

“Kidai Shoran”



What is the picture scroll Kidai Shoran?

Kidai Shoran is a work that depicts a bird's-eye view of the Nihonbashi street in Edo from the east side. It shows the main street between Nihonbashi and Imagawabashi (now, Chuo street) in 1805, over 200 years ago. The original is possessed by Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Although this excellent work is characterized by a warm sight and delicate touch, regrettably the name of the painter is unknown. The work vividly depicts 88 wholesale and retail stores, 1,671 people with various positions and jobs, 20 dogs, 13 horses, 4 cows, 1 monkey, 2 falcons, etc. Interesting scenes unfold one after another. The title Kidai Shoran seems to mean “an excellent scene of the great city of Edo in a glorious era.” It is just as if we slipped back in time to the Edo period.

GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITIONS



Regarding Kidai Shoran as a valuable work that will hand down the history and culture of Nihonbashi-street to future generations, the Nihonbashi-bridge Preservation Society and Committee for the 100-Year Renaissance Plan for Nihonbashi and Environs created and exhibited an about 17-meter copy of the picture scroll with the permission of Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and under the general supervision of the Edo-Tokyo Museum. The picture part of the copy is 40% larger than that of the original. The copy has been printed on Japanese paper. The panel surrounding the picture shows explanations about the townspeople's culture in the Edo period. Please take time to enjoy the most vital time in the Edo period about 200 years ago.

- Place of exhibition: Mitsukoshi Mae Station on Tokyo Metro Ginza Line and Hanzomon Line
Wall along an underground concourse (around the underground central entrance of the Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi Main Store)

OPEN
4:40 ~ 24:30

Cruising in Nihonbashi, an aquapolis : Nihonbashi Wharf

Nihonbashi-bridge was the starting point of the five main highways connecting the whole of Japan and also prospered from water transport. The prosperity was a symbol of the rich city of Edo. At present, some circular cruising courses start from Nihonbashi Wharf, including the Tokyo Skytree course, the Odaiba course, and the Kanda River course.

