

Modern Kumamoto is a showcase of Musashi's lifelong accomplishments, from swordsmanship to the arts.



Kumamoto City

武蔵

Musashi
Miyamoto



**Musashi wandered throughout Japan
seeking to determine the very essence of strategy.
Eventually, while living in Higo Kumamoto
in his later years,
Musashi attained the stage of enlightenment.**

兵法の極意を求めて諸国をさすらい
悟りの境地を拓いた晩年の地、それは肥後・熊本だった

Musashi, after winning his first duel at the young age of 13, wandered from place to place, entrusting his life to his mastery of the sword.

At the age of 29, in a legendary confrontation with Sasaki Kojiro known as the "Ganryu Island Duel," Musashi extended his unequalled record of supremacy in contests of arms. During the era in which Japan underwent a transformation from a country at war to a nation of peace, Musashi lived a solitary life and kept to himself. In his later years, while living in Higo Kumamoto, Musashi wrote *Gorin-no-Sho (The Book of Five Rings)*, in which he recorded everything he had learned during his years as a warrior.

Here, we follow the footsteps of Musashi, seeking answers to questions such as, "What stage of swordsmanship did Musashi attain?" and "Who were Musashi's patrons, the Hosokawa clan?"

Musashi and
the Hosokawa Clan

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Musashi —
From His Childhood Home
to Kumamoto

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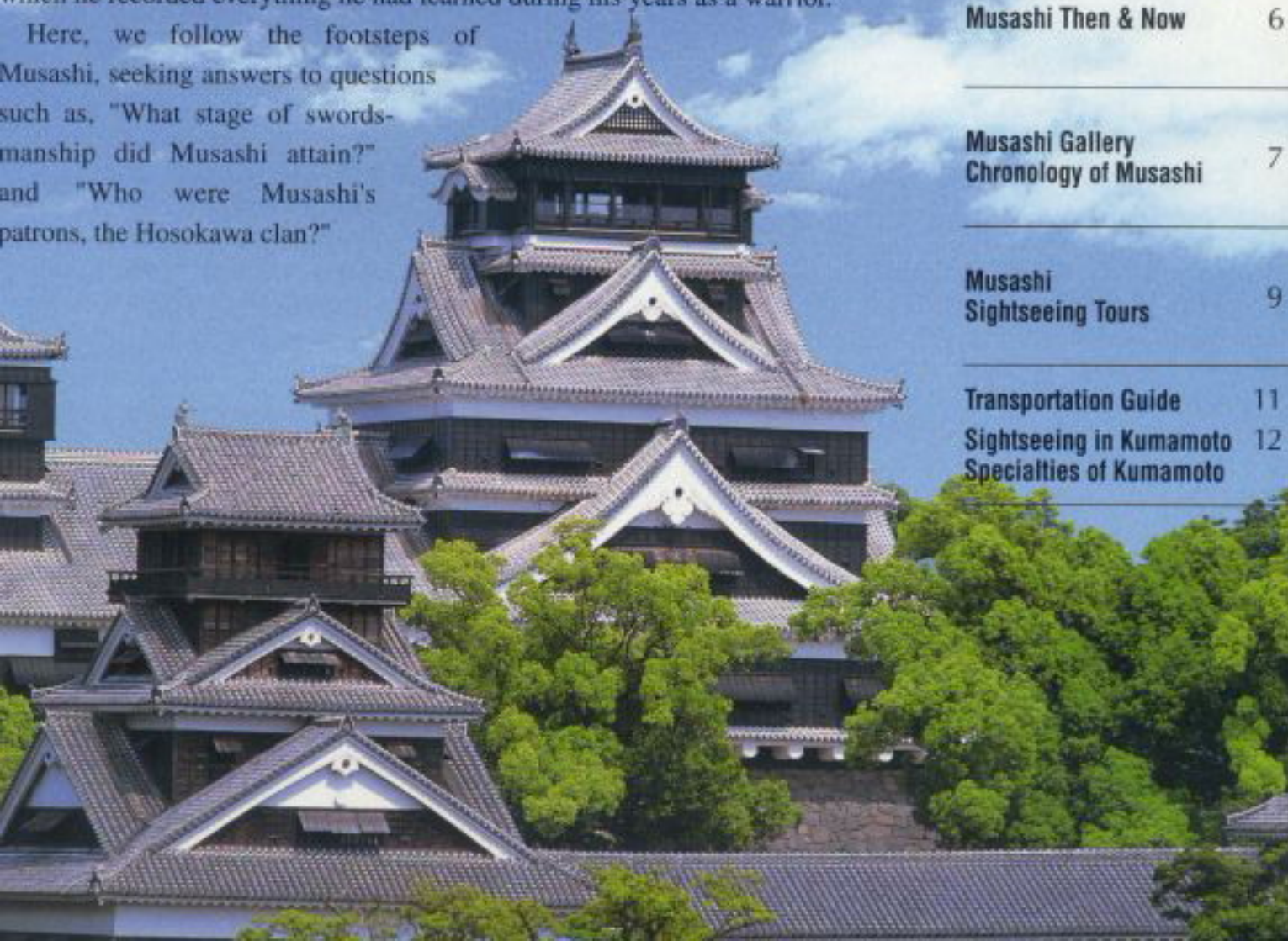
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Why did Musashi come to live in Kumamoto in his later years? The reasons can be traced back to the legendary "Ganryu Island Duel."



The Duel between Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Kojiro by Yoda
Tokyo Archives, Tokyo Central Metropolitan Library

晩年、なぜ武蔵は熊本に来たのか…
それは「巖流島の決闘」にさかのぼる

Miyamoto Musashi vs. Sasaki Kojiro

The "Ganryu Island Duel" has become a noted part of Japanese history. During that time, Sasaki Kojiro, Musashi's opponent, had been retained by Hosokawa Tadaoki, the lord of Kokura Castle in Buzen province. Later, Tadaoki's son became lord of Higo Kumamoto province, and about 30 years after this duel he invited Musashi to come live in Kumamoto under his auspices.

Why did Musashi and Kojiro enter into a duel?

Musashi's ceaseless travels and legendary skill in face-to-face combat earned him fame as a master swordsman. He eventually became aware that Kojiro, considered Japan's best swordsman, lived in Kokura, Buzen province. Much like Musashi, Kojiro had traveled throughout Japan and had been retained by the lord of Kokura, a member of the Hosokawa clan. Eventually Kojiro became an instructor in the art of war at the castle school. Musashi and Kojiro — neither of whom had ever suffered a defeat — entered into a duel to settle the question of who was Japan's top fighter. This legendary face-off became known as the "Ganryu Island Duel."

On April 13, 1612, the fiercest fight of the century took place between Japan's master swordsmen on the small island of Funa* in the

open sea. Musashi had just turned 29 that spring.

"Kojiro is defeated!" — The duel is decided in an instant.

On the day of the fight, Musashi's boat arrived at Funa Island three hours past the arranged time. Kojiro, who had become very angry at being kept waiting, drew his famously long sword and tossed his scabbard into the water. Seeing this, Musashi shouted, "Kojiro is defeated! If you wanted to win, why did you throw your scabbard away?" Irritating and agitating his opponent in this way was one of Musashi's tactics, and it provoked Kojiro into making his first lunge at empty space. At that moment, Musashi brought his wooden sword down on Kojiro. Musashi's psychological tactic succeeded and the duel ended as soon as it had begun.

What did Musashi gain from the "Ganryu Island Duel"?

This fight helped Musashi to attain enlightenment in addition to making his name famous across the land. Later, this measure of fame led to Musashi being invited to live under the auspices of the Hosokawa clan, which had been awarded Higo province.

An Introduction to Nagaoka (Matsui) Okinaga

Okinaga, a former pupil of Musashi's father who had sought to mediate



Musashi's duel with Kojiro on Ganryu Island, eventually came to serve as Musashi's assistant and Musashi sojourned at his home. It is believed that Musashi had been invited to Kumamoto on Okinaga's strong recommendation.

See pages 3 & 8 for more on Okinaga

*Funa Island: This island eventually became known as "Ganryu Island" after Kojiro's "ganryu" school of swordsmanship.

After winning his first duel at the age of 13, Musashi relied on his swordsmanship as he set out to wander Japan.

13歳にして初仕合。以後、剣に命を託し、諸国をさすらう



A portion of *The Battle of Sekigahara*
From the collection of the Hikone Castle Museum

A two-sword approach inspired by *jitte** techniques

Many stories exist concerning Musashi's supposed birthplace. He was born in 1584 in either Harima province (currently Hyogo prefecture) or Mimasaka province (currently Okayama prefecture). At the age of 17, he changed his given name of Bennosuke to Musashi.

His father was a swordsman who excelled at *jitte* and sword techniques. Musashi began taking sword lessons from his father at a young age. Some believe that his father's stance — with a sword in his right hand and *jitte* in his left — inspired Musashi's famous two-sword technique.



Portrait of Musashi at Age 13
From the collection of the Shimada Museum of Art

Participating in battles that shaped an era while entering duels with a variety of weapons

In many of his noted matches, Musashi used a variety of weapons ranging from wooden swords to two swords. Musashi's approach, known as *Niten Ichiryu* ("two-sword school"), enabled him to battle with either hand or to employ two swords at one time.

In addition, Musashi joined in six battles, including the Battle of Sekigahara. Through these battles, he grew to learn the limited power of the individual and became aware of the tactics employed to command a large army.

An unmatched record of victory in more than 60 duels

Musashi entered his first sword duel at the age of 13, recording his first victory against Arima Kihei of the Shintoryu school of swordsmanship. From that initial victory until his final duel at the age of 29, he challenged more than 60 opponents in duels, suffering not a single defeat.

**Jitte*: This was an Edo period iron rod with a hilt-like parrying hook. It was carried by authorities when apprehending criminals.

Sites of Musashi's Duels and Battles

Musashi undertook a *musha-shugyo* (warrior's pilgrimage) through mostly western Japan, eventually arriving in Kumamoto in his later years.





Musashi is invited to Higo Kumamoto — the goal of his lifelong journey — by a lord.

生涯探し求めていた太守に招かれ、肥後・熊本に来る

Musashi had the opportunity to travel to Higo Kumamoto as a result of his becoming famous from the duel at Ganryu Island. In association with Tadatoshi, the Hosokawa lord of Kumamoto Castle at that time, he refined his *Niten Ichiryu* ("two-sword school") here. From this historical fact, we can trace Musashi's path.



Stone walls of Kumamoto Castle
(*Mushagaeshi*)

The design of the backward-curving walls of Kumamoto Castle were intended to prevent enemies from scaling them.

After wandering the country for about 30 years, Musashi eventually settled here in his later years.

At the time of the Shimabara Rebellion in 1637, Musashi was a guest of the Kokura clan, which had employed Musashi's adopted son Iori.

In July 1640, 57-year old Musashi, visited Kumamoto and met Matsui (Nagaoka) Okinaga, the lord of Yatsushiro Castle.

Almost one month later, Lord Hosokawa Tadatoshi welcomed Musashi as a guest and offered him residency at the site of Chiba Castle. One can surmise that Okinaga had arranged for Musashi to be invited.

As a result, Musashi settled here

under the auspices of the Higo Hosokawa clan. While training the retainers, he entered into practice duels with skillful retainers of the lord who were confident of their abilities.

How much was Musashi paid every year as a guest of the lord?

Lord Tadatoshi graciously welcomed Musashi as an advisor in both political and military affairs. Musashi himself was also deeply impressed by Lord Tadatoshi's personality.

The Hosokawa clan treated Musashi to a guest reception and an annual stipend of 300 *koku* (a traditional measure) of rice. However, considering that the

annual salary of a general warrior was a mere 30 *koku* of rice, it is clear that Musashi was treated extraordinarily well.

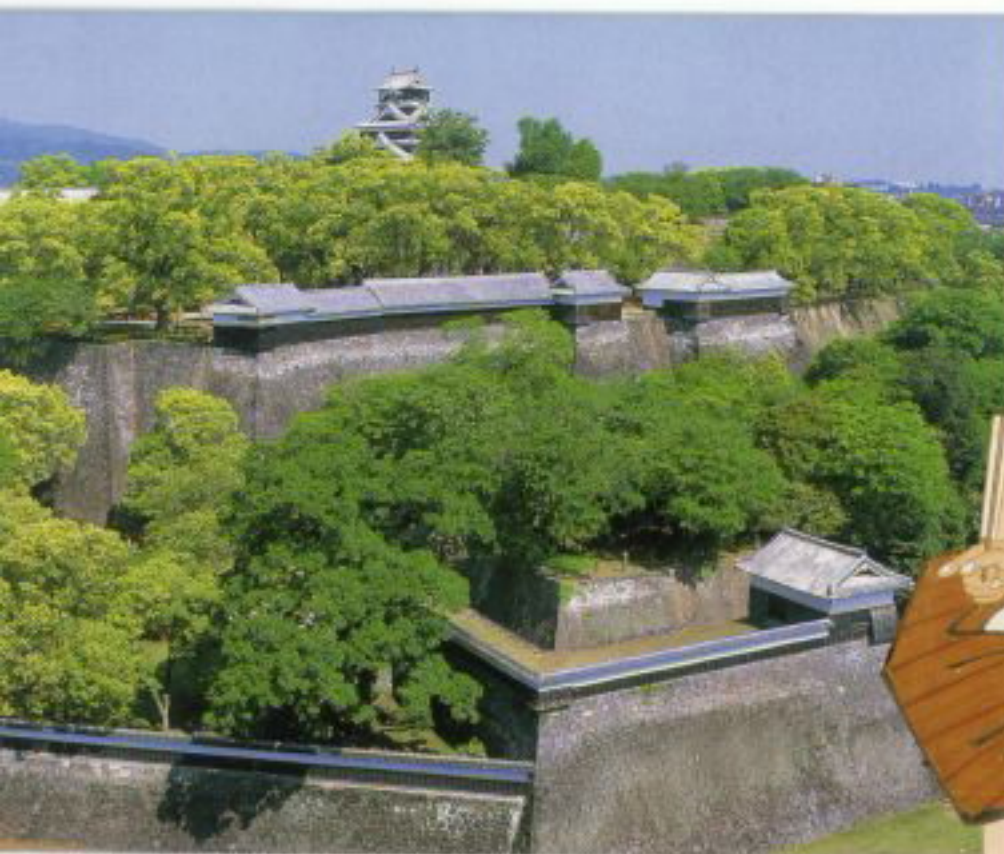


Site of Musashi's
former residence



Musashi's Well Sightseeing tour No. 7

Kumamoto Castle
Sightseeing tour No. 1



This magnificent castle, with a circumference of 5.3 kilometers, is one of Japan's three most famous castles. Musashi served in this castle at one time. It is currently undergoing restoration prior to the commemoration of its 400th anniversary in 2007.



Portrait of Miyamoto Musashi
From the collection of the Kumamoto Prefectural Art Museum

Niten Ichiryu is created in Kumamoto.

Single and childless throughout his life, Musashi eventually adopted two children. His first adopted child, Mikinosuke, committed ritualistic suicide at the relatively young age of 23. His second, Iori, chose to enter government service rather than study swordsmanship.

His adopted children did not seek to enter Musashi's sword school. After arriving in Kumamoto, he changed the name of his school from *Enmei-ryu* to *Niten Ichiryu*. Many members of the Hosokawa clan studied at Musashi's swordsmanship school.

Lord Tadatoshi, Musashi's confidant in political matters, dies.

In January 1641, Musashi celebrated his first New Year since arriving in Kumamoto. He visited Kumamoto Castle on January 2 to deliver his New Year's greeting to Lord Tadatoshi in the inner writing alcove. In February, he presented Lord Tadatoshi with his book *Heiho Sanjugokajo* (*Thirty-five Articles on the Art of Swordsmanship*). Lord Tadatoshi trusted Musashi, viewing him as someone with whom he could discuss politics.

However, in March 1641 — less than a year after Musashi's move to Kumamoto — Lord Tadatoshi died suddenly at the age of 56, leaving Musashi in a state of despair.

An Introduction to Hosokawa Tadatoshi

Tadatoshi was the first lord of Higo province and a member of the third generation of the Hosokawa clan. He was the third son of Lord Tadaoki and Tamako (Gratia). He succeeded his father to become the lord of Kokura Castle in Buzen province. He entered Kumamoto as the lord of Higo province due to the Kato clan's move to deprive the samurai of their privileges in 1632. Lord Tadatoshi was 55 years old at the time he welcomed Musashi to Kumamoto. Having been born only two years apart, he and Musashi were of the same generation.



Portrait of Hosokawa Tadatoshi
From the collection of Eisei Banko Foundation

Gorin-no-Sho, Musashi's essential book on *Niten Ichiryu*, the fruit of his lifelong efforts.

生狂の集大成、二天一流の極意書「五輪書」を著す



Reigando Cave Sightseeing tour No.3

Musashi's seclusion in Reigando Cave

In despair following the death of Lord Tadatoshi, Musashi abandoned his personal relationships and closed the door on society, except for providing training in tactics. He immersed himself in Zen while inclining his mind toward painting, calligraphy and sculpture. He began practicing Zen meditation in Reigando Cave — located behind Unganzenji Temple, known colloquially as Iwato Kannon (Goddess of Mercy) — west of Kumamoto City. Secluded in this cave, 60-year old Musashi began to write of the mysteries of *Niten Ichiryu*, which he had invented.

The Focus of *Gorin-no-Sho*

Gorin-no-Sho (*The Book of Five Rings*) compares the five elements of Buddhist religion that compose the circle of the universe. This book comprises five volumes; The Ground Chapter, The Water Chapter, The Fire Chapter, The Wind Chapter, and the Void Chapter. *Gorin-no-Sho* is an extensive collection of the strategies of Musashi, who focused all his efforts on leaving the legacy of *Niten Ichiryu* to future generations.

地 The Ground Chapter

The basics of strategy and the significance of the *Niten Ichiryu* two-sword method

The strategy is to win a real battle. However, it is not necessary to adhere to the two-sword approach at all times. If one is trained to hold a sword in one hand, the likelihood of winning real battles is much greater, regardless of the type of weapons used.

水 The Water Chapter

A systematic approach to combat entailing the *Niten Ichiryu* stance, swordsmanship and the attack

A calm spirit is essential on the battlefield. Mastering the Five Attitudes enables one to automatically read the attitude of an opponent. One must not be conscious of any attitude or posture, only of defeating the opponent and acting with flexibility.

火 The Fire Chapter

When preparing for battle, examine your situation and psychological tactics.

If you beat one man, you can beat ten thousand men. Determine the strength of an attack instantly in order to seize the advantage. See through the enemy's spirit so that you can defeat the enemy with spirit.

風 The Wind Chapter

In order to understand the essence of *Niten Ichiryu*, learn the nine typical strategic methods of other schools.

Focusing on the weapon, the posture, or the method of using the feet as taught by other schools is not the true approach to strategy. *Niten Ichiryu* does not focus on weapons or form in strategy; instead, it focuses on keeping one's spirit free for combat.

空 The Void Chapter

In describing the meaning and state of the void, Musashi's philosophy clarifies the essence of strategy.

The essence of the true void is to attain the strategy of a warrior and to fully study martial arts and the spirit. The true void can then be obtained when one reaches a state free of wavering. The state of void is indeed the essence of strategy.

Gorin-no-Sho
Eisei Shinko Foundation

Musashi dies in Higo Kumamoto, yet his skill and spirit live on.

武蔵、肥後・熊本に没す。その技と心は今も生き続けている



Musashi's Gravesite **Sightseeing tour No.4**

Dokkodo, written seven days before his death, reveals Musashi's humanity.

After completing *Gorin-no-Sho*, Musashi began writing *Dokkodo* in spite of his illness. It is said that Musashi admonished himself daily in order to overcome his weaknesses. The provisions comprise 21 articles that can be characterized as abstemious in outlook, as they recommend overcoming selfishness, not being deceived by the ways of society, and practicing martial arts. Later, these precepts came to characterize the ideals of the samurai code of chivalry.



Monument to Musashi

Sightseeing tour No.8

What was the will left behind by Musashi, who pined for his lord?

In 1645, at the age of 62, Musashi passed away, leaving behind the words, "From the road side, I want to watch over the line of lords traveling up to Edo." Therefore, it is believed that he was buried according to his wishes, along the Ozu Road in Yuge with his armor.

Musashi's funeral procession temporarily stopped on the way to Yuge near Taishoji Temple at the base of Mt. Tatsuda. The Priest Shunzan, a close friend of Musashi through Zen, had been awaiting the procession. It is said that when Musashi's coffin was placed on a stone on the road and the priest offered a prayer for the dead, thunder suddenly echoed through the area. Since that time, this stone has been known as the *Indoseki* ("Requiem Stone").



Musashi's
"Requiem Stone"



Musashi's Gravesite and Park

Sightseeing tour No.4

Niten Ichiryu lives on today in Higo.

Musashi, facing imminent death, bequeathed *Gorin-no-Sho* to his favorite pupil Terao Katsunobu, and *Dokkodo* to Terao Nobuyuki. Following Musashi's death, the Terao brothers inherited the *Niten Ichiryu* and maintained it for the future. As a result, the tradition of *Niten Ichiryu* remains alive today.





Musashi Gallery 武蔵ギャラリー

The art of Musashi on display in Kumamoto

In his later years, Musashi practiced many art forms, including painting, calligraphy, and sculpture. Through his works, we can see that he had been exploring the world of art and mastering its techniques. Over the years, they clearly reveal that the sharpness of his spirit surpassed even that of his sword.

Shimada Museum of Art 島田美術館



Portrait of Miyamoto Musashi

The piercing eyes and stance with two swords reveal his strong spirit. Some believe this work was created by Musashi himself, but the painter and date are unknown.



Koboku Meigeki-zu

Musashi's painting style was not limited to the techniques of a specific school. One can feel the sharp glance of the warrior who lunged at the stem on which this shrike is perched.



The sword used by Musashi This sword was passed down to the Hosokawa Gyōho clan.



Akala, the God of Fire (privately owned)

It is believed that Musashi sculpted this piece in Reigondo Cave, where he wrote *Gorin-no-Sho*.



Sayu Namako Sukashitsuba (hilt)

The hilt, made of iron, fuses practicality and a simple beauty. The shapes of the holes on the right and left resemble a sea cucumber, which explains its name.



Shimada Museum of Art

Shinasaki, Kumamoto City [Sightseeing tour No.2](#)

This museum displays an invaluable collection of paintings and articles left behind by Musashi.

Phone: (096) 352-4597

Open: Daily 9:00-17:00 **Closed:** Wednesday (except national holidays), 10 days during the year-end and New Year holidays.

Admission:

Adult 500 yen
High school & university students 400 yen
Elementary & junior high school students 300 yen

The Matsui Clan in Yatsushiro 八代市・松井家 See page 1

Matsui (Nagaoka) Okinaga acted as a go-between during the "Ganryu Island Duel." He also invited Musashi to Higo province. Okinaga later became the lord of Yatsushiro Castle. Because Okinaga provided good counsel, Musashi left many items with him.



Wooden sword



Shohinken House Kitanomachimachi, Yatsushiro City

The Shohinken House was a teahouse of the Matsui clan. Here, Musashi's calligraphy *Senki* (Fighting Spirit) and a replica of a wooden sword are on display. In June, the very impressive Higo irises bloom in the garden.

Phone: (0965) 33-0171 Open: Daily 9:00-17:00

Closed: Monday, year-end and New Year holidays

Admission:

Adult 300 yen

Elementary & junior high school students 150 yen



Yaba-zu ("Wild horse")



Senki
("Fighting Spirit")

Chronology of Musashi 武蔵年表

Note: Because few records exist, the details of Musashi's travels are subject to various interpretations.

Period	Year	Musashi's Age	Chronology	Year	World Events
Azuchi Momoyama	1584	—	Born in Harima province (currently Hyogo prefecture) or Mimasaka province (currently Okayama prefecture) as the second son of Hirata Munisai.	1588	The British defeat the Spanish Armada.
	1596	13	Wins a duel over Arima Kihei of the Shintoryu in Harima province.		
	1600	17	Joins the Battle of Sekigahara.	1600	The British East India Company is established.
Edo	1604	21	Wins a contest against the Yoshioka clan in Kyoto. Wins a duel over spearman & priest Ozoin.	1602	The Dutch East India Company is established.
	1607	24	Wins a duel over Shishido Baiken, a chain and sickle fighter, in Iga province.		
	1612	29	Wins a duel over Ganryu Sasaki Kojiro on Funa (Ganryu) Island.		
	1614	31	Joins the Winter and Summer Siege of Osaka the following year.		
	1624	41	Adopts Iori.	1616	Galileo is condemned by the Inquisition.
	1637	54	Joins the Shimabara Rebellion under Ogasawara Tadazane with Iori as commander.		
	1640	57	Invited to live in Higo Kumamoto as a guest of Hosokawa Tadatoshii.		
	1641	58	Writes <i>Thirty-five Articles on the Art of Swordsmanship</i> at the request of Tadatoshii.	1642	The Puritans revolt in England.
	1643	60	Begins writing <i>Gorin-no-Sho</i> while living in Reigando Cave.		
	1645	62	Falls ill after completing <i>Gorin-no-Sho</i> and dies after writing <i>Dokkodo</i> .	1644	The Ming Dynasty collapses and the Qing Dynasty returns the government to Beijing.

Musashi Sightseeing Tours 武蔵モデルコース

Kumamoto City is filled with historical sites that give us an idea of the city's former splendor during Musashi's later years. As you stroll through the city, you will be able to recreate the atmosphere of the glory years of Musashi and the Hosokawa clan.

Musashi & the Hosokawa Clan Sightseeing Tour (Central Kumamoto City to the northern area)

Approximately
8 hours

Musashi Meditation and Arts Tour (Western Kumamoto area)

- 1 Kumamoto Castle
- Former residence of Hosokawa Gysbu
Kumamoto City Museum
- 7 Musashi's Well
Site of Musashi's former residence
- 8 Monument to Musashi
(in Tatsuda Nature Park)
Musashi's "Requiem Stone"
- 4 Musashi's Gravesite and Park

- 1 Kumamoto Castle
- 3 Reigando Cave and Gohyaku Rakan
(500 Buddhist Disciples)
- Kimpo Mori no Eki
Michikusakan (Mt. Kimpo Rest House)

Enlarged view of the area surrounding Mt. Kimpo (Attractions No. 3, 5 & 6)



Enlarged view of area surrounding Shimada Museum of Art



1 Kumamoto Castle

Musashi once served in this magnificent castle, one of the three most famous castles in Japan. Many of the turrets were burned down during the Seinan War. The castle is currently being restored prior to the commemoration of its 400th anniversary in 2007.



Phone: (096) 352-5900 Closed: December 29-31
Admission: Adult 500 yen
Elementary & junior high school students 200 yen

2 Shimada Museum of Art

The museum holds regular exhibits on Musashi. Besides being an outstanding swordsman, Musashi was an excellent painter. Here, one can enjoy an invaluable collection of the paintings and articles left behind by Musashi.



Phone: (096) 352-4597
Closed: Wednesday, December 26-January 4
Admission: Adult 500 yen
High school & university students 400 yen
Elementary & junior high school students 300 yen

3 Reigando Cave and Gohyaku Rakan ("500 Buddhist Disciples")

Musashi is believed to have written his book Gorin-no-Sho (The Book of Five Rings) here. Reigando Cave behind Ungan Temple. The statues of 500 Buddhist disciples (Gohyaku Rakan) can be found positioned on nearby rocks.

Phone: (096) 329-8854 Closed: December 29-31
Admission: Adult 500 yen
Elementary & junior high school students 200 yen



hyaku Rakan
les")



Open daily year-round
Adult 200 yen
Elementary & junior high school students 100 yen

4 Musashi's Gravesite and Park (Musashizuka Park)

Musashi is believed to have been buried in this park. A bronze statue of Musashi stands at the center just inside the entrance gate. The large Japanese garden within the park contains Musashi's gravesite as well as a tearoom that reflects the traditional Japanese aesthetic.

Phone: (096) 328-2523

Closed: Open daily year-round Admission: Free



Enlarged view of the area surrounding Musashi's Gravesite and Park



5 Musashi's Western Gravesite (Nishino Musashizuka)

Another of Musashi's possible grave sites. Some believe that Musashi's gravesite in Yuge contained only his sword, while his body was buried here.

Phone: (096) 328-2393

(Kumamoto City Sightseeing and Local Products Section)

Closed: Open daily year-round Admission: Free



6 Musashi's Zazenishi (meditation stone)

This huge stone in Bairin-koen (Plum Tree Park) in Tanizaki has become known as Zazenishi, as it is believed that Musashi meditated here.

Phone: (096) 328-2393

(Kumamoto City Sightseeing and Local Products Section)

Closed: Open daily year-round Admission: Free



7 Musashi's Well

It is believed that Musashi used this well located near the front entrance of the NHK office. The site of Musashi's former residence is also located nearby.

Phone: (096) 328-2393

(Kumamoto City Sightseeing and Local Products Section)

Closed: Open daily year-round Admission: Free



8 Monument to Musashi (in Tatsuda Nature Park)

This park is the site of Taishoji Temple, the Hosokawa Clan Temple, a monument to Musashi, the Koshoken Tea House, and the gravesite of Hosokawa Gafu.

Phone: (096) 344-6753 Closed: December 29-31

Admission:

Adult 200 yen
Elementary & junior high school students 100 yen



Sightseeing in Kumamoto

県内観光スポット

A wonderland of sightseeing, excitement and gourmet attractions

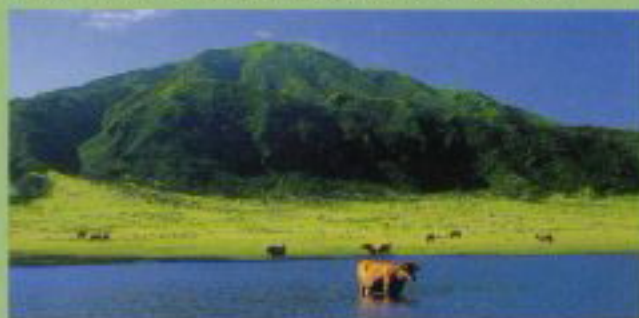


Aso

Vast Grasslands and Hot Springs

Aso offers a magnificent 90-kilometer view in all directions that encompasses calderas and volcanoes among five mountains. The beautiful and extensive grasslands, dotted with steaming hot springs, offer grazing for cattle and horses. Horse riding is offered at Kusasenri-ga-hama near the crater of Mt. Nakadake, an active volcano.

■Information: Aso Information Center (0967) 32-1960



Kusasenri

Amakusa

Abundant seafood on islands known as one of the first Christian footholds in Japan

Musashi and his adopted son Iori joined in the Shimabara Rebellion in Amakusa, the southern part of Kumamoto comprised of more than 120 islands of various sizes. The main islands are linked by five bridges, and they offer a wide selection of seafood as well as activities such as dolphin watching.

■Information: Amakusa Tourist Association (0969) 22-2243



Bridge No. 5

Specialties of Kumamoto



Kumamoto ramen noodles



Taipien noodles



Basashi (raw horsemeat)



Higo inlay



Obake no kinta (Kinta the Ghost)



Karashi renkon (lotus root stuffed with mustard)

Yamaga Hot Springs

Musashi's favorite hot spring

Musashi was known to have an aversion to bathing, but historical records indicate that he was invited to the Yamaga Teahouse soon after arriving in Kumamoto and decided to soak in a hot spring there. This spring was renowned as being gentle to the skin. The area is also famous for the Meiji era Yachiyoza Theater and for the subtle yet elegant Lantern Festival.



Yachiyoza Theater

■Information:
Yamaga Commerce and Tourism
Section (0968) 43-1111

Kumamoto International Convention Bureau

Sangyo Bunka Kaikan 7-10 Hanabatacho, Kumamoto City, 860-0806
Phone: (096) 356-1788 <http://www.kumamoto-icb.or.jp/>

Kumamoto Tourist Information Center

Sangyo Bunka Kaikan 1F 7-10 Hanabatacho, Kumamoto City, 860-0806
Phone: (096) 322-5060
Open: Daily 9:30-18:00 Closed: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month

Kumamoto Tourist Information Desk

JR Kumamoto Station 3-15-1 Kasuga, Kumamoto City, 860-0047
Phone: (096) 352-3743
Open: Daily 9:00-17:30 Closed: Year-end and New Year holidays

Cover: Portrait of Miyamoto Musashi: Shimada Museum of Art
Calligraphy by Shozan Kaneshiro, Judge of the Mainichi Calligraphy Exhibit
and chairman of the Kumamoto Prefecture Calligraphy Federation



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