Tsuchizaki Minato Port Area Historical Museum

The Tsuchizaki Minato Port Area Historical Museum recounts the history of Tsuchizaki as a center for trade and commerce. Interactive panels explain the development of the port, particularly focusing on the mid-1700s to the early 1900s, when fleets of merchant ships traveled along the Sea of Japan. There is also a separate room dedicated to chronicling the damage caused by a major air raid at the end of World War II (1939–1945).

Part of the museum is dedicated to explaining the Tsuchizaki Minato Hikiyama Matsuri Festival, which is held by Tsuchizaki Shinmeisha Shrine. During the festival, a parade of wooden-wheeled *hikiyama* floats decorated with figures of samurai warriors are pulled through the streets by members of the community. A towering 11.5-meter-tall replica of one of these floats is on display in the museum's atrium. Before the construction of electric lines, *hikiyama* over 20 meters tall once paraded the streets during the festival. Although it is no longer possible to build such *hikiyama* today, records and photographs of these impressive floats on exhibit at the museum provide insight into the spectacle of this local festival, which was

inscribed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2016.

The Tsuchizaki Minato Port Area Historical Museum is about a 15-minute walk from Port Tower Selion.