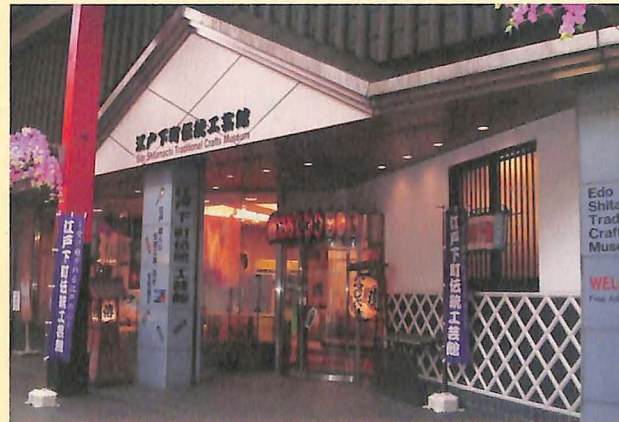
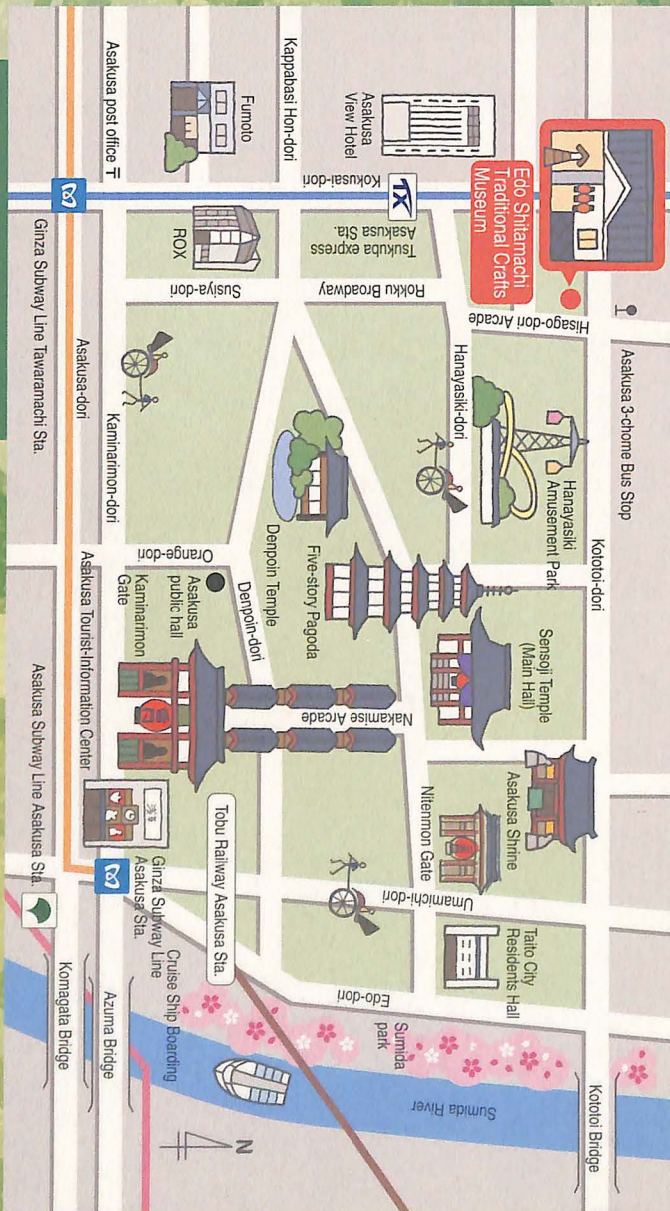


# Taito City

## Edo Shitamachi Traditional Crafts Museum Gallery Takumi

Get the Museum's stamp here.

Memorial Stamp



For videos, events and traditional crafts, please contact:  
Sangyou Shinkou ka (Industrial Promotion Section), Taito City Office  
Phone: 03-5246-1131

22-13, Asakusa 2-chome, Taito-ku, Tokyo Tel.03-3842-1990

**Business hours** 10:00am-8:00pm, Opens Every Day, Free Admisson

### Transportation

- 3min. walk from Asakusa 3-chome Bus Stop [Toei Metro. Bus]
- 4min. walk from Asakusa Sta. [Tsukuba express]
- 15min. walk from Asakusa Sta. [Toei Asakusa/Ginza Subway Line]
- 15min. walk from Asakusa Sta. [Tobu Railway]
- 15min. walk from Tawaramachi Sta. [Ginza Subway Line]

Already in the Edo period (17th to mid 19th centuries), Taito thrived as a city of commons, who created much of the Edo culture. Today, Taito-ku (the City of Taito) still is home to numerous historic sites, such as Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples dating back to the period, and many more. The City also accommodates commons who are dashing and stylish following the aesthetics of Edo commons and nurtures Traditional Crafts developed by craftspeople over the past centuries. "Edo Shitamachi Traditional Crafts Museum" is where you can experience and appreciate treasures of Traditional Crafts of the Shitamachi (lower city) area of Edo, created and developed by generations of craftspeople who worked in the area's history and culture. The Museum is intended to stimulate your interest in and appreciation of those Traditional Crafts. In addition, the Museum hopes you will cherish some of such crafts in your everyday life.

## Demonstrations

Every Saturday and Sunday, some artists of traditional crafts demonstrate their arts and techniques.

### Video shows

At the Museum, you can watch some video and DVD recordings of Traditional Crafts. Those videos are also lent out for educational purposes.

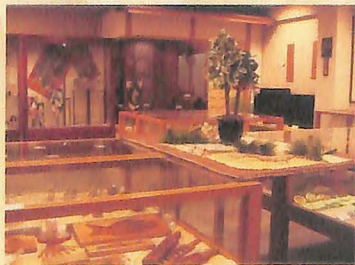
- Edo nishikie kites (Kites featuring a wood block print picture)
- Edo wazao (Fishing rods Edo-style)
- Chochin (Lanterns)
- Tokyo uchihamono (Hammered cutlery of steel and another metal)
- Himo musubi (Decorative cord tying)
- Edo matoi (Banners carried by firefighters of Edo)
- Edo mikoshi (Portable Shinto shrines)
- Arrow making
- Tokyo silverware
- Edo embroidery
- Edo bekko (Craftworks of tortoise shell)
- Brushes with hand-filled hair
- Edo tsumami kanzashi (Edo-style hair pins decorated with double-warped woven fabric)
- Tokyo shamisen (Three-stringed musical instrument)
- Edo brushes
- Edo sashimono I
- Edo sashimono II (Wooden furniture)
- Edo osana dolls (Dolls of a small child)
- Digest of traditional crafts
- Busshi (Artists of Buddhist statues)
- Edo sudare I
- Edo sudare II (Blinds Edo-style)
- Tokyo kiri tansu (Chests of drawers of paulownia)
- Kazari shi (Craftspeople of metal ornaments)
- Edo oshie hagoita (Battledores with a relief of ukiyoe)
- Edo wood carving
- Edo kiriko (Artworks of cut glass)
- Maki-e shi (Artists of paintings on lacquerware)
- Tokyo kumihimo (Craft of tied cords)
- Ukiyoe suri shi (Artists of ukiyoe printings)

### Souvenirs for sale

For sale are works of Traditional Crafts made by craft artists of Taito.

## Exhibition

Some 400 works of Traditional Crafts, collected from some 50 kinds of art, are on display.



## ◆◆◆ Guide to Events ◆◆◆

### 1 Demonstrations



Every Saturday and Sunday, some artists of Traditional Crafts demonstrate, right before your eyes, how they create their works.

### 2 Handicraft classes

A craft artist teaches ABC's of his/her Traditional Craft in a class of beginners. An application is required in advance. (Six classes or so are held each year.)



### 3 Special Exhibition



Focusing on one category of craft industry, the skills of craftsmen or their attachment to the quality are introduced in detail.

### 4 Auctions of Traditional Craft works

The Museum holds an auction of Traditional Craft works, twice a year or so. During an auction period, the works for sale in the auction are displayed at the Museum. Those works are created by craft artists of many different kinds.



Introduced below are just a few examples of Taito's Traditional Crafts.

### Edo Sashimono

"Sashimono" is an art of furniture making that combines wooden boards without a single metal nail. The art also follows another rule --- no section joining two or more boards is allowed to be visible on the furniture's outside. The art creates a great, beautiful variety of items ranging from Japanese-style chests of drawers and dressing tables to desks and jewel boxes.



Born as an offspring of the Edo culture, which believed in expertise and its own aesthetics, the art has been carried into ever-higher stages of sophistication by generations of craft artists who insist on the choicest materials and the very best of tools and techniques.

### Edo Sudare

Originally, aristocrats of the Heian period (late 8th to late 12th centuries) used "sudare" (blinds) to partition rooms and create shades. After many centuries, sudare still provides us with protection from direct sunlight and its heat today.

Made of such natural materials as bamboos and reeds and with the aesthetics of each individual craft artist, sudare brings peace and comfort into your interior.



### Tokyo Butsudan

Along Asakusa-dori Avenue, running between Ueno and Asakusa, you see many shops of "butsudan" or Buddhist altars. Taito is home to a large number of butsudan craft artists. Tokyo butsudan is renowned for its straightforward beauty and sturdiness, thanks to beautiful wood grain and three-dimensional carving with depth. Timbers employed include ebony, rosewood, and others.

