

## 1F Shop & Rest station (Free)



Various selections of gifts for souvenir to remember your visit to Kokura Castle

The shop on the 1st floor has wide selections of lovely gifts that everyone will treasure as souvenirs and as a memento of your visit. Please take your time to choose your gift among the local specialties and unique, original goods exclusive to this shop.



Help yourself to free tea service at the rest station.

Various selections of Kokura Castle souvenirs for you.

**Kokura-jo Monogatari (Kokura Castle Story)**  
Japanese sake originally made for Kokura Castle in a stylish bottle. This is the most popular gift at this shop.

- 180ml ¥580 (tax included)
- 300ml ¥750 (tax included)
- 720ml ¥1,400 (tax included)

**ZIPANG**  
Shochu in a unique bottle with a sight glass. Through that glass you can see the picture of Kokura Castle.

- 700ml ¥880 (tax included)

**Kokura Castle earthenware bell**  
Pretty earthenware bell in the shape of Kokura Castle gives a sweet sound.

- ¥735 (tax included)

Selection of handmade specialty products of Oma

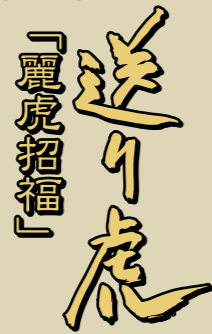
The shop has a section for natural products of Oma which is well known for bamboo shoot.

- Plum dressing ¥525 (tax included)
- Plum vinegar soybean paste ¥525 (tax included)
- Pickled plum (aged 3 years, chemical-free) ¥840 (tax included)
- Takezumi (Bamboo charcoal) ¥367 (tax included)

## Now on exhibition at the Tower



"Reikoshofuku"  
Okuri Tora  
(Tiger seeing off with blessing)



"Senkyakubanrai"  
Mukae Tora  
(Tiger greeting full of customers)



These paintings of a pair of tigers "Mukae Tora" (male tiger) and "Okuri Tora" (female tiger) were derived from the loss of Kokura Castle in 1866 (Keio Year 2) which was the year of the tiger. Please come and appreciate the powerful touch of brushwork on the biggest two paintings of this kind (4.7m high x 2.9m wide each) in Japan.

## Kokura Cultural & Historic Area Walking Map



### Kokura Castle tel.093-561-1210

Fee ■ Adult ¥350, HS&Jr.HS student ¥200, Elem.Sch. student ¥100/  
20% discount for a group of 30 people or more  
Closed ■ December 31st  
Open hours ■ April - October 9:00-18:00 (admission by 17:30) /  
November - March 9:00 - 17:00 (admission by 16:30)

### Kokura Castle Japanese Garden tel.093-582-2747

Fee ■ Adult ¥300, HS&Jr.HS student ¥150, Elem.Sch. student ¥100/  
20% discount for a group of 30 people or more  
Closed ■ December 31st  
Open hours ■ April - October 9:00-18:00 (admission by 17:30) /  
November - March 9:00 - 17:00 (admission by 16:30)

### Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum tel.093-582-2761

Fee ■ Adult ¥500, HS&Jr.HS student ¥300, Elem.Sch. student ¥200/  
20% discount for a group of 30 people or more  
Closed ■ December 31st  
Open hours ■ 9:30-18:00 (admission by 17:30)

### Joint ticket for 3 facilities

Fees are ¥700 for adult, ¥400 for high school & junior high school student,  
¥250 for elementary school student.  
Tickets are available at Kokura Castle,  
Kokura Castle Japanese Garden and Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum.

### Access

- 20 minutes walk from JR Kokura station
- 10 minutes walk from JR Nishikokura station
- 5 minutes from Kitakyushu Urban Expressway Otemachi exit

### Katsuyama Park pay car park

Business hours ■ 8:45 - 21:00  
Closed ■ December 31st

Fee ■ Standard-sized car: ¥200 for the first 1hour, ¥150 per 30 minutes subsequently  
Bus: ¥500 for the first 1hour, ¥250 per 30 minutes subsequently  
(Reservation required for bus parking) TEL 093-561-1210

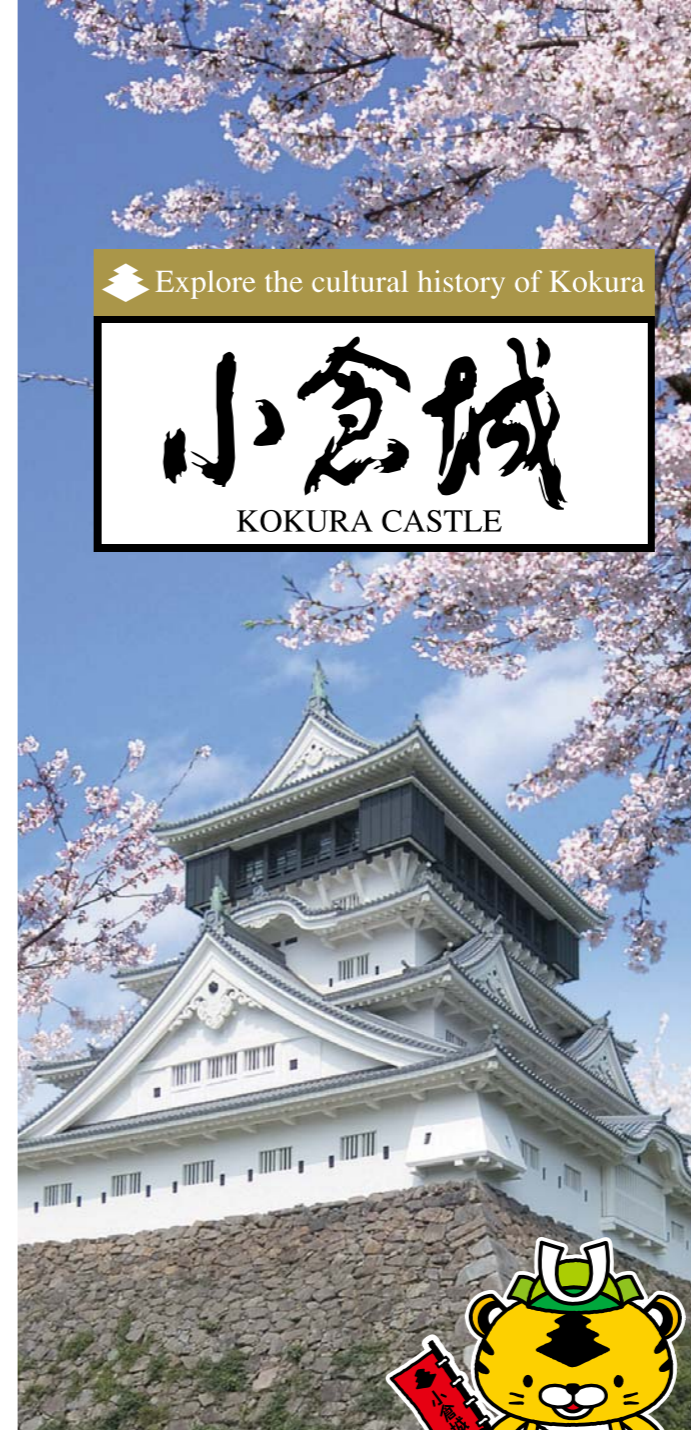
### For inquiries or information, please contact Kokura Castle

2-1 Jonai, Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu 803-0813  
TEL 093-561-1210 FAX 093-561-5246

10-03

Explore the cultural history of Kokura

小倉城  
KOKURA CASTLE



"TORATCHA"  
Kokura Castle  
Official Mascot Character

## Major festivals/events centered around Kokura Castle

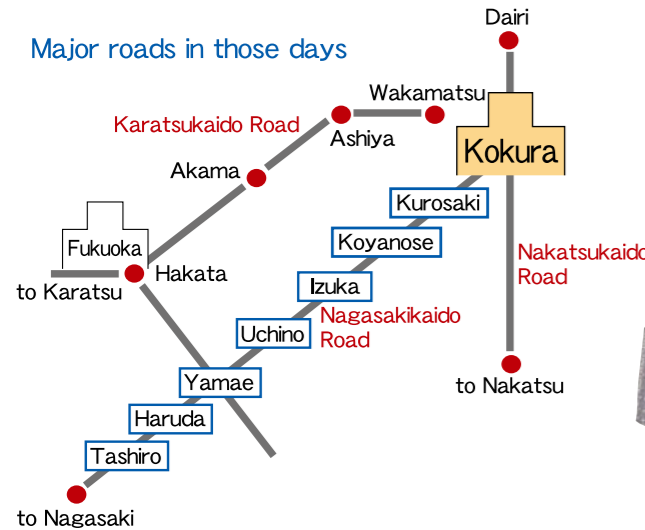


- July ■ Kokura Gion Festival (3 days around the third Saturday)
- August ■ Komonji Fire (13th, 20:00 - 21:30)
- October ■ Kitakyushu Kokura Castle Festival (The third Saturday & Sunday)
- November ■ Kokura Castle Chrysanthemum Festival (1st - 22nd)
- December ■ Festival of Rice Cakes and Okagamimochi (pair of big round rice cakes offered to God for New Year) Making at Kokura Castle
- January ■ The cutting of New Year's rice cakes (Okagamimochi) and the making of Oshiruko (sweet red-bean broth with rice cakes) at Kokura Castle

## History surrounding Kokura Castle

The history of Kokura Castle began when Hosokawa Tadaoki was rewarded with Kokura domain for his distinguished services in the battle of Sekigahara and built the castle in full-scale. Tadaoki invited merchants and skilled workers from other regions and conducted a commercial and industrial protection policy for the prosperity of the castle town. He had also encouraged active foreign trade and started Gion Festival. After Hosokawa got transferred to Kumamoto, hereditary lord Ogasawara Tadazane who was a relative to Hosokawa family by affinity moved in from Harima country Akashi and inherited this area in 1632. Kokura/Ogasawara clan had been given a mission by Shogun (military regent) Tokugawa Iemitsu to keep other feudal lords in Kyushu under its surveillance. By this time Kokura had become an important starting point of roads reaching various areas in Kyushu, and this had enhanced the prosperity of Kokura Castle and its town. During the reign of Ogasawara Tamamitsu, a landscape-garden and a pond in Kaiyu style was created around the villa located within the wall of Kokura Castle. In 1837, a fire broke out within the castle and the whole castle burnt down. The castle was rebuilt two years later without the castle tower. At the end of Tokugawa era, Kokura became a frontline base to attack the Choshu clan. Kokura and Kumamoto clan fought bravely against the Choshu group, but they could not get enough support from soldiers of other clans' in Kyushu. Eventually in 1866, Ogasawara clan retreated from the battle line and set fire to Kokura Castle by themselves. Later in 1959, Kokura Castle's tower was rebuilt in response to the earnest call by the citizens. This castle tower is called "Karakuzuri tower" and has unique architectural features. The tower is made up of five layers with a gable between each layer except the fourth and fifth layer. In addition, the fifth layer is larger than the fourth layer. The stone wall of the castle was made by heaping up the stones in a way called "Nozurazumi" without using cut stone. It looks simple, and yet dynamic.

### Major roads in those days



## KOKURA CASTLE

Lord Hosokawa Tadaoki built this beautiful Kokura Castle in 1602. Its architectural feature was called "Karakuzuri (Kara design)" at that time, which was unique and seen only in Kokura Castle. The current Kokura Castle was rebuilt in 1959 restoring its original appearance.

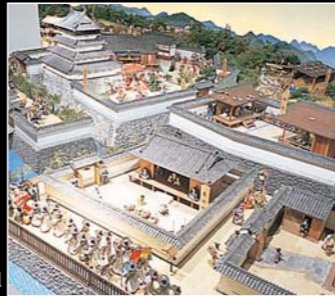


### 1st Floor History zone

Exhibition on history and culture of the castle town Kokura, as well as valuable pieces of material related to the lord of the castle at the time.

### Diorama of castle town Kokura

A panoramic view of castle town Kokura seen from a trading vessel is reproduced with some 1500 Japanese paper dolls.



### 2nd Floor Virtual Experience zone

This is an area where you can enjoy experiencing and learning about the inside of the Kokura Castle as it was back in Edo period.



**Daimyo Kago (Feudal lord's palanquin)**  
Try a simulating palanquin ride just like the real stuff and enjoy a feeling of being a lord.



**Strategy meeting before taking to the battle field**  
The scene of strategy meeting held the night before taking to the "Shimabara Uprising" is reproduced with a realistic karakuri dolls (wind-up dolls).

### 3rd Floor Visual Experience zone

Enjoy CG images shown on a vigorous large-scaled panoramic screen with a narration by karakuri dolls (wind-up dolls).



### Karakuri Theater

2 animation programs will be shown in this theater: "The story of Kokura Castle" (10 minutes) and "Express messenger Mr. Gen's side trip travelogue on Kokura castle town"



To provide more user-friendly and barrier-free access inside the castle for the person in wheel chairs and elderly people, 7 chair lifts were introduced on the 1st to 5th floor. \*Attendants required when in use.

### 4th Floor Event and exhibition zone

This is a unique, multi-purpose area to hold exhibitions on various themes related to Kokura Castle and Kitakyushu city, as well as exhibitions and events based on the idea by the citizen.



View from east side



View from west side



View from south side



View from north side

### 5th Floor Observatory zone

The tower of Kokura Castle provides a 360 degree panoramic view of Kokura town. Tourist information section is also located on this floor.

## People related to Kokura Castle



### Kokura Hosokawa Clan first lord of the castle Hosokawa Tadaoki [1563 - 1645]

After the battle of Sekigahara, he took over Kokura and built a castle in karakuzuri style which was unique and seen nowhere else across the country. He was a man of culture with a deep knowledge in Noh (Japanese lyrical Noh drama) and tea ceremony and is one of the "Rikyu's (the greatest tea master) seven most distinguished disciples". He was the lord when the duel-in-Ganryujima Island occurred.



### Tama Hosokawa (Garasha) [1563 - 1600]

The wife of Hosokawa Tadaoki and the daughter of Akechi Mitsuhide. While Tadaoki was out on an expedition for Tokugawa Ieyasu to fight against Uesugi, she rejected the request from Ishida Mitsunari to become a hostage. Her Christianity prevented her from committing suicide on her own and she died by the aid of a vassal to kill herself.



### Kokura Ogasawara Clan first lord of the castle Ogasawara Tadazane [1596- 1667]

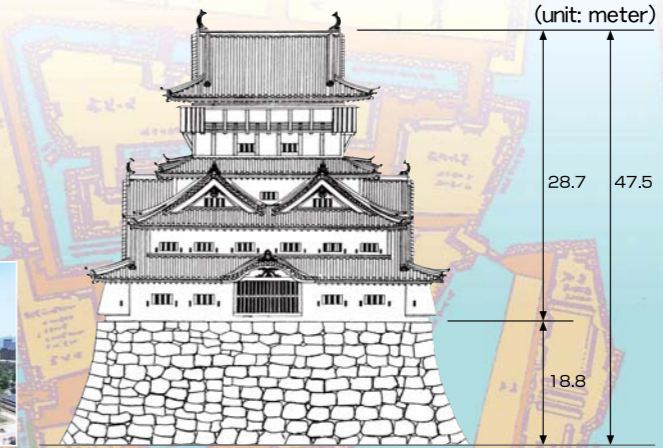
Great-grandson of Tokugawa Ieyasu. He moved in to Buzen, Kokura with a financial status of 15 mangoku rice yield from his then domain Harima country, Akashi (10 mangoku rice yield). He invited Obaku Zen Sect monk "Sokuh" to Kokura and built Obaku Zen Sect temples, which led to the expansion of Obaku culture in this region.



### Miyamoto Musashi [1582- 1645]

He is famous for the duel he fought in Ganryujima Island against Sasaki Kojiro who was coaching swordsmanship at Kokura Clan (Hosokawa Clan period). His adopted son Iori was a chief retainer of the Ogasawara Clan, so Musashi spent 7 years in Kokura, which was the longest period of time he had spent at one place in his life.

## Kokura Castle Tower Data



## Chronology of Kokura Castle (Summary)

Year (Western Calendar)	Lord of the castle	Events
Keicho Year 7 (1602)	Hosokawa Tadaoki	Built and moved in to a grand-scale Kokura Castle.
Genwa Year 6 (1620)	Hosokawa Tadatoshi	Tadaoki retired (to Nakatsu Castle)
Kanei Year 9 (1632)	Ogasawara Tadazane	Tadatoshi got transferred to Higo country. Lord of Akashi Castle Ogasawara Tadazane moved in to Kokura (15 mangoku rice yield).
Karibun Year 7 (1667)	Ogasawara Tadataka	
Kyoho Year 10 (1725)	Ogasawara Tadamoto	
Hourei Year 2 (1752)	Ogasawara Tadafusa	
Tenmei Year 8 (1788)		Feudal clans school Shieikan was founded with Ishikawa Hikotake as a president.
Kansei Year 3 (1791)	Ogasawara Tamamitsu	Chief retainer Inukai Tomohiro / Major reforms of domain duties (1777 - 1802)
Bunke Year 1 (1804)	Ogasawara Tadakata	
Tempo Year 8 (1837)		Fire broke out inside the castle. The castle tower and the central compound burnt down. (The castle was rebuilt in Tempo Year 10 without the castle tower)
Tempo Year 14 (1843)	Ogasawara Tadaakira	
Ansei Year 3 (1856)	Ogasawara Tadahiro	
Manen Year 1 (1860)	Ogasawara Tadayoshi	
Genji Year 1 (1864)		
Keio Year 1 (1865)		Edo Bakufu (government of Edo) gave its first order to suppress the Choshu clan. Edo Bakufu's second order to suppress the Choshu clan. Lord of the castle died, but his death was veiled as a secret. Toyochiyomaru became 4 years old. Battle against the Choshu clan. Retreated to Kiku county border.
Keio Year 2 (1866)		Peace treaty between Choshu and Ogasawara clans. Kawara domain (Tagawa County, Kawara town).
Keio Year 3 (1867)		Toyochiyomaru (Tadanobu) inherited the estate and became the lord of Kawara domain.
Meiji Year 2 (1869)		Tadanobu returned the lands and people of domain to the emperor.
Meiji Year 3 (1870)		Clan administration was transferred to Toyotsu (Toyotsu domain).
Meiji Year 4 (1871)		Abolition of clans and establishment of prefectures (Toyotsu Prefecture). Establishment of Kokura Prefecture. (Consolidated to Fukuoka Prefecture in 1876)
Showa Year 34 (1959)		The tower of Kokura Castle was rebuilt.
Showa Year 46 (1971)		Kitakyushu city History Museum opened.
Showa Year 50 (1975)		Kitakyushu city History Museum closed. Kitakyushu city Kyushu Folk Art History Museum opened.
Heisei Year 2 (1990)		Kitakyushu city Kyushu Folk Art History Museum closed.
Heisei Year 10 (1998)		Full renovation of Kokura Castle interior. Kokura Castle Japanese Garden and Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum opened.
Heisei Year 14 (2002)		400-year anniversary. Renewal of Karakuri Theater on the 3rd floor. Introduction of chair lifts.