

Feel the Weight of a Japanese Sword

Contemporary swords are produced as works of art rather than as deadly weapons. Although they will never be carried into battle, the swords are still made using the same methods as in the age of samurai, and they have the same physical properties as swords from centuries past.

Visitors can try holding the sword in this display case under the supervision of museum staff. To ask to hold the sword, please dial “11” on the nearby phone. The blade has been polished to reveal the edge pattern (*hamon*), but it is not sharp.

A staff member will provide gloves and instructions on how to hold the sword. Do not swing the sword, and be mindful not to touch the blade itself. Avoid letting sweat or saliva come into contact with the blade, since even small amounts of moisture can cause it to rust.

Visitors between the ages of 12 and 16 must hold the sword together with an adult. Visitors younger than 12 are not permitted to hold this sword, but museum staff can provide lightweight replicas that are suitable for kids.