

## Cultural History of Hokkaido

Hokkaido saw the cultural history quite different from the Japanese mainland. Tokoro Archaeological Museum displays the archaeological finds that present a panorama of the unique prehistory of Hokkaido.

### Palaeolithic -ca. 15000 years ago

The earliest known settlement in the Tokoro region dates back to 25000 years ago, discovered at the Gifu II site, 1.5km east of the Forest Park.

Blades(Gifu II site) ▶



### Jomon Culture ca. 15000 years ago - 5th century BC



“Jomon” is derived from the “cord-marked” that characterizes the pottery made in this time. The earliest Jomon site in the Tokoro region dates back to 9000 years ago, and the increase of the settlements reached its peak around 5000-4000 years ago.

◀ Jomon pottery(Tokoro River Estuary site)

### Epi-Jomon Culture ca. 4th century BC - 6th century AD

“Epi-Jomon” refers to “continuing Jomon”. While Yayoi culture based on rice cultivation spread throughout the Japanese mainland, hunter-gatherer culture continued to develop in Hokkaido.

Burial accessory: Stone figurine and Amber neckless(Tokoro River Estuary site) ▶▶



### Satsumon Culture 7th - 13th century AD



The Epi-Jomon culture changed into Satsumon culture through influences from the Japanese mainland. “Satsumon” is derived from the “scraped mark” of the pottery, the surface of which is finished by scraping smooth. Many large village sites in the Tokoro region belongs to Satsumon period.

▲ Bowl with foot(Village site of Satsumon period in the Park)

### Okhotsk Culture 6th - 9th century AD

Okhotsk culture spread from Sakhalin into northeastern Hokkaido. This distinctive culture is characterized by special maritime adaptation and the rituals relating to animals, which probably influenced the rituals of the Ainu.



Bear carving ▲  
Okhotsk pottery ▶  
(Tokoro River Estuary site)



### Ainu Culture 14th - 19th century AD

The Ainu are the indigenous people of Hokkaido. The transition from the Satsumon to the Ainu culture is scarcely known. Several archaeological sites of Tokoro region give valuable data on it.



Glass beads ▶



▲ harpoon heads  
(Raitokoro River Estuary site)

## General Information

### ■ Tokoro Archaeological Museum

Hours: 9:00-17:00

Closed: Mondays, the days after National Holidays (If a National Holiday falls on a Monday, the museum is open on the holiday and closed the next day instead)/ year-end holidays (December 29 - January 5)

Admissions:

Adults: 240 (200) yen

University/ High School Student: 140 (110) yen

Junior High/ Elementary School Student, and persons over 69: 50 (40) yen

\* ( ) indicate prices for those in groups of 10 or more.

### ■ Tokoro Buried Cultural Property Center

Hours: 9:00-17:00

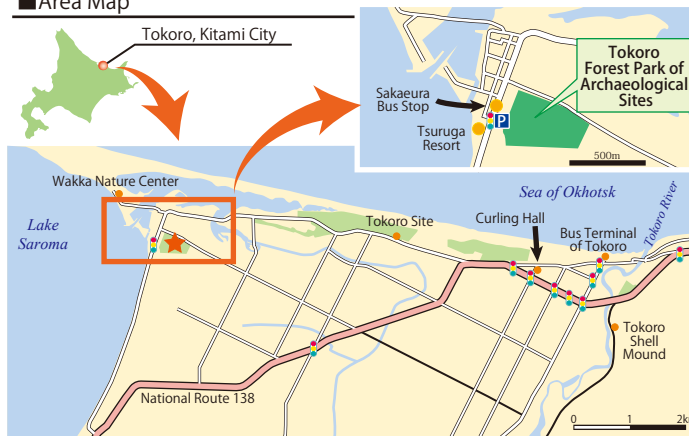
Closed: Mondays, the days after National Holidays (If a National Holiday falls on a Monday, the center is open on the holiday and closed the next day instead)/ year-end holidays (December 29 - January 5)

### ■ Tokoro Gallery of Archaeological Finds

Hours: 9:00-17:00

Closed: Tuesdays (If a National Holiday falls on a Tuesday, the gallery is open)/ year-end holidays (December 26 - January 7)

### ■ Area Map



### ■ Inquiries

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URL: <http://www.city.kitami.lg.jp/docs/7209/>

# Tokoro Forest Park of Archaeological Sites



とくろ遺跡の森  
Tokoro Iseki no Mori