

Situated across from the city of Beppu, the remaining walls of Hiji Castle look out over Beppu Bay. Though the seventeenth-century castle is no longer standing, the surrounding streets give a glimpse of what Japan must have looked like during Edo period (1603–1867). Some of the structures built in the Edo period that still exist today are the Chidokan, Shouokuji Temple, and Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine. Of note is the Chidokan, a traditional school built in 1858. There, the children of local samurai families were taught a variety of subjects ranging from calligraphy to medicine.. This institution was one of 255 domain (*han*) schools that made up a nationwide, state-organized education system which existed parallel to the temple-organized *terakoya* education system. The Chidokan was moved to a new location on the Hiji Castle fortifications during its restoration in 1951.