



There are so many things to see and enjoy! Let's go!

Within These Stone Walls Lies a Special Beauty

Nationally Designated Historical Site
Japan Top 100 Castles Second Selection

Shingu Castle Ruins Map

The Remains of a Castle at the Mouth of the Kumano-gawa River

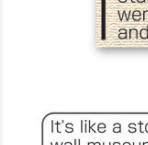
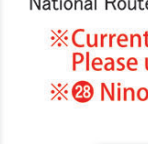
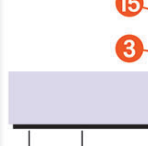
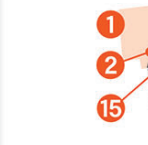
The wonder of Shingu Castle Ruins lies within the beautiful stone walls. Take your time and use your imagination exploring these hilltop castle ruins, and feel the excitement and intrigue they have to offer. It's a journey into a different era!



The Mizuno family crest, a three-leaf arrowhead flower in a circle. Est. 1619



The Asano family crest, a rice mallet on a mound of mochi (sticky rice cake). Est. 1600



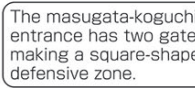
The walls are so even! It's beautiful!



Some of the castle's stairs can be hard to climb...



The masugata-koguchi entrance has two gates, making a square-shaped defensive zone.



It's like a bottle-neck!



Past the stairs, turn right to find Kanenomaru Bailey!



This large "mirror stone" was meant to ward off bad luck and reflect the lord's high status.

1 Otemon Gate

The original front entrance, where it is thought the castle gate once stood.

2 "Turtle Shell" Walls

Past Otemon Gate are walls with very advanced, precise masonry. Similar construction is seen in one of Wakayama Castle's gates. Both are thought to have been built by the same stonemasons.

3 Alternated Stacking

Stacking the cornerstones' long and short ends in alternation makes the walls very sturdy. This technique can be seen throughout the castle.

4 Elevated Stone Walls

Slightly further in are defensive walls, built with large stones and alternated stacking at the corners.

Park Entrance ①

※ Park Entrance ① leads to Otemichi Path (⑤).

5 Otemichi Path

The path leading from ④ is gone, but further on, the same path built in the 17th century still remains.

6 Remains of Earthen Walls

You can still see the earthen wall foundations!

7 Drainage Ditches

The drainage ditches to the side of the stairs are still visible today. They were important as this region receives heavy rainfall.

8 Matsunomaru Bailey West Gate

Old maps show two beautiful gates here, forming a masugata-koguchi entrance to the castle.

9 Matsunomaru Bailey

Here, Otemichi Path connected to the Mizunote and Honmaru baileys. There are remains of the east gate.

10 Kanenomaru Bailey Watariyaguramon Gate

The gate here boosted the defenses of the masugata-koguchi entrance and was an imposing sight. Now, only the walls remain.

11 "Mirror Stone" at the Gate

This large "mirror stone" was meant to ward off bad luck and reflect the lord's high status.

12 Kanenomaru Bailey

Turrets facing northwest, south, and southwest once stood here.

Convenience store
← Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine
National Route 42

※ Currently, there is no entry from ① (no path between ④ and ⑤). Please use one of the Park Entrances.

※ ⑬ Ninomaru Bailey is now private property. No unauthorized entry.

13 Kanenomaru Bailey East Gate

Parts of the walls are still standing. It is thought that there were once elevated white walls and a gate here.

14 Honmaru Bailey's Northwestern Wall

The bottom layer (from the Asano era) uses natural-face masonry. The top layer (from the Mizuno era) uses cut-insertion masonry.

15 Overhanging Gutters

Cut-insertion masonry lacks natural drainage. This region is very rainy, so 8 gutters were built into the walls.

16 Castle Gate

It is said that a Koraimon-style gate connected Kanenomaru & Honmaru baileys, also serving as a blockade.

17 Honmaru Bailey Watariyaguramon Gate

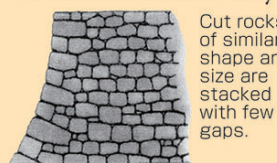
The remains of the masugata-koguchi entrance to Honmaru Bailey, built with massive stones and cut-insertion masonry.

Main Types of Masonry Seen at Shingu Castle Ruins

Natural-face Masonry



Pound-insertion Masonry



Cut-insertion Masonry



It's like a stone wall museum!

Mizuno Family Gravesite

The Mizuno Family gravesite in Hashimoto, south of the city centre, has the graves of the castle's lords and their relatives. There are 16 in total. In Japan, it is rare for the graves of castle lords to be on their own plot of land, instead of at a temple.



The view from Honmaru is absolutely superb!



18 "Turtle Shell" Wall

The masonry here, next to Honmaru Bailey's entrance, was cutting-edge for its time. It remains in excellent condition today.



19 Honmaru Bailey

The castle's center. In the past, it was protected by 4 turrets connected by corridors.



20 Demaru Bailey

This bailey was built further out from the castle - rare in Japan - and connected by bridge to Honmaru Bailey.



21 Karametemon Gate

This is the rear gate. It featured cutting-edge masonry for its time, such as beveled joints between stones.



22 Castle Tower Foundation

Built at the west end of Honmaru Bailey, the tower is thought to have been an impressive sight, and the symbol of the castle.



23 Holes Left by Wedges

Stones were split with arrow-like metal wedges, driven in at even intervals. You can find holes of various ages around the castle.



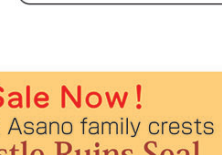
24 "Folding Screen" Walls

Building walls in a zig-zag pattern strengthened them and made it easier to shoot at enemies. They were often called "folding screens." Under them is a monument to the founder of the Edosenke school of tea ceremony, Kawakami Fuhaku.



25 Engravings

Various symbols, like △ or ○, are engraved in the walls in 69 places.



26 Matsunomaru Bailey East Gate

The gate stood in front of the stairs leading down to Mizunote Bailey.



27 Mizunote Bailey

The castle's layout was designed to protect its center, which was rare in Japan. By the river are remains of a port and charcoal storehouses.



Ninomaru Bailey (Southern Section)

At the foot of the hill, this bailey was important as it held the local government office.
※ Now private property. No unauthorized entry.

On Sale Now!

With Mizuno & Asano family crests
Shingu Castle Ruins Seal
300 yen each
(Includes timeline of the castle)

Sold at
Shingu City Tourist Association
In front of JR Shingu Station
Open 9 AM - 5 PM, 365 days/year
Asuka-jinja Shrine Office
Next to the History & Folklore Museum

Inquiries

Shingu City Tourism & Commerce Division

1-1 Kasuga, Shingu, Wakayama 647-8555
TEL.0735-23-3333 FAX.0735-21-7422
<https://www.city.shingu.lg.jp/>

Shingu City Tourist Association

2-1-11 Jofuku, Shingu, Wakayama 647-0020
TEL.0735-22-2840 FAX.0735-22-2842
<https://www.shinguu.jp/>

Map of the Area Around Shingu Castle

Explore the history and culture of this former castle town!

Lying beyond the walls of Shingu Castle Ruins is a city full of history and culture! Use this map as a guide and explore — you never know what you might find!

UNESCO World Heritage
Kumano Hayatama Taisha
Grand Shrine



One of the Kumano Sanzan shrines, its main deity is Kumano Hayatama-no Okami, the flow of the Kumano-gawa River in deity form. The Shimpokan Treasure Museum displays various national and sacred treasures.

UNESCO World Heritage
Asuka-jinja Shrine
Shingu City History & Folklore Museum



This shrine has a very long history. At the History & Folklore Museum next door you can find plaques from the shrine with the image of the Buddha. [Shingu City History & Folklore Museum]
 · Open : 9:00 - 17:00
 · Closed : Mondays (except holidays), the day after a holiday, and from Dec. 28 ~ Jan. 3
 · Fee : 220 yen (adults), 110 yen (children 15 and under)

Shingu City Sato Haruo
Memorial Museum



Sato Haruo was a famous writer from Shingu. This museum was repurposed from his old Tokyo residence in 1989 (originally built in 1927). Reopening at a new location planned for 2026.

Important Cultural Asset
Former Nishimura Residence
(Nishimura Isaku Memorial Museum)



Built in 1914, this is the former home of Isaku Nishimura, who promoted modernization in Japan and founded the Bunka Gakuin vocational school.
 · Open : 9:00 - 17:00
 · Closed : Mondays (except holidays), the day after a holiday, and from Dec. 29 ~ Jan. 3
 · Fee : 220 yen (adults), 110 yen (children 15 and under)

Jofuku Park



Dedicated to Jofuku, who legend says came to Shingu under orders from the first emperor of China to find the elixir of eternal life. Past the colorful gate is Jofuku's tomb and a monument to his 7 senior vassals.
 · Open : 8:30 - 17:00
 · 365 days/year
 · Free entry

Suggested Routes for Exploring Shingu

Tour of Shingu Castle Ruins & 3 World Heritage Shrines

Time Needed: approx. 3.5 hours

Shingu Sta. $\xrightarrow[15 \text{ min.}]{\text{On foot}}$ Kamikura-jinja Shrine $\xrightarrow[10 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$
 Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine $\xrightarrow[10 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$
 Shingu Castle Ruins $\xrightarrow[10 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$ Asuka-jinja Shrine (Castle Seal on sale) • History & Folklore Museum ["Japan Top 100 Castles Second Selection" Stamp (220 yen entrance fee)]
 $\xrightarrow[10 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$ Shingu Sta.
 [Shingu City Tourist Association (Castle Seal on sale)]

Cultural Tour of Shingu's Castle and Temple District

Time Needed: approx. 4 hours

Shingu Sta. $\xrightarrow[10 \text{ min.}]{\text{On foot}}$ Shingu Castle Ruins $\xrightarrow[15 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$
 Honko-ji Temple (Mizuno Family Temple) $\xrightarrow[5 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$
 Zenryu-ji Temple (Horiuchi Clan Estate Remains) $\xrightarrow[15 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$
 Shopping Street \rightarrow Shingu Sta.

Tour of Shingu Castle Ruins and Historic Locations

Time Needed: approx. 3 hours

Shingu Sta. $\xrightarrow[10 \text{ min.}]{\text{On foot}}$ Shingu Castle Ruins \rightarrow
 Shopping Street \rightarrow Former Nishimura Residence (Nishimura Isaku Memorial Museum) • Former Chapman House (outside food/drinks allowed) $\xrightarrow[5 \text{ min.}]{} \rightarrow$
 Shingu Sta.

Legend

- Hotel / Inn
- Convenience Store
- Bank
- Post Office
- School
- Toilet
- Gas Station
- Parking
- Bus Stop
- One-way Street



UNESCO World Heritage
Kamikura-jinja Shrine



Atop a cliff on Mt. Gongenyama is Kamikura-jinja Shrine, where Gotobiki-iwa Rock is worshipped. Leading to the shrine are 538 steep stone steps.

▶ On the Shingu City Tourist Association website, you can download PDFs with information about Shingu's cuisine, history and culture!



Natural Monument
Ukijima-no-Mori Island



This unusual, naturally floating island made of peat hosts plants from both cold and warm climates.
 · Open : 9:00 - 17:00 (9:00 - 16:00 Dec - Feb)
 · 365 days/year
 · Fee : 110 yen (age 12+), 50 yen (age 6-11)