

Acala Cave (Fudoukutsu)

East of the Museum is a cave whose mouth opens widely into Ryuumon gorge, called the Acala (Fudou) Cavern. The mountain priests selected this cave to be the womb where, undertaking strict training, they challenged themselves to be "reborn." Today, the three-tier stone tower in the cave is estimated to be from the 14th century.



Rock Cave (Gandoukutsu)

Buzen City, Ooaza, Iwaya. This cave was originally called Inu-ga-iwaya, and the name Iwaya is said to have originated here. Inside the cave is enshrined a statue of the Healing Buddha made in the 12th century. Rock wall paintings of *kalaminka* (an imaginary bird with a sweet note in Buddhist sutras), also called Hiten (celestial guardians), also decorate the cave ceiling.



Nehouji Temple

Buzen City, Ooaza, Yamauchi. In the past, this temple was a branch of the Kubote Gokokuji Temple which served as both a place for hand-copying scriptures and a ground for sealing away ill fortune. After the 17th century it became a temple of the Oobaku sect, which it remains today. The statues of guardian deities at the temple gates are 12th century works prefecturally designated cultural properties.



Temple of the Kannon with a Thousand Arms

Buzen City, Ooaza, Hazama. Long ago, this temple was called the Mount Iwaya Spring Temple. The Kannon statue inside, crafted around the 12th century, is a nationally designated important cultural property. The spring water that streams down the rock wall behind the statue is believed to be "holy milk-water," and even today many visitors come to receive some.



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Kubote Archives and Materials Museum

- Museum hours 9:30~ 16:30 (last entrance at 16:00)
- Closed Mondays (if Monday is a holiday, the following Tuesday) New Year's (Dec 28 - Jan 4)
- Entrance fee free
- Transportation 18 kilometers from JR Unoshima station. Exit Unoshima station and ride the "Kubote Archives and Materials Museum-bound" Buzen-city bus from the "Hachiya" or "Unoshima station" stop. Approximately 40 min.
- Contact 247 Toriihata Ooaza, Buzen City, Fukuoka Prefecture
TEL/FAX: 0979-88-3203
URL: <http://www9.ocn.ne.jp/~kubote/>
Email: kubote@muse.ocn.ne.jp

(Facilities)

- Founder Fukuoka Prefecture (managed by Buzen City)
- Establishment Built in August 1974, opened in November 1974, additional construction in March 1979, March 1989, and March 1997
- Construction Metal-reinforced concrete three-story building
- Facilities Entrance hall, 3 exhibit rooms, 4 storage rooms, learning center, research center, director's office, administration office, management office, warehouse, elevator



Mount Kubote (a nationally designated historic site), located roughly south of Buzen City in Fukuoka Prefecture, is a conical mountain with a peak altitude of 782 meters. Its formation of agglomerate rocks and tuff, as well as the presence of andesite scattered throughout the mountain, leads us to believe that Mount Kubote was once a volcano. According to ancient manuscripts, "Mount Kubote is a mountain which Mount Kubote (Kubote-San) expresses the presence of divinity; in the past a mysterious trail of clouds continuously descended from the summit, and at night flashes of golden light illuminated the surrounding mountains."



◀ **Copperplate Lotus Sutra**
(National Treasure)
Stored within this copper box are 33 copper sheets inscribed with sutras dedicated in the first year of the Kouji era (1142), discovered in the Samantabhadra (Fugen) cave.

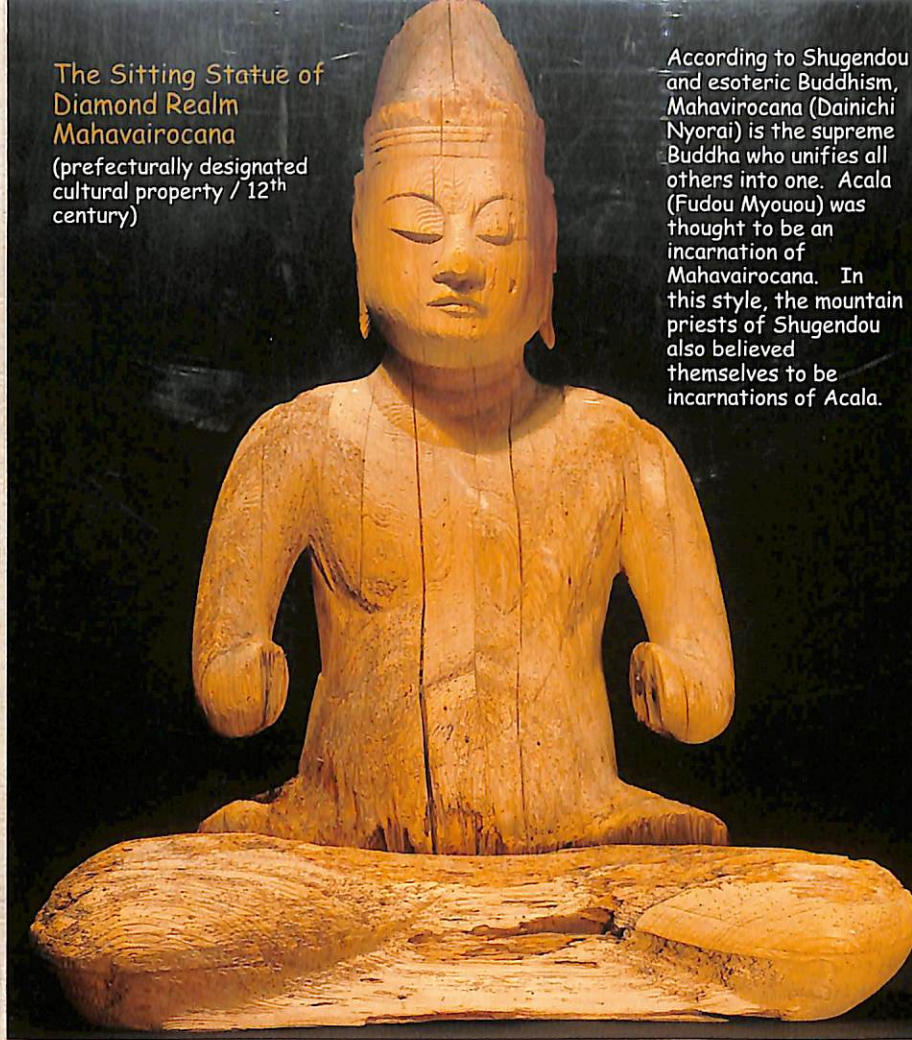


▲ **Cylindrical Sutra Containers**
(nationally designated important cultural properties)
Many bronze and ceramic containers for sutras were discovered throughout the mountains. All of them were made during the 12th century.



◀ **Seated Raigen Statue**
(prefecturally designated cultural item)
Shugendou was brought to Mount Kubote by Raigen, a priest of the Tendai Buddhist sect.

The Sitting Statue of Diamond Realm Mahavairocana
(prefecturally designated cultural property / 12th century)



According to Shugendou and esoteric Buddhism, Mahavairocana (Dainichi Nyorai) is the supreme Buddha who unifies all others into one. Acala (Fudou Myouou) was thought to be an incarnation of Mahavairocana. In this style, the mountain priests of Shugendou also believed themselves to be incarnations of Acala.



▲ **Crow-faced Long-nosed Goblin Statues**
(prefecturally designated cultural properties)
The above goblins of Mount Kubote were called "Jiroubou" and garnered faith as "gods of fire prevention."



▲ **Iwaya-bou** (prefecturally designated cultural properties)



▲ **Kunitama Shrine, the Middle Shrine** (former Gokokuji Temple)

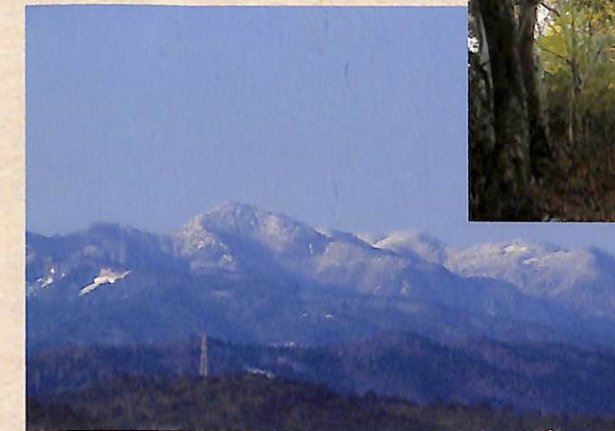


▲ **Purification Area**



▲ **Demon's Stone Staircase** toward the Upper Shrine

Long ago Mount Kubote was home to seven priest villages and gained the reputation "One mountain, five hundred priest houses." Many mountain priests came to live there and to challenge themselves through harsh training. Even now the mountain bears many purification pools and other traces left behind by the priests, still-visible ruins of Shugendou which hint at the past. The mountain was designated a national historic site in 2001.



▲ **Mount Inugatake** sprawling to the south of Mount Kubote



▲ **Broad-leaved deciduous forest**

It is said that religion in our country began with mountain faith. With that mountain faith as a foundation, esoteric Buddhism, Chinese Taoism, and Northeast Asian shamanism merged together to form the Shintou-Buddhist syncretic religion called "Shugendou."

Although the religious history of Mount Kubote is thought to stretch back to the 5th and 6th centuries, Shugendou was only brought into the mountain around the beginning of the 12th century (the end of the Heian era), an event in which Raigen, a priest from the Usa county of the former kingdom of Buzen, played a central role. From then until the mandated separation of Shintoism and Buddhism by the Meiji government (1868), Mount Kubote developed into the central representative location of Shugendou in all of Kyushu, with the Gokokuji Temple (the Tendai sect of Buddhism) at its heart. At this museum are displayed the copperplate sutras, Kyojuka (Sutra mound) excavation artifacts, Shintou and Buddhist statues, religious and ceremonial instruments, ancient manuscripts, mountain priests' tools, and other relics remaining from the Kubote Shugendou lifestyle.

Shugendou began from the gratitude which is born from the realization that humans are allowed to live only through the blessing of nature. Mountain priests revered the mountain as holy land, praying to the gods they believed to live in every tree and every blade of grass. Be touched by the abundant nature of Mount Kubote and Inugatake; trace the ruins of Shugendou; and open your ears to the message sent by the mountain priests of old to the modern world.