



# Imori Fortress &

# MIYOSHI Nagayoshi

飯盛城と二好長慶

石垣群

曲輪群

曲輪群

千畳敷郭

Bronze Statue of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi situated in front of Daito Municipal Government Office





# Tracks of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi, the lord of Imori Fortress and First Ruler of Warring States Period in Japan

Written by Prof. AMANO Tadayuki, Department of History and Culture, Faculty of Humanities, Tenri University

## Profile of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi



MIYOSHI Nagayoshi was born in Awa Area (present Tokushima Pref.) of Shikoku Island. He ruled Kinki and Shikoku Area. He had hard time in his childhood because his father had been killed by his master. Nagayoshi was grown up to be the lord of Koshimizu Fortress (in present Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Pref) and later he defeated the military of his master at the Battle of Eguchi (in present Higashiyodogawa-ku, Osaka City) As the ASHIKAGA Shogun at that time had taken his rival's side in the battle, Nagayoshi deported him from Kyoto, capital of Japan at that time. Then he moved to Akutagawa Fortress (in present Takatsuki City, Osaka Pref.) and tried to keep peace in Kyoto by himself. After he took control over Kawachi and Yamato Area, he moved to Imori Fortress.

Even in the Warring States Period in Japan, family lineages and classes had been regarded as being fixed. Samurai warlords obeyed Shogun because they regarded him as a grand samurai master of all, the king of Japan. But Nagayoshi ignored that kind of common sense. He supported Japanese Emperor directly for restoring his residence. He made fair judgements at the trials concerning watersupply for rice production. So Nagayoshi won trust from Emperor to the peasants. In Edo Period, Nagayoshi was worshipped as a god. Until the Meiji Era, his judgements have become a standard in the local area he ruled.

Nagayoshi payed attention to East Asia, for it was the Age of Discovery at that time. He introduced plenty of guns during the battle against the Shogun. He protected both the Hokke sect of Buddhism in Tanegashima Island (in present Kagoshima Pref.) and the Zen sect which had exchanges with Ryukyu Kingdom of present Okinawa Region to take advantage of getting guns from abroad. He also approved the European missionaries who came on the Portuguese merchant vessels to spread Christianity. Nagayoshi even received an envoy from Min Dynasty of China instead of ASHIKAGA Shogun.

For his military and foreign policies, Nagayoshi was highly estimated as a great prime minister who had supported Japanese Emperor, or a grand samurai master ruling Japan in the documents of China and Europe as well as Japan. He took the position of ASHIKAGA Shogun and changed the way of politics at that time.

## Nagayoshi the Grand Master of Samurai Warlords



In the course of the Warring States Period to the early Edo Period, the term 'Tenka' meant the Kinai Area including present Kyoto, Osaka and Nara Prefectures. Nagayoshi was the first samurai warlord in the Warring States Period who dominated Kyoto, the capital of Tenka, without backing up from the Ashikaga Shogun. Then got control of Kinai Area instead of the powerful warlords belonging to the Muromachi Shogunate. His governance of Tenka had been kept 20 years and was highly evaluated in the documents both in Japan and in Europe, Nagayoshi was the pioneer who opened the door for unifying Japan as one country, which was the ultimate goal for ODA Nobunaga, TOYOTOMI Hideyoshi and TOKUGAWA Ieyasu, who succeeded the vision of Nagayoshi.

The portrait of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi as the ruler of Awa Area in the artwork named 'The Representative Samurai Warlords of All Round Japan', which is the original material for the bronze statue situated in front of Daito Municipal Government Office



The Area Ruled by the Miyoshis about 1561 A.D.



## Political and Economic Feature of Nagayoshi's Governance



Nagayoshi intentionally built no residential area nor towns at the foot of Akutagawa Fortress and Imori Fortress. He aimed to build a decentralized government, not a centralized one. Each fortress or city had its own role: political and cultural communications role for Akutagawa Fortress and Imori Fortress, economic role for both Sakai District where traders were safeguarded and Amagasaki Area which had economy special zones. Today Japanese government is centralized in Tokyo. On the other hand, political and economic roles are divided into several cities in the USA, Germany, Canada, Australia and Brazil. We assumed Nagayoshi had a modern sense for governance.

## Relatives and Vassals Who Supported Nagayoshi

Mainly in Kinai and Shikoku Regions, the MIYOSHIs conquered up to 13 territories that other warlords had ruled. Supported Nagayoshi to rule his domain were his three younger brothers and the MATSUNAGA Brothers. Nagayoshi's first brother, settled down in Residence in Shozui (in present Aizumi Town of Tokushima Pref.) and guarded Nagayoshi's domain in Shikoku Area centering on Awa Area. Later he moved to Takaya Fortress in present Habikino City. His second brother settled down in Sumoto Fortress (in present Sumoto City of Hyogo Pref.) and led Awaji Navy. The youngest brother inherited Sogo Fortress (in present Takamatsu City of Kagawa Pref.) He was a brave warlord and guarded Kisiwada Fortress in present Kisiwada City of Osaka Pref. MATSUNAGA Hidehisa was a right-hand samurai of Nagayoshi. He showed his ability mainly in diplomacy. Hidehisa ruled Yamato Area, present Nara City built Tamonyama Fortress which is assumed to have a building continuing to later Japanese castle. Hidehisa has been regarded as depriving Nagayoshi of his power. In fact, he and his successors served Nagayoshi faithfully. Hidehisa's younger brother settled down in Yagi Fortress (in present Nantan City, Kyoto Pref) From here he invaded Wakasa Area.

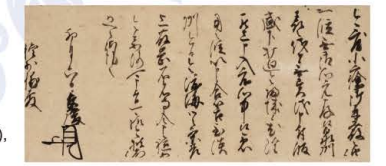
## 'Imori' to be Known in Europe



Christian missionaries in hard condition trusted Nagayoshi because he had allowed them to spread Christianity in his territory. They sent reports referring to Nagayoshi and his Imori Fortress to their home countries in Europe. On the map of Japan in 'From Japanese Islands and the Warring States' written by Renward Cysat appears the place names of 'Imori' and 'Sanga'. Joan Rodrigues referred to Miyoxidono the ruler of Tenka (MIYOSHI Nagayoshi the Ruler of Japan) and Imory (his residence in Imori).



Letter from Nagayoshi in April, 1560 A.D. (Daito Municipal Government Collection), mentioned about Imori



Letter from Nagayoshi in April, 1560 A.D. (Daito Municipal Government Collection), mentioned about Imori

## Want More Information about Nagayoshi and Imori Fortress?



**Daito Municipal Museum of History and Folklore**  
Address : 6-1, 3 chome, Nozaki, Daito City, Osaka Pref.  
In the Communication Center of History and Sports  
Telephone No. 072-876-7011 Admission Fee : Free  
Open 9:30-19:30  
Closed : 28th-31st Dec. 1st-3rd Jan. First and Third Tuesdays (If they fall under National Holiday, closed on the next day)  
Available to get information about history, folklore and cultural properties, not to mention Imori Fortress and MIYOSHI Nagayoshi. Items concerning Imori Fortress and Nagayoshi for sale. Pamp hlets can be read. '100 Great Castles and Fortresses Part.2' stamp placed.





# The History of Imori Fortress —fortress surrounded with stone walls, viewing Tenka Area—

Written by Prof. AMANO Tadayuki

## The Role of Imori Fortress

To cope with the battles continuing from 1467-1477 A.D. and the conflicts among the Hatakeyamas the samurai lord, Nozaki Fortress was built near Jigennji Temple. In the need of getting a solid fortress at higher site, Imori Fortress was built by KIZAWA Nagamasa, a vassal of the HATAKEYAMAs until 1530 A.D.

Nagamasa was such a powerful warlord that he got control of Yamato and Yamashiro Area, built Shigisan Fortress (in present Heguri Town, Nara Pref.), Nijosan Fortress (in between present Taishi Town of Osaka Pref. and Katuragi City of Nara Pref.) and Kasagi Fortress (in present Kasagi Town, Kyoto Pref.) Nagamasa had put the sacred space such as the huge rock site, temple and shrine in Imori and Kasagi Fortresses.

Nagamasa settled down in Shigisan Fortress and presented Imori Fortress to his master HATAKEYAMA Ariuji. Since then, Imori Fortress got the position of the residence for the local master of military and administration.

## Renovation of Imori Fortress by YASUMI Munehusa

After Nagamasa lost his power, YUZA Nagamori, a manager designated by Shogun and later joined forces with MIYOSHI Nagayoshi, ruled Kawachi Area. But he was assassinated. Then YASUMI Munehusa who had ruled Kisabe area (in present Katano City, Osaka Pref.) moved to Imori Fortress as a manager for northern Kawachi Area. Later he got control of Yamato Area.

As Munehusa was a person of culture, he set up a room for tea-ceremony in the fortress. He was famous among HATAKEYAMA's vassals for owning many wellknown goods for tea-ceremony and wash drawings. At the same time, he had the side of civil engineer. He led the renewal of Sayamaike Pond (in present Sayama City, Osaka Pref.) He might have showed his skill for the restoration of Imori Fortress.

View of Osaka Prefecture from the observatory (partly rest space) at Imori Fortress. Can view Awaji Island and the mountains of Awa Area where Nagayoshi was born on sunny days, which makes you feel like a samurai warlord.



## 1,000 Renga Poems made in Imori'

In 1561 A.D., a year after MIYOSHI Nagayoshi moved to Imori Fortress by taking power from YASUMI Munehusa, Nagayoshi invited a renga (linked verse) poet and held an event called '1,000 Renga Poems made in Imori'.

Several persons made a renga poem in turn until the number of poems reached 1,000. They quoted many famous sights of Kinai Area to praise Nagayoshi for his rule of this region.

Nagayoshi loved renga poems, which shows he was not just a man of power but of intelligence.

## The SANGAs, lords of Fukonoike Area, become Christians

Nagayoshi met Christian missionaries in Imori Fortress and gave them permission to spread Christianity and promised to protect them in his territory. Taking this opportunity, the missionaries preached to his vassals in the fortress for the first time. As a result, 73 men became the first Christians in Kawachi Area. Among them were the SANGAs, lords of Fukonoike Area.

The SANGAs were powerful enough to mobilize many ships in their territory. In 1565 A.D., SANGA Yoritsura greeted a missionary and his companions from Sakai District, an autonomous city at that time, to Imori Fortress in his ship: a report from the missionary to Society of Jesus said that Yoritsura treated them with hot meals and tea, which so much pleased the travelers in cold season.

In 1573 A.D., the SANGAs held an Easter ceremony on Fukonoike Pond with 200 ships, treated many Japanese Christians with fish.



Abstract from the record of '1,000 Renga Poems made in Imori' (from Daito Municipal Government Collection)

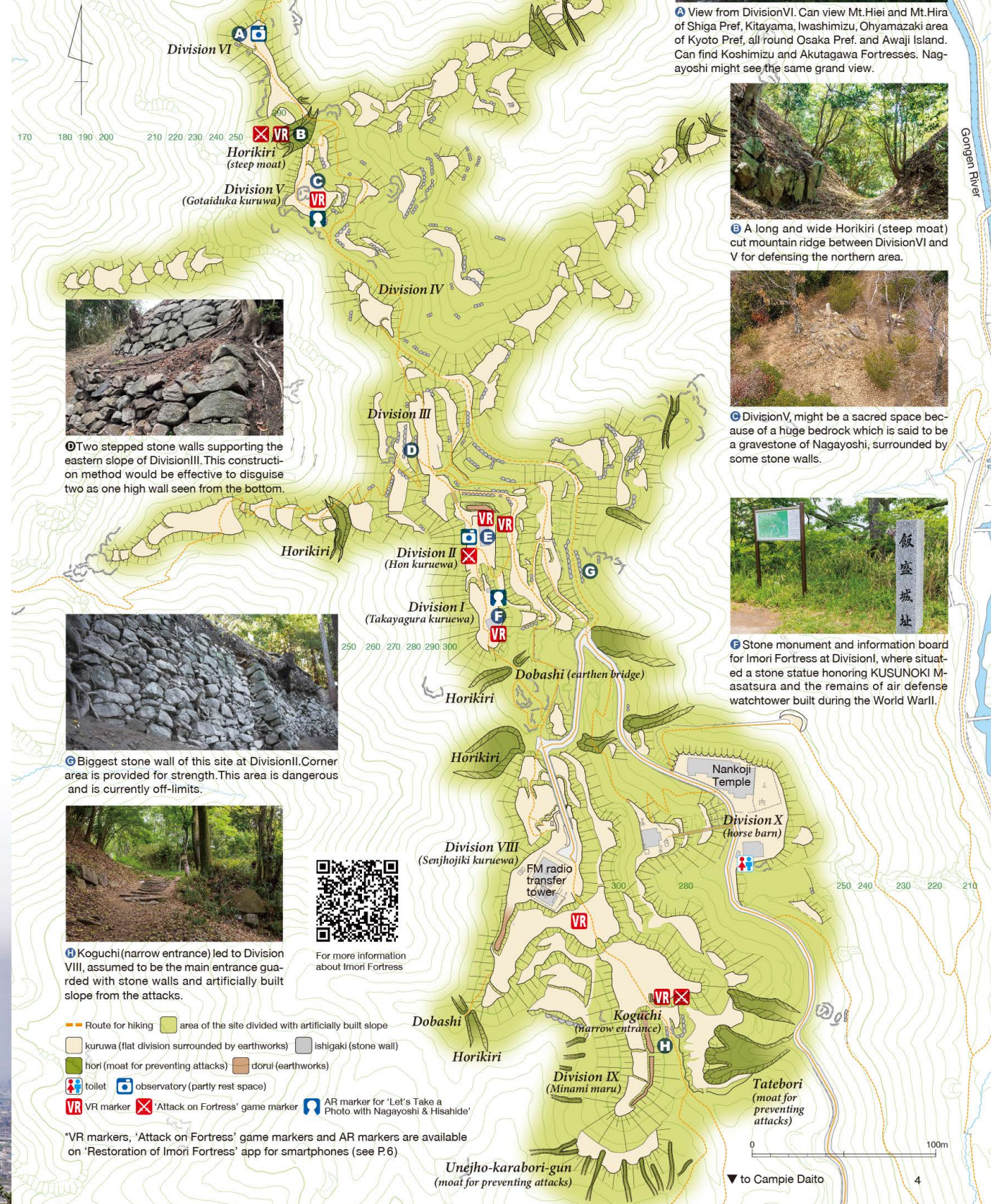


## Complex of Imori Fortress

▲ To Shijonawate Shrine

Cited from the Relief Map of Imori Fortress produced by Daito Municipal Board of Education and Shijonawate Municipal Board of Education 2020

Imori Fortress was constructed on the top of Imori Mountain (h.314m) which area is about 650m from south to north and 400m from east to west. It is the biggest fortress in Kawachi Area in the Warring States Period. The northern part from Division V is assumed to have a role for defense and the southern part from Division VIII were for residence. You still can see several stone walls, which were rarely seen for a fortress before the period of ODA Nobunaga.



View from Division VI. Can view Mt. Hiei and Mt. Hira of Shiga Pref, Kitayama, Iwashimizu, Ohyamazaki area of Kyoto Pref, all round Osaka Pref. and Awaji Island. Can find Koshimizu and Akutagawa Fortresses. Nagayoshi might see the same grand view.



A long and wide Horikiri (steep moat) cut mountain ridge between Division VI and V for defending the northern area.



Division V, might be a sacred space because of a huge bedrock which is said to be a gravestone of Nagayoshi, surrounded by some stone walls.



Stone monument and information board for Imori Fortress at Division I, where situated a stone statue honoring KUSUNOKI Masatsura and the remains of air defense watchtower built during the World War II.



Two stepped stone walls supporting the eastern slope of Division III. This construction method would be effective to disguise two as one high wall seen from the bottom.



Biggest stone wall of this site at Division II. Corner area is provided for strength. This area is dangerous and is currently off-limits.



Koguchi (narrow entrance) led to Division VIII, assumed to be the main entrance guarded with stone walls and artificially built slope from the attacks.



For more information about Imori Fortress

\*VR markers, 'Attack on Fortress' game markers and AR markers are available on 'Restoration of Imori Fortress' app for smartphones (see P.6)



## Brief History Relating with Imori Fortress and MIYOSHI Nagayoshi

Written by Prof. AMANO Tadayuki



- 1522 (Daiel2) Nagayoshi was born.
- 1530 (Kyoroku3) KIZAWA Nagamasa invaded Kyoto. The name of 'Imori Fortress' was to be known in Kyoto.
- 1531 (Kyoroku4) HATAKEYAMA Yoshitaka attacked Nagamasa at Imori Fortress.
- 1532 (Kyoroku5) Yoshitaka once again attacked Imori Fortress only to be defeated by Buddhist revolt. Nagayoshi's father, killed himself as a result of confronting to his master.
- 1533 (Tenbun2) Nagayoshi arranged a settlement between his master and the Buddhist group of Hongwanji Temple.
- 1537 (Tenbun6) HATAKEYAMA Nariuji moved to Imori Fortress as a manager.
- 1539 (Tenbun8) Nagayoshi moved to Koshimizu Fortress (in present Noshino-miya City).
- 1540 (Tenbun9) Nagayoshi married a daughter of HATANO Hidetada.
- 1542 (Tenbun11) Nagayoshi defeated KIZAWA Nagamasa.
- 1543 (Tenbun12) The KIZAWAs gave up Imori Fortress.
- 1548 (Tenbun17) Nagayoshi confronted to his master.
- 1549 (Tenbun18) Nagayoshi married a daughter of YUSA Naganori. Nagayoshi defeated the military of his master.
- 1551 (Tenbun20) YUSA Naganori assassinated. YASUMI Munefusa took Imori Fortress.
- 1553 (Tenbun22) ASHIKAGA Shogu was deported from Kyoto by Nagayoshi. Nagayoshi got Akutagawa Fortress (in present Takatsuki City).
- 1556 (Kouji2) Nagayoshi held a memorial service for his father's soul at Kenponji Temple in Sakai, ordered to build Nansoji Temple. Nagayoshi greeted the messengers from Min Dynasty of China.
- 1558 (Eiroku1) Nagayoshi got a settlement with ASHIKAGA Shogun. YASUMI Munefusa took over Yamato Region.
- 1559 (Eiroku2) Nagayoshi got a fight with Munefusa.
- 1560 (Eiroku3) Shogun and Empress Ogimachi gave Nagayoshi some high-class positions. Nagayoshi gave admission to the missionary activities by Gaspa Vilela. Nagayoshi attacked Imori Fortress and made it his base
- 1561 (Eiroku4) Nagayoshi held a party for making short Japanese poems at Imori Fortress.
- 1562 (Eiroku5) Nagayoshi's younger brother was killed in a military attack. Nagayoshi defeated HATAKEYAMA Takamasa.
- 1563 (Eiroku6) The son of Nagayoshi, his heir, died at Akutagawa Fortress.
- 1564 (Eiroku7) 73 vassals of Nagayoshi took vows to Christ: first Christians in Kawachi Area. Nagayoshi died at Imori Fortress. Yoshitsugu, his stepson, succeeded his position.
- 1565 (Eiroku8) Yoshitsugu and MATSUNAGA brothers defeated ASHIKAGA Shogun. Three leading vassals of the MIYOSHIs request Yoshitsugu to deport MATSUNAGA Hidehisa.
- 1567 (Eiroku10) Yoshitsugu made heavy use of MATSUNAGA Hidehisa. Three leading vassals repeatedly struggled with Hidehisa for getting Imori Fortress.
- 1568 (Eiroku11) ASHIKAGA Shogun and ODA Nobinaga took Akutagawa Fortress. Yoshitsugu who had formed an alliance with Shogun won back Imori Fortress.
- 1570 (Genki1) Yoshitsugu moved to Wakae Fortress.
- 1573 (Tensho1) ODA Nobunaga destroyed MIYOSHI Yoshitsugu.
- 1574 (Tensho2) Nobunaga had a fight with Honganji Temple at the bottom of Imori Fortress.
- 1890 (Meiji23) Shijonawate Shrine was built at the bottom of Mt. Imori for commemorating KUSUNOKI Masatsura and his vassals.
- 1903 (Meiji36) Old Shijonawate Junior High School opened and hiking for Mt. Imori became the essential event of this school.
- 1930 (Showa5) Mt. Imori Amusement Park opened.
- 1971 (Showa46) FM radio transfer tower was built in Imori Fortress Site.
- 2015 (Heisei27) Archaeological surveys on Imori Fortress were carried out.
- 2017 (Heisei29) Imori Fortress was selected in '100 Great Castles and Fortresses Part.2'. Bronze Statue of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi was situated in front of Daito Municipal Government Office.
- 2021 (Reiwa3) Imori Fortress was designated as National Historic Site
- 2022 (Reiwa4) Both Daito and Shijonawate Municipal Government Office won the 1st Prize of Japan Castle and Fortress Association.
- 2024 (Reiwa6) Imori Fortress was selected as the best on the NHK TV special 'Searching for the Most Attractive Castle or Fortress'

## If climbing from Nozaki Fortress or from Nozaki-kannon Temple, please drop by



### 2 Daito Municipal Nozaki-mairi Park

- Location : 2-6-10, Nozaki, Daito City, Osaka Pref.
- Contact us : 072-878-3303
- Open : 9:00-17:00
- Closed : 28th-31st Dec. 1st-3rd Jan. and Tuesdays

(If they fall under National Holiday, closed on the next day)  
 Located near Nozaki-kannon Temple. Japanese-styled calm park where you can enjoy seasonal views. Cardboard cutouts and videos concerning Imori Fortress and MIYOSHI Nagayoshi are exhibited at the rest space. Collectables for sale.

## Base for those coming by bus or by car



### 3 Campie Daito, Municipal Center for Outdoor Activities

- Location : 1846 Tatsuma, , Daito City, Osaka Pref.
- Contact us : Tel.072-869-0232
- Open : 9:00-17:00 / 16:00-10:00 for stay
- Closed : 28th-31st Dec. 1st-3rd Jan. and Mondays excluding the days with reservation and summertime

Available for families and groups hoping to enjoy outdoor activities such as camping or BBQ. Collectables concerning Imori Fortress for sale '100 Great Castles and Fortresses Part.2' stamp placed. Free parking for Campie users at the east side of the pond in front of the facility. Parking in the facility (not free, priority for Campie users) available.

## Collectables concerning Imori Fortress and MIYOSHI Nagayoshi



Original A4-sized plastic file folder designed with the materials concerning Imori Fortress the Designated National Historic Site (commemorating the 500th birth year of Nagayoshi in 2010) ¥300



## Enjoy Imori Fortress with the experiential learning app! App 'Imori Fortress Resored'

The Last Residence of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi, the Grand Master of Samurai Warlords in the Warring States Period'

With this app, you can feel Imori Fortress at that time real by viewing 360-degree VR images of the restored CG. It also includes short explanations of the site and attacks-on-the-fortress game. It enables you to take commemorative photos with CG-MIYOSHI Nagayoshi and MATSUNAGA Hisahide. Scan the QR code to download this app with your mobile phone or tablet. Walking around Imori Fortress with this app will show you the view of the restored site.



For iPhone



For Android



Home screen of the app



Commemorative photo with CG-MIYOSHI Nagayoshi

## Collectables of Imori Fortress and MIYOSHI Nagayoshi



western-style confectionary with raw caramel  
**Ambition of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi**  
 Patisserie Legere, JR Suminodo  
 2-3-1 Suminodo, Daito City, Osaka Pref.  
 Tel. 072-873-0218  
 Patisserie Legere, Akai  
 2-1-26 Hino, Daito City, Osaka Pref.  
 Tel. 072-812-6800

Japanese-style sweet  
**MIYOSHI Nagayoshi, Legendary Grand Master of Samurai Warlords**  
 Japanese Confectionary Mibu  
 1-1-4 Nozaki, Daito City, Osaka Pref.  
 Tel. 072-878-0300



Japanese-style sweet  
**Imori Fortress**  
 Japanese Confectionary Dainki CAFÉ Okura  
 7-8 Ogimachi, Daito City, Osaka Pref.  
 Tel. 072-872-0320



Shochu, Japanese rice liquor  
**Nagayoshi'**  
 Wine & Food Store Konishi  
 1-3-14 Akai, Daito City, Osaka Pref.  
 Tel. 072-871-1457

Sold at 1 Daito Municipal Museum of History and Folklore 2 Daito Municipal Nozaki-mairi Park 3 Campie Daito, Municipal Center for Outdoor Activities



Tenugui (Japanese towel) of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi  
 90x 34 cm ¥300



Gojo-in Sheet of Imori Fortress  
 ¥300



Gojo-in Sheet of Nozaki Fortress  
 ¥300



Comic: 'MIYOSHI Nagayoshi the Lord of Imori Fortres and the History of Daito City in the Warring States Period' (written in Japanese, A5-sized) ¥600





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### ◆ Illustration of Nagayoshi by Okazu

Illustration of MIYOSHI Nagayoshi commemorating the 500th birth year of Nagayoshi in 2010 by Okazu, Calligraphy Ink Painter.



Enjoy and learn about Imori Fortress and Nagayoshi!

### ◆ Samurai Parade & Wanna-be-Samurai

'Samurai Parade' is led by MIYOSHI Nagayoshi (disguised) Participants parade through Daito City in samurai armor, kimono costume, and other outfits reminiscent of the latest Warring States Period in Japan. Recommended for those interested in the history of samurai warlords, Nagayoshi and his Imori Fortress. Also recommended for cosplay-lovers.

Participants for 'Wanna-be-Samurai' dressed up as Nagayoshi with samurai armor, parade around Imori Fortress, the last base of Nagayoshi.



### ◆ Across History Academy

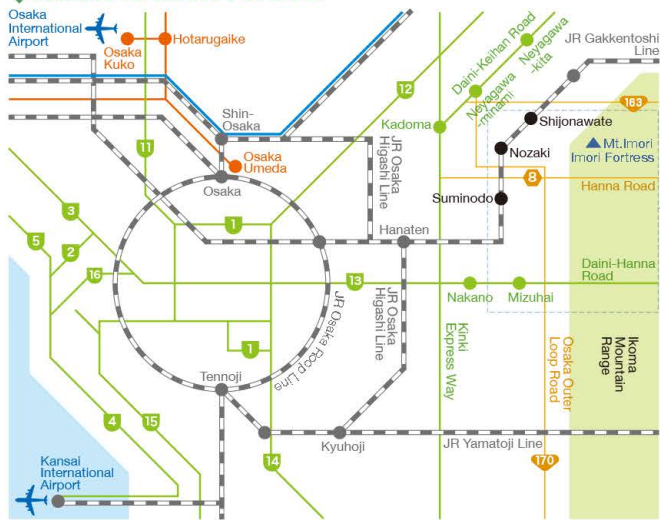
Various series of lectures about the history of Daito City are held at Across, lifelong learning center of Daito Municipal Government.

### ◆ Close-up Imori Fortress

Various lectures and tours introducing the surveys of Imori Fortress are held by Daito and Shijonawate Municipal Boards of Education.



### ◆ Access to Imori Fortress



- JR Lines
- JR Bullet Train
- Hankyu Line
- General road
- Express Way

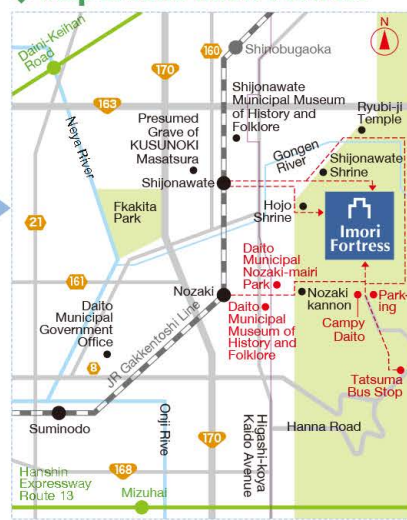
#### By Car

From Osaka: Take Hanshin Expressway Route 13, move out at Nakano or Mizuhai Inter Change. Take Route 170 to the north  
 From Kyoto: Take Daini-Keihan Road, move out at Neyagawa-kita Inter Change. Take Route 170 to the south  
 From Nara: Take Route 163 or Hanna Road to the west  
 Parkings near Suminodo Station and Shijonawate Station of JR Gakkentoshi Line  
 Free Parking Available at Campy Daito

#### By Public Transportation

1 hour walk to the east from Shijonawate Station of JR Gakkentoshi Line  
 1.5 hours walk to the east from Nozaki Station of JR Gakkentoshi Line  
 Take Kintetsu Bus at Suminodo Station to Tatsuma Bus Stop, from there 40 minutes' walk to the north

### ◆ Map around Imori Fortress



- Trail
- General road
- Express Way



Guide Map of Imori Fortress

## Imori Fortress & MIYOSHI Nagayoshi

- Published in January, 2025
- Publisher / Editor : Tourism Promotion Division of Department of Daito Municipal Industry and Culture  
 1-1-1, Tanigawa, Daito City, Osaka Pref. / Tel.072-870-0442 / Fax.072-870-0907
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- Translator : ARII Hiroko ■ Photographer : Daito Municipal Board of Education, KITAZAKI Hidekazu
- Graphic Designer/ Illustrator : Yamamoto Shoin Graphics

Daito City Printing Number  
6-67



Official Character of Daito City  
Daiton