

## History

### Heading for Antarctica

In 1910, Nobu Shirase launched his expedition with the aim of reaching the South Pole. Forty-six years later, the first Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE) party left for Antarctica aboard the icebreaker Soya and landed on Ongul Islands on January 29, 1957. The expedition named the surrounding area as "Syowa Station". This marked the beginning of JARE.



"KD604 Snow Vehicle", employed for Japanese South Pole Expedition in 1968, and certified as a Mechanical Engineering Heritage in 2014.

! Look for videos of the snow vehicle in operation.

## Syowa Station

Established in 1957 on East Ongul Island, Syowa Station started with 11 expedition members overwintering in four buildings that were little more than mountain lodges. A half-century later, Syowa Station has become a world leading scientific station made up of more than 60 buildings with internet connections, floor heating, private bedrooms, bathrooms, and flush toilets.



Look at live images from Syowa Station.

! What is the time difference between Japan and Syowa Station?

## Atmosphere & Ice

### Exploring the earth's environment

Antarctica is covered by ice sheet made of snow. Buried within this ice is a record of the earth's climate and environment in the distant past.

The impacts of man living on are so small in Antarctica, that this area is an ideal location to study global environments in the past and present.



Drilling into deep layers of the ice sheet.

! How can we know the evidence of past global environments contained in the ice?

## Aurora

### Exploring the wonders of mysterious lights

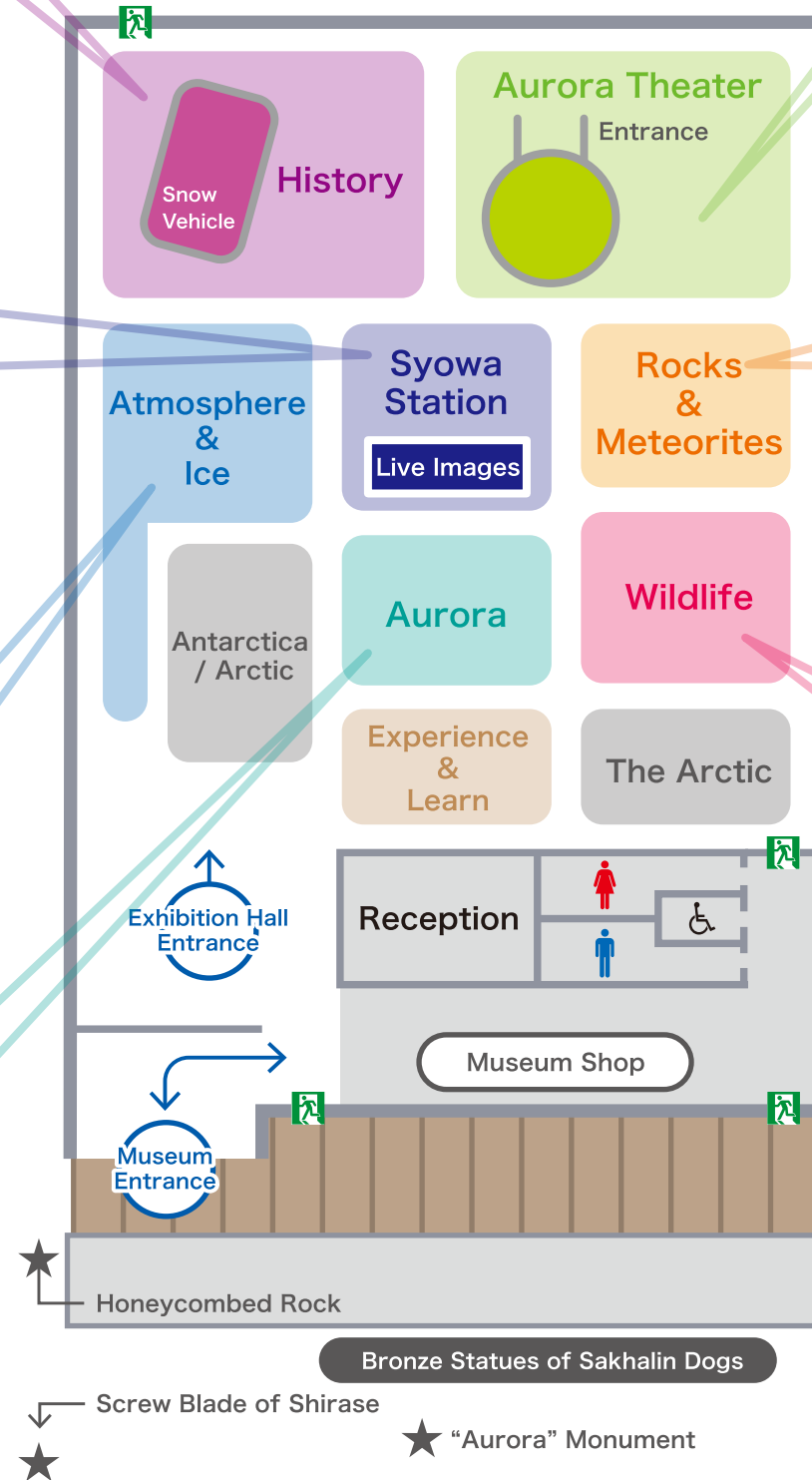
Why does an aurora glow? Are the auroras in the Antarctic and the Arctic the same? Where can we see auroras? Auroras are not only beautiful, but full of wonder and mystery. Plenty of information about the universe is contained in their colors, shapes and movements.



World's first permanent 3D aurora exhibition!

! What are the conditions needed to appear an aurora?

The Polar Science Museum introduces various observations and research activities conducted in the Antarctic and Arctic. You can view and touch actual items to experience these polar regions.



## Aurora Theater

The theater shows full-color images of auroras filmed in Antarctica and the Arctic on a four-meter-diameter domed screen.

Experience the wonder of auroras dynamically dancing across the whole sky for yourself.



Here is the world's only permanent exhibition featuring images of Arctic and Antarctic auroras!

! We show different Aurora programs every month.

## Rocks & Meteorites

### Exploring the solar system's 4.6 billion-year history

Meteorites are rocks fallen to earth from outer space. Meteorites can be discovered in Antarctica and many have been collected by JARE. Rocks, unlike meteorites, are formed here on earth. Studying rocks can tell us how the continents were formed and provide information about environmental changes in the past.



Field surveys in the Sør Rondane Mountains

! Look for rubies, sapphires, and lunar and Martian meteorites.

## Wildlife

### Exploring life and ecology in extremely low temperatures

Polar marine ecosystems are very rich. In addition to ice algae growing in sea ice, there are krill, fish, birds, and mammals living in Antarctic waters. The environments on land are much harsher than those in the sea. Plants such as moss and lichen, as well as tardigrada



and other microorganisms, live in special habitats where liquid water can be obtained. Let's explore this mysterious life surviving in such hard environments.

! How do penguins and seals behave in the water?

## Recommended points outside the Museum

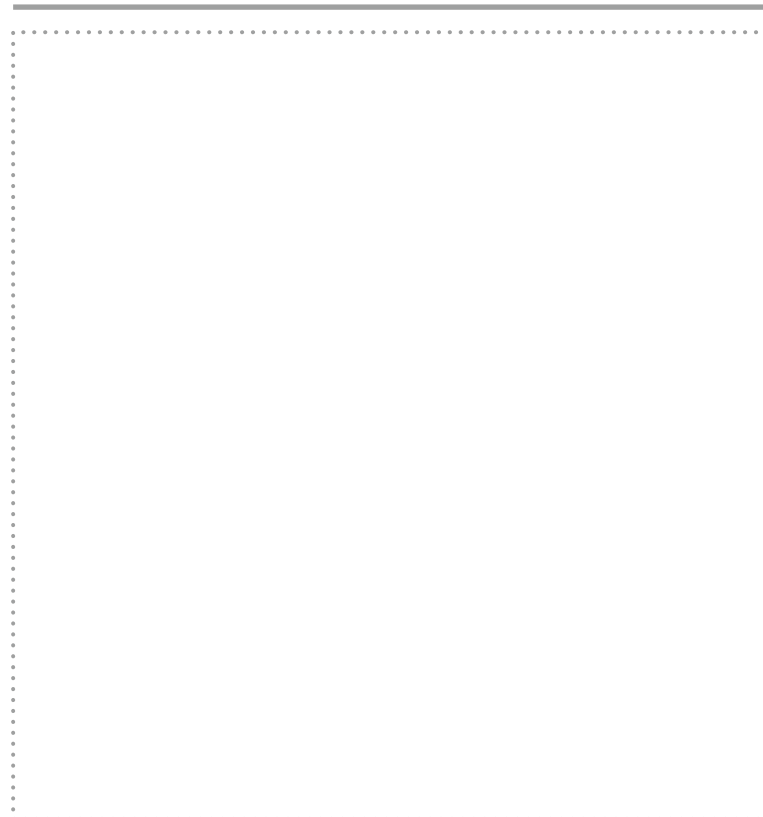
Check it out!



### Bronze Statues of Sakhalin Dogs

Worked for the First JARE(1956-1958) and Left at Syowa Station

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## Information

### ○Groups

Groups of eight or more people, as well as groups from schools / institutions visiting the museum, are requested to make reservations at least one day in advance.

**TEL : 042-512-0910**

(Hours: 10:00~17:00 from Tuesday to Saturday)

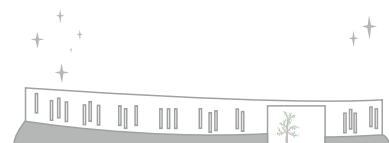
### Polar Science Museum

<http://www.nipr.ac.jp/science-museum>

### Science Museum Staff Blog

(offered in Japanese)

<http://science-museum-blog.nipr.ac.jp>



Environmental measures were incorporated into the construction of the museum: natural lighting, LED illumination, energy-saving spaces surrounded by mounds of soil, roof-top plants, others

National Institute of Polar Research

## Polar Science Museum

10-3 Midori-cho,  
Tachikawa-shi, Tokyo  
TEL: 042-512-0910

<http://www.nipr.ac.jp/science-museum>

Hours: 10:00~17:00 (visitors admitted until 30 minutes before closing)

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, national holidays,

Admission: Free



### ○Tachikawa Bus

From the JR Tachikawa Station North Exit No. 2 Bus Terminal, take the Tachikawa bus heading to Oyama-Danchi and get off at the Tachikawa Gakujutsu Plaza. The museum is a one-minute walk from this bus stop.

### ○Kururin Bus "Kita Kururin"

Get off at the Tachikawa Siyakusho stop or Saibansho-mae stop. The museum is a five-minute walk from these stations.

### ○Monorail

Take the Tama Monorail to Takamatsu, the first station from Tachikawa-Kita Station. The museum is a 10-minute walk from this station.

### ○Walking

The museum is a 25-minute walk from the JR Tachikawa Station's North Exit.

English

 National Institute of Polar Research

南極・北極科学館  
Polar Science Museum

