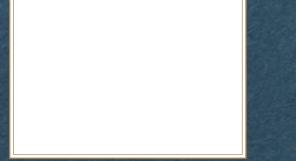
Kumamoto Castle Commemorative Stamp Available at the South Entrance, North Entrance, Ninomaru and Wakuwakuza ticket offices



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

No Littering video/z No Open Flames No Smoking No Pets

Kumamoto City Museum Phone: 096-324-3500 for some exhibits

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 Josaie

- Kumamoto Castle Museum Wakuwakuza Phone: 096-288-5600 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Last entry at 5:00 p.m.)
- Sakuranokoii (Gift Shop and Restaurant Area) Phone: 096-288-5577
- Hours: Gift shops 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Restaurants 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Last order at 6:00 p.m.)

#### Former Residence of Hosokawa Gyo 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, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City (Kumamoto Castle ) 860-0806, Japan Phone: 096-352-5900 Fax: 096-356-5655



## Kumamoto Castle Official App

Please download the "Kumamoto Castle Official App" on your smartphone.

#### • Functions of the App

1) You can enjoy commentary and video content about the permanent exhibits within the castle keeps through audio and subtitles. \* Available Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean.

2) You can use the AR (Augmented Reality) function to superimpose old photos on the current scenery from the observation deck on the main keep's 6th floor

QR code for the "Kumamoto Castle Official App". •	
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#### • How to Download the App

Admissio

& older

Scan the QB code above or search "Kumamoto Castle Official App" in the App Store or Google Play to download the app. You can download the app via Kumamoto Free Wi-Fi.

#### Prices in parentheses are for groups of 30 or more people \* Admission is free for preschoolers



Combination ticket for Kumamoto Castle and Wakuwakuza		Combination ticket for Kumamoto Castle, Wakuwakuza and Kumamoto City Museum		
Elementary & junior high school students	¥300	Elementary & junior high school students	¥4	
High school students & older	¥850	High school students & older	¥1,	

### **Facilities Covered by the Combination Ticket**

# **U** KUMAMOTO CITY MUSEUM



he museum houses and xhibits materials related to the origins, history, culture. and nature of Kumamoto. Here, you can enrich your understanding of the Kato and Hosokawa clans and umamoto Castle. There is Iso a planetarium in the asement. The museum uilding itself, designed by urokawa Kisho, is also a nust-see

Find out more!

# 2 SAKURANOBABA JOSAIEN



his is a museum where you can enjoy learning about the story and culture of umamoto Castle through a ariety of content, including spectacular VR image of namoto Castle.

Cumamoto Castle

Museum Wakuwakuza

#### Sakuranokoi



market lined with fine estaurants and shops elling local foods and souvenirs unique to Kumamoto Prefecture. ncluding exclusive items available here

### **Bus Service Information**

#### Free Shuttle Bus

This shuttle bus runs between Josaien and Ninomaru Parking Lot every 10 to 15 minutes. (Available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last bus departs from Ninomaru Parking Lot)

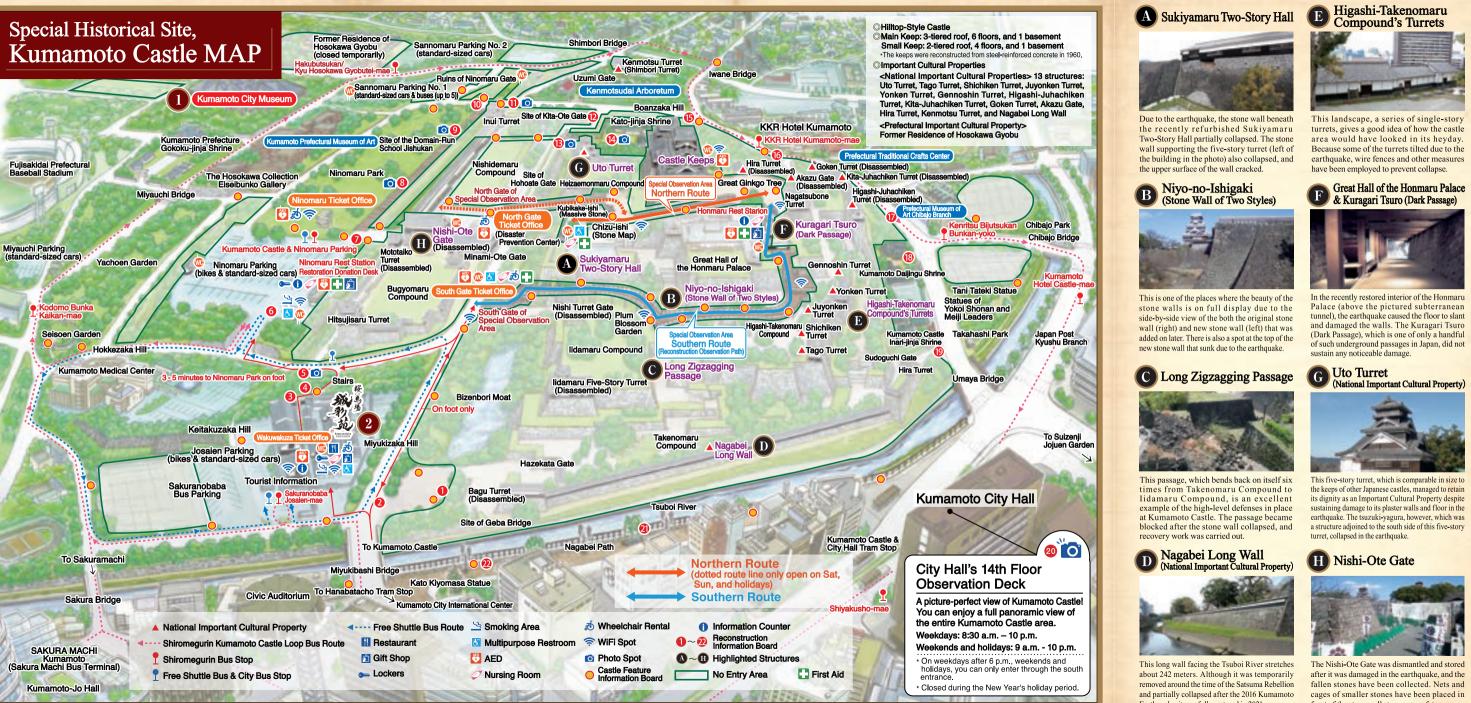
### Shiromegurin Kumamoto Castle Loop Bus

Please check the official website for the bus schedule and related information.

	Single Use	1-Day Ticket
Adult	¥180	¥500
Child	¥90	¥250







Earthquake, it was fully restored in 2021.







have been employed to prevent collapse.

**W** & Kuragari Tsuro (Dark Passage)

Great Hall of the Honmaru Palace

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



# Long Zigzagging Passage G Uto Turret (National Important Cultural Property)



This passage, which bends back on itself six This five-story turret, which is comparable in size to times from Takenomaru Compound to the keeps of other Japanese castles, managed to retain Iidamaru Compound, is an excellent its dignity as an Important Cultural Property despite example of the high-level defenses in place sustaining damage to its plaster walls and floor in the at Kumamoto Castle. The passage became earthquake. The tsuzuki-yagura, however, which was blocked after the stone wall collapsed, and a structure adjoined to the south side of this five-story turret, collapsed in the earthquake.





This long wall facing the Tsuboi River stretches The Nishi-Ote Gate was dismantled and stored about 242 meters. Although it was temporarily after it was damaged in the earthquake, and the removed around the time of the Satsuma Rebellion fallen stones have been collected. Nets and and partially collapsed after the 2016 Kumamoto cages of smaller stones have been placed in front of the stone walls to ensure safety.





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**OO Years** SUL

- Kato Kiyomasa becomes the lord of the northern part of Higo Province (present-day Kumamoto Prefecture) and keeper of the original Kumamoto Castle.
- Renovations of the original Kumamoto Castle begin.
- Construction of a new castle (present-day Kumamoto Castle) begins on Chausuvama Plateau.
- 500 Battle of Sekigahara. The main keep is completed around this time.
- 607 The new castle (present-day Kumamoto Castle) is completed.
- 11 Kivomasa dies at the age of 50. His son, Tadahiro, becomes the second lord of the domain.
- <sup>2</sup> The Kato clan is removed, and Hosokawa Tadatoshi succeeds as Lord of Higo Province.
- 40 At the invitation of Tadatoshi, Miyamoto Musashi takes up residence in present-day Chibajo district.
- The domain-run school called Jishukan opens in Ninomaru Compound
- 1 Japan abolishes its system of feudal domains.
- 4 Kumamoto Castle is converted into a military garrison. Kumamoto garrison headquarters moves to the Honmaru (main compound).
- 6 The Shinpuren Rebellion
- The Satsuma Rebellion. The castle keeps and Honmaru Palace are destroyed in a fire.
- The castle is damaged by the 1889 Kumamoto Earthquake.
- Uto Turret and 12 other structures are designated as National Treasures, and the stone walls and moat as Historic Sites.
- The title "National Treasure" is renamed as "Important Cultural Property.'
- The entire area of Kumamoto Castle is designated as a Special Historical Site.
- Reconstruction of the keeps begins with steel-reinforced concrete.
- 8 The Kumamoto Castle Restoration and Improvement Project begins.
- 5 The castle is damaged by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake
- Restoration work on the Kumamoto Castle Keeps gets underway
- Restoration of the Kumamoto Castle Keeps is completed.

# **Kumamoto** Castle **Reconstructed - 400 Years of History**

# C 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, "Gingko 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

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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.

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

Both castle keeps were destroved 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.



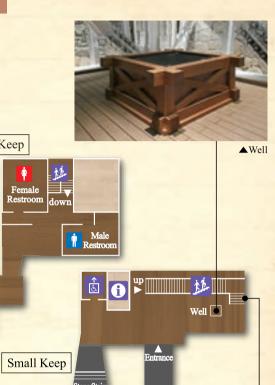
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Main Keep

▲ Stone Stairs

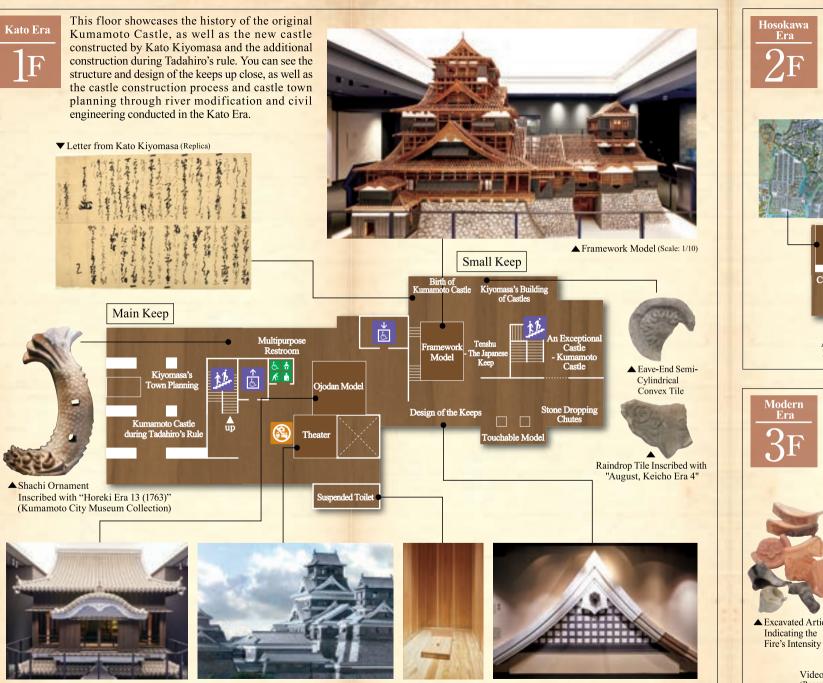


The entrance to the castle keeps is a chamber in the basement of the small castle keep, which was once used as a kitchen. You can see the original stone walls, well, and stone stairs here.





▲ Dampers



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

▲Video Exhibit Theater (Impregnable Castle)

▲ Suspended Toilet ▲ Gable Roof Model (Scale: 1/1)

Town Model Castle Maintenan

▲ Excavated Articles Indicating the

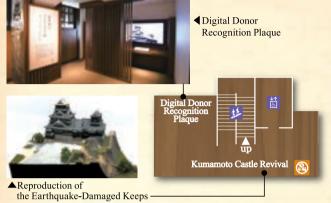
Video Exhibit Theate



This floor gives an overview of the period when Kumamoto Castle was used as a military garrison. Visitors can also learn about other significant events. including the fire that destroyed the keeps just before the Satsuma Rebellion, the 1889 Kumamoto Earthquake, and the repair and reconstruction work undertaken during the Showa period (1926 to 1989).



This floor houses exhibits on previous repairs around the castle, the damage caused by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, and the subsequent recovery efforts. This floor also houses the Digital Donor Recognition Plaque.



This floor leads to the observation deck To 6F

> The castle's top floor offers a panoramic view of the city. Using the AR (Augmented Reality) function of the smartphone app, you can view and superimpose old photos from the early Meiji period onto the modern landscape.



▲View of the City (Facing South)

