

## Why was Kikuchi Castle built?



Kikuchi Castle was built by the Yamato government during the latter half of the 7th century (about 1300 years ago). The political situation in East Asia at the time was extremely volatile. Japan, who had sent auxiliary troops to assist with the recovery of the friendly country Baekje, was defeated in 663 by the allied forces of Tang and Silla in the Battle of Hakusukinoe. As a result, Japan faced the sudden risk of war on its homeland. Consequently, in Kyushu, Ono Castle (Fukuoka Prefecture), Kii Castle (Saga Prefecture) and Kaneda Castle (Nagasaki Prefecture) were built to protect Dazaifu. Kikuchi Castle played the role of a support base, supplying these castles with food, weapons and soldiers.

## The first wood strip excavated from ancient hill fort in Japan Wood strip reveals the past...



Reservoir remains where the wood strip and construction materials were found

The reservoir remains are situated in a valley on the northwest side of the Choujbaru district and covers an area of 5,300m<sup>2</sup>.

Many valuable artifacts such as wood strips and construction materials were found here.

A wood strip excavated from this remains has “秦人忍斗” written on it. This was a tag produced when a Hata clan member paid a rice tax of 5 to (an ancient Japanese measurement, approx. 60kg). From this it is also understood that Kikuchi Castle was not only a military facility, but also functioned as an administrative center for tax collection and other duties.



Wood strip excavated from the reservoir remains



### Round roof tile

The round roof tile (tanben-hachiyou-rengemon) found among the building remains is the oldest one in Kumamoto Prefecture, dating back to about 1300 years ago.

The symbol of Kikuchi Castle commemorating the ancient times

### Kikuchi Castle Onkosousei Monument

This monument was built in 1996 as a symbol of Kikuchi Castle.

In the center stands a soldier called sakimori, and at the front are his wife and child. On the west side is a high official from Baekje who monitored the construction of the castle, and on the east side is the priestess praying to Mt. Yahougatake. On the north side stand a pair of Chinese phoenix, Fenghuang.

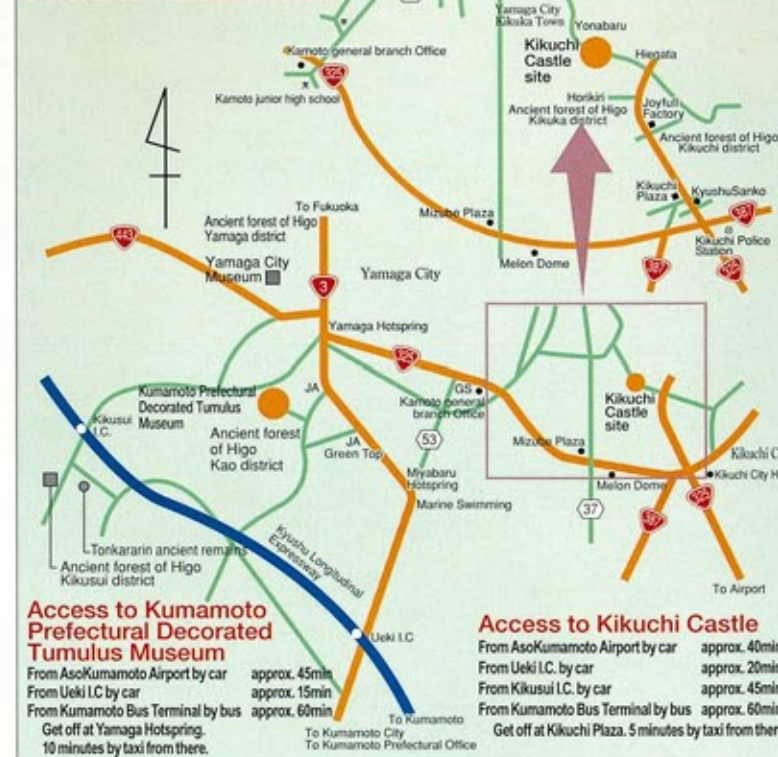
On the dais wall are 3 poems by soldiers taken from Manyoshu (an ancient Japanese poetry record) and 6 relieves explaining the history of the castle.



### Ancient records mentioning Kikuchi Castle

Shoku Nihongi	Monmu Year 2 (698)	Dazaifu was ordered (by the government) to repair 3 castles; Ono Castle, Kii Castle and Kikuchi Castle.
Montoku Jitsuroku	Tennan Year 2 (858)	(February) (June) The drum in the Weapons Storehouse of Kikuchi Castle played by itself. (June) 11 of the warehouses storing checked crops at Kikuchi Castle were burnt.
Sandai Jitsuroku	Jogan Year 17 (875) Gangyo Year 3 (879)	Flocks of crows had bitten off the thatch of storehouses and houses in the Kikuchi area. The drum in the Weapons Storehouse of Kikuchi Castle played by itself.

### Come and visit Kikuchi Castle and the Kumamoto Prefectural Decorated Tumulus Museum



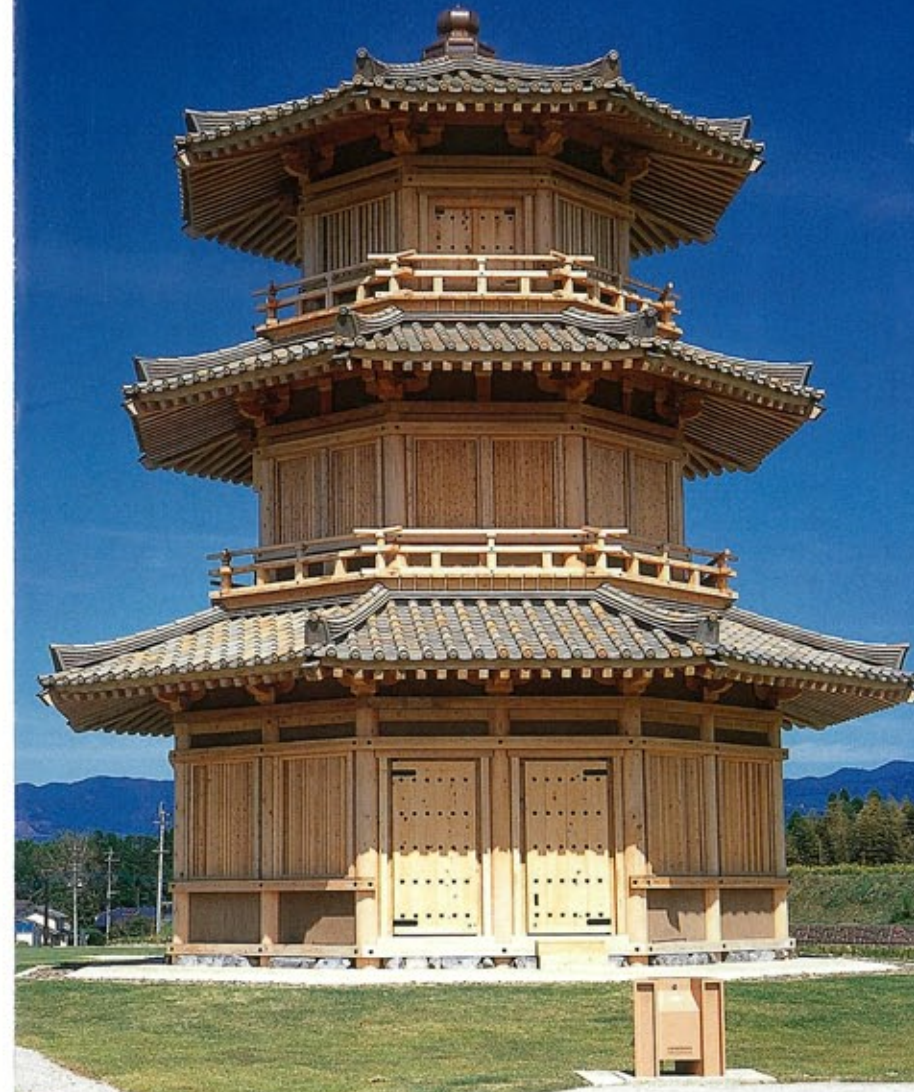
#### Access to Kumamoto Prefectural Decorated Tumulus Museum

From AsoKumamoto Airport by car approx. 45min  
From Ueki I.C. by car approx. 15min  
From Kumamoto Bus Terminal by bus approx. 60min  
Get off at Yamaga HotSpring.  
10 minutes by taxi from there.

#### Access to Kikuchi Castle

From AsoKumamoto Airport by car approx. 40min  
From Ueki I.C. by car approx. 20min  
From Kikusui I.C. by car approx. 45min  
From Kumamoto Bus Terminal by bus approx. 60min  
Get off at Kikuchi Plaza. 5 minutes by taxi from there.

Let's travel back in time  
to an ancient hill fort of 1300 years ago  
**Kikuchi Castle**



### For inquiries

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