

Former site of Sumpu Castle

Tokugawa leyasu came to Sumpu (modern-day Shizuoka City) in 1607 as ogosho, a formally-retired shogun who still controls government. He ordered daimyo (feudal lords) across Japan to fund a construction project to greatly expand the Sumpu Castle complex. Sumpu Castle has three concentric moats surrounding it, which was typical of Japanese castles at the time. The innermost moat is the Honmaru, the central moat is the Ninomaru, and the outermost moat is the Sannomaru.

Explore the Sumpu Castle of leyasu's era!

An Abbreviated History of Sumpu Castle

- 1549 Tokugawa leyasu lives in Sumpu as a captive of the Imagawa Clan (until 1560)
- 1585 Tokugawa leyasu orders construction to begin on Sumpu Castle.
- 1586 Tokugawa leyasu moves into Sumpu Castle.
- Construction on Sumpu Castle completed, from tenshu (tower) to Ninomaru.
- 1600 Tokugawa side wins in Battle of Sekigahara.
- 1603 Tokugawa leyasu becomes shogun and establishes the Edo Shogunate.
- 1606 Around this time, urban planning and flood control projects start in Sumpu. leyasu planned to build a new castle in Kawanabe-cho, but decided to expand the current castle complex south-, east-, and northward.
- 1607 Feb: Restoration begins on Sumpu Castle's Honmaru and Ninomaru. July: Tokugawa Ieyasu moves into Sumpu Castle. Honmaru completed but complex catches fire in Dec., burning all structures to the ground including palace and tenshu. Reconstruction begins immediately.
- 1608 Honmaru palace, etc. completed.
- 1610 Tenshu completed.
- 1616 Tokugawa Ieyasu dies, aged 75. Buried at Kunozan Toshogu Shrine.
- 1635 Fire starts in town and spreads to castle, burning down tenshu, palace, turrets, and most walls
- 1638 Palace, turrets, gates, etc. are rebuilt, but tenshu is not.
- Stone walls and one-third of structures destroyed in Hoei earthquake.
- 1708 Renovations made to Sumpu Castle.
- Structures inside and outside Sumpu Castle, its stone walls, etc. are almost all completely destroyed in Ansei Tokai earthquake.
- 1857 Renovation begins, and is completed the following year.
- 1869 City name changed from "Suruga Fuchu" to "Shizuoka."
- 1870 Ninomaru Kabukimon gate sold off by government. By 1876, all castle gates besides the Otemon Gate have been sold off or torn down.
- Ownership of majority of site, except for the Sannomaru, transferred to City of
- 1896 Sumpu Castle site donated to Army Ministry.
- 1949 Ownership of Sumpu Castle site reverted to City of Shizuoka.
- Name "Sumpu Park" chosen.
- Restoration of Tatsumi Yagura turret completed.
- 1996 Restoration of Higashi Gomon gate completed.
- 2012 "Sumpu Park" name changed to "Sumpu Castle Park."
- 2014 Restoration of Hitsujisaru Yagura turret completed.

Getting here/Entrance fees

Getting here

15min walk from JR Shizuoka Sta.

12min walk from Shizutetsu Shin-Shizuoka Sta.

Entrance fees

[Higashi Gomon/Tatsumi Yagura] Adults 200JPY, kids 50JPY

[Momijiyama Garden] Adults 150JPY, kids 50JPY (Hitsuiisaru Yagura) Adults 100JPY, kids 50JPY

("Time-travel scope" rental: 500JPY) [All facilities] Adults 360JPY, kids 120JPY

Closed

Mondays (unless national holiday) New Year's holidays (Dec. 29-Jan. 3)

1 2 Ote Gomon sites

The front entrance for Sumpu Castle. Crossing an earthen bridge over Sannomaru moat and turning the corner at the right, one would enter the complex from Watariyaguramon gate.



Yotsuashi Gomon site

A gate at the southwest corner of Sumpu Castle. One of the most important entrances for coming from the Tokaido Road.



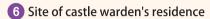
Yokouchi Gomon site

The northeast gate of Sumpu Castle. Stones were found here engraved with the name of Matsudaira Nobuteru, an Edo-period daimyo.



Kusabuka Gomon site

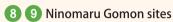
A "backdoor" gate to Sumpu Castle. Much about it is "unknown," as written on the map, and it is thought to have been seldom used.



From 1633 onwards, overseers were put in place to maintain Sumpu Castle. This is where their residence stood.

Site of residence for guard leader

The site of the residence where the leader of the guards lived. The guards were responsible for security at Sumpu Castle.



The front gates for entering Ninomaru; also called Ninomaru Otemon. Torn down in 1957, a new entrance was put up approx. 70m east. (Currently an entrance to Sumpu Castle Park)

🔟 Higashi Gomon/Tatsumi Yagura

Higashi Gomon was reconstructed in 1996. On display inside is a bronze shachi roof ornament, now a City of Shizuoka designated cultural property, which was unearthed from the Ninomaru. Tatsumi Yagura is a turret at the southeast corner of Ninomaru, with two roofs and three floors, that is L-shaped and flat. This reconstruction was completed in 1989.



11 Shimizu Gomon site

The western gate to Ninomaru. After taking a wooden bridge over Ninomaru moat, one would pass through Koraimon gate, cut across the courtyard surrounded by stone walls, and enter Ninomaru from Watariyaguramon gate. The row turrets atop the stone walls were two-storied, and guarded the western side.



12 13 Kita Gomon/Babasaki Gomon site

Entering through the Kita Gomon, one would pass through a courtyard to get inside the Ninomaru. Immediately to your right is the Babasaki Gomon site, an earthen embankment with a wall of alternating stones.



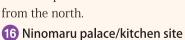
14 Hitsujisaru Yagura

A turret at the southwest corner of the Ninomaru. With two roofs and three floors, it was very tall. An excavation revealed its stone walls on the Ninomaru side. Reconstructed in 2014.



15 Higashi-kuichigai Gomon site

The area of the Ninomaru facing south to Ogenkanmae Gomon was, in order to prevent easy access by enemies, separated by stonewall embankments on the east and west sides with a bridge between the two. All that remains is a portion of the embankment that separated the east side, and a gate was set up between it and the embankment stretching from the north.



An excavation in what is now Momijiyama Garden revealed that the Ninomaru palace was located on the garden's north side, with a kitchen building to the south, separated by a central partition (a stonewall embankment). These are thought to have stood when Ieyasu resided here.

Minomaru water canal

A water canal that connects the Ninomaru and Honmaru moats. Very rare for having stones laid at its bottom. Important for preserving the Honmaru moat's water level.



18 Rice storehouse site

This is where rice storehouses nos. 1-11 stood in a row, which stored food for Sumpu Castle. Their locations were confirmed in an excavation.

19 Honmaru moat

Honmaru moat was the innermost of Sumpu Castle's three concentric moats. Although it was filled in during 1896, an excavation revealed its southeast section and the area around the water canal, which can be seen today.



20 Ogenkanmae Gomon site

Ogenkanmae Gomon was the most important gate for reaching the Honmaru palace, and was also called the front gate of Honmaru. From here, one would cross a wooden bridge and go through Koraimon gate into the courtyard, turning east to enter the Honmaru.

21 Odaidokoro Gomon site

A gate on the eastern side that took you into the Honmaru, through Koraimon gate and south. While it no longer stands, an excavation revealed its location.

Tenshu/tenshudai site

A magnificent five- (or six-) roof, seven-floor tenshu tower was erected in Sumpu Castle's Honmaru, befitting the residence of ogosho Tokugawa Ieyasu. It is said to have been visible from the surrounding castle town, with Mount Fuji in the background.

23 Honmaru palace site

The most important building inside the Sumpu Castle complex. Located at the center of Honmaru, it housed public space for Ieyasu to meet with daimyo lords from various provinces, as well as private places for daily life.

24 leyasu's mikan tree

The mikan oranges that grow on this tree are small and aromatic, a variety of komikan brought from China during the Kamakura period (1185-1333). The tree was given to Ieyasu as a gift from Kii Province while he was living in Sumpu Castle, and the story goes that he planted the tree himself near the tenshu foundation. Also called honmikan in the Shizuoka area, it is a treasured site, and a Shizuoka Prefecture Designated Natural Monument.



25 26 Engraved stones

Many engraved stones, showing the names of daimyo ordered to contribute to the construction of Sumpu Castle, have been discovered. A number of them have been found right here. How many can you find?



27 28 29 Kaban residence sites

Sites of residences for kaban guards, installed circa 1632. Kaban were responsible for security outside the castle walls. The third kaban was installed following the Keian Uprising in 1651. All three sites are now inari shrines.



30 Sumpu town magistrate's offices

After Ieyasu entered Sumpu as ogosho, two magistrates' offices were set up in front of the Ote Gomon and Yokouchi Gomon gates: the Ote-gumi and the Yokouchi-gumi. Very little is known about them prior to this. From 1702 onward, only the Ote-gumi remained.

31 Fudanotsuji

A notice board placed at the intersection of Shichikencho-dori and Gofukucho-dori. Included on it were decrees of laws, prohibitions, and other necessary information.

32 The Saigo-Yamaoka meeting site

In 1868, at the home of Matsuzaki Genbe, Saigo Takamori and Yamaoka Tetsutaro (Tesshu), met here to discuss the downfall of the Tokugawa shogunate. A City of Shizuoka Designated Historical Site.