

Yakusugi Museum

The Yakusugi Museum is a facility dedicated to spreading knowledge about the Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*), known as *yakusugi*, and the vegetation found on Yakushima. It is conveniently located on the way toward the Arakawa Trail Entrance.

An impressive panorama room exhibits the shifts in vegetation on the island, arranged vertically from subtropical plants and trees along the coast to subarctic vegetation near the mountain peaks. Other exhibitions include a detailed explanation of the evolution of logging tools on Yakushima, including old axes and early saws, and a demonstration of how *yakusugi* lumber was used to create roof shingles.

Fascinating also is the prize-winning design of the museum itself. Specialized Shinto shrine carpenters were employed to build the structure. The entrance was built using no nails or pins.

Audio guides in English are available at the reception desk. The museum is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entrance at 4:30 pm). It is closed on the first Tuesday of every month, as well as at the end and the beginning of each year. Admission is 600 yen for adults, 400 yen for high school and university students, and 300 yen for elementary and junior high school students.