

The Japan Foundation Touring Exhibition NINGYŌ: Art and Beauty of Japanese doll

Available in the UK from February to mid-April 2026 (one venue only)



This exhibition offers visitors a fascinating opportunity to explore the world of the Japanese doll (Ningyō) and how the culture surrounding it was nurtured amidst the history and folklore of Japan. The Japanese word “Ningyō” is equivalent to the English “doll,” but the characters it is composed of can be translated literally as “human shape.”



The exhibition approaches Ningyō from four angles, in a roughly chronological order: “Ningyō to pray for children’s growth,” “Ningyō as fine art,” “Ningyō as folk art,” and finally the “Spread of Ningyō culture,” wherein the exhibition further broadens its scope to include dolls as toys and dolls as contemporary art.

Further information on the contents of the exhibition will be available from the Japan Foundation, London.

This exhibition is supervised by HAYASHI Naoteru of the Japanese Doll Culture Institute and MITA Kakuyuki of the Tokyo National Museum.

Exhibition Specification

The exhibition consists of a variety of Ningyō (Japanese dolls; 67 pieces in total) showcasing the history and development of Japanese doll culture.

Contents of package (6 crates in total)

- (1) Japanese dolls (set of 67)
- (2) Logo panel
- (3) Foreword panel
- (4) Section introduction banners
- (5) Tapestry map of Japan (for section 3)
- (6) Captions
- (7) Maintenance kit



Venue Requirements

Approx. 100m² floor space

Environment protected from direct sunlight, high temperatures, and high humidity

Display platforms (height 70-80cm, depth >40cm)

Conditions

The Japan Foundation offers the exhibition to a public venue in the UK on a cost-sharing basis.

The Japan Foundation provides and covers the cost of:

- 1 The exhibition leaflet
- 2 Insurance for the exhibits
- 3 International transportation of the exhibits (to and from the nearest UK airport)
- 4 Other related items deemed necessary

The venue must provide and cover the costs of:

- 1 The exhibition venue
- 2 Customs clearance
- 3 UK domestic transportation of the exhibits and storage of crates (typically from the nearest UK airport to the venue and vice versa)
- 4 Publicity
- 5 Installation
- 6 Other related items deemed necessary

THERE IS NO HIRE FEE

Availability

From February 2026 to mid-April 2026

All enquiries should be made to Junko Takekawa, Senior Arts Programme Officer.

Tel: 020-7492-6570 or E-mail: Junko_Takekawa@jpf.go.jp

The Japan Foundation, London