

## Tokushima Station 徳島駅

Stations are focal points of countless cities around the world – a place to welcome, a place to say goodbye and a place to meet again. The relationship between the people of Tokushima and Tokushima Station is no different. Tokushima's simple train network connects the coastal population with the towns that run along the Yoshino River. Other services run to Naruto, Takamatsu and Okayama. Tokushima Station acts as a hub in this network. Various national and local bus services operate from the station square.



Rain at Tokushima Station

雨の徳島駅

Fog yesterday, rain today

Soon my girl leaves

Our parting will come soon, the wind says

The rain falls over the station square

But it does not wash the memories away

The rain on the station square

Soaks the memories, makes their colors run

Fog yesterday, rain today

Soon my girl leaves

Our parting will come soon, the wind says

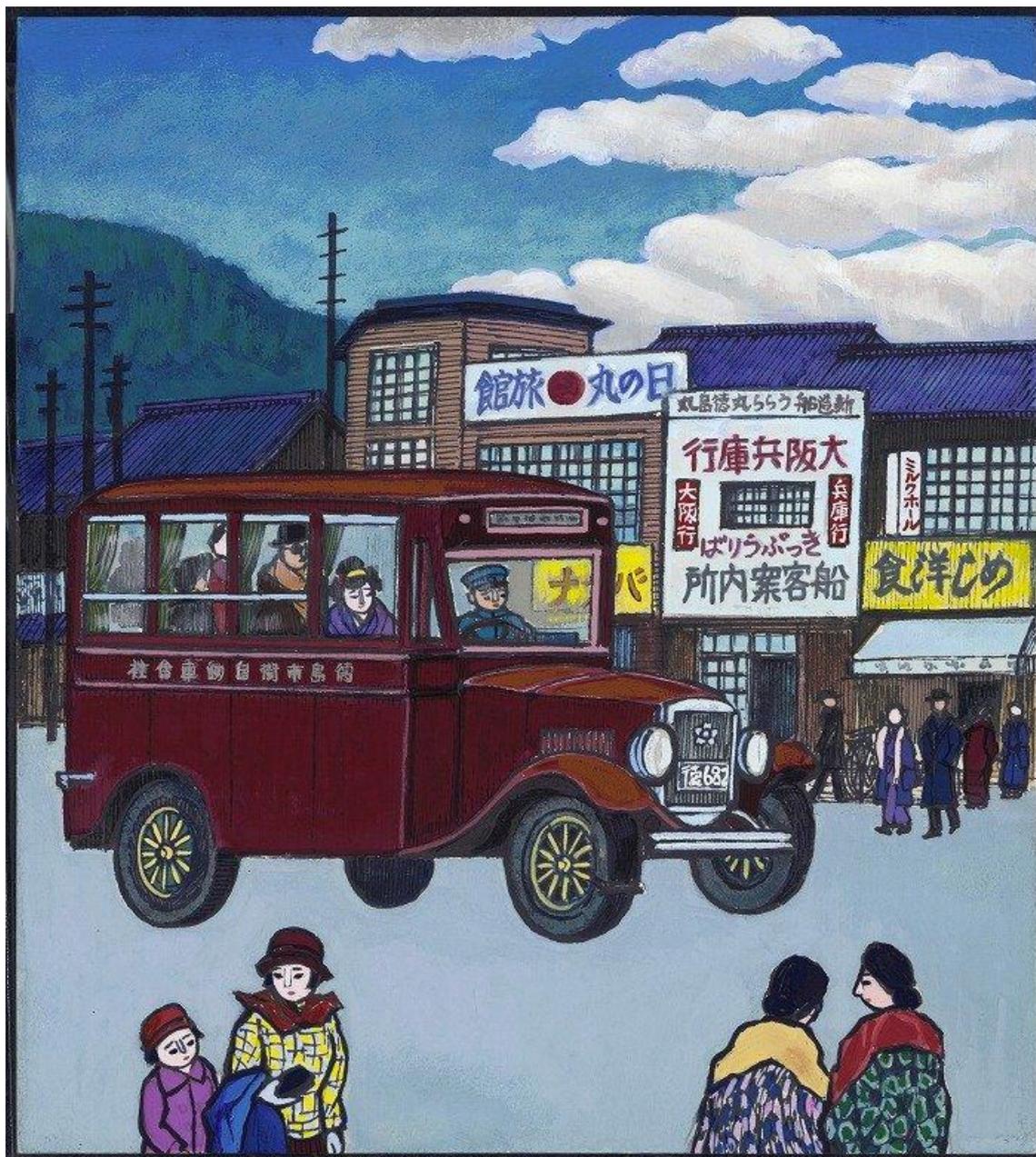


The Chocolate Bus

チョコレートバス

The Sakuraya Bus Company had a waiting room at Tokushima Station. Their distinctive brown buses were known as the 'Chocolate Buses'. There were a number of bus companies in Tokushima, so competition was fierce

and management often changed hands. The Sakuraya Bus Company was founded in 1923. Sakuraya was eventually taken over by Tokushima Street Bus Company, but the company had financial difficulties due to clashing routes. The Tokushima Street Bus Company was purchased by the rival Tokushima City Bus Company in 1939. Managing a bus company was as difficult back then as it is today.



In front of Tokushima Station

徳島駅前

There were many buses leaving from the Tokushima Station area back in the early Showa period – the chocolate Tokushima City buses, the silver Muya Auto buses, the blue Anan Auto buses, as well as the Matsumura

Auto buses and the Awa buses. "All abooooard!" It was a colourful sight. Marutaya, a milk hall, served anpan and milk. Between the exhaust gas of the buses and the fresh bread, the Tokushima Station area even smelled modern.



The square in front of Tokushima Station

徳島駅前広場

In 1899, the Tokushima Railway Company opened a line running between Tokushima and Kamojima. The station building would go on to see people come and go constantly for nearly half a century, even after the rail line was nationalised, until it was lost in the 1945 air raids.

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From 1937, during the war with China, people gathered in this area almost daily to see off young soldiers heading to the front. Family and friends would hold up banners and wave small Japanese flags, crying, "Banzai, banzai, banzai!" The Tokushima Station building, made of wood with a tiled roof, 32 meters wide and 12 meters long, stood and watched on silently as the Showa era slowly but surely headed toward disaster.



Tokushima Station

徳島停車場

The station

Is it a place for meeting people?

The station

Is it a place for saying goodbye?

Hurrying off to the station to welcome only the people I like

While it's sayonara for everyone I don't like

There they all go, gone with a puff of the train's smoke

If only there was a station like that