

Neighborhood where samurai once lived

The area along the west side of Shimabara Castle is called Teppo-machi (Gun District). Teppo-machi was formed along with the construction of Shimabara Castle, and the name Teppo-machi came from this being the residential area for the Gun Squad (foot soldiers) as well as at the time it was built there were no fences between adjacent houses making this samurai house neighborhood appear like you are looking through the a gun barrel.

The seven roads thorough the district create a grid and this area was the location of 690 homes of foot soldiers receiving an allowance of 70 koku or rice or less.

The clear water flowing down the center of the roads came from the "Kumano Shrine" spring to the northwest and was used as drinking water and a water magistrate was assigned to strictly control it.

The samurai residences currently preserved in Shitancho are in a townscape 406.8 meters long by 5.6 meters wide, and the three residences of Yamamoto Residence, Shinozuka Residence, and Torita Residence are open to the general public for free and show what life was like in samurai residences at the time. Also, at the samurai residence rest area you can enjoy "Kanzarashi," a local delight of white balls made from glutinous rice powder covered with a unique syrup.

The refreshing spring
continues to flow forth
in Shimabara without relenting.



◎ Access Map ◎



◎ Transit Access ◎

- Shimabara Port — Kumamoto Port Kumamoto Ferry / Approx. 30 min, Kyushu Ferry / Approx. 60 min
- Shimabara Port — Omuta (Miike) Port High-speed ship / Approx. 50 min.
- Taira Port — Nagasu Port Ariake Ferry / Approx. 45 min
- Shimabara — Fukuoka Express Bus / Approx. 3 hours
- Shimabara — Isahaya — Fukuoka Shimabara Railway / (Express) Approximately 50 min -
Isahaya Station — JR / (Express) Approx. 1 hr 45 min

◎ Contact ◎

Shimabara Onsen Tourism Association

Shimabara City Tourism Information Desk ☎0957-62-3986

Shimabara Castle Keep Office ☎0957-62-4766



Town of Spring Water and History

Shimabara Samurai Residences

Admire the clear flowing water, honor Shimabara

Form site of Shimabara samurai residences

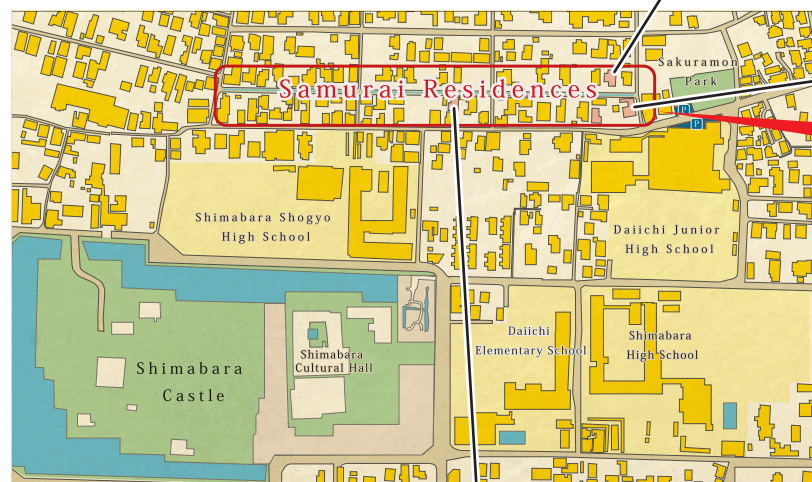
This neighborhood is called Teppo-machi (Gun District) because the gun was the main weapon of the foot soldier unit that lived here. The street is lined with picturesque stone walls. Water channel running down the center of the road utilizes the Shimabara spring water. The clear, beautifully flowing water remains unchanged; in ancient times and today.



[Samurai Residence Walking Map]

The residences for lower ranking samurai were built on the west side of the Shimabara castle outer bailey. This approximately 400m long residential neighborhood was laid out in a grid pattern and was inhabited by gun squad foot soldiers and so was called Teppo-machi (Gun District).

Current Map



篠塚 邸

Shinozuka Residence

Secretary Clerk Residence

Junemon Shinozuka, who lived in this residence, was a retainer of Feudal Lord Matsudaira from the time. Matsudaira was a lord of Mikawa (Aichi Prefecture) and he accompanied his lord to Shimabara. His descendants served for 11 generations as secretaries and magistrates until the Meiji Era (1866). His residence is preserved today and is open to the general public.



山本 邸

Yamamoto Residence

Gunnery Instructor Residence

Sagozaemon, the first generation of the Yamamoto family who lived in this residence, was a retainer of Feudal Lord Matsudaira from the time. Matsudaira was a lord of Mikawa (Aichi Prefecture) and he accompanied his lord to Shimabara. This family served in the important fief position of gunnery instructor for 13 generations until around the end of the Edo Period (1866). The pretentious gate of this residence is unusual for a lower rank samurai with an allowance of only 17-koku 2-person appanage and was especially approved by the feudal lord. This samurai residence remains just as it was and is an important cultural treasure.



Late Edo Period Map



鳥田 邸

Torita Residence

The owners of this residence held important positions such as timber magistrate, religion patrol, and wharf and street patrol.

The Torita family is an old family from the formation of the Matsudaira feudal lordship and in the serve of the feudal lord they were assigned to Yoshida in Mikawa State, Fukuchiyama in Tamba State, and then in 1669 entered Shimabara. Throughout the generations the family served as local magistrates and countryside clerks, but by the end of the Edo Period (1866) they were serving in such important positions as timber magistrate, religion patrol, and wharf and street patrol. The Torita Residence is preserved today and part of the residence is open to the general public.



Samurai Residences Shop

Enjoy spring water cooled Ramane soda.

☎0957-63-1087



Ramune soda