



## Historic Wakayama Castle

The story begins in 1585, when Hashiba (Toyotomi) Hideyoshi ordered his younger brother, Hidenaga, to construct a castle on Mt. Okayama (now known as Mt. Torafusu). Todo Takatora, soon to be known as an expert castle builder, overlooked construction. In the same year, Kuwayama Shigeharu enters as Hidenaga's castle keeper, later becoming castle lord when Hidenaga's family line ended. During Toyotomi and Kuwayama's periods as castle lord, castle improvements focused on the mountain top and Okaguchi area.

In 1600, after the battle of Sekigahara, Asano Yoshinaga enters the castle. Creating a black paneled castle with interconnected towers, he proceeds to construct the Ninomaru, and Nishinomaru baileys as part of the lord's castle. The main gate was also changed from the Okaguchimon to the Ichinohashimon Gate, and centering upon the main gate's roadway, the castle and surrounding town were constructed outwards in a square-like distribution.

In 1619, Tokugawa Iyeyasu's 10th son, Yorinobu, enters the castle, forming the Kishu branch of the great three Tokugawa families, which boasted a fiefdom of over 99 million litres of rice. Starting with the expansion of Ninomaru bailey's west end, the Minaminomaru and Sunanomaru baileys were incorporated into the inner bailey, bringing the castle close to its current shape.

In 1871, with the abolition of the Han system, Wakayama Castle came under the army's jurisdiction. In 1901, the castle opened to the public as Wakayama Park (later to be known as Wakayama Castle Park), and was established as a national historic site in 1931.

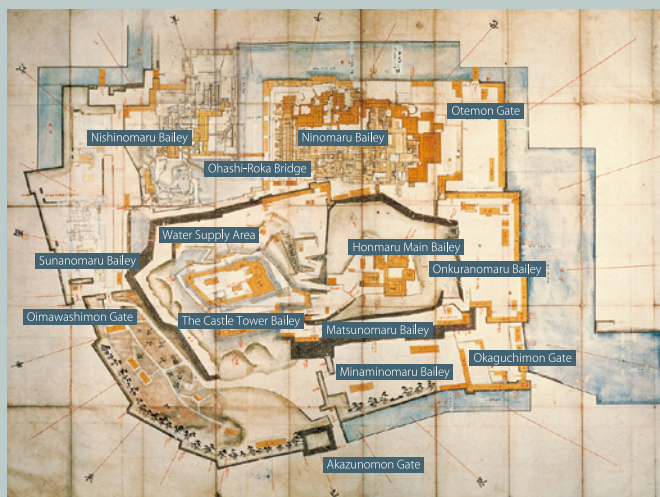


Diagram of Wakayama Castle Grounds  
(created around 1800)

(the original document is housed in the Wakayama Prefectural Library)



### 《Castle Tower Information Guide》

**Admission** Adults (including high school students) ¥410  
Children (middle school and younger) ¥200  
※Group discounts available, children free on Saturdays  
※Admission includes the exhibition room in Wakayama History Center

**Hours** 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM (entry until 5:00PM)

**Closed** Dec. 29th - 31st

《Access》Get off the Wakayama Bus at the 'Wakayamajo-mae' or 'Shiyakusho-mae' bus stop.

### 《Inquiries》○Wakayama Castle Tower

3, Ichiban-cho, Wakayama City 640-8146 ☎ (073) 422-8979

○Wakayama Castle Facilities Planning Division, Wakayama City

(weekdays from 8:30AM to 5:15PM)

23, Shichiban-cho, Wakayama City 640-8511 ☎ (073) 435-1044



If you've arrived at the Historic Wakayama Castle... try enjoying its historical scenery at VR locations!

▶ Experience on site with StreetMuseum®, the historical site VR app.



WAKAYAMA  
WAKAYAMA CASTLE  
CASTLE (English)



## Historic Wakayama Castle

A guide map to spark your curiosity *Map*

Wakayama Castle Tower

The Scenic Nishinomaru-Teien Garden

Wakayama History Center

Koshon Teahouse







## The Kishu Tokugawa Family and Samurai Culture

In the exhibition room on Wakayama History Center's 2nd floor, visitors can learn about Wakayama Castle from its construction. The exhibition also features five predecessors, who were born in the present Wakayama City and have been active in various fields, introducing their achievements through actual materials related to them.

### Exploring Wakayama's Great Minds



### Wakayama Tourist Souvenir Center

We offer a large selection of Wakayama souvenirs, including pickled plums, soy sauce, local sake, sweets, and carefully selected folk crafts, such as Kishu Temari handballs and lacquerware.



### Wakayama History Center

#### ■ 2F History Exhibition Room

Hours: 9:00AM-5:30PM (entry until 5:00PM)  
 Fee: Adults (including high school students): ¥100; Children (Jr. high and younger): free  
 ※ There is a joint admission ticket with entrance to Wakayama Castle Tower  
 Closed: Dec. 29th - 31st

#### ■ 1F Wakayama City Souvenir Center

Hours: 9:00AM-6:00PM (March to November)/9:00AM-5:00PM (December - February)  
 Closed: Dec 29-Jan 3 TEL. 073 (435) 1184

Wakayama Castle's  
History and Culture

Wakayama  
History Center



The Kishu  
Tokugawa Family's Gold Seal

### Theater Room: "The Revival of Wakayama Castle"

Based on academic research, the inner bailey of Wakayama Castle from the late modern period has been reproduced through VR. The magnificent former castle is projected on a wide screen in the theatre room. (Running time: approx. 12 min.)

### Wakayama City Kataribe Club's special sightseeing guide



Click here  
for more  
information!



Alongside the  
castle scenery,  
enjoy beautiful  
flowers that change  
seasonally.



← Access  
Wakayama Castle's  
Official Instagram here!

- late February **Narcissus flowers**  
(Ninomaru Bailey and other locations)
- late March **Cherry Blossoms**  
(castle grounds)
- early April **Japanese Globeflowers**  
(Tsuru no Tani Valley)
- late April **Tree Peonies** (Ninomaru bailey)
- early May **Rhododendra**  
(around the dried south moat and other locations)
- early June **Hydrangeas** (Tsuru-no-Tani)
- late November **Green maple trees**  
(Nishinomaru Bailey)
- early December **Ginkgo trees**  
(around the dried south moat)
- early December **Maple trees**  
(Nishinomaru Bailey)



Enjoy the park's grand atmosphere,  
built by former nobles

### Scenic Spot -Nishinomaru-Teien Garden

Due to its magnificent autumn foliage, Nishinomaru-Teien Garden is also known as, "Momijidani-Teien Garden." Stones have been meticulously piled up against Mt. Torafusu's steep terrain, allowing one to enjoy the garden while encircling its pond. In the Edo period, the garden boasted a Noh stage and a teahouse.

### Engyokaku Pavilion and Autumn Foliage

Located in the garden pond, this building was constructed according to the luxurious architectural style of medieval Japan. It blends beautifully with the autumn leaves.



It is also beautiful in  
the fresh greenery  
of early summer.

Ruins of Choshokaku Parlour  
and Suigetsuken Teahouse

Enjoy tea in a traditional  
Japanese teahouse

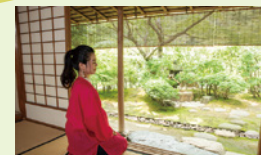
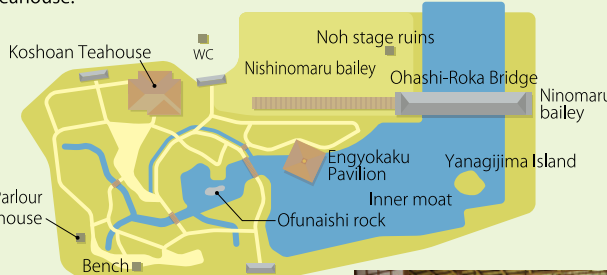
### Koshuan Teahouse



Located in Nishinomaru-Teien Garden, this teahouse reflects traditional Japanese architecture. Matsushita Konosuke—a native of Wakayama City known as the "god of business"—made a donation in 1973, in commemoration of the garden's construction, leading to the teahouse's completion in May of the following year. Visitors can relax and enjoy matcha green tea and sweets, without being bound by traditional rules.



Ohashi-Roka Bridge  
and the Castle Tower



Hours: 9:00AM~4:30PM  
 (entry until 4:00PM)  
 Closed: Dec 29-Jan 3  
 ¥470/serving  
 (macha and confectionary)  
 TEL.073-431-8648  
 ※ Not accessible on days that the  
teahouse has been reserved.

Ooku Inner  
Quarters

Ohashi-Roka  
Bridge

### Buried Cultural Properties



Reconstructing buried cultural  
properties through excavation

Various buried cultural properties from the Edo period (1603-1867), such as the remains of buildings and daily objects, reside in the grounds of Wakayama Castle. In 2006, the Ohashi-Roka Bridge, which connects the Ninomaru and Nishinomaru baileys, was restored following an excavation survey. The survey identified foundation stones in the bottom of the castle moat, pinpointing the bridge's exact location. In conjunction with the maintenance of Ninomaru palace's Ooku inner quarters, excavations have been conducted from 2008 to 2015. Including the remains of a garden and anagura (cellars), these surveys have revealed even more buried cultural properties, providing a picture of daily life at the time. Excavation is indispensable for castle maintenance, revealing hidden underground clues that become references for reconstruction.

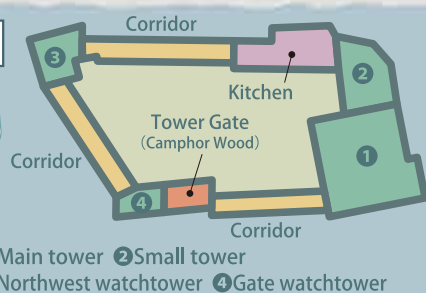


A rare interconnected-style castle!

Discover! at the viewpoint

## The Castle Tower's Layout and Design

The magnificent interconnected towers consist of a main and small tower, as well as two watch towers connected by corridors. Along with Himeji Castle and Matsuyama Castle, it is one of the three major interconnected-style castles in Japan, and was designated as a former national treasure in 1935. After burning down in a war fire, the castle was reconstructed in 1958 by the initiative of many Wakayama residents. The roof and other parts of the building are beautifully decorated with various prestigious ornaments.



Bow-shaped eaves/ocean wave pattern



A hidden peach roof tile!?



View from the main tower

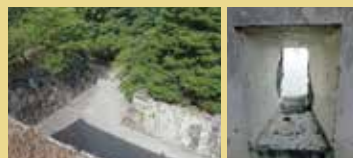
Highlights of the mountain-top fortress

## Getting to Know Wakayama Castle

Find traps at the ! marks



Ishi-otoshi Elevated stone walls



Masugata-koguchi entrance

Wall slits

### The tower's ishi-otoshi (brattice) and stone walls

Ishi-otoshi are used to drop stones on the enemy when they attempt to climb up the stone walls.

### Masugata-koguchi Entrance

Masugata-koguchi refers to an entrance with a bent passageway that prevents the enemy's advancement.

### Wall slits

The earthen walls were fitted with slits through which guns and bows could be aimed at the enemy.



A gate in a place like this!

What tales exist behind each ? mark?

- **Uzumimon Gate** A tunnel-shaped gate on the castle keep's northern side. It was installed to transport well water, located in the water supply area, up to the castle.
- **Tiger Statue** The mountain on which the castle tower stands is called "Tora-fusuyama" (literally, "Lying Tiger Mountain"), because it looks like a tiger at rest. A statue of a reclining tiger has been placed at the northeast foot of the mountain.

### Oimawashimon Gate

Flanked by stone walls, this gate has no turrets, but consists of a tiled roof resting on pillars. The gate is painted vermillion, a rarity among existing castle gates. (Designated Municipal Cultural Property)

Excavations conducted from 2008 to 2015 uncovered many precious ruins in Ninomaru Palace's Ooku inner quarters (the private space of the Kishu feudal lords). Including a mortar pond and a stonework pond, which most likely existed for the leisure of feudal lords, as well as a stonework ditch, these valuable ruins reveal the inner quarters' previous state.



Mortar pond



Stonework pond



Stonework ditch



Asano period stone wall

## The Buried ruins of the Ooku inner quarters

A Place of Politics and Daily Life: Zooming in on Ninomaru Bailey

## Reproducing the Ohashi-Roka Bridge from Ancient Ruins



Excavations have revealed foundation stones that would have supported the pillars of Ohashi-Roka Bridge (Japanese foundations consist of stones with a hole drilled in the center, through which the bottom of the pillar is thrust). A wooden reconstruction was completed in 2006, based on remaining blueprints and excavation results.

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Might you recall the elegant life of the Ooku inner quarters?



Tokugawa Yorinobu, the First Lord of Kishu

One of the great three Tokugawa families, which produced the 8th shogun, Yoshimune

## Legacy of the Kishu Tokugawa Family

1 **Tokugawa Yorinobu** (1602-1671) The 10th son of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Edo shogunate. In 1619, the shogunate granted Yorinobu a fief in Kii (Wakayama Pref), parts of Ise (Mie Pref) and Yamato (Nara Pref), making him the founding member of the Kishu Tokugawa family. He expanded the grounds of Wakayama Castle and completed castle renovations.

2 **Tokugawa Yoshimune** (1684-1751) Yoshimune rebuilt the Kishu domain, which had been undergoing a deficit, by promoting land cultivation and frugality. In 1716, in recognition of his skills, Yoshimune was appointed as the 8th shogun of the Edo shogunate. He promoted the Kyoho reforms and was an outstanding ruler who restored financial health.



Tokugawa Yoshimune, the Fifth Lord of Kishu

3 **Tokugawa Harutomi** (1771-1852) Known as "Suki-no-Tono-sama" (a very cultured monarch), Harutomi deeply involved himself as a feudal lord of Wakayama Castle, changing the castle keep's exterior from black panels to white walls, and directing the keep's reconstruction after it was burned down by lightning.



Tokugawa Harutomi, the Tenth Lord of Kishu

### Otemon Gate and Ichinohashi Bridge

Crossing the Ichinohashi Bridge will bring you to the main gate, Otemon. The gate is not a turret, but a simple and neat koraimon-style gate with a roof.

## Enjoy a wide variety of stone walls

Find various stone walls around the ? marks



Access the stone wall map

Since the stone walls' construction in 1585, the construction methods and stone materials have changed with each castle lord. Considered the oldest in Wakayama Castle, the castle tower's walls consist of natural-face masonry (nozurazumi) using crystalline schist. Different places reflect the difference in time, so let's explore!



Natural-face masonry with crystalline schist



Pound-insertion masonry with sandstone



Cut-insertion masonry with porphyritic granite

Some stones have seals on the surface



# WAKAYAMA CASTLE

Let's explore the stone walls!

This stone wall rises beside the ruins of Akazunomon Gate. It was constructed with cut-insertion masonry, which is a neat and orderly method of stone walling.

### Stone wall for an elevated turret

### Okaguchimon Gate

A valuable gate built in the early Edo period topped with a white-walled turret. Designated as a National Important Cultural Property.