

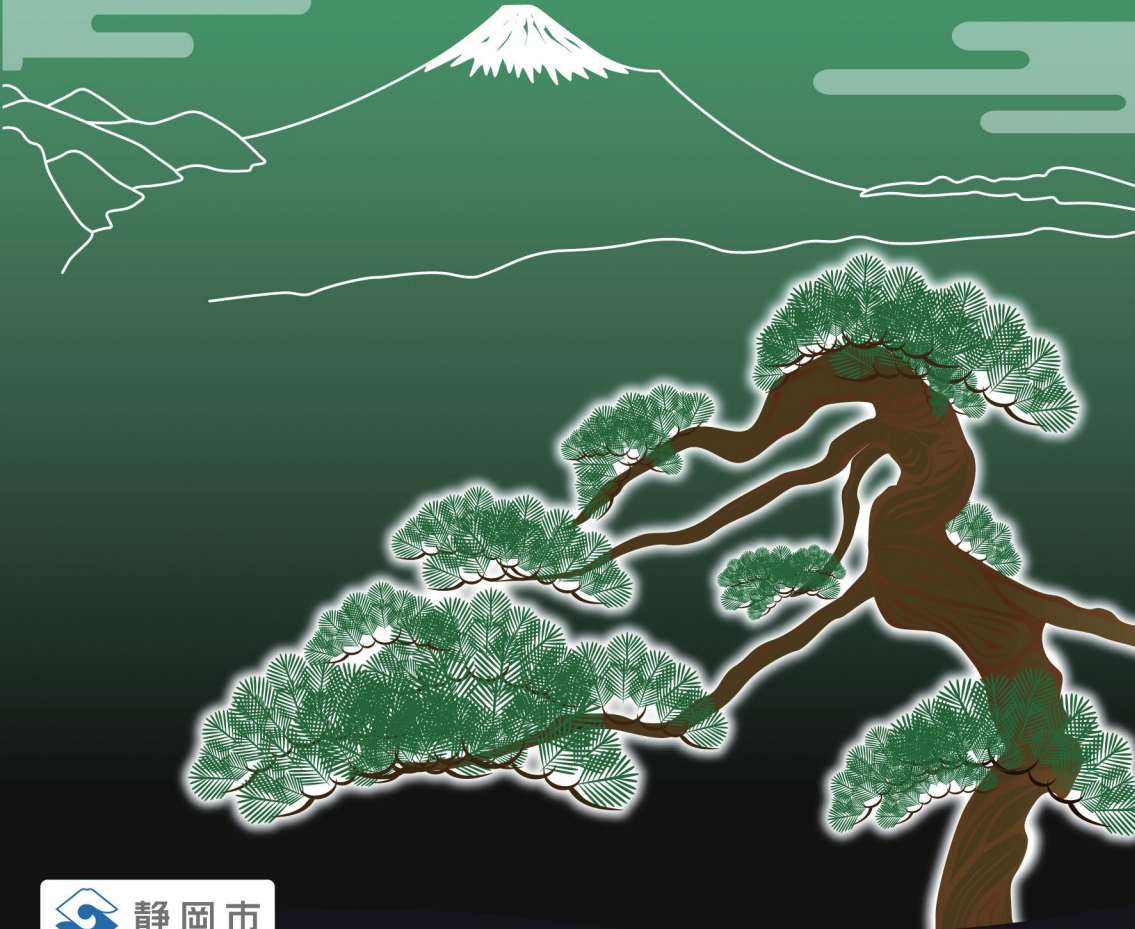
ENGLISH



MIHO  
SHIRUBE

みほしるべ

静岡市三保松原文化創造センター  
Shizuoka City Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center



Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center



## How the Shizuoka City Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center was named

The name incorporates the center's hopes to create Miho no Matsubara's culture, refined with new attractions, by integrating the area's cultural and natural values through interacting with locals and visitors from around the globe, together with handing down the World Heritage Site to the next generation through publicizing the area's values and charms as well as its developments on preserving the site.

### Miho Shirube

This name incorporates two meanings: "To know Miho" and "Guiding."

The name was chosen to denote our hopes that the center will become a place for visitors to learn about pines and the history and culture of Miho, guide them to the beautiful sceneries created by Mt. Fuji and pine groves, as well as a place to indicate the ways to preserve the area and create culture going forward.



## Greetings

Miho no Matsubara is known by the Japanese for its breathtaking view of white sands, green pines, and Sacred Mt. Fuji for centuries. The numerous works of poetry and art prove the extent of how the scenery has inspired the Japanese and captured their souls.

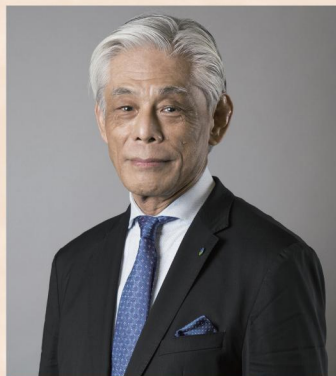
Its remarkable universal value was recognized and was designated as a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site as one of the components of Mt. Fuji: Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration in June 2013.

The Shizuoka city Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center was completed recently and will inform visitors on the value and charm of the tourist attraction and part of a Cultural World Heritage Site, together with the importance of preserving pine groves, as the facility located in the front door of Miho no Matsubara and pass them down to future generations.

The center also hopes to become a future-oriented facility that takes action toward creating a new culture at Miho no Matsubara, in the same way it has inspired artists in the past.

Shizuoka City Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center  
Honorary Director

### Seiichi Kondo



## The exhibition room

### Invitation to Miho no Matsubara

The hallway leading to the exhibition room welcomes visitors as the entrance towards a mystical world, with hagoromo kimonos swaying amid the scent of pine.



### Video Theater

- A footage of Miho no Matsubara and its magnificent view of Mt. Fuji. Come view the beautiful scenery that Miho no Matsubara offers. (3 minutes)
- Explains the relationship between Miho no Matsubara and Mt. Fuji. Experience the beauty created from Miho no Matsubara's views. (6 minutes)



#### 1F exhibition room

Exhibits the culture and arts of Miho no Matsubara.

- 1 Miho no Matsubara
- 2 Mt Fuji worship and Miho no Matsubara
- 3 Hagoromo Folk Tale (The legend of Hagoromo)
- 4 Source of Artistic Inspiration
- 5 Further spread of Miho no Matsubara
- 6 Passing along to the future

#### 2F exhibition room

Exhibits on the preservation of pine groves and the ecology of pines. The cultural history and timeline of Miho are also on display. Samples of pine tree rings and underground cross-section of Miho no Matsubara are exhibited. A library corner featuring books on Miho no Matsubara and instruments made of pine that can be touched and played are also available.



### Dramatic audio guide

Sponsored by Otono

Tennyō and Hakuryō from the swan maiden legend playfully guide you through the exhibitions on the first floor. Guides are available in Japanese, English, Chinese (simplified) and Korean.





## Background Music "Otonoki ", etc.

Mt. Fuji, pine groves, the blue sea and sky, the beautiful shore and the swan maiden legend.

I started creating this piece by thinking how to express Miho no Matsubara, one of the world's most beautiful landscapes that Japan boasts, and present the ambience of the Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center.

I specialize in composing music for and performing percussion instruments, which is the most primitive and unrestricted field in music. Inspired to render sounds based on that region's characteristics, one of my themes in composing is to find sounds from materials in that locality and convert them to music.

For Otonoki, I incorporated sounds of the sea collected at Miho no Matsubara, the winds blowing in the pine grove, the chirping of birds and sounds from an instrument I built from a fallen pine tree in the sacred pathway.

Creating sounds using local materials and incorporating them into music inspire many possibilities to the world of percussion and also demonstrates the local production and consumption of sounds.

## Percussionist Tomoo Nagai

### ■ Profile

Tomoo Nagai is a percussionist born in Shuzenji, Shizuoka, and an alumni of the graduate school at Tokyo University of the Arts. Having participated in many sessions and recordings across various music genres. Nagai also takes part in numerous performance tours, such as in Indonesia, Brazil, France, Iceland and Lithuania. In Japan, he performs in concerts and art events, as well as produces music for TV programs, films and public facilities. He has been recognized in Japan and Europe as an outstanding natural sound creator for his improvisational music that features objects in nature as instruments and draws out unimagined sounds.



## Hagoromo Folk Tale (The legend of Hagoromo)

Once upon a time, a young fisherman whose name was Hakuryo lived in a small village in Miho.

One day, he found a beautiful feathered robe (Hagoromo) on a pine tree branch (Hagoromo-no-Matsu).

When he took it, a heavenly maiden suddenly emerged and said , "That robe belongs to Heaven. Please bring it back to me"

However, he refused her request.

She began to cry and said again "Without the feathered robe I cannot go up to heaven, please bring it back to me"

Then he suggested , "If you show me a heavenly maiden dance, I' ll return it to you"

She nodded at his suggestion and said," Please bring me the first, for I can' t dance without it"

However, he said," I don' t trust you. If I give it back, you will fly away."

She said to him serenely, "Only mortals have such suspicious minds. We of heaven never break our promises. "

At her words, Hakuryo was ashamed of his behavior and brought her feathered robe back to her.

The heavenly maiden was very pleased, and after drawing on the feathered robe, she began dancing among the beautiful spring scenery of Miho. Soon she danced up, up into the air, making her way over Mt.Fuji and up to Heaven.

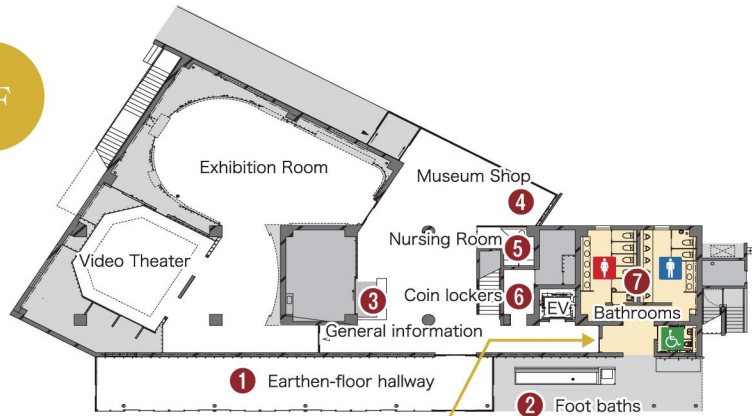


Ceiling painting of the Hagoromo maiden  
1805-1814  
Shizuoka Sengen Shrine



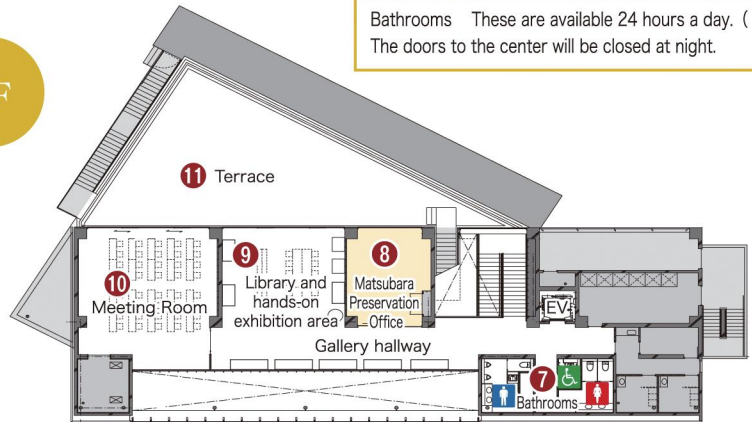
# The center Information

1F

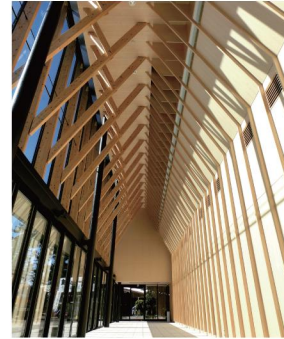
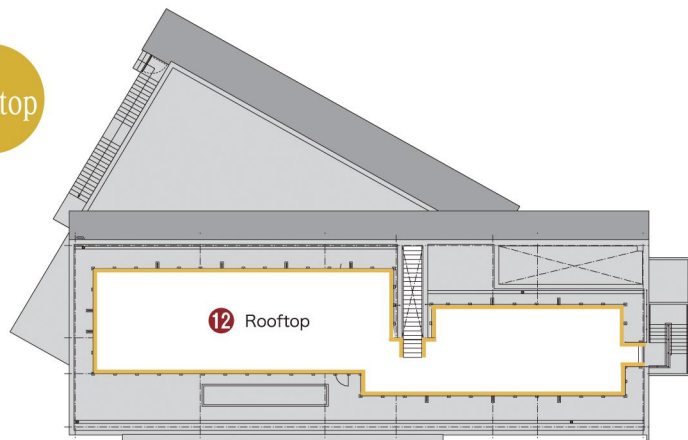


**Bathrooms** These are available 24 hours a day. (1F)  
The doors to the center will be closed at night.

2F



Rooftop



Earthen-floor hallway



Foot baths

## 1 Earthen-floor hallway

This includes a gallery of ukiyo-e prints.

## 3 General information

The information counter will provide you information on the center and the Miho no Matsubara area, as well as tourist attractions in Shizuoka City. Please feel free to drop by.

## 5 Nursing Room

There are two booths in this room that are available for free.

## 7 Bathrooms

These are available 24 hours a day. The doors to the center will be closed at night. (1F)

## 9 Library and hands-on exhibition area

There is an exhibition on pine groves. Look into the microscope and lay your fingers on an instrument made with pine. Or flip through books on Miho no Matsubara.

## 11 Terrace (9:00~16:30)

You can relax here while viewing Matsubara up close.

## 2 Foot baths (Weekends and holidays only 9:30~16:30)

You can enjoy a foot bath while viewing Matsubara. Why not relax here at the end of your stroll?

## 4 Museum Shop

This shop sells products related to Miho no Matsubara, including souvenirs available only from the Miho no Matsubara Cultural Creation Center.

## 6 Coin lockers (9:00~16:30)

You can leave your baggage here. (9:00 ~ 16:30)  
Your coin will be returned when you remove your baggage.

## 8 Matsubara Preservation Office

This office works to preserve the pine grove.

## 10 Meeting Room

Contact us if you have any questions. Note that these spaces cannot be made available for any commercial, religious or political purposes.

## 12 Rooftop (9:00~16:30)

On a fine day, you can enjoy a beautiful view of Mount Fuji. The roof top is open to all.



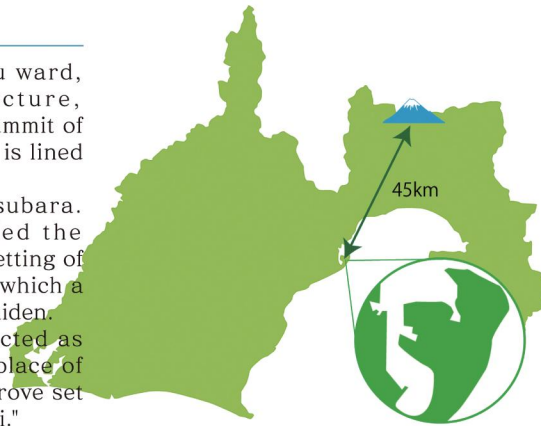
# Miho no Matsubara

## Miho no Matsubara

Miho Peninsula is located in Shimizu ward, Shizuoka city, in Shizuoka prefecture, approximately 45km southwest of the summit of Mt. Fuji. Its approx. 5km-long coastline is lined with a grove of pine trees.

This grove is known as Miho no Matsubara. Near its center is a pine tree called the Hagoromo no Matsu, renowned as the setting of the Hagoromo (feather robe) legend, in which a local fisherman encounters a celestial maiden.

In 1922, Miho no Matsubara was selected as Japan's first Site of Scenic Beauty, "a place of superior scenery with its coastal pine grove set against the stunning backdrop of Mt. Fuji."



## Miho no Matsubara, a Site of Scenic Beauty

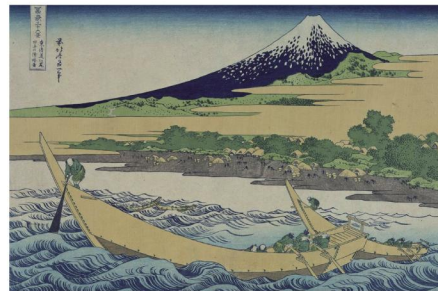
A Site of Scenic Beauty is a type of national cultural property defined under the Protection of Cultural Properties Act. It refers to a place of scenic beauty with high artistic or academic value, as designated by the Japanese government.



## Pine Trees and Japanese Culture

In Japan, pine, which stays evergreen even in winter, is considered a sacred object home to kami (Shinto spirits). It is used for kadomatsu and other New Year's decorations, as well as celebratory occasions such as weddings and births.

In China and Korea, pine is similarly associated with good fortune, and serves as a symbol of purity, dignity and longevity.



Shore of Tago, Ejiri at Tokaido from Thirty-six Views of Mt Fuji (KATSUSHIKA Hokusai) 1830 - 32  
Tokyo National Museum  
Image:TNM Image Archives

## Miho no Matsubara

A sacred place long renowned for its view of Mt. Fuji, Miho no Matsubara features beautifully in the Hagoromo legend, and has been known by the Japanese for centuries.

## Miho Shrine

The oldest record of Miho Shrine dates back to the ninth century. The shrine was revered by the Imperial Court and shoguns including those from the Imagawa and Tokugawa clans. In the Keicho period (1589-1615), the Tokugawa shogunate had magnificent shrine buildings constructed, including a main building, only to lose them in a fire in 1668.

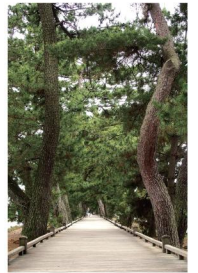
The current buildings were rebuilt in the middle of the Edo period (1603-1868) and are designated as tangible cultural properties by the City of Shizuoka. The shrine possesses an old piece of fabric said to be from the feather robe of the Hagoromo legend.



Miho Shrine

## Kami no Michi (Path of the Kami)

This boardwalk serves as a path for kami spirits to travel between Haguruma Shrine and Miho Shrine. The approx. 500m-long path is lined on both sides with pine trees approx. 200-300 years old.



Kami no Michi (Path of the Kami)

## Hagoromo no Matsu (The Hagoromo Pine)

The Hagoromo Pine is located on the beach at the end of Kami no Michi, the pine tree-lined path stretching south from the entrance of Miho Shrine.

The first Hagoromo Pine is said to have sunk into the sea when Mt. Fuji erupted in 1707. The second one withered in 2013. The current one is the third Hagoromo Pine.



Hagoromo no Matsu (The Hagoromo Pine)



2nd Hagoromo Pine (Picture postcard) Private collection

## Haguruma Shrine

Haguruma Shrine is a detached part of Miho Shrine that sits beside the withered second Hagoromo Pine. Although the year it was constructed remains unknown, Haguruma Shrine was built as a detached part of Miho Shrine to enshrine a kami spirit that descended to Miho's seashore in a haguruma (palanquin) to pray for peace in the land.



Haguruma Shrine



## 2 Mt Fuji worship and Miho no Matsubara

The influence of ancient Chinese philosophy led Mt. Fuji be called Mt. Horai for a time, and mountain hermits are said to have resided on its slopes. Miho no Matsubara was the "bridge" connecting Mt. Fuji, the home of these mountain hermits, to the realm of humans.

Miho no Matsubara was always depicted together with Mt. Fuji, and was known as a gateway to the mountain.

### Explanatory image of the Fuji Mandala painted on silk

This work depicts an expansive scene including the Tokaido Road and the summit of Mt. Fuji. The lower half shows Seikenji temple, Suruga Bay, and Miho no Matsubara. Mt. Fuji has a triple peak, a typical composition of landscape paintings.

The buildings drawn on Mt. Fuji are separated by mist to express their steepness and to show the increase in sacredness of locations from the bottom to the top.



16th century  
Fujisan Hongū Sengen Taisha Shrine

### Miho as Depicted in Zenjo Paintings

This Zenjo painting of Mt. Fuji was distributed to dosha climbers as a map and also served as a souvenir. The bottom-left of the map shows the starting point, meaning it recommended visitors from areas west of Shizuoka prefecture climb the mountain from the Shizuoka side (as opposed to the Yamanashi side). Miho no Matsubara was known as an important stop in the tohai up Mt. Fuji for dosha coming from the Tokaido Road and western provinces.



Zenjo painting of the world's greatest mountain, Fuji  
19th century  
Board of education of Oyama-Town



## 3 Hagoromo Folk Tale (The legend of Hagoromo)

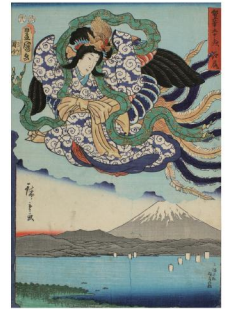
**"Hagoromo" is a noh play set in Miho no Matsubara that was written in the Muromachi period (1336-1573).**

### Story Origin

Miho no Matsubara has long been renowned for its scenery combining Mt. Fuji, a pine grove, and a beach.

Although the Hagoromo legend has spread across Japan, the creator of the noh play on which it is based selected Miho no Matsubara as its setting, due to its beautiful and sacred scenery. The writer also embellished the story wonderfully: the fisherman, ashamed of having been suspicious of the maiden, abandons his human desires and returns her feather robe.

With its combination of a beautiful landscape and the celestial maiden's entrancing dance, the "Hagoromo" noh play fascinates all who see it.



Paintings on the ceiling of the Great Hall for Worship (painting of a celestial maiden) (UTAGAWA Toyokuni· Hiroshige) 1854  
City of Shizuoka

### The "Hagoromo" Noh Song Crosses the Ocean

In the late 19th century, the "Hagoromo" noh play based on the Miho legend gained popularity abroad.

"Hagoromo" was even used in works by Western modernists such as the writers W.B. Yeats (1865-1939) and Ezra Pound (1885-1972), which led to noh, a traditional Japanese performing art, to spread across the world.



A Celestial Maiden with a Gossamer Robe  
Buzan Kimura 1920-1930 Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art

Hélène Giuglaris, a dancer born in France in 1916, was greatly moved when she first encountered noh theater. She studied Japanese culture and performed the "Hagoromo" noh play in France.

Giuglaris yearned to see Miho no Matsubara with her own eyes. After collapsing on stage during a performance, however, she died of leukemia at the age of just 35, never having made the trip to Japan.

The year she died, Giuglaris' husband, Marcel, visited Japan with a lock of her hair. The following year, 1952, a monument to her was erected at Miho no Matsubara, in recognition of the French dancer's achievements.



Hélène Giuglaris 1949  
City of Shizuoka







# 6

## Passing along to the future

### Registration as a World Cultural Heritage Site

The 37th World Heritage Committee session took place in June 2013 and Mt. Fuji was registered as a world cultural heritage site, "Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration."

### What are cultural assets?

"Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration," includes 25 other sites that have deep cultural value along with Mt. Fuji. It includes not only the mountain itself, but also places related to Mt. Fuji, including surrounding shrines, trails, and lava tree molds. Miho no Matsubara is one of them.



### Certificate of registration

The world heritage committee has inscribed "Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration," on the World Heritage List. Inscription on this list confirms the outstanding universal value of a cultural or natural property that requires protection for the benefit of all humanity.

Date of inscription: June 26, 2013 Director-General of UNESCO: Irina Bokova



### Our Resolution

Miho no Matsubara has been ravaged in the past, as well. But the reason it remains a scenic spot and component part of the Mt. Fuji world cultural heritage site is the tireless efforts of the locals who love Miho. The area's beauty is a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Nowadays, more and more citizen groups and locals are joining efforts to clean up Miho no Matsubara and preserve it.

The scenery here, which has captured the hearts of the Japanese since ancient times, is a treasure of Japan to be shared with the world. It is our duty to continue to protect Miho no Matsubara.



### Visitor Guide

Hours	9:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.
Admission	Free
Days open	Open everyday

### Please refrain from



Disturbing other visitors in the Exhibition Room, such as by talking on your cellphone or shouting.



Taking photos or using a tripod in the 1F exhibition room.



Eating and drinking



Bringing pets.

## Shizuoka City Miho no Matsubara Culture & Creativity Center Miho Shirube

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<https://miho-no-matsubara.jp/>



三保松原ホームページ