

Press release

Special exhibition :

**Hokusai's Bridge**

**Sumida Bridge**

**-the Full Span**

11 September – 4 November 2018

The Sumida Hokusai Museum

Bridges are a part of our history: human beings have built bridges since ancient times to overcome the natural obstacles posed by rivers and gorges, to facilitate travel and communication. Over the centuries, political and technological constraints have resulted in the development of types and structures for bridges specific to particular eras. We deal with bridges as both essential urban infrastructure and cultural monument.

The first section of this exhibition presents various bridges depicted by Hokusai and his pupils including *"Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces"*, a series regarded as one of Hokusai's masterpieces. In the second section, our focus is on bridges in Sumida City and how bridges have developed and changed from Hokusai's day on. The historic changes in bridge structures, are illustrated using postcards, blueprints and other materials.

As we view the bridges Hokusai depicted, let us take this opportunity to notice and reflect upon the bridges we ourselves cross every day.



Katsushika Hokusai *"The Cool of the Ryōgoku Evening, the Ichi-no-Hashi Benten Shrine, and a Day Without a Festival, from Picture Book of the Sumida River—Both Banks at a Glance, Vol. 2"* Collection: the Sumida Hokusai Museum (All term)

## Exhibition Structure and Highlights

### ◆Section 1. Hokusai's Bridge *Various bridges depicted by Hokusai*

The first section of this exhibition presents bridges depicted by Hokusai and his pupils. Hokusai himself noticed the great variety of bridge structures in the Edo period, the period in which he lived, and captured them as only he could in *"Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces"*, a series regarded as one of his masterpieces. In it he depicts not only famous bridges but also bridges with particularly interesting structures. All eleven works in this series will be shown in this exhibition, part in the first and the remainder in the second half, along with many other works illustrating the variety of bridges depicted by Hokusai's pupils as well as Hokusai himself.



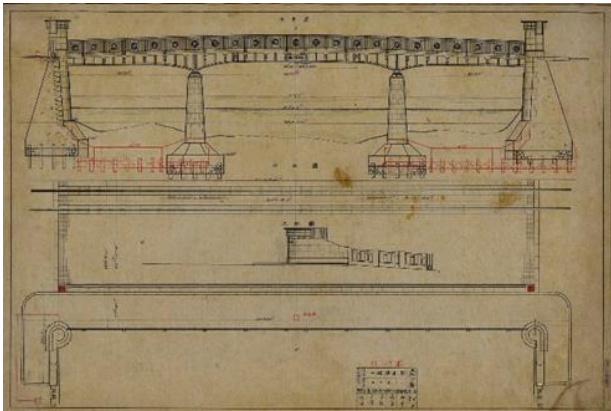
Katsushika Hokusai "Kintaikyō Bridge at Suō Province, from the series Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces" (1 term)



Katsushika Hokusai "The Suspension Bridge on the Border of Hida and Etchū Provinces, from the series Remarkable Views of Bridges in Various Provinces" (All term) ※Replace same title's work

### ◆Section 2. Sumida Bridge *Learning a history of bridges and Sumida city*

In the second section our focus is on bridges in Sumida City and how bridges have developed and changed from Hokusai's day on. In the Edo period, the large Sumida River was joined by canals built as the center of the city of Edo grew and rivers large and small for irrigation, transport, and sewage disposal. Those waterways were spanned by new bridges built by local people as well as by the shogunate. The Meiji period saw rapid acceptance of Western technology in bridge building and dramatic increases in steel production, and steel bridges with new structures began to be built. The Great Kantō Earthquake and other crises then led to their rebuilding, a process that continues today. These historic changes, including changes in bridge structures, are illustrated using paintings, postcards, blueprints and other materials.



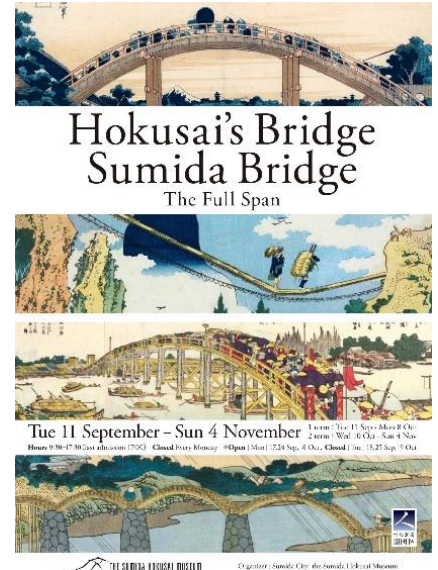
General Structural Diagram of Honjo Shinobashi Bridge(Completed) Collection: Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Construction (All term)



"Azumabashi Bridge, from the series Famous Views of the Eastern Metropolis" Postcard Collection: Akio KURIBAYASHI (All term)

## Exhibition Overview

- ◆ **Exhibition title:** Hokusai's Bridge Sumida Bridge – The Full Span
- ◆ **Term :** Tue 11 September - Sun November
  - \*1 term: Tue 11 Sep – Mon 8 Oct
  - \*2 term: Wed 10 Oct- Sun 4 Nov
- \* **Closed :** Every Monday (Open: Mon 17, 24 Sep, 8 Oct,  
Closed: Tue 18, 25 Sep, 9 Oct)
- ◆ **Organizer :** Sumida City the Sumida Hokusai Museum
- ◆ **Contact :** The Sumida Hokusai Museum
- ◆ **Admission Fees :** This ticket allow to see AURORA (Permanent exhibition room)
  - Adults ¥1200 (960) HS University Students ¥900 (720)
  - JHS Students ¥400(320) 65and over ¥900 (720)
  - Disabled peoples ¥400 (320) ※ ( ) means group Fee



- \*Group admission applies to 20 or more paying adults.
- \*Students in elementary school and younger are admitted discount of charge
- \*Junior high school, high school, and university students (including technical college, vocational school, and special training college students) will be requested to show student ID.
- \*Adults 65 and over will be requested to show a document verifying age.
- \*Persons with a certificate such as the following plus one accompanying person are admitted free of charge: physical disability, intellectual disability, rehabilitation, mentally handicapped health and welfare, atomic bomb victim health notebook, etc.  
(Please show your certificate at time of admission.)
- \*Use of these tickets is limited to the day on which the exhibition is visited, and allow you to see AURORA (Permanent exhibition room), too

【The Sumida Hokusai Museum】

**Hour :** 9:30-17:30 (Last admission 17:00)

**Closed :** Every Monday

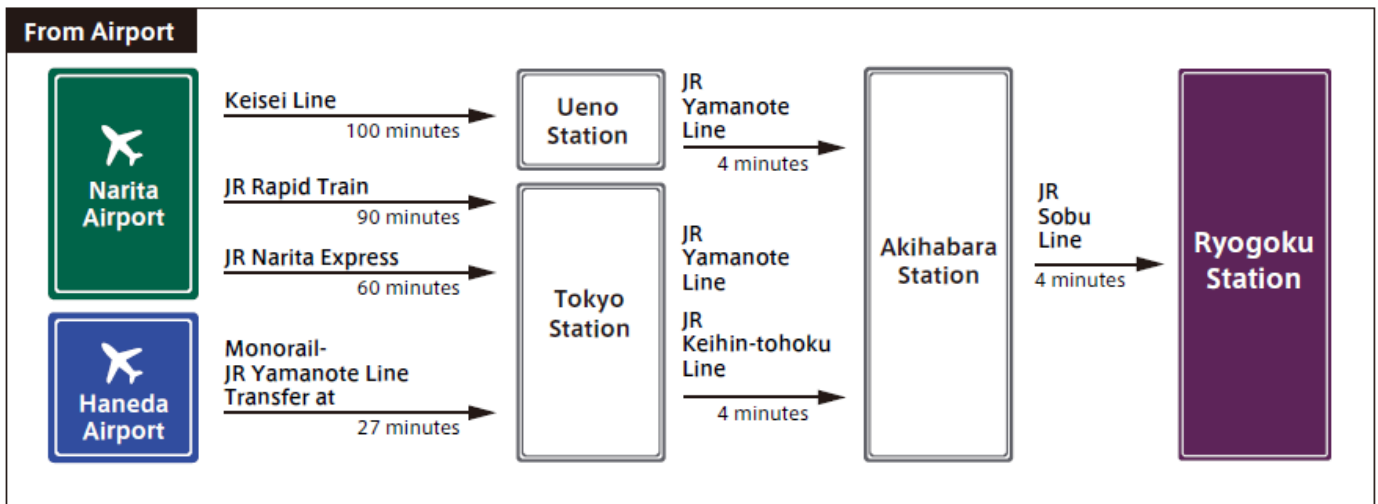
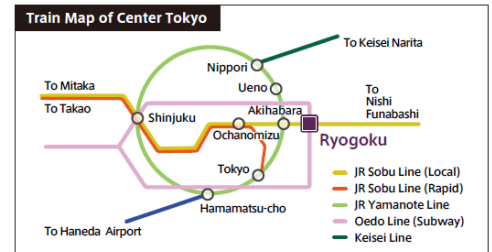
**Address :** 2-7-2 Kamesawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, 130-0014, Japan

**Tel :** 03-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)

**Official web site:** <http://hokusai-museum.jp/>

**Official Twitter :** <http://twitter.com/HokusaiMuseum/>

**Official FB :** <http://www.facebook.com/THE.SUMIDA.HOKUSAI.MUSEUM/>



## Related Events (only in Japanese)

Venue : MARUGEN100 (Museum lecture hall)

Admission: Free (However, an admission ticket or annual pass is required)

### 1, Lecture "Bridges at Edo and Culture at waterside"

Lecturer: Hiroichi NISHIKI (Tokyo Metropolitan Archives historiographer)

Date and time: Sat 15 Sep 14:00-15:30 (Door Open 13:30)

Capacity : 60

### 2, Lecture "The Sumida river Bridge History from Meji era to today"

Lecturer: Akio KURIBAYASHI (Tokyo Metropolitan Bureau of Construction Road and Street Construction Division)

Date and time: Sat 13 Nov 14:00-15:30 (Door Open 13:30)

Capacity : 60

### 3, Slide Presentation "Hokusa's Bridge, Sumida Bridge – The Full Span"

Lecturer: The museum Curator

Date and time: Sun 30 September, Sun 28 October 14:00-14:30 (Door open 13:30)

Capacity: 60

### 4, Work shop "Let's make arch bridge"

The structure of bridge can be understood through easy handicraft.

Lecturer: 403architecture [dajiba]

Date and Time : Sun 7 Oct 14 : 00-16 : 00

Capacity : 15

※This workshop is for age over 7. For more information, please see our website.

## Next exhibition

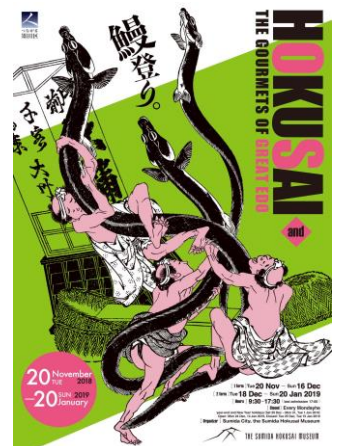
### Hokusai and the Gourmets of Great Edo

◇Tue 20 November 2018 – Sun January 20 2019

Our Hokusai and the Gourmets of Great Edo exhibition is being held just five years after Washoku, the traditional dietary culture of the Japanese, was recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. The act of eating can be seen as a biological necessity for sustaining life. As a cultural activity, however, the nature of eating, of food and cuisine, reveals the distinctive qualities of each society. For Washoku, those characteristics include respecting the flavors intrinsic to ingredients and valuing seasonal differences. Japan's food culture is, as its UNESCO status signifies, attracting intense interest from throughout the world.

The roots of that Washoku culture line in the Edo period. During two and a half centuries of peace, agriculture and fishing made great strides, the economy grew and became more complex, and, thanks to socio-economic advancement, people achieved a level of affluence that enabled them to enjoy dining as a source of pleasure. The Edo gourmet was born. Even Katsushika Hokusai, who was dedicatedly focused on his art throughout his long life, is known to have enjoyed eating sweets. Hokusai also created lively depictions of foods in Edo and of people enjoying eating them.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all who cooperated in providing materials and who provided their cooperation and support to make this exhibition possible.  
Bon appetit!



## News!!

Related to this exhibition, we will held the events which visitors can eat the reproducing food of the Edo period. We will keep you posted on the website.