

History of Uwajima Castle

Era	A.D.	Major Events
Azuchi-Momoyama	1575	Saionji Nobuhisa became the lord of Itajima Marukushi Castle.
	1587	Toda Katsutaka was relegated to Uwa and Kita counties.
	1595	Todo Takatora was granted 70,000 koku in Uwa county and makes Itajima Marukushi Castle his main castle.
	1596	Takatora began construction of Itajima Castle. * In the Middle Ages, the place name Itajima was used.
	1601	Construction of Itajima Castle was completed.
Edo	1608	Takatora moves to Imabari, and sets up a castle representative at Itajima Castle. In August, he is transferred to Tsu in Ise. Tomita Nobutaka is granted 100,000 koku in Uwa County and makes Itajima Castle his main castle.
	1613	Nobutaka was disposed of, and Uwa county was left to Takatora. On December 28, Date Hidemune was awarded the 100,000 koku in Uwa County and enters in March of the following year. * The place name "Uwajima" started to be used around this time.
	1614	Hidemune's fifth son, Munezumi, submitted a request for a share of the 30,000 koku of Uwajima county to become in the Yoshida domain. Hidemune retired and Munetoshi became the 2nd lord.
	1658	June 8, Hidemune died.
	1664	Construction of the castle began and was completed in 1671.
	1666	Castle tower and Ote-mon Gate completed.
	1693	Munetoshi retired and Muneyoshi became the 3rd lord. The Shogunate grants permission to reassess the value of the Uwajima domain from 70,000 koku to 100,000 koku.
	1696	Muneyoshi died, and Muratoshi became the 4th lord.
	1711	Munetoshi died, and Muratoshi became the 5th lord.
	1735	Muratoshi died, and Muratoshi became the 6th lord.
	1794	Muratoshi died, and Muranaga became the 7th lord.
1824	Muranaga retired, and Munetada became the 8th lord.	
1844	Munetada retired, and Munenari became the 9th lord.	
1858	Munenari retired and Mune became the 10th lord. The 7th lord Munetada built Minami-goten as a retreat in a corner of Hama-goten and moved his residence there.	
1863	Tensha-en Garden was completed.	
Meiji	1869	In May, Mune returned to his domain to the Meiji government.
	1871	It became under the jurisdiction of Osaka Chindai.
	1889	The Date family regained the right of the castle.
Showa	1934	The castle tower and Ote-mon Gate are designated as former national treasures.
	1937	Uwajima Castle was designated as a national historic site.
	1945	The Ote-mon Gate was destroyed by fire in World War II.
	1949	The castle tower and the castle mountain are donated to the city.
	1950	The castle tower became an important cultural property.
1960	The castle tower was dismantled and repaired.	
Heisei	2016	The site of Osakujiba became a national historic site.

Access



[Coming by JR]
 *Matsuyama Sta.
 - Uwajima Sta.
 About 1 h 20 min
 *About 1 km from Uwajima Sta.
[Coming by car]
 *Matsuyama highway
 Uwajima Asahi exit
 *About 1 km from the exit to
 Parking under Shiroyama

It is an uphill walk of about 800 meters from the parking lot to the castle tower. The stone stairs to the castle tower and the path up to the castle are not equipped with ramps or other barrier-free features. The same applies to the interior of the castle tower.

Information

Name	Open	Admission	Holidays
Castle Tower	Mar. ~ Oct. 9:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM	Adult ¥200	Open all year round
	Nov. ~ Feb. 9:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM [Tel] Castle Tower 0895-22-2832 Shiroyama Folk Museum 0895-22-3904	65 and up Group(20 or more) ¥160 Jr. high and younger Disability certificate including caregiver Free	
Shiroyama Folk Museum	Mar. ~ Oct. 6:00 AM ~ 6:30 PM Nov. ~ Feb. 6:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM	Free	
Shiroyama Park	Standard size car only	¥100 / h	
Parking under Shiroyama			

Uwajima City Board of Education Culture and Sports Section
 [Tel] 0895-24-1111
 〒798-8601
 1, Akebonocho, Uwajima City, Ehime Prefecture

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 [Tel] 0895-49-5700
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 5-1-4, Marunouchi, Uwajima City, Ehime Prefecture



Uwajima Castle official website



Uwajima Castle

One of the 12 surviving castle towers from the Edo Period
 Important cultural property and historic site



宇和島 uwajima

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Uwajima Castle, where one of the 12 existing castle towers stands tall, was the residence of nine generations of "Date of the West" after Hidemune. Hidemune was the eldest son of Date Masamune, entered the castle in Keicho 20 (1615) until the Meiji era (1868-1912). The castle tower, designated as an "Important Cultural Property (building)" by the national government, was built by Munetoshi, the second lord of the Date family of Uwajima, around 1666 (Kanbun castle tower). The castle tower was built in 1601 by Todo Takatora, a famous castle builder, and was reported to the shogunate for repair. It was completely rebuilt by Munetoshi, including the stone walls of the keep, and its appearance (Keicho Castle Tower) can only be seen in the drawings.

Castle tower data

Structure	Tower type	Three-storied Three floor
Height	Total height	20.94m
	Shachihoko	1.47m
Width	Base ~ Roof	15.72m
	Base	3.75m
	1 F	11.82m
	2 F	9.46m
Area	3 F	7.31m
	Entrance	3.96m
Area	Eaves of 1F	212.75m ²
	Eaves of the entrance	21.65m ²

Repair work report of important cultural property, Uwajima Castle Tower(1942)



Reconstruction : Masayuki Miura
 Colorant : Daiki Sato



Date Munetoshi built Kanbun castle tower.

It is a three-storied, fully enclosed, castle tower that was renovated around 1666 by Munetoshi, the leading head of the second generation of the Uwajima's Date family. The castle tower is said to have been renovated, but in fact, the watchtower-type castle tower built on the bedrock by Takatora was removed and replaced with a stone-walled tower-type castle tower, which was the latest type at that time, and it is not an exaggeration to say that it was newly built. The highly ornamental gables and hanging fish on each floor are said to symbolize the era of peace and tranquility, and although small, the design of the palace architecture can be seen everywhere, making it a very prestigious structure. Although the building underwent major repairs in both 1860 and 1960, it still retains its original appearance.

A castle tower with both splendor and prestige

To learn more about Uwajima Castle Tower, check here!



A rope line that skillfully utilizes the terrain

In addition to the castle tower, Munetoshi also renovated the turrets and gates, but the moat, stone walls, and other features were almost identical to the original designs of Takatora, making it a flat mountain castle with the characteristics of a water castle. The pentagonal shape of the castle, with two sides facing the sea and three sides with moats that drew in seawater, was mistakenly

reported as a quadrangle by a shogunate secret agent. The area around Uwajima Bay was gradually reclaimed by rice paddy development during the Edo period. The remnants of this can be seen in the current town layout and roads. The stone walls can be seen in a variety of styles, from old to new, and from the time of Takatora to the Date family.



Drawings of Uwajima Castle in 1703

Uwajima Date Cultural Preservation Society Collection

Architecture of Uwajima Castle

The family crest in the headline corresponds to the pattern of eaves tiles, demon tiles, etc.

Noboritachi-mon Gate

Located on the south side of Shiroyama, the gate is in the form of a Yakuyimon style of gate. This is the main gate of a samurai family.

Not only is it one of the largest existing Yakuimon gates, but it is also a valuable structure that. Based on scientific dating and various structural features such as the shape of the beams, it dates back to the Keicho period. It may be the oldest existing Yakuimon gate in Japan.



Kori Family's Buke Nagaya-mon Gate

This gate is located at the entrance to the castle on the northeast side of Shiroyama. It was originally the site of the Kori House who were the chief retainers of the Date family. When the national highway was widened in 1952, the ownership of the gate was transferred from the Kori House to the city and the gate was moved to its present location.

The original length of the frontage was 35 meters, but the left side of the row house was removed to fit into the new site.



Shiroyama Folk Museum (relocation)

This storehouse was built in 1845 as an armory when the training ground was constructed in San-no-maru, it is a rare building with few surviving examples of its kind.

In 1966, it was transferred by the Date family and moved to Shiroyama Toubei-maru, where it is now open to the public under the name of Shiroyama Folk Museum.

The museum has exhibits on great people associated with Uwajima, such as Date Munenari and Hozumi Nobusige, as well as literary works set in Uwajima.



Contour and stone walls of Uwajima Castle

The number in the upper right corner of the photo corresponds to the "Shiroyama Map"

Hon-maru

This is the part of the castle with the largest number of buildings.

The stonewalls were repaired with "kirikomi-hagi" around the end of the Edo period. The original "nozura-zumi" can be seen on the same surface at once.



Ni-no-maru

It was placed just before the main castle as the final defense facility of the castle tower, and was connected to the obi circle to surround Hon-maru.

Ni-no-maru is connected to the obi circle and surrounds the Hon-maru. To reach Hon-maru, you would have to pass through the Kushigata-mon gate, the second gate, and the third gate.



Site of San-no-maru

It was a solid enclosure with an inner moat surrounded by stone walls and earthen walls. It was the center of the domain where the Goten was located from 1601 to 1676.

After the Goten was relocated, it was used as a resting place for the

lady of the house. In 1863, it was demolished and used as a training ground.

In modern times, the moat was filled in and the area was urbanized. The stone walls at the foot of the mountain as the only remains visible remains.



CG reproduction of San-no-Maru Palace (from VR Uwajima Castle)

Tobei-maru

The stone walls were made of "Nozura-zumi" which retained the characteristics of old stone walls from around 1601 when Takatora built the castle.

It is the second tallest stonewall in the castle and was one of the tallest in Japan at the time of its construction. You can clearly see that the stonewalls were built with a straight slope without warping, which is a characteristic of Takatora's stone walls.



Nagato-maru

The name Nagato-maru was said to have originated from the name of a chief retainer under Takatora. The name was used as such even after the castle became the residence of the Date family.

The stone walls are made of masonry and are thought to be from the major renovation during the Kanbun era (1661-1673).



Daiemon-maru

The origin of the name is thought to be Yagura Daiemon, a vassal of Todo Takatora.

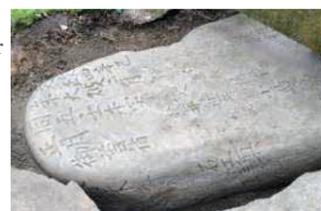
The stone walls are varied, ranging from the oldest to the newest in the castle. The stone wall repaired at the end of the Edo period is 15 meters high, making it the tallest stone wall in the castle.



Ido-maru

This enclosure is equipped with an 11-meter-deep well. It is a robust structure to protect the castle's water supply.

There is a record that the well was rebuilt at the end of the Edo period. This record is engraved on a stone at the edge of the well, which is the only gold and stone writing in the castle.



Shikibu-maru

This is an enclosure with a well along with Ido-maru, but the name of the enclosure is not mentioned in the picture maps of the first half of the Edo period. It is thought to have been called Shikibu-maru after the name of Yamazaki Shikibu, a vassal of the Date family, in the latter half of the Edo period.

The stone walls are noticeably broken due to horizontal arrow fences.



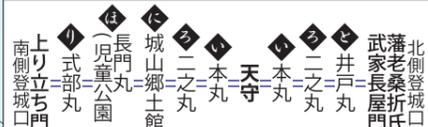
Castle Map

Based on a 1711 drawing and survey results.

- Existing building
- Disappeared building
- Relocated building
- Public facilities, etc.
- Path to the castle
- Roads, quarter, etc.
- Samurai residence
- Stone wall
- Earthwork
- Mountain slopes
- Moat and sea
- Main building in the vicinity
- Explanation board
- Restroom
- Parking

- Hon-maru
- Ni-no-maru
- San-no-maru
- Tobei-maru
- Nagato-maru
- Daiemon-maru
- Ido-maru
- Obi circle
- Shikibu-maru

Tour route



Uwajima Castle Web Site Instruction of Stone wall