

Located in the southern part of the Kunisaki Peninsula, Kitsuki Castle is surrounded by ancient samurai homes, earthen walls, and stone paths that stretch over rolling hills. Many of the houses retain their traditional thatched roofs. The castle dates back to 1394, when the samurai Kizuki Yorinao (dates unknown) ruled the region. His clan reigned until 200 years of civil war came to an end in 1600, and Hosokawa Tadaoki (1563–1646) was given the peninsula by the Tokugawa. Kitsuki Castle functioned as the center of political power in the Kunisaki Peninsula until the late nineteenth century. Rebuilt in 1970, the castle is known for being one of the smallest castles in Japan.