

Praying for the peace of the world

Chiran Peace Museum preserves and displays materials left by the deceased Army pilots of the unprecedented Tokkō operation in Okinawa during the final moments of World War II. "Tokkō" means "Special Attack" in Japanese and refers to a military tactic of ramming attack in which pilots crashed themselves and their aircrafts into enemy warships. "Tokkō" is better known as "Kamikaze" internationally.

In December 1941, the Chiran Branch of Army Flight Training School opened here in the town of Chiran (currently Chiran-cho in the City of Minamikyushu). However, with the deterioration of the war situation, it changed into a military air base for Tokkō in March 1945. From each base in Japan, mainly Chiran Base, 1,036 Tokkō pilots who were in their twenties made a sortie and died in the sea of Okinawa. As Chiran Base was the southernmost airbase of the mainland, the largest number of Tokkō pilots was launched from here.

Considering those historical facts, we will preserve and transmit the relics and related materials of those days for coming generations and proclaim and disseminate the message of peace: "the tragedy of war should never be repeated again". Furthermore, we contribute to the world eternal peace to ensure the value of peace and the dignity of every life.

With this philosophy, Chiran Resource Center, a former museum, was constructed in 1975, which became the current Chiran Peace Museum in 1987.

Chiran, Minamikyushu City,
Kagoshima Prefecture

Traffic

From Chiran Town, Minamikyushu
To Kagoshima City: 34km
To Ibusuki City: 37km

About the Museum

<Open period>

From January 1 to December 31. Museum may be closed when required.
Open for the whole year

<Open hour>

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Entry till 4:30 p.m. Open hour is subject to change.

<Admission Fee>

Individual visitor: adult JPY500 / child JPY300
Group visitor: adult JPY 400 / child JPY240
Group visitor: A group of over 30 people or school trip
Child: primary and middle school students

<Pass for Chiran Peace Museum + Museum Chiran>

Individual visitor: adult JPY600 / child JPY400

Chiran Peace Museum

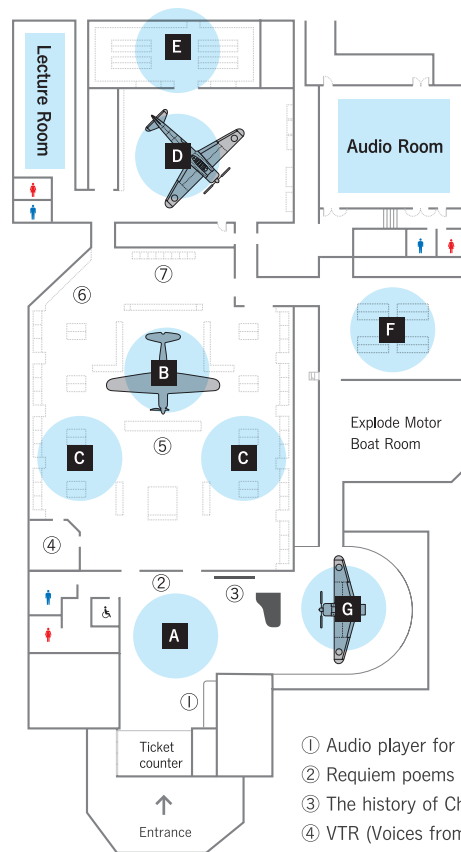
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Kagoshima-ken, 897-0302, Japan
PHONE: +81-993-83-2525 FAX: +81-993-83-4859
Website: <http://www.chiran-tokkou.jp/>



Chiran Peace Museum

知覧特攻平和会館

About the Museum



- ① Audio player for rent
- ② Requiem poems of Chiran
- ③ The history of Chiran Airport
- ④ VTR (Voices from the survivors)
- ⑤ Site of the Base (Chiran's sky)
- ⑥ Life in Chiran
- ⑦ VTR (Sortie and crash)



Tokoshieni (Statue of a Tokkō Pilot)



Entrance of the Museum

- A: Lobby
- B: Nakajima Ki-43(Army Type-I fighter aircraft "Hayabusa")
- C: Portraits, Farewell Testaments and Letters of Tokkō pilots before their departure
- D: Nakajima Ki-84(Army Type-4 fighter aircraft "Hayate")
- E: War history room
- F: Planning exhibition room
- G: Navy Type-0 fighter aircraft model 52-Hei

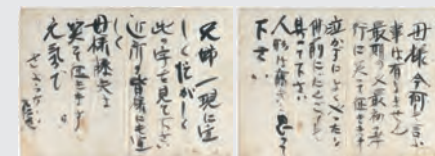
Being the base of the special attacking team, there were 1,036 Tokkō pilots died in Tokkō operations in Okinawa war in Chiran. The site shows the real scenes of that time with relics and records etc. It helps younger generations to learn about this fact in the past when the Tokkō pilots died for nothing during wars, allows them to know about the importance of peace and life, and to show respect towards life. For the people living in the base, it is their responsibility to pray for the everlasting peace for their later generations. So, the Chiran Peace Museum was built in the corner of the special attacking base.



Female students in Chiran who made their farewell



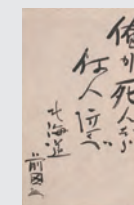
Pilots were playing with a puppy before heading for a mission (from Ashahi Press)



Wills to their mothers by pilots right before sortie



Goodbye drink



The last writing



Mascot dolls to the Tokkō pilots