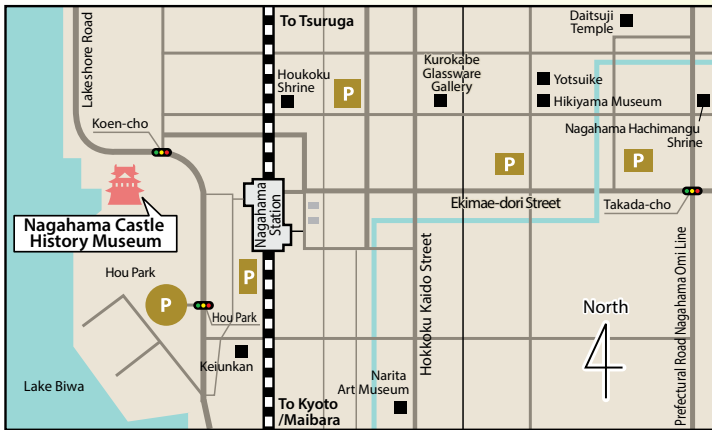


The Nagahama City Nagahama Castle History Museum

Information

Open Hours	9:00 - 17:00 (No new admissions after 16:30)	
Days Closed	Closed on Mondays. If Monday is a public holiday, the museum will be open on that day and closed on the next day. The Museum is also closed during the year-end and New Year's Day holidays (December 27 - January 2). The entire museum may be closed temporarily, or some areas may be closed although the museum itself is open, to allow for exhibition changes, etc. For details, please contact the museum or check the website.	
Access	JR Biwako Line (Hokuriku Main Line): Get off at Nagahama Station. The walk to the museum takes 7 minutes. Hokuriku Expressway: Exit at the Nagahama Interchange. The drive to the museum takes 15 minutes.	
Parking	Use the parking lot for Hou Park. Cars can be left there for free for up to 3 hours. Buses can park all day for 2000 yen.)	
Admission	Individuals: 500 yen for adults (high school age and older) 200 yen for elementary and junior high school students	Groups: 400 yen per each adult (high school age and older) 160 yen per each elementary and/or junior high school student
	*The Group Rate applies to 20 or more people who seek admission as a group.	
Address	10-10, Koencho, Nagahama City, Shiga Prefecture, 526-0065, Japan TEL. 0749-63-4611 / FAX.0749-63-4613 MAIL. rekihaku@city.nagahama.lg.jp URL. https://nagahama-rekihaku.jp	

*** Notice:**
Please do not take photos, videos, or audio recordings while visiting the museum. Do not eat or drink while in the museum building. Smoking is also prohibited inside the museum building. Please note that it may not be possible to view the permanent exhibition during special or featured exhibitions, because it may be closed to admission.



Nagahama Castle History Museum

長浜城

秀吉出世城

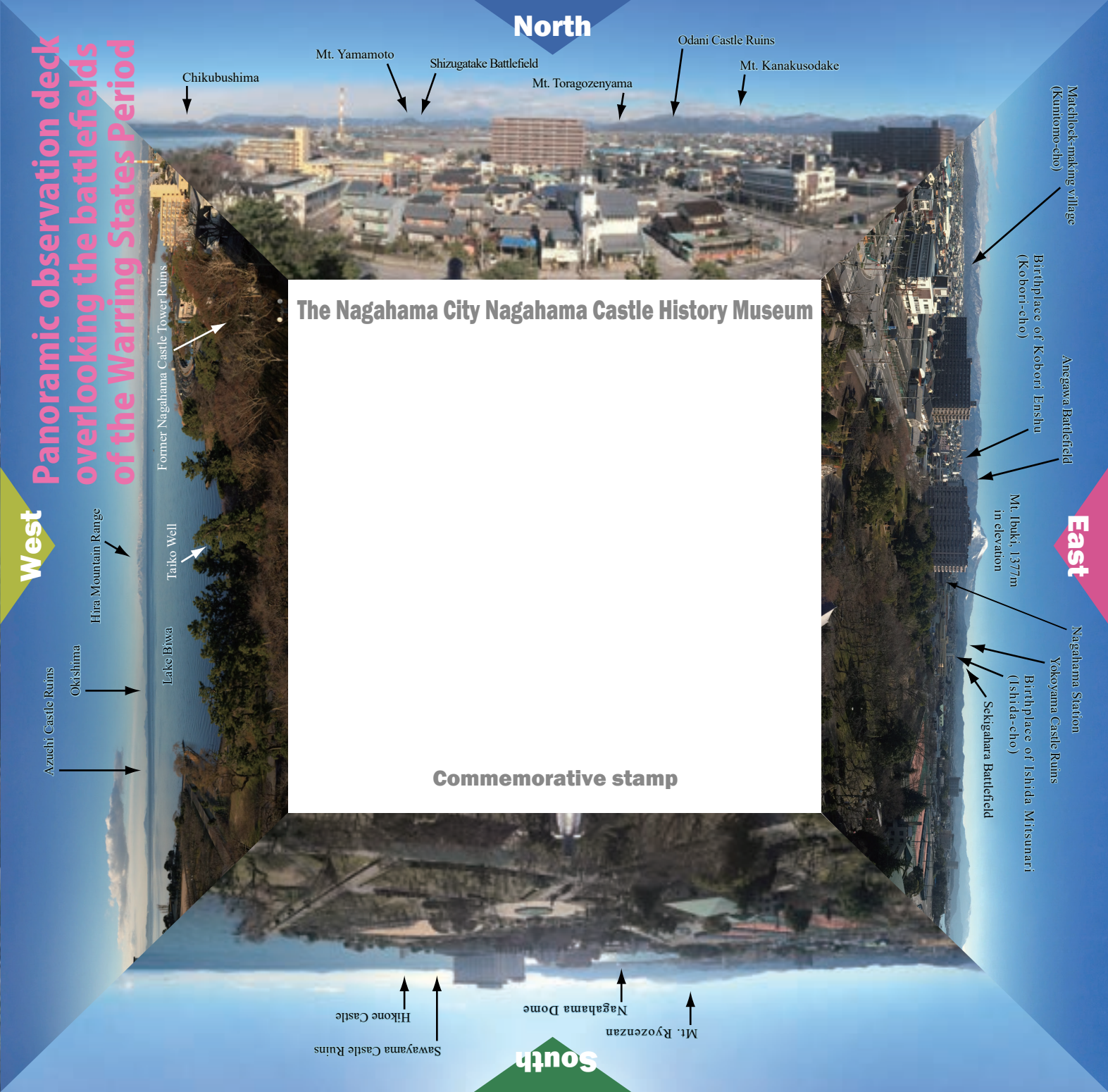
Located close to Nagahama Castle and Lake Biwa

Traditional Japanese inn with a restaurant and hot springs, associated with Toyotomi Hideyoshi




 HAMAKOGETSU
 長浜太閤温泉

4-25, Koencho, Nagahama City, Shiga Prefecture
526-0065
TEL.0749-62-1111/ FAX.0749-64-0600
http://www.hamakogetsu.co.jp



Panoramic observation deck overlooking the battlefields of the Warring States Period

The Nagahama City Nagahama Castle History Museum

Commemorative stamp

West

East

North

South

Chikubushima Mt. Yamamoto Shizugatake Battlefield Mt. Toragozenyama Odani Castle Ruins Mt. Kanakusodake

Former Nagahama Castle Tower Ruins Hira Mountain Range Taiko Well Lake Biwa

Sawayama Castle Ruins Hikone Castle Nagahama Dome Nagahama Mt. Ryozenzan

Matchlock-making village (Kunimoto-cho)
 Birthplace of Kobori Enshu (Kobori-cho)
 Anegawa Battlefield
 Mt. Ibuki, 1377m in elevation
 Nagahama Station
 Yokoyama Castle Ruins
 Birthplace of Ishida Mitsunari (Ishida-cho)
 Sekigahara Battlefield

Nagahama Castle

Hideyoshi's Construction of Nagahama Castle

After the fall of the Azai Family in September 1573, Hashiba Hideyoshi (later known as Toyotomi Hideyoshi) assumed rulership over the Kohoku region (the northern part of Shiga Prefecture). After achieving great success in the battle of Anegawa and the attack against Odani Castle, Hideyoshi was awarded the majority of the territory of the Azai clan, and he moved into Odani Castle. By the following summer, in 1574, he had already begun building a new castle next to Lake Biwa at Imahama (near the present Koencho, in Nagahama City). The reason Hideyoshi decided to build a new castle on the shore of Lake Biwa was probably related to his management of his new domain, since the shipping routes on Lake Biwa were of great economic importance. Very few of the original plans and documents from the time that Hideyoshi built the castle have survived, so many aspects of the story remain unknown. It is thought that the timber was brought from heavily forested places such as Chikubushima Island, and that the stones for the castle walls were gathered from within the territory. Even grave-stones, including carved stone Buddhas and the remains of five-story stone pagodas, seem to have been used for the construction of the castle. Nagahama Castle is thought to have been completed around 1575, and Hideyoshi changed the name of the place from "Imahama" to "Nagahama". He continued to reside in the castle until 1582.

The History of Nagahama Castle

In June of 1582, a meeting referred to as The Kiyosu Conference was held, and it was decided to give Nagahama Castle to Shibata Katsue. Subsequently, his nephew Shibata Katsutoyo moved into the castle. However, in December of the same year Hideyoshi attacked Katsutoyo and captured Nagahama Castle. Hideyoshi used the castle as his base against Shibata Katsue during the Battle of Shizugatake, which broke out in April of the following year. During the period from 1585 to 1590, Yamauchi Kazutoyo was the lord of the castle. A fiefdom change resulted in Yamauchi Kazutoyo's leaving the castle, and it gradually fell into disrepair. There are reports that local members of the Shinshu sect of Buddhism established their general meeting place within the castle grounds during this period. At this time, the Kohoku region was under the control of Ishida Mitsunari (from Ishida-cho, Nagahama City), who was the lord of Sawayama Castle. In 1606, Tokugawa Ieyasu's half-brother Naito Nobunari became the lord of Nagahama Castle. He carried out extensive renovations. In 1612, his son, Nobumasa, briefly became lord of the castle, but in 1615, he was transferred to Takatsuki Castle in Settsu. As a result, Nagahama Castle lost control of the northern part of the Lake Biwa region, and Hikone Castle became the base of control instead. This was the end of Nagahama Castle's mission. After the castle was abandoned, the stone walls and materials for the watchtowers were transported to Hikone Castle and other locations. The original Nagahama Castle was completely disassembled. The Nagahama Daitsuji temple's kitchen gate and Chizen-in temple's front gate (both designated as cultural properties by Nagahama City) are said to be remaining parts of the castle.

The Reconstruction of Nagahama Castle in the Showa Period

The current Nagahama Castle was rebuilt in 1983, under the design guidance of Dr. Michio Fujioka, professor emeritus of the Tokyo Institute of Technology (present Institute of Science Tokyo). It was opened with the name The Municipal Nagahama Castle Historical Museum. The exterior of the main building is in the style of an early-period donjon, with a large two-story roof and a watchtower. This castle-style museum was constructed with the intention that it would emulate the architectural style of a castle from the Tensho period, which was when Hideyoshi initially erected the original structure. The populace demonstrated profound enthusiasm for the reconstruction of the building, which they referred to as "Hideyoshi's Nagahama Castle". In February 2006, it was renamed and became The Nagahama City Nagahama Castle History Museum.

The Museum Guide



5F

Watchtower (with surrounding corridors)

Observation Deck
Panoramic observation deck overlooking the battlefields of the Warring States Period

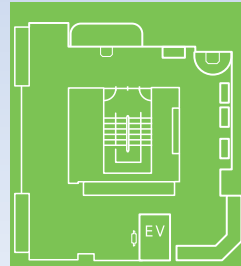


4F

Tea Room

Equipment Storage

Open on Sundays and public holidays in the spring (April-May) and the autumn (October-November)
*Reservations are required for use.

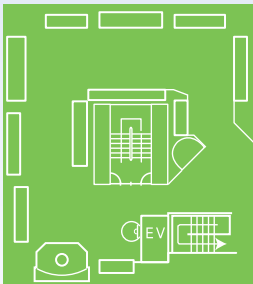


3F

3rd Floor Exhibition Room

Historical Exhibits

Permanent Exhibition
"Hideyoshi and Nagahama"



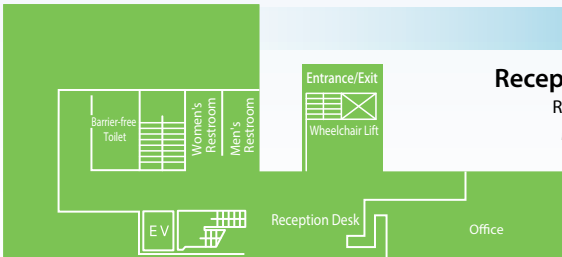
2F

2nd Floor Exhibition Room

Historical Exhibits

Featured Exhibition
"A Brief Overview of Nagahama, Kohoku"

The history and emergence of the culture of Nagahama in the Kohoku region are presented sequentially, through a succession of changing exhibits.



1F

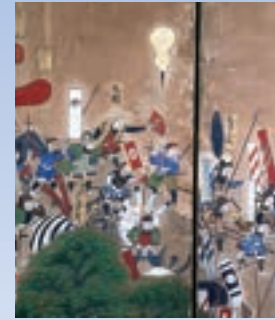
Reception Desk

Reception Desk
Museum Shop

Basement

Hideyoshi and Nagahama 3rd Floor Exhibition Room

From the Muromachi period (1336 - 1573) to the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1573 - 1602), the Kohoku region was caught up in battles for national unification waged by Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Nagahama is noteworthy as the place where Hideyoshi first became a great lord and established his way of running a castle town.



Hideyoshi's command post, shown in the right-hand of a pair of folding screens depicting the Battle of Shizugatake

A Brief Overview of Nagahama, Kohoku 2nd Floor Exhibition Room

Here is a short account of aspects of the history and culture of Nagahama in the Kohoku Region.

The Dawn of Kohoku

The Kohoku region has been developed and has evolved since ancient times as a site of human occupation. Many relics have been found in the foothills and lowlands of this region that shed light on various aspects of how people lived there, from the Jomon period (18,000 BC - 300 BC) onwards.

Faith and Religious Culture

From the Nara period (710 - 794) to the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1573 - 1602), the people of Kohoku embraced a multitude of Buddhist tenets, integrating them with their indigenous "jingi" beliefs and practices, including those pertaining to local deities. This resulted in a religious culture that became rich in both quality and quantity.

The Three Generations of the Azai Family and their Role in Kohoku

The Azais were originally vassals of the Kyogoku feudal clan. After 1523 they took advantage of internal strife within the Kyogoku clan, and rose to power to become feudal lords in Kohoku, themselves. They maintained their rule over the region for three generations, the eras of Sukemasa, Hisamasa and Nagamasa. The castle at Odani was their stronghold during their years of power. However, Azai Nagamasa was defeated in 1570 during the Anegawa Battle, and three years later The Azai family was destroyed in an all-out attack by Oda Nobunaga.

*The exhibits in the 2nd Floor Exhibition Room are changed periodically. The themes reviewed above may not necessarily be illustrated by displays when you visit.

Diorama Showing the Construction of Nagahama Castle

The Esthetic World Created by Enshu

From the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1573-1602) to the Edo period (1602-1868), Kohoku people demonstrated their outstanding talents in the cultural centers of the times. Kaiho Yusho and Kobori Enshu are two distinguished cultural figures in these periods. Popular culture also developed among the general population in Nagahama-cho and the surrounding areas, which began to flourish from the middle of the Edo period.



Portrait of Kobori Enshu

The Kunitomo Gunsmith and Ikkansai, the Scientist



Reflecting Telescope
(made by Kunitomo Ikkansai)

Kunitomo in Nagahama City played an important role as one of the two major production centers for matchlocks in early modern Japan, along with Sakai, because Kunitomo's gunsmiths had the critical ability to produce quality matchlocks in large quantities. Kunitomo Ikkansai, born in Kunitomo during the late Edo period, became a gunsmith by trade. He is widely acknowledged to be the person responsible for developing Japan's first reflecting telescope and conducting observations of the moon and sunspots.

The Path to Modernization

Nagahama, which had welcomed the Meiji Restoration (1868), began its path to modernization early on, thanks to the economic strength it had built on the basis of its textile industry.

In 1871, the first elementary school in the prefecture was established, and a national bank was established in 1877. A railway line was opened in 1882. Then, with the operation of a railway ferry service on Lake Biwa, Nagahama became a key location for modern transportation in this region. A succession of modern public facilities were also built, such as post offices and a building to house the county's administrative office. In a surprisingly short time, Nagahama underwent a remarkable transformation.



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