

Chronological Summary

Period	Era (Year)	Castle Lords	Notes
Kamakura	Ken-nin (1201–1204)	Nikaïdo Yukimasa	Believed to have been built for military purposes by the Kamakura shogunate.
		Sato Tomomitsu Iga Mitsumune Inaba Mitsusuke	Renamed as Inabayama Castle after the clan adopted the Inaba name.
	Shogen (1259–1260)	Nikaïdo Yukifuji	Held territory around Seki City and restored Shinchokoku-ji Temple.
Muromachi	Oei (1394–1428)	Saito Toshinaga	Renovated the castle as a steward of the Toki clan. Moved to Kano Castle in 1445.
		Saito Myochin	Joined the battle in Kyoto during the Onin War. Also known as a prominent waka poet. Believed to be the father of Dosan.
	Tenbun (1532–1554)	(Nagai Shinzaemonnojo)	
		Saito Dosan	Renovated and moved into Inabayama Castle in 1539. (There are various theories regarding the year he entered the castle.) Moved to Sagiya Castle in 1554. Died in 1556 after fighting Yoshitatsu.
		Saito Yoshitatsu	Died of an illness in May 1561 (aged 34).
	Tenbun 23 (1554) Eiroku 4 (1561)	Saito Tatsuoki (Takenaka Shigeharu)	He succeeded at a young age but was temporarily occupied by Takenaka Hanbei Shigeharu in February 1564. In August 1567, the castle was attacked by Oda Nobunaga and surrendered. Kinoshita Tokichiro distinguished himself during this time.
	Eiroku 10 (1567)	Oda Nobunaga	He moved from Komaki in Owari Province to Inabayama Castle (later Gifu Castle), promoting the development of the castle town of Gifu by protecting the Rakuichi Rakuza market system. In 1576, he relocated to Azuchi Castle, and in 1582, he committed suicide during the Honnoji Incident.
Azuchi	Tensho 4 (1576)	Oda Nobutada	He succeeded his father Nobunaga and devoted himself to the prosperity of Gifu. He was attacked by Akechi Mitsuhide at Nijo Castle during the Honnoji Incident and died in battle.
	Tensho 10 (1582)	Oda Nobutaka	Nobunaga's third son moved from Ise Kanbe Castle and surrendered to Hideyoshi in 1583.
	Tensho 11 (1583)	Ikeda Motosuke	Died in battle during the Battle of Komaki and Nagakute in 1584.
Momoyama	Tensho 13 (1585)	Ikeda Terumasa	Moved to Yoshida Castle (Mikawa Province) in September 1592, later becoming the lord of Himeji Castle.
	Tensho 19 (1591)	Toyotomi Hidekatsu	Adopted by Hideyoshi and took the Hashiba name. In 1592, he joined the campaign in Korea and died of illness on Karashima (Geojje Island).
	Bunroku 1 (1592)	Oda Hidenobu	Moved from Azuchi Castle. Surrendered to Tokugawa forces in August 1600. Died in May 1605 (aged 26).
	Keicho 6 (1601)		The castle was abandoned, with the main tower, turrets, stone walls, and other structures relocated to Kano Castle.
Edo			No castle structure.
Meiji	Meiji 43 (1910)		A reconstructed castle was built but was destroyed by fire in February 1943.
Showa	Showa 31 (1956)		Current main tower reconstructed.
Heisei	Heisei 9 (1997) Heisei 13 (2001) Heisei 23 (2011)		First major renovation since reconstruction. Marks the 800th anniversary of the castle's founding. The Mt. Kinka area was designated a National Historic Site as the "Ruins of Gifu Castle."
	Heisei 29 (2017)		Implemented the Lord Nobunaga 450 Project (450th Anniversary of Lord Oda Nobunaga's Entry into Gifu and the Naming of Gifu).

Visitor Information

Gifu Castle

As of July, 2025

Admission Fee (Valid for Gifu Castle Archives as well)		Opening Hours
Adults (ages 16 and older)	200 yen	Open Daily (year-round)
Children (ages 4 to 15)	100 yen	March 16 – October 16: 9:30–17:30
Group Discount: 20% off for groups of 30 or more		October 17 – March 15: 9:30–16:30
		Only on New Year's Day: 6:30–16:30
		* Open at night for a limited time only
		* Subject to change due to various circumstances

* The following visitors are eligible for free admission. Please present the appropriate ID or certificate.

1. Holders of a Physical Disability Certificate, Mental Disability Certificate, Rehabilitation Certificate, or Specified Disease Recipient Certificate, as well as their caregivers.
2. Visitors aged 70 and older.
3. Children up to junior high school age and their accompanying family members on Family Day (the third Sunday of each month).
4. Students up to junior high school age residing in Gifu City.

Mt. Kinka Ropeway

For business hours and ropeway fares, please scan the QR code on the right.



* Parking is limited, so please use public transportation whenever possible.

<Inquiries>

◆ Gifu Castle

Phone: (+81) 58-263-4853



◆ Gifu City Tourist

Information Center

JR Gifu Station, 2F

Phone: (+81) 58-262-4415

◆ Gifu Convention

and Visitors

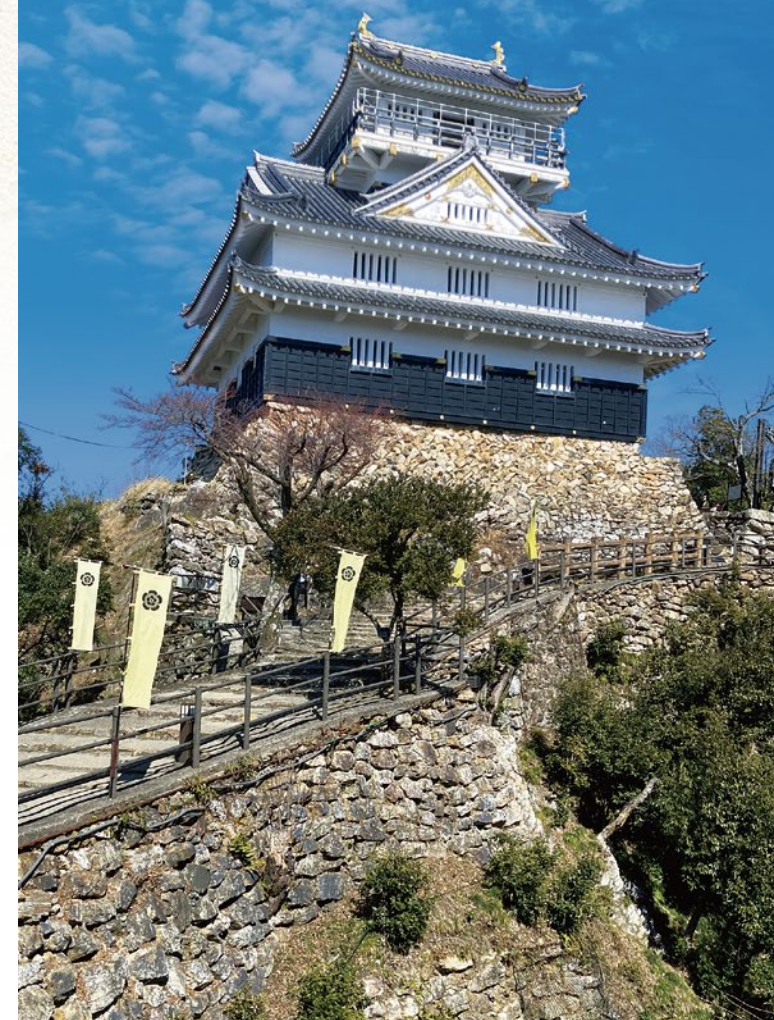
Bureau Website



Issued by: Gifu Convention and Visitors Bureau

Gifu Castle

THE CASTLE OF NOBUNAGA'S DREAM



A Castle Associated with Lords Nobunaga and Dosan

Gifu Castle was formerly known as Inabayama Castle. It is said that the first fort on the summit of Mt. Kinka was built by Nikaido Yamashironokami Yukimasa, a steward of the Kamakura Shogunate. During the Sengoku period, it also served as the residence of Saito Dosan. Gifu Castle rose to national fame in 1567 (or, in one theory, in 1564), when the brilliant warlord Oda Nobunaga captured the stronghold, brought the surrounding region under his control, and renamed the area from “Inokuchi” to “Gifu,” making it as his base for unifying the country. However, in August 1600, just before the Battle of Sekigahara, the castle fell after fierce fighting when Nobunaga’s grandson, Hidenobu, sided with the Western Army and was attacked by the Eastern Army. In the following year, 1601, Gifu Castle was abandoned, and its main tower and turrets were relocated to Kano Castle. The current castle was reconstructed in July 1956 by the Gifu Castle Reconstruction Promotion Alliance. Built of reinforced concrete, it is a three-tiered, four-story structure with a total floor area of 461.77 sq. meters and a height of 17.7 meters, presenting an impressive appearance.

In February 2011, the entire Mt. Kinka area was designated as a National Historic Site as the “Ruins of Gifu Castle.”



Lord Oda Nobunaga
(Owned by Sofuku-ji Temple)

Born in 1534 as the second son of Oda Nobuhide of Owari, he was called Kipposhi in childhood and later took the name Kazusanosuke Nobunaga upon coming of age. In 1567, he seized Inabayama Castle and used it as a base for unifying the nation. In the castle town, he introduced a free market system known as “Rakuichi Rakuza.” The Portuguese missionary Luis Frois described the city of Gifu at the time as being “as bustling as Babylon.” In 1576, Nobunaga handed over Gifu Castle to his eldest son, Nobutada, and moved to Azuchi Castle himself. He met his end in the Honno-ji Incident of 1582.



Lord Saito Dosan

The story of Dosan, who came to Mino Province as a traveling oil merchant and rose to seize control of the land, is extremely well known. However, it is said that Dosan’s life story overlaps with that of his father, Nagai Shinzaemonnojo. Dosan was born in Mino. His original name was Nagai (also Fujiwara) Shinkuro Norihide. Later, he took over the Saito clan, his lord’s family, and took the name Saito Shinkuro Toshimasa. Afterward, he pursued the *shugo daimyo* Toki Yorinori, eventually seized actual control over Mino Province, shaved his head, and took the name Saito Shinkuro Nyudo Dosan. In his later years, he fell into conflict with his son Yoshitatsu, and on April 20, 1556, they fought a battle across the Nagara River, in which he was defeated and killed.



View of the Nagara River from Gifu Castle

Floor Guide

4F

Lord Nobunaga’s Vision of the Realm

Gazing upon the vast landscape below, one is reminded of Lord Nobunaga, who once dreamed of unifying the realm under the slogan “Tenka Fubu.”

3F

Lord Nobunaga’s Vision of the World

Celebrating Lord Nobunaga’s foresight, which looked toward the world and brought prosperity to Gifu.

2F

Lord Nobunaga’s Castle Construction

Exploring Lord Nobunaga’s Dedication to Castle Construction

1F

Lord Nobunaga’s Castle Town Development

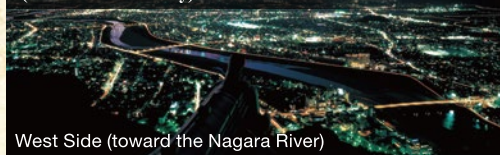
An Introduction to the Gifu Castle Town Established by Lord Nobunaga and His Rule

View from the Tenshu (Main Tower)

Gifu Castle is one of the highest castles among existing Japanese castles, situated at an elevation of 329 meters.

From the top floor, you can see below the clear Nagara River, famous for its cormorant fishing, flowing through the city. To the east rise the majestic Mt. Ena and Mt. Ontake, while to the north, Mt. Norikura and the Japanese Alps form a breathtaking mountain range. To the west, the mountain ranges of Ibuki, Yoro, and Suzuka extend, while to the south, the vast Nobi Plain spreads out richly. From there, you can also take in the tranquil flow of the Kiso River as it gracefully empties into Ise Bay. Just as Nobunaga once surveyed the realm from here, you can enjoy a magnificent panoramic view. Additionally, Gifu Castle extends its opening hours for a limited time to allow visitors to enjoy the night view.

Gifu Castle Panorama Night View (Limited Time Only)



West Side (toward the Nagara River)

Gifu Castle Archives

Just east of Gifu Castle is the Gifu Castle Archives. In April 1975, the old armory and food storehouse were restored in the style of a corner turret castle structure.



Japan Heritage

This system was established by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in 2015 with the aim of utilizing cultural properties to promote tourism and revitalize local communities. Japan Heritage designates stories that compile groups of cultural properties rich in historical charm—deeply rooted in their regions and passed down through generations. Gifu City was the first to receive this designation.

Overview of the Story

During the Sengoku period, Oda Nobunaga aimed to unify Japan from his base at Gifu Castle. While advancing his military campaigns, he built a palace within the castle known as the “Paradise on Earth,” adding a unique element of “allure” to the fortress. He transformed the entire castle town area into a premier space for hospitality. Hospitality featuring scenic views inside and outside the castle that make the most of the natural landscape, as well as cormorant fishing viewing on the Nagara River. Nobunaga’s refined sense of hospitality offered a surprising contrast to his cold and ruthless image, captivating international guests including the missionary Luis Frois. The castle, town, and river culture shaped by Nobunaga has been passed down even after the castle’s role ended, continuing to live on in the present-day city of Gifu.

