

National Registered Tangible Cultural Property

Noshiro City Tourist Facility

# KANEYU

旧料亭 金勇 かねゆう

## INFORMATION

- Tour: 9:30 ~ 16:30 (JST)
- Admission: Free
- Closed: December 29 ~ January 3

## Traffic INFORMATION



- 10 minutes on foot from Noshiro Station on JR Gono Line
- 15 minutes by car from Noshiro-Higashi IC and Noshiro-Minami IC
- Parking available for cars.

## Former Ryotei Kaneyu, an edifice of Natural Akita Cedarwood

Former Ryotei Kaneyu, a testimony to natural growth Akita cedarwood. The city of Noshiro situated at the mouth of the Yoneshiro River prospered as a lumber town which mainly dealt in Akita cedarwood. Kaneyu was built in 1937 as a guesthouse managed by the lumber industry at the height of its prosperity to entertain clients. This sophisticated structure and its abundance of high-quality natural growth Akita cedarwood continues to fascinate its visitors. Kaneyu is an invaluable piece of historical architecture that stands as a testimony to the prosperity of a once thriving timber industry.

## Chronicle of Former Ryotei Kaneyu

- 1890: Founder Yusuke Kaneya opened KAIUNRO with rooms for rent in Yanagimachi,
- 1937: Yusuke Kaneya Jr. demolished Yamamoto Club and relaunched as Kaneyu Club. Building construction began in August and the roof-laying ceremony took place in September. The building was completed on November 10th. Forty-five carpenters and twenty workmen were involved in its construction.
- 1998: Kaneyu was registered as a National Registered Tangible Cultural Property in October.
- 2008: Kaneyu restaurant was closed.
- 2009: The land and building were donated to Noshiro city by its 4th generation proprietor.
- 2013: Former Ryotei Kaneyu was reopened by Noshiro city as a tourist facility.

Free Wi-Fi

## INQUIRIES

Former Ryotei Kaneyu

Address: 13-8, Yanagimachi, Noshiro-shi, Akita, 016-0825, JAPAN

kaneyu@shirakami.or.jp

<http://www.kaneyu.jp>

## 1 MANGETSU 満月

MANGETSU is a magnificent room on the first floor with a ceiling made from five gorgeous solid wood boards harvested from a single tree. These boards measure 9.1 meters (29' 10") in length and took a master craftsman three days to saw each one.



## 2 ARIAKE 有明

ARIAKE was created as a sample room of *harimasa* straight-grained boards, which represented the most advanced wood-producing technique at the time of Kaneyu's construction.



## 11 Main Hall 大広間

The outstanding feature of the Main Hall is its ceiling made up of wooden boards the size of tatami mats. These boards were harvested from a 260-year-old Akita cedar tree with a two-meter diameter trunk. The ceiling boards are arranged in a Buddhist swastika pattern.



## Alcove / Alcove Pillar 床の間・床柱

The *tokonoma* alcove in the Main Hall creates an elegant atmosphere fitting of this 110-tatami mat room. The alcove pillar was harvested from a painted maple tree that grew on the shores of Lake Towada. The pillar adds an impressive presence to the hall.



## Stage 舞台

Geisha in Noshiro gave dance performances on this stage.



## Flower Basket 花籠

A flower basket made of bamboo and tree roots procured by Kaneyu's founder.



## Sliding doors with glass and Fixtures 硝子戸・建具

All sliding doors were made by Noshiro artisan joiners. The gentle, wavy patterned glass dates back to Kaneyu's construction.



## 3 ASAGI 浅黄

The post and wing wall of ASAGI's *tokonoma* alcove were removed to make the room look bigger.



## 4 Corridor 廊下

Custom made tatami mats cover the length of this 25-meter corridor.



## 5 KAWAKAZE 川風

The unique feature of KAWAKAZE is its wooden panels above the paper sliding doors. The pattern resembles cracked ice.



## 6 TAGOTO 田毎

TAGOTO was used by politicians and businessmen for meetings and discussions. The photograph shows how meals were served when Kaneyu was in business.



## 7 YOSHINO 吉野

YOSHINO shows a clear distinction between upper and lower seating positions.



## 8 AGESHIO 上げ汐 9 AKEBONO 曙 10 TATSUMI 多津美

AGESHIO, AKEBONO and TATSUMI rooms exhibit Noshiro's traditional craft products such as *shunkeinuri* lacquerware and *kumiko* woodcraft sliding doors. For the past several years Kaneyu has hosted Honinbo (*Go Grandmaster*) matches and has related items on display.



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