

2024 SPRING SEMBA EXPO

船場の おひなまつり

Semba Doll Festival

10th & THE FINAL

Thanks to your support, the "Semba Doll Festival" will be held for the 10th time. This will be the last time the festival will be held in its current form. We hope you will take this opportunity to visit us.

船場
博覧会
SEMBA EXPO
2023

Hosts: Semba Exhibition Executive Committee



Shibakawa Family

26th Feb (Mon) ▶ 3rd March (Sun) 2024

2024 SPRING SEMBA EXPO

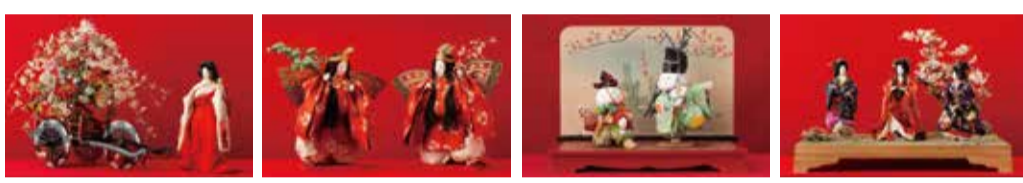
What is Semba?

Semba is the historic city center of Osaka, and encompasses an area stretching roughly 1km from east to west, and 2km from north to south, surrounded by Tosabori River, Higashiyokobori River, Nagahori River (filled in), and Nishiyokobori River (filled in). It began as a castle town around Osaka Castle when it was built by Hideyoshi Toyotomi in the 16th century, and in the Edo period it flourished as the economic/cultural center of Japan. Even after this period it remained one of Osaka's foremost business districts, with many companies located there, but ever since the asset price bubble burst, it has been steadily declining, and the town is becoming emptier. The residents of the town were worried by this development, so around the year 2000, they began grassroots activities to revive the town using things like historic buildings and traditional local culture; a variety of soft and hard initiatives to share the town's beauty are still going on today.

What is the Doll Festival?

Traditionally, it was believed that evil spirits were more likely to enter on sekku (seasonal milestone) days, so in the Heian period, during Joshi-no-sekku (3rd of March), a common ritual involved creating dolls from materials like paper and floating them down the river to cleanse evil spirits. Around the same time, a way of playing with dolls called "hina-asobi" was popular among the children of nobility, and the Joshi-no-sekku and hina-asobi traditions combined to create the roots of Doll Festival as we know it today. In the Edo period, people began decorating with exquisite, extravagant dolls, and this became established in popular culture as the Doll Festival: an event to wish for young girls to grow up healthy and happy.

In the Edo period, Semba flourished as the heart of Osaka and developed a rich culture. The world war II and subsequent economic growth greatly changed its appearance, but the high culture and traditions still live on in many places throughout the city. Semba Doll Festival is an initiative to encourage people to learn about the rich history and culture of Semba, by rediscovering and showcasing the traditional dolls passed down through generations of historic families in the area, which are slowly being lost to time. As spring approaches, celebrate children growing up, and enjoy the beautiful doll festival, revived in the modern world.



Shibakawa Family

Semba Doll Exhibition

There will be a special exhibition of the dolls passed down through generations of nine Northern Semba families, hosted at eight venues.

Doll Exhibition Support: Art Coordinator:
Toshio Ibe (The 14th. MOON)

Photo by Yoshiro Masuda

Dolls of the Toyoda family

Venue: Osaka Securities Exchange Building 1F
9:00 am - 6:00 pm



Dolls of the Shibakawa family

Venue: Shibakawa Building 4F
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
*Until 5 pm on the 26th of February (Mon)



Dolls of the Semba merchant family

Venue: Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation First Floor Entrance
9:00 am - 5:00 pm



Viewing from outside only

Dolls of the Bessho family

Venue: Sukunahikona Shrine
9:30 am - 5:00 pm



Dolls of the Arai family the Mihara family

Venue: Fushimi Building 1F
10:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Viewing from outside only

Dolls of the Ikoma family

Venue: Fushimi Building 1F
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Viewing from outside only

Dolls of the Koyama family

Venue: Kansou yodoyabashihonten
10:00 am - 6:00 pm



Viewing from outside only

Dolls of the Takaoka family

10:30 am - 5:00 pm
*Cannot be viewed on the 3rd of March (Sun)



Semba Dolls Photo Book

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Semba Doll Festival, we will release a photo book featuring the Semba Dolls of the 10 families that have exhibited so far.

Available at the Shibakawa Building



Spring fragrances provided by Ogawa & Co.

Visitors will be met with the fresh, sweet, elegant fragrance of peaches, used to represent a wish for young girls to grow up healthy and happy.

26th Feb (Mon) ~ 3rd March (Sun) 2024

Time depends on venue.

Venue: Shibakawa Building, Sukunahikona Shrine, MUFG Bank Osaka Building

Video introduction of "Semba Doll Festival"

During the exhibition period, we will show a video introducing the dolls of each family.

Venue: MUFG Bank Osaka Building, Osaka Securities Exchange Building 1F

Semba Dolls Postcard Set

12 cards/1 set: ¥1,000 tax included

Available at the Shibakawa Building



Experience the old/famous shops of Semba

In the Northern Semba region, there are several old/famous shops that have inherited the rich traditions and culture of Semba, Osaka, and continue to hand it down to the present.

While exploring the doll exhibitions, bring your family and friends to enjoy some special spring hospitality.

Ristorante Isolata

3-3-1 Fushimimachi

Lunch: 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Dinner: 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Closed on Sundays (2nd,4th) and Mondays

"isolata" is a restaurant located in a detached area through the Shibakawa Building. The restaurant serves Italian cuisine with a touch of local flair. Anyone is welcome to come and enjoy our warm and welcoming atmosphere.



image

Kagairo Kitahamahonten

1-1-14 Kitahama <http://kagairo.co.jp/>

Lunch 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Dinner 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Closed on Sundays and holidays

Historic Japanese restaurant established in 1830. In front of the Tosabori River, enjoy a limited edition shokado bento along with the beautiful scenery of Osaka, the city of waterways.



image

GOKAN Kitahamahonkan

2-1-1 Imabashi <http://www.patisserie-gokan.co.jp/>
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

GOKAN continues to share high culture from Kitahama, Semba, by producing authentic confectionery made carefully with Japanese ingredients.



image

Kikujuudo Yoshinobu

2-3-1 Koraibashi

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Closed on Sundays and holidays (Reservation only on Saturdays)
A historic wagashi store established nearly 200 years ago. The sweet "itadaki," originating from palace events to pray for the healthy growth of children, is served by Kikujuudo for the Doll Festival.



Kansou Yodoyabashihonten

3-4-10 Koraibashi <https://kansou.co.jp/>

Shop: Weekdays: 10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Café: Weekdays: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturdays: 10:00am - 3:00pm
Closed on Sundays and holidays

Shio kombu and tsukudani store founded in 1781. Enjoy the sweet taste of shio kombu, the pride of Osaka, in a traditional Edo period townhouse.



Koraibashi Kitcho

2-6-7 Koraibashi <https://koraibashi-kitcho.com/en/>

Lunch 11:30 am - 2 pm Dinner 5 pm - 9 pm
Closed on Sundays and holidays

Koraibashi Kitcho embodies the spirit of authentic Japanese fine dining, perfected by Kitcho founder Teiichi Yuki. The freshest ingredients of the season, carefully chosen tableware, the décor of the room, and genuine hospitality—all come together in artistic perfection to create a blissful experience. Come to Koraibashi Kitcho to savor the ultimate in Japanese kaiseki cuisine.



image

Honke Shibato

2-5-2 Koraibashi <http://www.shibato.net/index.html>

10:30 am - 6:00 pm
Closed on Sundays and Mondays

*May be closed even during business hours if stock runs out.

Founded in the early 18th century. Originally they served fish from the river to the shogun family, but they later opened a restaurant. The restaurant is still beloved to this day as a famous historic Kamigata eel restaurant, even appearing in rakugo.



image

Mimiu Honmachiten

<http://www.mimiu.co.jp/en/>

4-6-4 Honmachi

Lunch 11:30 am - 3:00 pm Dinner 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Closed on Sundays and holidays

Known as the birthplace of the Osaka specialty "udonsuki(a name combining udon and sukiyaki)." Visitors can enjoy noodles and Japanese cuisine made with only the finest ingredients.



image

Yoshino Sushi

3-4-14 Awajimachi <http://www.yoshino-sushi.co.jp/>

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays

Ever since its founding in 1841, this historic sushi restaurant has preserved the traditions of Osaka sushi. Enjoy the gorgeous "Chirashi Sushi", perfect for the Hinamatsuri season



image

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