



There are numerous historical sites and artifacts from ancient times through modern times in Izunokuni City. The most important and precious of these are nationally recognized under the Law for Protection of Cultural Properties, with a total of 15 nationally designated/registered cultural assets within the city. Preserving and passing down these pieces of history helps to cultivate pride in the community and acts as a source of strength that will continue on into coming generations.



Portrait of shogunal retainer Ozawa taken by John Manjiro (Egawa Family Portraits) Egawa Bunko Foundation Collection



Journal kept during construction of the R.F. (Nirayama Governor Egawa Family Materials) Egawa Bunko Foundation Collection



Nakagawa Residence



Old Suganuma Residence (Chihan'an) ©IWASA / chihan art

Learn about ancient history from pieces that remain here today

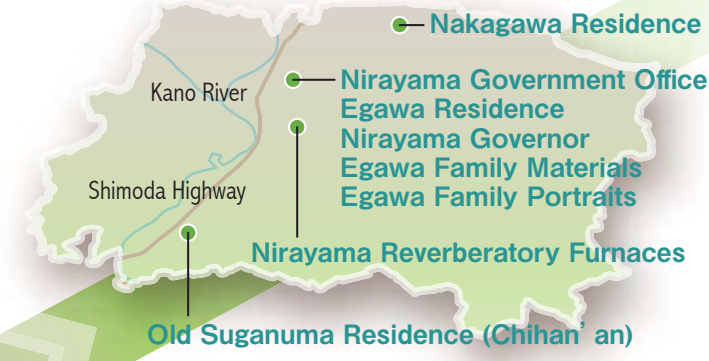
Nationally Designated/Registered Cultural Assets in Izunokuni



Horigoe Goshō



Hojo Residence (Enjo-ji Temple)



● Edo/Bakumatsu/Meiji Periods

Ties to generations of pioneers

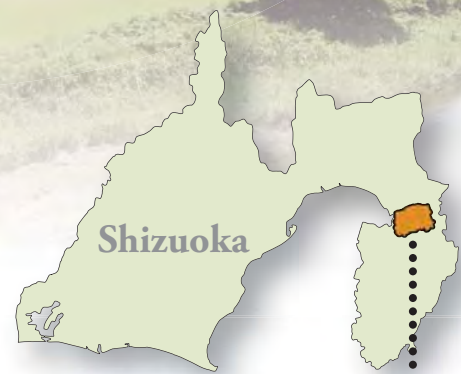
Izunokuni City has ties to Minamoto no Yoritomo and Hojo Masako, Hojo Soun (Ise Sozui), and Egawa Tarozaemon (Tannan) "all renowned historical titans".

Minamoto no Yoritomo was exiled to Izu Nirayama after facing defeat in the Heji Disturbance, and it was there that he met and married Hojo Masako, the daughter of Hojo Tokimasa and a member of the area's powerful Hojo clan. Today, in Hirugashima where he was exiled, a statue of the couple can be found gazing at Mt. Fuji.

Hojo Soun is known as a pioneer of the Sengoku period. A moat and compounds can still be found at the site of the Nirayama Castle, which served as his foothold while taking control of Izu and pushing into Sagami. After transferring headship of the family to his son Ujitsuna of the Odawara, Soun settled down at the Nirayama Castle and resided there for the remainder of his life.

Hirugashima, the Nirayama Castle remains, the Egawa Residence, and many other related sites of historical significance have been preserved within Izunokuni City, providing visitors a source of direct contact with these great figures.

※Learn more about Egawa Tarozaemon on pages 7-9.

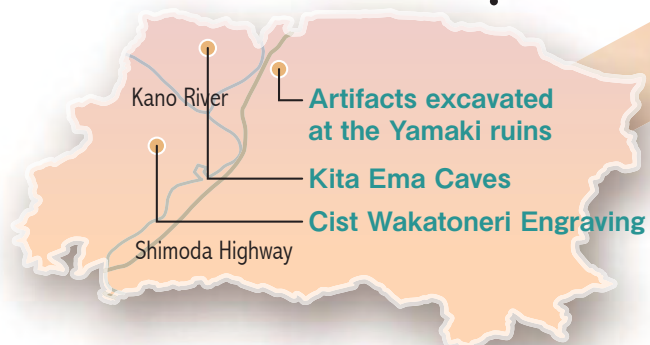


● Kamakura/Muromachi/Sengoku Periods

Tracing the steps of the ancients

A total of 47 caves dating back to primarily the mid-7th to 8th centuries can be found in the Kita Ema region, and a cist was also excavated from this area. The Yamaki ruins are another precious historical site, providing insights into what life was like in the Yayoi period.

Along with the Toro archaeological site in Shizuoka City, the ruins have received much attention for the important role they play in understanding Japanese culture during the Yayoi period.



● Jomon/Yayoi/Kofun Periods



Kita Ema Caves



Cist Wakatoneri Engraving (Kita Ema Caves)



Artifacts excavated at the Yamaki ruins

National Treasure

Ganjoju-in Temple Unkei's Buddhas



Ganjoju-in Temple was built in 1189 by Hojo Tokimasa in honor of Minamoto no Yoritomo's imminent victory at the Battle of Oshu. The five Buddhist statues located here - including a wooden, seated Amida Nyorai and a standing Bishamonten - were crafted at the request of Tokimasa by Unkei, who was one of the greatest Buddhist image sculptors of the Kamakura period. These statues are among the first to display the sense of realism and power that came to characterize Unkei's style and eventually Kamakura period sculpture. As such, their significance was officially recognized when they were designated as national treasures in June 2013.

(right) Amida Nyorai (seated, wooden)
(top left) Bishamonten (standing, wooden)
(bottom left) Fudo Myoo and two attendants (standing, wooden)