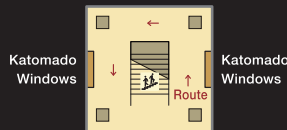


6F

The Crow Castle: Okayama Castle's Top Floor

Seeking to make a top floor like the one that existed before being destroyed by fire during World War II, this top floor was recently built while referring to old photographs in an effort to recreate the katomado windows (interior only) and the decorative Chinese-style paper on the walls. On the other hand, in order to make the structure earthquake resistant, columns at each of the four corners and a side staircase above the staircase were created on the current top floor.

Katomado Windows



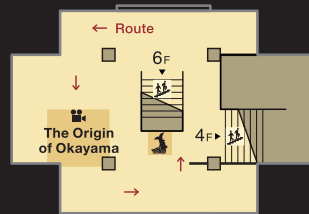
Katomado windows are a Zen temple architectural style introduced from China. At castles, they came into use around the time of Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi.



5F

From the Castle Town to Today

The history of Okayama began when the Sengoku period general Ukita Naoie acquired a castle on Mt. Ishi, the predecessor of Okayama Castle. The construction of a full-scale castle town was undertaken by Ukita Hideie, son of Naoie. Later, successive lords of the castle, including Kobayakawa Hideaki and the Ikeda clan, developed the castle town, leading to present-day Okayama. Here we'll cover this and more.



The Origin of Okayama

See images of the changing Okayama downtown area projected on a topographical model. The activities of Ukita Naoie and Ikeda Mitsumasa, who contributed greatly to the development of Okayama, are introduced by their wives.

Scan the QR code
to view the
"Origin of Okayama" video



Virtual
Translated
Guide

English Exhibition Guide available

- 1 Scan the QR codes located in the castle tower with your smartphone.



Accessible
via your
phone!!

- 2 Tap the icons displayed on your screen to view the English Exhibition Guide.



Icon descriptions



English translation of
exhibit texts available.



Content pages are sequential based
on the exhibition route.

Exhibition videos



English subtitles available for video.
Use a smartphone to scan the QR codes
in the pamphlet to access the videos.

* If listening to video audio in the exhibition rooms, please use earphones,
not your phone's speaker.

* The above may not be available for all types of smartphones and web browsers.



Okayama Castle Exhibition Guide

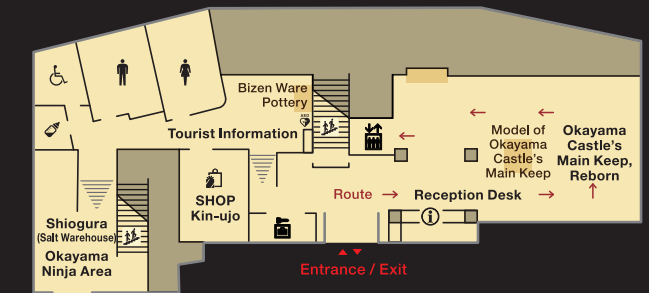
After the first basement floor, please proceed to the sixth floor,
and then enjoy the displays as you go down, floor by floor.

B1F

The Crow Castle: Okayama Castle's Main Keep, Reborn

(Entrance/Exit Floor)

Okayama Castle was built by Ukita Hideie, a daimyo (feudal lord) who made great strides after becoming one of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's relatives. It features a black exterior, gold leaf tiles, and a castle tower foundation shaped like an irregular pentagon. Here we introduce the history, features, and highlights of Okayama Castle, which people still are fond of today.



Okayama Castle's Main Keep, Reborn

Find out what's interesting about Okayama Castle's main keep! Information on the successive lords of Okayama Castle, a timeline of its history, a model of the main keep, old Edo period drawings of the castle, excavated items, and more.



Shiogura (Salt Warehouse) and the Okayama Ninja Area

Introducing the relationship between the Okayama's ninjas and Okayama Castle, as well as the secret methods left behind by them.



Tourist Information

Information on sightseeing around Okayama Castle.



Bizen Ware Pottery

Bizen ware was a major industry of the Okayama Domain. Here we present a valuable collection of this pottery.

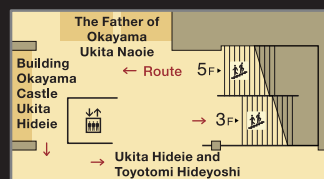


4F

Okayama at the Center of the Sengoku Period: Ukita Naoie and Hideie

Okayama started to take shape thanks to Ukita Naoie, and then his son, Hideie, made Okayama Castle have some of the features for which it is known today.

This section introduces how Okayama came to the forefront of history and developed. It focuses on the relationship between Ukita Naoie, his son Hideie, and Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who unified Japan.



The Father of Okayama: Ukita Naoie

Ukita Naoie moved into what is now Okayama and based himself at Ishiyama Castle, the predecessor of Okayama Castle.



The Construction of Okayama Castle: Ukita Hideie

Ukita Hideie, taking over his father Naoie's position, built a new castle with a castle tower on Mt. Oka (the hill next to Mt. Ishi). He also developed a full-fledged castle town.



Ukita Hideie and Toyotomi Hideyoshi

At less than 10 years old, Ukita Hideie became the head of the Ukita clan. Later, he married Gohime, the adopted daughter of Japan's unifier Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and became one of the country's leading daimyo (feudal lords).

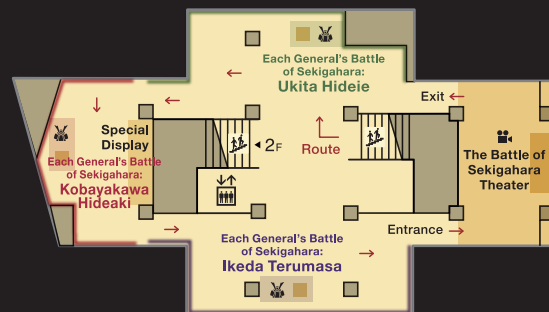


3F

Each General's Battle of Sekigahara

The Battle of Sekigahara is one of the most famous battles in Japanese history. This battle drastically changed the fate of three generals associated with Okayama Castle.

Here, while focusing on the Battle of Sekigahara, we introduce the lives of Ukita Hideie, Kobayakawa Hideaki, and Ikeda Terumasa.



Each General's Battle of Sekigahara: Ukita Hideie

Ukita Hideie was a daimyo (feudal lord) who governed Okayama from the time of his father Naoie. Hideie fought at Sekigahara as a central figure in the Western Army.



Each General's Battle of Sekigahara: Kobayakawa Hideaki

Kobayakawa Hideaki was the nephew of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's wife Nene. In the Battle of Sekigahara, Hideaki held the key to victory or defeat.



Each General's Battle of Sekigahara: Ikeda Terumasa

As a member of the Eastern Army, Ikeda Terumasa shined, especially in the Battle of Sekigahara's preliminary skirmish at Gifu Castle.



The Battle of Sekigahara Theater

Three military commanders closely associated with Okayama Castle are the stars of this movie theater. An original movie presents the lives of the three men and their exploits in the Battle of Sekigahara.



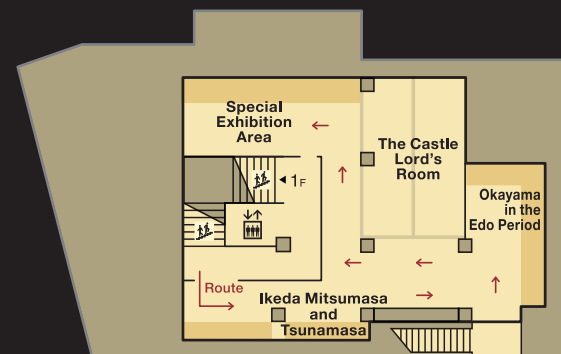
Scan the QR code to view the "Battle of Sekigahara Theater" video



2F

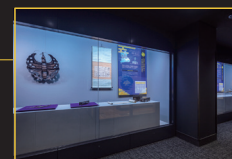
Ikeda Mitsumasa and Tsunamasa: Okayama in the Edo Period

Ikeda Mitsumasa spearheaded political reforms and delved into cultivating the town of Okayama and its people. Ikeda Tsunamasa created Korakuen and expanded the land through land reclamation. The successive heads of the Ikeda clan succeeded them and ruled Okayama. Here, we share how the foundations of today's Okayama were laid while referring to valuable historical materials.



Ikeda Mitsumasa and Tsunamasa

Ikeda Mitsumasa and his son Tsunamasa laid the foundations of Okayama today in terms of politics, education, and disaster prevention. This section introduces their pioneering efforts, along with related materials.



Okayama in the Edo Period

In total, 12 generations of the Ikeda clan were lords of Okayama Castle. Here, materials related to successive lords of the castle and other materials from the Edo period onward are on display.



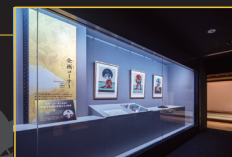
The Castle Lord's Room

Okayama Castle's castle tower had a castle lord's room, which is rare in Japan. Today, a smaller version of the room has been re-created at a different location.



Special Exhibition Area

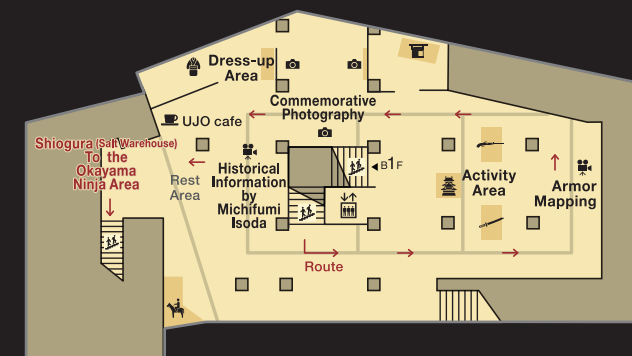
Here you can find displays on various themes related to Okayama.



1F

Activity and Photo Area: Experience the Sengoku Period for Yourself

Here, visitors can have a variety of experiences related to the Sengoku and Edo periods. Take commemorative photos and bring home fun memories!



Activity Area

Visitors can ride on a daimyo (feudal lord) palanquin and horse, or experience the weight of a matchlock gun and Japanese sword.



Dress-up Area

Visitors can wear costumes inspired by the lords of Okayama Castle Ukita Naoie and Hideie, and their wives, Ofuku and Gohime.



Armor Mapping

Dynamic video projection highlighting the spirit of Okayama's founders is displayed in a space with two models of armor.



Scan the QR code to view the "Armor Mapping" video



Historical commentary by Michifumi Isoda

An original video in which Michifumi Isoda, a historian from Okayama City who supervised the displays, explains the history and highlights of Okayama Castle.



Scan the QR code to view the "Historical Commentary by Michifumi Isoda" video

