



TOMODACHI TV



TOP CASTLES

★ TOP 5 ★

Five soaring keeps — from the snow-white 'Egret' to original wooden fortresses that survived war and time.

NO. 1

Himeji Castle 姫路城

Original keep, 'White Heron' • Hyogo (Himeji Stn) • ¥2,500 UNESCO; National Treasure

Japan's finest surviving feudal castle (1609); brilliant white walls earned it the name Shirasagi-jo, White Egret Castle.

02



Matsumoto Castle 松本城

Original keep, 'Crow Castle' • Nagano (Matsumoto Stn) • ¥1,300 National Treasure; original 12

One of Japan's oldest keeps (c.1593–94); striking black walls and a red bridge against the Northern Alps.

03



Hikone Castle 彦根城

Original keep + castle town • Shiga (Hikone Stn) • ¥800 National Treasure; original 12

Completed 1622, never destroyed; retains its keep, daimyo garden (Genkyu-en) and samurai-era streets.

04



Osaka Castle 大阪城

Reconstructed keep (museum) • Osaka (OsakaJokoen Stn) • ¥1,200 Symbol of Osaka

Originally built 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi; the 1931 keep houses a museum, ringed by huge original stone walls.

05



Nijo Castle 二条城

Flatland palace-castle • Kyoto (Nijojo-mae Stn) • ¥1,300 UNESCO World Heritage

Built 1603 as the shogun's Kyoto residence; famed for 'nightingale' chirping floors and gilded sliding-door art.