

Subsequent stories of Jewish refugees who obtained visas

What became of the Jewish refugees who obtained transit visas from Sugihara? Most of them left Kaunas and took the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostok, where they boarded a ship and arrived at Tsuruga Port in Japan. Then, via Kobe and Yokohama, they reached third nations such as the U.S. and Canada.



Jewish refugees landing on Japanese soil at Tsuruga Port

Tsuruga has heart-warming stories about the people who gave a hearty welcome to the Jewish refugees who struggled to get on shore, carrying the visas issued by Sugihara. For example, one boy brought them baskets of fruit for nothing. A public bath near the port opened the bath to the refugees with no charge.



Tsuruga Port at the time the Jewish refugees arrived (Source: Furusato Tsuruga no kaiso[Reminiscences of our hometown Tsuruga])

Medal given by the Israeli government

In 1985, Sugihara, then 85, received the honor of "Righteous Among the Nations" (the Yad Vashem Award). This is the most honorable title and award given by the Israeli government with gratitude to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish people. The commemorative medal given to Sugihara bears the inscription: "Whosoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe."

Forty-five years had passed since he had issued the visas, and admiration for Sugihara's achievements never diminished.



Medal of "Righteous Among the Nations"

"Courage," Chiune, aged 16

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the issuance of "Visas for Life" in 2020, the City of Nagoya solicited donations and has produced the statue of Chiune Sugihara in his youth in order to pass on Chiune's great achievements and his relationship with Nagoya to future generations.

The statue of Chiune wears a student cap bearing the emblem of Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School) and holds an English textbook in the left hand. It represents

"courage," which gave him the push when he had to make an important decision in Kaunas, Lithuania as a diplomat.



"Courage," Chiune, aged 16

Facilities Related to Chiune Sugihara



The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall

杉原千畝記念館



1071 Yaotsu, Yaotsu-cho, Kamo-gun, Gifu Prefecture
Phone: +81 574-43-2460

By bus

Board "YAO Bus" from Meitetsu Akechi Station, and get off at Yaotsu Family Center
Board Tohtetsu Bus from JR Mino Ota Station, and get off at Yaotsu Family Center
From Yaotsu Family Center

(Weekdays) Transfer to the regular-time bus Yaomaru and get off at Jindo-no-Oka Kita (Humanity Hill North)

(Sat, Sun, and holidays) Transfer to a free shuttle taxi

By car

Approx. 25 mins from the Kani-Mitake Interchange on the Tokai-Kanjo Expressway

●Opening hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(last admission 4:30 p.m.)

●Closed days:

Mondays, year-end and New Year holidays
(the next weekday if it is a national holiday or substitute holiday)

●Admission fee:

Adults (high school age and older): 300 yen
Junior high school age or younger: Free
Special group rates are available.
Group discount available



The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall Website



Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum



23-1 Kanegasaki-cho, Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture
Phone: +81 770-37-1035

By bus

Tsuruga Station West exit
Tsuruga Loop Bus (Sightseeing Bus)
Get off at "Kanegasaki Ryokuchi(Tsuruga Museum)" Stop

By car

Approx. 10 mins from Tsuruga Interchange on the Hokuriku Expressway

●Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(last admission 4:30 p.m.)

●Closed days:

Wednesdays (the next day if it is a national holiday), year-end and New Year holidays

●Admission fee:

Adults: 500 yen, Elementary school age or younger: 300 yen (children under 4 years old: Free)
Group discount available



Port of Humanity Tsuruga Museum Website



Chiune Sugihara Square

AICHI PREFECTURE "SEMPO" SUGIHARA MEMORIAL



This facility is open to the public so that anyone can visit it freely. However, since it is located on school grounds, please be careful not to disturb classes.

2-1 Kitahara-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya-shi
(On the west side of the main gate of Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School)
Tel:052-954-6827
(Education Planning Division, Aichi Prefectural Board of Education)

By bus

Approx.450m to the west of the Mizuho Kuyakusho bus stop of Nagoya City Bus
Approx.650m to the north of the Toyooka-dori bus stop of Nagoya City Bus

By subway

Approx.400m to the west of Exit 4 of Mizuho Kuyakusho Station on Sakura-dori Subway Line
Please visit the facility by public transport. (There is no parking lot or rest room.)

The information on related facilities is current as of March 2026.
For the latest details, please check the respective facilities' official websites and other sources.

Published by General Coordination Office,
General Affairs Bureau, City of Nagoya

TEL:052-972-2223 FAX:052-972-4112

Photos shared by:NPO Chiune Sugihara Visas for Life Yaotsu-cho / Tsuruga City



Lietuvių



עברית

Issued march 2026

Chiune Sugihara's "Walk of Humanitarianism" (Jindo no michi) Route Map



Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986)

Chiune Sugihara, known for his "Visas for Life," was a Japanese diplomat. In World War II, he saved a large number of Jewish people by issuing more than 2,000 visas to Jewish refugees who were trying to escape persecution.

As a child, Sugihara lived in Nagoya for about ten years. Praising his great achievements, the city of Nagoya has named the route that links the place where he lived with his old school, Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School), as "Chiune Sugihara's Walk of Humanitarianism (Jindo no michi)."

Chiune Sugihara's "Walk of Humanitarianism (Jindo no michi)" Route Map



五女子
Gonyoshi

八熊通6
Yaguma-dori 6

八熊通5
Yaguma-dori 5

As a child, Sugihara lived in Nagoya for about ten years. Praising his great achievements, the city of Nagoya has named the route that links the place where he lived with his old school, Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School), as "Chiune Sugihara's Walk of Humanitarianism (Jindo no michi)."

- Route
- Nameplate
- Guideboard

200m

About Chiune Sugihara

Before he became a diplomat [1900–1923]

In 1900, Sugihara was born in Gifu Prefecture. When he was at a lower grade of elementary school, he transferred to Nagoya Municipal Furuwatari Elementary School (present-day Nagoya Municipal Heiwa Elementary School), due to the work of his father Yoshimi.

In 1912, Chiune graduated from elementary school and entered Aichi Prefectural Daigo Junior High School (present-day Aichi Prefectural Zuiryo High School), graduating in 1917.

Later, Sugihara entered Waseda University. In 1919, he passed the exam for an overseas study program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, as a foreign student of Russian, he went to Harbin in northeastern China, where many Russian people lived.



Chiune in
junior high school
(from the graduation
album)

His diplomat days 1: Before issuance of visas [1924–1939]

In 1924, Sugihara was appointed as a clerk for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and began working at the Japanese Consulate General in Harbin in 1925. After transferring to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Manchukuo, he returned to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1937, he was posted to the Japanese Legation in Finland. In 1939, he took up his position as acting Japanese consul in Kaunas, Lithuania.

In Europe at that time, the Nazis were expanding in power and persecution of Jewish people was escalating. Jewish refugees trying to flee the country aimed to leave through Lithuania, where many had temporarily taken shelter, to a safe place beyond the Nazis' menace.



Sugihara at the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Manchukuo

His diplomat days 2: Issuance of visas [1940]

In the early morning of July 18, 1940, a large number of Jewish refugees, who had fled Poland to Lithuania, rushed to the Japanese Consulate for visas to transit through Japan. With the Soviet Union trying to annex Lithuania, the refugees felt a pressing need to escape the country. Amid an extremely tense situation, Sugihara contacted the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which replied, "Do not issue any visas to those who do not meet the conditions for one." Against the order, however, he began issuing visas to the Jewish refugees.

Later in life, Sugihara had this to say, "After much pain and agony, I eventually reached an answer to my question: benevolence and humanity come first. And to this day I am positive that I faithfully completed what needed to be done at the risk of my job, with nothing to fear."



Jewish refugees requesting visas in
front of the Japanese Consulate

