

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018
Sohun

[1] Gifu Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : Gifu City , Gifu Prefecture (Mt. Kinka)

Year of construction : 1201

Castle lord : Yukimasa Nikaido , Dosan Saito , Yoshitatsu Saito , Tatsuoki Saito , Nobunaga Oda

Remarks : In the middle of the 15th century , Toshinaga Saito , the deputy governor of Mino Province , restored and resided in the castle. In 1525 , Nagahiro Nagai and Shinzaemon no jo Nagai , a vassale of the Saito clan , rebelled , and this castle became a branch castle of the Nagai clan. In 1535 , Shinkuro Norihide Nagai (Toshimasa Saito , later Dosan Saito) , a son of Shinzaemon no jo became a castle lord. In 1541 , Toshimasa exiled the governor Yoriaki Toki. In 1547 , Nobuhide Oda and the vassales from the Yoriaki faction attacked the castle town , but were defeated. In 1554 , Toshimasa handed over the castle and family estate to his eldest son , Yoshitatsu Saito , and called himself Dosan. In 1556 , Yoshitatsu defeated Dosan in the Battle of the Nagara River. In 1561 , due to Yoshitatsu's sudden death, Tatsuoki Saito succeeded the family estate at the age of 13 and became the lord of the castle. In June of the same year , Nobunaga Oda , who won the Battle of Jushijo , attacked Inabayama Castle , but was severely defeated. In 1564 , Shigeharu Takenaka and Morinari Ando , vassals of the Saito clan rebelled and raised an army , and attacked the Inabayama Castle. Tatsuoki and others abandoned the castle and fled to Ukaiyama Castle , while Takenaka and others occupied the castle for half a year. In 1567 , Nobunaga Oda invaded the town of Inabayama under the internal agreement of the West Mino Trinity. Tatsuoki abandoned the castle , went down the Nagara River by boat , and escaped to Ise Nagashima. In the same year, Nobunaga moved his base from Komakiyama Castle to Inabayama and and changed the name of the castle and town to "Gifu". From around this time , Nobunaga used the red seal of "Tenka Fubu" or "Rule the World by Force". In 1576 , Nobunaga made his son , Nobutada Oda , the lord of Gifu Castle , and handed over the head of the Oda family and the two provinces of Mino and Owari.



【Mt. Inaba from the Nagara River which Hideyoshi Crimbed to Capture Gifu Castle】



【View of Nagara River and Sagiya Castle from Gifu Castle】



【Gate to Nobunaga Residence Ruins】



【Nobunaga Residence Ruins】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.16.2018
Sohun

[2] Bodaisan Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : Iwate , Tarui Town , Fuwa District , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : 1559

Founder : Shigemoto Takenaka

Remarks : Bodaisan Castle was built by Shigemoto Takenaka (Hanbei Takenaka's father) as a residence for the Takenaka clan after he defeated Iwate Danjo (1558). This castle was used until the Takenaka clan's Jinya was built at the foot of the mountain. It was the largest mountain castle in Nishimino. It was a mountain castle of 150m from east to west and 300m from north to south , built on the summit of Mt. Bodai (402m) at the eastern end of the Ibuki mountain range. Shigemoto Takenaka built a new castle after destroying the Iwate clan, which was a local ruling family. Since then , it has been used for three generations : Shigemoto , Shigeharu (Hanbei Takenaka) , and Shigekado. The castle was abandoned when Shigekado moved to Takenaka Jinya at the foot of the mountain. In 1560 , Shigemoto died of illness , and Shigeharu (Hanbei) took over as head of the family and became the lord of the castle.



【 Jinya Ruins at the Foot of Mt. Bodai】



【Hanbei Takenaka Family Temple and Mt. Bodai】

[3] Kitagata Castle Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : Kitagata 249 , Kitagata Town , Motosu District , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : Not clear

Founder : Mitsunari Igataroemon

Remarks : The 4th lord of the castle , Morinari Igataroemon , took the name Ando and changed his name to Morinari Ando. At first , Morinari served Yoriaki Toki , but when Mino was seized by Dosan Saito , he served as Dosan's vassal. Together with Ittetsu Inaba and Bokuzen Ujiie , he was called the West Mino Trio. In 1556 , he cooperated with Yoshitatsu in the conflict between Dosan and Yoshitatsu Saito (Battle of the Nagara River) and serve Tatsuoki Saito after Yoshitatsu's death. However , in 1580 , he was banished from the Oda clan by Nobunaga Oda for the crime of secretly communicating with Katsuyori Takeda of Kai Province , and Ittetsu Inaba became the lord of Kitagata Castle. In 1582 , when Nobunaga was killed by Mitsuhide Akechi in the Honnoji inflicit , Morinari raised an army and attempted to regain control by taking the Kitagata Castle. However , he was attacked by Ittetsu Inaba and died. Kitagata Castle was abandoned.



【Kitagata Castle Ruins Stone Monument】



【Kitagata Castle Ruins】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.16.2018
Sohun

[4] Sone Castle Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : 1 , Sone Town , Ogaki City , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : 1558 - 1569

Founder : Ittetsu Inaba

Remarks : Sone Castle is a flat Castle built by Ittetsu Inaba , one of the West Mino Trinity. It is also a place related to Kasuga no Tsubone. There are also a theory that Kasuga no Tsubone was born here. After Honnoji Incident , Ittetsu Inaba aroused suspicion from Hideyoshi Toyotomi and withdrew to the present-day Shimizu , Ibigawa Town , Ibi District. After that , in 1588 , Mitsunori Nishio became the lord of the castle.

Toshimitsu Saito (Mitsuhide Akechi's nephew and senior vassal)

Ittetsu Inaba's daughter

} Kasuga no Tsubone



【Sone Castle Ruins Stone Monument】



【Sone Castle Ruins】

[5] Ogaki Castle Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : 2-52 , Kuruwa Town , Ogaki City , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : Tradition , 1500

Founder : Tradition , Naotsuna Takekoshi

Remarks : Ogaki Castle is a flat castle owned by Bokuzen Ujiie , one of the West Mino Trinity. It is said to have been built in 1500 by Naotsuna Takekoshi in Ushiya on the east bank of the Ibi River (Ushiya River). It is also said to have been built in Ojiri by Yasusada Miyagawa in 1535. It is said that at that time it was called Ushiya Castle. At the time when Miyagawa clan built the castle , the Ushiya River was used instead of the outer moat , and there were only the main enclosure and second enclosure. It is said that it was rebuilt by as Ujiie clan and Ito clan. In 1544 , the castle fell to Nobuhife Oda , and Nobutatsu Oda served as the lord of the castle for 5 years. In 1549 , Naomitsu Takekoshi , a subordinate of the Saito clan , became the lord of the castle. Control was transferred to the Oda clan , Saito clan , and Oda clan , in that order. After that , in 1583 , Tsuneoki Ikeda became the lord of the castle by Hideyoshi Toyotomi. In 1600 , during the Battle of Sekigahara , Mitsunari Ishida and others entered the castle and it became the base of the Western army.



【Ogaki Castle East Gate Ruins】



【Ogaki Castle Ruins】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.16.2018
Sohun

[6] Unuma Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : 7-23 , Unumaminami Town , Kakamigahara City , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : Not clear

Founder : Harutoshi Osawa

Remarks : It is said to have been built by Harutoshi Osawa between 1429 and 1441. It is said that Harutoshi Osa moved from Izumi Province to Mino Province and built the castle. He followed Dosan Saito. In 1564 , Nobunaga Oda ordered Tokichiro Kinoshita to attack Unuma Castle. However , the lord of Unuma Castle , Masashige Osawa , strongly resisted. Masashige surrendered due to Tokichiro's strategy. However , Nobunaga , fearing Masashige's change of heart , plotted to kill him. It is said that Masashige was allowed to escape because of Tokichiro's arrangement. After that , Unuma Castle was given to Tsuneoki Ikeda , the lord of Inuyama Castle. During the Battle of Komaki and Nagakute in 1584 , Tsuneoki Ikeda on Hideyoshi's side pretended to head for East Mino. However , he entered Unuma Castle , which was his former territory , and captured Inuyama Castle.



【View from the Inuyama Bank of the Kiso River】



【View from the Unuma Bank of the Kiso River】

[7] Sunomata Castle Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : Sunomata 1742-1 , Sunomata Town , Ogaki City , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : Not clear (1561 , 1566)

Founder : Not clear (Tokichiro Kinoshita)

Remarks : The land of Sunomata on the west bank of the Nagara River is an important location for transportation and strategy , and has often been the stage of battle since before the Sengoku Period. The castle built by the Saito clan was ruled by Toshitame Saito and others. In 1561 or 1566 , when Nobunaga Oda invaded Mino , Tokichiro Kinoshita is said to have built a castle in a short period of time. This is the so-called Sunomata Ichiya Castle , but there are many unclear points and various discussions. In 1586 , due to the great flood of the three kiso rivers , the course of the Kiso River was confined to its current position. As a result , Sunomata lost its strategic importance and was never used as a castle.



【Sunomata Castle Ruins】



【Sunomata Castle Ruins Defense Fence 】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018

[8] Kani Akechi Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Sohun

Location : Setaosayama , Kani City , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : 1342

Founder : Yorikane Akechi

Remarks : In 1342 , Yorikane Toki , a descendant of the Mino-Genji clan , changed the name to Akechi and built the castle. After that , for about 200 years , it prospered as the residence of the Akechi clan for generations. Also it is known as Osayama Castle or Akechi Osayama Castle. Akechi Castle was built by Akechi Jiro Yorikane , the second son of Yorikiyo , who was the fifth generation of Mitsuhide , the governor of Toki Mino Province. The Castle was inhabited until the generation of Mitsuhide Akechi. It is said to be the birthplace of Mitsuhide. In 1556 , the castle was attacked by Yoshitatsu Saito , the lord of Inabayama Castle , and Mitsuyasu Akechi , the lord of Akechi Castle , gathered more than 870 people and besieged the castle. However , the Yoshitatsu's army attacked for two days with more than 3700 troops. Mitsuyasu entrusted the revival of the Akechi family to Mitsuhide , committed suicide with his younger brother Mitsuhide , and his wife and concubine also committed suicide before the castle fell.



**【Akechi Castle
Main Enclosure Ruins】**



**【View to the North from
the Akechi Castle Ruins】**

[9] Naegi Castle Ruins (Mountain Castle)

Location : Naegi , Nakatsugawa City , Gifu Prefecture

Year of construction : 1526

Founder : Ichiun Shaved Head Masatoshi Toyama

Remarks : In 1526 , Ichiun Shaved Head Masatoshi Toyama moved his residence from Koeji Castle in Uenaegi Fukuoka to Takamori Naegi. In 1560 , Kantaro , the lord of Naegi Castle , took part in the Battle of Okehazama. In 1565 , the daughter of Kantaro , the lord of Naegi Castle (the adopted daughter of Nobunaga Oda) , married Katsuyori Takeda (the second son of Shingen Takeda).

Ryotaro Shiba's "Province Robbery Story Vol.4" contains the following description. Although it is called Mino , there is a castle lord named Kantaro Toyama in Naegi near Kiso. Naegi is around Ena Gorge , a tourist spot today. The Toyama clan has been a prominent family since the period of the Northern and Southern Courts , and there is no one who does not know it in neighboring provinces. Omit. The younger sister of Omi no Kata (Kani Akechi clan) , the lawful wife of Dosan who died , is married to this Toyama family. She is Kantaro Toyama's wife. She has a daughter named Yukihime. Being Nohime's cousin , Nobunaga manipulated the Toyama clan early in the strategy of Mino Province. He recruited the Toyama clan as an ally and took her to Owari as an adopted daughter.



【Distant View of Takamori】



【Close View of Naegi Castle Ruins】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018

Sohun

[1 0] Kiyosu Castle Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : Ichiba , Kiyosu City , Aichi Prefecture

Year of construction : 1405

Founder : Yoshishige Shiba

Main castle lord : Shiba clan , Oda clan

Remarks : It was built in 1405 by Yoshishige Shiba , the governor of Owari , Totomi , Echizen. Initially , it was built as a separate castle of Oritsu Castle , which was the residence of the governor of Owari. In 1476 , Oritsu Castle disappeared due to an internal conflict within the Oda clan , the deputy of the governor. In 1478 , the residence of the governor moved to Kiyosu , and Kiyosu became the center of Owari Province. For a period of time , Nobuhide Oda resided in the castle as Kiyosu magistrate. When Nobuhide Oda moved as his base to Furuwatari Castle , Nobutomo Oda , the deputy of the governor , entered the castle. In 1555, Nobutomo Oda was murdered by Nobumitsu Oda , who had allied with Nobunaga Oda. After that , Nobunaga moved from Nagono Castle , underwent major renovations , and made in his base. Nobunaga used Kiyosu as his residence for about 10 years , including taking part in the Battle of Okehazama from this castle. In 1562 , an alliance between Nobunaga and Iyeyasu Tokugawa (Kiyosu Alliance) was formed at this castle. In 1563 , Nobunaga moved to Komakiyama Castle to prepare for a battle with the Saito clan in Mino Province. After that , it became the castle for a lookout.



【Kiyosu Castle Main Enclosure Ruins】



【Gojo River which served as a moat for Kiyosu Castle】

[1 1] Komaki Castle Ruins (Flat mountain castle)

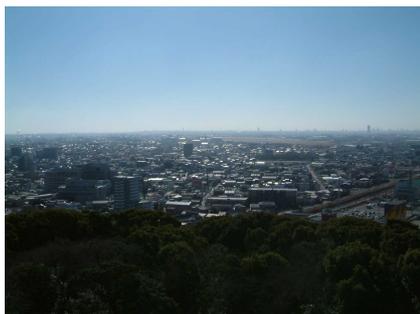
Location : Horinouchi 1-1 , Komaki City , Aichi Prefecture

Year of construction : 1563

Founder : Nobunaga Oda

Main castle lord : Oda clan , Tokugawa clan

Remarks : After winning the Battle of Okehazama in 1560 , Nobunaga Oda launched his attack on Mino three months later. In 1562 , at Kiyosu Castle , Nobunaga and Iyeyasu Tokugawa formed the Kiyosu Alliance to eliminate the threat from the eastern side of Owari Province. This made it possible to relocate the headquarters to Mt. Komaki in the north of Owari near Mino Province. Nobunaga prepared a system to attack Mino Province with all his might. He immediately appointed Nagahide Niwa as magistrate and built a castle on the summit of Mt. Komaki in the vast Nobi Plain. In 1563 , the main force was moved to Komakiyama Castle.



【View from the Summit of Mt. Komaki】



【Nobunaga Residence Ruins at the Foot of the Mountain】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018
Sohun

[1 2] Ichijodani Asakura Clan Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : 28-37 , Kidonouchi Town , Fukui City , Fukui Prefecture

Year of construction : Nanbokucho Period

Founder : Asakura clan

Main castle lord : Asakura clan , Nagatoshi Katsurada

Remarks : These are the ruins of the Warring States Period feudal lord Asakura clan , who ruled Echizen Province during the Warring States Period , centering on Ichijodani Castle. These consist of Ichijodani Castle (mountain castle) and the castle town of the foot of the mountain (the residence of Asakura clan and their vassals). The castle gates were built to the north and south of Ichijodani , and the Asakura residence , samurai residence , temples , craftsmen and merchants were lined up in the 1.7km-long Kido no Uchi. And these were on the both sides of the planned road. Ichijodani Castle is a medieval mountain castle built by the Asakura clan behind the main residence on the east side. It is located on Mt. Ichijoshiro, 473m above sea level , overlooking the Fukui Plain to the west. It is believed to have been built in the first half of the 15th century. The castle was abandoned without ever being used in battle.



【Karamon Gate of Yoshikage Asakura Mansion Ruins】



【Moat and Earthworks of Yoshikage Asakura Mansion Ruins】

[1 3] Kanagasaki Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : Kanagasaki Town , Tsuruga City , Fukui Prefecture

Year of construction : Genpei Period

Founder : Michimori Taira

Main castle lord : Kehi clan , Kai clan , Asakura clan

Remarks : It is a mountain castle built on a small hill (Mt. Kanagasaki) 86m above sea level that juts out into Tsuruga Bay in the northeastern part of Tsuruga City. It is said that Michimori Taira first built a castle here to fight Yoshinaka Kiso during the Genpei War. Even today , the Tsukimi Palace (main enclosure) ruins , the Kido , the enclosure , and the moat remain. In Province Robbery Story , Mitsuhide Akechi goes back and forth between Yoshiaki Ashikaga , who relied on the Asakura clan and placed himself in Kanagasaki Castle , and Yoshikage Asakura in Ichijodani.



【Kanagasaki Castle Ruins】



【View from Tsukimi Palace】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018

Sohun

[1 4] Takeda Clan Mansion Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : 2611 , Kofunaka Town , Kofu City , Yamanashi Prefecture

Year of construction : 1519

Founder : Nobutora Takeda

Main castle lord : Takeda clan , Tokugawa clan , Hidekatsu Toyotomi , Nagamasa Asano

Remarks : The residence of the Takeda clan , the governor of Kai Province , was also called "Tsutsujigasakiyakata". It was the center of the territory management of the Takeda clan , a feudal lord of the Sengoku Period. At present , there is Takeda Shrine on the side , and it is designated as a national historic site as "Takeda Mansion Ruins". It is the stronghold of the Takeda clan of Kai Genji , which was built during the Warring States Period. The residence , the vassals' mansions , and the castle town are integrated. It functioned as the center of the territory for more than 60 years for the three generations of Nobutora , Shingen , and Katsuyori. During the Shingen era , the Takeda clan greatly expanded its territory. Shinano , Suruga , Ueno , Totomi , Mikawa , and other areas were brought under control. However , the base was consistently Tsurugasakiyakata which included the fortified mountain castle.



【Takeda Shrine at the Site of Takeda Clan Residence】



【Earthworks and Water Moat at the Site of Takeda Clan Residence】

[1 5] Sakamoto Castle Ruins (Flat castle , Water castle)

Location : Shimosakamoto 3 , Otsu City , Shiga Prefecture

Year of construction : 1571

Founder : Mitsuhide Akechi

Main castle lord : Mitsuhide Akechi , Nagahide Niwa , Nagamasa Asano

Remarks : Sakamoto Castle is located on the west side of the south lake of Lake Biwa , near Otsu City. On the west side is the mountain range of Mt. Hiei , and on the east side faces Lake Biwa. It was a land with natural fortifications. Sakamoto was a key transportation point for the transportation of goods on Mt. Hiei , and it prospered as a port town. In 1571 , after burning Mt. Hiei , Nobunaga Oda gave Mitsuhide Akechi Shiga Country in Omi Province. He ordered the construction of Sakamoto Castle as a restraint against Kyoto and Mt. Hiei. Luis Frois , a missionary , wrote in his book , "History of Japan" that it was a splendid castle second only to Azuchi Castle.



【Sakamoto Castle Ruins】



【View of Lake Biwa from Sakamoto Castle Ruins】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018

Sohun

[1 6] Odani Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : Ibe , Kohoku Town , Nagahama City , Shiga Prefecture

Year of construction : 1516

Founder : Ryosei Azai

Main castle lord : Azai clan , Hideyoshi Hashiba

Remarks : The castle ruins are designated as a national historic site. It is counted as one of Japan's five largest mountain castles. This castle is said to be the stage of the tragedy between Nagamasa Azai and Oichi no Kata. The castle of the Azai clan , a feudal lord of the Sengoku Period , was known as a strong mountain castle. The castle was attacked by Nobunaga Oda for four years and fell. After that , the base in Kitaomi , was moved to Nagahama Castle , and Odani Castle was abandoned. In 1570 , the battle of Anegawa took place about five kilometers south of Odani Castle. The Azai / Asakura allied forces and the Oda / Tokugawa allied forces clashed , and the Oda forces won. However , Nobunaga gave up attacking Odani Castle considering its solidity. Yokoyama Castle was built on the south bank of the Ane River , and Hideyoshi Kinoshita , a powerful military commander , was stationed there. It was used as a front line base against Azai clan.



**【The Mountain where
Odani Castle Was Built】**



**【The Mountain where
Odani Castle Was Built】**

[1 7] Yokoyama Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

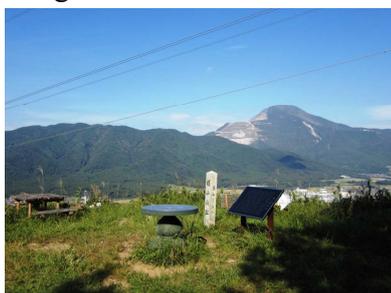
Location : Horibe Town / Ishida Town , Nagahama City , Shiga Prefecture

Year of construction : 1561

Founder : Nagamasa Azai

Main castle lord : Ien Azai , Hideyoshi Kinoshita

Remarks : It was the site of a fierce battle between Nobunaga Oda and Nagamasa Azai from 1570 to 1573. It is known that Hideyoshi Kinoshita , a military commander of Nobunaga , guarded the castle as a castle guard. In 1561 , Nagamasa Azai had Yokoyama Castle built as a defensive base against Rokkaku clan. It was built along the mountain peaks on the south bank of the Ane River , which separates Azai and Sakata countries in north Omi. Yokoyama Castle is located right next to the Hokuriku Wakiokan Highway , which runs from Mino Sekigahara to the west of Odani Castle , the home of the Azai clan. It is only 6-7km from Odani Castle. Therefore , Nobunaga aimed to capture Yokoyama Castle as an important front line base. After defeating the Azai and Asakura allied forces in the Battle of Ane River , Nobunaga launched an attack on Yokoyama Castle , which fell. Nobunaga appointed Hideyoshi Kinoshita as a castle guard. Hideyoshi used this as a base to attack the Azai clan. In 1573 , Azai clan fell. Hideyoshi was given control over Azai and Sakata countries , and built Nagahama Castle as his base. Around this time , Yokoyama Castle was abandoned.



【Main Enclosure Ruins】



【View from the Summit】

Tour the Historic Sites of "Taikouki" (Ryotaro Shiba)

9.15.2018

Sohun

[1 8] Azuchi Castle Ruins (Mountain castle)

Location : Shimotoyoura , Azuchi Town , Omihachiman City , Shiga Prefecture

Year of construction : 1576

Founder : Nobunaga Oda

Main castle lord : Oda clan , Akechi clan

Remarks : The following five reasons are speculated for the purpose of building the castle. ① It is closer to Kyoto , which was the control base of Japan at that time , than Gifu Castle. ② Water transportation on Lake Biwa is available , which is convenient. ③ It was located at a strategic point from the Hokuriku Highway to Kyoto. ④ To prepare for Ikko Ikki in Echizen and Kaga. ⑤ To warn Kenshin Uesugi. The castle and appearance of the castle , as described by Gyuichi Oda and missionaries , symbolize the control of the world by force and make it known to people at a glance. Nobunaga lived in the castle tower at the top of the mountain , and his family also lived near the main enclosure. The vasals lived in mansions on the the hillsides or in castle towns.



【Azuchi Castle
Main Enclosure Ruins】



【Stone Steps Leading to
Azuchi Castle Main Enclosure】

[1 9] Nagahama Castle Ruins (Flat castle)

Location : Koen Town , Nagahama City , Shiga Prefecture

Year of construction : 1573

Founder : Hideyoshi Hashiba

Main castle lord : Hashiba clan , Shibata clan , Yamauchi clan

Remarks : In 1573 , Hideyoshi Hashiba received the former territory of the Azai clan from Nobunaga Oda for his achievements in attacking Nagamasa Azai. Hideyoshi disliked Odani Castle , which was away from Lake Biwa. At that time , this land , which was called Imahama , was given one character from Nobunaga's name and changed its name to Nagahama. The castle was built using the materials used in Odani Castle. He also found lumber secretly hidden on Chikubujima and used them to build the castle. The stone well was immersed in the lake water , and boats could enter and exit directly from the water gate inside the castle. The castle town was moved from Odani castle town. This is the first castle built by Hideyoshi. This is where Hideyoshi laid the foundations for the management of the castle town.



【Nagahama Castle Ruins】



【View of Lake Biwa
from Nagahama Castle】