

History of Yubari

In 1874, American mining engineer Benjamin Smith Lyman's expedition conducted a geological survey up to the midstream area of the Yubari River, the findings of which indicated the existence of coal upstream. Later, in 1888, Hokkaido government engineer Taro Banichi discovered a large coal outcrop in the upper part of the Shihorokabetsu River (currently on the grounds of the museum), a tributary of the Yubari River.

This marked the beginning of Yubari's history as a coal mining town. Flourishing as the number one coal town in Hokkaido thanks to the plentiful, quality coal found here, Yubari was once home to 24 mines and a population of nearly 120,000. The energy revolution of the 1960s, however, resulted in mines closing one after another, with the final mining lamp being extinguished in 1990.

No longer a mining town, Yubari became known for tourism. The town began to develop anew, with the Historical Village of Coal grand opening in 1983 on the grounds of a former coal mine, large tourist facilities such as the Mount Racey Ski Area and hotel, events such as the Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival, and national acclaim for Yubari melons.

For a time, Yubari was known as one of the best examples of a revitalized coal town of the many in Hokkaido. However, people began leaving, and using funds to promote tourism put the town in dire financial straits. Finally, in 2007, the town fell under an organization for fiscal reconstruction and began efforts to remedy its financial situation. The financial revitalization plan was fundamentally reworked in 2017, previous financial revitalization efforts are continuing, and new initiatives are under way to invigorate the town.

Tantetsukou - A Japan Heritage

In May 2019, the coal, steel, and ports that drove the industrial revolution of northern Japan in Hokkaido, were registered as a Japan Heritage. Tantetsukou offers a close-up look at the connection between the three cities (Sorachi, Muroran, and Otaru) which formed the foundation of modern Hokkaido, and at the initiatives that aim to create a new people- and knowledge-centered movement. The Coalmine Heritage Promotion Organization NPO has been working with various regions on these efforts since 2010.

Yubari is home to 7 of the 50 pieces of cultural property that make up the story of Japan Heritage sites. The Coal Mining Museum of Yubari is central to understanding the coal industry, whose foundation was Tantetsukou, and it plays a major role in linking Sorachi, Otaru, Muroran, and other cities in the Sorachi area.

Think about the origin and future of today's affluent life, using the Museum as a "gateway" and the story of Tantetsuko as a "clue".

Hours

Until September: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

From October: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Final entry is 30 minutes before closing

Closed

Tuesdays

*Open Tuesdays during Golden Week Obon holidays, and national holidays

Winter (early November - late April)

Admission

(as of April 2025, consumption tax included)

General Adult (junior high school age and above): **¥1,200**

Elementary school age: **¥400**

Group price (20 or more visitors) **Adult:** **¥1,000**

Annual pass **¥2,000** (valid only for person named on pass)

*Preschool aged children are admitted free of charge. There are no group admission rates for elementary school aged children or discounts for seniors.

*The simulated mine can only be reached by stairs, and is not wheelchair accessible, so one helper accompanying a wheelchair user may be admitted for ¥800.

*Admission for persons with a Physical Disability Certificate or Rehabilitation Certificate is ¥1,000 (there is no discount for helpers).

*We accept credit card and electronic payments (iD, QUICPay, transportation IC cards).

*Group agreements with travel agencies and guide arrangements are handled by the following company.

Visit Yubari G.K

[Sapporo Reservation Center]

Toyohira 8-jo 11-chome 3-13-310 Toyohira-ku, Sapporo 062-0908

FAX: 011-351-5355 MAIL: n-kanazawa@visit-yubari.com

Person in charge: Kanazawa (Mobile: 080-4502-5341)

Access



Coal Mining Museum of Yubari

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FAX 0123-52-5566

URL https://coal-yubari.jp

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Coal Mining Museum of Yubari

夕張市 石炭博物館



Designated Administrator

NPO Coalmine Heritage Promotion Organization

To All Visitors

Since our 2018 renovations, the Coal Mining Museum of Yubari has operated on the concept of a 'museum that holds a mirror up to life.' The new museum preserves the history of Yubari for future generations, and serves as a record and archive that shares the memories of those who lived alongside the coal mine.

As one of the very few coal museums in the country, it serves two purposes: as an 'amplifier' to promote the charms of Yubari to the rest of the world, and as a 'pump' to draw in strength from outside. To fulfill these roles, we aim to enhance the museum, cherish relationships with locals, and create a facility where everyone feels welcome.

As you unravel the threads of history, you begin to see the lives of individual people. Learning about how they lived, what the area looked like, and experiencing the everyday lives of Yubari locals is a great way to hold a mirror up to your own life.

Coal Mining Museum of Yubari Information

Location: Takamatsu 7 Yubari-shi, Hokkaido

Owner: City of Yubari

Built: 1980

Site area: 5,336m²

Building area: 1,378m²

Total floor area: 3,573m²

Exhibition spaces: 2nd floor permanent exhibit, basement exhibit room, simulated mineshaft

Pieces in collection: About 15,000

Facilities Main Building 1st floor: Entrance hall

Rotating exhibit room BAN-HALL

Multipurpose restroom

Main Building 2nd floor: Conference room

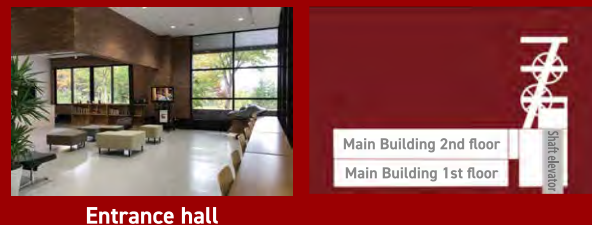
The Coal Mining Museum of Yubari consists of the two story reinforced concrete main building and basement exhibit room, and the Former Hokutan Yubari Coal Mine Simulated Mineshaft, which is a registered national tangible cultural property. On the first floor of the museum there is a free relaxation zone open to all visitors and a multipurpose space available for various functions.

An elevator modeled after a shaft that was once found in the mine connects the second, first, and basement floors in the Main Building. The basement exhibit room and simulated mineshaft offer visitors a glimpse into the former mines of Yubari and the chance to learn while checking out some real coal.

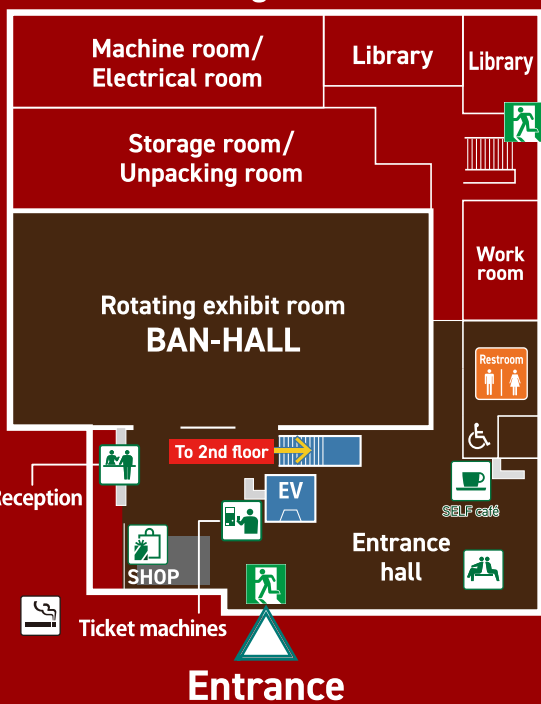
Coal Mining Museum of Yubari Building Map

1 Main Building 1st floor: Bright, free space

The bright, spacious entrance hall is also where the only toilet (ostomate accessible) in the building is located. There is also a library corner and tables with outlets for charging devices. Feel free to take a break here or do some research. BAN-HALL, the rotating exhibit room named after Taro Banichi, who discovered a large coal outcrop in the area, is where a variety of events are held. Make sure to also stop by the museum shop and self-service café.



1 Main Building 1st floor

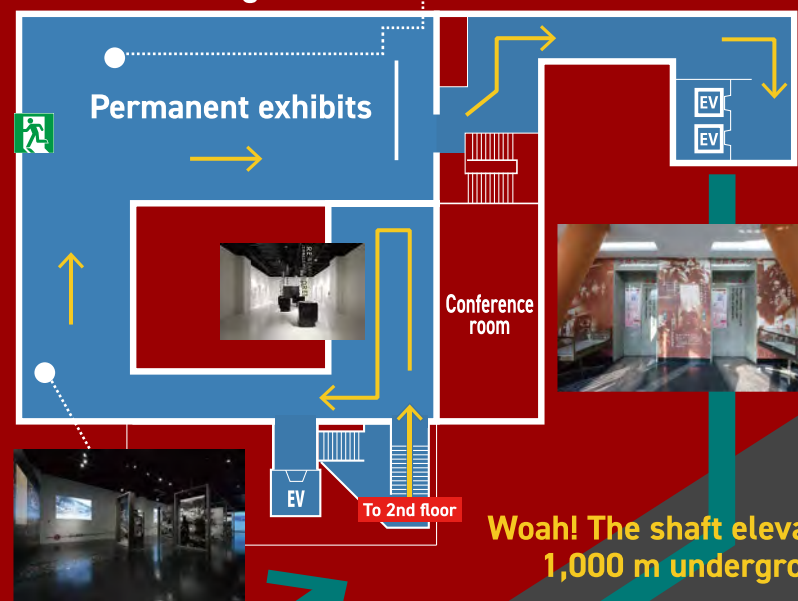


Free area Paid area

2 Main Building 2nd floor: Experience coal town history

You can learn about Yubari's history as a coal mining town in a timeline at the permanent exhibits. In the center, you'll find aerial shots of Yubari taken by the Geographical Survey Institute during its heyday, decorating the floor. Don't miss the chance to see what the town looked like and its many coal mining facilities.

2 Main Building 2nd floor



To permanent exhibit on Main Building 2nd floor



BAN-HALL (special rotating exhibit)

Woah! The shaft elevator goes 1,000 m underground?!

3 Basement exhibit room

Work during the early days of the coal mine
View coal miners at work and see them transporting coal here.



Machinery is gradually introduced into the mine
See how advances in machinery progress, and the process of how work is divided.



The Amazing Atmosphere of a Real Mine

Check out a real coal seam up close!

The simulated mine is the only place in Japan where you can view a real coal seam that is part of a mine shaft which was actually used. Don't miss the chance to get up close to an actual coal seam!

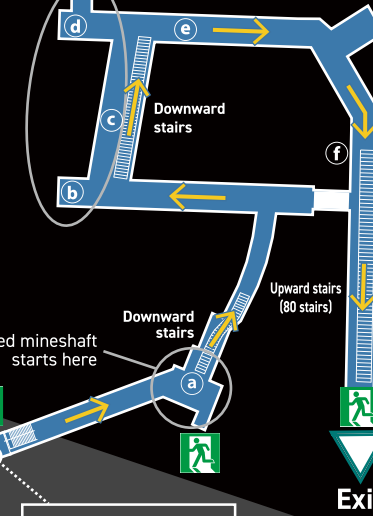


Long face



Roadheader

4 Simulated mineshaft



Wheelchair users can access the parking lot from here

Large machines used in the mine
Large machines used in the mine are on display here. Learn about mechanized coal mining in this area.



Drum cutter (with video explanation)

3 Basement exhibit room: Realistic dioramas and machines

The exhibit space in the basement features a diorama with mannequins and mining equipment that was actually used, making it a great place for learning about coal mining.

4 Simulated mineshaft: A coal mine you can visit

After passing through the basement exhibit area, you'll see the brick entrance to the Former Hokutan Yubari Coal Mine Simulated Mineshaft, a registered national tangible cultural property. Here, you can enter an actual mine shaft where you'll see a coal seam. The shaft, which was dug more than 100 years ago, has been used for training new miners, rescue drills, social studies field trips, and visits by the Imperial Household.



Mine entrance



Load haul dump machine



Gate road



Kappe coal mining method

Exhibit area: 3,000 m², total exhibit route length: 540 m

Average time to view exhibits: 60 min.

When rushing: 30 min.

When taking your time: 90 min. or more

"Stay safe!" Glück auf!



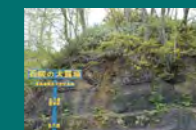
There's lots to see even outside the museum!



Tenryu Mine Entrance (registered national tangible cultural property)



Stature of departure (Stature of Patriotic Coal Miner; city designated cultural property)



Large coal outcrop (Yubari Large Coal Crop; Hokkaido Natural Heritage)