

# **TAWAYAMA RUINS**

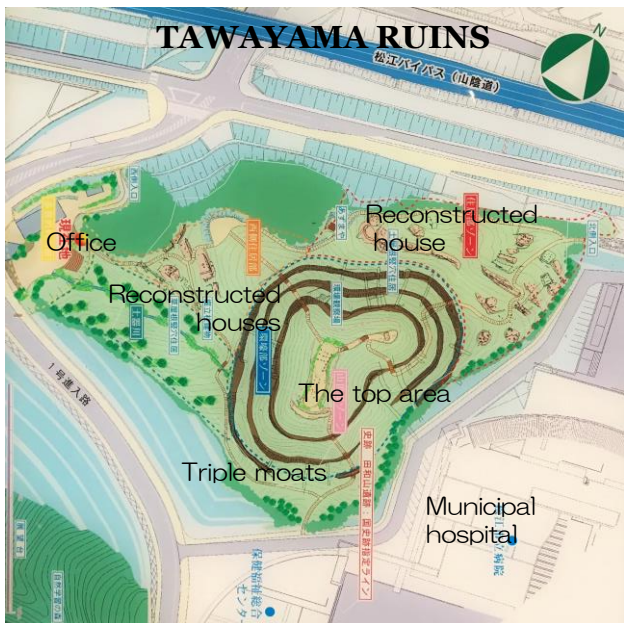
**An unique archaeological  
site  
in Matsue city**



Matsue has many relics related ancient myths, old shrines & archaeological ruins.

Tawayama ruins is extra-ordinary important site of Yayoi period of Japan. It is supposed that on the top, there was a secret shaman's house, strictly guarded by triple moats (castle walls) and soldiers.

As you climb the ruins hill, you will be struck by its uniqueness!



A house and wooden pillars stood at the top of the hill. It is assumed that the pillars were used to examine the position of sunrise to make a calendar.

The house on the topmost should be a shrine of the prophet or a shaman.

There were more than 15 houses on the outside of the moats. These are thought to be the servant's houses serving the prophet.



**M**any weapons were found at the site. Stone arrow-heads, stone daggers, stone mace-heads, battle-axes and so on. The triple moats also helps to guard the shaman's house on the summit.



The most valuable and important relics may be the stone palettes for calligraphy, the oldest one excavated in Japan.

It is thought to be imported from South China around 2nd centuries B.C.



Stone palettes for calligraphy

Reconstructed stone palettes

