

◆ Historical Time Line

Era	What happened in the world?
1127	The Southern Song Dynasty is founded.
1143	The Kingdom of Portugal is established.
1209	Genghis Khan unifies Mongolia.
1271	The Gen Dynasty is founded in China.
1299	<i>The Travels of Marco Polo</i> is published.
1347	The Black Plague spreads to Europe.
1368	The Ming Dynasty is founded in China.
1392	The Joseon Dynasty is founded.
1492	Christopher Columbus arrives in America.
1543	The Portuguese introduce guns to Japan.
1549	Francis Xavier evangelizes Christianity in Japan.

Era	What happened in Iyo-no-Kuni?
1180	Michinobu Kono and his father become allies of the Genji clan.
1221	Michinobu Kono allies with the Retired Emperor Go-Toba and is defeated in the Jokyu War.
1280	Ippen starts the Jishu sect of Buddhism.
1281	Michiari Kono defeats the Mongol Invasion.
1342	The Kutsuna clan attacks Yuzuki Castle in support of the Nancho Imperial Court.
1465	The Ouchi clan's army and Norimichi Kono fight against the Hosokawa clan's army around the castle.
1481	Norimichi rebuilds Ishite-ji Temple.
1535	Michinao Kono builds the castle's outer moat.
1585	Another Michinao Kono (Ushifukumaru) surrenders the castle to Takakage Kobayakawa.
1586	Spanish and Italian missionaries proselytize Christianity in Dogo.
1590	Hideyoshi Toyotomi unifies Japan.

The Pride of the Kono Clan Lives on in Yuzuki Castle.

Information

Dogo Park

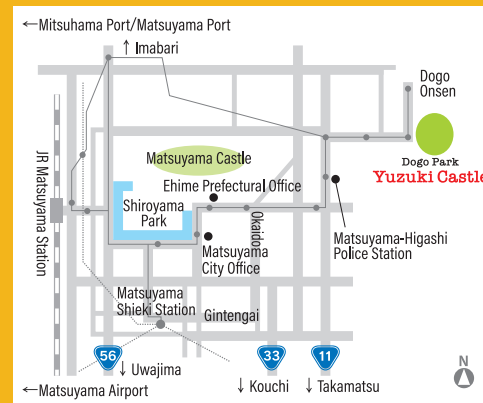
Open: 24 hours, 7 days a week
Admission: Free

Exhibition Facilities

Open: 9:00~17:00
Closed: Mondays*(Open when a national holidays falls on Monday, but closed the following Tuesday)
: December 29th~January 3rd
Admission: Free

Parking

Standard-sized car: ¥100/30min (Open 24 hours)
Large-sized tour bus: ¥160/30min,
9:00~17:00, during museum hours



How to Find Us

By Taxi: 15 min from JR Matsuyama Station (Matsuyama Eki)
: 30 min from Matsuyama Airport (Matsuyama Kukou)
: 30 min from Mitsuhamma Port (Mitsuhamma Kou)
: 40 min from Matsuyama Port (Takahama Kanko Kou)

By Streetcar/Bus: Dogo Kouen Station (Dogo Kouen)
By Car: 20 min from Matsuyama IC Expressway

Yuzuki Castle Museum (Office)

Phone 089-941-1480

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Dogo Park

The Ruins of Yuzuki Castle

A National Designated Historic Site



One of Japan's Top 100 Greatest Castles
One of Japan's Top 100 Historical Parks

The Reign of the Kono Clan Spanned Over 250 Years

◆ The history of the Kono clan and Yuzuki Castle

The Kono clan originated from Kazahaya-Gun, Kono-Go (modern day Hojo) in Shikoku's Iyo-no-Kuni (modern day Ehime Prefecture).

During the Gempei War (1180-1185) between the rival Heike and Genji clans, **Michinobu Kono** fought for the Genji and contributed to their eventual victory, increasing the family's power in the realm through the beginning of Kamakura Period (1185-1333).

Chishin, a prominent grandson of Michinobu, changed his name to Ippen and became a famous priest, starting the sect of Buddhism known as Ji-shu which flourished throughout the Kamakura Period.

Although the clan lost influence during the Jokyu War (1221), **Michiari Kono** rendered distinguished service during the Mongol Invasion of 1281, resulting in the restoration of the family's former prominence.

During the Namboku-cho Period (1336-1392), **Michimori Kono** moved the clan's seat of power from Kono-Go to the more prosperous area of Yuzuki Castle in Dogo.

Around 1535, **Michinao Kono** constructed the outer moat of the castle and cemented a relationship with his son-in-law and leader of the pirates of the Inland Sea, Michiyasu Murakami, in the hopes of increasing the clan's power.

But **another Michinao** (Ushifukumaru), the last heir of the Kono clan, surrendered Yuzuki Castle to the forces of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the first ruler of a unified Japan, when his forces invaded Shikoku in 1585. This capitulation led to the fall of the Kono clan.

The Ruins Tell the Story of the History and Traditions of Iyo

1 Yuzuki Castle Museum

Here you can learn about the history of the Kono clan and the lives of the samurai who lived in the castle through excavated artifacts, panels, and videos.



2 Samurai House 1

The one room houses are presumed to have been decorated as shown based on knowledge gained through excavations.



3 Samurai House 2

This is used as an exhibition facility where you can learn about various medieval tools and how they were used.



Map of the Reconstructed Castle Complex



◆ Yuzuki Castle Overview

Area/about 8.5ha
North-South/about 350m
East-West/about 300m
Hilltop/altitude 71m Relative height 31m



4 Earthwork Exhibition Room

This room houses a cross section of the castle's earthen foundations. A rare exhibit among Japanese ruins, here you can get a firsthand look at the castle structure and the process used in its construction.



5 Garden Area - Senior Samurai Residential Area

This area is where the senior samurai are believed to have lived. Relics are displayed on the spacious grass square. (Photo right)

6 The Healing Cauldron, A Prefectural Cultural Asset

This cauldron is inscribed with the words *na-mu-a-mi-da-but-su* ("May his soul rest in peace") followed by a confirmation of the medicinal benefits of the areas hot springs. These inscriptions, believed to have been inscribed by the priest Ippen at the request of Michiari Kono, make this cauldron one of the areas most important cultural assets.



Yuzuki Castle Shows Us What Life Was Like Long Ago

◆ Excavation and research results

Excavation of the Yuzuki Castle Ruins began in 1988 and focused mainly on a 20,000 square meter area of the south side of the park.

It revealed that people living in and around the castle used the land practically, but also separated its usage based on social class. Their houses were divided by low mud walls. The southeastern section was also divided by mud walls but allowed for much more housing space and even a garden, leading to the conclusion that this was the senior samurai residential district. The road with drainage runs along the inner side of the outer moat. The southwestern area of the castle complex is thought to be the retainers' residential district, where lay samurai and their families lived.

Yuzuki Castle is the ruin of a medieval-era castle—something that is extremely rare in Japan. The structure was an example of a castle built on flat land, known as a land castle. The ruins now found on the hill in the center of the park were surrounded by double moats and earthworks. The castle was originally built atop a natural hill, but in the 16th century the outer moat and earthworks are presumed to have been constructed, making the remains of the castle take the shape that we know today.

The remains of moats and earthen walls have been uncovered on the site, and items including imported ceramics have also been excavated. These artifacts are not only very old but also archeologically valuable.

Many kinds of relics were also discovered among the ruins, giving us important insights into castle life in the time of Yuzuki Castle.

Here you can enjoy each of the year's seasons to the fullest as you stroll through the park's paths, surrounded by nature and history.



Cherry blossoms Daphne



Crape myrtle Water fringe



Maiden flower Maple



Camellia Plum

Do you want to know more about Yuzuki Castle and its history?

FREE! Guide hours/9:00~17:00

Tours on Dogo Park and Yuzuki Castle are available. Please ask museum staff for more information.