



Yanagisawa Shrine



Gokuraku Bridge



Koriyama Castle Keep Base

# Castle Route

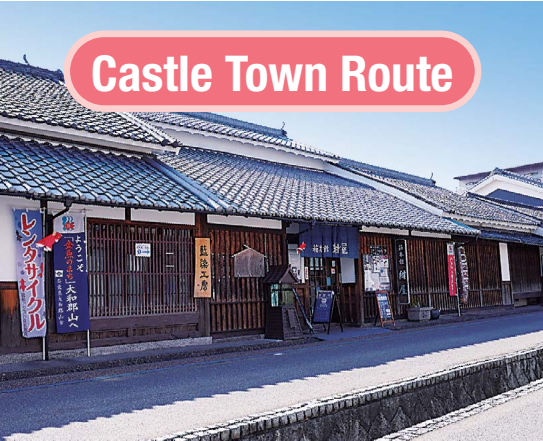
## Yamato Koriyama Accessible Sightseeing Map

For Enjoying Sightseeing in Wheelchairs and Strollers



Yamato Koriyama History Club

# Castle Town Route



Hakomotokani Kon-ya



Koriyama Hachiman Shrine



Honke Kikuyari



Genkuro Inari Shrine



Yakuon Hachiman Shrine

# Castle Route

## Summary & Notes

The 2 km route starts from Kintetsu Koriyama Station, visiting the ruins of Koriyama Castle and the base of the castle keep, and returns to Kintetsu Koriyama Station. Although visitors can see Koriyama Castle Ruins' well-preserved natural stone walls from the Sengoku period (from the late 15th century to the 16th century), the elevation between the station and the castle keep base is about 20 meters, and two steep slopes and one railroad crossing make it difficult for wheelchair users to navigate without assistance. Also, the street in front of Koriyama High School in the castle ruins requires attention due to heavy traffic.



### 1 Kintetsu Koriyama Station

This is the starting and returning point. The station building has ramps.



### 2 Shopping district sign in front of Koriyama Station

Go east at the shopping district's sign.



### 3 Turn left at the site of the old Koriyama Primary School gatepost

Turn left at the gatepost and continue north. The gatepost is a remnant of the Koriyama Primary School located here until 1971.



### 5 Railroad crossing

With wheelchairs, care must be taken to prevent the front wheels from getting trapped between the tracks.



### 4 Intersection at the post box

Cross the street. Pay attention as there are no lights at this pedestrian crossing.



### 3 Intersection in front of the City Hall

Go straight through the intersection. This area was the Masugata, the main entrance to Koriyama Castle in the Edo period (1603 – 1867)



### 6 From the railroad crossing to the Kurogane Gate

A steep slope continues from the area to the castle keep base, requiring considerable strength for carers to push manual wheelchairs.



### 7 Y-junction ⚠️

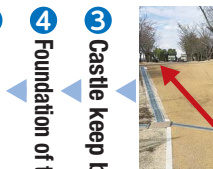
Cross the street and turn right at the Y-junction to reach the inner moat viewpoint. Traffic is heavy, so pay extra attention when crossing.



### 1 Inner moat viewpoint

### 8 Yanagisawa Shrine's torii gate

The area from the torii gate to the Chikurin Gate ruins was paved in 2021.



### 11 From the site of Hakutaku Gate to the castle keep base ⚠️

The passage from the site of Hakutaku Gate to the castle keep base is also steep for wheelchairs, so a carer's assistance is essential.



### 2 Gokuraku Bridge



### 9 The site of Chikurin Gate ⚠️

The site of Chikurin Gate has a steep cobbled slope, so a carer's assistance is essential when passing through in a wheelchair.



### 10 The site of Hakutaku Gate

Hakutaku Gate was a Yagura-mon built on the castle's principal compound side of Gokuraku Bridge. The stone turret walls have survived to this day.

### 4 Foundation of the Hajimon Gate







### 3 Castle keep base

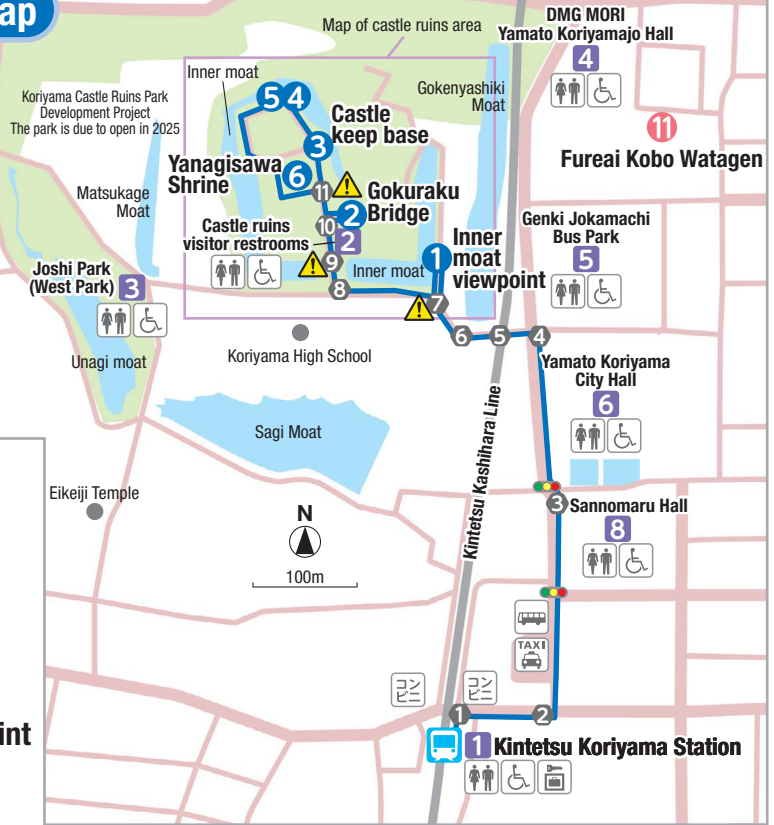
### 4 Foundation of the Hajimon Gate

### 5 Sakasa Jizo

### 6 Yanagisawa Shrine

# Castle Route Map

Legend	
	Public restrooms
	Accessible restrooms
	Coin-operated lockers
	Bus terminal
	Taxis
	Convenience stores



## 1 Inner moat viewpoint

The place offers a close view of the Inner moat's water.

There is a break in the planting about 50 meters from the Y-junction.



## 2 Gokuraku Bridge

The bridge used for accessing the main castle compound during the Edo period was lost in early Meiji and rebuilt in 2021. The bridge stands about eight meters above the Inner moat.

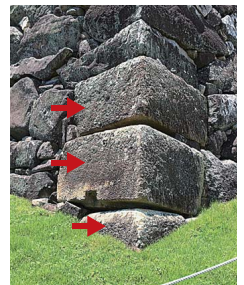
Wheelchairs can reach the bridge's center but cannot cross because of the stairs on the east side.

\* If you request in advance, Yanagisawa Bunko can provide a simple ramp on the bridge.



## 3 Castle Keep Base

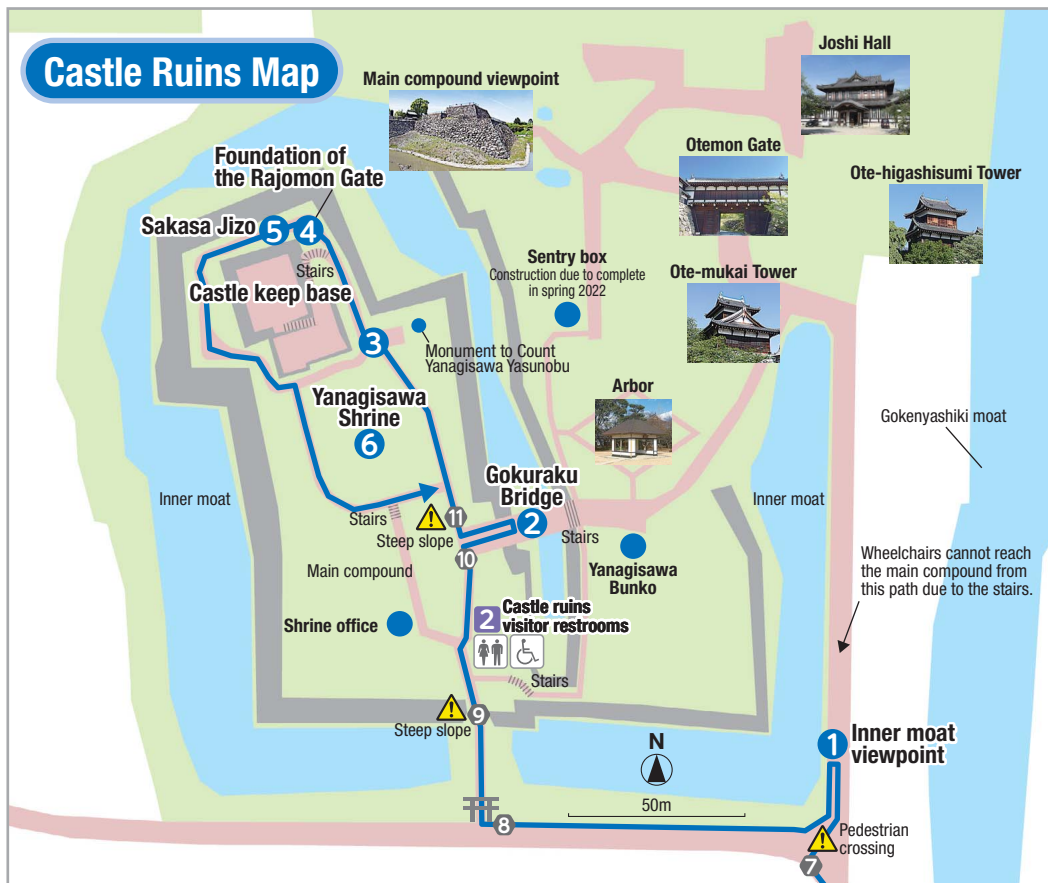
The Koriyama Castle Keep Base is a highly valuable historical site with well-preserved natural stone walls (nozurazumi) built under the Toyotomi regime at the end of the Sengoku period. A major feature of the stone walls is the use of numerous masonry re-appropriated from temple foundations, stone pagodas, and stone Buddhas. The passage at the foot of the keep is flat and paved. The 8.5-meter-high keep is not wheelchair-accessible, as it is reached by stairs.



## 4 Foundation of the Rajomon Gate

The foundation is believed to be that of Rajomon Gate, the main south gate of Heijokyo. It is made of a special stone called Tatsuyamaishi from Takasago, Hyogo Prefecture. Heijokyo's Rajomon Gate was about 1.5 km east of this location in the Nara period (The eighth century).

# Castle Ruins Map



## 5 Sakasa Jizo

This is the best-known re-appropriated stone at the Koriyama Castle Ruins. The Buddha is inserted upside down at approximately 90 cm and is inscribed 6th year of Daiei (1523). It is viewable from a wheelchair without a problem as it is located relatively low on the stone wall.



Votive picture



## 6 Yanagisawa Shrine

Yanagisawa Shrine is dedicated to Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu (the father of Yanagisawa Yoshisato), who became a lord chamberlain of the fifth shogun, Tokugawa Tsunayoshi. Yoshiyasu made a significant contribution to the rebuilding project of the Great Buddha Hall of Todaiji Temple, which is visible in the distance, as a close adviser to Shogun Tsunayoshi and Keishoin, acting as a contact on the Shogunate's side.



The seal of the castle



## Yanagisawa Bunko

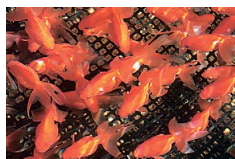
The archives of the Yanagisawa Clan, feudal lords of Koriyama Castle, possesses collections of paintings, waka poems, and old documents of successive clan lords donated by the Yanagisawa family and hosts exhibitions associated with the Yanagisawa Clan. General admission: 300 yen. Opening hours: 9 am to 5 pm (last admission is 4:30 pm). Closed on Mondays and the 4th Tuesday of the month. Wheelchairs cannot cross Gokuraku Bridge from the castle's main compound to reach Yanagisawa Bunko. The museum is not wheelchair friendly.

# 2024 Marks the 300th Anniversary of Yanagisawa Family's Relocation to Koriyama

In 1724, in the mid-Edo period, Koriyama's feudal lord Yanagisawa Yoshisato moved from Kai Province (Yamanashi Prefecture) to Yamato Koriyama with a large retinue of retainers and their families, as well as the Yanagisawa family temple, Eikeiji. The story also has it that they brought goldfish to the time.

Goldfish farming flourished from the end of the Edo period to the early Meiji as a side business for clan retainers who had lost their jobs and farmers, encouraged, and assisted by Yanagisawa Yoshinobu, the last lord of the Koriyama clan.

From Yoshisato's father, Yoshiyasu's time, the Yanagisawa family placed emphasis on its educational policy, and Yasunobu was instrumental in establishing the Nara Prefecture Jinjo Middle School (now Koriyama High School).



Goldfish are Yamato Koriyama's symbol  
About 58 million goldfish are collected each year



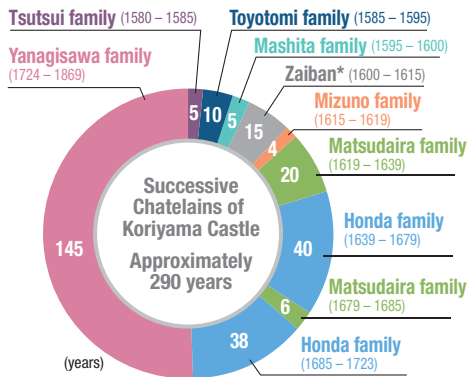
Prefectural Koriyama High School, located in Koriyama Castle Ruins.



Fukujudo Nenroku (Yanagisawa Yoshisato's official diary)  
Cultural property designated by Nara Prefecture



Monument to Count Yanagisawa Yasunobu (Monument of honor)



\*The unoccupied castle and its grounds were defended by another clan lord upon orders from the Shogunate.



## 1 Restrooms at Kintetsu Koriyama Station



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat without a bidet system, a but have diaper changing table, and an ostomate facility. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



## 2 Visitor restrooms at Castle Ruins



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system, a baby safety seat, a diaper changing table, and an ostomate facility. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



## 3 Restrooms at Joshi Park (West Park)



The single-purpose restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn. Only the women's rooms have a diaper changing table and a children's toilet.



## 4 Restrooms at DMG MORI Yamato Koriyamajo Hall



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system and a diaper changing table. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



## 5 Restrooms at Genki Jokamachi Bus Park



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat without a bidet system, but have a baby safety seat, a diaper changing table, and an ostomate facility. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



## 6 Restrooms at City Hall



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system, a baby safety seat, a diaper changing table, and an ostomate facility. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.

Legend



# Castle Town Route

## Summary & Notes

The 2.5 km course starts from Kintetsu Koriyama Station, tours around the castle town, and returns to Kintetsu Koriyama Station. The route is generally flat, but the castle town has narrow streets, and pedestrians and vehicles are not separated in over 60% of the route. Care must be taken on some streets due to heavy vehicle traffic. Attention is also required in places where the gutters are not covered.



### 1 Kintetsu Koriyama Station

This is the starting and returning point. The station building has ramps.



### 1 Shopping district's sign in front of Koriyama Station

Go east at the shopping district's sign.



### 2 Shopping district in front of Koriyama Station

There are signs, bicycles, and utility poles on both sides of the street, making it difficult to navigate in a wheelchair. There is also heavy vehicle traffic.



### 3 Tamai Tokeiten (watch/clock shop)

Turn right before Tamai Tokeiten and continue south.

### 1 Kingyo Street Yanagimachi Shopping district



### 7 Shin-kon-ya-machi intersection

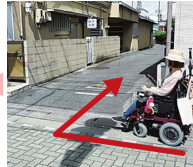
There is no space for wheelchairs to maneuver when vehicles wait for the lights to change at the intersection.

### 4 Genkuro Inari Shrine



### 6 From Yanagimachi to Tosenjicho

The streets are narrow, and the gutters do not have covers in many places.



### 5 Turn right at Yanagimachi shopping district

Go past Kitatani Gofukuten (kimono shop), turn right at the intersection 50 meters ahead, and continue east.

### 3 K COFFEE

### 2 Koriyama Hachiman Shrine



### 4 Yanagimachi shopping district

The utility poles on the street make it hard to maneuver in a wheelchair. Vehicle traffic is also heavy. The gutters do not have covers in some areas.



### 5 Nakajima Genkuro Mochi Hompo

### 8 Yatasuji Street

A gully runs alongside the street, so caution is required.



### 6 Yakuon Hachiman Shrine

### 9 From Yatasuji Street to Sotobori Ryokuchi

Cross the pedestrian crossing, turn left and continue to Sotobori Ryokuchi.



### 7 Sotobori Ryokuchi

### 10 Turn left before the condominium complex

The Sotobori Ryokuchi site is cobbled. Turn left, cross a small bridge with a ramp, and continue west.



### 11 Kon-ya-machi east end

The streets of Kon-ya-machi still have gullies running through the middle, so caution is required. There is also vehicle traffic.



### 15 Intersection in front of the City Hall

Cross the pedestrian crossing and go back in the direction of Kintetsu Koriyama Station.



### 14 In front of the City Hall

At the intersection on the corner of Honke Kikuya, cross the street to the City Hall and continue west on the sidewalk.

### 10 Honke Kikuya



### 15 From Kon-ya-machi to Yanagi Ichohime

From Kon-ya-machi, turn right toward Yanagi Ichohime and continue north. Vehicle traffic on Yanagimachi streets is heavy.

### 8 Hakomotokan Kon-ya



### 12 Cross Inomachi Road

Cross the road. The crossing has no pedestrian lights, so caution is required.

# Castle Town Route Map



100m

## Legend

- Public restrooms
- Accessible restrooms
- Coin-operated lockers
- Bicycle rental
- Bus terminal
- Taxis
- Convenience stores

## Kintetsu Koriyama Station



## 2 Koriyama Hachiman Shrine

The ancient guardian deity of Koriyama is fondly called Yanagi Hachimangu by the locals. The shrine has also become famous as the 'baseball glove shrine' in recent years.

The entrance area is graveled, but there are ramps on the approach to the shrine grounds. There are also small steps, so it would be safer to have a carer's assistance.



Votive picture

## 1 Kingyo Street Yanagimachi shopping district

Various aquariums are set up in front of the shops, creating a goldfish aquarium in town. There is also a stamp rally for collecting shop seals in Gokinyoin and Gokinyocho booklets, allowing visitors to enjoy both goldfish and a stroll down the street.



Gokinyocho



Gokinyoin

## Koriyama Hachiman Shrine

## K COFFEE



## 10 Honke Kikuya

Oshiro no Kuchi Mochi

This is Nara's oldest Japanese confectionery shop. Toyotomi Hidenaga, lord of Koriyama Castle, had Kikuya Jihei make kinako mochi (rice flour cakes filled with sweet bean jam and dusted with soybean flour) called Oshiro no Kuchi Mochi, to treat his brother Hideyoshi, which are still made today using traditional methods.

There is a small step at the shop's entrance, but the inside is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.

## 9 Nakatani's Sake Brewery & Bar

Due to open in June 2022

## 8 Hakomotokan Kon-ya



Tamai Tokeiten

Yatusuji Street

Kitatani Gofukuten

## 4 Genkuro Inari Shrine



## 3 K COFFEE

The coffee roastery/stand in a repurposed gasoline station is where anyone can drop in to enjoy a cup. It is an open-air shop, so there are no steps.



Seishu Toyotomi Hidenaga



## 9 Nakatani's Sake Brewery & Bar

Nakatani Brewing Co., Ltd., established in 1853, will open new brewery in June 2022. Visitors can drink fresh Sake and participate in making Sake (reservations required). The ground-level shop and sake-tasting space will be wheelchair accessible.

## 8 Hakomotokan Kon-ya

The tourist facility is in a repurposed townhouse of an indigo dye merchant built in the late Edo period. It has materials related to Hakomoto Jusancho, the Goldfish Collection of arts and crafts related to goldfish, a self-service cafe, an indigo-dye shop selling original designs, and an indigo-dye studio. Although some aisles are narrow, most of the facility's interiors are wheelchair accessible. The Goldfish Collection is not wheelchair accessible, as it is displayed in a tatami-matted room.

## 7 Sotobori Ryokuchi

The park makes use of the ruins of Koriyama Castle's outer moat. The Akishino River flowed through the area until the outer moat was constructed around the end of the 16th century. The grounds are cobbled but flat with no steps.



## 4 Genkuro Inari Shrine

The shrine is dedicated to a fox named Genkuro, which appears in Kabuki and Bunraku plays. One of Japan's three major Inari shrines is popular as the god of abundant crops and thriving business. The path from the torii gate to the main shrine hall is graveled, requiring considerable strength in a manual wheelchair.



Ceramic bell



## 5 Nakajima Genkuro Mochi Honpo

Genkuro Mochi is a rustic baked rice cake that evokes the ambiance of the days when the shop was located in front of the Genkuro Inari Shrine. The step to the shop has been removed, so it is wheelchair accessible.



Genkuro Mochi



## 6 Yakuon Hachiman Shrine

The shrine's name Yakuon is believed to derive from the fact that it was built on the site of a physic garden in the Nara period (The eighth century).

The grounds are cobbled and mostly flat. Ramps are installed in the hall of worship so that visitors can reach the back of the shrine to offer prayers.



Maneki Neko oracle



# Indigo-dye experience – Fureai Kobo Watagen

Toyotomi Hidenaga, the lord of Koriyama Castle, promoted the castle town by attracting influential merchants and craftsmen from all over Japan to Koriyama by employing land tax exemptions and charters (monopoly goodwill). Kon-ya was one such example. Indigo-dyeing was banned outside of Koriyama within the Nara Basin, and Kon-ya was allowed to operate in the castle town. Yamato Koriyama's indigo-dyeing has a history of over 400 years since Hidenaga issued the charter. Today, there are two indigo-dye studios in the castle town, offering taster courses for dyeing handkerchiefs and stoles in original designs using traditional Japanese indigo dye. One of them, Fureai Kobo Watagen, revived the history of Yamato Koriyama's indigo dye in 1989. It has studied the region's climate and water quality in a quest for the beauty of traditional Japanese indigo. Visitors can experience various indigo and vegetable dyeing techniques, from indigo dyeing of handkerchiefs, which can be completed in two hours and taken home, to flower dyeing (the studio's unique tie-dye technique) for more experienced dyers (up to 40 people per session). The studio has also attracted visitors from overseas in recent years. Another major feature of Fureai Kobo Watagen is that it is open to outside artists and businesses wishing to use traditional indigo dyeing.



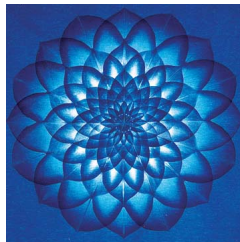
Wring the cloth and dye it in indigo → Wash repeatedly in cold water



Look!



Fureai Kobo Watagen



The studio's unique flower dyeing

Opening hours: 9 am to 5 pm  
(indigo-dyeing courses require booking)  
No scheduled holidays  
Call: 0743-52-2328  
244, Kita-Koriyamacho, Yamato Koriyama.

## Castle Route Map 11

There is a 5 cm-high step at the studio's entrance, but a staff member will place a ramp. The indigo jars are at a height accessible to wheelchair users, but those unaccustomed will require a carer's assistance. Aprons and gloves can be borrowed, but it would be better to wear clothes you do not mind getting soiled.



### 7 Restrooms at Sotobori Ryokuchi



The single-purpose restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



### 8 Restrooms at Sannomaru Hall



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system, a baby safety seat, and a diaper changing table. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



### 9 Restrooms at JR Koriyama Station



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat without a bidet system, but have a diaper changing table, and an ostomate facility. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.



### 10 Restrooms at Civic Hall



The accessible restrooms have a toilet seat with a bidet system and a diaper changing table. The space is large enough for a wheelchair to make a 360-degree turn.

Legend



# Yamato Koriyama retains the castle town ruins and layout from 400 years ago

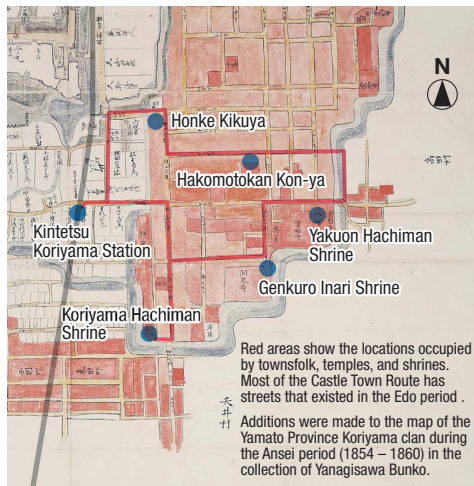


Tsutsui Junkei



Toyotomi Hidenaga

The history of Koriyama Castle dates back to 1580, when Yamato's feudal lord, Tsutsui Junkei, built the castle. In 1585, Toyotomi Hidenaga (Hideyoshi's younger brother) relocated to Koriyama and began constructing a castle and town worthy of his one million-goku (goku or koku is a measurement of rice production). Hidenaga initiated a powerful program to promote the castle town by gathering influential merchants and craftsmen from all over Japan to the southeast of the castle town and granting them autonomy and exclusive business rights. These towns called Hakomoto Jusancho were inherited by the Koriyama feudal lords during the Edo period, and Koriyama prospered as the political and economic center of Yamato Province.



## Supporting organizations

(in no particular order)



中谷酒造株式会社  
Nakatani Brewing Co., Ltd.



藤本建設株式会社

FUJIMOTO KENSETSU Inc. since1964



奈良信用金庫

Nara Shinkin Bank

## Endorsements

(in no particular order)

City of Yamato Koriyama

Yamato Koriyama City Tourism Association

Yamato Koriyama Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Koriyama Historical Ruins – Yanagisawa Bunko Conservation Society

Society for the Honor of Tsutsui Junkei

## Yamato Koriyama Accessible Sightseeing Map

Published by Yamato Koriyama History Club

Published on March 30, 2022.

This map was created with support from the Yamato Koriyama Urban Community Development Ideas Support Project

The information provided is current as of March 2022.

The inclusive tourist map includes facilities and places inaccessible to wheelchair users.

The map was supervised by the Cultural Heritage Preservation and Utilization Section, Urban Planning Division, The City of Yamato Koriyama from the historical and cultural perspective.

Accessibility information was researched in cooperation with the non-profit organization, Independent Living Support Center Freedom 21.

Permissions were obtained from the facilities and shops listed.

Some names (e.g., organization names) are provisional translations.

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