

## **Tokoura Shrine and Kagi Castle**

Tokoura-jinja is a Shinto shrine built by Ura Munekatsu (1526–1592), also known as Nomi Munekatsu, a naval commander for the powerful Kobayakawa warlord family. The shrine is famous for its large torii gate, which was once located in the sea at Tadanoumi before it was moved to its current position on the shore.

Tokoura Shrine was moved to its present location by Munekatsu when he started construction of Kagi Castle. The seaside naval castle was built on a 20-meter hill overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. It was chosen for its strategic location, commanding views on all sides so that the castle's approach could be monitored at all times. Shounji Temple, located on a hill above Tokoura Shrine, also acted as part of the castle's defenses against potential attack from the Seto Inland Sea.

The site of Kagi Castle is now part of a park. Tokoura Shrine is host to a popular festival held around Tadanoumi Station every April.