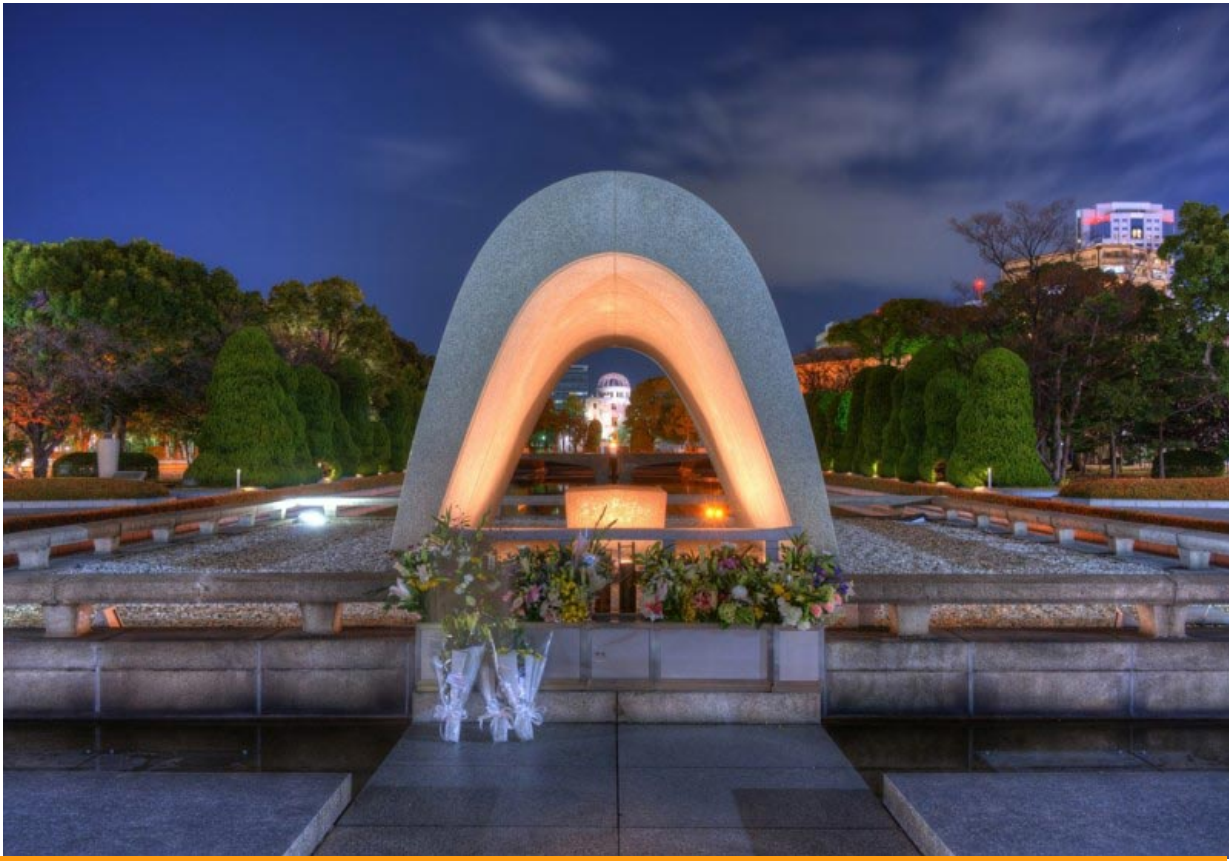


Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan



Cenotaph through which the Atomic Dome can be seen at Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima, Japan.

On August 6, 1945, during World War II, military forces dropped the first atomic bomb in world history over the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing a total of about 140,000 people. About half were killed instantly, and the other half died later from the bomb's effects. The only building left in the wide area destroyed by the bomb was the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, now called the Genbaku (A-Bomb) Dome, which stood directly below the point of explosion. The structure has been preserved to remain exactly the way the bomb left it. The area surrounding the dome has since been transformed into the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park**, which includes the dome, monuments to the victims, and a museum. Notable monuments in the park include a concrete arch protecting a cenotaph (or empty tomb) that contains the names of the bomb victims. Through the arch, the Peace Flame and the A-Bomb Dome are visible, in perfect alignment. The Peace Flame burns continuously, and will continue until the world is free from nuclear warfare. There is also the Children's Peace Monument, dedicated to the children who lost their lives in the bombing. Children from around the world send thousands of paper cranes to Hiroshima, which are displayed around the monument. The Children's Peace Monument contains one of three peace bells that visitors can ring for world peace. The **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum** is also situated within the park, and offers a history of the war and the decision to bomb Hiroshima, as well as many personal stories, memorabilia, and photos from the bombing. The museum also works to promote the message of world peace and to end nuclear warfare.

[Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park Map](#)

[Facts about Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park](#)

The A-Bomb Dome was designed by a Czech architect named Jan Letzel and finished in April 1915. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was created from 1950 to 1964, and covers about 122,000 square meters. The Peace Flame has burned continuously since August 1, 1964.

Where is Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park?

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is centrally located in Hiroshima City, Japan. The area is accessible from the train station, which is the best way to get into town. To get around town, there is an extensive bus system, as well as a streetcar system.

Best time to visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony is held annually on August 6 each year, the anniversary of the bombing. During the ceremony, the attendees observe one minute of silence at the time the bomb exploded, 8:15 am. In the evening, a lantern ceremony symbolically sends off the spirits of the victims by floating lit lanterns down the river with messages of peace.

More Info

Nearby Attractions : Miyajima, Hiroshima Castle, Iwakuni, Onomichi

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