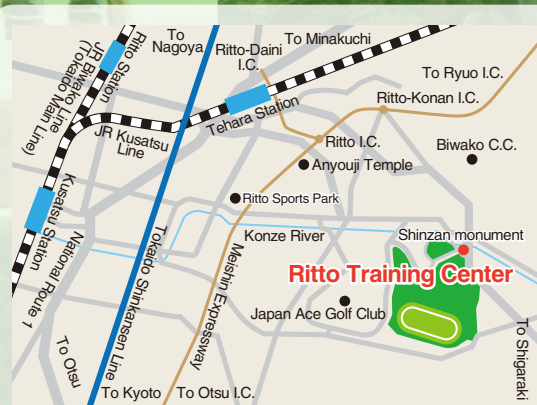


RITTO TRAINING CENTER

Ritto Training Center



Ritto Training Center

1028 Misono, Ritto-shi, Shiga 520-3085

Tel: 077-558-0101

(10:00–12:00, 13:00–16:30, except for Mon./Tues./New Year's holidays)

By train or bus:

JR Biwako Line (Tokaido Main Line), getting off at Kusatsu Station

Approx. 20 min. by taxi or 30 min.

by bus from the East Exit (Toward "Community Center Konze" and get off at "Toresen Jimusho-mae" bus stop)

By car:

Meishin Expressway

Approx. 15 min. from Ritto I.C.



Look here for more details

Training Facilities /Stable Area

- 1 A Training Course
Turf, 1,450m (For Steeplechase)
- 2 B Training Course
Dirt, 1,600m
- 3 C-W Training Course
Woodchip, 1,800m
- 4 D Training Course
Turf, 1,950m
- 5 D-P Training Course
Poly, 2,038m
- 6 E Training Course
Dirt, 2,200m
- 7 Uphill Course
Woodchip, 1,085m
- 8 West Track
- 9 East Track
- 10 ~ 13 Workout Tracks
- 14 Uphill Course Training Area
- 15 Training Areas I, RO, HA
- 16 Rings A, B, C
- 17 West Strolling Promenade
- 18 East Strolling Promenade
- 19 Trainers Stand
- 20 Camera Tower
- 21 Groom's Stand
- 22 Quarantine Stables
- 23 Quarantine Stables for export
- 24 JRA Horse Clinic
- 25 Private Practitioner's Horse Clinic
- 26 Horse Swimming Pool
- 27 Horse Shrine
- 28 Bedding Processing Plant
- 29 Feed Processing Plant
- 30 Parking Area for Horse Van

Gates

- 31 Security Office
- 32 Kachidoki-Mon (Main Gate)
- 33 Kurami-Mon (No. 2 Gate)
- 34 No.3 Gate
- 35 No.4 Gate
- 36 No.5 Gate
- 37 South Gate

Surrounding Facilities

- 38 Equestrian Park
- 39 Jockeys' Quarters
- 40 JRA Office



Take a look at
the training center
from the sky



Total area

approx. **1,523,000** m²

That's the size of
40 Koshien
Stadiums!

Track : 420,000 m²
Stables : 450,000 m²
Other : 653,000 m²

By the
numbers

**Ritto
Training Center** **1,900** horses

During their time at the center, the racehorses live in the stable stalls. One stable has 20 stalls, and each trainer manages 20 to 28 stalls. There are about 90 trainers at the Ritto Training Center. Ninety trainers with 20 to 28 stalls each means that there are always approximately 1,900 racehorses training here.



What is the Ritto Training Center?

The Ritto Training Center has many different training facilities on its vast premises, including six track-style training courses, an uphill training course over a kilometer in length, horse swimming pool, and strolling promenades.

It also offers extensive facilities supporting the racehorses' daily lives, including stables, a horse clinic, the jockeys' quarters, and an equestrian park, among others. We operate these facilities each day in order to develop horses strong enough to take on the world.

Seven Training Courses

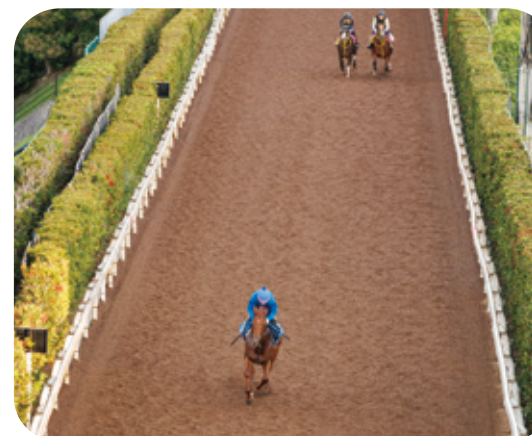
There are seven training courses in total, with six track training courses and one uphill course. Training is held on the course suitable to the condition of each horse.

There are four different kinds of courses: turf, dirt, woodchip and New PolyTrack.

These courses are maintained and managed with great care in terms of safety, including anti-freeze during the winter and water sprinkling during the summer, so that sufficient training can be conducted without accidents involving the racehorses.



Uphill Course



Check out the uphill course



On training days,
over **70%**
of the horses use
the uphill
course.

Total length: **1,085m** (woodchip)

Width: **7m**

Course incline:

- A **2.0%** (1.1 degree) incline from the start to the first 300 m
- A **3.5%** (2.0 degree) incline over the next 570 m
- A **4.5%** (2.6 degree) incline over the next 100 m
- A **1.25%** (0.7 degree) incline over the final 115 m

Outer course loop ↑

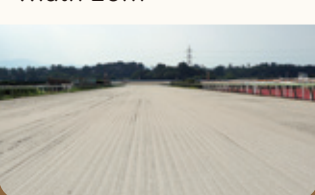
A Training Course

(For Steeplechase)
Turf, 1,450m/Width 20m



B Training Course

Dirt, 1,600m
Width 20m



C-W Training Course

Woodchip, 1,800m
Width 20m



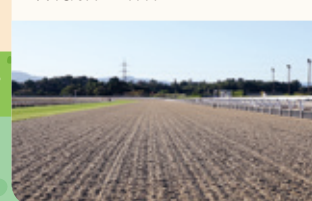
D Training Course

Turf, 1,950m
Width 14m



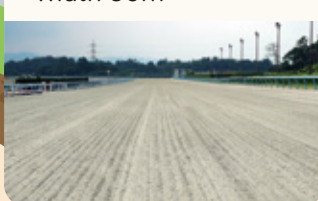
D-P Training Course

New PolyTrack, 2,038m
Width 14m



E Training Course

Dirt, 2,200m
Width 30m



Track Courses

Check out the track courses



Q What materials are used for these courses?

Woodchip

These woodchips are made of red pine and cedar wood. With excellent cushioning and water drainage, this material is not easily affected by weather changes and is gentler on the horses' legs than a dirt course.



New PolyTrack

A composite material including wire coating materials, polyester non-woven fabric, silica sand and wax, it is not easily affected by weather conditions and provides consistent track conditions. Training can be conducted here without using antifreeze, even in the coldest part of winter, because this material does not freeze easily.



How we measure training times



The racehorses' number cloths are equipped with IC chips that **automatically record times when passing the receptor sensors placed every 200 meters** on the C-W training course and uphill course.

These times are announced to the media and others as training reference times.

Facilities Inside the Training Center

The Ritto Training Center includes not just the various training courses but also many other facilities.

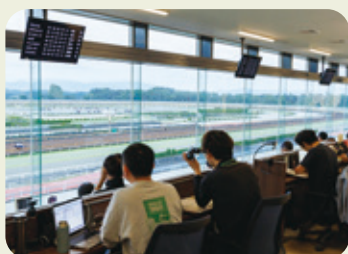
Watch the training from here

Trainers Stand

Many people involved with the racehorses watch their training from this area to the side of the track course.

The first floor has a reception room for jockeys and stable workers. The second floor has seating for trainers, and the third and fourth floors have rooms for the media.

There is also an interview room used for G1 Racing joint press conferences.



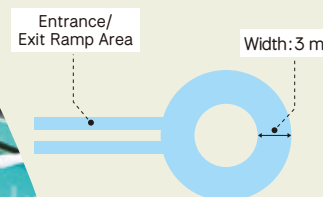
Great for stress relief too!

Horse Swimming Pool

There are three pools: a circular pool (50 meters in perimeter, 3 meters wide and 3 meters deep), a straight-line pool (32.5 meters in length, 3 meters deep), and an acclimation pool.

These pools are used for improving cardiopulmonary functions, stress reduction and injury rehabilitation.

Circular Pool Diagram



Check out the horses swimming /



The horses' comfortable home



Check out the stables

Stables

Supporting the lives of approximately 1,900 racehorses, these facilities serve as the horses' home during their time at the training center.

One stable has stalls for 20 horses, as well as a horse feed storage area and a washing area where the horses get showers.



What a refreshing shower!



A general hospital for the horses' health

JRA Horse Clinic

This general hospital for racehorses handles veterinary management for racehorses, diagnosis and treatment of sick or injured racehorses, prevention of infectious diseases, assessment of the condition of the racehorses scheduled to race, consultation services related to training and feeding, and health and sanitation services.

Standing MRI



Blood chemistry tests with automated analysis equipment

An endoscopy while exercising



Can horses swim?



All horses can float if they get in the water. There may be some horses that don't like water, but most are born able to swim. Horses swim in their own unique style, alternating between their front and back legs on the same side.



The People Working at the Training Center

Many different people work at the Ritto Training Center, such as stable staff like jockeys, trainers, assistant trainers and grooms, as well as other professionals like farriers and veterinarians.



Take a closer look!

Leading the horses to victory

Jockeys (around 70)

A jockey rides not just in races but also in daily training when requested. Some jockeys belong to a stable, and others are freelancers.



Stable leaders

Trainers (around 90)

Trainers determine training plans for the racehorses entrusted to them by their owners and put them in races. These trainers hire assistant trainers and grooms, and they are responsible for operating the stables.



Equestrian training pros

Assistant Trainers (around 950)

The training assistant rides and trains the horses according to instructions from the trainer. The training assistants include work riders who specialize in training and groom/rider staff who do both stable work and training.



Note

During training at the Ritto Training Center, each rider is required to wear a helmet in the designated color.



Jockey



New Jockey



Jockey Course Student



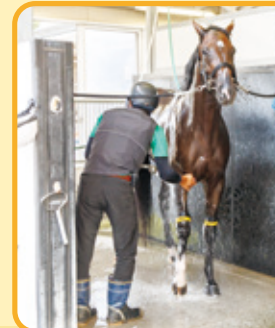
Trainer/Training Assistant

and more...

Specialists looking after the horses

Grooms (around 250)

Under the supervision of the trainers, the grooms conduct stable work for the horses in their care, such as health monitoring, exercising, grooming, and maintaining clean stalls.



Technicians protecting the horses' hooves

Farriers (around 70)

*including farriers in private practice

Technicians who specialize in equine hoof and leg care, farriers mainly handle trimming the horses' hooves and replacing their horseshoes.

Correctly balancing the hooves supports the horse's performance and contributes to healing or reducing the risk of illness and injury.



Doctors who treat horses for injuries

Veterinarians (around 40)

*including veterinarians in private practice

They treat horses for illness and injury, and monitor the condition of horses competing in races.

At the racehorse hospital, JRA veterinarians do complex scans such as MRI scans, and conduct procedures such as bone fragment removal and open abdominal surgeries.

JRA veterinarians also do important work such as preventing infectious disease by administering vaccines and handling quarantine procedures for horses entering the stables, as well as checking the medical condition of horses entering races and monitoring medications to ensure fairness.



So many different people are involved with the horses.



What does it take to become a jockey or groom?



Jockeys

During the approximately three-year program at the [JRA Horse Racing School](#) Jockey Course, students live in an on-campus dorm and [learn various skills and subjects to become jockeys](#). When they pass their [jockey license exam](#), they become official [JRA jockeys](#).

Applications are accepted from May to July each year, and certain conditions such as weight and vision apply.

Grooms

Students complete a six-month program at the [JRA Horse Racing School](#) Stable Staff Course, where they learn about basic horse techniques and horseracing techniques.

When students graduate from the school and pass the [Japan Trainers' Association](#) employment exam, they become official [JRA grooms](#).

Applications are accepted twice a year: for the spring terms (starting in April or July) and for the autumn terms (starting in October or January).

By exam day, students must have [a total of at least one year of riding experience on racehorses, training horses and riding horses](#). They must also be able to [independently in three speeds of walk, trot and canter](#).

A Day at the Stables



4:30 Physical Check & Saddling

Early in the morning, we check the health condition of the racehorses and prepare them for training.



Getting ready for training

4:30

Circling the course slowly to loosen up



5:00 Warming up

The horses do light Warming up and get ready for tough training.

5:00

5:30 Training

We have the horses run on the course to improve. There are various types of training, not just having the horses constantly run at full speed, but improving their physical condition with slow running and teaching them to move as instructed by their rider.

Training improves ability



Final Workout

Workouts often involve having the horses who will enter that week's races run on courses at a fast pace on Wednesday and Thursday.

Start Training

Starting practice is another important type of training. They practice from entering the paddocks to starting the race. When entering a race, horses must pass a starting gate examination.



5:30

6:30 Cooldown Exercises and Shower Area Care

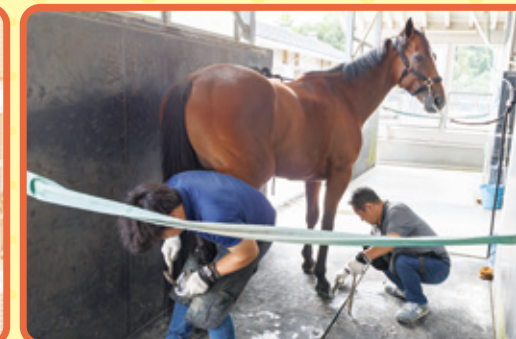
When training is over, the horses do cooldown exercises and return to the stables. The horses get showers to wash off their sweat in the stable washing area.



Washing off the horses' sweat and checking their physical condition

6:30

We're always thinking about each horse's physical condition



14:00 Horse Care, Stall Cleaning, Lunch

We try to communicate with the horses during brushing and cleaning their stalls, and are able to understand their condition. Once every two or three weeks, a farrier checks the horses' hooves and adjusts the horseshoes to protect them.



7:00

7:00 Morning Feeding and Physical Check

The racehorses are given feed thoughtfully balanced to suit their condition. If anything seems physically wrong with the horses, they are examined and treated by a veterinarian, and steps are taken to support their health.



Each horse is given food optimized for them

14:00

20:00 Afternoon Feeding

The person on Afternoon Feeding duty prepares the horses' Afternoon Feedings. That's the end of the day at the stables.



20:00

*The details of the work and schedule shown here are examples.

Note

Racehorse meals

Horse feed includes concentrated feed, Forage and supplemental feed (supplements, etc.).

Concentrated feed

Grains (oats), grain by-products (rice bran), etc.

Forage

Various types of grass and hay or green grass

Supplemental feed

Calcium and vitamin tablets, etc.



Training Rules and Horse Tack

Racehorse and worker safety is always the top priority at the Ritto Training Center, with measures such as training hours determined by season and differently colored number cloths depending on each horse's age and sex.

Training Hours



Detailed training hours at the Ritto Training Center vary over the year, but hours are generally 5 am to 9 am in the summer and 7 am to 11 am in the winter. Training is carried out safely in an optimal environment for the horses, with careful consideration to when sunrise occurs and the temperature.



Number Cloths

During training at the Ritto Training Center, each racehorse wears a specific number cloth with a set number. These cloths are separated into different colors according to factors such as age and sex.

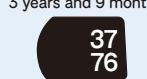
Stallion / Gelding

Up to 2 years and 9 months



Green Background / White Numbers

From 2 years and 10 months up to 3 years and 9 months



Black Background / White Numbers

From 3 years and 10 months



Blue Background / White Numbers

Up to 2 years and 9 months



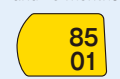
Yellow-green Background / Black Numbers

From 2 years and 10 months up to 3 years and 9 months



Pink Background / White Numbers

From 3 years and 10 months



Yellow Background / Black Numbers



Number cloth for G1 race-winning horse

Indigo Background / Yellow Numbers

Mare

Horse Tack (Equipment)

Various kinds of tools are used to more effectively control the racehorses. Corrective headgear, such as a hood, is also sometimes used to help the racehorses concentrate during races and training.

1 Reins

This tool for staying in contact with the horse can be used to give instructions, such as which direction to go or to stop.

2 Bit

This tool is a metal bar that goes inside the horse's mouth. The horse gets instructions from the reins through the bit and moves accordingly.

3 Bridle

This tool reaching from the horse's head to its chin, cheeks, above the nose and nape of the neck is used to appropriately position and keep the bit inside the horse's mouth. When leading the horse, a rope is attached to the bridle.

4 Saddle

Placed on the horse's back, this tool lets the horse carry people or objects. Saddles used for racing are made to be much smaller and lighter than ordinary horseback riding and equestrian saddles.

The saddle's weight is also included in the weight carried during a race.

5 Stirrups

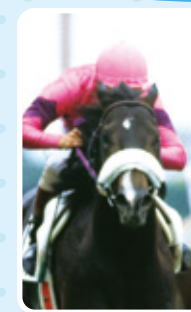
A tool for holding the rider's feet on horseback.

6 The Abdominal Belt

This belt is wrapped around the horse's abdomen to prevent the saddle from slipping.



Hood



Shadow Roll



Cheek Pieces

Used for horses easily surprised by noise or who dislike getting sand on themselves.

To prevent horses from being surprised by their own shadow or cracks in the ground surface.

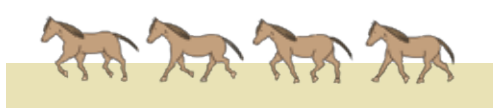
To prevent looking left or right and focus awareness forward.

How horses walk and run



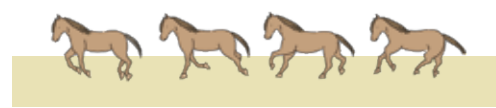
Walk

At this slowest speed, the horses move at 6.6 km/h. This is how horses move around the paddock.



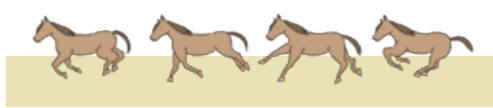
Trot

Faster than walking, horses trot at about 13 km/h. During warmup exercises, the horses gradually speed up from a trot to a canter.



Canter

Faster than a trot, horses canter at around 20 km/h. The horses move at this speed when warming up after the post parade.



Gallop

Even faster than a canter, the horses gallop at around 60-70 km/h. Racehorses gallop during the races.

Racehorses come in eight colors in all



What colors are we?



Bay



Dark Bay



Brown



Black



Gray



Chestnut



Dark Chestnut



White

Spending Time with the Horses



At the Ritto Training Center, we conduct activities aimed at attracting more people to horseback riding and teaching people about horseracing.

Equestrian Park

At the equestrian park, we host activities such as youth team sports with the goal of introducing more people to equestrian sports. We don't just teach horseback riding, but also teach people how to connect with horses by taking care of them, such as cleaning the stables.



Many of our graduates even become jockeys.



Visit places you can't normally see!

Parent-and-child Interactive Training Center Tour (for elementary school students)

Intended for elementary school students and their guardians, these tours let participants see inside the training center. By viewing the facilities inside the training center and spending time with the horses, tour participants can experience the world of racehorses.



Training Center Workplace Tour (for junior high school students)

This is a tour for junior high school students and their guardians to see jobs related to racehorses and horseracing. Recommended for anyone interested working in horseracing.



Check out all the different jobs!

What powers the Ritto Training Center?

Bedding Processing Plant

After being used in the horse stables, straw and woodchips (wood shavings) are burned in the boiler of the bedding Processing Plant. The steam created in this process generates electricity.



Ritto Training Center History

- 1965 ● Dec. Land purchase contract concluded with Ritto-cho
- 1966 ● Jun. Formally named Ritto Training Center
- 1967 ● Nov. Preparation of building site started
- 1969 ● Aug. Horses and staff moved from Chukyo Racecourse to begin training at Ritto Training Center
- Nov. Horses and staff moved from Hanshin Racecourse
- Nov. **Ritto Training Center opens**
- 1970 ● Dec. Horses and staff moved from Kyoto Racecourse, all stables of western Japan (Kansai region) concentrated at Ritto Training Center
- 1972 ● Aug. Strolling Promenade completed
- 1975 ● May. Ritto Training Center visited by Emperor Showa and Empress Kojun Their Imperial Majesties observe training
- 1981 ● Aug. Equestrian Center completed
- Oct. Equestrian events of National Sports Festival held at riding grounds
- 1985 ● Nov. 394-meter uphill course completed
- 1987 ● Jan. MICS system for managing racehorse veterinary information begins operating
- 1988 ● Aug. Horse Swimming Pool completed
- 1989 ● Sept. Woodchip course (2,063 m around) completed (D-W training course)
- Oct. Advanced Lap time Information System (ALIS) for the uphill course completed
- 1992 ● Nov. Uphill course length extended to 1,085 meters in total by three construction projects
- 1995 ● Sept. C training course improved from dirt course to woodchip course (C-W training course)
- 2001 ● Oct. Ritto Town, Kurita County becomes Ritto-shi
- 2003 ● Jun. New compost processing plant completed
- 2009 ● Oct. D-W training course improved to new poly course (D-P training course)
- 2013 ● Dec. New JRA Horse Clinic completed
- 2017 ● Oct. New trainers stand completed
- 2018 ● Nov. Camera tower completed
- 2019 ● Oct. New Bedding Processing Plant completed
- Nov. 50th anniversary
- 2021 ● Dec. Advanced Lap time Information System (ALIS) implemented for the C-W training course
- 2024 ● Jul. New quarantine stables completed

Before the training center was completed, we trained at the racetrack.



Our facilities continue to evolve each year.

