

# The Cherry Blossom Festival in Ueda 2018



**4/7-4/22**

**From April 7(Sat.)**

**To April 22(Sun.)**

**Ueda Castle Park**



**Flowering date: April 1**

**Full & best bloom date: April 5~8**

## <Ueda Castle Park>

**Illumination (Sunset-22:00) every day**

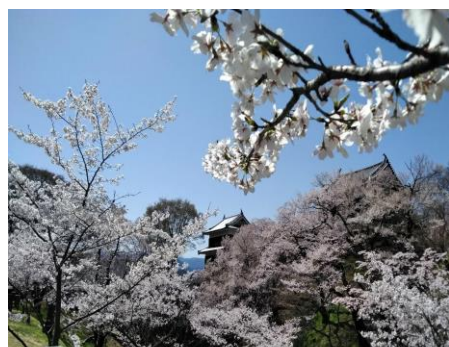
**Local product market & outdoor restaurants every day**

**Stage show (Special warrior's dance and others) Saturdays&Sundays**

## <Shibafu-hiroba (lawn square)>

**Local product market & outdoor restaurants every day**

**Hands-on Events(Horse riding, Putting on Japanese armors) 21<sup>st</sup>&22<sup>nd</sup>**



**The festival has various kinds of other attractions, too.**

**You can get a free English speaking guide at the castle. Contact us !**  
**EGG (Volunteer English Guide Group) e-mail : [keikoinueda@live.jp](mailto:keikoinueda@live.jp)**



## History of Ueda Castle

The feudal lord Sanada Masayuki built Ueda Castle in 1583. The castle was built on a cliff along the Chikuma River. The castle became known all over Japan after the Sanada clan defeated the formidable Tokugawa army twice.

For the first battle, a small force of 2000 Sanada soldiers fought an enormous 8000-strong Tokugawa army and defeated the Tokugawa in 1585. In the second battle, in 1600, the Sanada again defeated the much bigger Tokugawa army.

In the Battle of Sekigahara (1600), the biggest inland battle in Japanese history, the Tokugawa fought against the Toyotomi fiercely. The Sanada family was divided into two sides. Sanada Masayuki and his second son, Yukimura, sided with the Toyotomi while Masayuki's first son, Nobuyuki, sided with the Tokugawa. Then at the Osaka Summer Battle, the climax of the Tokugawa-Toyotomi war, reached a conclusion. The Tokugawa completely defeated the Toyotomi and Yukimura was killed. But Yukimura fought bravely and skillfully. He was admired and then became well known as "Second-to-none Soldier in Japan" honorably.

Nobuyuki governed the Ueda region under the Tokugawa Rule. Since then Ueda has prospered as a castle town.

It is said Yukimura had seven *Kagemusha* (a *samurai* warrior who acted as his double) and several *Ninja* (a samurai warrior who acted through stealth and engaged in espionage).



Nowadays the castle site is opened to the public as Ueda Castle Park. People can enjoy gorgeous cherry blossoms in spring and beautiful autumn colors in fall.

Ueda people proudly would say the combination of the castle site and cherry blossoms is one of the most beautiful scenic landscapes in Japan.

### Access to Ueda Castle Park

By train: 90 minutes from Tokyo Station to Ueda Station by the Nagano Shinkansen

By car: About 150 minutes from Nerima I.C. to Ueda Sugadaira I.C.

About 225minutes from Nagoya I.C to Ueda Sugadaira I.C.