

Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery

千鳥ヶ淵戦没者墓苑



Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery was established by the Japanese government in 1959 to house the remains of the many unknown Japanese who died overseas during World War II. Some of the remains enshrined here were recovered in a series of government missions starting in 1953; others were brought home after the war by returning military units and individuals. They include not only servicemen and military support personnel but ordinary civilians as well.

The Ossuaries

The remains of the war dead are enshrined in underground ossuaries. The oldest is located beneath the ceramic coffin at the center of the Hexagonal Hall, and new ones were added in March 1991 and March 2000 at the rear of the Hall.



The Cemetery ranges over an area of some 5,000 tsubo (approximately 16,500 m²). Evergreen trees interspersed with zelkovas and other deciduous trees create an atmosphere of solemnity and tranquility suitable for such hallowed ground. These trees, which were mere saplings when the Cemetery first opened, now tower into the sky and enhance the dignity of the setting with their dense foliage.



The Ceramic Coffin

Weighing five tons, the ceramic coffin is one of the largest ceramic objects in the world. It is made of stones and pebbles gathered from the major war zones and fired at a temperature of 1,700 degrees. It contains a gilt bronze urn in the shape of a tea jar - a gift of the Showa Emperor - in which are enshrined remains symbolizing all who died in the war.

Monument Featuring a Poem by the Showa Emperor

This monument has engraved on it a poem composed by the Showa Emperor as copied in the hand of Princess Chichibu in the fall of the year of the Cemetery's establishment. It was erected on March 28, 1960.



Poem by the Showa Emperor

"Whenever we ponder on those who dedicated
their lives for the cause of our nation,
our heart aches with deep emotion."

This monument has engraved on it a poem composed by **the Emperor Emeritus** as copied in the hand of Princess Hitachi at the New Year Poetry Reading Ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the war's end. It was erected on September 27, 2005.



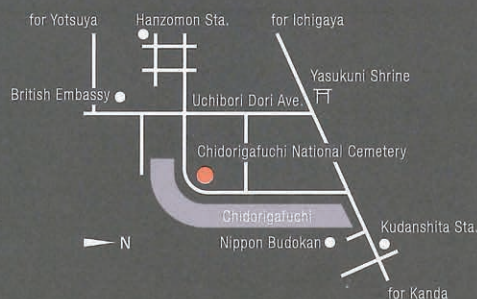
Poem by His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus

"Having walked through times
when there was no such great war,
My thoughts go out to
the people who had lived through
those days of cruel hardship."



Number of Japanese Killed in Each of the Main Overseas War Zones during World War II

Chidorigafuchi is a section of the inner moat of Edo Castle. In the spring, it puts on one of the most glorious displays of cherry blossoms in Tokyo, and hundreds of thousands of people enjoy the view. Indeed, it attracts visitors in every season of the year, for the scenery has a charm all its own.



Getting to Chidorigafuchi

On the Tozai and Toei Shinjuku Lines - Get off at Kudanshita Station.

On the Hanzomon Line - Get off at Hanzomon Station. Parking is available, including space for eight buses.

Address

2 Sanban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075

Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery
Administration Office
Ministry of the Environment
Tel: 03-3262-2030 Fax: 03-3222-1657

Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery
Memorial Foundation
Tel: 03-3261-6700 Fax: 03-3261-6712