

About the Imperial Palace's State Room

The State Room, or Seiden Matsu no Ma, is the most prestigious hall in the Palace. The Taiirei Seiden no Gi (Ceremony of the Abdication of Emperor Akihito) was held here yesterday. Also to be held here is the Kenji to Shokei no Gi (Ceremony for Inheriting the Imperial Regalia and Seals) by incoming Emperor Naruhito at 10.30am today.

Seiden Matsu no Ma

- Directly translated as Pine Room; official translation is State Room.
- The only room with a polished wooden floor instead of carpet.

370 sq m
Ceiling is 8m high

- Flooring made with wood from Japanese zelkova, a tree known for its beautiful grain and durability.

Yata no Kagami (eight-sided mirror), represents wisdom and honesty

- The mirror is said to have been made by the Ishikori-dome (the Shinto God of mirrors), with the original believed to be kept at the Ise Grand Shrine in Mie prefecture. Mirrors can divine truth, according to Japanese folklore, and this treasure is so sacred that it's not used in the ceremony.



Yasakani no Magatama (jewel), represents benevolence and kindness

- The jewel is a comma-shaped bead that dates back to about 1,000 BC. It's said to be worn by Ame-no-Uzume (the Shinto Goddess of mirth and revelry), who performed an extravagant dance to coax Amaterasu from a cave where she went into hiding after a fight with Susano-o, plunging the earth into darkness.

Kusanagi no Tsurugi (sword), represents bravery and valour

- By Japanese folklore, Susano-o (the Shinto God of the sea and storms) had acquired the sword after he slew a mighty eight-headed serpent. He then gave the sword to his sister, the Sun Goddess Amaterasu, who is the direct ancestor of Japan's line of emperors.

Japan's Three Sacred Treasures

- In his first ceremony as Emperor today, Naruhito will inherit the Three Sacred Treasures – also referred to as Imperial Regalia – that symbolise his legitimacy as Emperor, along with State and Privy Seals used for official matters.
- The Treasures, which are said to date to pre-mediaeval times, are so sacred that even generations of emperors have not laid eyes on them.