

Gosenken Museum

This museum celebrates the accomplishments of the “five sages” (*gosenken*) who were born in Nagahama. The sages (a monk, a painter, a samurai, a tea master, and a poet) lived in different eras and were active in different fields, but they all made notable contributions to Japanese history and culture.

The museum’s displays include personal effects, such as a statue of the Buddhist deity Kannon owned by the samurai Katagiri Katsumoto, and other items, such as a set of white pilgrim’s garb (*shiroshōzoku*) worn by monks engaging in ascetic training. The accompanying panels are in Japanese, and travelers from overseas will most enjoy their visit if accompanied by a certified regional interpreter.

The five sages of Nagahama are:

- Sōō Kashō (831–918). A Buddhist monk known for his ascetic practices, including *kaihōgyō*, a grueling 1,000-day walking pilgrimage of Mt. Hiei.
- Kaihō Yūshō (1533–1615). A painter of the Kanō school who later established his own unique style. His work ranged from austere ink sketches to lavishly gilded landscapes.
- Katagiri Katsumoto (1556–1615). A samurai retainer of the daimyo Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598) and a celebrated warrior who distinguished himself at the Battle of Shizugatake in 1583.
- Kobori Enshū (1579–1647). A renowned tea master and designer of gardens who taught *chadō* (the “way of tea”) to shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu (1604–1651).
- Ono Kozan (1814–1910). A poet known for his works of classical Chinese verse who was personally recognized by Emperor Meiji (1852–1912).