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岐阜関ヶ原古戦場記念館 Gifu Sekigahara Battlefield Memorial Museum
<https://sekigahara.pref.gifu.lg.jp/>

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English

S E K I G A H A R A

関ヶ原



日本の分岐点、 関ヶ原

中世から近世へ時を分け、
東西の地と文化を分ける関ヶ原。
現代日本のルーツはここにある。

Sekigahara, The Crossroads of the Nation

Sekigahara was the site of a major battle during the Jinshin War of 672, but is best remembered as the scene of one of the biggest samurai battles ever, the Battle of Sekigahara, fought in 1600 between a nation torn in two. The battle saw around 160,000 samurai on and around the strategic pass, with many thousands killed in six hours of close, intensive fighting. Despite greater numbers and better strategic positions, the Western forces, lead by Ishida Mitsunari, lost, in part due to the defection of a large regiment of Western troops at the critical moment. Victory for Tokugawa Ieyasu, his investiture as Shōgun and the founding of the Edo period lead to 260 years of relative peace and self-imposed isolation during which Japan's culture was further developed and preserved. Sekigahara is where the cultures of Japan's east and west merge. For that reason, Sekigahara is considered to be where modern day Japan was forged.



慶長五年、九月十五日

日本史上に最も深く刻まれる一日。

戦国の世を平定した豊臣秀吉の死後、天下を狙う徳川家康。

豊臣家に忠誠を誓う石田三成。総大将家康の東軍と三成率いる西軍。

天下分け目の戦いは開始からわずか6時間あまりで結末を迎える。



決戦地

東軍と西軍が最後の死闘を繰り広げた決戦地。のどかに広がる田んぼの中に石碑が立ち、陣旗がなびく。

Battle Site Memorial

This centrally located memorial marks the site of the bloodiest fighting during the Battle of Sekigahara. Surrounded by peaceful rice fields, the memorial features the battle flags of the East and West armies.



The Battle of Sekigahara Story

Sekigahara was the greatest samurai battle in history. Japan had long been at civil war until mostly subjugated by Oda Nobunaga, and completed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, bringing unknown peace. Following Hideyoshi's death, a power struggle emerged between the Toyotomi loyalists, and the powerful warlord, Tokugawa Ieyasu. Ieyasu's actions riled a number of contemporaries, dividing Japan into two great armies, East, led by Ieyasu, and West, commanded by Ishida Mitsunari.

In late 1600, various attacks and sieges culminated in the decisive Battle of Sekigahara, which lasted just over six hours but is said to have seen the deaths of about 8,000 samurai, and the creation of the Tokugawa Shogunate that ruled for 260 years of relative peace.



東軍

東軍の発砲により始まった戦いは西軍優勢のうちに進められた。
 劣勢の知らせで前線に動く徳川家康は、西軍の小早川秀秋に裏切りを促す。
 これにて戦況が一変し、東軍勝利で決着した関ヶ原の合戦。
 この後260年に及ぶ徳川幕府の布石はここに打たれた。



床几場

徳川家康最後陣地に設けられた床几場。
 家康はここで討ち取った首を検分したといわれる。
 1841年、幕府の命により土塁や土壇が整備された。
Tokugawa Ieyasu's Final Encampment
 Tokugawa Ieyasu relocated to this site during the great battle. The heads of the slain enemy were brought here after the battle for display during the Head Viewing Ceremony. In 1841, the Shōgun ordered the surrounding earthen walls repaired and plinth constructed.

Eastern Forces

The Eastern troops made the first attack, opening the battle, but struggled against the strength of the Western forces before Ieyasu advanced into the central battlefield area to rally on his men. Ieyasu then signaled to the Western allied Kobayakawa Hideaki and his followers, who suddenly abandoned their alliance with the West, and attacking their former partners, turned the tide of the battle at the most critical moment, bringing victory to the Tokugawa. With the win came Ieyasu's investiture as Shōgun, and the beginning of the Edo period, which saw 260 years of peace.

首塚

合戦で命を落とした武将たちが埋葬された東西2カ所の首塚。今なお慰霊祭が営まれる。
Head Mounds
 Heads taken during battle were later buried in separate East and West head mounds. Even now, services are held for the souls of those killed in battle.



東首塚
Eastern Head Mound



西首塚
Western Head Mound





西軍

早朝、石田三成は合戦を望める笹尾山に陣を構える。
笹尾山から小早川秀秋が陣を張る松尾山まで、
鶴が翼を広げたような「鶴翼の陣」で東軍を迎え撃つ。
半日後、壮絶な戦いの末、敗走を強いられる運命にあることを誰も知らない。



笹尾山

石田三成の陣跡より合戦場を望む。
眼下に決戦地の碑と陣旗が見える。

Mt. Sasao

The view of the battlefield seen from the Western Forces leader, Ishida Mitsunari's command post on Mt. Sasao. The Battle Site Memorial can be seen in the rice fields below.

Western Forces

In the early rain-drenched hours of that day in 1600, a confident Ishida Mitsunari set up his main headquarters on Mt. Sasao, a small hill overlooking the main battlefield. His Western army had greater numbers, and better positions. He couldn't lose! The first few hours of the fierce battle seemed evenly matched, although Mitsunari did notice a large contingent of samurai under Kobayakawa Hideaki high on Mt. Matsuo to the south, and another strong Western army located behind the Eastern lines had failed to enter the battle.



島津義弘陣跡

北国街道をにらむ丘に陣を構えた島津義弘。
陣跡には敵中突破の雄姿を称える碑が建てられた。

Shimadzu Yoshihiro's Encampment

Western allied general, Shimadzu Yoshihiro set his command post on this rise overlooking the Hokkoku kaidō highway.



大谷吉継の墓

戦場で自害した大谷吉継の首は家臣、湯浅五助が隠し通す。
墓は五助の首を挙げた藤堂家により、合戦後まもなく建立された。(写真右は陣跡)

Ōtani Yoshitsugu's Encampment and Grave Site

Ōtani Yoshitsugu was the only general to have committed seppuku (ritual suicide) on the battlefield that day. His head taken and hidden from the enemy by his trusted retainer, Yuasa Gosuke, whose grave lies beside that of his master. The grave stones were erected in respect by opposing Tōdō clan samurai after the battle.



東と西、 南と北が交わる関ヶ原

分岐点は合流点、人も文化も行き交う地。

東西に走る中山道から、北国へ、伊勢へ。南北に分かれる街道の分岐点に位置する関ヶ原。
1603年、徳川家康が江戸幕府を開いてから260年余り。
平和のもと、街道の要衝にある関ヶ原を通して、人、物、文化が往来した。

Sekigahara, the Hub of Culture

Sekigahara was long regarded as a vitally important strategic and commercial transportation hub. The Nakasendō, a major highway running from the eastern provinces through the mountainous areas, came close to merging with other important routes and essential roadways near Sekigahara. Three years after the battle, the peace of Tokugawa control saw the vitally important highways intersecting Sekigahara full of traffic, samurai, pilgrims, merchants and craftspeople transporting goods and culture between east and west.

今須宿に現存する唯一の間屋場。
Imasu-Juku's Only Remaining Toiyaba

中山道

江戸と京を結ぶ中山道。
 今須宿は美濃西端の宿場町。
 江戸時代、街道往来を担った問屋場が今も残る。
 その重厚なたたずまいが物語る往時の賑わい。
 関ヶ原宿は今須宿の隣。
 本陣や脇本陣を構えた要衝の宿場町。
 江戸と西国を行き交う大名行列は
 ここで道中の疲れを癒したに違いない。



今須宿問屋場

人や馬の継ぎ立てなどを行った問屋。
 重厚な梁と吹き抜けから当時の繁栄ぶりがうかがえる。

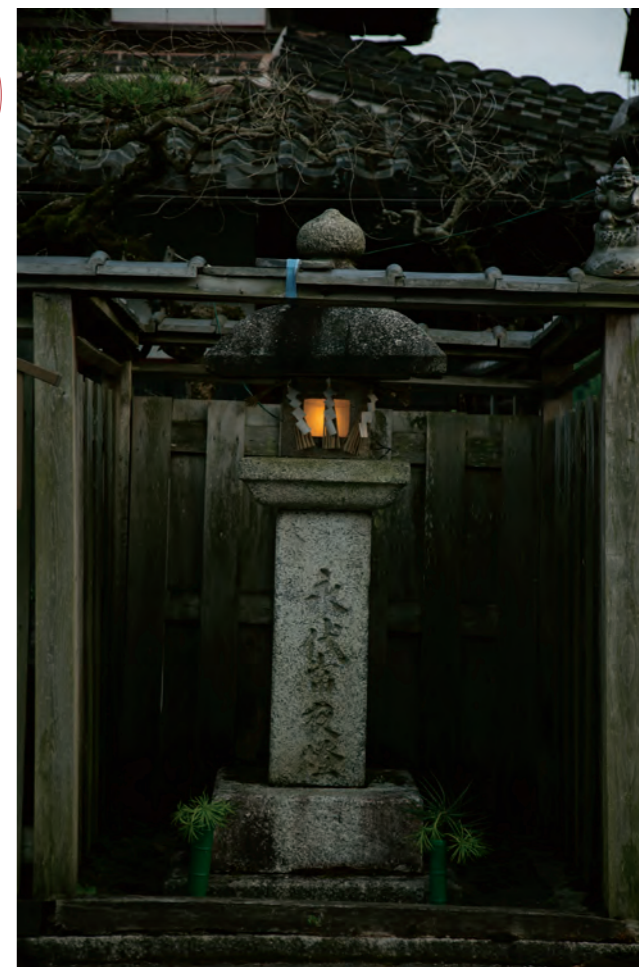
Imasu-Juku's Toiyaba Station

One of the few remaining original Toiyaba relay stations, where government officials could refresh their horses and relay couriers, can be found in Imasu. The thick sturdy beams and high vaulted ceilings suggest the prosperity of the region.

The Nakasendō Highway

The Nakasendō Highway was one of the many routes connecting Edo and Kyōto. One post town on the vital Nakasendō was Imasu, in western Mino (Gifu Pref.). The grandeur of the remaining Toiyaba relay station is proof of the areas' prosperity during the Edo period. Alongside of Imasu was Sekigahara-Juku which featured a Honjin and a Waki-honjin, inns reserved for the daimyō lords to stay at and relax during their regular processions to and from Edo.

今須宿



今須宿 常夜灯

旅で失くした荷物が見つかったお礼に
 1808年、京都の商人が
 建立したと伝えられる。

Stone Street Lantern

These lanterns were said to have been erected in 1808 by a merchant from Kyōto in gratitude for having relocated some lost merchandise.

関ヶ原宿



今須宿 寝物語の里

美濃と近江にまたがって建つ旅籠では、
 寝ながら襖越しに互いの国の話を交わすことができた。
 現在は県境に碑が建てられている。

Nemonogatari no Sato, The Sleep Talkers Inn

This is the site of a Hatago, an inn for the use of commoners built right on the border of Mino (Gifu Pref.) and Ōmi (Shiga Pref.). Travelers staying the night could swap stories of each others' home lands through the sliding doors while sleeping. Today a stone monument stands on the site of the old inn.

関ヶ原宿 本陣跡

参勤交代の大名が宿泊した本陣。
 当時から庭にある古木「スダジイ」が
 本陣跡を今に伝える。

Site of the Sekigahara-Juku Honjin

The daimyō lords would stay here during their regular processions to and from Edo. The garden's old tree remains on the site of the inn reserved for the nobility.

壬申の乱

関ヶ原の合戦より遡ること千年。

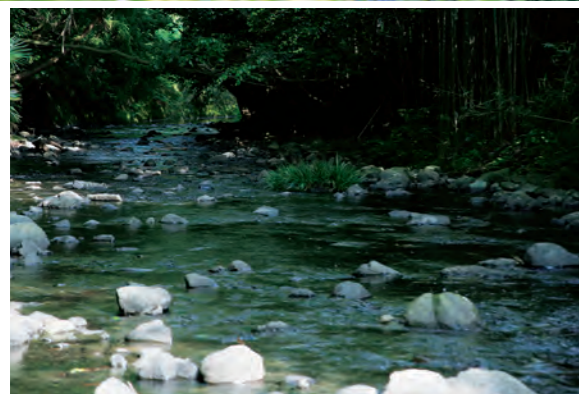
672年、皇位継承をめぐる争いが、大海人皇子と大友皇子の間で繰り広げられた。

戦に勝利した大海人皇子は、平定後、要衝の地であるここに関所を設ける。

その名が不破関。関ヶ原の由来にもなった。

不破関を通らなければ、京の都に上るも、東国に下るもできない。

東西の接点は、この時代から始まった。



関の藤川（藤古川）

対立する二つの軍が川をはさんで陣取り、激戦が繰り広げられた。現在は藤古川と呼ばれ、春は桜、夏は螢の名所としてのどかな風景が広がる。

Seki no Fujikawa, Fujiko River

Two great imperial armies waged a fierce battle here from either side of the river during the Jinshin War. In spring, the area is famed for its cherry blossom, and summer evenings it is a place to see beautiful fireflies.

不破関跡

関所として通行人の取り締まりや情報遮断など重要な役割を果たした。一説には、この関を境に「関東」「関西」と呼ばれるようになった。

Fuwa Barrier Remains

The Fuwa Barrier was a vitally important security checkpoint between east and west Japan.



The Jinshin War

Almost 1,000 years before the Battle of Sekigahara, from the days of the Jinshin War and its battles over Imperial succession, the Sekigahara region was seen as a strategically important area separating east and west Japan.

In recognizing the importance of Sekigahara, the victors of the Jinshin War set up the Fuwa Barrier, a heavily guarded checkpoint through which travellers along the vital Nakasendō route to Edo in the east or Kyōto in the west would have to pass.

鶯の滝

戦乱で兵士が流した血が川底を黒く染めたことから「黒血川」と呼ばれる川の源流。年中、鶯が鳴き、旅人の心を癒してきた。

Uguisu no Taki, The Nightingale Waterfall

The Nightingale Waterfall marks the start of the Kurochi River. The river's name means "Black Blood" River, as it is said that the blood from the slain warriors in the Jinshin War stained the banks a dark red.



兜掛石

大海人皇子が脱いだ兜を掛けたとされる石が、言い伝えとともに残っている。

Helmet Bearing Stone

It is said that Prince Ōama, (later to become Emperor Tenmu) placed his helmet on this stone during the Jinshin War.



今日まで続く、東と西の出会い

徳川幕府の下で花開いた江戸文化と、主に大阪や京都などで継承されてきた上方文化。関ヶ原は二つの文化が会う地。祭礼は西、出汁は東を例えに、交じり合う文化と生活習慣は今日にまで及んでいる。かつて東西が戦った関ヶ原は、今日では東西が会う町。平和な時代が育んできた日本文化の要衝地になっている。



Echoes of the Encounter between East and West

Tokugawa victory in the Battle of Sekigahara led to the Edo period and 260 years of self-imposed isolation and peace, during which Japan's rich culture further developed and thrived. Sekigahara was the site of major battles, and of gateways blocking east and west Japan, but it is also where the best of each region's culture merged. Major highways and routes still run through the area. Even today, travelling east or west, most people and products still cross through the mountain passes and old barriers of Sekigahara.



食文化

出汁や味付けも関ヶ原あたりで入り混じる。西は薄口昆布出汁に白味噌文化、東は鰹出汁で濃口。今須の古刹、妙応寺の精進料理も煮物は濃口醤油を、汁物は白味噌が多く使われ、一つの膳に東西の味付けが共存している。また、握り飯は俵型が多い関西と三角結びの関東。関ヶ原では両者が混在。

Food Culture

Sekigahara is where the food cultures of east and west Japan merged. Lighter tasting seasonings and soup stock made from kelp came from the west, and white miso, while the stronger flavored dark soy sauces and stock made from bonito came from the east. The local Myō-ou-ji Temple's cuisine is served with rich sauces, while the soups feature white miso. Here both western and eastern tastes appear in a single serving. Western rice balls are usually short cylindrical shapes, while eastern rice balls are triangular, however both types are enjoyed in Sekigahara.



地藏盆

町のいたるところに地藏が祀られている。灯りをともし花を手向け、供え物をする地藏盆は関ヶ原から西の地域で執り行われる風習で、東には伝わっていない。

Jizō Bon, Buddhist Jizō Statues and Offerings

Many Buddhist Jizō statues can be found around the township of Sekigahara. These Jizō are often seen with offerings of flowers, candles and foodstuffs at their feet. This is a western Japan custom that came as far as Sekigahara, but failed to be adopted in eastern Japan.

海外古戦場との交流

新たな時代の幕開けの地「関ヶ原」。

欧州制覇を夢見るも敗れ去ったナポレオン、その最後の戦いの地となった「ワーテルロー」。

経済格差や奴隷制度をめぐる争われたアメリカ南北戦争、その最大の激戦地「ゲティスバーグ」。

「関ヶ原」は、「ワーテルロー」、「ゲティスバーグ」とともに、

世界三大古戦場として、古戦場を守り、平和の尊さを次の世代に伝えていきます。

Partnerships with international historic battlefields

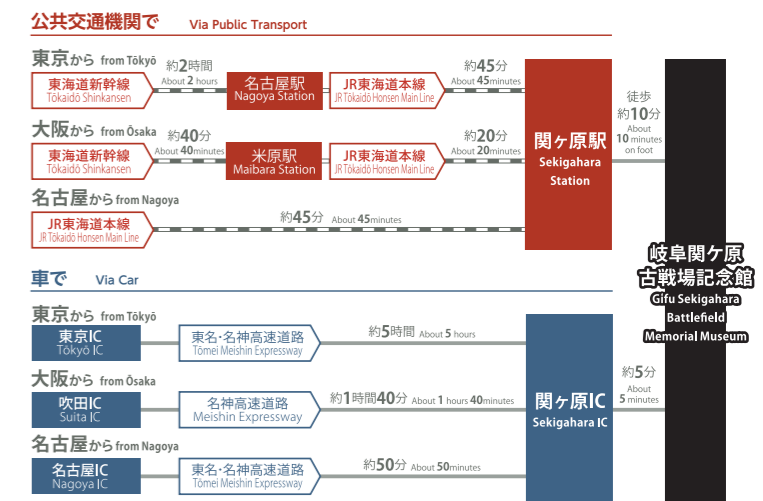
Sekigahara was the decisive battle for the nation, and a turning point ushering in a new era in Japan's history. Napoleon's grand dream of conquering Europe was lost at Waterloo.

Gettysburg was the fiercest battle fought over economic disparities and slavery in the U.S. Civil War.

As three of the world's major battlefields, Sekigahara, Waterloo and Gettysburg will cooperate to preserve their histories, and convey a message of peace to future generations.



Access Map



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