

HIROSHIMA CASTLE



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Historical Data on Hiroshima Castle

Hiroshima Castle was established by Mori Terumoto, one of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's council of "Five Great Elders." It is representative of a flatland castle.

In the Nambokucho period (14th century), the Mori family members were overlords of Koriyama Castle in Yoshida (about 45km north-east of Hiroshima), but during the Sengoku (Warring States) period (from the latter half of the 15th century to the latter half of the 16th century), Terumoto's grandfather Motonari became the feudal lord of most of the Chugoku region. His successor, Terumoto, established his castle in 1589 at the delta of the Otagawa River called at the time "Gokamura (Five Villages)," and entered the castle in 1591 to govern nine provinces that today comprise Hiroshima, Shimane, Yamaguchi, and parts of Tottori and Okayama prefectures.

In 1600, following the battle of Sekigahara, Terumoto was forced to retreat to Hagi (Yamaguchi Pref.) and Fukushima Masanori from Kiyosu (Aichi Pref.) became the lord of Aki and Bingo provinces (present day Hiroshima Pref.). However, as a penalty for restoring the castle from the flood of 1619 without the permission of the Tokugawa shogunate, Masanori was dismissed to Kawanakajima (Nagano Pref.). Asano Nagaakira then became the lord of Aki and the 8 counties of Bingo. The Asano family, 12 generations, continued to hold this position for the 250 years up to the Meiji restoration.

Following the abolition of feudal domains and the establishment of prefectures in 1871, the castle gradually came to serve more as a military facility, where the Imperial General Headquarter came to be established during the Sino-Japanese war of 1894/95.

On August 6th 1945, the castle was destroyed by the atomic bomb blast. The present tower was reconstructed in 1958 and is now used to exhibit historic artifacts.

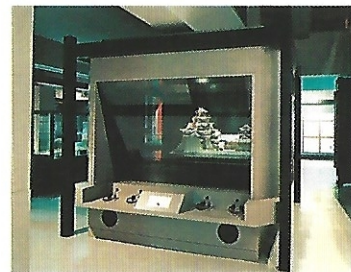
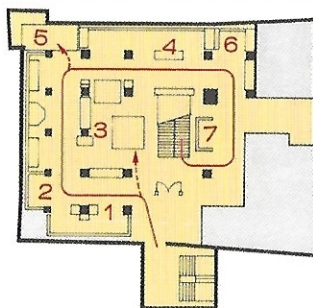
Floor Plan

Regular Exhibits : "Life and Progress in the Hiroshima Castle-Town"

1st floor

Hiroshima Castle's Establishment and Roles

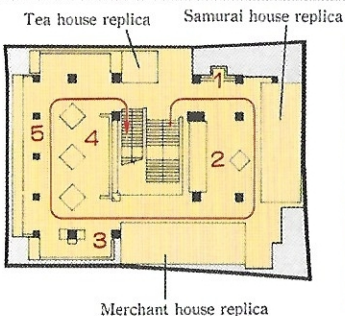
1. Ancient Hiroshima
2. Castle History
3. A Castle for Hiroshima
4. The Government of the Fief of Hiroshima and Life in the Castle
5. Castle Defense
6. From Fiefs to Prefecture
7. Castles of the World



2nd floor

Castle-Town Life and Culture

1. Growth of the Castle-Town
2. Samurai versus Townsfolk Lifestyles
3. Industry and Transportation
4. Festivals
5. Education, Scholarship and Culture



3rd floor

Weapons-Armour Exhibits

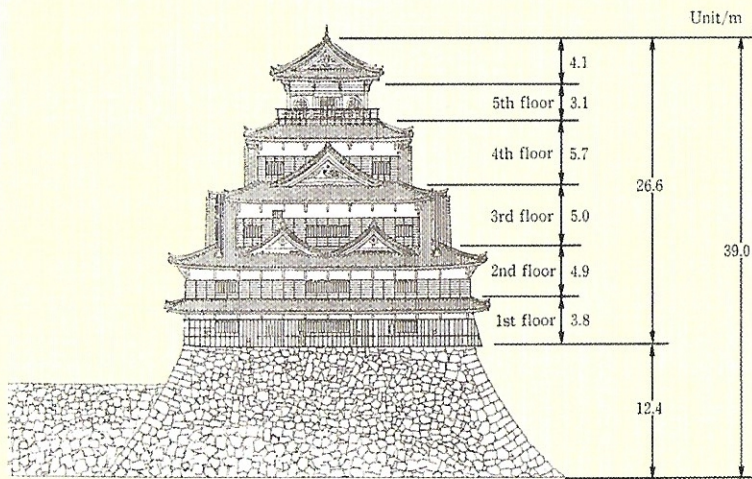
4th floor

Special Exhibits : Displays based on Hiroshima's History and Culture

5th floor

Observation Platform

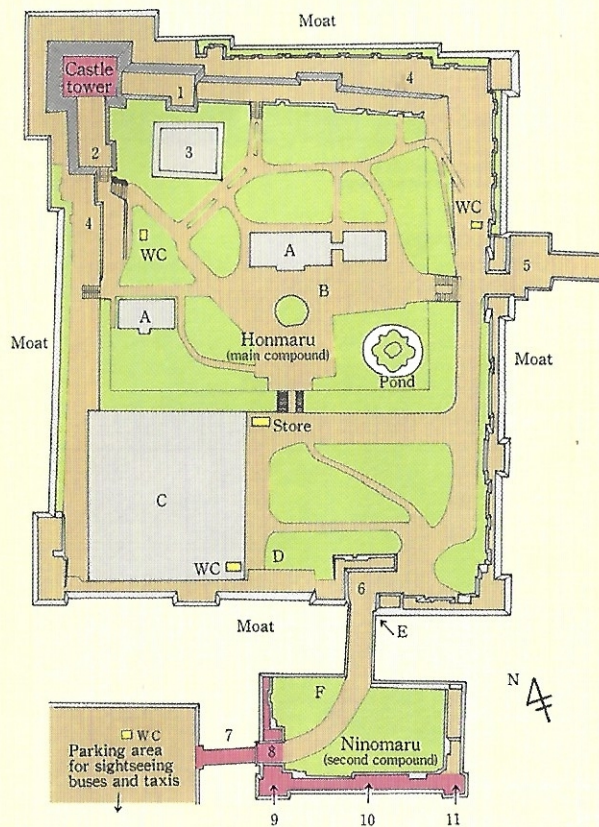
Height of reconstructed Castle tower



North side

About the Castle tower

	Original tower	Reconstructed tower
Construction period	Completed sometime between 1592 and 1599. Accurate dates unknown	Decision made on the occasion of Hiroshima Reconstruction Exhibition, building began on Oct. 20 1957 and completed March 26 the following year
Structure	East and south wings attached	Only main tower restored
Materials	Timber (mostly pine)	Reinforced concrete
Misc.	☆ Original Castle tower was designated as a National Treasure Jan. 19, 1931 ☆ Temporary structure erected for the National Athletic Meeting 1951 (later taken down) ☆ Reconstructed Castle tower has a total floor area of 1,359m ²	

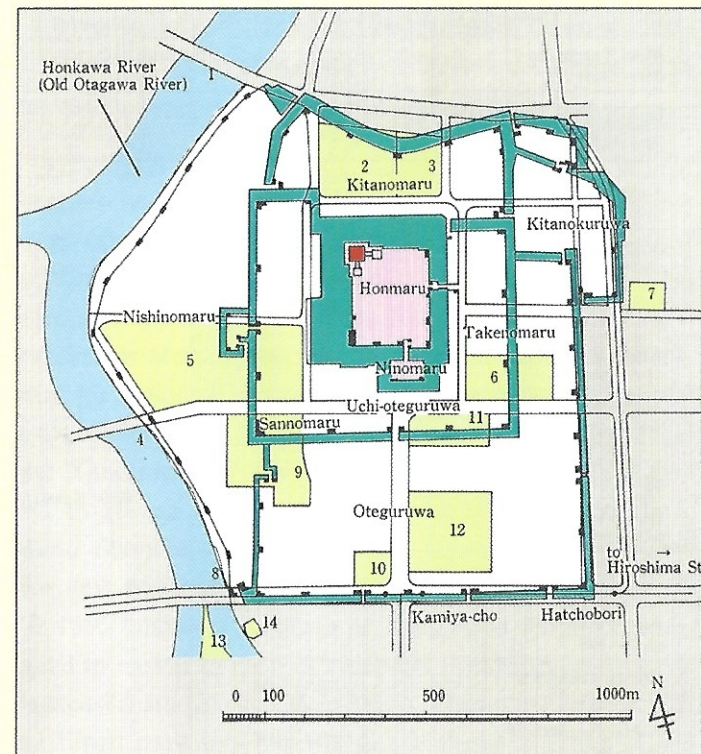


Related Sites

1. East minor Castle tower ruin
2. South minor Castle tower ruin
3. Original Castle tower foundation stones
(moved from original Castle tower's position during reconstruction)
4. Stone wall impressed with seal
5. Rear gate ruins
6. Middle gate ruins
7. Gate bridge (restored)
8. Main gate (restored)
9. Hirayagura turret (restored)
10. Tamonyagura turret (restored)
11. Taikoyagura turret (restored)

Misc.

- A. Imperial General Headquarter ruins from 1894-95
- B. Tree surviving atomic bomb blast (a kind of ilex)
- C. Hiroshima Gokoku Jinja shrine
- D. Ruins of war office communications bunker
(the first dispatch of the atomic bomb was send from here)
- E. As per B (a kind of willow)
- F. As per B (eucalyptus)



1. Misasabashi Bridge
 2. Motomachi High School
 3. Hakushima Elementary School
 4. Sorazayabashi Bridge
 5. Chuo Koen Park
 6. National Government Administration Building
(Hiroshima Godo Chosha)
 7. Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum
 8. Aioibashi Bridge
 9. Hiroshima Prefectural Sports Center
 10. Hiroshima Bus Center
 11. Hiroshima Municipal Central Parking Area
 12. Hiroshima Prefectural Office
 13. Peace Memorial Park
 14. Atomic Bomb Dome
- (■ turret positions)

During the Edo period, Hiroshima castle occupied an extensive area which was surrounded by three moats in addition to the Otogawa River which formed a natural moat. However, between the Meiji and Showa periods the outer and middle moats were gradually filled in. Most of original castle grounds are now occupied by office blocks and schools. The remaining inner moat, Honmaru (main compound) and Ninomaru (second compound) were designated as a national historic site in 1953.

Historical Lords of Hiroshima Castle

	Lord	Period of occupancy	Kokudaka (assessed tax base in bales of rice)
1	Mori Terumoto (1553~1625)	1591~1600	1,120,000 Koku
2	Fukushima Masanori (1561~1624)	1600~1619	498,223 Koku
3	Asano Nagaakira (1586~1632)	1619~1632	426,500 Koku
4	Asano Mitsukira (1617~1693)	1632~1672	
5	Asano Tsunaakira (1637~1673)	1672~1673	
6	Asano Tsunanaga (1659~1708)	1673~1708	
7	Asano Yoshinaga (1681~1752)	1708~1752	
8	Asano Munetsune (1717~1787)	1752~1763	
9	Asano Shigeakira (1743~1813)	1763~1799	
10	Asano Narikata (1773~1830)	1799~1830	
11	Asano Naritaka (1817~1868)	1831~1858	
12	Asano Yoshiteru (1836~1858)	1858~1858	
13	Asano Nagamichi (1812~1872)	1858~1869	
14	Asano Nagakoto (1842~1937)	1869~1869	

Origin of the name 広島 “Hiroshima”

The Otagawa delta was called “Gokamura,” meaning five villages in Japanese, but with the ground-breaking ceremony for the castle on April 15 1589, a more appropriate name was called for. The character 広 (hiro) was borrowed from the name of Oeno Hiromoto, an ancestor of Mori family, and added to 島 (shima) taken from Fukushima Motonaga who guided Terumoto to the site.

There is another tradition that the name Hiroshima originates from a large island at the mouth of the Otagawa River—thus Hiroshima (wide island).

Origin of the “Carp Castle” Nickname

Hiroshima castle is also called “Carp Castle” and is pronounced RIJO in Japanese. Since this area where the castle was built was then called Koi-no-ura (Koi Sea Shore) and “Koi” means carp in Japanese, the castle was given the nickname “Carp Castle” in later years.

General Information

Admission fees		
	Individual	Group (More than 30 persons)
Adult	370 yen	280 yen
Senior & High school student	180 yen	100 yen

*Senior : age 65 and over

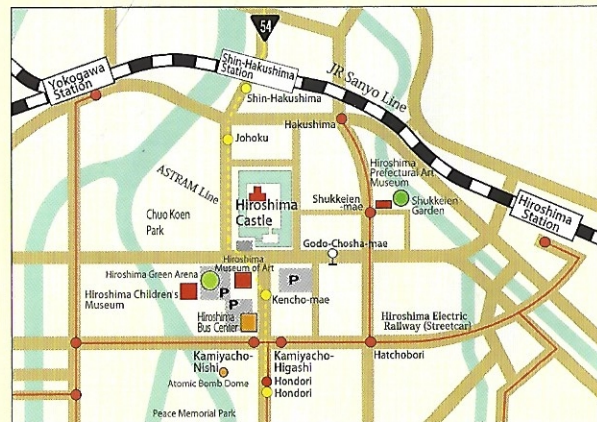
*High school student (until March 31 after 18th birthday)

*Below junior high school student no charge

Hours : Dec. - Feb. 9:00~17:00
(Last admission at 16:30)
Other day 9:00~18:00
(Last admission at 17:30)

Closed: Dec.29~31

Transportation : Bus - Get off at Hiroshima Bus Center or the Kamiya-cho stop. Streetcar - Get off at Kamiya-cho-higashi or Kamiya-cho-nisi. Then proceed north about 15 minutes on foot.



Memo or Stamp

- * There is no lavatory in the Castle tower. Please use a restroom in the park.
- * Drinking, eating, smoking and taking photographs are forbidden in the Castle tower excluding a part of permitted place.