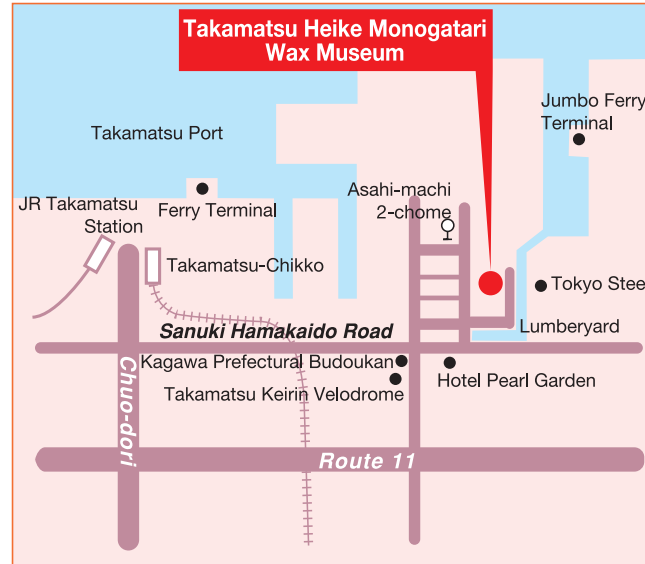




The Tale of the Heike (*Heike Monogatari*) is a military epic that documents the rise and fall of the Heike clan. The tale is said to have been first compiled during the Kamakura period, and comprises twelve books, which can be roughly broken down into three main sections. The first is about the rise of the Heike clan, dealing mainly with how Taira no Kiyomori wields the power within his fist. The second section is about those who fought to bring down the Heike clan, and the battles waged by Minamoto no Yoritomo and Kiso Yoshinaka. The third section is about the aftermath of the ultimate collapse of the Heike clan and the personalities that remained. There is also an additional book that rounds out the events of the twelve books, known as the *Kanjo-no-Maki*. In this, Emperor Go Shirakawa visits Kenreimon'in in Ohara, whose life was spared at the battle of Dan-no-ura, and they reminisce about days past. The glory of the Heike clan was short-lived, falling a mere thirty years from the unrest of the Hogen and Heiji Eras of the late 1150s, but the system of samurai involvement in government that they inspired lived on long after the collapse of the Heike clan, far into the Kamakura and Edo Periods.

The Takamatsu Heike Monogatari Wax Museum is a new tourism center near the site of battles of the Gempei war between the Heike and Genji clans. It is meant to be more than just a commemoration of a battle site, however. It is a valuable resource that lets visitors know more about the great flow of history. Inside the center, visitors can see approximately 260 wax figures arranged in seventeen tableaus that depict various moments from the Tale of the Heike, charting the rise and fall of the Heike clan, including several battles, bringing one of the greatest military epics alive before your eyes. In a display dedicated to the women of the Tale of the Heike, we learn about the lives of thirteen women wrapped up in this man-centered period as described by the refined touch of novelist Michiko Nagai. Experiencing the lifelike countenances of the wax figures and the vastness of history makes this an unforgettable place to visit.



Transport Access	15 min. by car from JR Takamatsu Station 15 min. by car from Takamatsu-chuo IC on the Takamatsu Expressway (via Sanuki Hamakaido Road, turn north at Hotel Pearl Garden) 3 min. by bus to Asahi-cho 2-chome on the Kotoden Bus Asahi-cho Route
Hours	9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Parking	Large free parking lot available
Closed	Year End and New Year's Holidays
Admission	Adults: ¥1,200 (¥1,000), College Students: ¥1,200, High-School Students: ¥800, Junior High-School Students: ¥800, Elementary School Students: ¥600 NB: Prices in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more
Group Discount	Available

Takamatsu Heike Monogatari Wax Museum

3-6-38 Asahi-machi, Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, Japan 760-0065
Tel.: 087-823-8400 Fax.: 087-823-8837
<http://www.heike-rekishikan.jp/>

A Tale More than 800 Years Old Brought
Back to Life in the Present

高松平家物語歴史館

Takamatsu Heike Monogatari Wax Museum

Japan's Largest Wax Figure Museum

Taira no Kiyomori



Historical dioramas depicting the rise and fall of the Heike clan bring the past to life

Making history come alive with approximately 260 wax figures arranged in various scenes, including battles, from the Tale of the Heike. With their richly expressive faces, they make the past relevant once more. There are seventeen scenes in all, for visitors to have a unique experience of the entirety of Heike history and culture.



Scene Thirteen: Emperor Antoku Casting Himself into the Water

After the battle of Yashima, the Heike clan fled west to the Seto Inland Sea, and gathered their navy at Hikoshima near the Kanmon Straits. Early in the morning on 24 March 1185, the final battle of Dan-no-ura began. It looked as if the Heike clan had the upper hand initially, but a wave of betrayals to the Genji clan of supporters from Shikoku and Kyushu turned the tide against the Heike clan. The young Emperor Antoku and Nii no Ama threw themselves into the sea.



Scene Two: Not Heike Clan: Not a Person of Note

Taira no Kiyomori, the architect of the Heike clan, was able, in a span of just eight years, to take advantage of the unrest during the Hogen and Heiji Eras of the late 1150s, to raise himself in position from a mere government councillor to the highest position possible, that of chancellor of the realm. At the same time, members of the Heike clan were promoted to similarly high positions within government and were able to exercise powerful military authority. They controlled more than thirty states throughout Japan, including Aki, which was more than half of all of Japan's states at the time.



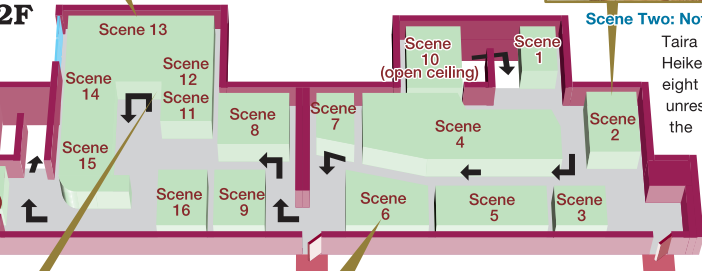
Scene Seventeen: The Lute Priest

The Japanese lute has a forlorn tone, yet the robot priest speaks ingeniously. The Tale of the Heike has been passed down cleverly by this interesting medium. In the early days of the Muromachi period there were several hundred Buddhist priests in Kyoto wandering about with lutes, telling crowds their tales about the impermanence of worldly things. To this day, however, no one knows the origins of when and who wrote the tales the priests told.



Scene Twelve: Nasu no Yoichi, Firing at the Fan Target

In February of 1185, Yoshitsune brought his armies to Sanuki for a sudden rear attack at Yashima. The surprised armies of the Heike clan boarded their ships to escape by sea, but the Genji clan, despite their inferior numbers, pursued and fought fiercely. During a lull in the fighting, a ship appeared at sea with a fan raised. The famed archer Nasu, charged by Yoshitsune personally, fired an arrow at the fan and struck it. Upon seeing this feat, both armies raised a cheer, praising Yoichi's name.

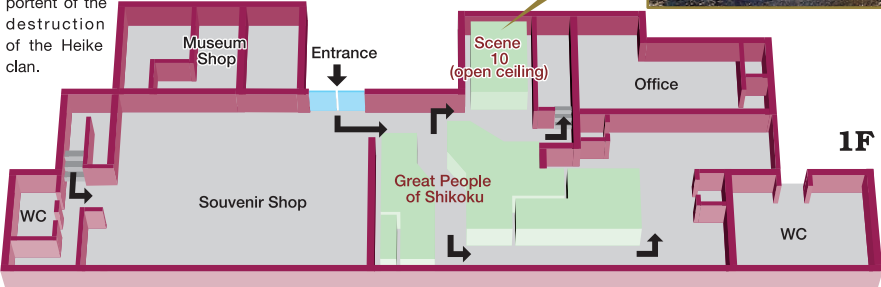


Scene Six: The Vengeful Ghosts

In June of 1180, Kiyomori decrees the transfer of the capital from Kyoto to Fukuhara. After that, a frightful large face would appear on the wall of his bedroom, heaps of skulls would appear in his garden and come together in one large giant skull, and other strange things would happen now and again. The people of Kyoto saw this as the result of all the evil he had done as well as a portent of the destruction of the Heike clan.

Scene Ten: The Battle of Ichi-no-Tani

In 1183, the armies of Kiso Yoshinaka advanced on Kyoto, and so the Heike clan led the young Emperor Antoku out of the city. At first they went to Dazaifu in Kyushu, but they then traveled to Yashima in Sanuki, only to return to Fukuhara after that, where the Heike clan set to constructing heavy fortifications and drawing up a host of forces at Ichi-no-Tani. In the following year, the Genji clan began an attack on Ichi-no-Tani. The Heike clan defended it fiercely, but it ultimately fell, and they were forced to withdraw to Yashima once more.



Adjoining Facility / Great People of Shikoku

Great People from Shikoku, a Collection of the Famous!

We also have wax figures celebrating the lives of famous persons from Shikoku, including the haiku poet Shiki Masaoka, the novelist Kan Kikuchi and Ryoma Sakamoto, the public figure from the end of the Edo Period. The figures are so realistically done, you'll half want to reach out and shake hands with them! Text explaining the figures is presented before each one, but it is almost as if they were speaking themselves. How many have you heard of? Try and guess as you look at them.



Special Exhibit
Kukai (Kobo Daishi)

Politics and Society

Masayoshi Ohira	(politician)
Suehiro Nishio	(politician)
Bukichi Miki	(politician)
Taro Hirai	(politician)
Tomomi Narita	(politician)
Taisuke Itagaki	(politician)
Shigeru Yoshida	(politician)
Takeo Miki	(politician)
Osachi Hamaguchi	(politician)
Saneyuki Akiyama	(soldier)
Tomoyuki Yamashita	(soldier)
Ryoma Sakamoto	(political activist from the end of Edo Period)
Shintaro Nakaoka	(political activist from the end of Edo Period)
Yoritoshi Matsudaira	(count, leader of the House of Peers)

Culture and Science

Shiki Masaoka	(haiku poet)
Kyoshi Takahama	(haiku poet)
Yoshishige Abe	(scientist)
Kan Kikuchi	(novelist)
Shigeru Nambara	(President of Tokyo University)
Genichiro Inokuma	(painter)
Torahiko Terada	(scientist)
Tomitaro Makino	(scientist)
Shotaro Yasuoka	(novelist)

Sports and Art

Motoshi Fujita	(professional baseball)
Shigeru Mizuhara	(professional baseball)
Futoshi Nakanishi	(professional baseball)
Shizuko Kasagi	(singer)
Han Takehara	(dancer)

Other Fields

Hiroshi Manabe	(illustrator)
Chuhachi Ninomiya	(inventor)
Yoshinori Okoso	(industrialist)
Toyohiko Kagawa	(industrialist)
Chomin Nakae	(intellectual)
Shusui Kotoku	(intellectual)
Yasusaburo Hara	(industrialist)
Yataro Iwasaki	(industrialist)
Manjiro (John) Nakahama	(important figure of the late Edo Period)
Ryuichi Yokoyama	(manga artist)
Wenceslao de Moraes	(writer)

