

- Is there a parking lot?

There is no parking lot for visitors to the museum. Please be so kind as to patronize the prefectural parking lots in the area.

- Is there a bus loading zone at the museum?

Unfortunately, there is no designated area for passengers to disembark from or board buses on the museum premises. There are prefectural parking lots in the area that can be used for such a purpose; please make reservations in advance.

- Can groups and tours visit the exhibition?

Groups can visit the exhibition together, but there is no special admission rate for groups this year. Please note that even those arriving in a group may be asked to enter the museum at different times depending on how crowded the galleries are.

- Are there gallery talks?

Unfortunately, such programing is only available in Japanese at present. For this exhibition, there are no volunteers on hand to explain the works in the galleries. With our apologies, we hope you will enjoy the English-language object labels, wall text, and audio guide instead. We invite you to participate in workshops held in the Underground Passageway and ask your questions to volunteers in the Buddhist Sculpture Hall, and for Japanese-speakers, please be so kind as to visit the exhibition website for information about lectures and other events.

- Are the galleries wheelchair-accessible?

The galleries are wheelchair-accessible. There are elevators at the museum and wheelchair-accessible restrooms. In addition, there are wheelchairs available to borrow for use in the galleries, no advance reservation necessary. Please be so kind as to direct any inquiries to nearby museum staff for assistance.

- Can strollers be used in the galleries?

With our apologies, strollers cannot be brought into the galleries. These can be checked during your visit at the lockers on the premises. Please be so kind as to bring a baby carrier etc. with you for your time in the galleries.

- Can umbrellas be carried into the galleries?

Please refrain from bringing long umbrellas into the galleries. We ask that you please make use of the umbrella stands available for the length of the exhibition in front of the museum entrance. Please take care to remember your umbrella on your return. Should you plan on visiting the Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall or the Underground Passageway upon leaving, please first be so kind as to exit the building from the New Wings exit to collect your umbrella from the stands designated for visitors the exhibition. There are additional umbrella stands in the Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall, and guests may use a plastic bag to cover long umbrellas while in the Underground Passageway. Note that once you have left the galleries, you will not be granted re-entry. Please take care to remember your umbrella and other belongings.

- Is there a nursery, a play-room for children, and/or other such facilities at the museum?

Unfortunately, there are no such facilities available for infants and children available at the museum.

- Can Timed-Entry Tickets for the Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures be used to Permanent Collection exhibitions as well?

Yes, Timed-Entry Tickets for the Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures can also be used to visit the Nara Buddhist Sculpture Hall and the Chinese Ritual Bronzes Gallery.

- Why is the Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures so short? Isn't it possible to make it last longer?

The Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures is much shorter than other exhibitions because the treasures can only be made accessible to the public during a very limited window of time each year, the two-month period when the imperial seal behind which the treasures are stored is opened. Prior to the exhibition, the storehouse and its treasures are inspected and the treasures to be displayed are prepared for transport. This requires a full week. Then, another week is required for the preparation of the exhibition space and the installation of the treasures in the galleries. The same amount of time for both rounds of activity is also required on the other end of the exhibition. This leaves only around seventeen days for their display.

- Why aren't the most famous Shōsō-in Treasures put on display more often?

The list of objects to be displayed at the Annual Exhibition of Shōsō-in Treasures is decided by the Office of the Shōsō-in, Imperial Household Agency. Traditionally, once a treasure has gone on display, it is not put on view again for another ten years. Additionally, treasures that have never before been put on display and others that represent a fuller picture of the Shōsō-in Treasures as a whole have been prioritized for display in recent years. For these reasons, the most famous treasures cannot go on display each year.