

The town that surrounded Nakatsu castle has a robust history of craftsmanship. When Kuroda Yoshitaka (1546–1604) began construction on the castle in 1588 he brought with him craftsmen from the cities of Himeji and Hakata. The castle's long-standing stone walls were cut and stacked by hand and have remained standing to this day. Several workshops in Nakatsu, such as Wagasa Kobo Shuka, which still makes traditional Japanese umbrellas, and Yuba Somemonoten, which still uses traditional dying techniques to dye their fabrics, trace their history back to the artisans that lived in the town during the Edo period (1603–1867). Recently they have begun running hands-on workshops to teach visitors about these traditional skills.