

Surviving Castle Structures:

Many of the buildings of Takamatsu Castle, including the Tenshu (main donjon), were dismantled one after another during the Meiji period (1868–1912) due to deterioration and difficulty in maintenance. Under such circumstances, the structures of the Kita no Maru (Northern Citadel) and Higashi no Maru (Eastern Citadel) facing the sea, such as the Tsukimi Yagura (Moon-Viewing Tower), the Watari Yagura (Connecting Gallery), the Mizute Gomon (Waterside Gate) and the Ushitora Yagura (Northeast Tower, now

relocated to Sakura no Baba), have been preserved and designated Important Cultural Properties of Japan. Takamatsu Castle has particularly large towers facing the sea, a size comparable to that of the main donjons of other castles. It is also notable evidence that the Takamatsu Matsudaira family accentuated the view from the sea as they were expected to play an important role in holding down western Japan.



■ From the Left: the Tsukimi Yagura [moon-viewing tower], the Mizute Gomon [waterside gate], and the Watari Yagura [connecting gallery]



■ The Relocated Ushitora Yagura [northeast tower]