

About Hiroshima

About

Hiroshima is a beautiful city blessed with a rich natural environment, nestled between lush green mountains and the tranquil Seto Inland Sea, with six rivers flowing through its center.

On August 6, 1945, the city was reduced to ashes by the first atomic bombing in human history. Nevertheless, thanks to the unflagging efforts of its people, and support from inside and outside of Japan, Hiroshima achieved a remarkable recovery and has since sought to spread the ideal of perpetual peace.

Peace Memorial Park welcomes scores of people every year, and in 1996, the Atomic Bomb Dome was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hiroshima has recently been dubbed the "City of Water," and in addition to the pleasure boat cruises and open cafés, visitors can travel around historic sites such as Hiroshima Castle and Shukkei-en while perusing the city's three art galleries. There are also plenty of unique local delicacies to try, including okonomiyaki and oyster cuisine.

For beautiful city landscapes that coexist harmoniously with nature, look no further than Hiroshima!

Peace Memorial Park

This park was constructed as a commemorative facility in accordance with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law promulgated in August 1948, under the project to make the whole neighborhood of the Nakajima district into a symbol of ever-lasting peace and a recreation area for citizens. Subsequently, the park was renovated into its current design in preparation of the 50th anniversary of the A-bombing. The park, including the A-bomb Dome area, occupies an area of 122,100 m². In February 2007, this park was designated as a place of scenic beauty in Japan for the first time among the parks renovated after World War II.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony is held in this park on August 6 every year.



Hiroshima Castle

Mori Terumoto, a powerful feudal lord whose domain once covered much of the Chugoku Region, began construction on Hiroshima Castle in the year Tenso 17 (1589), choosing for it a location with convenient access to both water and land transportation. At that time, large-scale construction work commenced on the castle structures, including its stone walls and fences, towers and keep, as well as the surrounding castle town. Although Mori would later be demoted by the Tokugawa



Shogunate after the Battle of Sekigahara, Hiroshima Castle continued to be maintained throughout the Edo Period by successive feudal lords, from Fukushima Masanori to Asano Nagaakira, whose clan would control the castle, and with it the domain, for twelve generations.

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The original castle keep and several other structures remained through the Meiji Period, but, unfortunately, the castle was completely destroyed in the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima. The castle keep was rebuilt in the year Showa 33 (1958) and made into a museum introducing Hiroshima's history through assorted informational materials and scale models.

The museum currently holds special exhibitions roughly seven times per year, as well as various other activities meant to raise awareness of Hiroshima and Hiroshima's history. Additionally, reconstruction of the wooden outer citadel was completed in Heisei 6 (1994), and, at the same time, the castle's stone walls and inner fences, which had remained intact since before the Edo Period, were designated as historic sites.

Itsukushima Shrine

It is said that Itsukushima Shrine, one of the Three Scenic Views of Japan, was established by Saeki-no-Kuramoto. In the late Heian Period, the current shrine building was constructed in its present form, as a shrine on the sea, with the assistance of Taira-no-Kiyomori. The conception of a shrine whose grounds include the sea, with its form ever changing with the ebb and flow of the tides, is like nothing else in the world. In December of the year Heisei 8 (1996),



Itsukushima Shrine was registered as a World Heritage Site. Looking out over the Inland Sea before it and crowned to its rear by Mt. Misen, a sacred mountain where the gods are believed to have descended to earth, Itsukushima Shrine strikes a harmony between natural and man-made beauty.

Hiroshima City Map

