

Nagoya Castle Tourist Guide

[Free of charge]

Guide is available on reservation.

Nagoya Castle Tourist Information Center TEL 0955-82-5774

◆ Guide course (approx. 40 minutes) ◆

Oteguchi → Higashimaru → Sannomaru → Honmaru Otemon → Honmaru → Tensyudai

◆ Operating hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

◆ Holidays: Year end and new year period

※ Guide is available for free but adults and college students need to pay ¥100 as donation for cleaning.

Guide of neighbor tourism facilities



Hato cape
(Genkai underwater observation tower)



Roadside station: Momoyamatenkaichi
TEL 0955-51-1051



Saga Prefectural Nagoya Castle Museum
TEL 0955-82-4905



Tea salon "Kaigetsu"
TEL 0955-82-4384



Ruins of Toyotomi Hideyasu's camp
(Special Historic Spot)



Ruins of Hori Hideharu's camp
(Special Historic Spot)

● Karatsu Tourist Association Chinzei Branch Office ●

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<http://blog.goo.ne.jp/saga-nagoya>

● Nagoya Castle Tourist Information Center ●

TEL 0955-82-5774 (H25.1)

Special Historic Spot

Ruins of the Nagoya castle

Guide



Great cycad palm at Kotaku-ji Temple
(Natural Monument)



Hoko-ji Temple garden
There is a cherry tree that "Taiko" or regent Hideyoshi personally planted inside the temple grounds.



Taiko Well (Special Historic Spot)



Stone steps to Yamazatomaru
Yamazatomaru is believed to be designed by Sorori Shinzaemon.



Karatsu city, Saga prefecture
Karatsu Tourist Association
Nagoya Castle Tourist Information Center

Nagoya castle

Nagoya castle was built by Toyotomi Hideyoshi about 420 years ago as the staging base for sending his troops to the Korean peninsula and the mainland China [Bunroku and Keicho no eki (1592 to 1598)]. This castle (Kakizoe-jo castle) was originally owned by Nagoya Echizen no kami Tsunenobu, a feudal retainer of Hatamikawa no kami Chikashi of Matsuura party and then refurbished substantially using higher stone walls.



▲ Oteguchi



▲ Folding screen of Hizen Nagoya-jo castle (part) [Drawn by painter Kano Mitsunobu, view from Kabeshima]

(Stored at Saga Prefectural Nagoya Castle Museum)



Madarashima



Matsushima, Kakarashima



Kabeshima

▲ View of surrounding islands from the keep of the Nagoya castle

With its keep with seven floors, five stories, yagura or turrets, a study, a tea-ceremony room, and the yaguramon gate standing grandly and beautifully, it is said that the Nagoya castle's grand appearance was praised equally as highly as the Osaka castle. In the vicinity area of three kilometer radius around the castle, about 130 ruins of camps of feudal lords (daimyo) are found. Thus majestic groups of fortresses never seen in the history were broadly created on the hilly area extending over Karatsu city and Genkai cho.

Unique characteristics of Nagoya castle

The castle consists of honmaru, ninomaru, sannomaru, danjomaru, yamazatomaru, yugekimaru, daidokoromaru and other subordinate large and small 11 kuruwa in total. It is a flatland mountain castle whose altitude is 88.8 meter and its total area is 170,000 m².



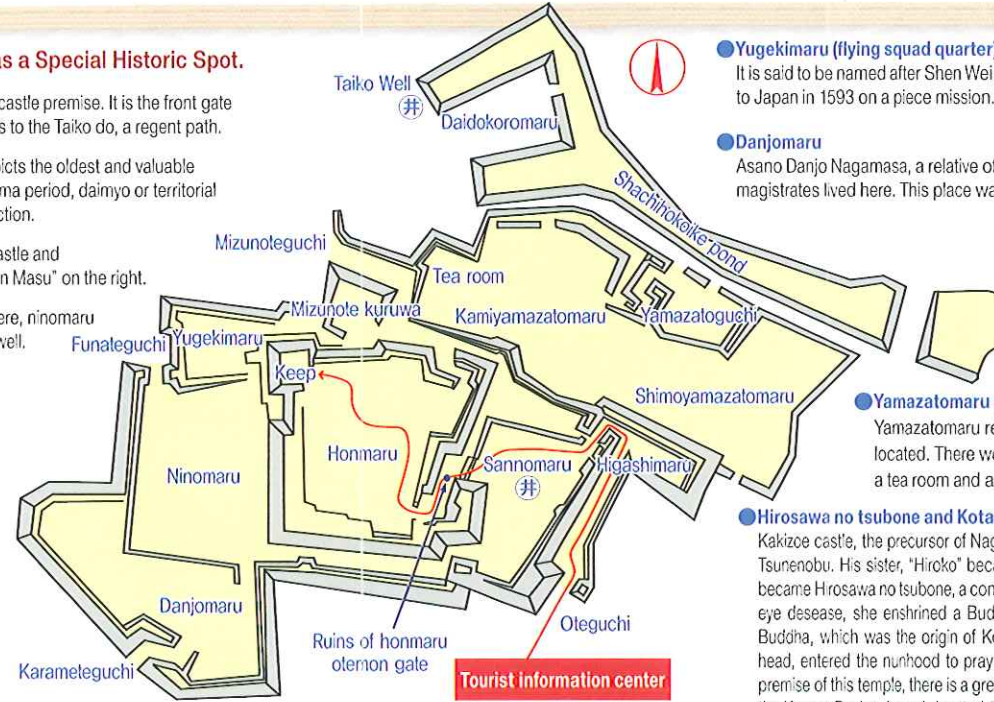
▲ Otemon of burned Sendai (Aoba) castle

Lord Masamune Date relocated the castle to Sendai (Aoba) castle when Nagoya castle was torn down. Unfortunately, it was burned from air raid during the Second World War.

Major structures of the castle

In 1926, designated as a Historic Spot. In 1955, designated as a Special Historic Spot.

- **Oteguchi (front entrance)** Oteguchi is the gate from the parking lot to the castle premise. It is the front gate of the castle and there is a large turret that leads to the Taiko do, a regent path.
- **Stone wall (stone fort)** The stone wall (piled in Nozurazumi method) that depicts the oldest and valuable technique of piling up stones during Azuchi-Momoyama period, daimyo or territorial lords in Kyusyu district mainly engaged in its construction.
- **Higashimaru (east works)** Entering the oteguchi, walk up the slope to the castle and you will see Higashimaru, called locally as "Sennin Masu" on the right.
- **Sannomaru (outermost works)** Important area to protect honmaru. From here, ninomaru is also accessible. You can see a trace of a well.
- **Honmaru otemon gate**
There used to be a splendid two-story gate at the entrance from sannomaru to honmaru. The gate is believed to be moved later by the castellan of Sendai (Aoba) castle, lord Date Masamune as the otemon of his castle. It was designated as a national treasure but, unfortunately, it was burned from air raid during the Second World War (1945).
- **Honmaru (tensyudai or base of keep)**
Honmaru extends for 130m in the east-west direction and 125m, in the south-north direction and the tensyukaku was located at the north western corner. View of Genkai sea from the ruin of tensyukaku is splendid and you can also see Iki and Tsushima in the distance.
- **Ninomaru (intermediate outer works)**
It is located at the west side of honmaru and it is believed that warehouses for arms and foods used to be here.



- **Yugekimaru (flying squad quarter)**
It is said to be named after Shen Wei Jing who was a guerilla (yugeki) general and came to Japan in 1593 on a piece mission. He used yugekimaru for lodging during his stay.
- **Danjomaru**
Asano Danjo Nagamasa, a relative of Hideyoshi and the first-ranked among five leading magistrates lived here. This place was named after him.
- **Mizunote kuruwa**
A drawback of castles is poor availability of water. Although a deep well was dug in the premise, water was insufficient. It is said a pond was dug to collect rain water for recycling.
- **Yamazatomaru (kuruwa)**
Yamazatomaru refers to the area where present Kotaku-ji temple is located. There were a domicile, a palace of Hideyoshi, a noh stage, a tea room and a garden here.
- **Hirosawa no tsubone and Kotaku-ji temple**
Kakizoe castle, the precursor of Nagoya castle was the castle of Nagoya Echizen no kami Tsunenobu. His sister, "Hiroko" became a maid of Hideyoshi and enjoyed his caring, and became Hirokawa no tsubone, a concubine. When Hirokawa no tsubone recovered from an eye disease, she enshrined a Buddha statue to express her gratitude to the mercy of Buddha, which was the origin of Kotaku-ji temple. After Hideyoshi died, she shaved her head, entered the nunhood to pray for the repose of souls for the rest of her life. In the premise of this temple, there is a great cycad palm which lord Kiyomasa Kato brought from the Korean Peninsula and donated (Natural Monument). There is also "Taiko's hair mound" beside the main temple and the mound is enshrined with a hank of Hideyoshi's hair.