

Inuyama Castle Floor Plans

The main keep (*tenshu*) of Inuyama Castle is said to be one of the oldest in Japan that is preserved in its original state. It is located within what used to be the innermost compound of a larger complex and was the heart of the castle premises. Because it contained the armory, war room and watchtower, it was the most heavily fortified building of the castle. From the exterior, the keep appears to be comprised of three levels on top of a stone foundation, but the interior reveals six in total, with the stone basement divided into two levels.

Basement

The two-story entrance to the castle features walls assembled using stones in their natural state. The thick main beam that supports the keep runs through the basement's second-floor room and rests on top of the stone walls.

First Floor

The first floor contains the private chambers of the lord of the castle, storage rooms, and three other rooms. There are also defense features including a warrior's hiding spot, a stone drop, and sniper windows.

Second floor

A long, steep staircase, a feature designed to slow down armor-clad intruders, leads to the armory. The original shelves that used to hold weapons still line three walls of the central room.

Third Floor

The third and fourth floors are thought to have been added by the Naruse family around 1620. Large, curved gables grace the north and south facades of this floor, and there are small rooms in the spaces under these bow-like gables.

Fourth Floor

The watchtower provides a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding area, including the grid-like design of the castle town and the topography that protected the fortress.