

## Ama-miyayama Burial Mound

Location: Within Takatsuki Park Cemetary	Date of designation
Structure etc.: Rectangular burial mound	Other: Unearthed articles designated as National Important Cultural Properties
Chronology: Mid-3rd century	

### Overview of the site

The Ama-miyayama Burial Mound is located on a ridge 125 meters above sea level, halfway up Ama-yama Mountain behind the Ama Archaeological Site. In the excavation survey of 1997, five bronze mirrors including two triangular rimmed mirrors decorated with gods and beasts from ancient Wei China and bearing the inscription “Seiryu 3 (235 A.D.),” 9 iron swords, and 1,600 glass beads were unearthed.

The burial mound will be restored to a rectangular mound 5 meters in height and 18 meters in length east and west and 21 meters north and south. The pit grave was installed in the east and west direction, with the central part dug a level deeper and a 5-meter long wooden casket in the shape of a split bamboo placed inside it. The body was placed in the center of the casket, and it was from the area surrounding the head of the body that the bronze mirrors and glass beads were unearthed, while the iron products came from the foot part. From the unparalleled method of burial, and the combination of the bronze mirrors, it is believed that this burial mound was built in the mid-3rd century, during the age of Yama Taikoku.

According to China’s ancient chronicle on Japan, “Gishi Wajinden,” an envoy of the Japanese Queen Himiko arrived in Luoyang, the capital of Wei, in the year 239. The emperor gave Himiko the title of “Friend of Wei and Queen of Wa (Japan),” and gave the envoy the gold seal as well as many goods such as “100 bronze mirrors.” There is a possibility that it was some of these very 100 mirrors which had been unearthed from the Ama-miyayama Burial Mound.

The burial mound offers a panoramic view of the Osaka Plain and Yodo River, with the remnants of the grand Yayoi-period settlement of Ama spreading out below. The person buried in the mound is speculated to have been a leader of the Ama settlement which controlled the water traffic along the Yodo River, which was the route for diplomatic relations for Yama Taikoku.

### Overview of the restoration project

The burial mound was preserved as a partial modification of the park and graveyard expansion plan. In December 1998, we completed the restoration and opened the “Hill of Seiryu 3: Ama-miyayama Burial Mound” to the public.



**The bronze mirror decorated with gods and beasts and bearing the inscription “Seiryu 3”**  
(National property, diameter 17.4 cm)



**Surveying the bronze mirrors and glass beads**  
(1997)

It was to display the pit grave in true-to-life surroundings within the majestic vista, allowing visitors to sense the romanticism of ancient times.

The restoration was carried out on the basis of survey results. The pit grave was protected and cured with urethane foam and weathered granite sand, then the FRP pit grave replica was installed directly above it, covered with a tempered glass shelter for an exposed display. The information board has a replica mirror embedded in it, so that people can touch the mirror directly. A ceramic board containing Manga illustrations describes the mysteries of Yama Taikoku and the Ama-miyayama Burial Mound. We also have pamphlet cases and a bower.

## Management and utilization

The burial mound and surroundings are managed by the Board of Education, with a manager dispatched every other day. We performed on-site lectures and study tours. People like the exposed display within the shelter and the view from the burial mound, and many people come to see the facilities as a side trip when they visit their ancestors' graves.



### “Hill of Seiryu 3: Ama-miyayama Burial Mound”

The pit grave shelter is the semicylindrical dome atop the restored burial mound. The table-like, squat cylinder in the foreground is the information board.

The skyscrapers of Osaka City can be seen in the skyline in the distance. The central group of skyscrapers is the area around JR Osaka Station. To the south lie the Ikoma, Kongo, and Katsuragi mountains, while the Rokko Mountains can be seen in the west, and Awaji Island in the far distance.



### A scene from the ceramic information board with Manga pictures

The leader of Ama, who served as an envoy to Wei and is granted a bronze mirror from Himiko (imagined scene)



## Shin-ike Haniwa Production Site [National Historic Site]

Location: 1 Kamihamuro, Takatsuki City	Date of designation: July 20, 1991
Structure: 18 Haniwa kilns, 3 Haniwa workshops, etc.	Other: Designated as an addition to the Historic Site Imashirozuka
Chronology: Mid-5 <sup>th</sup> century – mid 6 <sup>th</sup> century	

### Overview of the historic site

The Shin-Ike Historic Site is located at the tip of the hilly region in the western part of Takatsuki City. The site is one of the largest Haniwa production sites in the nation, with a total of 18 Haniwa kilns grouped into three groups, three large, pit dwelling-type Haniwa workshops, and a settlement for Haniwa craftsmen consisting of 14 pit dwelling-type residences. For about a century from around 450 A.D., the production facilities were in operation sporadically, with the Haniwa produced there installed in such monarch-level burial mounds as the Ohda Chausuyama Burial Mound (Ibaraki City; Emperor Keitai's burial site), Imashirozuka Burial Mound, Hirugami Kurumazuka Burial Mound, and other graves of powerful figures in the Mishima region.

The Haniwa kilns were built taking advantage of the slope of the hill, with the three groups built in sequence from south to north. The three kilns in Group A each corresponded to three workshops, where three teams of craftsmen worked together each in their own role in an organized system of Haniwa production for the Ohda Chausuyama Burial Mound located about 800 meters southwest. These three kilns are grouped by a drain.

Later, the five kilns in Group B were built one after another, and it is believed that eventually, in about 530 A.D., perhaps six out of the 10 kilns in Group C remained in operation for Imashirozuka Burial Mound to fire approximately 6,000 Haniwa. Fragments of cylindrical Haniwa bearing pictures of double-masted vessel, a peculiarity of this burial mound, have been unearthed from kiln no. 18 of Group C.



A picture of double-masted vessel

The site, consisting of approximately 4,163 square meters including the Haniwa kilns and workshops, was designated as a National Historic Site in 1991, due to its being an invaluable piece of archaeology which not only yielded specific information on the Haniwa production system relating to monarch-class burial mounds but also clearly known as to which burial mound the Haniwa produced were destined for. Silla earthenware was discovered from the settlement site in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, after the Haniwa village was abandoned, which was proven to correspond to entries made in Nihon Shoki, the historic document written in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The site is a rare presence indeed, as an archaeological site which substantiates the writings in Nihon Shoki.

### Overview of the restoration work

With the concept of "5<sup>th</sup> Century Haniwa Village," we restored Kilns and Workshops nos. 1 and 2 of the early period when the kilns were first built, and indicated the remnants of Kiln and Workshop no. 3. The locations and sizes of the



Haniwa Factory Park seen from the western sky

kilns in Groups B and C, which were built in a later period, were indicated by shrubbery. Kiln no. 18 was newly excavated according to the exhibition plan, then made to undergo preservation treatment before being exhibited as an exposed display indoors (Haniwa Factory Museum).

Video displays are also shown in the Museum. Along the promenade around the pond, there are ceramic plates bearing original Manga pictures which depict academic achievements, as well as reconstructed Haniwa made of porcelain, providing information on the Kofun period and Haniwa production, especially for the children who are our future. The main characters in the Manga pictures have since become the City's mascot figures for cultural properties.

The restoration work was carried out from November 1992 to February 1995. In March of 1995, the park was given the nickname "Haniwa Factory Park" and opened to the public.



**Shin-chan and Choco, the City's mascot figures for cultural properties**

## Management and utilization

The site in question is sandwiched between city parks to the north and south. Therefore, the historic site and park became a part of a unified restoration project, with the entirety being managed by the Board of Education. The park is open all hours throughout the year. The Haniwa Factory Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed during the Year-End and New Years holidays only. Two managers are there full-time to manage the facility.

Every year, in late May, there is a "Haniwa-Making, Sketching, and Coloring Event" takes place, where children and their parents enjoy making Haniwa within the restored workshop. A total of 600 to 700 people participate during the two days, with their creations being displayed during summer vacation. This event has become established as a regular event at the Haniwa Park.

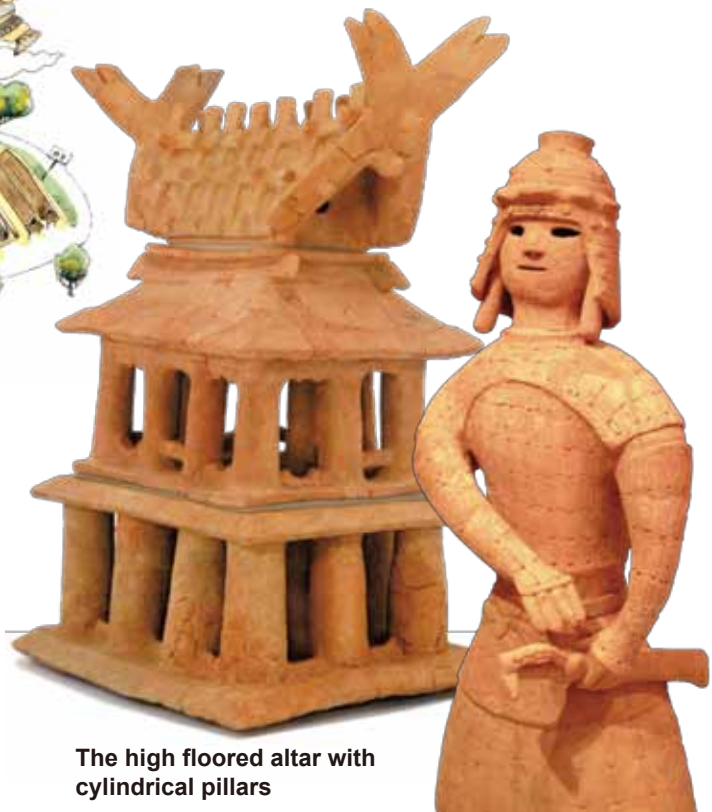


**Park information board made of ceramic with Manga pictures**



**Haniwa-making, sketching, and coloring event**

**The Haniwa figures in the Shin-ike Haniwa Factory**  
(Excavated from the Imashirozuka Burial Mound, early 6th century)



**The high floored altar with cylindrical pillars**

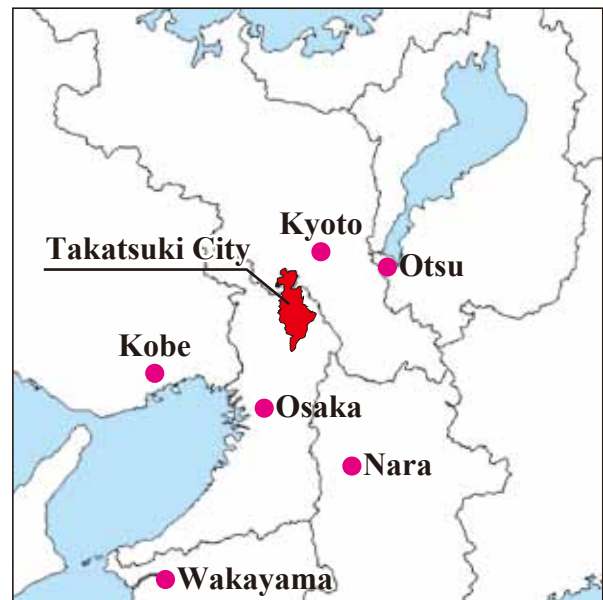
**Soldier in formal uniform readying for battle(detail)**

## Overview of Takatsuki City

Takatsuki City is a “Chukakushi (core city)” with a population of 359,000 and a land area of 105.31 square kilometers located in the northeastern part of Osaka Prefecture.

It is in the eastern half of the region known as Mishima in ancient times, with the northern half of the city taken up by mountains in the 200 to 600 vertical meter range and the southern half formed into plains by the numerous rivers flowing in from the mountains, and the south bordered by Yodo River flowing into Osaka Bay.

Located roughly at the midpoint between Osaka and Kyoto, the city center of Takatsuki is bisected laterally by the JR Tokaido Line, Shinkansen line, Meishin Expressway, National Road #171, and other major traffic routes.



## Overview of the history of Takatsuki City

The Takatsuki City area is home to a large number of historic heritage nurtured by the two major water and land arteries of the Yodo River and the Sanyodo. In the Gunge Imashiro Archaeological Site, remnants of camps dating back as many as 20,000 years had been discovered, and from the Jomon period site of Akutagawa, graves and storage holes as well as domestic utensils had been unearthed. Famous Yayoi period sites include Mishima region’s oldest moat-surrounded community, Ama Site, and the Kosobe-Shibatani Site surrounded by the giant moat 1.5 kilometers in length and located on a hill.

In the Tumulus period, approximately 500 Mishima burial mounds, large and small, were built, as well as the Amamiyayama Burial Mound of the Yama-Taikoku period and the Tsuge-yama and Benten-yama Burial Mound group where the generations of kings of Mishima were buried, as well as the Imashirozuka Burial Mound, believed to be the true burial site of the Great King Keitai, and the Abuyama Burial Mound, said to be the burial site of Fujiwara no Kamatari. The Shin-ike Haniwa kilns provided Haniwa for the two great burial mounds, Ohda Chausuyama and Imashirozuka.

During the Nara and Heian periods, Mishima was divided into east and west, and Takatsuki became Shimagami-gun (county). The Mishima clan, which was the baronial family of the region operated a county office and county temple in the south of their territory, facing the Sanyodo, and the region flourished as the political and economic center of Shimagami-gun.

During the feudal period, numerous samurai families controlled Takatsuki, which is close to Kyoto. When the Christian daimyo Takayama Ukon was the lord of Takatsuki, it is said that 80% of the population of 25,000 became Christians. During the Edo period, Takatsuki Castle was manned by hereditary vassals of the Tokugawa Shogunate, as the city was the government’s key point for controlling the west. During this period, the castle town of Takatsuki, the lodging town Akutagawa, and the brewery area of Jinai-machi and Tonda prospered.

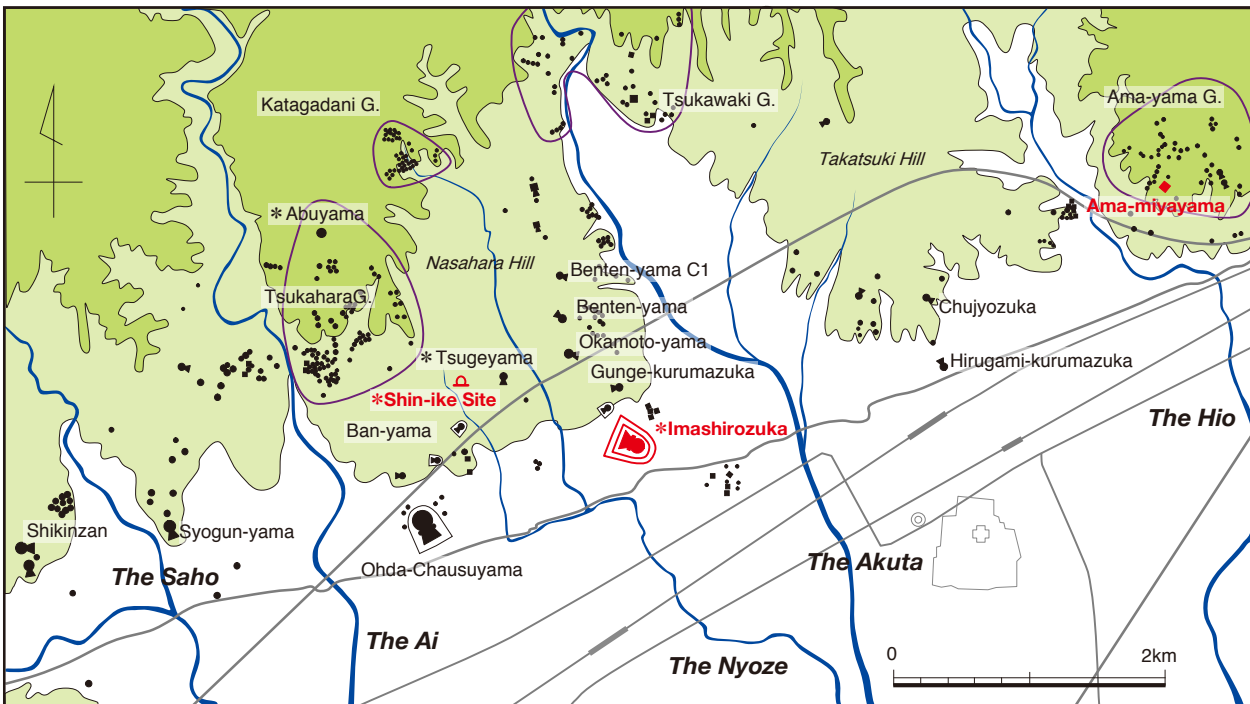
The birth of Takatsuki City was in 1943. Subsequently, it consolidated with surrounding villages and in 1958, the present form of the city was established. The city was designated a Chukakushi (core city) on April 1, 2003.

## Overview of the historic sites in Takatsuki City

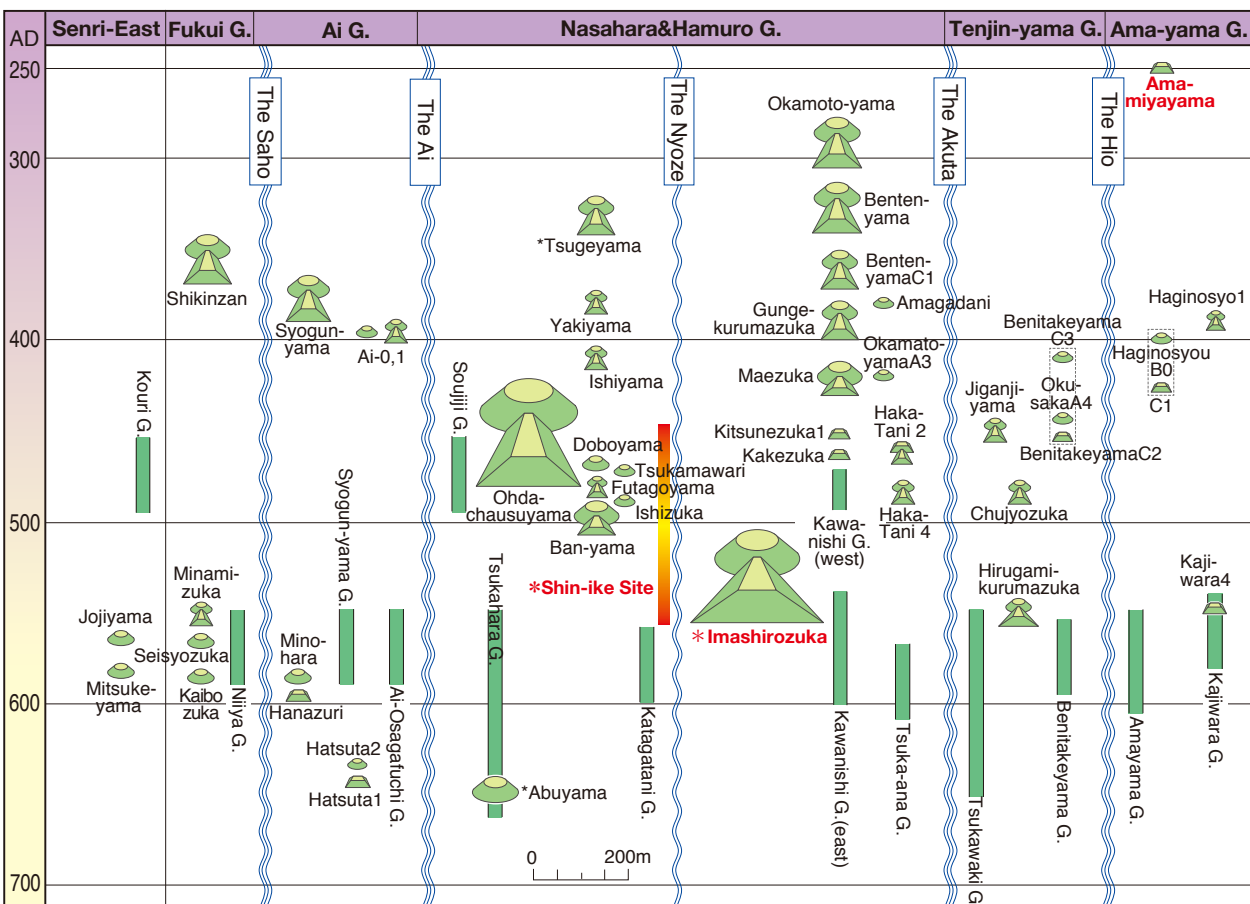
Presently, there are 18 national, 12 prefectural, and 27 municipal designated cultural properties in Takatsuki City, for a total of 57. Out of these, there are 5 national historic sites (Ama Site, Tsuge-yama Burial Mound, Imashirozuka Burial Mound and Shin-ike Haniwa Production Site, Abuyama Burial Mound, and Shimagami-gun County Office and Temple Site). The designations identify important archaeological sites which not only highlight the important of this



region during each of the Yayoi, Kofun, Nara, and Heian periods, but also serve to delineate the periods in Japanese history. In the face of increasing urbanization, the historic sites which amount to a total of 33 hectares are the core of the region's identity, important historical resources which enhance the elegance of the city, nurture an attachment to the community, and help to communicate Takatsuki to the nation.



**\* National historic sites**



**Distribution & Chronicle of burial mounds in the Mishima region**