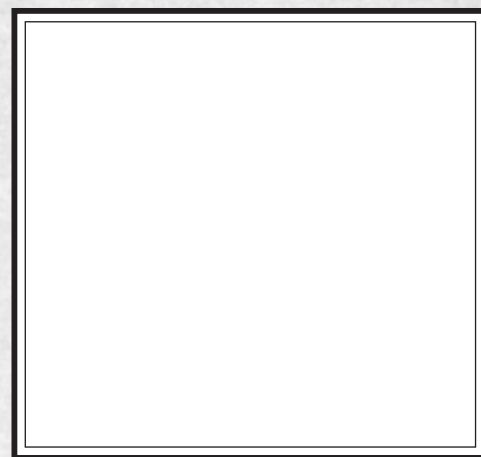


## Kumamoto Castle Commemorative Stamp

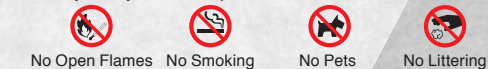


If you have the Top 100 Castles in Japan Official Stamp Book, please stamp your book instead of this pamphlet.

## INFORMATION

**Kumamoto Castle** Phone: 096-223-5011 (Kumamoto Castle Management Center)

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Last entry at 4:30 p.m.)  
Please obey the following rules when in the Special Observation Area.  
Thank you for your kind cooperation.



**Kumamoto City Museum** Phone: 096-324-3500

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Last entry at 4:30 p.m.)  
Closed: Mondays (or the following day if Monday is a national holiday) and Dec. 29th - Jan. 3rd

**Sakuranobaba Josaien**

**Kumamoto Castle Museum Wakuwakuza** Phone: 096-288-5600

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Last entry at 5:00 p.m.)

**Sakuranokoji** (Gift Shop and Restaurant Area) Phone: 096-288-5577

Hours: Gift shops: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (until 6:00 p.m. from December to February)  
Restaurants: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

\* Open until 8:00 p.m. on weekends and the day before holidays. Reservations required for dinner.  
\* Opening hours are subject to change.

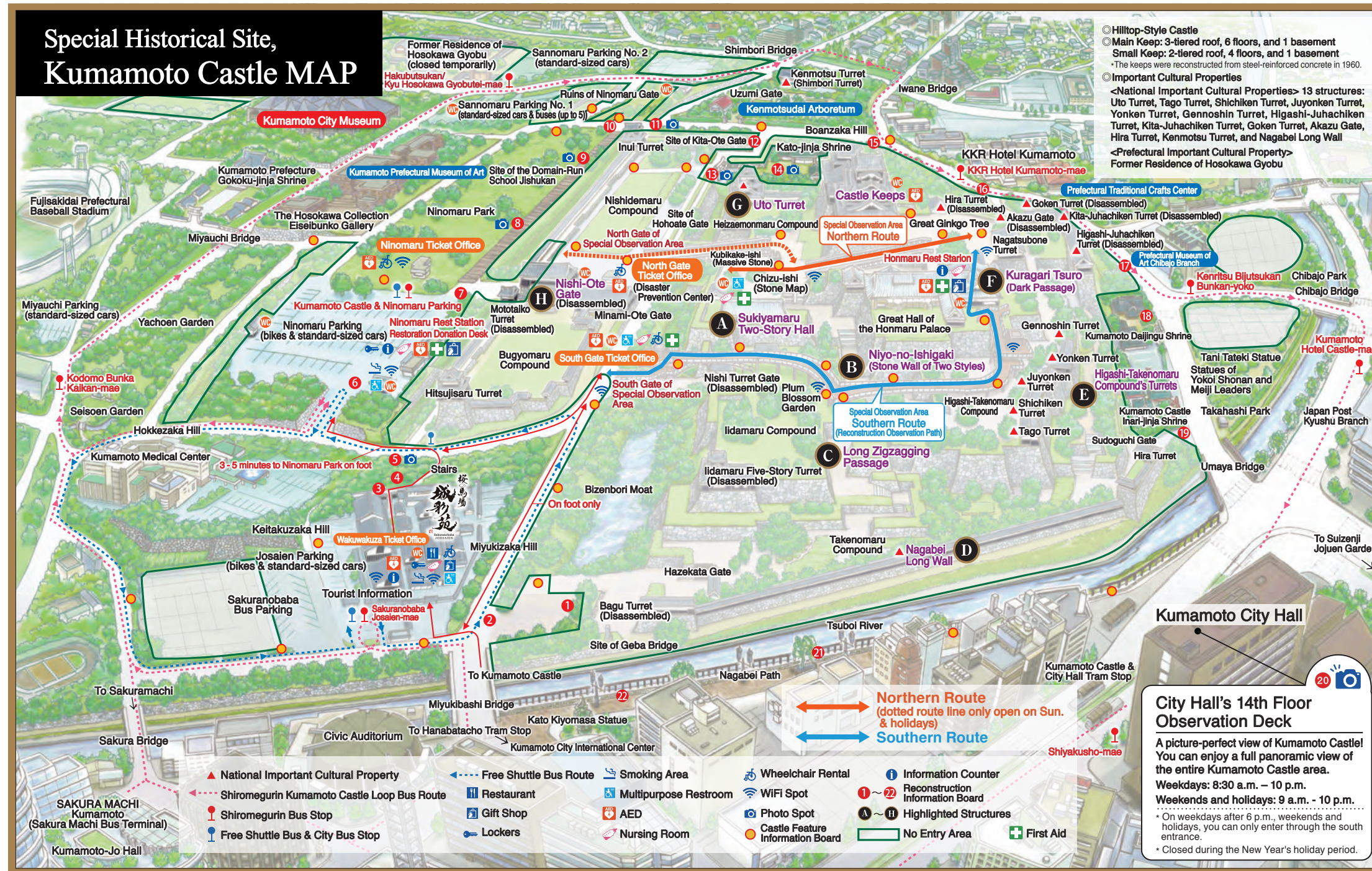
**Former Residence of Hosokawa Gyobu** Closed Due to Earthquake Damage

**Lords of the Castle Restoration & Kumamoto Castle Disaster Restoration Support Fund**  
Please support the restoration and reconstruction of Kumamoto Castle!  
Donations can be made at the Restoration Donation Desk (next to the Ninomaru Rest Station) (cash only).  
For more information, please visit the official Kumamoto Castle website.

**Kumamoto Castle Office**  
9-6 Hanabata-cho, Chuō-ku, Kumamoto City  
860-0806, Japan  
Phone: 096-352-5900 Fax: 096-356-5655

Find out more!  
(Kumamoto Castle Official Website)

Kumamoto Castle 2022.10



## A Sukiymaru Two-Story Hall



Due to the earthquake, the stone wall beneath the recently refurbished Sukiymaru Two-Story Hall partially collapsed. The stone wall supporting the five-story turret (left of the building in the photo) also collapsed, and the upper surface of the wall cracked.

## B Niyo-no-Ishigaki (Stone Wall of Two Styles)



This is one of the places where the beauty of the stone walls is on full display due to the side-by-side view of the both the original stone wall (right) and new stone wall (left) that was added on later. There is also a spot at the top of the new stone wall that sunk due to the earthquake.

## C Long Zigzagging Passage



This passage, which bends back on itself six times from Takenomaru castles, managed to retain its dignity as an Important Cultural Property despite sustaining damage to its plaster walls and floor in the earthquake. The passage became blocked after the stone wall collapsed, and recovery work was carried out.

## D Nagabei Long Wall (National Important Cultural Property)



This long wall facing the Tsuboi River stretches about 242 meters. Although it was temporarily removed around the time of the Satsuma Rebellion and partially collapsed after the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, it was fully restored in 2021.

## E Higashi-Takenomaru Compound's Turrets



This landscape, a series of single-story turrets, gives a good idea of how the castle area would have looked in its heyday. Because some of the turrets tilted due to the earthquake, wire fences and other measures have been employed to prevent collapse.

## F Great Hall of the Honmaru Palace & Kuragari Tsuru (Dark Passage)



In the recently restored interior of the Honmaru Palace (above the pictured subterranean tunnel), the earthquake caused the floor to slant and damaged the walls. The Kuragari Tsuru (Dark Passage), which is one of only a handful of such underground passages in Japan, did not sustain any noticeable damage.

## G Uto Turret (National Important Cultural Property)



This five-story turret, which is comparable in size to the keeps of other Japanese castles, managed to retain its dignity as an Important Cultural Property despite sustaining damage to its plaster walls and floor in the earthquake. The tsubuki-yagura, however, which was a structure adjoined to the south side of this five-story turret, collapsed in the earthquake.

## H Nishi-Ote Gate



The Nishi-Ote Gate was dismantled and stored after it was damaged in the earthquake, and the fallen stones have been collected. Nets and cages of smaller stones have been placed in front of the stone walls to ensure safety.

## Kato Clan

(Reign: 2 Generations, 44 Years)

## Hosokawa Clan

(Reign: 11 Generations, 239 Years)

## Modern Era

(Reign: 11 Generations, 239 Years)

## Contemporary Era

(Reign: 11 Generations, 239 Years)

## Contemporary Era

(Reign: 11 Generations, 239 Years)

(Reign: 11 Generations, 239 Years)

(Reign: 11 Generations, 239 Years)

- 1588 Kato Kiyomasa becomes the lord of the northern part of Higo Province (present-day Kumamoto Prefecture) and keeper of the original Kumamoto Castle.
- 1590 Renovations of the original Kumamoto Castle begin.
- 1599 Construction of a new castle (present-day Kumamoto Castle) begins on Chausuyama Plateau.
- 1600 Battle of Sekigahara. The main keep is completed around this time.
- 1607 The new castle (present-day Kumamoto Castle) is completed.
- 1611 Kiyomasa dies at the age of 50. His son, Tadahiro, becomes the second lord of the domain.
- 1632 The Kato clan is removed, and Hosokawa Tadatoshi succeeds as Lord of Higo Province.
- 1640 At the invitation of Tadatoshi, Miyamoto Musashi takes up residence in present-day Chibajo district.
- 1755 The domain-run school called Jishukan opens in Ninomaru Compound.
- 1871 Japan abolishes its system of feudal domains.
- 1874 Kumamoto Castle is converted into a military garrison. Kumamoto garrison headquarters moves to the Honmaru (main compound).
- 1876 The Shinpuren Rebellion.
- 1877 The Satsuma Rebellion. The castle keeps and Honmaru Palace are destroyed in a fire.
- 1889 The castle is damaged by the 1889 Kumamoto Earthquake.
- 1933 Uto Turret and 12 other structures are designated as National Treasures, and the stone walls and moat as Historic Sites.
- 1950 The title "National Treasure" is renamed as "Important Cultural Property."
- 1955 The entire area of Kumamoto Castle is designated as a Special Historical Site.
- 1960 Reconstruction of the keeps begins with steel-reinforced concrete.
- 1998 The Kumamoto Castle Restoration and Improvement Project begins.
- 2016 The castle is damaged by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake.
- 2017 Restoration work on the Kumamoto Castle Keeps gets underway.
- 2021 Restoration of the Kumamoto Castle Keeps is completed.

## Kumamoto Castle - 400 Years of History

### Kumamoto Castle during the Kato Era

Built by Kato Kiyomasa, the new castle's name characters were changed to the current characters of Kumamoto Castle (熊本城) in 1607, when the Honmaru (main compound) was completed. At the same time, the castle also earned the nickname, "Ginkgo Castle" (Ginnan-jo). The castle is best known for its massive, curved stone walls (called *musha-gaeshi*) that repelled any enemies who dared try to climb. This magnificent engineering has led Kumamoto Castle to be considered one of Japan's three most famous castles.

### Kumamoto Castle during the Hosokawa Era

In 1632, the Kato clan was removed, and Hosokawa Tadatoshi became the lord of Kumamoto Domain. He set about repairing Kumamoto Castle, as well as improving and expanding the castle town.

His era was also a time of blossoming culture and education with public projects such as the opening of the domain-run school Jishukan in the Ninomaru Compound.

### Kumamoto Castle in the Modern Era

In 1877, just before the start of the Satsuma Rebellion, the castle keeps and the Honmaru Palace were destroyed by fire. After withstanding the following onslaught of Satsuma's army led by Saigo Takamori, Kumamoto Castle became renowned throughout Japan as an impregnable fortress.

### Kumamoto Castle in the Contemporary Era

In 2016, the massive Kumamoto Earthquakes caused portions of the stone wall to crumble, structures to collapse, and devastating damage across the castle. Although the castle area was partially opened to the public in 2019, restoration work is still ongoing.



## ENGLISH

Kumamoto Castle  
熊本城

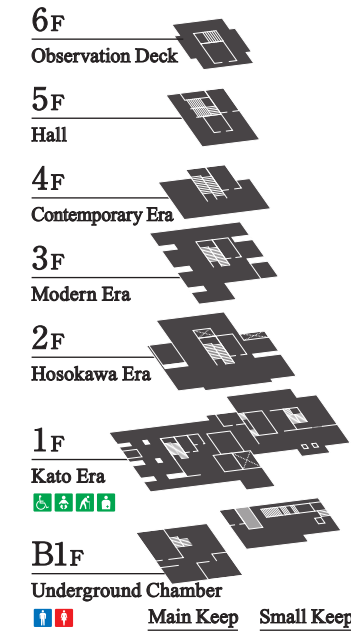
400 Years  
Of  
History



## Complete Restoration of the Castle Keeps & Interior Grand Opening

Both castle keeps were destroyed by fire in 1877, just before the Satsuma Rebellion broke out. They were rebuilt in 1960 from steel-reinforced concrete, but were damaged again by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake when many roof tiles fell to the ground, stone walls collapsed, and parts of the structures were damaged. Restoration work on the keeps was completed in the spring of 2021. Please enjoy magnificent views of the castle along with the updated exhibits inside.

### Castle Keeps Floor Map

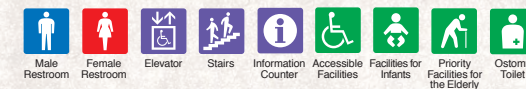


### Elevator Information

Use of the elevator is limited to the following persons:

- Wheelchair/baby stroller users (including their attendants)
- Those who have difficulty using the stairs

\*Please ask a staff member if you wish to use the elevator.



### Underground Chamber

B1F

### Main Keep

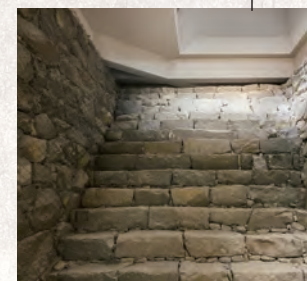


The entrance to the castle keeps is a chamber in the basement of the small castle keep, which was once used as a kitchen. You can see the original stone walls, well, and stone stairs here.



▲Well

### Small Keep



▲Stone Stairs



▲Dampers

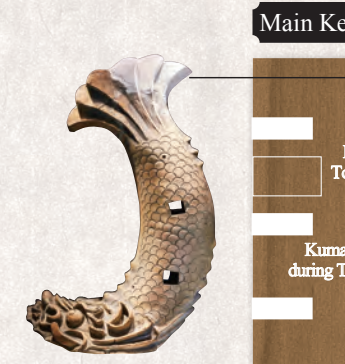
### Kato Era

1F

This floor showcases the history of the original Kumamoto Castle, as well as the new castle constructed by Kato Kiyomasa and the additional construction during Tadahiro's rule. You can see the structure and design of the keeps up close, as well as the castle construction process and castle town planning through river modification and civil engineering conducted in the Kato Era.



▲Letter from Kato Kiyomasa (Replica)



▲Shachi Ornament  
Inscribed with "Horeki Era 13 (1763)"  
(Kumamoto City Museum Collection)



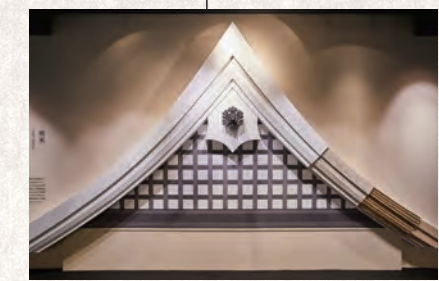
▲Ojodan (Top Floor) Model (Scale: 1/3)



▲Video Exhibit Theater (Impregnable Castle)



▲Suspended Toilet  
(Exhibit Only)



▲Gable Roof Model (Scale: 1/1)



▲Framework Model (Scale: 1/10)

### Main Keep

### Small Keep

### Birth of Kumamoto Castle

### Kiyomasa's Building of Castles

### Toshu The Japanese Keep

### An Exceptional Castle - Kumamoto Castle

### Design of the Keeps

### Stone Dropping Chutes

### Touchable Model

### Theater

### Multipurpose Restroom

### Kiyomasa's Town Planning

### Kumamoto Castle during Tadahiro's Rule

### Suspended Toilet

### Entrance

### Well

### Exit

### Up

### Down

### Information

### Accessibility

### Facilities

### For Infants

### Priority Facilities for the Elderly

### Outcry Toilet

### Up

### Down

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