

The *Shirakaba Nisshi*  
(white birch diary)



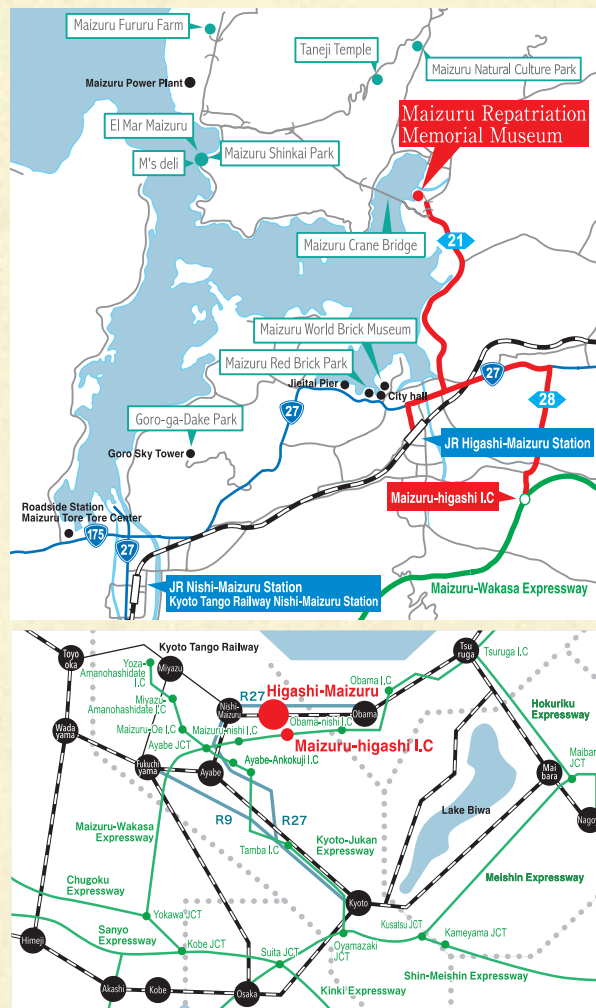
## Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum and UNESCO Memory of the World

The Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum was established in 1988 with support and donations from around the country. The museum is located in Taira, Maizuru City, where many Japanese repatriates restarted their lives in their home country after harsh experiences as internees in Siberia and other parts of the former Soviet Union. Exhibiting historical materials related to the internment and repatriation, the Museum continues to impart messages of the repatriates, their earnest aspirations for permanent world peace, and the misery of war. In 2015, on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, 570 items selected from the museum's collection were inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register in recognition of their remarkable rarity and global significance. The inscribed materials convey universal themes: the internees' zest for living in a desperate situation; their love for their families, friends, and mother country; and their aspirations for permanent peace.

## Repatriation and the Port of Maizuru

At the time of Japan's defeat in World War II in 1945, an estimated 6.6 million Japanese people remained in various regions outside Japan. To ensure their smooth and swift return to Japan, the Japanese government designated 18 ports, including the Port of Maizuru, as entry facilities for Japanese people living overseas. The Port of Maizuru received military and civilian repatriates for 13 years, from October 7, 1945, when the first repatriation ship entered the port, to September 7, 1958, the date of the last entry of such a ship. After 1950, Maizuru was the only port to receive repatriates, and this made Maizuru well known across the nation as the "city of repatriation."

## Access



## Museum Information

**Opening Hours** 9:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:30)

**Closing day** Wednesdays (if Wednesday is a holiday, the following weekday)  
Year-end and New Year holidays (December 29th-January 1st)

		Individual	Group (20 or more)
Admission	Adults	400yen	300yen
	Students (elementary school to college)	150yen	100yen
	* Free for students either living in Maizuru City or commuting to schools within the city		
Combined	Adults 600yen	Students (elementary school to college) 200yen (ticket: For both Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum and Maizuru World Brick Museum.)	

## Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum

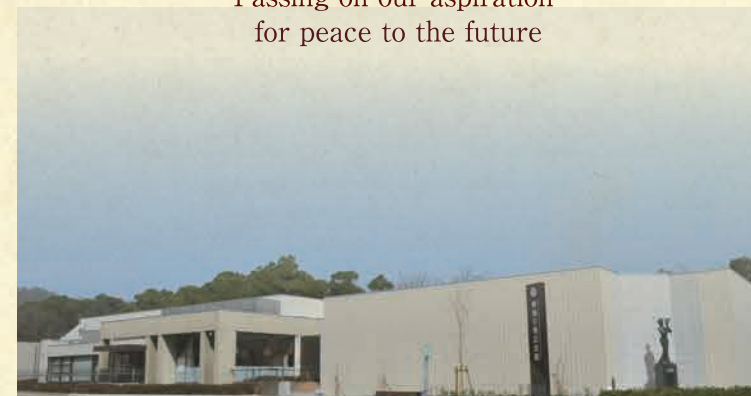
1584 Taira, Maizuru City,  
Kyoto Prefecture, 625-0133 Japan

# Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum

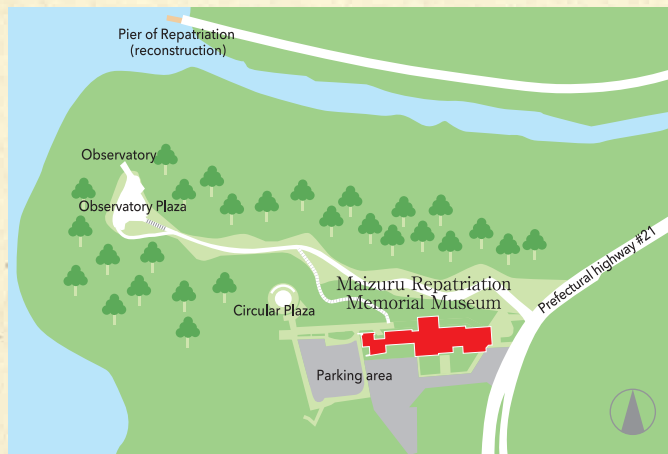
Inscribed on the UNESCO  
Memory of the World Register



Passing on our aspiration  
for peace to the future



## Repatriation Memorial Park



In 1970, Repatriation Memorial Park was constructed on the hill overlooking the site of the Repatriates Relief Bureau. The Maizuru Repatriation Memorial Museum was constructed in the park. In addition, various statues and stone monuments were erected in Observatory Plaza, commanding the view of the Pier of Repatriation.



Katarai (Friendly Talk)



Carillon



Stone monument



Stone monuments with inscriptions of the songs *Ikoku no Oka* ("Hill in the Foreign Country") and *Ganpeki no Haha* ("Mothers on the Quay")



Statues of Peace



Ah Haha naru Kuni no Hi  
(Stone monument inscribed:  
"Oh My Mother Country!")

## Pier of Repatriation (reconstruction)

In 1994, the Pier of Repatriation was reconstructed on the site of the Taira Quay, through which repatriates landed in their mother country. The pier was reconstructed by the association to commemorate the repatriation (Hikiage wo Kinsensuru Maizuru Zenkoku Tomo no Kai).



## Introduction of Exhibits

Around 16,000 priceless materials related to the internment and the repatriation, including photographs and miniature models, were contributed to the museum by former internees and their families from around Japan. Of these, some 1,000 items are displayed in the permanent exhibition.

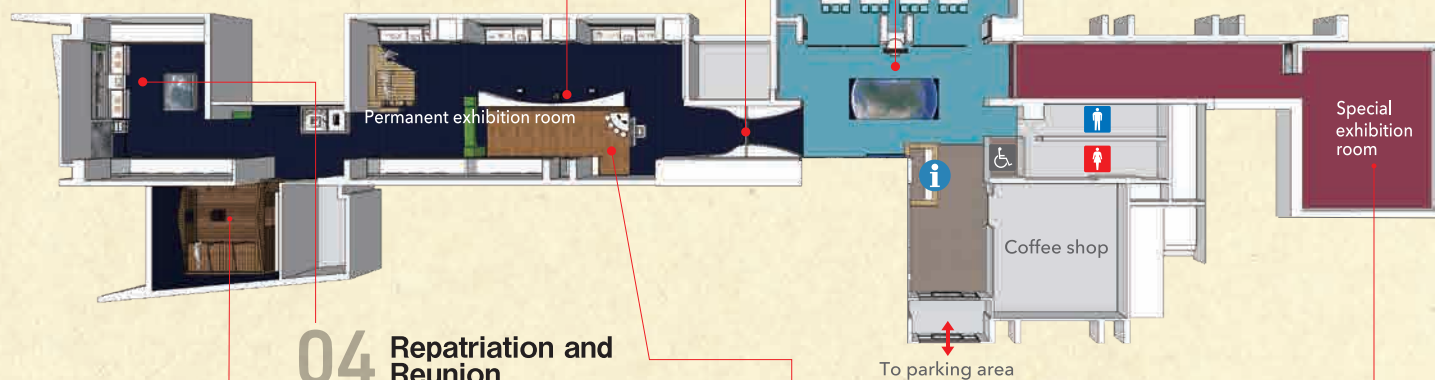
### 03 Memory of Hardships

From the Great Depression to the Internment in Siberia

For the 13 years from 1945 to 1958, the Port of Maizuru received 664,531 repatriates and the remains of 16,269 remain, primarily from the former USSR (now Russia) and China. Following Japan's defeat in 1945, an estimated 600,000 Japanese people were sent to the former USSR; 472,000 of those were interned in forced-labor camps in Siberia, the Caucasus, and the Arctic, among other regions.



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### 04 Repatriation and Reunion

Detention Experience Room

We recreated forced labor camps based on recollections of the testimony. You can lie down on a narrow and uncomfortable bed or touch clothes and bags.



Each time a repatriation ship entered the port, many residents of Maizuru welcomed the repatriates, exhausted after their long internment, to console and encourage them. Maizuru was a place of family reunions, and a place where many women continued to wait for their husbands and sons. Inspired by the mothers standing on the quay, a hit song and a film were created, which evoked sympathy among people nationwide.



### 02 Time Tunnel

Impressive photographs showing each epoch of the early 20th century lead visitors to the turbulent days around World War II.



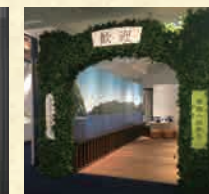
### 01 Entrance Hall

- Time bell of a repatriation ship
- Map of internment campus
- Video guidance



### 05 Prayer for World Peace

This section introduces Maizuru City's commitments to passing on the history of the repatriation, and to promote the value of world peace.



### Special exhibition room

We introduce 16,000 items of museum's collection on various themes by special exhibition. We are exhibiting reminiscence drawings drawn by experiences and introducing them with images.



Visitors can hear stories from museum guides, many of whom actually experienced the internment and repatriation.