Although most of the walls around Gifu Castle have crumbled, this retaining wall serves as a reference for what they once looked like. Like all the walls of Gifu Castle, this stone wall is held together entirely by its own weight, a technique known as dry-stone construction. Dry-stone walls do not use mortar and are built by stacking rocks together so that they interlock. This wall supports the mounds of earth that were leveled to make the path to the castle. Wells like this one were especially important in a castle town, where a prolonged attack might cut off access to other water supplies.