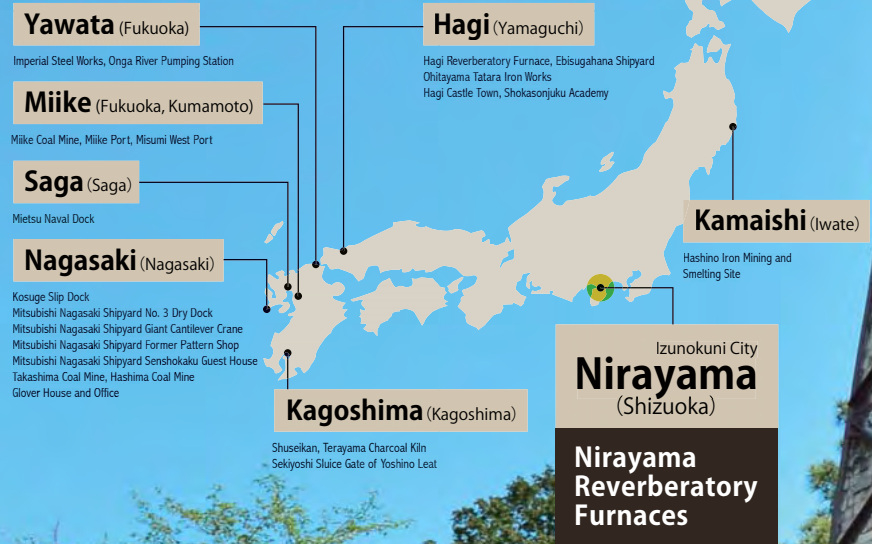


# World Heritage

## Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces

### - Heritage Site Locations -



Recognized by the World

## Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution

### Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining

Site of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining" was put on the World Heritage List in July 8, 2015.

A series of industrial heritage sites, focused mainly on the Kyushu-Yamaguchi region of south-west of Japan, represent the first successful transfer of industrialization from the West to a non-Western nation. The rapid industrialization that Japan achieved from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century was founded on iron and steel, shipbuilding and coal mining, particularly to meet defence needs. The sites in the series reflect the three phases of this rapid industrialisation achieved over a short space of just over fifty years between 1850s and 1910.

The first phase in the pre-Meiji Bakumatsu isolation period, at the end of Shogun era in the 1850s and early 1860s, was a period of experimentation in iron making and shipbuilding. Prompted by the need to improve the defences of the nation and particularly its sea-going defences in response to foreign threats, industrialisation was developed by local clans through second hand knowledge, based mostly on Western textbooks, and copying Western examples, combined with traditional craft skills. Ultimately most were unsuccessful. Nevertheless this approach marked a substantial move from the isolationism of the Edo period, and in part prompted the Meiji Restoration.

The second phase from the 1860s accelerated by the new Meiji Era, involved the importation of Western technology and the expertise to operate it; while the third and final phase in the late Meiji period (between 1890 to 1910), was full-blown local industrialization achieved with newly-acquired Japanese expertise and through the active adaptation of Western technology to best suit Japanese needs and social traditions, on Japan's own terms. Western technology was adapted to local needs and local materials and organised by local engineers and supervisors.



Giant Cantilever Crane



Hashima Coal Mine



Hagi Reverberatory Furnace

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