



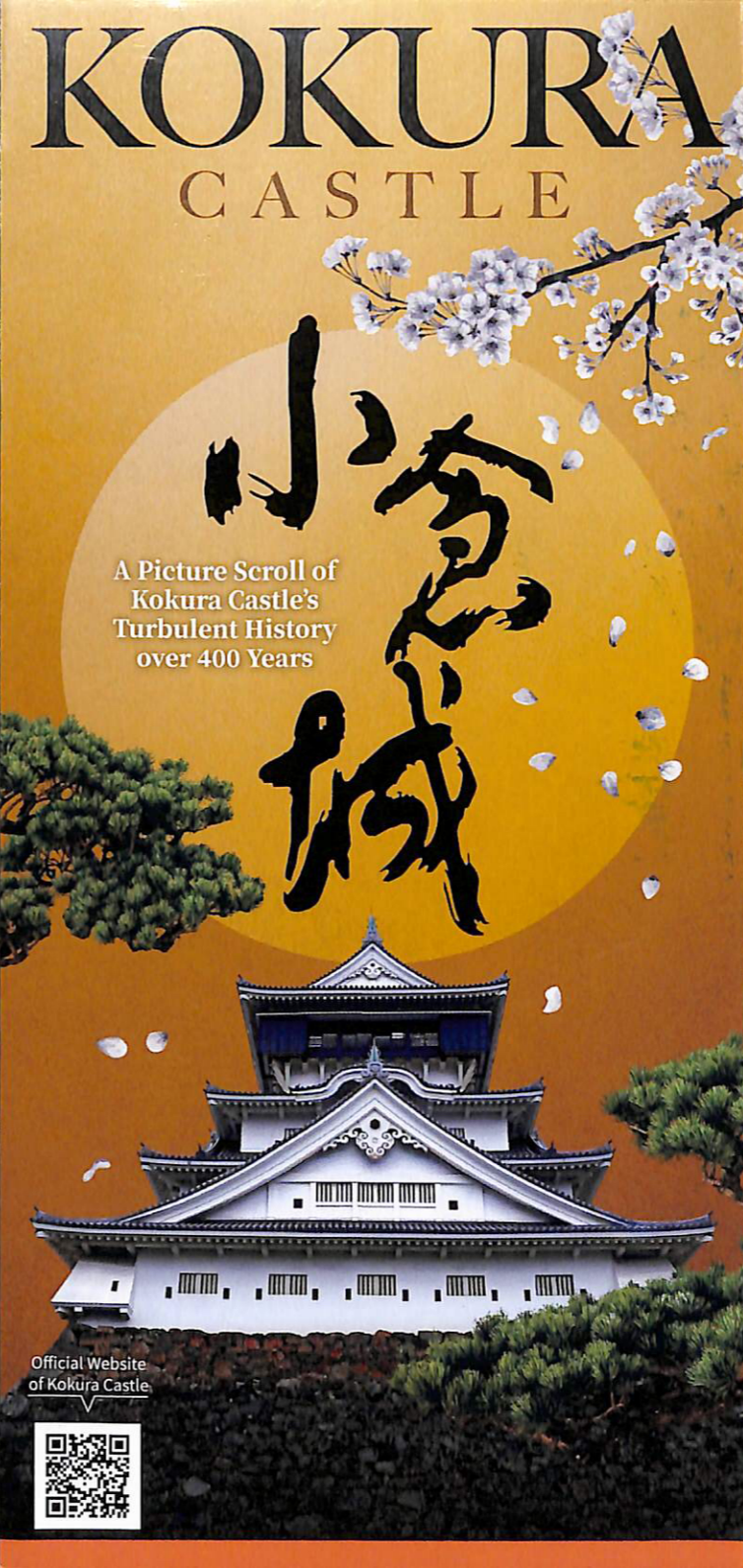
KOKURA CASTLE



INFORMATION

- Kokura Castle** Tel.: 093-561-1210
 Admission: 350 yen for adults, 200 yen for junior high and high school students, and 100 yen for schoolchildren. A group discount of 20% (for a party of 30 people or over)
 Closure: Open all year round
 Hours: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM in April through October and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in November through March (Admission accepted until 30 minutes before the closing time)
- Kokura Castle Garden** Tel.: 093-582-2747
 Admission: 350 yen for adults, 200 yen for junior high and high school students, and 100 yen for schoolchildren. A group discount of 20% (for a party of 30 people or over)
 Closure: Open all year round
 Hours: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, April through October, and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, November through March (Admission accepted until 30 minutes before closing time)
- Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum** Tel.: 093-582-2761
 Admission: 600 yen for adults, 360 yen for junior high and high school students, and 240 yen for schoolchildren. A group discount of 20% (for a party of 30 people or over)
 Closure: December 29 through 31
 Hours: 9:30 AM through 6:00 PM (Admission accepted until 30 minutes before the closing time)
- **Common Ticket for Three Facilities**
 Sold at 700 yen for adults, 400 yen for junior high and high school students, and 250 yen for school children.
 Common tickets are sold at Kokura Castle, Kokura Castle Garden, and the Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum.

Inquiry **Kokura Castle** 2-1 Jonai, Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka 803-0813
 TEL.: 093-561-1210 TEL.: 093-561-5246



HISTORY of

◆ Surrounding History of Kokura Castle

Kokura, which faces the Kanmon Strait, has been an important hub of land and sea traffic since ancient times. Kokura Castle was constructed to control this area, and it has had a history of various battles since then.

Hosokawa Tadaoki's Full-fledged Construction of Castle

The history of Kokura Castle began with the end of the age of provincial wars (1569), when the Mori Clan in the Chugoku region built the original castle in the present location. Later, Takahashi Akitane and Mori Katsunobu lived in the castle in sequence. Hosokawa Tadaoki entered the region after the Battle of Sekigahara (a decisive battle on October 21, 1600, that preceded the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate) and carried out a large-scale renovation for approximately seven years, starting in 1602, and constructed a castle town. For the prosperity of the castle town, Tadaoki gathered merchants and craftsmen and implemented a policy of commercial and industrial protection. He promoted foreign trade, and at the same time, organized the Gion Festival.

Ogasawara Tadazane's Entry to Supervise Kyushu Daimyos (Feudal Lords)

Hosokawa Tadatoshi succeeded Tadaoki, but Tadatoshi was later transferred to Kumamoto. Then Tadazane Ogasawara, a hereditary daimyo from Akashi, Harima Province, arrived in 1632. Tadazane was connected with the Hosokawa family by marriage. The Ogasawara family in Kokura Domain was ordered to supervise the daimyos in Kyushu under a special mission of Tokugawa Iemitsu (third shogun of the Tokugawa dynasty). Throughout the Edo period (until 1868), Kokura established an important position as the starting point of highways leading to all parts of Kyushu, and at the same time, Kokura Castle was further enriched, and the castle town also flourished. In the period of Tadamiya Ogasawara, the 5th Lord of the domain, a stroll garden with a fountain was constructed. The keep of the castle was burned by a fire in 1837 and rebuilt two years later, but the castle tower was not rebuilt. At the end of the Tokugawa period (Edo period), Kokura became the base of the shogunate that attacked the Choshu Clan. However, the shogunate army was not consistent, and it had a hard fight with the Choshu army. As a result, the Kokura Clan became isolated. Finally, on August 1, 1866, the lord and his retainers were forced to retreat by setting fire to the Kokura Castle by themselves.

Reconstruction of Castle Tower

Kokura Castle became a military reservation after the abolition of feudal domains and establishment of prefectures in 1871. At the time of the Satsuma Rebellion or Seinan War (a revolt of disaffected samurai against the new imperial government), Maresuke Nogi (a Japanese general in the Imperial Japanese Army) led Infantry Regiment No. 14 out to war from its station in Kokura Castle. Later, the headquarters of the 12th Division and an armor plant of the army were placed in the castle. After the Pacific War, Kokura Castle was taken over by the Allied Forces, but it was released in 1957, and the castle tower was rebuilt in 1959 by the aspiration of the citizens. The keep of Kokura Castle is of a special structure called "karazukuri." It is distinctive in that there are no eaves between the 4th and 5th floors, and in that the 5th floor is larger than the 4th floor. Furthermore, the castle's stone wall is made of natural stones—no hewn stones are used. The stone wall looks rustic, yet dynamic.



The Kokura Castle Theater is impressive!

1F

Kokura Castle was built by Hosokawa Tadaoki in 1602. Visitors can trace the history of Kokura Castle from its construction, the development of the castle town, and the reconstruction of the castle in the Showa period (in 1959).

Feel the bustle of the castle town of Kokura!



Visitors can experience people's lives in the castle town in the Edo period (1603 - 1868) while enjoying themselves with various exhibits, experiencing Yabusame (the art of shooting arrows on horseback), and answering quizzes on the theme of Kokura Castle.

Chronological Record of Kokura Castle (Summary)

History

1600
Battle of Sekigahara

1602
Kokura Hosokawa Clan's first castle owner **Hosokawa Tadaoki** [1563~1645]

Hosokawa Tama (baptismal name: Gracia) [1563~1600]

Miyamoto Musashi [1582~1645]

1612
Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Kojiro's duel on Ganryu Island (also known as Funashima).

1620
Tadaoki retired (went to Nakatsu Castle).

1632
Hosokawa Tadatoshi was transferred to Higo. Ogasawara Tadazane entered Kokura from Akashi. (Stipend: 150,000 koku)

1632
Kokura Ogasawara Clan's first castle owner **Ogasawara Tadazane** [1596~1667]

1637
A fire broke out and the tower and the keep were burned down. (The castle was reconstructed in 1839, except for the keep.)

1837
Shogunate's first punitive military expedition against Choshu

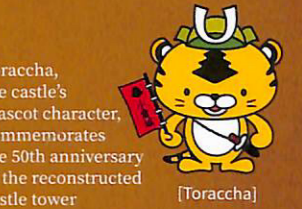
1864
Shogunate's second punitive military expedition against Choshu. The Lord died; secret mourning. Toyochiyomaru was still only four.

1865
Battle with Choshu. Kokura Castle was on fire. Retreated to the border of Kiku.

1959
Kokura Castle's tower was reconstructed.

2009
Toraccha, the castle's mascot character, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the reconstructed castle tower

2019
The interior of Kokura Castle was totally renovated.



©2010 Toraccha, Kokura Castle's Mascot Character/Kokura Castle

A Picture Scroll of Kokura Castle's Turbulent History over 400 Years

Castle Museum with Lots of Interesting Exhibits on Kokura's Events, People, and Products

2F

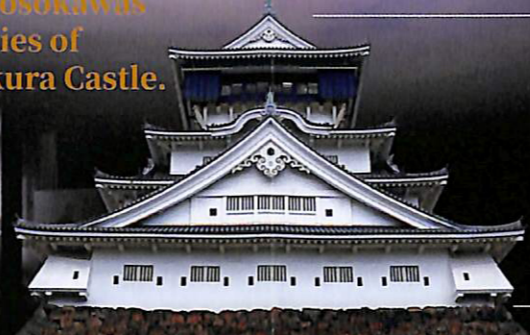
KOKURA CASTLE

小倉城

Providing information on the Hosokawas and the Ogasawaras, both families of which are closely related to Kokura Castle.



This museum focuses on people who were related to Kokura Castle, including the Hosokawas and Ogasawaras, who took the post of Lord of Kokura. There are plenty of highlights, such as a model reproduction of the original castle tower.



Data on Kokura Castle Tower

29.7m
47.5m
18.8m

3F

Introducing Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Kojiro!

Kokura is known for Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Kojiro, Japan's leading fencers, who fought their historic duel in the 17th century. The museum introduces their mysterious lives. You can get right into Kojiro's part and take a photo against the backdrop of Musashi's picture.



Replica of Sasaki Kojiro's Sword

4.5 F

To the observation space from the 1st floor in an elevator!

The 4th floor serves as an exhibition space where special exhibitions and citizens' work exhibitions are held. The 5th floor was designed in the image of the original interior of Kokura Castle.



Welcoming Everyone
Mukaetora



For People's Happiness
Okuritora



Exhibiting at the Castle Tower!

Two gold-leaf paintings of male and female tigers entitled "Mukaetora" and "Okuritora" adorn the walls. They are associated with the year 1866 (the Year of the Tiger), when the original castle burned down. Please also appreciate the powerful calligraphic works of the largest class (4.7 m x 2.9 m).