

The mountain castle where **demons** dwell



Ancient mountain castle Kinojo

© Okayama Prefecture Tourism Federation

The West Gate

Nationally designated historic site.

Japan Heritage Cultural properties.

Kinojo Castle | MAP » Smaile-scale Map |

This is an ancient mountain castle at an elevation of about 400 m, and it is famous as the setting for the extermination of the Ura ogre by Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto. The castle walls of Kinojo castle extend for about 2.8 km in the shape of a headband. The castle walls enclose a large area of about 30 ha. Restoration has been carried out of the area around the "Kakurō", a watchtower on the corner provided to prevent a dead angle between the west gate of the castle and the castle wall.



Mt.Kinojo Visitors Center

| MAP » Smaile-scale Map |

» INFORMATION

- Location: Kuroo 1101-2
- Open: 9:00 to 17:00
- Closed every Monday (or the following day if it is a public holiday)
- End of the year and New Year (12/29 to 1/3)
- Entrance: Free of charge

Japan Heritage



"Okayama, the Birthplace of the legend of Momotaro  
- A tale of ogre conquest handed down through ancient Kibi heritage -"



Japan Heritage:  
The Legend of Momotaro

In ancient times, an ogre named Ura lived in Kibi. From his castle at Mt. Kinojo, Ura would attack the villagers and commit evil acts. As a result, the king of Yamato ordered Kibitsu-hiko-no-Mikoto to vanquish Ura. Kibitsu-hiko-no-Mikoto readies a camp in Nakayama in Kibi and builds shields of boulders to consolidate defenses, while Ura attacks with a bow and arrows from his castle. After a fierce battle, the wounded Ura transforms into a carp to escape, but Kibitsu-hiko-no-Mikoto changes into a cormorant and catches and slays Ura. However, in the legend of Momotaro of Okayama, there was a sad continuation to the story.

Cultural properties of Japan heritages

Folklore of Momotaro, peach boy who slayed the Ogre

There are many historic sites related to the legend of Ura in the mountain villages of Kibi. Would you like to visit some of these places while imagining the story?



City registered cultural properties.

Oni-no-Kama (Ogre's cauldron)

Huge iron cauldron on the side of the mountain trail of Kinojo Castle. It is said that Ura the Ogre used this cauldron to boil the sacrifices.



Chisui River

River flowing from Mt. Kinojo. Legend says that the river turned bright red with blood when Ura was hit by an arrow shot from Kibitsu Hikonomikoto.



National Treasure.

Kibitsu Shrine (Kibitsu, Kita ward, Okayama city)

General guardian shrine of Kibi Province where Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto is enshrined. "Narukama Shinji (shinto ritual)" is famous for the folklore that the buried Ura's head in the ground would tell fortunes by ringing the pot on the cooking stove.



Prefecturally registered tangible cultural properties.

Kibitsu-hiko Shrine (Ichinomiya Kita ward, Okayama city)

Most important provincial shrine in Bizen Province where great Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto is enshrined. Iwakura, sacred rock of deity, is enshrined in Kibi-no-Nakayama behind the shrine.



Yaguinomiya Shrine (Takatsuka, Kita ward, Okayama city)

This shrine is said to be the place where the rock thrown by Ura fell after being hit with the arrow shot by Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto.



Koikui Shrine (Yabe, Kurashiki city)

This shrine is where people believe that Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto, who turned into a cormorant, caught Ura, who transformed himself into a carp and dived into Chisui River.



Nationally designated historic site.

Tatetsuki heritage site (Yabe, Kurashiki city)

One of the largest burial mounds in Japan built in the late Yayoi period. According to the legend, Kibitsu-hiko-no-mikoto built stone shields and prepared for battles.



Nationally designated historic site.

Ryoguzan burial mound (Wada, Hozaki, Akaiwa city)

Third largest keyhole-shaped burial mound in Okayama Prefecture with the length of 206 meters, surrounded by double moats.



Nationally designated historic site.

Tsukuriyama (Zouzán) burial mound (Shinjoshita, Kita ward, Okayama city)

One of the nation's largest keyhole-shaped burial mounds in the early 5th century. This indicates that a powerful force existed in the Kibi area.