

Insight column

Hongyo ware and Shinsei ware

Shinsei ware

Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property
Water jar with landscape design, underglaze blue
The early 19th century



Hongyo ware

Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property
Dish with bamboo leaf design
The late 18C to the early 19C



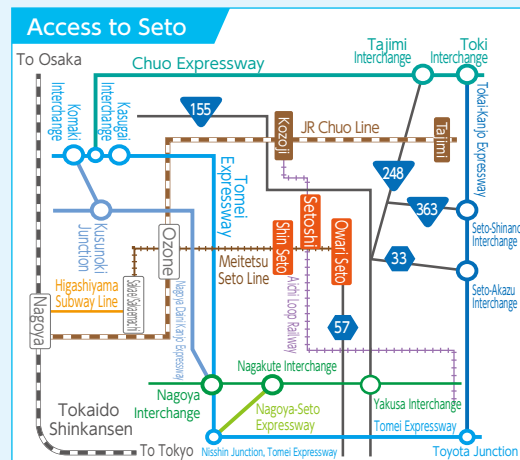
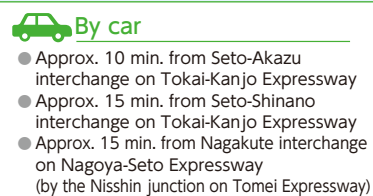
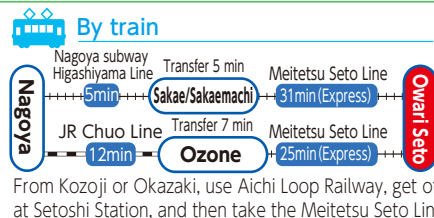
800 years after the beginning of pottery ware, production of porcelain objects developed rapidly in Seto after the introduction of the manufacturing techniques by Kato Tamikichi. Porcelain was called Shinsei ware, which means literally "ware produced using new techniques" in Japanese. On the other hand, pottery, which has been produced for a long time in Seto, is called Hongyo ware, with the meaning of "work involving conventional techniques" in Japanese.

Seto, the pottery capital with more than 1000 years of history

Seto City in Aichi Prefecture is located at approximately 20 km to the north east of Nagoya. Surrounded by hills of 100 to 300 meters high, the city enjoys a warm climate.

Thanks to the rich and high-quality clay material available in the region, the ceramics produced in the city have become well-known not only in Japan, but also internationally under the name "Setomono". Seto could prosper as the city of pottery because the first potters were open-minded and succeeded in assimilating new techniques and cultural elements.

The history, traditions, and culture inherited from these first craftspeople, as well as the rich nature of the region, can still be seen clearly in Seto.



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Map of Seto City of Japan Heritage

Thematic Guide 2

Tour of major places of Tamikichi's life

