

## ROUTE 1

### Exploring *Hibaku* Buildings and the Legacy of Hiroshima

An introductory look at Peace Tourism

*Hibaku* buildings are buildings which survived the atomic bombing. Hiroshima is home to a variety of these *hibaku* buildings, each with its own unique story and historical significance. Preserved for posterity, each of the six buildings highlighted in this self-guided walking tour are among the most iconic *hibaku* buildings that stand as lasting, physical testaments to the destructive ability of the atomic bomb.

#### The Atomic Bomb Dome



Completed in April 1915, the Hiroshima Prefectural Commerce Exhibition Hall was an architectural masterpiece adorned with an oval-shaped copper dome. At 160 meters from the hypocenter, the building was severely impacted by both the initial blast and heat rays which melted the copper covering the dome.

## ROUTE 2

### From the Ashes: A Look at Modern Hiroshima

Highlighting post-war Hiroshima

Hiroshima and her people, with the support of the international and domestic community, rebuilt their city like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes. This self-guided walking tour will take you down Hiroshima's most iconic shopping arcade and features the best of Hiroshima's thriving modern culture.

#### Former Hiroshima Municipal Stadium

Once the site of the very first baseball stadium in Hiroshima, this convenient downtown space located across from the Peace Memorial Park now serves as a venue for gourmet fairs, international sports competitions, and more.

#### The Saigoku Kaidō (Hondori)



The Saigoku Kaidō was the name of the road which stretched from Kyoto to Shimonoseki during the Edo Period, and since then, Hondori has served as the main thoroughfare and bustling commercial hub of the Saigoku Kaidō, a role which continues to this day.

#### Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum



The building was the closest school to the hypocenter at a distance of only 410 meters. The basement and part of the original *hibaku* school building were preserved and in May 1988, these became the Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum.

#### Hibaku Gravestone (Jisenji Temple)



Dating back to the 1600s, Jinsenji Temple was a flourishing Pure Land Buddhist temple. Located 200 meters from the hypocenter, the blast leveled all the buildings in the complex except for this gravestone built in 1689 for Kunai Okamoto.

#### The Rest House

Built in 1929 as the Taisho-ya Kimono Shop and located just 170 meters from the hypocenter, the roof was crushed by the blast and the interior destroyed before it went up in flames, leaving only the outer walls of the basement intact.



#### Hiroshima Andersen (Former Hiroshima Branch of the Imperial Bank)

Originally built as the Hiroshima Branch of Mitsui Bank, at the time of the bombing, it served as the Hiroshima Branch of the Imperial Bank. The building faced the brunt of the blast winds and the wall facing the hypocenter crumbled before falling victim to the firestorm.

#### Okonomimura



The bustling downtown area of post-WWII Hiroshima was once home to a bustling *yatai-mura*, a collection of small food stalls which offered cheap meals. This *yatai-mura* is where Hiroshima soul food, okonomiyaki, was born. Okonomimura is home to over 20 okonomiyaki grills.

#### Fukuya Department Store

At the time of the bombing, the interior was completely lost to the blast winds and concentrated heat rays, leaving only the shell of the exterior. After the bombing, the building was used as a temporary medical station.

#### The Former Hiroshima Branch of the Bank of Japan



A mere 380 meters from the hypocenter, the blast gutted the entire top floor of the building. Designated as an Important Cultural Property in 2000, the former bank now serves as a historical learning space, and as a space for cultural and art events.

#### Fukuro-machi Elementary School Peace Museum



Located just 460 meters from the hypocenter, only the reinforced concrete shell of the West Wing survived the bombing. In 2000, messages written on the walls by survivors (*hibaku dengen*) were discovered and the Fukuro-machi Elementary School Peace Museum was opened in 2002 to preserve these messages.

#### Memorial Cathedral for World Peace



Constructed to pray for world peace and in memorial of the victims of the atomic bomb and WWII, the Memorial Cathedral for World Peace (as known as the Nobori-machi Catholic Church) began with Father Lassalle Enomiya.

#### Shukkeien Garden



Created in 1620 as a villa for the Asano Clan by renowned tea master and high-ranking Asano clan retainer Soko Ueda, Shukkeien Garden is said to have been modeled after the iconic Xī Hú (lit. West Lake) in China.



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## ROUTE 3

### Lessons from the Past: An In-Depth Look at Peace Museums in Hiroshima

Our most comprehensive tour

This self-guided walking tour covers the very best of peace museums in Hiroshima, all located in the heart of downtown. Ideal for those who want an in-depth look at pre-war and post-war Hiroshima.



#### Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum



Opened in 1955 in hopes to convey the realities of the atomic bombing to visitors from inside and outside of Japan, the Museum is home to an extensive collection of artifacts and exhibits about the history of Hiroshima pre and post-WWII.



#### Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims



Opened in August 2002, the Peace Memorial Hall is home to *hibakusha* memoirs, pictures, and testimony videos, as well as the Hall of Remembrance, which recreates a 360 degree view from the hypocenter on the day of the bombing, and more.

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## Hiroshima Peace Tourism Guide Map



### Cenotaph for the Victims of the Atomic Bomb (Memorial Monument for Hiroshima, City of Peace)



Designed by Kenzo Tange in 1952, this cenotaph houses the registry of names of deceased victims of the atomic bomb, and is inscribed with the words, "Let all the souls here rest in peace, for we shall not repeat the evil."

### The Children's Peace Monument



In 1958, this monument was built to mourn all of the children who died as a result of the atomic bombing. The project was proposed by the classmates of Sadako Sasaki, who passed away from leukemia caused by the radiation from the bombing at age 12.

### The Hypocenter

The very first atomic bomb to be used in human warfare exploded 600 meters in the air above this very spot, dropped from the US Boeing B-29 bomber, the Enola Gay, on August 6, 1945 at 8:15 am.

### Hiroshima Castle



Built in 1589 by Lord Mōri Terumoto, the original castle tower and other buildings inside the castle grounds remained into the Meiji Era; however, they were completely destroyed in the bombing. The castle tower was rebuilt in 1958 as a museum.