

Area about 10km from Nihombashi, the heart of Edo, with Itabashijuku, the posting station of the former Nakasendo

# Itabashi Walk-Around Course

(Itabashi Sta. ↔ Itabashihoncho Sta.) 4.5km

## Nakasendo: The Two Kanji Spellings

Which is the correct way to spell Nakasendo, 中山道 or 中仙道? Back in the day when the 67 stations of Nakasendo were designated, both 仙 and 山 ('sen') had been used. In 1716, scholar Hakuseki Arai made suggestion to the government, "It is okay to spell Tokaido 東海道 as it goes along the coastline (海道). However, Nakasendo is the middle route of the East mountain roads, and as other routes that go through the mountains namely Tosando, Sanindo, and Sanyodo use 山 (mountain), it should be spelled 中山道 with 山". Since then, 中山道 has become the official spelling historically.



Nakasendo 1st stop: Itabashi-shuku  
Title: Kiso-kaido Itabashi-no Eki  
Artist: Eisen Keisai  
Collection of Hiroshige Museum of Art, Ena  
This artwork depicts the area around JR Itabashi Sta.

## From "Old Tales of Itabashi": Enkierenoki-to Miroku-san

During the late Genroku era, there was a man named Miroku Ito who was born in Ise (now Mie Pref.). A man of aspiration, he moved to Edo (now Tokyo), worked hard, and led a happy life in Hongo (now Bunkyo City) with his wife and three daughters. Ever since he was a child, he had worshipped Asama, the God of Mt. Fuji. His wish had been to open a trail from north of Mt. Fuji and then die at the mountain top. So he steeled himself to leave his family behind and left home. The wife led the three daughters by the hands and went after him, calling his name, and came all the way to Kamishuku (now Honcho) of Itabashi-shuku. The troubled Miroku let his wife and daughters sit on the rail of a bridge under a big tree on the side of the street, and said his last goodbye. And after parting his family, he kept his resolution, opened a trail from the north of Mr. Fuji (now called Yoshida-guchi) and died on the mountain top. Later, the big tree, which was a Chinese hackleberry, was called "Enkierenoki" (the tree where the bond was cut), the irrigation water under the tree "Ondashigawa" (the river to let go of the owing feeling), and the bridge "Namidabashi" (the bridge of tears).



## Atsumaki-atsurin Monument

Used in the Itabashi Explosives Plant of the Army completed in 1876. It was purchased and brought from Belgium by Tarozamnon Sawa, who had studied in Holland at the order of the government. The monument is the actual machine which was set up by the Department of the Army, and was used for the manufacturing of explosives by using the water of the Shakuji River.



## Itabashi Bologna Children's Picture Book Library

The library gives you access to 25,000 picture books from approx. 85 countries, all donated from Bologna of north Italy, the city that Itabashi has exchanges with. It is one of the rare picture book libraries in Japan, where it has a large assortment of picture books from various countries and regions such as Europe, America, Asia, and Africa to name a few.  
Location: 24-1 Honcho  
Phone: 03-3579-2665  
Hours: 10:00-17:00  
Closing: Mondays (if Monday is a national holiday, the following weekday will be closed instead), last day of the month, year-end/New Year



## From "50 Memorable Persons in the History of Itabashi"

### Naomi Uemura

1941-1984. The adventurer was born in Hyogo Pref. and started climbing mountains abroad in 1965. After returning to Japan he moved to Nakajuku of Itabashi City, where he got married later. In 1978 he became the world's first person to reach the North Pole alone. In 1984 he became the world's first person to reach the peak of Mt. McKinley at midwinter but disappeared on the way back. He was the 4th person to be presented the People's Honor Award from the Japanese government.



Photo courtesy of Bungeishunju Ltd.

## Tokyo Kasei University Museum

The permanent exhibition showcases collections of sewing templates owned by Watanabe Gakuen (educational corporation) designated as the national important tangible folk-cultural property, as well as the history of the school, the introduction of the founder, and the transitional history of food. The project exhibitions, which are held twice a year in spring and fall, focus on lifestyles seen from different perspectives.  
Location: 1-18-1 Kaga  
Phone: 03-3961-2918  
Hours: 9:30-17:00 (12:00 on Saturdays)  
Closing: Sundays, holidays, exhibition changing periods, year-end/New Year



START!

Itabashi Sta. of JR Saikyo Line

2 min.

### ① Grave of Isami Kondo [7-8-10 Takinogawa, Kita-ku]

Isami Kondo, the commander of Shinsen-gumi, was captured in Nagareyama in 1868, sent to the headquarters of the new governmental army in Itabashi-shuku, and later executed. His grave is near that headquarters, in front of the East Exit of JR Itabashi Sta.



18 min.

### ② Kaga Park [1-8 Kaga]

During the Edo period, this area used to be the residence of the Maeda Family of the Kaga Clan, which was as large as 177 acres. This park is the ruin of the artificial hill in the garden of the residence. From the Meiji period until the end of WWII, Itabashi Explosives Plant (Itabashi Plant of the Tokyo No.2 Army) used to be in this area.



10 min.

### ③ Tokoji Temple [4-13-8 Itabashi]

The Jodo-shu temple is said to have been established in the Muromachi period. Its premise features the Koshin Tower erected in 1662 with a brilliant engraving of Blue-Faced Vajra, the stone statue of Kshitigarbha which is said to have been at the Hirao milestone in the Edo period, and the memorial tower of the feudal warlord Hideie Ukita built by his descendant who moved to Itabashi in the Meiji era.



2 min.

### ④ Kammyoji Temple [3-25-1 Itabashi]

The Shingon-shu temple is said to have been established in the Muromachi period. The figurine of Avalokitesvara in the principal image is said to have been made in the 12th century. Its premise features the Koshin Tower erected in 1661, as well as the Inari shrine and the red gate brought from the residence of the Kaga Clan.



Right across the street

### ⑤ Site of the Hiraojukuwaki Honjin Headquarters [3-15 Itabashi]

Site of the residence of the Toyoda family, the side quarters of the Itabashi Hirao-shuku. The Toyoda family inherited the name Ichimon for generations and was also the village headman. This was the place where Isami Kondo was imprisoned until his execution. In the Edo period, the menagerie Persian camel also stayed in this place.



Right across the street

### ⑥ Itabashi 3-chome Enjuku Hiroba Square [3-5 Itabashi]

Right across the street

### ⑦ Itabashi Tourism Center [3-14-15 Itabashi]

4 min.

Itabashihoncho Sta. of Toei Mita Line

9 min.

GOAL!

### ⑮ Nichiyoji Temple [42-1 Yamatocho]

3 min.

### ⑭ Chiseiji Temple [37-1 Yamatocho]

4 min.

### ⑬ Enkierenoki [18 Honcho]

Since the Edo period, this Enkierenoki has been well-known as the scenic spot of Itabashi-shuku. It was worshipped by the common people who believed that the tree would "cut bad ties and form good connection".



3 min.

### ⑫ Itabashi Bridge [28 & 29 Honcho]

The bridge over Shakuji River, near Nakajuku station of the old Nakasendo. It is said that the city got its name from this bridge. The name "Itabashi" is seen in old literature such as "Engyobon Heike Monogatari"; it is considered that it became a geographical name by the Kamakura period. In the cherry blossom season, cherry blossoms go into full bloom all the way from the upstream to the downstream of Shakuji River.



3 min.

### ⑪ Site of the Nakajukuwaki Honjin Headquarters [54 Nakajuku]

Site of the residence of the Iida family, the sub-stronghold who inherited the name Uhee for generations and served as lord of the Nakajuku area of Itabashi-shuku. In the late Edo period, Kazunomiya (Princess Kazu) stayed here on the way to get married to the 14th Shogun Iemochi. In the first year of the Meiji period, the emperor took a rest on the way to the Hikawa-Jinja Shrine in Omiya.



2 min.

### ⑩ Monjuin Temple [28-5 Nakajuku]

A Shingon-shu temple established in the early Edo period when a hall that had enshrined a life-prolonging guardian deity was turned into a temple. The principal image of the seated Manjushri is said to have been made in the Kanbun era (1661-1673). Being the family temple of the Iida family who served as the stronghold of the Itabashi-shuku, its cemetery has the graves of people such as Shizu Iida and "Oomorigawa", one of the meshimori hatagos (the place where food and services are available) in the station area.



3 min.

### ⑨ Site of the Itabashijuku Honjin Headquarters [47-10 Nakajuku]

Site of the residence of the Iida family, the stronghold who inherited the name Shinzaemon for generations. Feudal lords during their mandatory visits to Edo, the shogunate's official samurais, monks, and court nobles took a rest here.



4 min.

### ⑧ Henshoji Temple [40-7 Nakajuku]

# Itabashi Walk-Around Map



Itabashi Area

Area about 10km from Nihombashi, the heart of Edo, with Itabashijuku, the posting station of the former Nakasendo



Ten Scenic Spots in Itabashi

Keep good manners when you visit shrines and temples.