

SHIMABARA TOURIST INFORMATION



Samurai Residence

Currently, three samurai residences in the Shiota-cho district, namely the Yamamoto Residence, Shinozuka Residence, and Torita Residence, are open to the public free of charge. Visitors can get a glimpse of the way samurai used to live in bygone days.



Shimeiso Spring Water Garden

Constructed as a secondary residence in the later Meiji period, this historic villa was named "Shimeiso" for its excellent views in all directions. Zen priests were invited to create the garden in the early Showa period and the site is now a National Registered Monument and National registered tangible cultural property.



Gamadasu Dome (Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall)

Gamadasu Dome is the main facility of the Shimabara Peninsula's Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark. Using the latest cutting-edge technology, such as projection mapping and drone footage, you can experience what it was like when Mt. Fugen, one of the volcanoes of Mt. Unzen, erupted.



Shimabara Hibiruyamahana Park

This majestic park offers panoramic views of Heisei Shinzan (the new mountain formed in the early 90s), as well as cherry blossoms, rapeseed flowers, poppies, and cosmos as they come into season throughout the year.



Koi-no-Oyogumachi (City of Swimming Carp)

Waterways in the city have been beautifully preserved by local residents and the sight of red, white, tricolor, and golden carp, swimming in the clear streams, has become one of the highlights of Shimabara, the Water City.

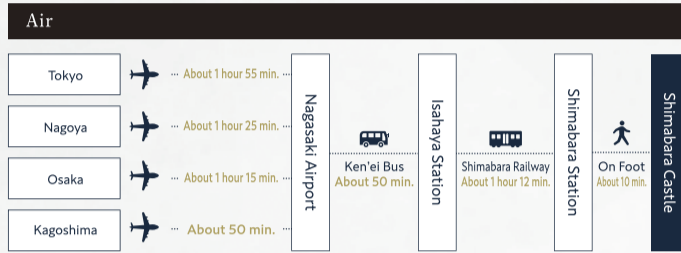
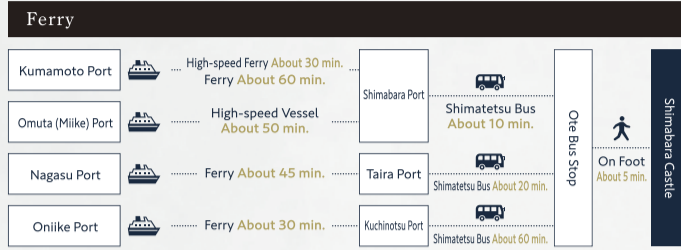
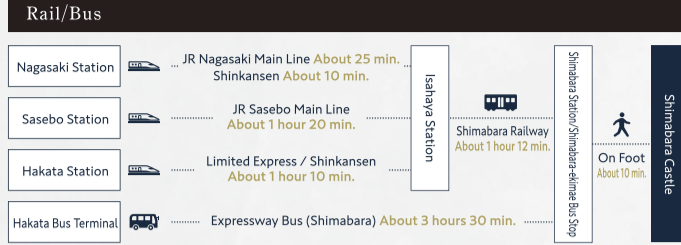


Omisaki Station

Omisaki Station on the Shimabara Railway, the closest station to the sea in Japan, is a popular spot that has gained attention on social media. On clear days, it offers a stunning view of the deep blue Ariake Sea and the station's bright yellow handkerchiefs outlined against the sky.

FREE STAMP

Location



INFORMATION

Entrance Fee (Incl. tax)	Adult ¥700 Elementary, Junior, and High School Students ¥350
	Groups ≥ 15 (Adult ¥560 Elementary, Junior, and High School Students ¥280)
	Disabled Discount (Adult ¥560 Elementary, Junior, and High School Students ¥280)
Opening Hours	Open 9:00 am to 5:30 pm year-round (Last Admission 5:00 pm)

Inquiries

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OFFICIAL WEBSITE



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Shimabara Castle

A place of historical significance with numerous Christian records and the history of a hereditary daimyo who endured two major upheavals.



Shimabara, led to the restoration of the castle tower in 1964. castle, which had been ongoing for years among the people of dismantled. However, efforts to fulfill the dream of reconstructing the With the Meiji Restoration, the castle was abandoned and later the Shimabara Catastrophe.

1792 it endured successive earthquakes and a massive tsunami during the fierce attacks of the rebels during the Shimabara Rebellion, and in clan, spanning 19 generations. During that time, in 1637 it withstood Since then, it has served as the residence of four clans, the Matsukura era and the enthusiasm of the Matsukura clan as a rising daimyo. can see the benefits of overseas trade that began during the Arima clan wall, complete with arrow-slits, extending for 4 kilometers. Here, you three-story towers, and surrounded the outer perimeter with a fortified tower-style construction, completely plastered. To the north, they The main bailey features a five-story castle tower with a layered he also developed the town around Shimabara Castle.

and it was completed after approximately seven years. At the same time, (Nara Prefecture), built Shimabara Castle. Construction began in 1618, auspicious place, Matsukura Shigemasa, who was transferred from Gojo base and defeated the Ryuzoji Takamasa army of Saga Prefecture. In this This area, known as Moriake, is where Arima Harunobu established his

the sturdy fortress that withstood the relentless attacks of the rebel forces.



Shimabara Castle's 70,000 Goka Samurai Force
Warriors who played a significant role on the Shimabara Peninsula 400 years ago have been brought back to the present. They use Shimabara Castle as their base to promote Shimabara Peninsula, Shimabara City, and Shimabara Castle. They march out to Shimabara Castle every day and provide guests with hospitality. They are looking forward to seeing you at Shimabara Castle.

1792 Unzen Landslide and Tsunami

After 25 years of alternating rule between the Toda and Matsudaira clans, the Matsudaira clan, who had longed for it, once again became the lords of Shimabara. However, after earthquakes in Shimabara, on April 1, 1792 the lava dome on Mt. Fugen's Mt. Mayu collapsed, burying a large part of the Shimabara Castle town. It is said that around 15,000 people lost their lives in what is known as the Shimabara Catastrophe. Matsudaira Tadahirō conducted inspections of the disaster-stricken areas, but the accumulated stress took its toll, and he was sent away on April 27th. He is known as the "Unfortunate Lord". Due to tectonic changes during the Shimabara Catastrophe, water welled up, giving rise to Shirachiko Lake.

Shimabara Rebellion

The harsh rule of Lord Matsukura Katsiue fueled the anger of the local residents, leading to the outbreak of the Shimabara Rebellion. The anger of the local residents was tremendous, and they launched a fierce attack on Shimabara Castle. The Edo shogunate, seeing the situation as a serious threat, dispatched an army led by General Shigemasa Itakura to quell the rebellion. However, Shigemasa, driven by a desire for glory, died in battle. Subsequently, Matsudaira Nobutsuna, who was a senior councillor of the Tokugawa shogunate, assumed command. Nobutsuna, known as "Chie Izu", rallied approximately 120,000 troops from various daimyo in Kyushu and laid siege to the castle. Among these troops was the famed Miyamoto Musashi. The rebel forces were unable to withstand the siege, and three months later, they were forced to surrender. All members of the rebellion, including Amakusa Shiro, were put to death. The feudal lord Matsukura Katsiue, held responsible for imposing harsh governance that led to the uprising, was sentenced to death. After the revolt, Japan turned decisively towards isolation, and the political direction shifted from military rule to a more civil governance.

Year	Castle Lord	Main Events
1616	Matsukura Shigemasa	Shimabara Castle and the castle town are constructed from 1618.
1630	Matsukura Katsiue	The Shimabara Rebellion (1637-1638).
1638	Kortki Tadafusa	The Kortki clan enters the castle from Hammatsu. Rebuilding after the revolt.
1655	Kortki Takamaga	Confiscation of his territory due to mirae (1669).
1669	Matsudaira Tadafusa	The Matsudaira clan enters the castle from Fukuchiyama and plays a significant role in the revival of the Shimabara Domain.
1698	Matsudaira Tadao	Creation of the Shimabara General Description Document (1707).
1735	Matsudaira Tadami	Construction of the 30 Buddhist Deities Hall (1736).
1738	Matsudaira Tadaki	100,000 of Japanese trees are planted (1744). Tadaki passes away suddenly at the Kudamatsu domain.
1749	Matsudaira Tadamasu	Due to his young age, he is transferred to Utsunomiya.
1749	Toda Tadato	The Toda clan enters the castle from Utsunomiya.
1754	Tadato	Tadato is transferred to Utsunomiya.
1774	Matsudaira Tadahirō	Matsudaira Clan reenters the castle. Unzen Landslide and Tsunami (1792).
1792	Matsudaira Tadoyri	Establishment of the Clan School and Training Hall (1793).
1819	Matsudaira Tadakore	Establishment of the Medical School and Public Health Institute. Saishukan (1821).
1840	Matsudaira Tadami	Takichi returns to Japan after drifting off to Mexico (1846).
1847	Matsudaira Takayō	Russian Fleet enters Nagasaki, Shimabara Domain's Military Campaign (1853).
1859	Matsudaira Tadatsū	Unable to be assigned to Shimabara, he dies at the age of 16 due to illness.
1860	Matsudaira Tadachika	Dies at the age of 17 from sickness.
1862	Matsudaira Takazū	The younger brother of Shōgun Tokugawa Yoshinobu. The last Lord of Shimabara Castle.
1869		Return of domains to the Emperor.
1876		Shimabara Castle Tower dismantled.
1913		Opening of Shimabara Railway (between Isahaya and Shimabara Port).
1934		Japan's First Unzen National Park.
1960		Reconstruction of the West Tower.
1964		Reconstruction of the Castle Tower.
1972		Reconstruction of the Tatsumi Tower (Seibo Memorial Museum).
1980		Reconstruction of the Northeast Tower (Folklore and Artifacts Museum) and clock tower.

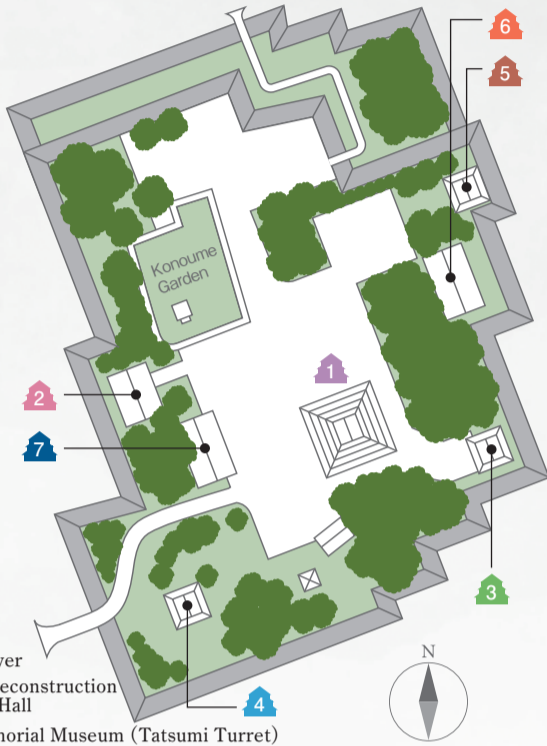


Inside Shimabara Castle

INFORMATION

From the construction of the castle over 400 years ago to the works of the local artist Seibo Kitamura, who is celebrated as a heritage of Shimabara, here you can explore the history and heritage of the Shimabara region. You'll also learn about the light and shadows of the Christian era, the daily life of common people during the Edo period, and the prestigious Matsudaira family. This museum allows you to journey from the past to the present, providing insights into Shimabara's rich history.

Facility Layout Diagram



- 1 Castle Tower
- 2 Tourism Reconstruction Memorial Hall
- 3 Seibo Memorial Museum (Tatsumi Turret)
- 4 West Turret
- 5 Folklore and Artifacts Museum (Northeast Turret)
- 6 Onuma Misho
- 7 Main Bailey Shop

1 Castle Tower

Castle Tower/Observation Platform (5F)
Enjoy panoramic views of Shimabara City, Mt. Mayu, and the Kumamoto mountains across the sea.

Sister/Twin City Corner (4F)
Sister Cities (Fukuchiyama City, Kota Town, Aichi Prefecture), Twin Cities (Bungo Takada City)

Folklore Exhibitions (3F)
Exhibitions showcasing nostalgic everyday items used by common people.

Local History Exhibitions (2F)
Various artifacts related to numerous lords are on display in this area, including the Matsudaira family's armor and other items related to Shimabara Castle.

Early Japanese Christianity Exhibition (1F)
A significant collection of historical documents related to the Shimabara Rebellion are displayed here.



Collegio altar cross



Portrait of Amakusa Shiro



Lord's armor

5F Enjoy a 360-Degree View of the Historic Shimabara Townscape



Elephant and early European trader.

2 Tourism Reconstruction Memorial Hall

Projection Hall

A 15-minute history of the Mount Unzen Heisei Eruption Disaster in 1991 is currently screening on the 200-inch monitor. Events such as civic lectures and music concerts are also held intermittently.

Exhibition Hall

This serves as a space for special exhibitions and seasonal events.



3 Seibo Memorial Museum (Tatsumi Turret)

60 masterpieces are on display by hometown artist Kitamura Seibo, a giant in the field of Japanese sculpture and a recipient of the Order of Culture. Seibo is well known as the creator of the Nagasaki Peace Statue.

Left: Original model of the Peace Statue (1/20 scale). Right: Amakusa Shiro.



4 West Turret

Paintings of castles from all over Japan and unique kokeshi dolls from various prefectures are on display here. The grassy area in front of the turret is an ideal place from which to take photos with the castle tower as a backdrop. It is also utilized for events.



5 Folklore and Artifacts Museum (Northeast Turret)

A collection of nostalgic everyday items from the Meiji, Taisho, and Showa eras, donated by residents, is exhibited, allowing visitors to reminisce about life during those periods.



6 Onuma Misho

Relocated from the third bailey (Sannomaru) of Shimabara Castle. Constructed during the late Edo period under the reign of the feudal lord Matsudaira Tadakazu, this served as an observation point from which the lord could observe the training of the clan's samurai. This precious traditional teahouse-style building from the Edo period has been preserved and is registered as a national tangible cultural property.



7 Main Bailey Shop

A variety of local products from Shimabara, as well as a wide selection of souvenirs, are available in the shop, and you can enjoy dishes like Shimabara's famous Kanzarashi dumplings and udon at Shiro no Chaya. We look forward to seeing you.



Shimabara Beauty Face Mask

This mask contains 50% Shimabara Onsen high-concentration carbonated spring water, as a moisturizing component.



Plum Candy

These hard candies made from Shimabara Castle's plums have a strong plum flavor. There is also a Q&A quiz, which is a fun way to learn about Shimabara Castle and its history.



Kanzarashi dumplings

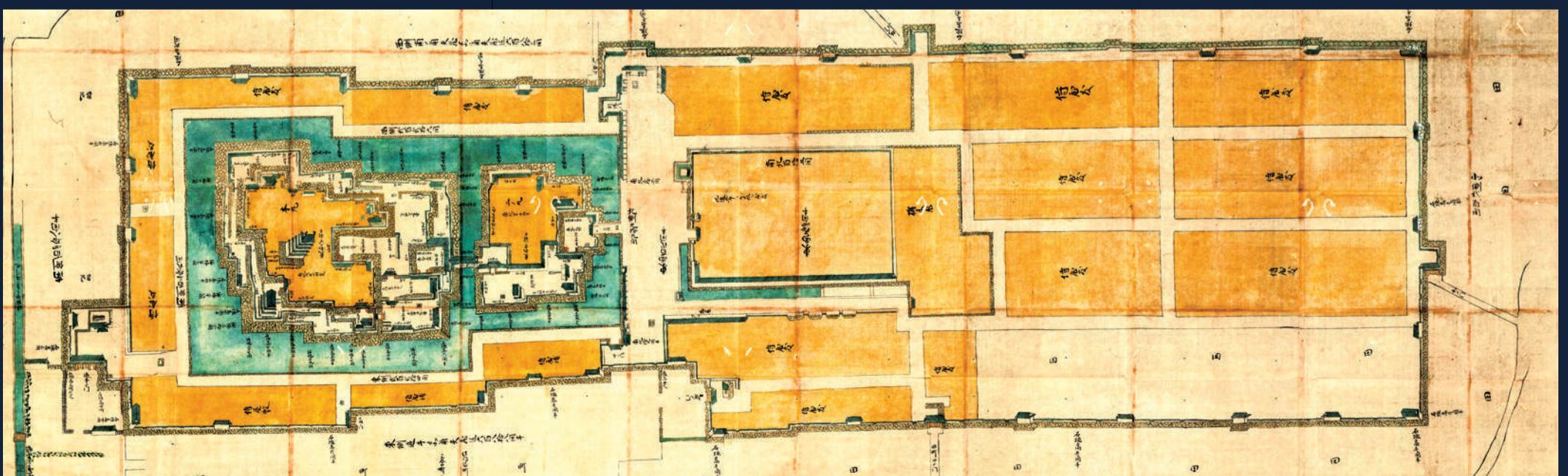
These small dumplings made of refined rice flour are cooled using Shimabara spring water and drizzled with a special syrup.



SHIMABARA CASTLE INTERIOR MAP



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Map of Shimabara Castle (National Diet Library Digital Collection) Shimabara Castle Ruins are a Nagasaki Prefecture Designated Historic Site.