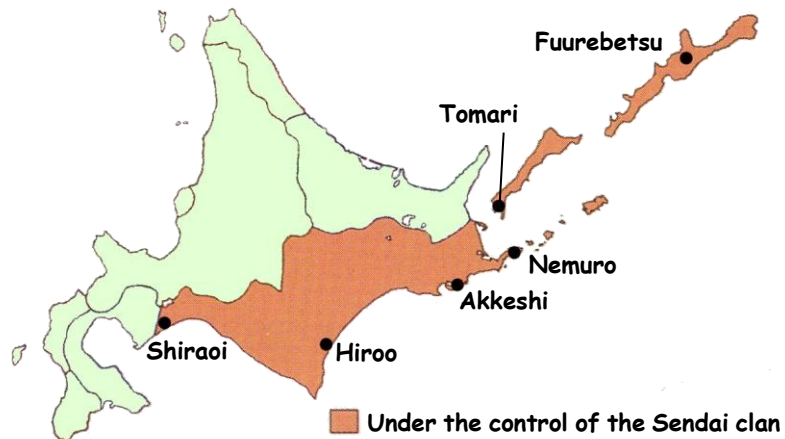


Sendai Shirai Motojinya

In 1854 the Shogunate ceased a 200 year national policy of international isolation. At this time, Japan opened its' doors to foreign countries by negotiating treaties. People from Russia came to visit Hokkaido often. An easy travel route was established between Hokkaido in Northern Japan and the Kurile Islands. Also, at this time American fishermen appeared in the Pacific Ocean, hunting for whales.

In Hokkaido there was a fear of foreigners. Often, when foreigners landed in Northern Japan, they used violent means to fulfill their needs. In those days the Ainu were the most prominent citizens of Hokkaido. The Shogunate sent government officials to settle Hokkaido and protect it from foreigners. The Shogunate's men protected Hokkaido from the foreigners on many occasions. The Shogunate found it necessary to build forts at some important strategic positions throughout Hokkaido.

The fort of Shirai was built in 1856 under the command, of the Shogunate Daimyo(feudal lord). It was manned by about 150-200 Samurai warriors from Sendai. Sendai is one of the northern most prefectures of Honshu. The fort covers an area of 60,000 m² with 6 gates. At the time, this was the largest fort in Hokkaido and served as the Shogunate's headquarters. It also housed the accounting department, some granaries, military training grounds, tenement houses, and so forth. In 1966, this historic place was designated by the nation as an important cultural asset. In 1981 Sendai and Shirai formally recognized their historic ties and the fort became the cornerstone of a "Sister City" relationship. Shirai opened the museum in October, 1984 to introduce the public to the historical significance of the fort.



Chronological table related to Sendai Shirai Motojinya(fort)

1854 (3/31)	The peace and amity treaty between Japan and the U.S.A.(Kanagawa Treaty) is signed.
(12/21)	The ports of Shimada, Hakodate, and Nagasaki are opened to foreign trade by the peace and amity treaty.
1855 (2/7)	The treaty of amity is concluded between Russia and Japan(The border is between the island of Etorofu and Urup. The island of Karafuto is declared a mutual residential area between the two countries.)
(2/22)	The whole Ezo district(Hokkaido) is under the direct control of the Tokugawa shogunate. The port of Hakodate is opened to foreign ships.
(3/27)	The shogunate orders the clans of Tsugaru, Nambu, Akita, Sendai, Shonai, Aizu, and Matsumae to guard the Ezo district.
1856 (3/)	The construction of Sendai Shirai fort is started
1859 (9/27)	Shirai, Tokachi, Akkeshi, Nemuro, Kunashiri and Etorofu are designated to be the territorial integrity of the Sendai clan.
1867 (10/14)	Tokugawa Yoshinobu transfers the reins of government to the Emperor.
1868 (1/)	Outbreak of the Boshin war(The remnants of the Tokugawa shogunate rise in rebellion against the new government).
(7/18)	Sendai clansmen withdraw from Sendai Shirai Motojinya(fort)

[Information]

Open: 9:30am to 4:30pm/Tuesday to Sunday

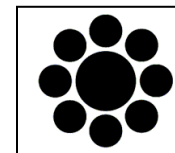
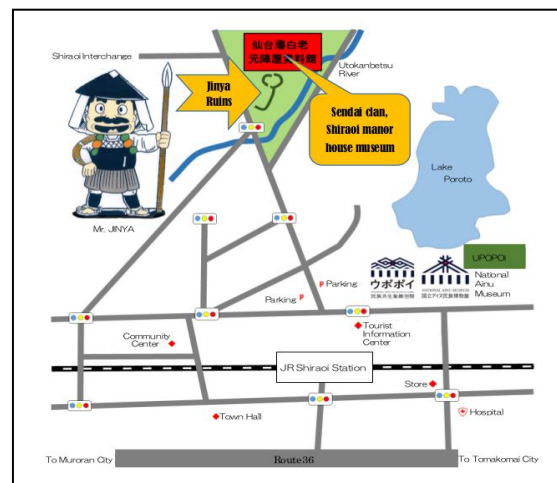
Closed: Mondays(If Monday is a holiday, closed the following day)/The end of the year & new year's holiday(12/29-1/3)

Admission: Special fees for the townspeople

Adult	(Individual) ¥300	Free
	(Group) ¥250	Free
Student(Elementary and Junior High School)	(Individual)¥150	Free
	(Group) ¥120	Free

*Group fees are effective for more than 20 people.

[How to get to the museum]



- 0 km from Poroto Kotan
- 8 km from Shirai Interchange access to the Douo Expressway
- 5 km from JR Shirai Station

Sendai clan, Shirai manor house museum



Map of Sendai Shirai Motojinya
-Property of the Sendai clan, Shirai manor house museum

681 Jinya-cho, Shirai, Hokkaido 059-0912
TEL&FAX (0144)85-2666

<http://www.town.shirai.hokkaido.jp/ka/jinya/>

Mail : jinya@town.shirai.lg.jp

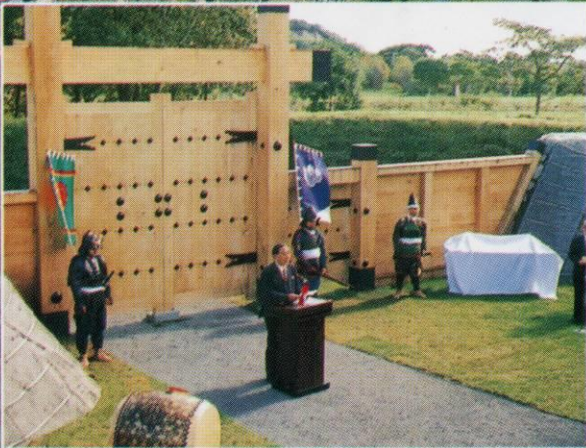
The largest historical fort in Hokkaido
**The historical remains of
the Sendai clan's fort in Shiraoi**



The path to Shiogama shrine



The guardhouse and gate site



The gateway site



The third tenement house site & a Japanese Red Pine



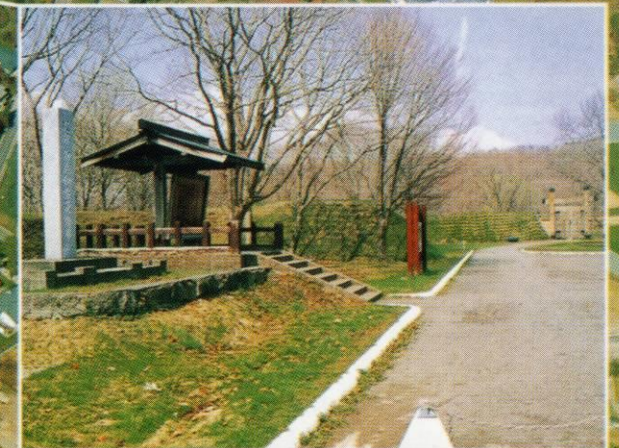
Graveyard of retainers of the Shogunate Daimyo



Tour guided by the volunteer club "Tomonokai"



Observing wild plants at the site of the fort



The front gate