

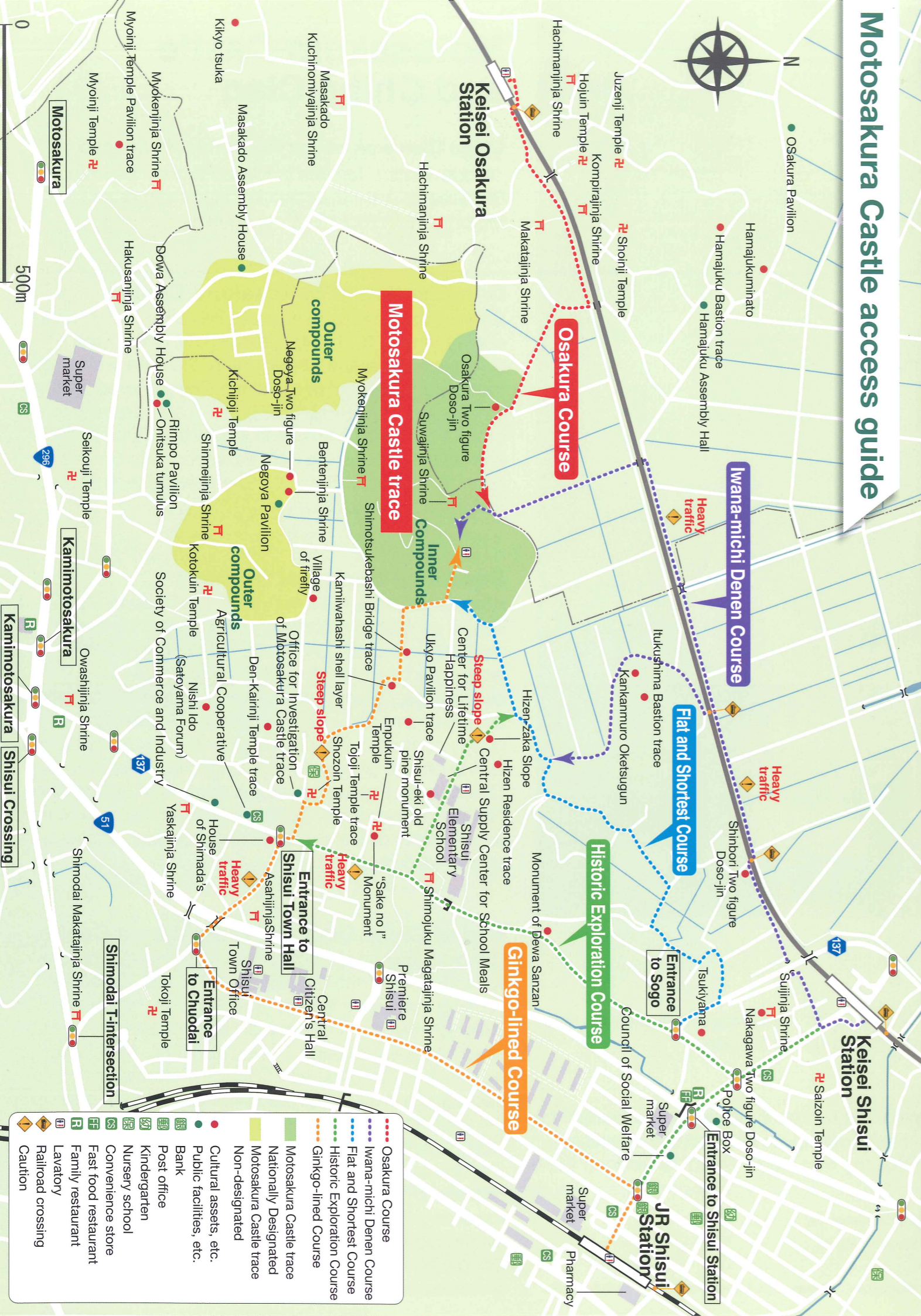


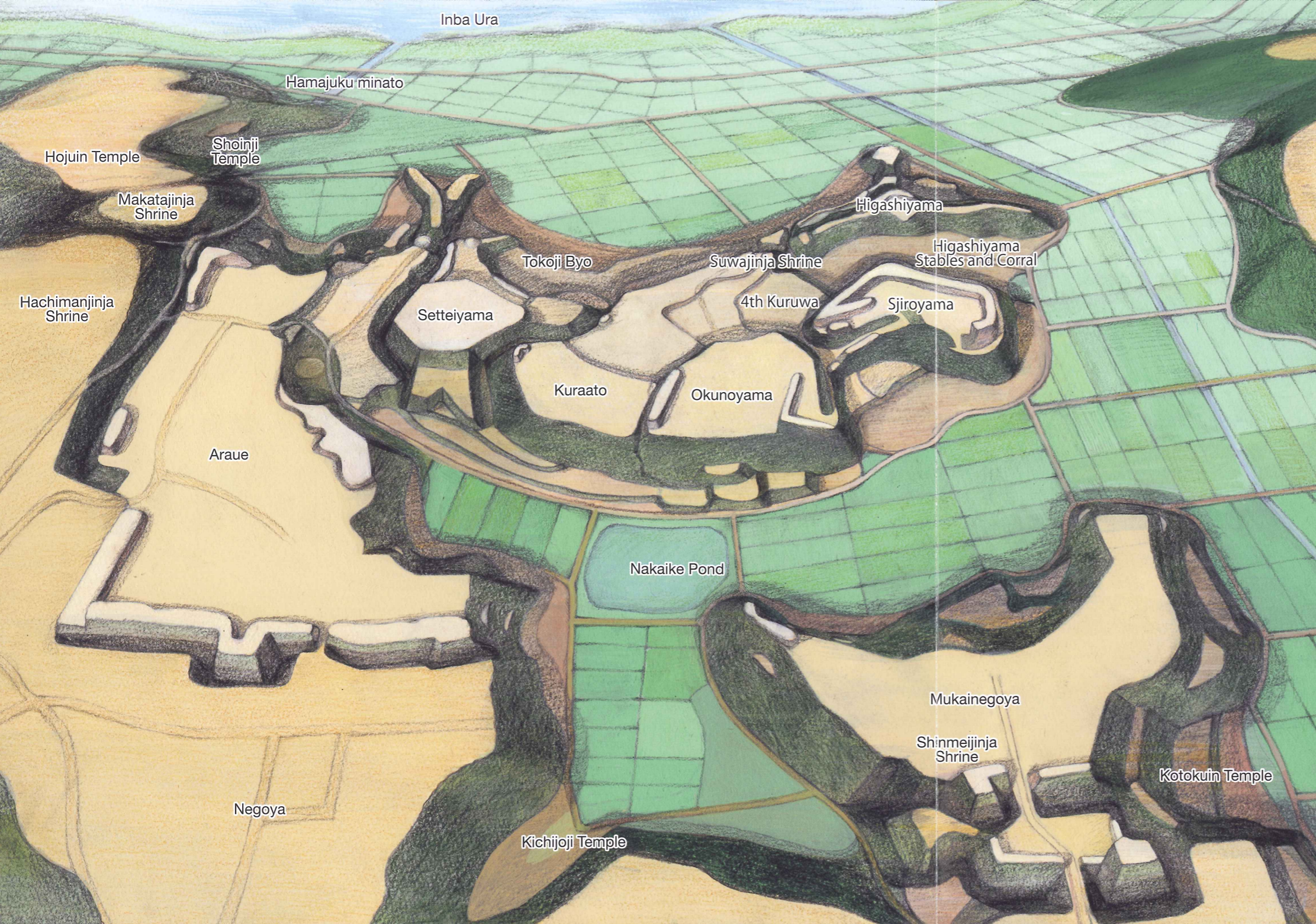
# Officially Designated Historical Site

## Motosakura Castle trace

Once upon a time, there was a man originated from Heishi Clan, who knew every one of the skills and tricks of martial arts, presiding two territories of Shimoso and Kazusa. His fame spread out not only in his domains but outside of it, He created the foundation of his clan's and their subjects' prosperity in Sakura. He was also famous for his outstanding composition of poetry. Excerpt from "Ungyoku Waka-shu Collection of Poems" , 1514.

### Motosakura Castle access guide





# Motosakura Castle and Chiba Clan

**Chiba Clan was one of the dominant daimyo** --feudal lords -- families in Kanto Region, presiding Shimosa as Areal Guardian in the Kamakura and the Muromachi (1185-1573) shogunate.

## Construction of Motosakura Castle

As a tragic outcome of Kyotoku Revellion, which broke out in Kyotoku 3 (1454), the original Chiba Clan collapsed. Suketane Chiba, one of the collateral family members, took over to make the Clan survived. During the Bunmei era (1469-1487), he made decision to move their castle from Chiba where they had resided and presided since the Kamakura period to Sakura (currently Town of Shisui). The new castle is known as Motosakura Castle.

## Becoming Capital of Shimosa

Katsutane Chiba, the third lord of Motosakura Castle, served as a strong locomotive to develop the castle town including the construction of the clan's family temple and the other for wishing the clan's success; i.e., winning wars. Literal and artistic activities became more and more prosperous. A number of poetry contests were organized and Poet Junso Nouse was in charge of composing "Ungyoku Waka-shu Collection of Poems" under the patronage of Katsutane. The town around the castle established themselves as a central city of the area in terms of politics, economy as well as culture.

## End of Chiba Clan and Motosakura Castle

Gohojo Clan had become powerful more and more in Kanto Region since the middle of the 16th Century, causing a negative impact to Chiba Clan, which had suffered from the unexpectedly early passing away of a head and assassination. When Kunitane, the 8th head, was assassinated, his son Shigetane should have succeeded the headship but in reality he had to give up the idea in favor of Naoshige Hojo. At the time, Gohojo Clan completely outclassed Chiba's. Immediately after the transfer, Chiba Clan, who supported Gohojo when Hideyoshi Toyotomi attempted to conquer Odawara, the central city of Gohojo in Tensho 18 (1590). Chiba, together with Gohojo, was defeated, eventually being on the fast track to extinction. Their castle in Motosakura Castle was decommissioned.

## What was Motosakura Castle?

### A Gigantic Earthen Fortress

Motosakura Castle, which consisted of ten individual quarters, was constructed in the Age of Civil Wars (1493-1573), covering a vast area no less than 350,000 m<sup>2</sup>. It featured a typical "earthen construction" created by flattening mounds, filling valleys and casting up earthworks.

### Mansions of Chiba Clan

On Shiroyama -- or castle hill -- which was the heart of the castle construction, founded were the mansions of the heads of the clan that included the main castle, meeting building, gardens, gates and turrets. Additionally, a number of relics of the past have been excavated; Porcelains domestically produced such as Seto-Mino and Tokoname as well as imported from abroad. They remind us of the fact that the members of the Clan resided there.

<Motosakura Castletrace Date> Size : 700 m in east-west direction 800 m in south-north direction Area : About 350,000 m<sup>2</sup> Designated by Nation on September 11,1998

Inner Compounds : 1<sup>st</sup> Kuruwa (Shiroyama) 2<sup>nd</sup> Kuruwa (Okunoyama) 3<sup>rd</sup> Kuruwa (Kuraato) 4<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (mumyo kuruwa)

5<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (Higashiyama/Higashiyama Stables and Corral) 6<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (Tokoji Byo) 7<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (Setteiyama)

Outer Compounds : 8<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (Araue) 9<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (Mukainegoya) 10<sup>th</sup> Kuruwa (Negoya) Castle town : Sakurasyuku Shisuisyuku Hamajukuminato Kashimasyuku