

Area flourished as the posting station of the Kawagoe-kaido. Still home to many shrines built to enshrine local guardian gods and to pray for safe trip.

Tokiwadai Walk-Around Course

(Naka-Itabashi Sta. ↔ Kami-Itabashi Sta.) 6.0km

Site of Moro

In March 1951, stone tools and other artifacts were discovered at the profile of a roadway cut that goes through a hill named Osedoyama. The excavation of the site took place later that year in July. It was the second excavation of a paleolithic site following the Site of Iwajuku in Gunma Pref. It turned out that the culture of the paleolithic era, which was older than the Jomon era, had flourished universally in Japan. Also the knife-shaped stone artifact that had been unearthed at this excavation was named "Moro-type knife" due to its strongly unique form. The site was designated the cultural property of Tokyo in 1969, and the artifacts in 1999. Today the site is slated for a park, however, the forest is being preserved and you cannot step into the premise. Location: 5-17 Komone



From "Old Tales of Itabashi": Getobashi-no Rokuzo-san

"Geto Bridge" is the bridge where Kawagoe-kaido crosses Shakujii River. Back in the old days, the bridge used to be made of wood; every time the flood came, it was washed away, leaving people in inconvenient circumstances. At the foot of the bridge, there lived an old beggar, who used to bow deeply to the passers-by for money. The beggar was called "Rokuzo" from them. Rokuzo was a very calm person and never got angry even if the children teased him. One morning in winter, Rokuzo was found cold and lifeless. When the villagers lifted Rokuzo's body to bury him, a lot of money was found from underneath his body. It turned out that Rokuzo had never used the money he had been granted from people. While the villagers were wondering what to do with the money, a traveling monk came across. Having been told what was going on, the monk said, "Perhaps Rokuzo wanted to do good in the world. How about building a handsome bridge to console his spirit?" All villagers agreed. With the reading of the sutras by that monk, Rokuzo's body was buried cordially by the villagers. The construction of the bridge started the following day, and villagers united under the monk, worked hard, and finally a handsome stone bridge was completed. And so the bridge was named "Geto Bridge" (the bridge of the bowing head).



From "50 Memorable Persons in the History of Itabashi"

● Kaichiro Nezu I ●



Photo courtesy of TOBU Railway Co., Ltd.

1860-1940. Businessman born in Kai (now Yamanashi Pref.). In 1914, as president of Tojo Railway (predecessor of Toju Tojo Line), he opened the line between Ikebukuro and Tanomozawa. The company merged with Toju Railway in 1920. He left his footprints in the growth of Itabashi as a city, such as the opening of amusement park Togetsuen in Narimasu in 1924, and the development of Tokiwadai residential estate in 1935.

START!

Naka-Itabashi Sta. of Toju Tojo Line



Kami-Itabashi Sta. of Toju Tojo Line

GOAL!

6 min.

① Senshoin Temple [44-1 Nakacho]

3 min.

② Kutsuwa Jinja Shrine [46-3 Nakacho]

In the Edo period, the shrine was called Kutsuwa Gongen. It is said that the name came from the "kutsuwa" (curb) or the horseshoe that Ieyasu Tokugawa left behind when he rested his horse during his excursion had been enshrined. The children's guardian god draws faith from many, as the god that can make miracles in diseases such as pertussis.



6 min.

③ Oyama Fuku Jizo (Ksitigarbha) Statue [54 Oyama]

About 200 years ago in the Bunka and Bunsei eras, there was an ascetic named Ofuku who lived along the Kawagoe Kaido road (near the Nichidai-Byoin Iriguchi intersection). He cured the intractable diseases and hardships of the people who lived along the road, and was admired by people in the Oyama area. He lived in Oyama and dedicated his life to everyone. And so he is now enshrined as Ofuku Jizo.



9 min.

④ Hokei Inari Jinja Shrine [12 Yayoicho]

6 min.

⑤ Geto Bridge and Rokuzo-no-hokora [52-1 Yayoicho / 1 Minami-Tokiwadai]

Geto Bridge was replaced with a stone bridge in 1798. There are different stories as to where the name came from. One says that the Chinese hackberry cane that the traveling monk stuck to the ground here later grew up to be a big tree and was called "Sakasanoenoki" (upside-down hackberry tree); another says that when the lord of Kawagoe Castle visited or left Edo, his retainers in Edo came to this place and bowed their heads to greet him or see him off. And the third theory says that the bridge was replaced to a stone bridge using the money that Rokuzo had collected from the travelers at the foot of the bridge. In addition, Rokuzo-no-hokora was built in honor of Rokuzo's virtues that he had left behind.



6 min.

⑥ Chomeiji Temple [48-5 Higashiyama-cho]

9 min.

⑦ Minamitokiwadai Tenso Jinja Shrine [2-4-3 Minami-Tokiwadai]

Enshrining the Amaterasu Omikami (sun goddess), the time of establishment is unknown. During the Edo period it was called "Shinmeisha" and became the guardian shrine of the former Kami-Itabashi village. It changed its name to Tenso Jinja Shrine in 1873 and still remains as such today. The round cut on the mount of the shrine dog built in 1846 is the trace of the scattered splinter of the bomb dropped during the air raid on June 10, 1945.



3 min.

⑩ Kosodate Jizo (Ksitigarbha) Statue [2-2 Kami-Itabashi]

3 min.

⑮ Gohon Keyaki (Five Zelkova Trees) [1-19 Kami-Itabashi]

Upon the widening of Kawagoe Kaido road in the early Showa era, then Kami-Itabashi village mayor Yajuro Iijima contributed his land under the condition to preserve the zelkova trees that had been part of his forest on the residence premise. And so the five trees remained and got the name Gohon Keyaki (five zelkova trees). Later the two dead trees were replaced with new ones. Today the five trees are a landmark of the Kami-Itabashi neighborhood of the Kawagoe Kaido road.



3 min.

⑭ Sakuragawa Green Road [Runs between 1 and 3 Sakuragawa]

3 min.

⑬ Mitake Jinja Shrine [1-4-6 Sakuragawa (on the premise of Johoku Chuo Park)]

6 min.

⑫ Site of Moro [5-17 Komone]

12 min.

⑪ Anyoin Temple [2-30-23 Toshincho]

It is written in the temple's history book that this Shingon-shu, Buzan sect temple was established by Tokiyori Hojo. The bronze bell hanging from the bell tower on its premise was certified an important work of art by the former Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in 1943, and thanks to it it had not been contributed during the war. The "kuri" (kitchen) used to be the main residence of the Matsudaira family of the former Maebashi-han and was moved here in 1929. This temple also enshrines Benzaiten, one of the seven lucky gods of Itabashi. It is also the first pilgrimage stop of the 88 hallow grounds of Toshima.



Right across the street

⑩ Site of the Old Kami-Itabashi Village Office [2-36 Toshincho]

3 min.

⑨ Hikawa Jinja Shrine [2-16-1 Toshincho]

The guardian shrine of the former Kami-Itabashi Village. While the original construction year is unknown, the current main shrine was renovated in 1852. There are also stone lanterns and a votive tablet from the Edo period. The Historical Museum on the premise houses more than 1,000 farm equipments, houseware and production tools and is designated Itabashi's cultural property.



9 min.

⑧ Heian Jizo (Ksitigarbha) Statue [2-11 Minami-Tokiwadai]

Itabashi Walk-Around Map

Tokiwadai Area

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Keep good manners when you visit shrines and temples.