaeological sites from various periods in the coastal area of the island. The oldest period represented is the Old Stone Age. The archaeological section shows about 100 artifacts, mainly belonged to the Jomon Period (15,000-2,300 years ago), the Zoku-Jomon Period (3rd century B.C. to the 7th century A.D.) and Okhotsk-bunka Period (3rd-13th century A.D.).

### Rishiri Island and the Opening of Japan

The wave of the opening of Japan in the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate



## Cultural Property



Two wares and two horn products excavated from Matawakka kitchen midden (Okhotsk culture) have been designated as cultural properties by Hokkaido Prefecture. One can see many whales and a bear's head carved on the two horn products.

brought Rishiri, as the border of northern Hokkaido, two unexpected incidents: the landing of an illegal immigrant, Mr. Ranaid MacDonald, known as the first English teacher in Japan, and the defenses against Russian Empire by Aizu and Akita troops. An old map preserved in the museum was made by the Akita domain about 1857.

### Island of Herring

Many people have come here from all parts of Japan to fish for herring since the Meiji Period. "Ban-ya" was an accommodation for migrant fisheries workers in Spring. The herring fishery section exhibits various historic pieces of herring fishing gear and also the inside of "Ban-ya", including fisherman's songs and tales. The spawning migration of herring at Rishiri Island ceased abruptly in



1956. "Waku-bune", the main ship used in the herring fishery, is preserved outside the museum.

## Collections and Publication



Some small collections contributed by persons closely associated with Rishiri Island are preserved apart from the general collections. The number of accessions is about 15,000.

"Rishiri Studies" is the annual report of the museum. Research results in various disciplines about the island and surrounding areas are published in this report.