

The Heritage of the Castle Town

Takaoka's 400 year history begins with the vision of Toshinaga Maeda.

◆ opening hours ★ admission ☆ holiday ☎ telephone ○ transportation (car) ● transportation (other)



2 Remains of Moriyama Castle

This castle was constructed on Mount Futagami in the Middle Ages. It was the main castle of this region at the time.

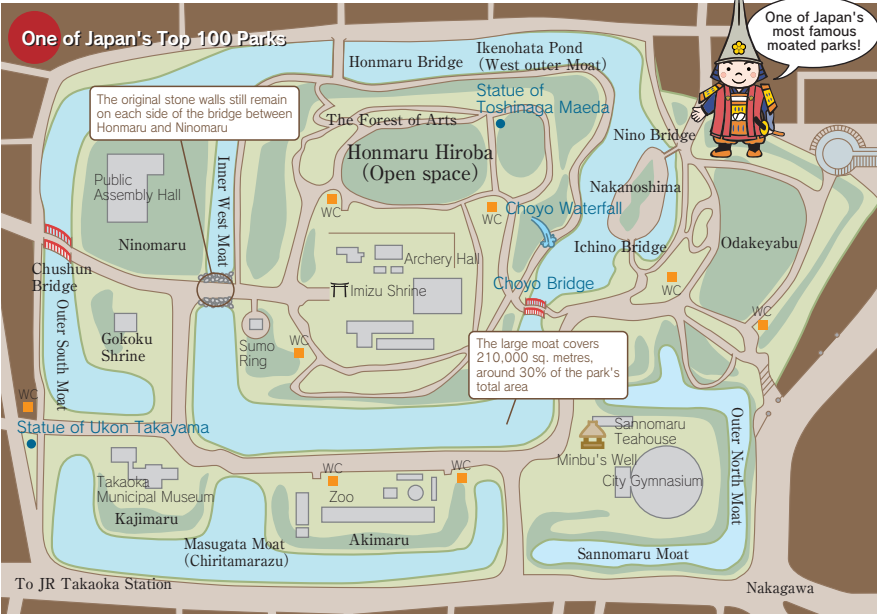
Lord Toshinaga Maeda lived in this castle from 1585 to 1597, and his son

and successor Lord Toshitsune also lived here during his childhood. When Takaoka Castle was built, the family moved down to the town, and the area they moved to became known as Moriyama-machi as a result.

■ From the summit of Mount Futagami, you can look across the whole Imizu-Heiya plain. Perhaps Lord Toshinaga Maeda decided on the location of Takaoka Castle while gazing down from this spot.

Remains of Moriyama Castle／

○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C.: 20 minutes



1 Remains of Takaoka Castle

(Takaoka Kojo Park) [Prefecturally Designated Historical Site]

Takaoka Castle was built here in 1609 under the command of Lord Toshinaga Maeda, and was designed by the warrior Ukon Takayama. After Toshinaga's death in 1615, the 'One Province, One Castle' law was enacted, and Takaoka Castle had to be destroyed as a result, for the province already had a major castle in Kanazawa.

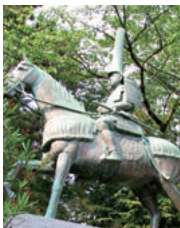
However, the surrounding moats and walls were left intact and the site was used to store the province's supplies of rice and weaponry. After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, there were worries that the area would be taken over by the private sector, so a group led by Kajuro Hattori petitioned for the castle to come into public ownership, thus preserving this important historical locale for future generations.

Takaoka Municipal Museum／★ Free ☎ 0766-20-1572

☆ Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday), New Year

● From JR Takaoka Station: 15 Minutes on foot

○ From the Noetsu Expressway Takaoka I.C.: 10 minutes



Statue of Toshinaga Maeda, second lord of the Maeda clan



Statue of Ukon Takayama, expert castle builder and early Japanese Christian

I can guide you round the museum!



Remains of Kibune Castle／○ From Noetsu Expressway Fukuoka I.C.: 1 minute

3 Remains of Kibune Castle

[Prefecturally Designated Historical Site]

This castle was said to have been built by Ishiguro Taro Mitsuhiro on the Kibune Plain in 1184. In 1585, Lord Maeda Toshiie granted it to his youngest son, Hidetsugu, as his residence. However it was destroyed in the great Tensho Earthquake of the same year.

After the castle was destroyed, those who lived nearby settled in an area of Takaoka City, and as a result that district is still called Kibune.

4 The Takeda Residence

[Important Cultural Asset]

This is said to be the residence of the descendants of the younger brother of Takeda Shingen, the famous 16th century military commander. From the early Edo period, however, it was used as the official residence of the village mayor. It is said to be constructed from timber left over when the Great Hall of Shokoji Temple was built, and still retains many typical features of a later Edo period dwelling, such as the fine jointed woodwork seen in the roof assembly.

The Takeda Residence／◆ 9:00~16:30 ★ Adults 210 Yen, Free for those of junior high school age or younger ☆ Tuesdays (Wednesday if Tuesday is a public holiday) ☎ 0766-44-0724 ● From JR Amaharashi Station: 20 minutes on foot ○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C.: 20 minutes



Ariso Sho Hachiman-gu Shrine／● From Takaoka Town Bus 'Komichi' Ariso jinja mae Stop: 1 minute on foot ○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka I.C.: 10 minutes

5 Ariso Sho Hachiman-gu Shrine

[Tangible Cultural Asset]

This shrine came into being at around the time of Takaoka's founding in the early 17th century, when Ariso Shrine and Yokota Hachiman Shrine merged. The current structure dates from 1883, but the similarity of the engraving marks suggest that the shrine's stone walls, said to have been donated by the Maeda clan, date from the same era as Takaoka Castle.



Takaoka Sekino Shrine／● From JR Takaoka Station: 7 Minutes on foot

○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka I.C.: 10 minutes

6 Takaoka Sekino Shrine

The spirit of Takaoka's founder, Lord Toshinaga Maeda, is enshrined here. Sekino Shrine is also commonly known as Takanomiya. Part of the original Edo period construction of the main hall survives to this day.



Look! In the footsteps of Yoshitsune

When Minamoto no Yoshitsune was fleeing to the north from his brother Yoritomo, it is said that he stopped here on the way. According to legend, the hand and foot impressions you can still see are those of his retainer, Benkei.



7 Keta Shrine Main Hall [Important Cultural Asset]

This shrine is one of the oldest in all of Toyama Prefecture, dating from as far back as the 8th century. In the mid-16th century the main hall was rebuilt in grand style, leaving many characteristic signs of Muromachi era architecture. The buildings were later renovated again by Lord Toshitsune Maeda.

Keta Shrine Main Hall／

● From JR Fushiki Station: 25 minutes on foot

○ From the Noetsu Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C.: 15 minutes

Inside Keta Shrine, there is a monument and shrine dedicated to Otomo no Yakamochi, the 8th century author of the Manyoshu collection of poems.

Yakamochi kun



Timeline <The Heritage of the Castle Town>

1558-1570	Keta Shrine is rebuilt after its destruction by Kenshin Uesugi
1585	Lord Toshinaga founds Moriyama Castle Kifune Castle is destroyed in an earthquake
1609 March 18th	Toyama Castle is burnt to the ground in the Great Fire of Toyama
April	Construction begins on Takaoka Castle according to the design of Ukon Takayama
September 13th	Lord Toshinaga enters Takaoka Castle
1614	Lord Toshinaga dies
1615	Takaoka Castle is demolished under the 'One Province, One Castle' decree The castle remains come under control of the Town Magistrate's Office
Early 17th century	The Takeda family becomes the town hall and centre of local government
1870	Kanazawa province decides to take over the land for cultivation
1872	The land comes under the jurisdiction of Nanao Prefecture
1873	Through the activism of Kajuro Hattori, legislation is passed which grants
1875	The castle remains are officially designated 'Takaoka Park'
1965	The remains are designated a prefectural historical monument

8 Yamacho Street

[Important historic buildings preservation area]

■ Street lined with storehouses

This area was built as a merchant's quarter by Toshinaga Maeda. In 1900 a great fire destroyed the area, and in an attempt to prevent the tragedy reoccurring, the new buildings were constructed in the solid, thick plaster you can see today. This road was the main road through the Hokuuriku region when the city was formed, and it remains an important thoroughfare to this day.

Yamacho Street/● From JR Takaoka Station: 10 Minutes on foot ○ From the Noetsu Expressway Takaoka I.C.: 10 minutes

April 30 (evening), May 1

Takaoka Mikurumayama Festival

[An Important Tangible and Intangible Cultural Asset]

Only 5 events in the country are designated as both a tangible and intangible cultural asset. Legend has it that this festival began when Lord Toshiie was presented with an official court carriage by Taiko Hideyoshi, and this was presented to the townspeople by Lord Toshinaga. The artisans of the town then banded together to make seven more in the grand, showy Azuchi style of the day. It is quite a sight to see these carriages parade around town, as they do every year at this festival.



The Sugano Residence/◆ 9:30~16:00 ★ Adults 200 Yen, Free for those of junior high school age or younger ☆ Tuesdays, August 13-17, New Year, January and February ☎ 0766-22-3078

9 The Sugano Residence

[Important Cultural Asset]

This townhouse is perhaps the best example of the plasterwork building Yamachi is famous for. It was built immediately after the great fire of 1900, and is one of the largest and best preserved buildings of its type in the area.

10 Reference Library for Takaoka's Storehouse-lined Streets

(in the old Murosaki Residence) [Municipal Cultural Asset]



Takaoka City Earthenware Storehouse Museum/◆ 9:00~16:30 ★ Adults 200 Yen, Free for those of junior high school age or younger ☆ Tuesdays (Wednesday if Tuesday is a public holiday), New Year ☎ 0766-25-5223

Following the Meiji Restoration, the Murosaki Residence was used as a wholesaler, but it now functions as a museum detailing the construction methods of these unique plasterwork buildings.



11 The Ikadai Residence [Prefecturally Designated Cultural Asset]



12 The Inami Buddhist Altar Shop [Registered Cultural Asset]



13 The Sano Residence [Registered Cultural Asset]



14 Kiyoto Sake Brewery [Registered Cultural Asset]



Japan's three Great Buddha

15 Great Image of Buddha

(A seated bronze statue of Amida Nyorai Buddha) [Designated as a Municipal Cultural Asset]

This is one of Japan's three 'Great Buddha Statues' along with the Kamakura Buddha and the Nara Buddha. It was thought to have been brought here when Lord Toshinaga founded the castle. Earlier, wooden versions of the statue burned down, most recently in 1900. In order that this would not happen again, the current statue was built in bronze. It is a testament to the skill of

Takaoka's bronze workers, and has become a symbol of the city.

Takaoka Daibutsu/★ Free (Donations welcome)

☆ Open all year ☎ 0766-23-9156 ● From JR

Takaoka Station: 10 Minutes on foot ○ From

Noetsu Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C.: 10 minutes

Look! The statue was restored in 2007, returning the Buddha to his former glory.

16 Kanayamachi

■ Rows of Houses of Latticework

This area, which was the cradle of Takaoka's famed bronzeworking industry, began when Lord Toshinaga invited seven metalworkers from the Kanaya region of Tonami to set up businesses in Takaoka. The traditional shuttered houses and street paving inlaid with bronze lends the area a beautiful sense of harmony.

Kanayamachi/● Kaetsuno Bus, get off at

'Kanaya' Bus stop ○ From Noetsu

Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C.: 10 minutes

17 Old Nanbu Foundry

(Cupola and chimney)

[Registered Cultural Asset]

Constructed 1924



Takaoka Casting Museum

This museum is housed in a former merchant house. Displays include those of old documents and old tools used in the bronze casting industry, giving you an insight into Takaoka's industrial heritage.

◆ 9:00~16:30 ★ Adults 210 Yen, Free for those of junior high school age or younger ☆ Tuesdays (Wednesday if Tuesday is a public holiday), New Year ☎ 0766-28-6088

—Timeline <The Heritage of Trade and Industry>—

- 1609 Yamacho Street is built, dividing the castle town from the merchant quarter
- 1611 Lord Toshinaga donates a large float to the townspeople
- 1615 7 metalworkers are invited to Takaoka to set up business in what would become Kanayamachi
- 1620 After Takaoka Castle is demolished, Lord Toshinaga and his retainers move to Kanazawa
- 1620 The townspeople begin to disperse
- 1620 Lord Toshitsune, fearful of the town's decline, forbids residents to move out.
- 1751-1763 Bronzework techniques are introduced to Takaoka
- Later 18th Century Production of Buddhist altar fittings, incense burners and the like begins
- 1828 The industry of Takaoka is featured in Ikku Jippensha's novel 'The Golden Sandal'
- 1900 The Great Fire (over 60% of Takaoka was razed to the ground)

Access to Takaoka

From Nagoya: 3 hours

Takaoka I.C.

↑ Noetsu Expressway (13.7km)

↑ Oyabe-Tonami JCT

↑ Tokai-hokuriku Expressway (48.1km)

↑ Shirakawa-go I.C.

↑ Tokai-hokuriku Expressway (25km)

↑ Hida-kiyomi I.C.

↑ Tokai-hokuriku Expressway (18.8km)

↑ Shokawa I.C.

↑ Tokai-hokuriku Expressway (102.9km)

↑ Ichinomiya JCT

↑ Meishin Expressway (8.3km)

↑ Komaki I.C.

From Osaka: 4 hours

From Tokyo: 5 1/2 Hours

Takaoka I.C.

↑ Noetsu Expressway (13.7km)

↑ Oyabe-Tonami JCT

↑ Hokuriku Expressway (203.5km)

↑ Maibara JCT

↑ Meishin Expressway (205.6km)

↑ Suita I.C.

↑ Joetsu JCT

↑ Joshinetsu Expressway (109.5km)

↑ Fujioka JCT

↑ Kanetsu Expressway (78.6km)

↑ Nerima I.C.

Enquiries

Takaoka Commerce and Tourism Section

TEL.0766-20-1301

Takaoka Cultural Treasures Section

TEL.0766-20-1453

Takaoka 400th Anniversary Planning Office

TEL.0766-20-1688

〒933-8601 7-50, Hirokoji Takaoka, Toyama

http://www.city.takaoka.toyama.jp/

Takaoka Tourist Information

Cellphone Website

Get the latest Takaoka information straight from your phone!



At the Takaoka Steering Committee for World Heritage Status, we are aiming for Takaoka to become a World Heritage Site. We ask for your cooperation and support.

Individual membership 1,000 yen
Company/ group membership 10,000 yen



In 2009
Takaoka celebrates its 400th anniversary

The Cultural Heritage of Modern Takaoka

—Making the Treasures of Takaoka
The Treasures of the World—



Takaoka City
Takaoka Steering Committee for World Heritage Site Status

Toshinaga kun



The Heritage of Religion

Encounter history, celebrate today, look to the future



22 Zuiryuji Temple [3 buildings designated National Treasures, 7 designated Important Cultural Assets]

The 3rd Lord of Kaga province, Toshitsune Maeda, hired the famed architect Yamagami Zenemon Yoshihiro to build this temple to commemorate the passing of second Lord Toshinaga Maeda. It was started in 1646, and finished in 1663, 50 years after Lord Toshinaga's death. It is a classic example of a Zenshu Buddhist temple, with its front gate, main gate, sanctum and lecture hall all aligned down the centre of the complex.



Sanmon (Main Gate) [National Treasure]

This gate stands at the centre of the temple complex. It is a two storey gate, constructed in austere Zenshu style.

Look! Wood grain Even the grain of the wood has been carefully aligned to eliminate knarls and joints on the exterior, a true feat of craftsmanship.

Lecture Hall [National Treasure]

The Lecture Hall has been well preserved over the centuries as it is the resting place of Lord Toshinaga himself. He remains enshrined there to this day.

Look! Ceiling The paintings of 100 flowers on the ceiling are by the celebrated artist Kano Yasunobu.

23 The stone mausoleums of Zuiryuji Temple [Prefecture designated historical remains]

These gabled mausoleums are constructed from Shakutani Valley stone in the Kirizuma style. There are five, and they enshrine Lord Toshinaga Maeda, Lord Toshiie Maeda, Lord Oda Nobunaga and his wife, and Lord Oda Nobutada.





24 Zuiryuji Temple Grounds
[Prefecture designated historical remains]

Zuiryui Temple,／◆ December 10th-January 31st: 9:00★Adults: 500 Yen Junior high and high school children: 200 Yen Elementary School Children: 100 Yen ☆ Open all year 0766-25-4479 ● From JR Takaoka Station South Entrance: 10 Minutes on foot ○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka I.C: 10 minutes



25 Hatchomichi

This road connects Zuiryuji Temple and the grave of Lord Toshinaga Maeda, some 870 metres away. Originally real lanterns would have lined the route, but now it is lined with pine trees. In addition, 34 original stone lanterns on the route still remain.



This is the largest grave of any daimyo (feudal lord) in Japan

Mausoleum



Approach to the grave

26 Tomb of Toshinaga Maeda
[Nationally Designated Historical Remains]

The grave was built by third lord Toshitsune to glorify the achievements of his elder brother, second Lord Toshinaga Maeda, in 1646. The stone lanterns around the grave are originals, and the imposing, solemn atmosphere of the area remains even today.

■ It is opened every year to the public on September 13th, the day of the Toshinaga Festival

Look! The stone paving in front of the grave is called 'Buddhist Surplice Paving'

It was made from Tomuro stone, a kind of stone which only Daimyo (feudal lords) were permitted to use

Look! 130 stone carved lotus flowers adorn the base of the grave.

The sketches for these flowers were said to have been the work of the famed artist Kano Tanyu



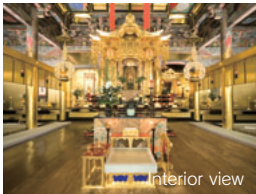
Tomb of Toshinaga Maeda,／● From JR Takaoka Station South Entrance: 14 Minutes on foot ○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka I.C: 10 minutes



The main hall is a replica of the Amida Hall at Nishi-Honganji Temple in Kyoto

18 Shokoji Temple
[12 buildings designated Important Cultural Assets]

The monk Rennyo founded the Doyama Gobou temple as a precursor to Shokoji, and in the Ikko Ikki disturbances of the 15th and 16th centuries it became an important religious centre for the region. In 1584 it was moved to its current location, where it was guaranteed land and given protection by Lord Toshinaga Maeda. It is a fine surviving example of a Zenshu Buddhist temple, and as a result has been designated an Important Cultural Asset. Currently eleven of the twelve buildings in the complex are undergoing renovation work.



Interior view



Drum tower

Shokoji Temple,／◆ 9:00~16:00 ★ Those of high school age or older: 300 Yen (donation to the renovation fund) ☆ Open all year ☎ 0766-44-0037 ● From JR Fushiki Station: 4 Minutes on foot ○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C: 15 minutes

Enquiries about Fushiki tourism Fushiki Tourism Promotion Centre,／☎ 0766-44-1199



20 Gofuku-machi Shrine
[Municipal Cultural Asset]



21 Ote-machi Shrine
[Municipal Cultural Asset]

These small village shrines were built to gain divine protection for the grave of Lord Toshinaga



19 The grounds of Shokoji Temple

It is said that the Provincial Government used to be sited here. The earthen walls and ditches around the complex are all that remains of the medieval Furukofu Castle which also occupied the same site. The ditch in front of the Inner Gate is said to be the moat of the old castle.

Look! The Seven Wonders of Shokoji Temple

- 1 The Gingko tree which bears no fruit (In front of the main hall)
- 2 The stone which fell from the sky (In front of the main hall)
- 3 The pond which never dries up (South of the main hall)
- 4 The Amulet Pillar (Inside the south part of the main hall)
- 5 The Cloud Dragon Inkstone (Treasury)
- 6 The Three Leaf Pine (North side of the main hall)
- 7 The Roof Supporting Monkey (Roof eaves)



Remains of Provincial Government House

Within the temple's grounds, there are three monuments commemorating the Manyoshu anthology of poems.



Recommended sight

Takaoka Fushiki Kitamae Transport Museum(in the Former Akimoto Residence)
[Designated as a Municipal Cultural Asset]

This former wholesale centre, which stocked goods from all over Japan thanks to Fushiki's thriving merchant shipping, has the city's only remaining watchtower. The museum introduces the history of Fushiki and the surrounding villages, and the shipping and trade which made it rich.

◆ 9:00~16:00 ★ Adults 210 Yen, Free for those of junior high school age or younger ☆ New Year ☎ 0766-44-3999 ● From JR Fushiki Station: 10 Minutes on foot ○ From Noetsu Expressway Takaoka-kita I.C: 15 minutes

Timeline <The heritage of religion>

1584	Shokoji Temple moves to its current location in Fushiki
1585	Lord Toshinaga grants his protection to Shokoji Temple
1609	Lord Toshinaga completes Takaoka Castle
1614	Lord Toshinaga dies
1615	Takaoka Castle is demolished under the 'One Province, One Castle' decree
1646	Lord Toshinaga's grave is constructed
1663	Construction of Zuiryuji Temple is completed
1795	Shokoji Temple Main Hall is completed
1985-1996	Zuiryuji Temple undergoes extensive renovation
1997	Three of Zuiryuji Temple's buildings are designated National Treasures
1998-2004	The first stage of Shukoji Temple's renovation, on the main hall, is carried out
2005-2018 (Planned)	The second stage of Shokoji Temple's renovation is carried out

Making 'The Cultural Heritage of Modern Takaoka' A World Heritage Site

Here in Takaoka, we are aiming to have 'The Cultural Heritage of Modern Takaoka' designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In September 2008, our cultural heritage was given a very favourable evaluation by the Cultural Affairs Agency, and was placed on a provisional list of candidate sites to become Japanese Cultural Assets.

The Cultural Heritage of Modern Takaoka

In Takaoka, the architecture and streetscapes which illustrate this city's history are splendidly preserved, to a level consistent with that of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a classic example of cultural heritage which demonstrates to the world the founding and development process of cities in Japan. In addition, we have a strong desire to protect and hand down this heritage, which has been passed down to us over so many years, to the next generation and beyond.

2009 Takaoka's 400th Anniversary

In the Nara Period, the author of the Manyoshu anthology of poems, Otomo no Yakamochi, was sent to this area by the Emperor as regional governor. It was here that he composed the majority of that famed work. In 1609 the town was founded as a castle town by the second lord of Kaga Province, Lord Toshinaga Maeda, the Father of Takaoka. Even after the Castle had to be demolished under the 'One province, one castle' decree in 1615, third lord Toshitsune Maeda and the people of Takaoka worked tirelessly to protect and foster the industry of Takaoka, leading to the development of Takaoka bronze ware and lacquerware. It is as a thriving town of commerce and industry that we proceed towards our 400th Anniversary in 2009.



Amaharashi Coast Quasi-national Park