# Matsumoto Castle: A National Treasure of Japan and a Symbol of Japanese Castles



Matsumoto Castle is one of the most iconic and well-preserved castles in Japan. It is located in the city of Matsumoto, in the Nagano Prefecture. The castle was built in the late 16th century and has been designated as a National Treasure of Japan.



Matsumoto Castle: National Treasure of Japan (Japanese castles Book 2) by Ivan Marchuk

★ ★ ★ ★ 4 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 12197 KB
Lending : Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported Print length : 608 pages



The castle is known for its unique black exterior, which gives it the nickname "Crow Castle". The black exterior is made of a type of wood called "kurokawa" which is treated with a special process to make it weather-resistant.

The castle has five stories and is surrounded by a moat. The interior of the castle is well-preserved and contains many of the original features, such as the tatami mats, sliding doors, and wooden beams.

Matsumoto Castle is a popular tourist destination and is open to the public. Visitors can tour the castle and learn about its history and architecture. There are also several museums located inside the castle, which contain exhibits on the castle's history, culture, and art.

#### **History of Matsumoto Castle**

Matsumoto Castle was built in 1593 by Ishikawa Kazumasa, a feudal lord who was loyal to Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The castle was originally called Fukashi Castle, but it was later renamed Matsumoto Castle in 1603.

The castle was used as a military stronghold during the Edo period. It was also used as a prison and as a government building. The castle was damaged by fire several times, but it was always rebuilt.

In 1930, the castle was designated as a National Treasure of Japan. It is now one of the most popular tourist destinations in Nagano Prefecture.

#### **Architecture of Matsumoto Castle**

Matsumoto Castle is a five-story castle with a black exterior. The castle is surrounded by a moat and has a keep, which is the central tower. The keep is five stories high and has a watchtower on top.

The castle is made of wood and is supported by a system of beams and pillars. The interior of the castle is well-preserved and contains many of the original features, such as the tatami mats, sliding doors, and wooden beams.

#### **Tourism at Matsumoto Castle**

Matsumoto Castle is a popular tourist destination and is open to the public. Visitors can tour the castle and learn about its history and architecture. There are also several museums located inside the castle, which contain exhibits on the castle's history, culture, and art.

The castle is located in the city of Matsumoto, which is easily accessible by train from Tokyo and Osaka. There are several hotels and restaurants located near the castle, making it a convenient place to stay for tourists.



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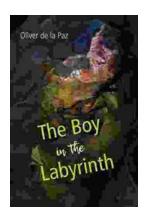
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