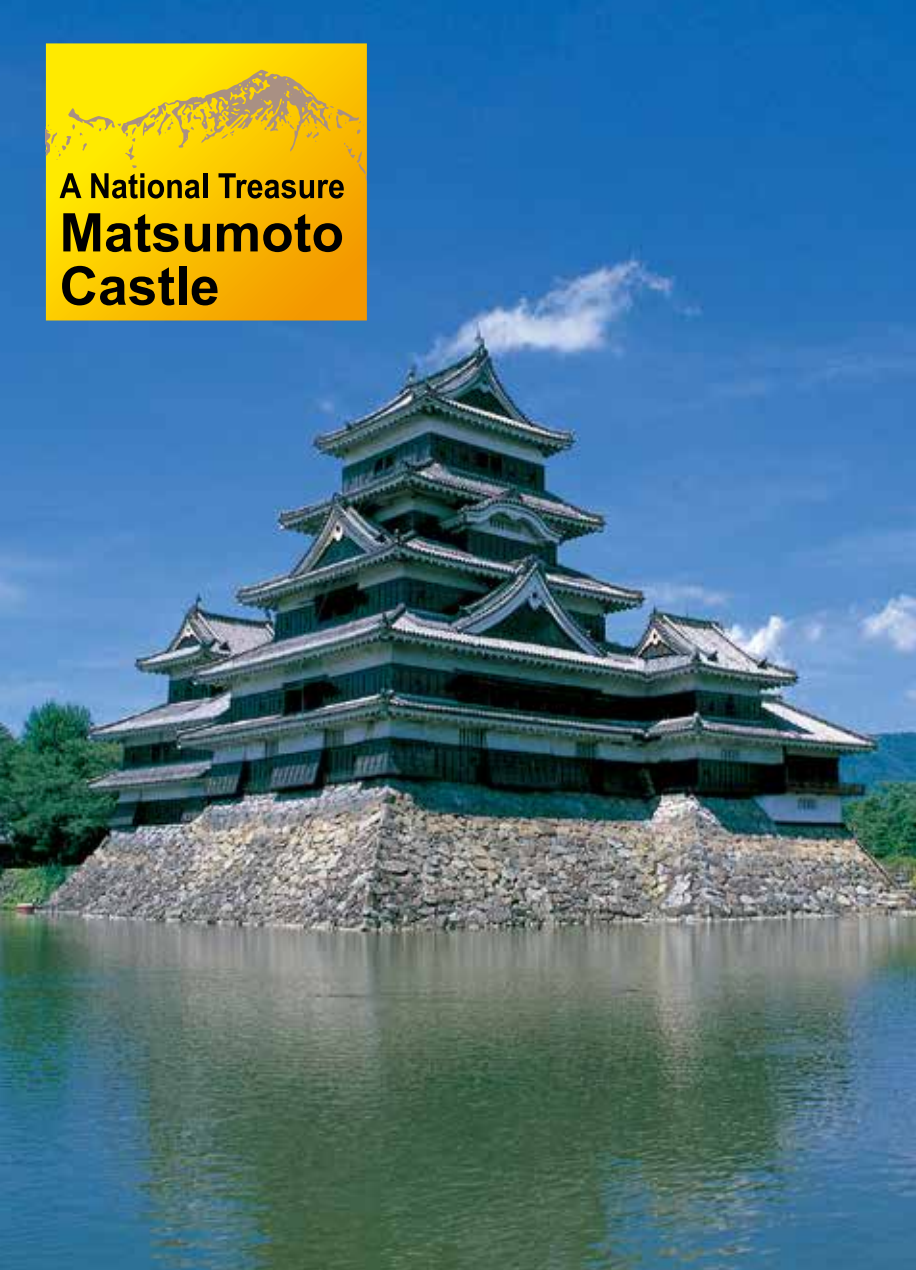


A National Treasure
Matsumoto Castle



Successors of the lords of Matsumoto Clan (23 generations of 6 families)					
	Sasa-rindo	Ishikawa Family: (1590-1613)	1. Kazumasa 80,000 Goku	2. Yasunaga,	
	Sangai-bishi	Ogasawara Family: (1613-1617)	3. Hidemasa 80,000 Goku	4. Tadazane,	
	Hanare-mutu-boshi	Toda Senior Family: (1617-1633)	5. Yasunaga 70,000 Goku	6. Yasunao,	
	Maru-ni-mitsuba-aoi	Matsudaira Family: (1633-1638)	7. Naomasa, 70,000 Goku		
	Kuromochi-ni-tatemokko	Hotta Family: (1638-1642)	8. Masamori, 100,000 Goku, including 70,000 Goku of Matsumoto Clan		
	Maru-ni-tachi-omodaka	Mizuno Family: (1642-1725)	9. Tadakiyo 11. Tadanao 13. Tadamoto	10. Tadamoto 12. Tadachika 14. Tadatsune, 70,000 Goku	
	Hanare-mutu-boshi	Toda Junior Family: (1726-1869)	15. Mitsuchika 17. Mitsuyasu 19. Mitsuyoshi 21. Mitsutsura 23. Mitsuhsa, 60,000 Goku	16. Mituo 18. Mitsumasa 20. Mitsuyuki 22. Mitsutsune	

Tourists Information

Hours : 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (entry before 4:30 PM)
Closed : December 29 to 31
(However, be sure to check the hours for January 1 to January 3.)

Administration Office of the Matsumoto Castle
4-1 Marunouchi, Matsumoto City, Nagano, Japan 390-0873
Tel: 0263-32-2902 Fax: 0263-32-2904
URL <https://www.matsumoto-castle.jp/>



Origin
The origin of Matsumoto Castle goes back to Fukashi Fort. It was built in the early 16th century during the Warring States period. During those troubled time, Lord Ogasawara in *Shinano* (current Nagano Prefecture) moved his fort from Igawa, the center of Matsumoto plain, to Hayashi Fort, at the eastern foot of the mountains. At that time, his retainers built their forts around Hayashi Fort to protect the lord's territory. Fukashi Fort was one of them to protect the front line of Hayashi Fort. After that, Takeda Shingen of *Kai* (current Yamanashi Prefecture) forced out Lord Ogasawara and create a strongpoint for the conquest of *Shinano*. In 1582, Ogasawara Sadayoshi recaptured Fukashi Fort. He took advantage of nation-wide confusion when Oda Nobunaga was killed by his retainer, Akechi Mitsuhide, at Honno-ji Incident. Sadayoshi changed the name to Matsumoto Castle at that time.

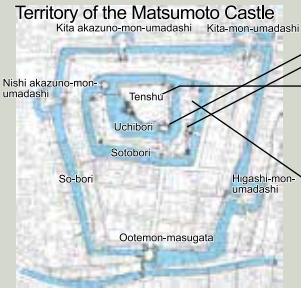
Construction of Tenshu (the Tower Complex)
After Toyotomi Hideyoshi dominated the whole country by defeating Hojo Ujinao at Odawara Castle in 1590, he allocated the Kanto area to Tokugawa Ieyasu. Ogasawara Hidemasa, the lord of Matsumoto Castle at that time, was made to move to Shimoosa in Kanto by following Ieyasu. Hideyoshi appointed Ishikawa Kazumasa as the new lord of Matsumoto Castle. Kazumasa and Yasunaga, his son, managed the castle and the town. Yasunaga built not only the tower complex including the main tower, *inui-kotenshu* (the small northern tower), and *watari-yagura* (the roofed passage), but also built the palaces, *taiko-mon* (the drum gate), *kuro-mon* (the black gate), towers, and fences. He secured *bonnmaru* (the first enclosure) and *ninomaru* (the second enclosure), gathered warriors in *sannomaru* (the third enclosure), and as a result, has established the infrastructure for Matsumoto Castle as a modern fortress. It is estimated that the towers were built in 1593 to 1594 during Yasunaga's time in power.

Impressive environment and landscape to emphasize the beauty of the existing oldest five-story main tower in Japan. Don't miss historical, cultural and artistic value of the Tower Complex.



Kuro-mon (the Black Gate)

The main gate for the first enclosure is the Black Gate. This double-gated *masugata* (box-shaped courtyard) is essential for castle defense. The first tower gate was rebuilt in 1960. The second gate, the box-shaped courtyard and the outside wall were reconstructed in 1990.



Notable benefactors who have preserved the Tower Complex

The main tower of Matsumoto Castle faced demolition after the Meiji Restoration as an outdated symbol of the feudal age. Ichikawa Ryozo and others were concerned about losing the main tower. They overcame many difficulties, bought back and preserved it. However, the desolation of the tower complex didn't stop Kobayashi Unari, the principal of Former Matsumoto Junior High School, and others worried about this situation, and established a preservation organization in 1901. Major restoration was completed 12 years later, and they prevented the devastation of the tower complex.



Taiko-mon (the Drum Gate)

The Drum Gate was originally built in 1594 to 1595. A drum and a bell were kept in the Drum Tower, which used to stand behind the north wall of the Drum Tower. The drum and the bell were used to tell the time, work hours, and as signals in emergencies. The drum gate was reconstructed in 1999.



Site of the Honmaru Palace

The Honmaru Palace was built after the completion of the tower complex, and was used as the lord's palace. It was the local government headquarters, the hub of political life, as well. It was burnt down in 1727 and has never been rebuilt.



Site of the Ni-no-maru Palace

After the Honmaru Palace burned down, the administrative headquarters was moved to the Ni-no-maru Palace, and became the center of politics until the end of the *Edo* period. The ruins were excavated from 1979 until 1985, and now, it is a historical park.

Black and solid tower complex for warfare versus graceful *tatsumituke-yagura* (the southern wing) and *tsukimi-yagura* (the moon-viewing wing) built during a time of piece. Various excellent techniques to build the castle tower complex have been carried down to the present day.



Dark rooms without windows, the third floor of the main tower. Although the *tenshu* seems a five-story building from the outside, it actually has six floors inside. The third floor is the safest area as it cannot be seen from the outside; it was a secret to enemies. Warriors stayed here during wartime. This floor is dark with very little sunlight coming in through the south latticework.



Distinctive windows on the second floor of the main tower. This floor is much brighter than the others because of three *tategoshi-mado* or *musha-mado* (vertical latticed windows or warrior windows) in the east, west and south. The floor has four rooms. The rooms were believed to be used as warriors' rooms. Here gathered warriors.



The armory of Matsumoto Castle on the second floor of the tower complex. A huge collection of muskets and valuable related things are displayed here. These were donated by the late Michishige and Kayoko Akahane from Matsumoto City.

Two buildings were added during peacetime

1) **The southern wing** is in the south of the main tower. The wing and the moon-viewing wing were built at the same time in the 1630's. The windows on the first floor are a warrior-window style, and the ones on the second floor are bell-shaped windows. Inside of the bell-shaped windows are grooves to drain rainwater.



2) **Tsukimi-yagura (the moon-viewing wing)**. This wing was used to enjoy moon-viewing, a popular pastime for Japanese. Three sides of the room (north, east and south) are open to the air when *mairado* (sliding doors) are removed. The vermillion-lacquered balcony around the room and the ship-hull-shaped ceiling create a wide-open feeling. These features are quite different from the main tower, the roofed passage, and the small northern tower.

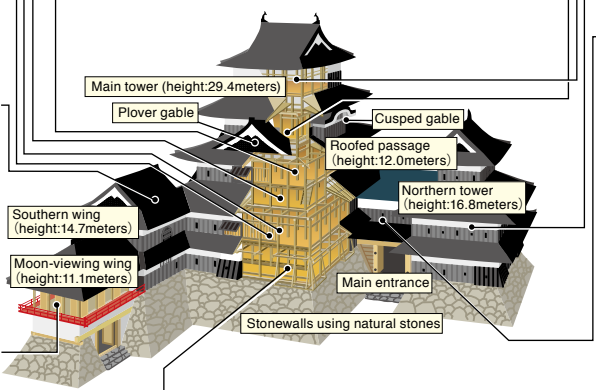


Stairs from the fifth to the sixth floor of the main tower. It is believed that the fifth floor was used as a war room for tactical meetings by military officers during wartime. As the ceiling is 4.54 meters high, higher than the other floors, the landing of stairs is installed to gently go up to the sixth floor.



Goza-no-ma (the lord's sitting room) on the fourth floor of the main tower.

This residential style room could be a temporary lord's sitting room. The lord could stay here during emergencies. The room has a high ceiling with sunlight coming in from all four directions. The pillars are made of Japanese cypress and smoothed out with a plane. There are upper walls above the door headers. The whole room was exquisitely built.



Pillars on the first floor of the main tower.

Spruce hemlock, Japanese cypress and pine are used for the pillars. It is believed that this room was used for the storage of food, weapons, and ammunition.



The top floor, the sixth floor of the main tower was the watchtower during wartime. To support the heavy roof, four large beams were built into the parallel crosses in the ceiling using 20 thick logs as levers. *Nijuro-ku-ya-shin* (the goddess of the 26th night of the month) is enshrined in the center of the ceiling to protect the castle.



Maruta-bashira (log pillars) at the small northern tower. A number of log pillars are used inside the tower. Twelve pillars on the third and fourth floors survived for over 400 years since the castle complex was initially built.



Wadari-yagura (the roofed passage) connects the main tower and the small northern tower. The main entrance on the bottom of the passage is the entrance to the complex. Its solid doors stopped people from entering. The *karwara* (roof tiles) on the main tower and Japanese iron nails are exhibited on the second floor.



Sama (shooting holes) and Ishio-toshi (stone drops). The Tower Complex was equipped with devices to fight against muskets, which were the major weapons in the warring period. There are 62 *ya-zama* (shooting holes for arrows) and 55 *teppo-zama* (shooting holes for firearms) through the thick walls. Stone drops on the first floor of the main tower, the small northern tower and the roofed passage prevented enemies from climbing up the stone walls. Warriors shot muskets through the stone drops as well.

