



One of the three virtues of the Bungo area
Sekigaku: The great scholar and Hiji local
Banri Hoashi (1778 - 1852)

He Attended Waki Ranshitsu's school in Toyooka
Koura and later continued his studies on his own.
He studied more than 10 books in Dutch and was
versed in several fields such as economy, physics,
medical science and astronomy. It is said that his
learning was equal to various European scholars.

He became the chief retainer appointed by the lord
Toshiatsu Kinoshita in the 3rd year of the Tenpō
period (1832) and managed to reconstitute the
area's finances. When his life ended at the age of
75, his grave was build in Sao in Hiji town facing
Hiji castle , with the inscription "The grave of the
great scholar Banri Hoashi".

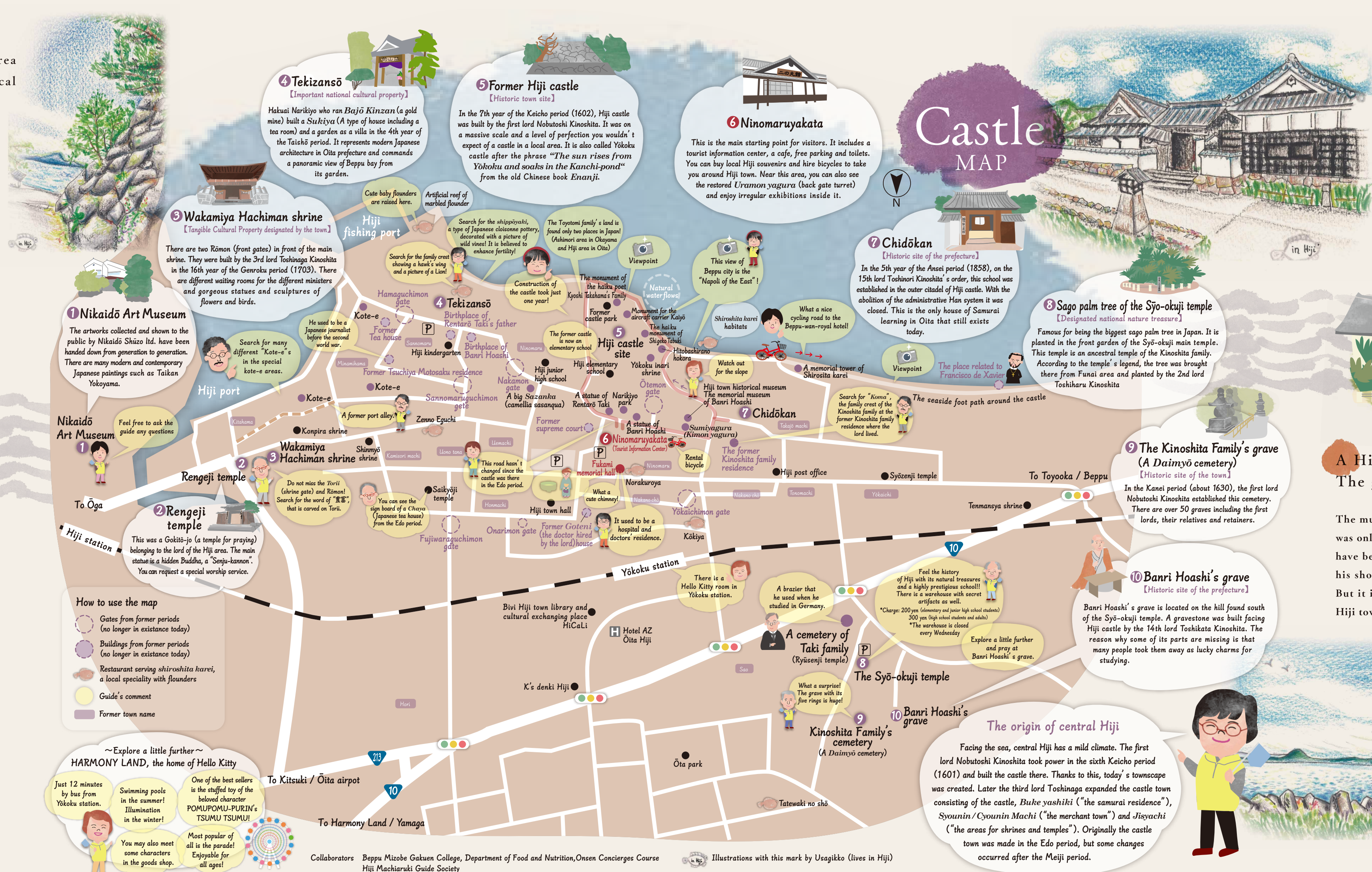
Kyūritsū and Tōsenburon are his most well-known
books. He is considered one of the three virtues
of Bungo province along side Baien Miura and
Tanso Hirose.

Establishment of "Chidōkan", the Hiji area's school

The origin of education in the Hiji area was in the
Genroku period. The third lord Toshinaga Kinoshita
was a wise ruler and achieved high levels of education
and as well as economic development. He also made
an effort to promote painting and writing as well as
producing artworks himself. Following his lead and
encouragement, the respect for studying gradually
increased. The seed planted by Toshinaga eventually
grew and produced the great scholar from Hiji, Banri
Hoashi.

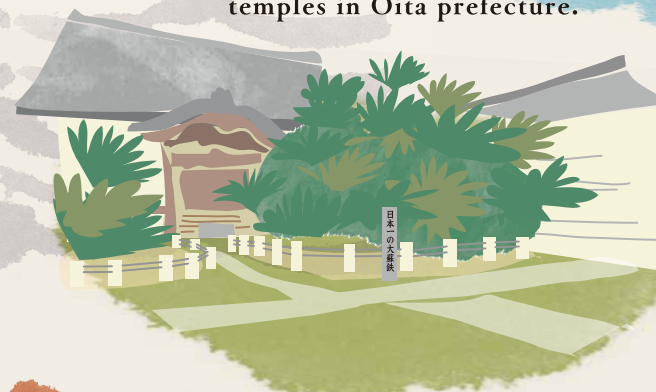
Banri Hoashi wrote many books of his own and
worked to encourage general education in Hiji, as well
as revolutionize the governance of the area. For this
reason a lot of pupils visited him. As a result, the fame
of education in Hiji was greatly increased, thanks to

Banri and his best students. The flower of education
fully bloomed at the end of the Edo period, when the
Hiji area school Chidōkan was established following
the ideas of ancient sages inherited through the ages.
Chidōkan was established in the Ninomaru palace (the
outer citadel) of Hiji castle by the 15th lord Toshinori
in the fifth year of the Ansei period (1858). Upon
taking power he thought that the establishment of the
school was very urgent and laid the cornerstone in the
fourth year of the Ansei period (1857). It was
completed on the 5th of June the following year. He
held the opening ceremony on the 18th of August. It
opened for the public on the 25th of April in the 27th
year of the Heisei period (2015) and this building (a
cultural heritage) symbolizes the history of education
in Hiji and presents it.



Ancestral Temple of the Kinoshita family Kōtokusan Syō-okuji Temple

This is an ancestral temple of the Kinoshita
family. Its predecessor was the Saimyōji
temple. The first lord Nobutoshi Kinoshita
changed the name to Kōtokusan Syō-okuji
Temple after the Buddhist names of his
grandmother Asahi (the mother of Hideyoshi's
legal wife Nene) and Nobutoshi's wife Kaga.
Most of the graves of the former lords, their
relatives and retainers (except the 13th and 16th)
are here. It is one of the most magnificent
temples in Oita prefecture.



You can see the biggest sago palm tree in Japan
in front of the main temple. It is said to have
been brought there from Funai and planted by
the 2nd lord Toshiharu Kinoshita in the third
year of the Meireki period, after he had worked as
jōban (castle caretaker) in the Funai castle
following the death of the lord of Funai castle,
Yoshiaki Hineno, in the second year of Meireki
(1656). There are also some family treasures
such as Nehanzu (the painting of Buddha
Nirvana) in the Syō-okuji family treasure's
warehouse in the backyard called "the garden
of Sessyu" (Sessyu was a master of ink painting).



A Hiji local The great musician Rentarō Taki

The musician Rentarō Taki passed away when he
was only 23 years and 10 months old. He is said to
have been the first western composer in Japan. In
his short life he produced several masterpieces.
But it is hardly known that he was connected to
Hiji town. The Taki family was part of the nobility

and produced some of the chief retainers in the
Hiji area. Though he was born in Tokyo, Rentarō
considered himself to be from Hiji town, since his
father was transferred there for work. In the use
of local melodies in his music, you can hear how
familiar he was with Hiji.

Cemetery of the Taki Family (Ryūsenji temple)

Rentarō Taki is buried in the cemetery of the
Taki family, that served in the Hiji area as
retainers for 10 generations. The grave is here
as well as a memorial statue of Rentarō. His
body was first buried with his closest family at
the Manju temple in Oita, but was later moved
on his descendants' request to the Ryūsenji
temple where many of his ancestors are buried.

