

GIFU SEKIGAHARA BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Museum has many exciting things to see, including the Birds'-eye Battlefield View offering an overhead view of the Battle of Sekigahara (the greatest battle of the Warring States Period), a high intensity theater allowing you to experience the battle from the point of view of a military commander, precious collections unique to the Historic Battlefield of Sekigahara and more.

Hours 9:30am-5:00pm (Entry possible until 4:30pm)
Open Open every day except Monday. (If Monday is a public holiday then it open.)
Closed December 29th~January 3rd.
Fee General ¥500, Senior High School & University Students ¥300,
Junior High School or Younger Free
Group (20 or more) : General ¥400, Senior High School & University Students ¥240
Tel 0584-47-6070 (Japanese only)

SEKIGAHARA TOURISM CENTER

The Sekigahara Tourism Center is located in front of the JR Sekigahara Station. Before exploring Sekigahara, stop by here first for sightseeing information, original goods and souvenirs. Rest areas and coin lockers are available.

Hours 9:00am-5:00pm
Open Open every day except Tuesday (the next day instead if Tuesday is a holiday).
Please contact us about closures before visiting in the New Year Period.
Tel 0584-43-1100 (Japanese only)
Email info@kanko-sekigahara.jp

SASAOYAMA TOURISM CENTER

Located near Ishida Mitsunari's Encampment. You can buy goods here (Warring States goods as well as local specialties) and also try out our popular event, the Samurai armor-wearing experience (a fee applies).

Hours (Weekdays) 10:00am-5:00pm, (Holidays) 9:30am-5:00pm
Open Open every day except Tuesday,
closures are irregular during winter (December to the end of February)
so please contact us before visiting
Tel 0584-43-1600 (Japanese only)
Email info@kanko-sekigahara.jp

Bicycle Rental
Written and produced by:
Sekigahara Tourism Ambassador, Chris Glenn

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.

WESTERN FORCES

<LEADER> ① ISHIDA MITSUNARI

Born in Nagahama, Shiga Prefecture, Ishida Mitsunari came to the attention of Toyotomi Hideyoshi as a 13 year-old tea server. Although he had many allies in the bureaucracy, he was prone to making enemies amongst the samurai due to his brash, rigid character, more so having been appointed Commissioner during Hideyoshi's Korean Campaign. Considered meddlesome by his contemporaries, Ishida Mitsunari had been the first to accuse Ieyasu of treachery against Hideyoshi's infant son Hideyori, sparking the conflict that caused the nation to split into two factions, East and West.

Financial Strength ★★★★★
Military Strength ★★★★★ : 6,000men

② UKITA HIDEIE
Ukita Hideie was a long time Toyotomi adherent and commanded the largest army at Sekigahara. Among the first to see action at Sekigahara, he was defeated as former allies, the Kobayakawa turned traitor. Following the battle, Hideie was captured and sent into exile on the prison island of Hachiojima. He was the last of the lords who fought at Sekigahara to die.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 17,000men

③ SHIMAZU YOSHIHIRO
A skilled general, Shimazu Yoshihiro was loyal to the Toyotomi faction, but considered allying himself with the Tokugawa forces. However, not being trusted during the attempted rescue of Fushimi Castle prior to the main battle, he felt slighted, and changed allegiances, again, siding with the Western forces at Sekigahara. He made a daring escape through the Eastern lines at the end of the battle.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 1,000men

④ OTANI YOSHITSUGU
Crippled and blinded by disease, and carried in an open litter, Otani Yoshitsugu was inclined to have supported Ieyasu at Sekigahara, but joined Mitsunari out of loyalty and friendship. Otani Yoshitsugu was the only daimyo (lord) to have committed seppuku (ritual suicide) on the battlefield at Sekigahara.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 600men

⑤ KIKKAWA HIROIE
Based on Mt. Nangu, Kikkawa Hiroie was a master of strategy and diplomacy, and the leader of the Western allied Mori forces. To ensure the survival of the Mori clan, he made a secret pact with the Tokugawa prior to Sekigahara, promising that the Mori forces would refrain from entering the battle on either side, providing Ieyasu allowed the clan to retain its land and titles afterwards.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 3,000men

⑥ ANKOKUJI EKEI
Ankokuji Ekei was a Rinza sect Buddhist monk and diplomat serving the powerful Mori clan. Although politically astute, he meddled in the affairs of the samurai. Ankokuji Ekei was captured and executed along with Ishida Mitsunari and Konishi Yukinaga after the battle.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 1,800men

⑦ KOBAYAKAWA HIDEAKI
Toyotomi Hideyoshi's nephew and adopted son, Kobayakawa Hideaki was demoted and severely reprimanded after the Korean Campaign by Hideyoshi because of reports penned by Ishida Mitsunari condemning Hideaki's brave actions as reckless. This led to Hideaki's deep resentment of Mitsunari. At Sekigahara, the 19 year-old Hideaki first sided with his relatives and associates, but changed allegiances at the critical moment.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 15,000men

⑧ KURODA NAGAMASA
Nagamasa's father was a strategist for Toyotomi Hideyoshi. A ferocious fighter, Nagamasa was cautioned by his generals for risking his life too many times when attacking. His loyalties changed to those of the Tokugawa prior to hostilities at Sekigahara due to his hatred of Ishida Mitsunari. His men were responsible for bringing down Mitsunari's chief strategist, Shima Sakon.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 5,500men

⑨ FUKUSHIMA MASANORI
Believed to have been a cousin of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Masanori distinguished himself at the Battle of Shizugatake, and loyally followed Hideyoshi through his many campaigns, being made a daimyo for his efforts in the Kyushu Campaign. Despite his loyalty to the Toyotomi clan, Masanori's great dislike for Ishida Mitsunari drove him to join the East at Sekigahara, where he faced the largest contingent of Ukita forces.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 6,000men

⑩ II NAOMASA
Along with the generals Honda Tadakatsu, Sakakibara Yasumasa, and Sakai Tadatsugu, II Naomasa was regarded as one of the Four Guardians of the Tokugawa clan. Highly regarded by Ieyasu, II commanded the initial attack on the Ukita commencing hostilities at Sekigahara. II and his men wore bright red armor. He was badly wounded giving chase to the fleeing Shimazu at the end of the day.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 6,000men

⑪ HOSOKAWA TADAOKI
Hosokawa Tadaoki was a highly respected man of letters and poems, a tea ceremony master, an able warrior and administrator. Despite being well versed in gentle affairs, Tadaoki had a fierce temper. At Sekigahara, Hosokawa and his army played a major role in crushing the Western troops around Mt. Sasao.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 5,000men

⑫ TODO TAKATORA
Todo Takatora commenced his military career as a lowly ashigaru foot soldier, working his way up to the rank of daimyo (lord). Famed for his castle design expertise, he left over 20 well-designed castles across the nation. Takatora was a close aid and confidant to Ieyasu, and fought well at Sekigahara. Prior to hostilities, he was involved in negotiations bringing various warlords to the East.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 2,500men

⑬ HONDA TADAKATSU
Regarded as one of the greatest samurai ever. A steadfast and loyal retainer of Tokugawa Ieyasu, he distinguished himself time and again at Ieyasu's side. Despite taking part in over 55 battles, he was never once wounded. Leading his 500 men into the thick of battle, his men took over 90 heads that day.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 500men

⑭ KANI SAIZO
Kani Saizo was a maverick samurai serving under Fukushima Masanori at the time of the battle. Instead of wearing an identification flag on his back like other samurai, he would wear a freshly cut stalk of bamboo grass. Rather than leave the battlefield to register the heads he took, he would leave them on the field with rolled up bamboo leaves in the ears, nose, mouth and throat cavities as proof of kill. Kani took a record 17 heads during the battle.

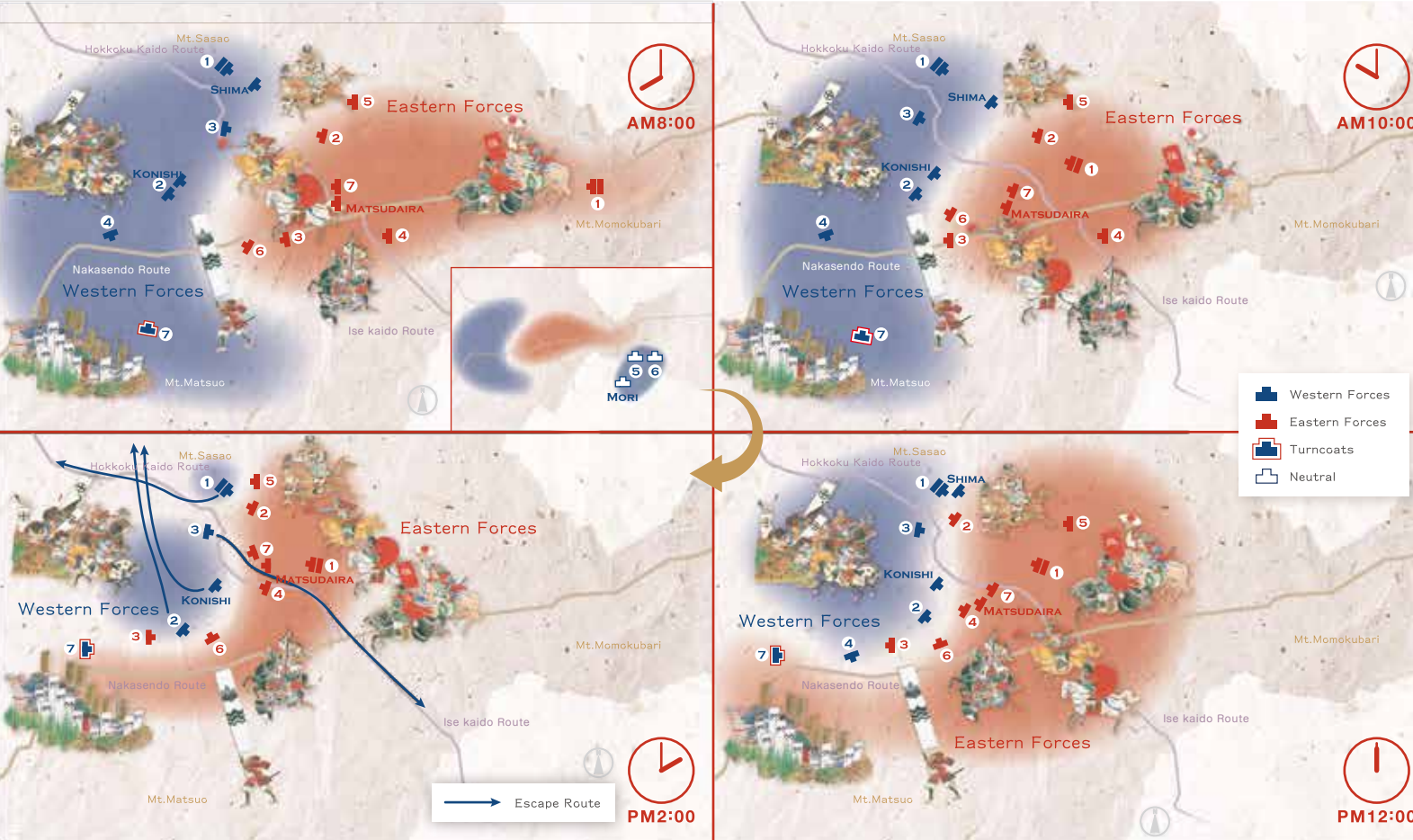
Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 30,000men

⑮ SOME CLANS
Some clans, such as the Ikoma and Sanada had family members on each side to ensure the family name would be among the victors. While Kuki Yoshitaka supported Mitsunari, his son, Moritaka, supported Ieyasu. Following Sekigahara, Moritaka petitioned Ieyasu to spare his father's life. The son's request was granted, and a messenger was dispatched immediately. However, Yoshitaka committed seppuku (ritual suicide) just before news of his pardon arrived.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 30,000men

⑯ DESPITE HIS CALM
Despite his calm demeanor and powerful presence, when under stress, Tokugawa Ieyasu was in the habit of biting his nails, particularly that of the little finger on his left hand. During the battle of Sekigahara, and under a great deal of pressure, he is said to have bitten his nail until his finger bled.

Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 30,000men



SEKIGAHARA TOPICS

- Many foreign consultants were brought to Japan after the feudal era to assist in its modernization. The Prussian general and military strategist, Klemens Meckel (1842-1905), when shown a map of the battlefield and positions at Sekigahara, noted that the numerically superior Western army surrounded the East and held the high ground, and so surmised the Eastern army must have lost the battle. He was surprised to discover that he was wrong!
- Ieyasu first set up a command post at Mt. Momokubari, a small hill just east of the Sekigahara battlefield. He considered it auspicious, as Mt. Momokubari itself was a historic site well before Sekigahara. It was here that the emperor, Temmu, had handed out peaches (hence the name momo kubari, "peach distributing mountain") to his soldiers during the Jinshin No Ran civil war of 672.
- The taking of heads in battle was a custom by which a samurai could distinguish himself. Once an enemy was defeated he was decapitated. The head was then brought back to base, cleaned, perfumed, registered and mounted for inspection. Women specially trained in the art of arranging the heads were employed for the gruesome task.

EASTERN FORCES

<LEADER> ① TOKUGAWA IEYASU

Born in Okazaki Castle, Ieyasu was 6 when sent as a hostage to the Imagawa clan in exchange for repelling the Oda clan, who abducted the child en route, keeping him for 3 years in Nagoya. He was taken by the Imagawa following negotiations with the Oda, and sent to Sumpu aged 9. Ieyasu was 18 in 1560 when Imagawa Yoshimoto lost the Battle of Okehazama to Oda Nobunaga. Free at last, he allied himself with the victor. In the following years Ieyasu fought various battles, increasing his presence and power, culminating in the Battle of Sekigahara, bringing him supreme power, the title of shogun and ushering in 260 years of relative peace.

Financial Strength ★★★★★
Military Strength ★★★★★ : 30,000men

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Financial Strength ★★★★★ Military Strength ★★★★★ : 6,000men

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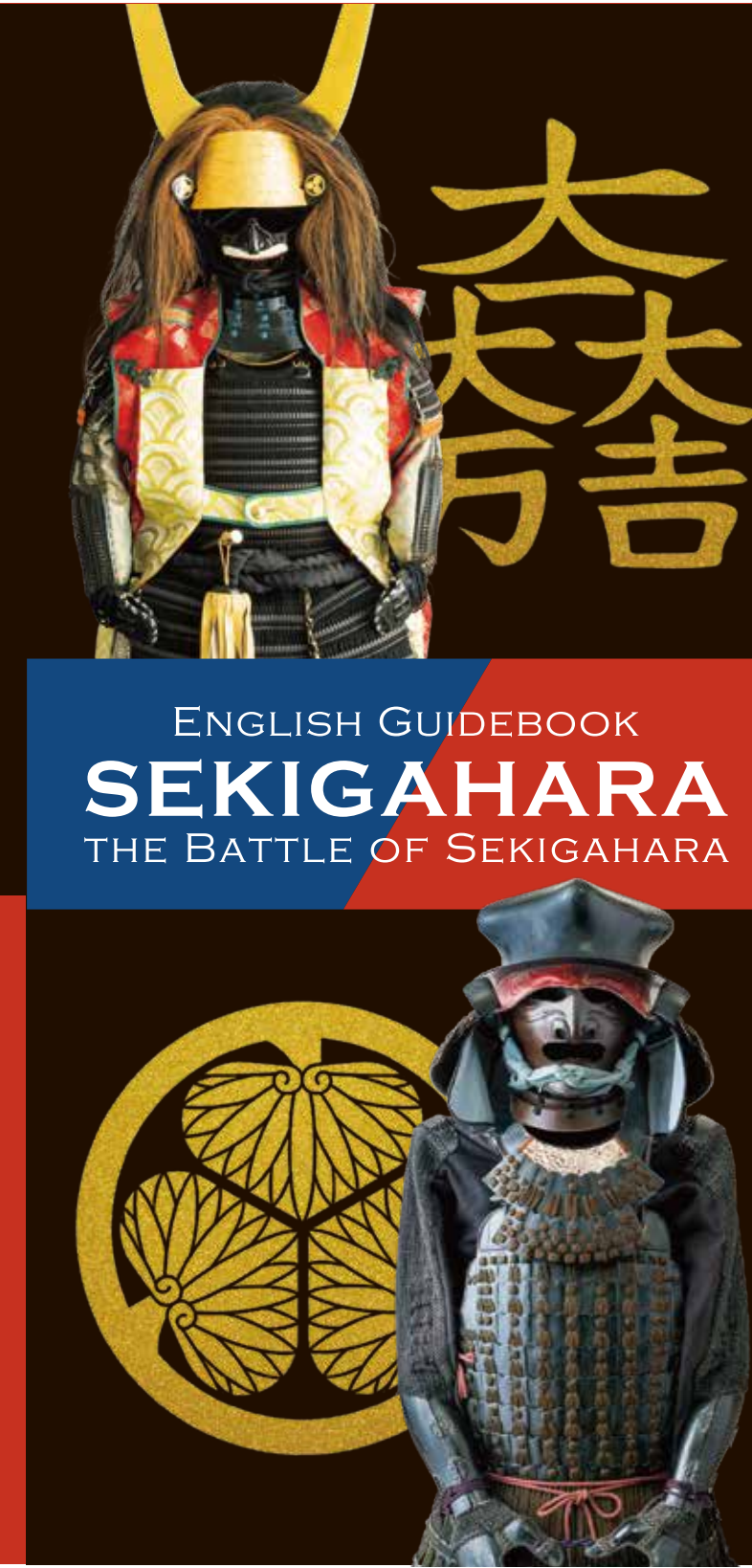
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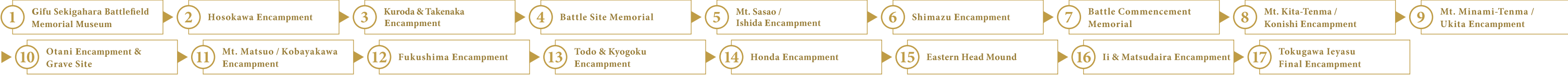


SEKIGAHARA PAMPHLET TOUR

BASIC COURSE — Distance: about 5km Time required: about 70 mins. by foot.



FULL COURSE — Distance: about 15.5km Time required: about 220mins. by foot. *Mt. Matsuo, walk to peak and back, requires about 60 mins.



The renowned and decisive battle of Sekigahara took place on this very site in the year 1600. This experience-based facility makes use of all the latest technology to give you a firsthand experience of this historical event. Prepare yourself first for the giant "Ground Vision" screen that allows an overhead view of the East and West camps dividing the whole nation.



Hosokawa was based just below the Kuroda positions. Hosokawa and Ishida Mitsunari had had their differences prior to Sekigahara, and Mitsunari's actions, taking samurai families hostage resulting in the death of Tadaoki's wife, gave the Hosokawa all the more reason to attack Mt. Sasao.



Kuroda and Takenaka initially attacked the Mt. Sasao Western base head on, causing some of the most violent fighting of the day, but were thwarted by the troops of Shima Sakon. When the Kuroda later attacked side on, the Shima forces leader was wounded, damaging Western morale.



This centrally located memorial marks the site of the bloodiest fighting on that October 21, 1600 Saturday, and features the battle flags representing East (Tokugawa crest) and West (Ishida crest).



See the entire battlefield from Ishida Mitsunari's vantage point and the Western forces headquarters on Mt. Sasao. Mitsunari's samurai covered this palisade and trench protected hill, with the troops of Shima Sakon below it, bearing the brunt of the Eastern attacks.



Due to an argument with Ishida Mitsunari regarding tactics the previous day, Shimazu refused to take action during the battle despite repeated orders. They were further angered when one of Ishida's messengers rudely failed to dismount his horse before delivering his orders.



The Ukita witnessed the first action of the day when a small contingent of horse mounted Ii and Matsudaira troops attacked around 8 a.m. Fukushima, angered at having been usurped, advanced and opened fire on the Ukita, starting hostilities.



At the outset of battle, Konishi launched a flare informing all that the action had started. That afternoon, as the Western forces began to fall, Konishi escaped via Mt. Kita-Tenma to the west. The battle commencement memorial is located beside the Konishi camp.



Ukita commanded the biggest unit of Western forces at Sekigahara. Furious attacks by the Eastern allied Fukushima troops led to some of the day's bloodiest fighting. The famed swordsman Miyamoto Musashi, then 17, is said to have been among the Ukita foot soldiers.



The Otani faced continual attacks, but were finally defeated by the defecting Kobayakawa. Facing defeat, Otani committed seppuku (ritual suicide) where his grave now stands and ordered his men take his head and hide it from the Eastern troops.



Kobayakawa's command post on Mt. Matsuo provides one of the most rewarding views of the entire battlefield. Kobayakawa's difficult decision, fight for the West, of defect to the East, would turn the tide of the battle, and forever change Japanese history.



Fukushima and his men rallied around the large, ancient tree in the Kasuga Shrine grounds, which even appears in the memorial battle screens. Fukushima had been granted the honor of being first into battle by Ieyasu. However, quick action by the Matsudaira and Ii claimed that honor for themselves.



Supporting Fukushima's push against the Ukita and Otani were the combined Todo and Kyogoku forces. With the Kobayakawa defection, Todo and Kyogoku led their remaining men north to engage the Western forces on Mt. Sasao. The site is within the Sekigahara Junior High School grounds.



When Honda Tadakatsu engaged the Shimazu troops at close quarters, Honda's horse was shot, and felled instantly. Honda crashed to the earth unhurt. Pausing only to offer a brief prayer for his fallen horse, he took a horse from one of his men and continued to fight.



The severed heads of the samurai killed at Sekigahara were buried in a deep pit here following the Head Viewing Ceremony. A large tree has grown over the remains. Pay your respects to the fallen, then see the nearby Ii and Matsudaira base camp site.



Tokugawa Ieyasu commenced the battle at a site known as Mt. Momokubari, 2km east of the battlefields. Concerned he was too far from the action, he quickly relocated to this central site. This is where the heads of slain enemy were displayed and the Head Viewing Ceremony was held.

SETRAFFIC ACCESS



Via Public Transport

from Tokyo	Tokaido Shinkansen	About 2 hours	Nagoya Station	JR Tokaido Honsen Main Line	About 45 minutes	Sekigahara Station
from Osaka	Tokaido Shinkansen	About 40 minutes	Maibara Station	JR Tokaido Honsen Main Line	About 20 minutes	Sekigahara Station
from Central Japan International Airport	Meitetsu Airport Line	About 35 minutes	Nagoya Station	JR Tokaido Honsen Main Line	About 45 minutes	Sekigahara Station

Via Car

from Tokyo	Tokyo IC	Tomei Meishin Expressway	About 5 hours	Sekigahara IC
from Osaka	Suita IC	Meishin Expressway	About 1 hour 40 minutes	Sekigahara IC
from Nagoya	Nagoya IC	Tomei Meishin Expressway	About 50 minutes	Sekigahara IC

