

History Timeline

Hida History and National & World History

Prehistoric ~ Iron Age Japan	
Jomon Period (12,000 BC – 300 BC), Yayoi Period (300BC – AD 250)	
	Donoue Relics (from the middle to the end of the Jomon Period)
	Akahogi Relics (in the Jomon, Yayoi, Kofun Periods)
Yamato Period of Japan	
Kofun (Burial Mound) Period (250–538), Asuka Period (538–710)	
377	The Ryomen Sukuna Revolt is written about in the <i>Chronicles of Japan</i> . The Country of Hida is consolidated into the Yamato Imperial Family landholdings.
Cultural Period with Establishment of Buddhism and Chinese Script	
Nara Period (710–794), Heian Period (794 –1185)	
745	Craftsmen from Hida are sent to the capital and engage in building temples and buildings of high status and importance.
757	The Kokubun-ji Temple and the Kokubun Nunnery are constructed in the Country of Hida
819	The Kokubun-ji Temple was destroyed in a fire.
901	Fujiwara no Kamemori (son of Fujiwara no Michizane) is relegated to Hida on account of his father's crimes.
	Taira no Tokisuke is appointed Lord of Hida and moves into Sanbutsu-ji Castle, present Takayama.
1008	Murasaki Shikibu finishes <i>The Tale of Genki</i> .
1066	The Normans invade England, Wales and Scotland.
1181	Kiso Yoshinaka invades Hida.
Shogunate Period	
Kamakura Period (1185-1333)	
1255	A building called “Kawakamigo” becomes the territory of the Nagataki Hakusan Shrine.
1271	Marco Polo of Venice travels to China
Muromachi Period (1336-1573)	
1338	The Muromachi Shogunate is founded by Ashikaga Takauji
1444	Taga Tokugen, Vice-lord of Hida, builds Mt. Tenjin Castle.
1492	Columbus becomes the first European to encounter Central and South America

1503	Leonardo da Vinci paints the <i>Mona Lisa</i> and Michelangelo sculpts the <i>David</i> the following year.
1504	Takayama Geki builds a new castle on Mt. Tenjin and the surrounding area comes to be called Takayama.
Azuchi-Momoyama Period (1568-1603)	
1579	Mitsugi Yoritsuna causes the ruin of Takayama Geki's clan, and builds Matsukura Castle. From there he conquers Hida
1582	Honno-ji Incident (the forced suicide of Oda Nobunaga, who initiated the unification of Japan)
1585	Kanamori Nagachika causes the Mitsugi Clan's ruin and becomes Lord of Hida the next year.
1588	Construction begins on the Takayama Castle (continues till 1603).
1590	The Unification of Japan under Toyotomi Hideyoshi
1600	Battle of Sekigahara (the last major battle fought before the long period of peace) is fought in present-day western Gifu Prefecture.
Edo Period (1603-1868)	
1603	Tokugawa Ieyasu is appointed "Generalissimo for the Subjugation of Barbarians" and the Edo Shogunate is founded.
	Shakespeare produces <i>Hamlet</i> .
1607	First permanent English colony is established in North America.
1615	One-Castle-Per-Province edict begins in Japan
1643	The Taj Mahal is completed.
1692	The Kanamori Clan is transferred to Kaminoyama in the Country of Dewa (covering parts of present Yamagata and Akita Prefectures) and Hida becomes one of the Tokugawa Shogunal Territories.
1695	Takayama Castle is demolished by order of the Tokugawa Shogunate.
1707	The United Kingdom of Great Britain is formed
1771	Ohara Rebellion (lasting until 1788)
1776	The United States of America makes a Declaration of Independence
1777	Ohara Hikojiro is promoted from Local Magistrate of Takayama to Governor of the country of Hida.
1787	Beethoven performs for Mozart in Vienna
1821	The Three-storied Pagoda at Hida Kokubun-ji (Temple) is rebuilt.
1859	Charles Darwin publishes <i>On the Origin of Species</i> .

Modern Period, with Imperial Court regaining total rule	
Meiji Era (1868-1912)	
1868	Meiji Restoration
	Hida Prefecture is set up, but very soon changes its name to Takayama Prefecture. Umemura Hayami becomes the governor, succeeded in the following year by Miyahara Tsumoru.
1869	Umemura Revolt
1871	Abolition of Feudal Domains and Establishment of Prefectures
	Takayama Prefecture is annexed with Chikuma Prefecture (present Nagano Prefecture).
	Girls in the Hida area are sent over the border to work in factories in Okaya in Nagano Prefecture.
1873	The Samurai class is abolished in Japan.
1876	Hida and Mino Districts merge to become Gifu Prefecture.
1877	Japan's first National Industrial Exhibition is held in Tokyo.
1894	First Sino-Japanese War begins over control of the Korean peninsula.
1904	Russo-Japanese War is fought, each wanting to take over Manchuria.
Taisho Era (1912-1926)	
1914	World War I begins in Europe and lasts until 1918.
Showa Era (1926-1989)	
1934	The final leg of the nearly 200km Takayama Railway Line between Gifu and Toyama (on the Japan Sea coast) is completed.
1937	Second Sino-Japanese War begins and later merges into World War II.
1939	World War II begins when Germany invades Poland.
1941	Pacific War begins when Japan attacks U.S. territories in the Pacific.
1945	World War II, involving over 30 countries, ends.
1964	The 18 th Summer Olympics is held in Tokyo.
1970	The first World's Fair to be held in Japan opens in Osaka.
Heisei Era (1989- present)	
2004	Four towns and villages amalgamate to become Hida City, and five towns and villages amalgamate to become Gero City.
2009	Nine small towns and villages merge with Takayama City.

Topics on Hida

Climate of Hida

Hida is located in Gifu Prefecture, and is almost in the very center of Japan. The southern-west area of Hida has a multitude of narrow valleys, and the eastern part is covered with steep mountains. The climate of Hida features a great difference in temperatures between day and night, and between summer and winter. The temperature reaches 15 ° below zero at its coldest.

Cf. "Hida Area Information"

Ancient Burial Mounds in the Kofun Period & Ryomen Sukuna Riot

Many ancient burial mounds dating from 5th – 7th centuries (Kofun Period) were found in Takayama. They were built by clans with economic wealth and power gained from an abundant rice harvest. According to the *Chronicles of Japan*, a regional clan, led by Ryomen Sukuna, was defeated by the Imperial General Naniwa No Neko Take Furukuma.

Cf. "Ryomen Sukuna Revolt"
p.40

Jomon Culture

Due to its centrality, many relics of the Jomon Period (14,000-300BC) have been found in and around Takayama. Characteristic of the relics is the unique rope patterns on earthen-ware as well as other items influenced by surrounding provinces.

Cf. "Donosora Iseki (Ruins)",
"Jomon Culture" p.11

Sengoku Period: the Era of Warlords in Japan

Hida was governed by the Heike clan in the Heian period, and then the political center was moved to the Kokufu-cho area, Northern Takayama in the Kamakura period. In the Muromachi period, Takayama Geki built a castle on Mt Tenjin and the area began to be called Takayama. In the Sengoku period, the Mitsuki clan, in alliance with Sasa Narimasa, killed Takayama Geki and conquered Hida. However, the then-leader of the country, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, was opposed to this and ordered Kanamori Nagachika to conquer Hida. Nagachika attacked the Mitsuki clan and conquered it in 1585.

Cf. "Unification of Hida District by the Mitsugi Clan" p13, "Attack on Hida by the Kanamori Clan" p.14

Hida Craftsmanship in the Capital

In the Nara Period, the Imperial Government used craftsmen famous for their great craftsmanship to build the imperial capital. About 100 men were sent to the capital city to build palatial mansions and gateways, and temples every year.

Cf. "Hida Craftsmanship" p.40

Dominion by the Kanamori Clan

Kanamori Nagachika became Lord of Hida with a considerably wealthy stipend of 33,000 *koku* or nearly 6,000 cubic meters of rice. His clan ruled the region for six generations. Nagachika started to build the Takayama Castle in 1588. The castle was said to be one of the best five castles in Japan at the time. He also started to construct the castle town. He imitated Kyoto by putting a group of temples in the east area of the town. The Kanamori clan was transferred to Dewa in the far north in 1692 and its ruling years were over.

Cf. "Attack on Hida by the Kanamori Clan" p.14, "Relic of Takayama Castle" p.14

Shogunal Territory

After the dominion by the Kanamori clan was over, it fell under the dominion of the Edo Shogunate and became a Shogunal Territory. In 1695, the castle was destroyed by order of the Shogunate. The site is now called Shiro-yama Park, which contains the last ruins of Takayama Castle. It is a designated historical site and national monument of the prefecture.

Cf. "The Hida Area Becomes Shogunal Territory" P.8.

Hida Area from Meiji to the Present

At the time of the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Takezawa Kanzaburo was appointed local Governor of Takayama and Takayama Jinya became the local government office. In 1868, Hida Prefecture was set up and was called Takayama Prefecture. Later, Hida and Mino were amalgamated into Gifu Prefecture. On account of radical transformations by the Meiji Government, there arose a lot of riots by the commoners such as the Umemura Revolt.

In 1930, during the Showa Era, the Japan Railways opened the Takayama Line as far as Gero Station. Along with the promotion of the Hot Springs Resort City Planning Project, Gero Hot Springs in the Hida mountains soon became famous nationwide for its excellent springs. By 1934, the whole length of the Takayama Line was accessible.

Japan's Twentieth National Sports Festival was held in Gifu in 1965, and in 1971, the Hida Folk Village / Hida No Sato was opened. In 2005, several neighboring towns and villages were merged together to make three new cities including the present Takayama City.

Cf. "Umemura Revolt in the Meiji Era" P.42, "Great Mergers of the Meiji, Showa, and Heisei Eras" P.43