

City of Takasago Historic Overview

Takasago has seen dramatic changes in its more than 10,000 years of history, leaving a wealth of discoveries for visitors.

Early development

Since the Heian period (794–1185), Takasago was a popular retreat due to its coastal setting, harbor, and white-sand beach lined with pine trees. In the Muromachi period (1336–1573), a Noh play called *Takasago*, celebrating the joy of the long union of a married couple, was set in Takasago. The play became so popular nationwide that the word *takasago* became synonymous with conjugal harmony and happiness in Japan.

During the Edo period (1603–1867), Takasago was one of the most important cities of the Himeji domain in what is now part of Hyogo Prefecture. As the city prospered, many merchants became wealthy thanks to Takasago's location, its thriving fishing industry, and its rice production, as well as its role as a distribution center for commodities such as salt and rice that were transported via the Kakogawa River. The port's prosperous past is reflected in its buildings, which indicate the presence of affluent merchants in the area.

Later development

From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, the development of railways in Japan led to the decline of Kakogawa River transportation, which had been the source of Takasago's prosperity. However, the city's location, abundant water resources, and the efforts of local residents helped attract new industries, which opened businesses near the coast.

In the Showa era (1926–1989), Takasago developed as an industrial city. Some of the buildings constructed during that time are still standing, and Takasago has become known as a Showa retro town where visitors can experience what it would have been like to live in that era. Today, Takasago remains popular among visitors due to its storied history and rich variety of cultural assets.