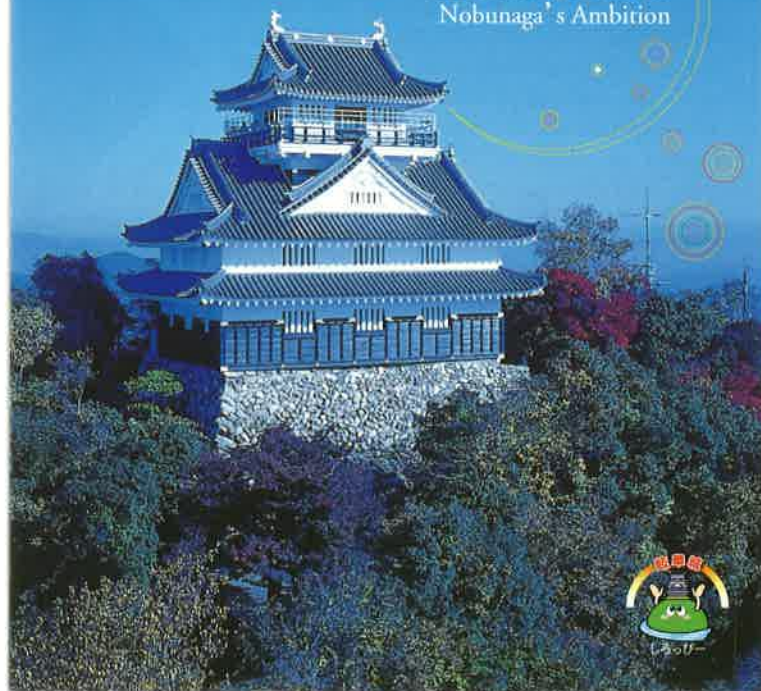


GIFU CASTLE

岐阜城
GIFU-JO

Mt. Kinka- the Land of
Nobunaga's Ambition



Abridged Chronological Table

Period	Year(s)	Castle Lord	Note
Kamakura	1201~1204	Nikaïdo Yukimasa	It is said that the castle was built for military purposes.
		Sato Tomomitsu	
		Iga Mitsumune	
	1259~1260	Nikaïdo Yukifuji	Name changed to Inaba, and the castle was named Inabayamajo after him. He owned a territory around Seki City, and rebuilt Shinchokoku-ji Temple.
Muromachi	1394~1428	Saito Toshinaga	Castle was repaired under the regency of Toki. He moved into Kanou Castle in 1445.
		Saito Myouchin	Went to the war front in Kyoto for the Onin war. Also famous as tanka poet.
		Nagai Shinzaemonnojo	Known to be the father of Dosan.
		Saito Dosan	Moved into Inabayama Castle after repairing. He moved into Sagiyama Castle in 1551 and died in a battle against Yoshitatsu in 1556.
	1554	Saito Yoshitatsu	Died of illness in May 1561 (34 years old).
	1561	Saito Tatsuoki (Takenaka Shigeharu)	Succeeded at a young age; however, in February 1564, the castle was temporarily taken over by Takenaka Hanbei Shigeharu. In August 1567, he was attacked by Nobunaga Oda and was defeated. Great achievement by Kinoshita Tokichiro.
	1567	Oda Nobunaga	Moved out of Owari Kiyosu and into Azuchi Castle in 1576. He worked for the development of a castle town in Gifu by establishing Rakuichi Rakuza. He committed suicide at the Incident of the Honno-ji Temple in 1582.
Azuchi	1576	Oda Nobutada	Succeeding his father Nobunaga, he worked for the prosperity of Gifu. At the Incident of Honno-ji Temple, he died fighting against Akechi Mitsuhide at Nijou Castle.
	1582	Kambe Nobutaka	The third son of Nobunaga. He moved from Kambe Castle in Ise, and had to give up his castle after being attacked by Hideyoshi in 1583.
	1583	Ikedo Motosuke	Died fighting in the Battle of Komaki Nagakute in 1584.
Momoyama	1585	Ikedo Terumasa	Moved into Yoshida Castle in Mikawa in September 1590, and later became the lord of Himeji Castle.
	1591	Toyotomi Hidekatsu	Adopted son of Hideyoshi and he used the family name of Hashiba. He went to the battle in Korea in 1592, and died of illness at Karashima (Kyosaito) in Korea.
	1592	Oda Hidenobu	Moved from Azuchi Castle. He was attacked by the Tokugawa Force in August 1600, and gave in. Died in May 1605, at the age of 26.
	1601		Castle became a ruin and the turret, tower and stonewall were transferred to Kanou Castle.
Edo			No castle building.
Meiji	1910		Model castle constructed. Burned down in February 1943.
Showa	1956		Rebuilding of the Tenshukaku Tower, still standing today.
Heisei	1997		First major renovation after the reconstruction.
	2001		800th Anniversary of the Construction of the Castle.
	2011		The ruins of Gifu Castle, which cover the whole of Mt. Kinka including Gifu Castle itself, have been designated as a national historic landmark.

Information

As of December, 2013

Admission (Allows entry to Gifu Castle and Gifu Castle Museum)		Opening Hours	
Adult (over 16)	¥200	Open throughout the year	
Child (between 4 to 15)	¥100	May 12 ~ October 16:	8:30~17:30
		October 17 ~ March 15:	9:30~16:30
		March 16 ~ May 11:	9:30~17:30
Group discount: 20% off for group 30 people or more		Evening hours are available, depending on the occasion.	

※Those meeting the following conditions may enter free of charge. Please present your identification.

1. Holders of the handbook for the physically handicapped, handbook for the insurance of the mentally disabled, or the handbook for mentally under developed children as well as caregivers.
2. Those over 70 years old.
3. Junior high students entering on Family Day (Third Sunday of each month)

As of December, 2013

Ropeway Fare	One way	Round trip
Adult (Over 12 / Junior high students)	¥620	¥1,080
Child (Between 4 to 11)	¥280	¥540
Large group of 30 people or more: 10% discount for adults and 25% discount for children, 25% discount on the adult fare for junior high and high school students		

Above fare includes consumption tax.



(For Inquiries)

Gifu City Tourism & Convention Division

1-11 Kanda-machi, Gifu City TEL (058) 265-4141
<http://www.city.gifu.lg.jp>

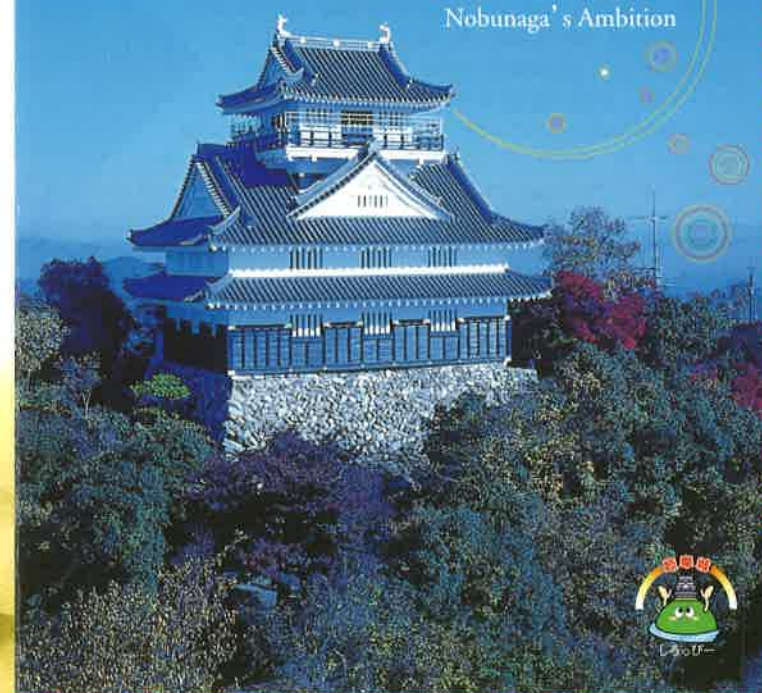
Gifu Castle

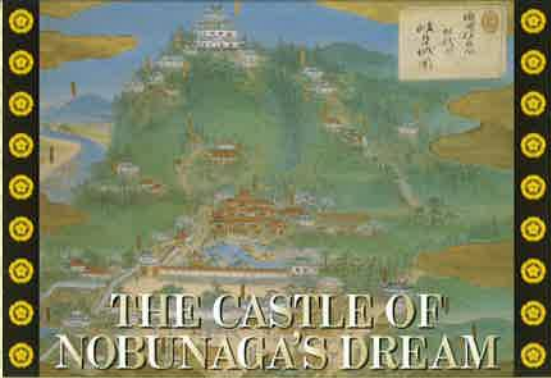
18 Tenshukaku, Kinkazan, Gifu City TEL (058) 263-4853

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岐阜城



A view of Nagara River from Gifu Castle

Here, Dosan and Nobunaga Gazed Down Upon the World

Gifu Castle was once called Inabayama Castle. It is said that Joshu (castle lord) Nikaido Yukimasa, a butler to the Kamakura Shogunate, was the first one to build a fortress at the peak of the Mt. Kinka. This castle was also the residence of Dosan Saito during the Warring Period. The castle became renowned throughout the nation in August of 1567 (1564 by another account) when Oda Nobunaga, a hero incomparable to any other historic figure, captured the castle and subjugated the area. At the same time, he changed the regional name from "Inokuchi" to "Gifu", making this district a foothold for the unification of the country. However, in August of 1600, a battle broke out before the war of Sekigahara and, because Nobunaga's grandson, Nobuhide, allied with the West Squad, the East Squad invaded the castle. After a fierce battle, the castle fell into the hands of the enemy force. In 1601, Gifu Castle was destroyed, and the castle towers and turrets were transferred to Kano Castle. The castle that stands today was reconstructed in July 1956, by the Castle Restoration Alliance. It is a 17.7m tall reinforced concrete building of a 3-tier, 4-story structure, standing dignified in an area of 461.77m². Within the castle area is historical museum, and on top of the tower is an observation deck that is favored by many visitors. The ruins of Gifu Castle, which cover the whole of Mt. Kinka including Gifu Castle itself, have been designated as a national historic landmark on February 7, 2011.



Nobunaga was born in 1534 as the second son of Oda Nobuhide of Owari. His childhood name was Kipposhi and, after coming of age, he was renamed Kazusanosuke Nobunaga. In 1567, he conquered Inabayama Castle, making this castle a foothold for the unification of the nation. In the castle town, he established the "Rakuichi Rakuza (Freedom of Industry, Trade and Market)". A missionary from Portugal named Luis Frois described the town in this period as being "like the bustling of Babylon". In 1576, he handed Gifu Castle down to his first son Nobutada, and moved into Azuchi Castle. He lost his life at the turmoil of the Honnou-ji Temple in 1582.



Oda Nobunaga

His success story of conquering the region, after coming to Mino as an itinerant peddler of oil, is well-known throughout Japan. However, this story is said to overlap with the history of Dosan's father, Nagai Shinzaemonjo. Dosan was born in Mino, with his childhood name being Nagai (or possibly Fujiwara) Shinkuro Norihide. After reaching adulthood, he seized his master, the Saito family, thereby changing his name to Saito Shinkuro Toshimasa. In the end he took full control of the land of Mino. Later, he shaved his head and called himself Saito Shinkuro Nyudo Dosan. Late in his life, he and his son Yoshitatsu were on bad terms and fought in the battle that took place on both sides of the Nagara River. He lost the battle, as well as his life, on April 20, 1556.



Saito Dosan

The Gifu Castle Museum

On the east side of Gifu Castle is the Gifu Castle Museum. It is a reconstruction of the weapon storage and food storage house in the structure of a corner turret, built in April 1975. In the building are displays of Gifu Castle related documents and data. Take a glimpse of the historical romance of the Warring Period, where dreams of conquering the country had been prevalent.



A View from the Tower

Of all the castles that are standing today, Gifu Castle stands prominently on high ground (329m above sea level).

From the highest level, you can take a view of the clear water of Nagara River, famous for its cormorant fishing, which flows through the city. To the East is a magnificent view of Mt. Ena and the Kiso Mountains, and to the North is the mountain range of Norikura and the Japan Alps. To the East are the mountains of Ibuki, Yoro and Suzuka, and to the South is a vast expanse of the grand plain of Noubi, with a view of the Kiso River serenely flowing into the Ise Bay. This grand sight can be enjoyed as Nobunaga had once viewed the world from here. For the pleasure of a night view, opening hours are extended during the summer period.



A night view in the direction of the Nagara River, as seen from Gifu Castle



A night view in the direction of Nagoya City, as seen from Gifu Castle