



Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center

Building No.2
World Heritage
Site Visitor Center

The story starts here.



Opened in March 2017, Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center is the new starting point for sightseeing in Hagi. The Main Building houses an exhibition introducing Hagi Domain School Meirinkan, Hagi Geopark Center and Tourist Information Center. There is also a restaurant serving locally-produced Hagi food, a gift shop offering specialty Hagi products and restored classrooms which are used as multi-purpose event spaces. Building No. 2 houses the World Heritage Visitor Center, which introduces the five World Heritage Sites in Hagi. The history and science of the late Edo Period and early Meiji Period are introduced through exhibits in the Bakumatsu Museum.

Location: 602 Emukai, Hagi City

Open: 9:00 - 17:00 Restaurant ①11:00-15:00 ②18:00-21:00 (② is reserved only)

Admissions: Main Building - Free

Building No. 2 - Adults:300yen/High school students:200yen/
Elementary&junior high school students:100yen

(Group rates are available for parties of twenty and over.)

closed days: Tuesday first in February and the next day/The restaurant has holidays

Contact: Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center TEL : 0838-21-0304
Hagi Tourism Association TEL : 0838-25-1750

By Car

Leave the Chūgoku Expressway at Mine Higashi JCT. Take Ogōri Hagi Road and exit at the Edō IC (no toll). Hagi is a further 20 minutes away.

By Plane

○Hagi Iwami Airport⇔Hagi

• Door-to-door Noriai Taxi (75 mins)
(Must be reserved up to 1 day in advance)

○Yamaguchi Ube Airport ⇔Hagi

• Door-to-door Noriai Taxi (75 mins)
(Must be reserved up to 1 day in advance)
• Bus to Shin-Yamaguchi Station (35 mins)
Bus from Shin-Yamaguchi Station to Hagi (60~95 mins)

○Fukuoka Airport ⇔Hagi

• Door-to-door Noriai Taxi (2h 10 mins)
(Reservation up to 1 day in advance)

●Contact (Door-to-door Taxi)

Hagi Kintetsu Taxi TEL(0838)22-0924 (Japanese only)

By Shinkansen

Shin-Yamaguchi Station⇔Hagi

○Super Hagi Gō (Non-stop Bus) (60mins)

○Bōchō Bus (95 mins)

Shin-Yamaguchi Station - Mine City - Hagi Bus Center

●Contact

Bōchō Kōtsū Bus Center

TEL (0838) 22-3816

Chūgoku JR Bus Customer Support

TEL 0570-010-666



Tourist Information

Hagi Tourism Division

TEL(0838)25-3139 (Closed on Saturdays,Sundays,and holidays)

Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center

TEL (0838) 21-0304

Hagi Tourism Association

TEL (0838) 25-1750

NPO Hagi Tour Guide Association

TEL (0838) 25-3527

Hagi Onsen and Ryokan Association (Closed on Sundays)

TEL (0838) 22-7599

March 2024

Explore the World Heritage Sites by Video



Industrial Heritage Sites in Hagi Guide



World Heritage Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution

Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining



Japan made very rapid technological advancements after importing Western technology in the late Edo period. By the late Meiji period, Japan had become the first non-western nation to achieve industrialization.

Apart from forming the foundations of the economic giant which Japan was to become, this movement was also valuable to world history.

Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution show the process of Japan's industrialization at 23 sites (5 in Hagi), across 8 prefectures and 11 cities.

The five young samurai of the Chōshū domain who took up the challenge of modernization. The industrial revolution crossed continents and spanned the eras. Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution began here.

(From upper left) Endō Kinsuke, Inoue Masaru, Itō Hirobumi
(From lower left) Inoue Kaoru, Yamao Yōzō

The Chōshū Five

The young men known today as the Chōshū Five secretly traveled to England at the late Edo period to study modern Western civilization. After returning to Japan, they not only worked to strengthen coastal defense, but also towards the modernization and industrialization of Japan. Itō Hirobumi became the first Prime Minister of Japan, Inoue Kaoru was the first Foreign Minister and Endō Kinsuke became director of the Japan Mint. Inoue Masaru, Director of Railways, is today remembered as the father of rail in Japan, whilst Yamao Yōzō, who became Minister of Engineering, is remembered as the father of engineering. Each greatly contributed to the modernization of Japan across various fields. The creation of modern Japan only became possible only through their vision, adventurous spirit and unwavering energy.

The Chōshū Five
Photographed in London (1863)
(Hagi Museum Archives)



Area 1 Hagi Proto-Industrial Heritage (Hagi)

Hagi Reverberatory Furnace, Ebisugahana Shipyard, Ohitayama Tataro Iron Works, Hagi Castle Town, Shokasonjuku Academy

Area 5 Mietsu Naval Dock (Saga)

Mietsu Naval Dock



Area 6 Nagasaki Shipyard Takashima Coal Mine Glover House and Office (Nagasaki)

Kosuge Slip Dock, Mitsubishi No.3 Dry Dock, Mitsubishi Giant Cantilever Crane, Mitsubishi Former Pattern Shop, Mitsubishi Senshokaku Guest House, Takashima Coal Mine, Hashima Coal Mine, Glover House and Office



Area 2 Shuseikan (Kagoshima)

Shuseikan, Shuseikan Machinery Factory, Kagoshima Foreign Engineer's Residence, Terayama Charcoal Kiln, Sekiyoshi Sluice Gate of Yoshino Leat



Area 3 The Imperial Steel Works, Japan (Yawata)

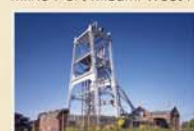
The Imperial Steel Works, Japan, Onga River Pumping Station



Photo courtesy of the Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation Yawata Steel Works (Not open to the public)

Area 7 Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port Misumi West Port (Miike)

Miyanojima Pit, Manda Pit, Coal Railway, Miike Port Misumi West Port



Area 4 Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site (Kamaishi)



Area 8 Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces (Nirayama)

Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces



About World Heritage

World Heritage are treasures of natural or man-made origin, the legacy of which should be preserved for future generations due to these sites' importance to the shared history of humanity. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conducts registration once a year, based on the UNESCO Constitution. There are three types of World Heritage sites; Cultural, Natural and Mixed.

Explore the World Heritage Sites by Video

Industrial Heritage Sites in Hagi

Guide

01



Hagi Castle Town

Hagi Castle and Hagi Castle Town were constructed according to a plan by Mōri Terumoto, after his defeat at the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600. For the next 260 years, Hagi would prosper as the heart of the politics, the administration and the economy of the Hagi (Chōshū) domain. Aspects of the local society of the times can still be seen in Hagi today.

The Edo period had a class system of warriors, farmers, artisans, and tradesmen, with the Hagi Castle Town showing the rigid segregation of living areas for samurai and townspeople.

The heritage area covers three zones: (1) The Castle Ruins, (2) the former Upper Class Samurai District, and (3) the former Merchant Class District.



- ① Castle Ruins
◆ 1 Horiyuchi, Ōaza, Hagi City (Adult: ¥220)
- ② Upper Class Samurai District
◆ Kuchiba House (¥100)
- ③ Merchant District
◆ Kikuya House (¥620)
◆ Various Old Residences (¥100 for each)

Mt. Shizuki 143m

Hagi Castle Town (Castle Ruins)

Castle Ruins (Shizuki Park)



Hagi Reverberatory Furnace

02

A reverberatory furnace is a metal smelting furnace required for casting iron cannons. Attempts to build a reverberatory furnace were an integral part of the Hagi (Chōshū) clan's efforts to strengthen coastal defenses.

The Hagi (Chōshū) clan built its reverberatory furnace based on a sketch acquired from the Saga clan. The size of the Hagi Reverberatory Furnace was approximately 70% that of the original in the Netherlands, indicating that it was probably built as an experimental prototype. Metal smelting tests were carried out for a time in 1856.

The remaining section of the structure is the 10.5-meter chimney made of stacked andesite (with brick for the upper portion).

The remains of the furnace are extremely important vestiges of Japan's industrial history and the trial and error developmental process that took place in the Hagi (Chōshū) domain.

◆ 4897-7 Chintō, Ōaza, Hagi City (5km northeast of Hagi city center)

Ebisugahana Shipyard

Hagi Reverberatory Furnace

Roadside Station (Hagi Seamart)

JR Sanin Line

Higashi-Hagi Station

• Tourist Information Center

To Tsuwano Town

Shōin Shrine

Shokasonjuku Academy

The Residence where Shōin was Imprisoned

Ishin Road

Matsumotogawa River

Aibagawa River

Hashimotogawa River

JR Sanin Line

To Nagato City

To Yamaguchi City

Hagi Station

Hagi IC

San-in Expressway (Automobiles only)

Roadside Station (Hagi Ōkan)

Hagi Museum

NPO Hagi Tour Guide Association

Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center

Hagi Bus Center

Hagi Tourism Association

Old Hagi Domain School Meirinkan

Hagi City Hall

Hagi Urugami Museum

Kikugahama Beach

Central Park

Public Restroom

Accessible Restroom

Parking Lot

Pay Parking Lot

Free Wi-Fi

Quick Charger Station for EV

Super Hagi Gō Busstop



Ebisugahana Shipyard

03

In 1853, the Shogunate ended its prohibition of the construction of large ships, with the aim of strengthening armaments and defense of the coast. The Hagi (Chōshū) domain was ordered to build large ships and Ozaki Koemon was dispatched to Hedamura, in Izu, in 1856 to study the construction of Western-style sailing ships.

With technology brought in from Russia, Hagi (Chōshū) domain's first Western-style warship, the Heishin Maru, was launched in December 1856. Dutch technology was subsequently imported via Nagasaki and the second ship, the Kōshin Maru, was launched in 1860.

Research has confirmed that iron from Ohitayama's tataru furnace was used in the construction of the Heishin Maru.

The seawall from that period remains at its original size to this day.

◆ 5159-14 Chintō, Ōaza, Hagi City (0.7km from the Hagi Reverberatory Furnace / No passage for large vehicles)



Shokasonjuku Academy

04

This was the private school headed by Yoshida Shōin, a military strategist of the Hagi (Chōshū) clan. In 1854, at the age of 25, Yoshida boarded an American vessel in Izu Shimoda, attempting to go overseas. He was imprisoned and later confined in the quarters of his relatives, the Sugi family (the Site of Yoshida Shōin's Imprisonment is a national historic site).

He began training pupils from 1856 and moved, in 1857, to the schoolhouse that remains today.

Yoshida's students included Takasugi Shinsaku, Itō Hirobumi (who would later become one of the Chōshū Five), and other exceptionally talented individuals who played a pivotal role in the modernization and industrialization of Japan.

◆ 1537-1 Chintō, Ōaza, Hagi City (1.5km east of the city center)

Yoshida Shōin's Birthplace and Grave

05



Ohitayama Tataru Iron Works

These are the remains of an Edo period ironworks facility that used ironsand as raw material and burned charcoal to produce iron.

Charcoal fuel and ironsand were put into the furnace, then fanned with bellows. This process is called "tataru" and is a traditional Japanese iron-making process. The iron works operated during three separate periods: eight years during the Hōreki era (1751-1763), during the Bunka and Bunsei eras (1812-1822) and the late Edo period (1855-1867).

Ironsand was brought in from Shimane Prefecture by cargo ships called Kitamae-bune, unloaded at Nago Harbor, and then carried by packhorse. Iron made at the tataru site of Ohitayama was also used for parts, such as boat nails and anchors, at the Ebisugahana Shipyard.

◆ 10257-5 Shibuki, Ōaza, Hagi City (North of Yama no Kuchi Dam, 23km to the northeast of Hagi city center / Due to very narrow roads, small cars only)

