

The Post Office Museum

Nostalgia for the Postmen

This post office displays many of the hallmarks of classic post-town architecture: an overhanging upper story supported by protruding beams (*dashibari-zukuri*); windows decorated with fine wooden lattice work (*senbon-koshi*); and even an 1870s-style black postbox outside. Despite its old-world appearance, the building actually dates from 1979, when it was constructed on the site of the former police station.

Inside there is a small exhibition on the history of the Japanese postal service. Interesting objects include a postman's uniform from 1871 (the year when the post office was founded), a bugle to keep bears at bay (mountain postmen have more than dogs to worry about!); and miniature reproductions of Japanese postboxes over a century and a half of evolution.

The old post office, a single-story, Western-style gray building dating from 1915, can be seen a little further along on the opposite side of the road.