

## Shiroyama Park

Overlooking Toba Bay, Shiroyama Park is famous for its cherry blossoms in the spring. A mere ten-minute walk from the station, it is an excellent spot to rest in the shade of the cherry trees and enjoy the relaxing view of Toba Harbor framed by the pink blossoms.

Shiroyama Park is located on the old site of Toba Castle. The castle was sea-facing, with a gate opening out onto the bay, and was surrounded by a moat which could be used by boats. Built by local lord and naval commander Kuki Yoshitaka (1542–1600) around 1594, it was controlled by various lords until 1869. Following the 1868 Meiji Restoration (when Japan's feudal period ended), the castle was subsequently abandoned in line with new Meiji government policies in 1871.

Certain elements of the castle structure remain, such as the stone walls. These were designed with gaps for easy drainage. Visitors can still see how the structure would have dominated Toba Bay. Mikimoto Pearl Island, Sakatejima Island, and Toshijima Island can be seen from here.

Shiroyama Park, and nearby Mt. Hiyori and Mt. Hino are collectively called Toba's Three Mountains. Visitors can enjoy views of Toba Bay from each spot.