Tenjikan Exhibition hall

One storehouse is devoted to the history of Japanese salt production, with pictures, miniature models, and salt farming equipment. By watching the video, you will visually learn the changing method of salt production from Edo period to now. There is also a remarkable column-shaped rock salt from Poland, weighing about one and a half tons.

In the other storehouse, the attractive folk crafts, antiques, and beautiful properties of the family are displayed. They show the vivid family lives of merchants in the late Edo and Meiji eras. From February to April, the beautiful Hina dolls are specially displayed. They are extraordinarily big in size, given by the Ikeda family, the chief of the Okayama Clan.

Nozaki-Buzaimon-Oh Shotokuhi

(Memorial Obelisk for Buzaimon Nozaki)

This obelisk commemorating Buzaimon is located in the center of a small park 400 meters south-west of the Nozaki residence.

Kyu-Nozakihama-Tomyodai

(Old Lighthouse of Nozaki Beach)

In order to guide ships which carried salt and signpost the salt shrine, a lighthouse was built at the beach in 1863. It is nine meters high and it is so elegant that the lighthouse was recognized a Kurashiki Municipal Historic Site.

Access

By JR: from Okayama to Kojima (25min.), 20min on foot.
By car: Via Seto-Oohashi Expressway (exit at Kojima IC) 10min.
**THE NOZAKI'S HISTORICAL RESIDENCE**  
-Okayama Prefectural Historic Site

**Enkaku-History**
The Nozaki's Historical Residence is one of the few Japanese Edo merchants' houses to survive in its original form. It was built in 1827 by Buzaemon Nozaki (1789–1864). He developed the salt field at Kojima facing the Seto Inland Sea. It covered an area over 161 hectares in total, so he was called "The king of Salt Lords." The house has retained its original appearance to the present day. The property extends 9,900 square meters, and the floor space is 3,300 square meters.

As you walk through Nagaya-mon (service gate), you will see a row of storehouses on the right, and on the left the main houses covered with tiled roofs stand in front of the dark green trees. Passing through Naka-mon (inside gate), you will enter the front garden, which shows Buzaemon, the founder’s sense of beauty. Three tea houses are located in the garden.

You can also walk through the backyard of the houses, and you will see the daily life of the old merchants vividly.

The residence was declared an Okayama Prefectural Historic Site in 1977.

**Omon-mon [Main gate]**  
Nagaya-mon [Service gate]

Omon-mon on the left of Nagaya-mon, is the entrance used only for the noble guests. It is also the direct entrance to Omote-shoin (Main reception hall). The stone walls on both sides of Nagaya-mon were constructed using the Hachimaki-zumi method. This method shows the most beautiful and strongest style of stone-walling. As you ascend the seven steps of the gate, you will see the room named Minami zashiki (South room) on your left, and on your right is Momo zashiki (Peach room), which is now used as the reception.

**Teien Garden**

The garden is Kare-sansui, a dry landscape type of Japanese garden. Various trees and rocks are arranged, and the moss symbolizes the pond. The chief attraction is the azaleas which bloom in late spring. You can also try to hear Suikin-kutsu, the sound of water drops which echo inside the buried vase.

**Dozo-gun [Storehouses]**

Passing through Nagaya-mon, the exquisite row of storehouses will catch your eyes. The contrast of the white and the black wall are so beautiful that they still express the prosperity of the Salt industry at the end of Edo period.

**Naka-zashiki [Living room]**

The building was completed in 1833, and used for the daily life of the family. From the garden, you can see 9 tatami rooms, which are 42 meters long. The rooms are separated from each other by Shoji (paper screens) or Fusuma (sliding doors), surrounded by wooden corridors and glass sliding doors.

**Yuanchashitsu [Tea ceremony pavilion]**

There are three tea pavilions in the garden, called Kansho-tei, Youshitsu-tei and Rinchi-tei. Kansho-tei is located on the artificial hill in the garden, which is built of Hinoki (cypress). Youshitsu-tei copies Yuin Pavilion in Kyoto, one of the most famous tea pavilions in Japan. Rinchi-tei is located near Naka-zashiki, which faced to the moss pond.

**Omoteshoin [Main reception hall]**

Omoteshoin was completed in 1851, and used for entertaining the guests. It has four rooms, with the view of typical beautiful Japanese garden.