

Information's for teachers

for the visit to the Samurai Museum

Who were the samurai?

The first samurai appeared in the 10th century. They developed from armed warrior groups and local landlords. As warriors on horseback with bows, arrows and longswords, they wore heavy, boxy armor (*ō yoroi*). They fought for political power in Japan.

During the Sengoku period (1467-1600), samurai warfare reached its peak. Independent warlords fought for supremacy. Called *daimyō*, literally "great name", these warlords were known in feudal Japan. With their private armies, they attempted to expand their territory by force. In the end, the Tokugawa clan prevailed and established a military government, the Tokugawa Shogunate. The rulers of the shogunate were called *Shōgun*.

In this hierarchical order of the Edo period (around 1600-1868), the samurai were officially the highest caste in Japanese society. The laws of the Tokugawa shogunate and the long period of peace forced most samurai to become officials, artists, philosophers, bodyguards, and sometimes even robbers.

What can you see in the Samurai Museum?

In the Samurai Museum you can see about 1000 objects from the samurai culture. The exhibits are originals, most of which date back to the Edo period (around 1600 - 1868). The private collection belongs to Peter Janssen, a former contractor from Berlin. The exhibited objects are described in detail, furthermore there are many general information texts about samurai, craftsmanship but also about Japanese history in general in the exhibition. The collection is presented interactively with modern technology, such as projections and touch screens.

Important information about the visit

Bringing backpacks and bags into the exhibition is prohibited.

Lockers are available for which a €1 or €2 coin is required as a deposit. No liability is assumed for checkroom and lockers.

Eating, drinking as well as smoking is prohibited in the exhibition rooms.

Photography and filming in the exhibition rooms is permitted, but only without flash.

The sound of cell phones must be turned off in the museum.

Please do not leave students under the age of 14 unattended.

Please inform the students about the house rules before they visit the museum.