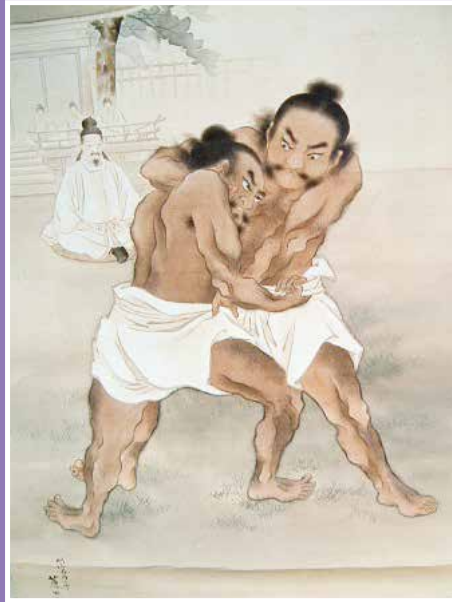


We pass on sumo history to modern generations.



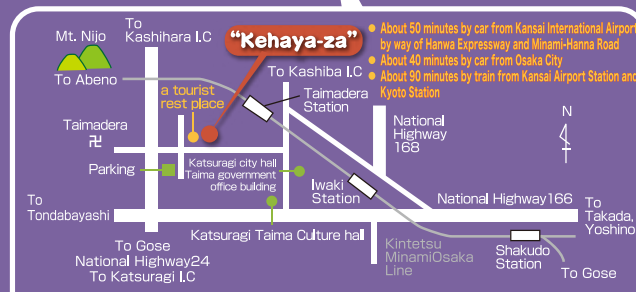
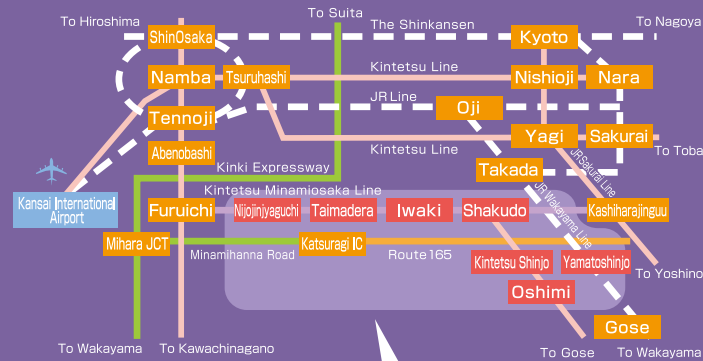
Match between Taimano Kehaya and Nomino Sukune fought before the Emperor

Chronicles of Japan (Nihonshoki) says that the match between Taimano Kehaya and Nomino Sukune fought before the Emperor is the origin of sumo.

There was a man named Taimano Kehaya in Taima Village in the ancient Japan. He had a superhuman strength to break animal's horn by hand. He always said, "Nobody could beat me in this world, but if any, I want to fight with him." The Emperor heard of this story and asked his servants, "Is there anyone who can equally fight with Taimano Kehaya?" Then one of his servants answered, "There is a man named Nomino Sukune in Izumo. How about calling over him to fight with Kehaya? The Emperor favored the opinion very much, and their match was held on July 7 in the seventh year of Emperor Suinin. They kicked each other, and Kehaya died after the long fight.

This fight between Sukune and Kehaya is said to be the origin of sumo and the first sumo fight performed before the Emperor.

Access



- By train: Get off at Taimadera Station on the Kintetsu Minami Osaka Line. A five-minute walk westward from the station. (Along Taimadera Sando Street)
- By car: Five minutes from the Minami-Hanna Road Katsuragi Exit. About 20 minutes from Nishi-Meihan Expressway Kashiba Exit via Route 168. About 20 minutes from Nishi-Meihan Expressway Kashiwara Exit via Route 165.

Information for Visitors

Ticket Prices	Adults 300 yen/Children 150 yen
Group Rate (for 20 or more visitors)	Adults 250 yen/Children 120 yen
Open hours	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed	Tuesday, Wednesday (Opened when Tuesday or Wednesday is a holiday.)

◆ Visitors can use the rest house for free.

Katsuragi City Sumo Pavillion - Kehaya-za -

83-1 Taima, Katsuragi-shi, Nara-ken 639-0279

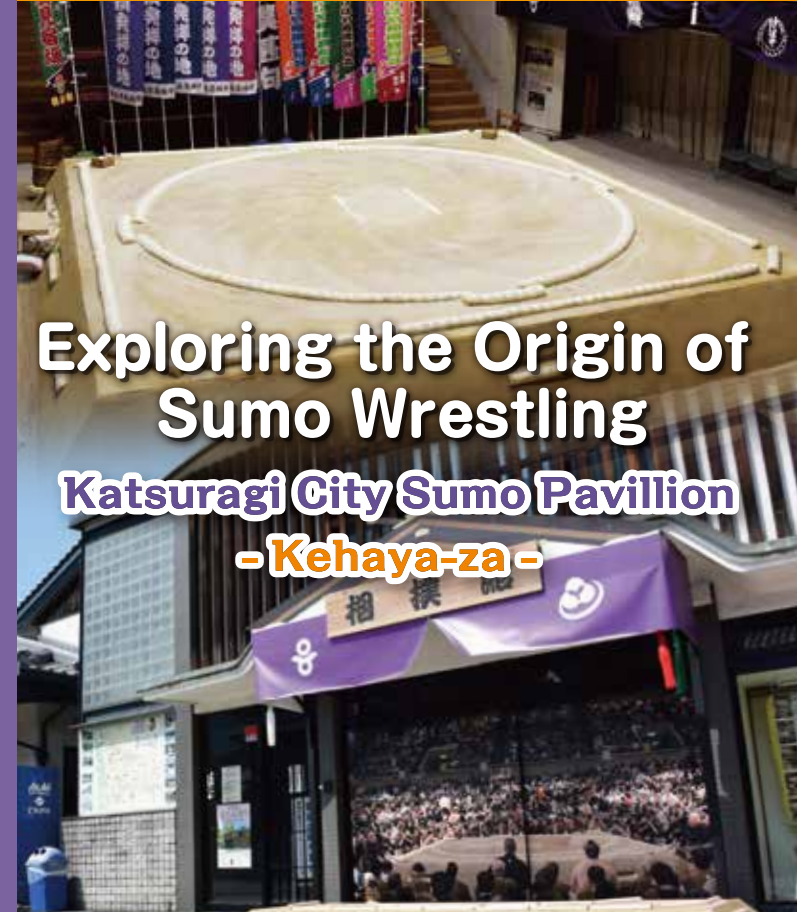
URL <http://www.city.katsuragi.nara.jp/index.cfm/14,0,41,html>

E-Mail syoukou-kankou@city.katsuragi.lg.jp

2020.06

Exploring the Origin of Sumo Wrestling

Katsuragi City Sumo Pavillion - Kehaya-za -



Admission is free for foreign tourists by showing a passport.



Gorin-to pagoda (lower left) in front of the museum is known as a grave of Taimano Kehaya and called as Kehaya-zuka from olden times.

Katsuragi city mascot character Renka-chan

Katsuragi city



Katsuragi City, where the first sumo match was held, is the birth place of sumo wrestling



Welcome to the Sumo Pavillion

The Sumo Pavillion of Katsuragi City, a rare museum even in Japan, opened in May 1990. A real-size sumo ring is set up at the center of the first floor. Sumo history and articles related to the local wrestlers are on display on the second floor.



Sumo Workshop (on request)

Katsuragi City Sumo Pavilion holds a Sumo Workshop to promote the sport. Anyone can enter the sumo ring, receive sumo instruction, and get a feel of being a sumo wrestler by wearing a Mawashi sash.



Performance of Sumo Jinku (Sumo-themed Songs)

Sumo-themed songs are performed to hand down the culture of the national sport of Japan.

(Basically on the 1st Sunday of every month, 14:00 - 16:00)



Gallery

Sumo history and the articles related to the sumo wrestlers born in Nara Prefecture are on display. Exhibits are sometimes changed.



Sumo Tools



Akeni

Akeni is a wicker suitcase used by sekitori sumo wrestlers of juryo rank and above and gyoji (referees) in the Grand Sumo Tournament to store Kesho-Mawashi (a decorated sash), Shimokomi (a competition sash) and Yukata robes. They are made with bamboo and Japanese paper laminated with persimmon tannin.



Kesho-Mawashi Sash

Sekitori (juryo rank) and above sumo wrestlers wear this sash at the dohyo-iri, a ceremonial entrance into the ring. It is mainly made with silk cloth (embroidery, damask). There is an apron-like piece of material attached to the front part, to which embroidery with gold and silver threads is applied.



Collections



Sumo Ranking List

Names are written of approximately 600 sumo wrestlers, oyakata (bosses), gyoji (referees) and yobidashi (announcers).



Nishiki-e Picture

Nishiki-e are color prints of sumo wrestlers made from the Edo period to the Meiji period. These multi-colored woodblock prints were popular during the Edo period.

This houses sumo related articles such as magazines, records and cards, etc.



Magazine Sumo and Baseball



Records



Karuta cards



About Sumo

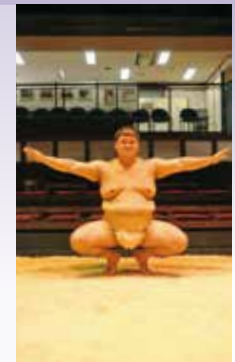


[Dohyo – the sumo ring]

The dohyo is formed with a circle of 4 m, 55 cm in diameter mounted on a 5 m, 70 cm square platform with a standard height of 54 cm. The dohyo is considered to be a sacred arena where females and anyone wearing shoes are not allowed to enter. However, the sumo ring in this museum is for display, so females and anyone wearing shoes can enter.

[Chiri-o-kiru, ritual gesture]

In sumo, wrestlers perform the "sonkyo" first, where they crouch and face each other, and then perform "chiri-o-kiru". First, they stretch both of their hands out in front within their knees, lower their heads, bring both hands together at the chest level and clap. This gesture signifies fair play by showing each other that they are unarmed. Finally, they open their arms out to their sides, turn their palms and move on to match itself.



[Victory or Defeat in Sumo]

According to the basic rules of sumo, a wrestler wins when he forces the opponent to step out of the ring or to touch the ground with any part of his body other than the bottom of the feet. First of all, a gyoji (referee) lets both wrestlers bow, starts the bout by calling out "Hakkeyoi, Nokotta!" and ends with the judgment of the bout by saying "Shobu Atta!", which means the game is over. Then the winner is declared by the gyoji and the loser leaves the ring.