

Area scattered with historical sites and remains along the cliff line that remind of the time when there were ample spring water. Also has the dimension of an industrial area.

Shimura Walk-Around Course

(Motohasunuma Sta. ← Shimura-sakaue Sta.) 7.0km

From "Old Tales of Itabashi": The Cocky Shogun in Onarizuka

Shimizuzaka

During the Edo period, herds of animals were running around and many birds were flying above the Nakasendo area. The shogunate made this area the shogun's hunting field. They made an office named "torimi-yashiki" (bird-watching house) to preserve wild birds and animals. Officers kept on feeding the birds and animals so that they get used to people and do not go away anywhere else. When the shogun actually came from hunting, the officers secretly sprinkled the feed on the ground, so that the wild birds flock to it and then the shogun can shoot them with arrows. But the shogun did not know the truth; he was so happy and said, "Everyone, take a look. I have caught this many birds. What a happy thing it is!" Probably the shoguns' huntings were always like this. The miniature hill made for the hunting was called "Onarizuka", whose name still remains in names of places such as "Onarizuka Street" and "Onarizuka-bashi Bridge".

A steep hill from the Shimura plateau to the lowlands of the Arakawa River basin, it is the first chokepoint of old Nakasendo. It has a big bend along the way, which was the only place on the road where you could see Mt. Fuji on the right. The name came from Shimizu-Yakushi, the Bhaishajyaguru which was the principal object of worship at Daizen-ji temple, a temple on the right side of the road on the way down the hill. It was named after a beautiful springwater (shimizu) that the 8th Shogun Yoshimune had admired when he took a rest during his falconry. And so the hill was eventually called Shimizuzaka (Shimizu hill) as well. Location: Near 2-7 Shimura



Woodblock print: "Tokugawa Shogun XIII at Falconry"

From "50 Memorable Persons in the History of Itabashi"

Birthplace of Purely Domestic Photography Film

Dokan Ota

1432-1486. Main retainer of the Oigigayatsu Usuigi clan; founder of Empuku-ji Temple in Nishidai. He built the Edo Castle in 1457. In 1477 he came into collision with brothers Kageyuzamono and Heiemon Toshima, fought the battle against them in Ekodawara (border of Nakano and Nerima wards), and defeated them. However, he was murdered in 1786 in the Kasuya-no-Yakata in Naka-gun, Sagami Province (now Isehara City).

The Azusawa area used to be home to Dainippon Celluloid Company Ltd. (now Daicel Corp.) where a department to manufacture photograph film rolls from celluloid was launched to start test manufacturing from 1931. Then the division spun off to for Fuji Film. Fuji Film became the only company that has a coherent film manufacturing system, and this is indeed the birthplace of purely domestic photography film. Location: 3-9 Azusawa



Itabashi Ecopolis Center

Dei-no-izumi Spring Site

Ecopolis is the metropolis where people live in harmony with the environment. It showcases a rich collection of resources and sections that promote eco-friendly and community-friendly lifestyles. Location: 4-6-1 Maenochō Phone: 03-5970-5001 Hours: 9:00-17:00 Closing: Third Mon. of the month (if it is a holiday, the following day will be closed instead), year-end/New Year

The springwater under the cliff made a spring, which was one of the sources of Dei River. Since the Edo period, it has been known as a beautiful spring and it still produces water. Every year around June, the hydrangea goes into full bloom and entertain the visitors with its beauty. Location: 24-6 Izumicho



START!

Motohasunuma Sta. of Toei Mita Line

Shimura-sakaue Sta. of Toei Mita Line

Right below the ground

GOAL!



① Hikawa Jinja Shrine [48-4 Hasunumachō]

2 min.

② Weeping Cherry Trees in Nanzoin Temple [48-8 Hasunumachō]

A Shingon-shu temple said to have been established in the early Edo period. 8th shogun Yoshimune used to take a rest here during falconry. On the premise, there is a Koshin Tower that enshrines the round sculptures of the guardian god, made by the group of Koshin believers in the former Hasunuma village in 1653. The weeping cherry trees, with the Acala hall in the background, provides a spectacular view at time of bloom.



9 min.

③ Chotokuji Temple [40-7 Oharacho]

9 min.

④ Kumano Jinja Shrine [3-38-3 Maenochō]

6 min.

⑤ Jorakuin Temple [4-20-8 Maenochō]

3 min.

⑥ Mitsugi Park [4-59-1 Maenochō]

The park opened in April 1953. About 45% of its 14,000 square meter premise is a pond for rowing boats. With rich natural springwater, Mitsugi Park is the place to spend relaxing time. (Open Apr.-Oct. on Sat./Sun./national holidays only)



6 min.

⑦ Emmeiji Temple [1-21-12 Shimura]

It is said that Gonbe Mitsugi, who saw his son lose his life in a battle over Shimura Castle in 1524, realized the absence of absolutes in this world and made turned his residence into this Shingon-shu temple. There is the oldest board monument in Itabashi erected in 1252, as well as the Koshin tower built in 1647 that attracted worship as "Tako-Yakushi", the god of removing warts.



15 min.

⑧ Ruins of Shimura Castle and Kumano Jinja Shrine [2-16-2 Shimura]

14 min.

⑨ Fuji-Oyama Road Sign/Koshin Tower [2-7 Shimura]

The road that pilgrims to Mt. Oyama in Sagami Province and Mt. Fuji in Kai and Suruga Provinces took. The road turns to Fuji-kaido which goes to Kawagoe-kaido where Shimo-Nerima-shuku and leads to Shakujii River. The road sign at the entrance was built in 1792 and on the front it says, "Oyama Road starts here and goes to Nerima River." The Koshin tower on the right was erected in 1860. On its front it says "Koshinto (Koshin tower)", and on the left it says "Fuji-Oyama Road starts here. 1 Ri (4km) to Nerima, 1 Ri to Yanagisawa, 7 Ri to Fuchu".



4 min.

⑩ Shimura Milestone [1-12 Shimura / 2-16 Azusawa]

The third milestone from Nihombashi, the heart of Edo. Only two milestones remain to this day with the original appearance, and it is designated the national place of historic interest.



3 min.

⑪ Main Pillar of Toda Bridge [3-8 Azusawa]

The main pillar of the Tokyo side of the Toda Bridge which was used before it was replaced with the current Toda Bridge in 1978. The back side of the main pillar on the left embeds a bronze plate which states the origin and the configuration of the bridge. The main pillar of the Saitama side now stands at the entrance of Todabashi Shinsui Koen Park, east side of Boat Race Toda.



12 min.

⑫ Azusawa Jinja Shrine [4-16-5 Azusawa]

Right next to each other

⑬ Ryufukuji Temple [4-16-3 Azusawa]

A Shingon-shu temple said to have been established by Priest Unchin of Shinchoin in Fukurocho in the late Muromachi period. It enshrines a Bhaishajyaguru which was found in the cave called Nanakozaki which used to extend under the plateau in the Heian period. There are several board monuments including the one erected in 1255; thus the place is famous as the "temple of board monuments".



9 min.

⑭ Azusawa Water Bus Dock [4-28 Azusawa]

Water buses to Shingashi River, Sumida River, Tokyo Bay, Arakawa River, and Iwabuchi Water Gate stop here. (Note: Operation on specific dates only) To sign up for boarding, call: Tokyo Mizube Cruising Line Phone: 03-5608-8869



3 min.

⑮ Mitarai Fudo [4-17 Azusawa]

7 min.

⑯ Yakushi-no-izumi Garden [3-7-20 Azusawa]

When 8th shogun Yoshimune stopped by at Daizen-ji Temple, he saw the clear water springing on the premise. Thus he named the temple's Bhaishajyaguru statue "Shimizu-Yakushi" (clear water Bhaishajyaguru). The garden is the recreation of that era, referring to resources.



Itabashi Walk-Around Map

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Shimura Area

