

About "Kaiten" Human Torpedoes

The Kaiten was a special attack weapon—a torpedo equipped with a massive amount of explosives, piloted by a human to crash directly into enemy ships. The term “Kaiten” translates to “turning the heavens” or “reversing fortune.”

This weapon was developed in the final stages of the Pacific War in a desperate attempt to turn the tide of the conflict. Ozushima Island served as a training base for Kaiten pilots, where young men, around 20 years old, gathered from across Japan to undergo rigorous daily training. These pilots then embarked on missions to protect their homeland during a time of extreme adversity.



A Kaiten after being transported to the training base platform

Map (Umashima Port to Kaiten Memorial Museum)



Information for Visitors

- Opening hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Closed: Wednesdays (if Wednesday is a public holiday, the museum is closed the following day instead), and December 29 through January 3

■ Admission fees

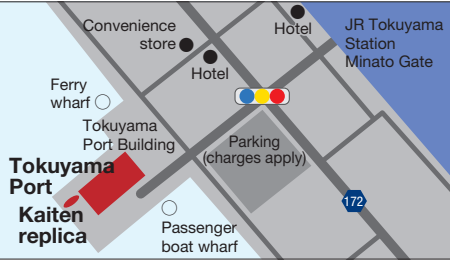
Adults	310 yen
Groups of 30 or more	250 yen

* Scan the QR code for details on admission fees for students etc.



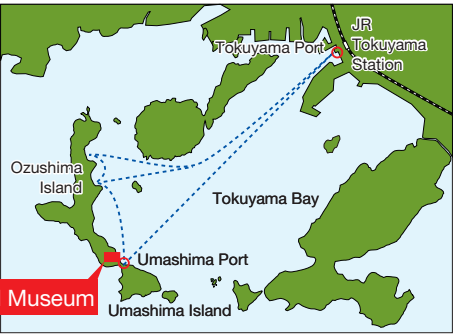
■ Access to Tokuyama Port

- Approx. 5 minutes on foot from the Shinkansen Gate (Minato Gate) of JR Tokuyama Station to Tokuyama Port



■ Access to the museum

- From Tokuyama Port to Umashima Port: 44 minutes by ferry
- 18 to 34 minutes by passenger boat (normal season)
- From Umashima Port to Kaiten Memorial Museum: Approx. 10 minutes on foot
- Scan the QR code for details on ferry fares and schedules (Ozushima Junko ferry website)



Shunan City Kaiten Memorial Museum

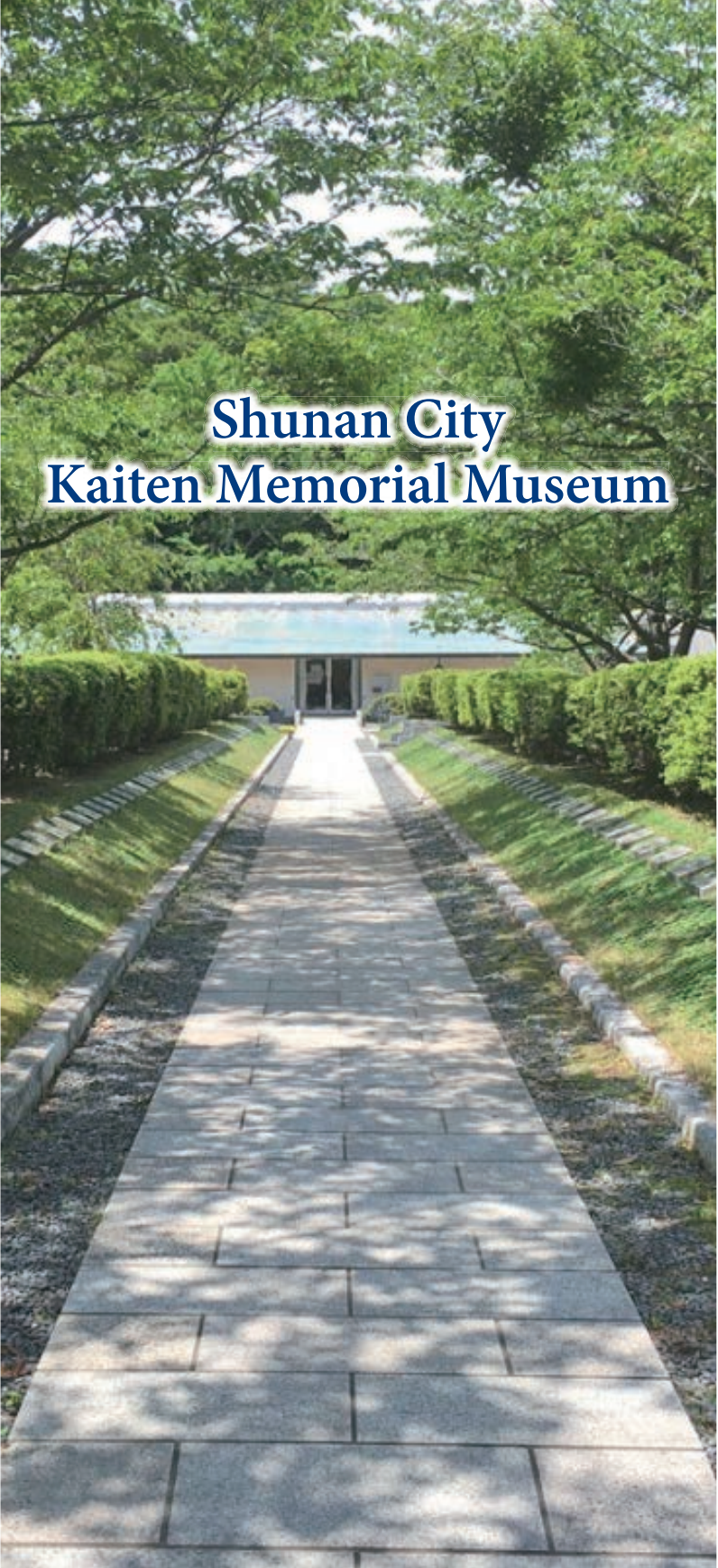
1960 Ozushima, Shunan-shi,
Yamaguchi Prefecture 745-0057
TEL&FAX: 0834-85-2310
E-mail: bunka@city.shunan.lg.jp
<https://www.city.shunan.lg.jp/site/kaiten>

Kaiten Memorial Museum website



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Shunan City
Kaiten Memorial Museum



About the Kaiten Memorial Museum

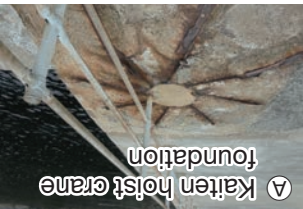
The Kaiten Memorial Museum exhibits farewell letters from the pilots, their personal effects, and materials related to the Kaiten, a human torpedo developed during the final stages of the Pacific War. The museum serves as a peace education facility, offering visitors opportunities to reflect on the value of life and the importance of peace. It was constructed to collect, preserve, and display the belongings of Kaiten pilots using funds raised through public donations starting in 1965, and it officially opened in 1968.

In 1998, the museum underwent renovations, which included expanding the exhibition spaces and enhancing the surrounding facilities.

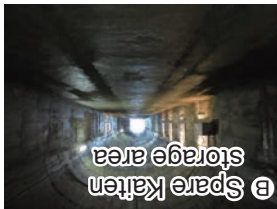
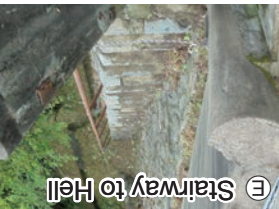
The museum is divided into seven sections, each presenting exhibits and panels on various themes related to the Kaiten pilots.



The Kaiten Memorial Museum today

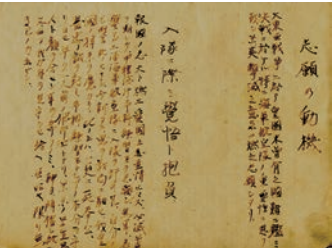


Former Kaiten Training Base and Related Facilities



1. A Turbulent Era

One section of the museum highlights the deteriorating conditions in Japan and abroad during the period from the Sino-Japanese War to the Pacific War. Exhibits include textbooks and other items from the pilots' childhood, their naval academy and engineering school days, and their military service.



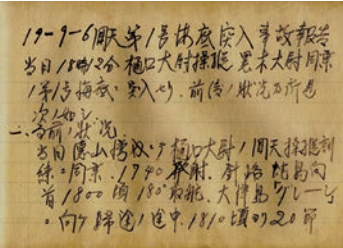
Personal journal of second-class airman Shoshichi Shibazaki



Japanese national flag gifted to a student conscripted during the war

2. To Save the Homeland

Another section presents the thoughts of the soldiers involved in the development of Kaiten torpedoes and the organizational backgrounds of the pilots. Notable exhibits include Kaiten pilot application requirements targeting flight preparatory course trainees, a notebook entry by Captain Hiroshi Kuroki written inside a Kaiten after it sank to the seabed during a training accident that claimed his life, and photographs of pilots who perished in the war.



Notebook entry by Captain Hiroshi Kuroki detailing his own accident



Photographs of pilots who died in the war

3. Life at the Training Base

The museum also features a diorama depicting the training base layout, the training waters, and details of the training process. Visitors can view an actual Kaiten hatch and periscope, as well as a cockpit replica used in the 2006 film Sea Without Exit.

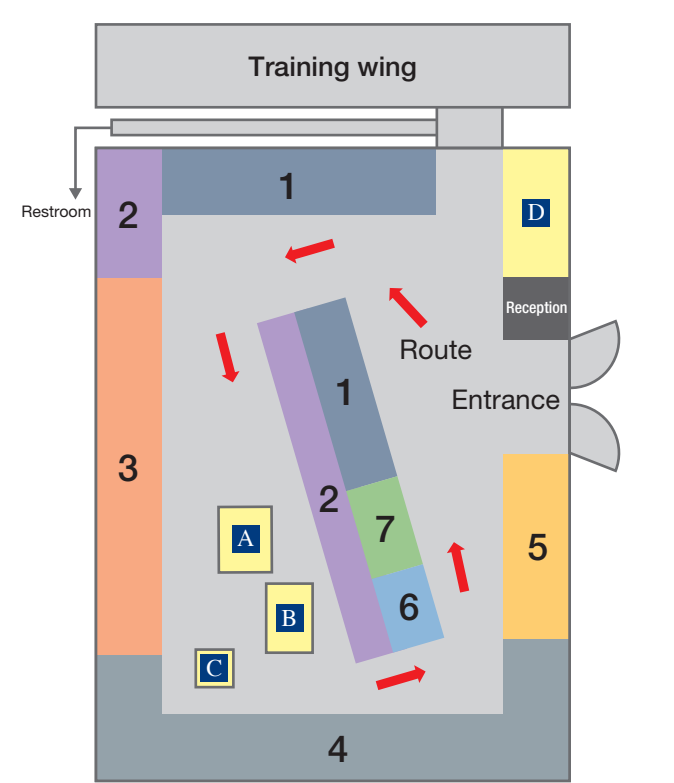


Diorama



A Kaiten hatch

Museum Guide Map



A Digital museum system

Materials not on display can be viewed onscreen.



B A Kaiten cockpit replica (used in a movie)

This replica was modeled after the cockpit of an actual Kaiten preserved in the United States.



C A device for playing back the voice of a Kaiten pilot

The museum houses a recording of the voice of Second Lieutenant Taro Tsukamoto, which is the only remaining contemporary recording of a Kaiten pilot.



D Audio-visual corner

You can watch the video "Witnesses of an Era", in which former pilots share their experiences and thoughts about the Kaiten.



4. Departing on Missions

The charts display the unit names, departure locations, and deployment bases of Kaiten units prepared for the final defense of Japan's homeland. In addition to displaying items and photographs from dagger presentation ceremonies, headband receipt events, and commemorative photo sessions before departure, visitors can also listen to recordings of the pilots' voices using the available equipment.



Dagger



Pilots departing on missions

5. Post-War Japanese Society and Kaiten

This section introduces the post-war period of confusion in Japan and how information about Kaiten, previously classified during the war, was eventually disclosed to the public.



Original Kaiten monument (erected on November 10, 1945)



Chugoku Shimbun (newspaper) report about the Kaiten (October 5, 1945)

6. Toward a New Era

This section also introduces the global context of the era and initiatives aimed at promoting world peace, such as the establishment of the United Nations.

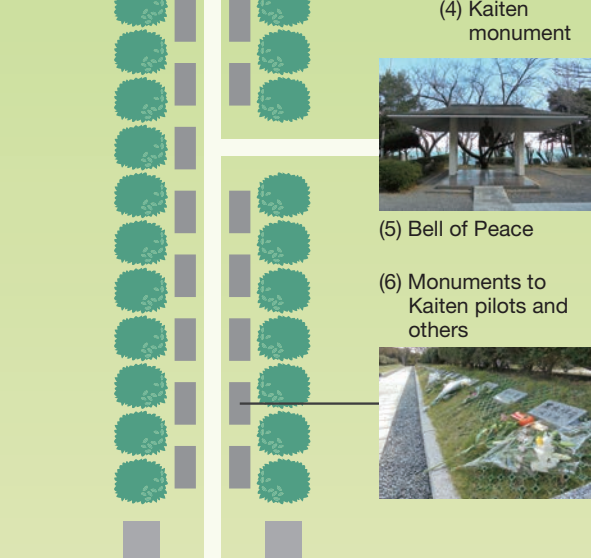
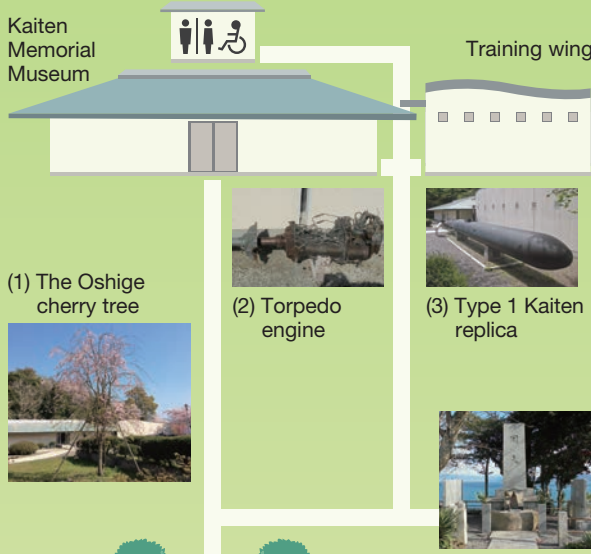


Kaiten Memorial Museum completion ceremony

7. Kaiten Pilots' Hopes for Peace

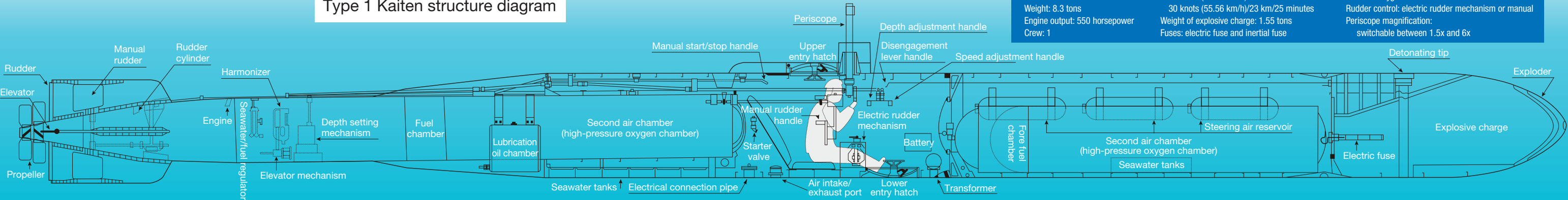
Panels introduce the thoughts of the pilots.

Map of Kaiten Memorial Museum grounds



- (1) A cherry tree was planted to commemorate "Oshige-san," a beloved mother figure to the pilots.
- (2) An actual Type 93 oxygen torpedo engine was installed in a Kaiten.
- (3) A full-scale replica of a Type 1 Kaiten torpedo is on display.
- (4) The Kaiten monument was erected using funds donated from throughout Japan.
- (5) The Bell of Peace was cast from materials such as shell casings from the battleship Mutsu.
- (6) Monuments are engraved with the names of pilots, maintenance staff, and others involved.

Type 1 Kaiten structure diagram



Main specifications (Type 1)	Speed/range/duration	Hatches: one upper and one lower
Total length: 14.75 m	10 knots (18.52 km/h)/78 km/253 minutes	Fuel: kerosene
Diameter: 1 m	20 knots (37.04 km/h)/43 km/70 minutes	Oxidizer: oxygen
Weight: 8.3 tons	30 knots (55.56 km/h)/23 km/25 minutes	Rudder control: electric rudder mechanism or manual
Engine output: 550 horsepower	Weight of explosive charge: 1.55 tons	Periscope magnification: switchable between 1.5x and 6x
Crew: 1	Fuses: electric fuse and inertial fuse	