SHIBATA Castle

Established in 1654

A historic castle of the Shibata Domain

Explore the Castle
50 mins



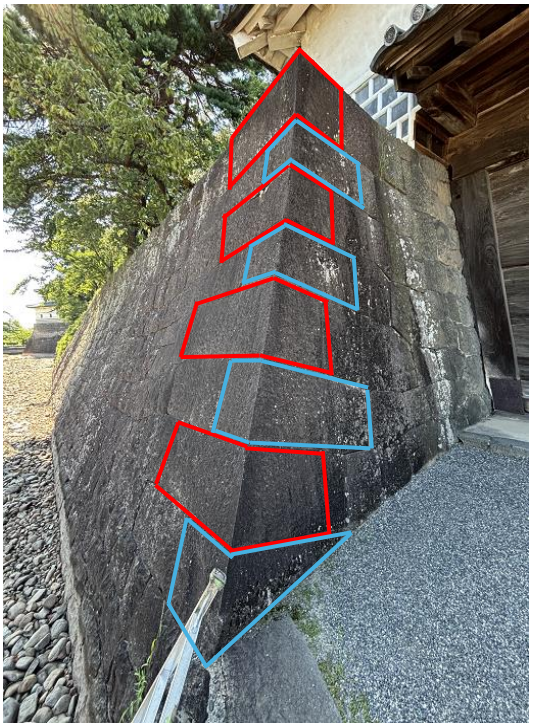
The Omote-mon (Main Gate) of Shibata Castle was built in approx. 1732



The main gate has a special feature the Ishiotoshi (stone drop chutes) used against enemies



The beauty of the edges lines and the stability of the corner stone walls were assured by the Sankizumi construction method





The entrance is located on the side of the building



The upper space exhibits the records of the reconstruction process of the Sankai-yagura (the three-story tower)

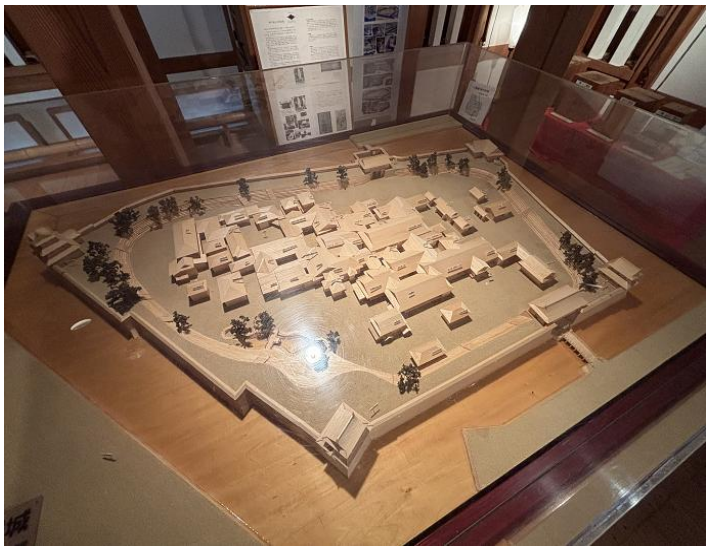


The stone walls (total 350m long) were created by the so-called Kirikomihagi which was the technique of shaping stones and pilling them up without spaces between the stones



The Namako-Kabe wall used roof tiles to protect it against snow

The Honmaru had a total of 107 rooms





◆ The Tatsumi-yagura

A tower reconstructed in 2004 used old photographs and documents as a reference

Can you see an original roof tile excavated during the reconstruction process?



The SHIBATA Domain

The Shibata Domain was ruled by the Mizoguchi family throughout the Edo period.
Its first lord, Mizoguchi Hidekatsu, entered the domain in 1598 (the 3rd year of the Keichō era) from Daishōji in Kaga Province with a fief of 60,000 koku of rice and the domain remained under the Mizoguchi family's rule through the 12th lord, Naomasa. (one koku=150 kilograms)



The stone wall juts out twice to allow the attacking of enemies from the sides



◆ **The Kyu-Ninomaru-sumiyagura**

24.7.2026-5.2.2027 It is closed for Preservation construction work



◆ **The Sankai-yagura (Three-story Tower)**

A unique tower that has three Shachihoko figures (usually a pair) on the top of the T-shaped roof of the tower, two male and one female

This tower is closed to the public because it is located in a restricted military area



Shachihoko (female)
A mythical creature with the head of a tiger and the body of a fish
It can spout water and protect castle from a fire

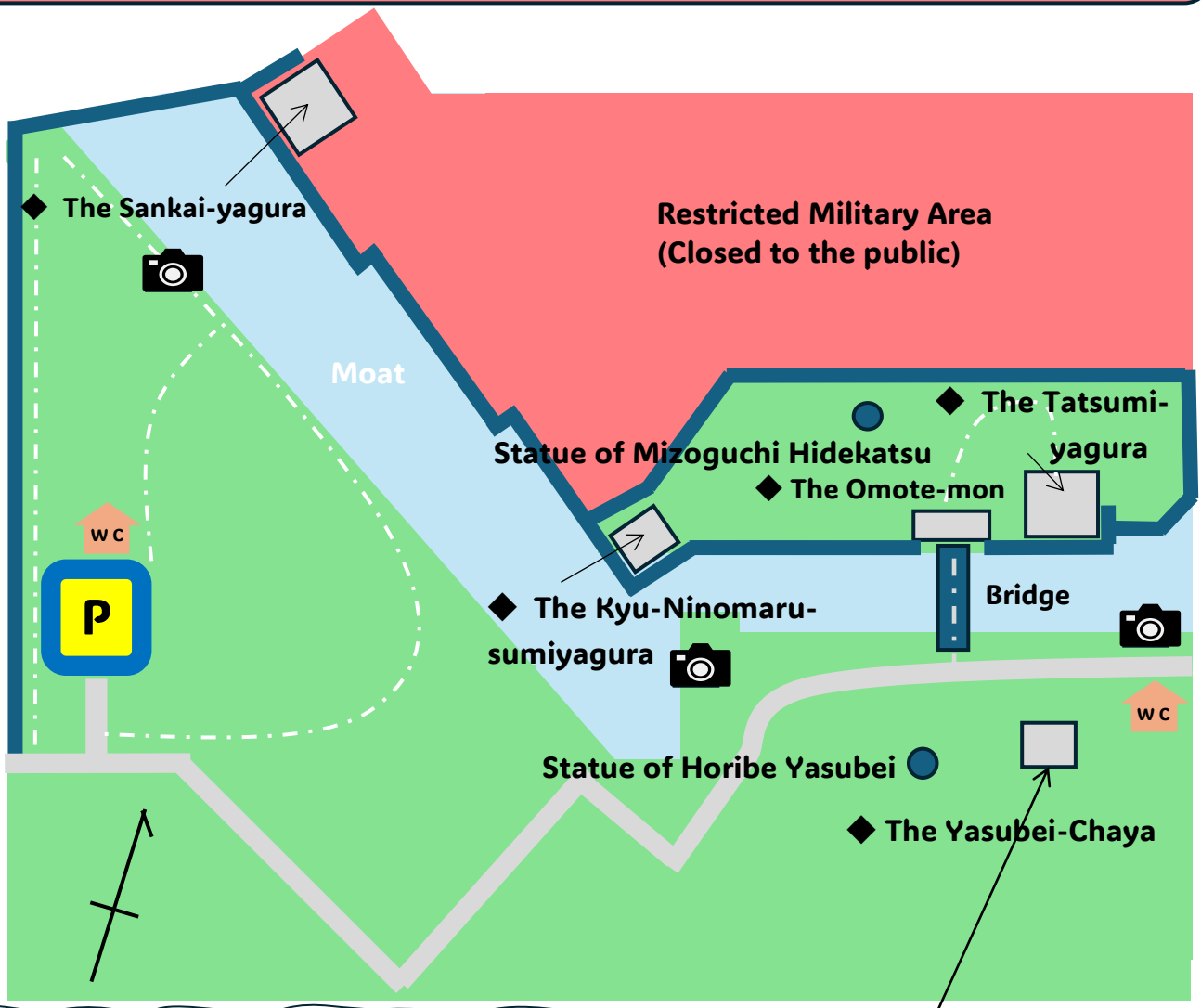
Kitsune-obikino-shiro(the fox drawing castle)



The castle had another name before Kitsune-obikino-shiro(the fox drawing castle)
It's legend said when Nagai Seizaemon who was ordered to draw the design of the castle struggled with the plan, a fox apppeared and gave him a clue by drawing with its tail on the snow.

A Concept Map of Shibata Castle

IMPORTANT NOTICE :
1: Most of the Hon-maru area (red zone) is used by the military, so entry is prohibited
2: There is no Tenshu (main tower) because of the hesitation by the Tokugawa shognate



Address
6-4-80 Otecho Shibata-city
Niigata Prefecture

Open
April-October 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
November 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed
December-March

Entrance fee
Free



The Yasubei-Chaya (souvenir shop)
Open : April-November 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shibata City Office
Tourism Promotion Section

NIIGATA PREFECTURE
Shibata Regional Promotion Bureau
Planning and Promotion Department

Printed in 2026