



Hikone Castle Japan

zichi Lorentz 2010



Hikone Castle

A visit to Hikone Castle

Hikone Castle

Hikone Castle is a famous Japanese castle in Shiga Prefecture on Lake Biwa.

A beautiful castle inside and out with many small interesting points here and there. Take your time to explore and enjoy it. Don't miss the various yagura and gates in a rush to get to the main donjon. With the reconstructed lord's palace and the original gardens on the grounds of this castle, in some ways it demonstrates what a castle was really like even more so than Himeji Castle.

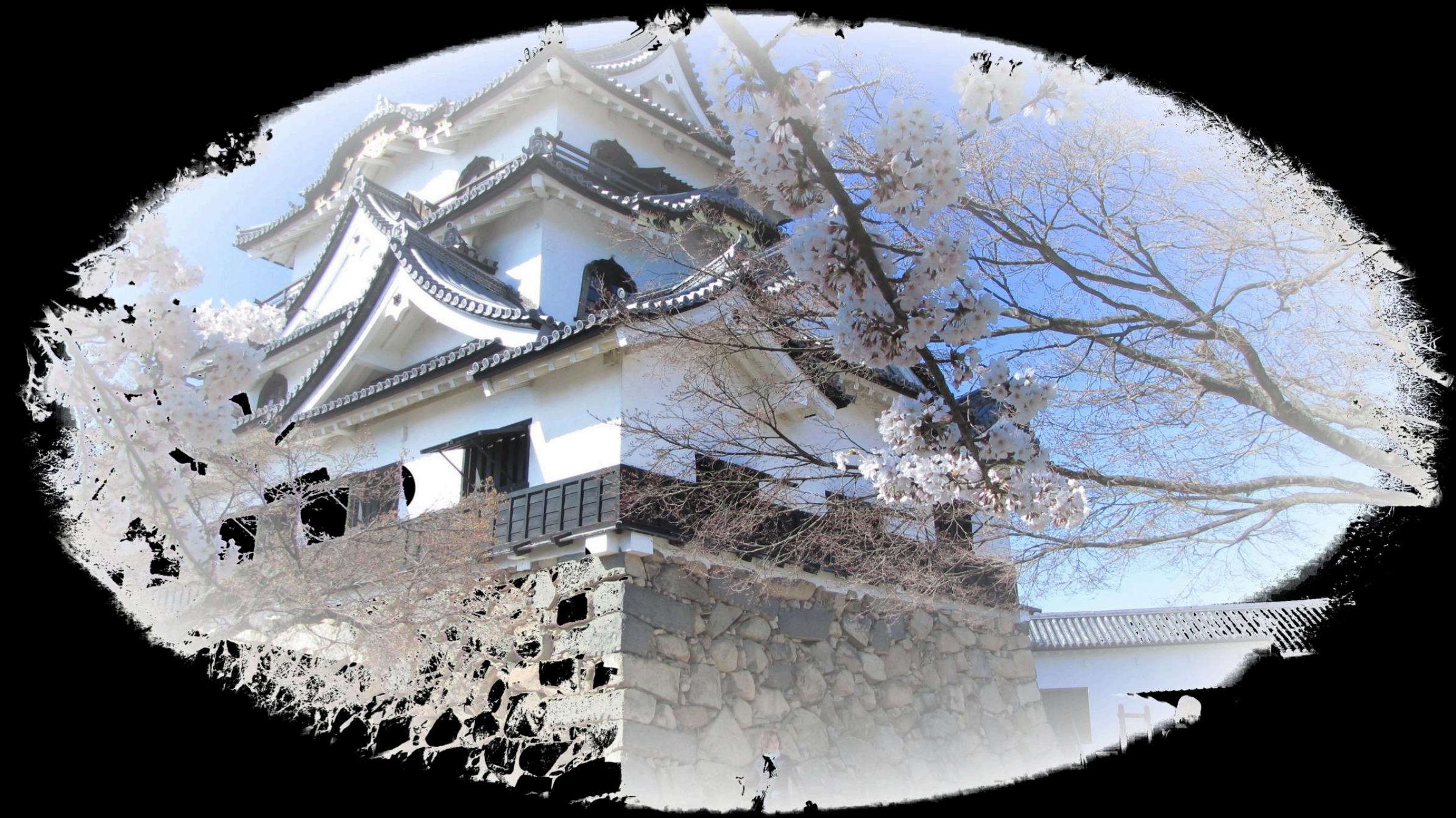
For his participation in the Battle of Sekigahara, Ii Naomasa was awarded Sawayama castle and surrounding lands. Due to its inconvenient location and poor condition, he soon started planning for a new castle on a new location that would become Hikone Castle.

Unfortunately, Naomasa died soon after and the castle was actually begun under his son Naotsugu. It took 20 years and was completed under Naotsugu's brother Naotaka who had become lord of the castle in 1615.

The donjon of Hikone-jo is famous for having used several types of gables and construction techniques to make it well fortified. The donjon and connected yagura are designated National Treasures.

I find it amazing that the Ii family managed to maintain their rule over Hikone Castle for more than 250 years from the beginning of the Edo Period until the Meiji restoration.

<http://www.jcastle.info/castle/profile/36-Hikone-Castle>



















































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