

# The ruins of Iwamura Castle and the castle town

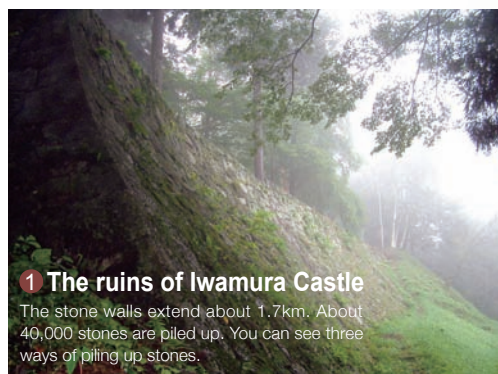
## A hero and female castle lord lived here.

**Name of a housewife is on a short curtain in the historical town.**  
**Town of the female castle lord is filled with kindness and warmth.**

Since it was built on the highest place (717m above sea) for a castle in Japan, the ruins of Iwamura Castle have been selected as one of three major mountain castles in Japan. It also has been selected as one of 100 superior castles in Japan. It was an impregnable castle by taking advantage of the altitude and geographical features. The builders took advantage of the unique foggy climate around the area in constructing the castle giving it the nickname "Foggy Castle". It lasted the Warring States period and 300 years of the Edo period since its construction in 1185. It continued to stand about 700 years until the government ordered to destroy all the castles in the Meiji period. One of the famous lords of the castle was a woman called "Onna Joshu" and protected her vassals and people while she chose a political marriage. Although the castle is gone, the way the

stone walls and wells were made says much about the technologies at that time. Materials about those technologies are restored in History Museum.

The castle town is divided into two areas. Samurai residences are located on the north side of Iwamura River and merchant residences are located on the south side of it. You can find sea cucumber-patterned walls and lattices which are iconic of the old ages here and there.



### 1 The ruins of Iwamura Castle

The stone walls extend about 1.7km. About 40,000 stones are piled up. You can see three ways of piling up stones.



## Walk along the historical streets enjoying a gentle breeze.

The main street which extends from Iwamura Station to the ruins of Iwamura Castle has been selected as "Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings". You can find a name of each house's proprietress printed on a short curtain under the eave which reminds you of the female lord of a castle. You

can learn unique ideas and skills of ancient people in the structures of wine cellars, sweetshops, and kimono shops, as well as in sea cucumber-patterned walls and watercourses going under houses.



### Sea cucumber-patterned walls

These walls are found in a daimyo's residence and a castle.



### 4 Katsukawa's House

This facility consists of two houses which are two story buildings. The study, tea ceremony room and rooms for employees tell about how they lived back then.

**Free admission Closed on Tuesdays**



### 5 Tosaya

You can learn how people dyed kimono deep blue at that time.

**Admission ¥200 Closed on Wednesdays**



### 6 Kimura's House

The style of the Edo period still remains in this house which reminds you of the history of the castle town.

**Admission ¥200 Closed on Mondays**

## Historical streets

These are the streets of merchant stores which played an important role in commercial activities since modern times. Stately buildings indicate the prosperity at that time. Historically valuable signboards still remain intact.

The old streets have been selected as one of 100 selections of beautiful historical landscapes in Japan.



## Access

- By Akechi Railway : 30 min from Ena Sta.
- By car : 20 min from Ena IC



## ② Utako Shimoda's Study Room

Utako Shimoda was a pioneer of a female education as well as a poet from the Meiji to the Showa period. This building is a reconstruction of her study room.

Iwamura branch office parking

Hand-made soba

Katsukawa's House

Iwamura Shrine



## ③ History Museum

This is a museum which displays materials of more than 800 years history of Iwamura. It preserves "Iwamura Castle Illustration Map" and "Self portrait of Issai Sato" which are historically valuable.

Admission: general ¥400

people 65 and over ¥200

high school and under free

## Iwamura Joshi Park

The entrance area of the ruins of Iwamura castle is called "Joshi Park". The ruins of Iwamura Feudal Lord House, History Museum and Taiko-Yagura tell a lot about the history of the area. Every August, a torchlight performance of Noh is played at the ruins of Iwamura Feudal Lord House.



Front gate of Chishin-kan



Taiko-Yagura

## ● A series of biographies of famous people in Ena



### Issai Sato

He was born in 1772 as the second son of a feudal lord. He served as a vassal of a feudal clan and learned

Confucianism. The government regarded him as a master of Confucianism. Educated people, cultured people and politicians read his collection of sayings.



### Utako Shimoda

She was educated since her childhood and composed Japanese poems and Chinese

poems. When she was 19, she served in the Imperial Household Agency and her Majesty considered her to be a talented poet. After that, she was engaged in female education and established schools for girls. She was a representative person of female education in the Meiji and Taisho periods.

## ● Local Eats

You can find a sake distillery and Japanese sweets shops with traditional manufacturing along the old streets. Enjoy the taste of the old days with some handmade Soba or Udon or relax in an old cafe.



Castella



Kankara-mochi

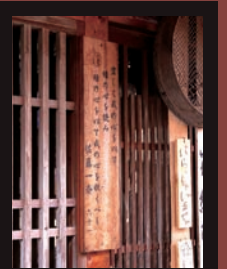


Local sake

## Don't miss!

### A collection of sayings by Issai Sato

When you walk along the old streets, you find those sayings here and there.



## For more information:

you can get "Iwamura Castle Town Illustration Map" and "Iwamura Guidebook" at Iwamura Station, tourist information, and etc.

Inquire at  
Ena City Tourist Association  
Iwamura branch office  
TEL 0573-43-3231  
<http://www.iw.vrtc.net/~fureai-yakata/kankou/>

