

TAKE FREE

Let's walk around Meguro,  
a town rich in history and culture.

Digest Edition

# Meguro Tourism Encyclopedia



Meguro Tourism Association

一般社団法人 めぐる観光まちづくり協会

# Visiting manners around Meguro



Enjoy a fun "Meguro Tour" with "new manners" and in the "new era."



There are many shrines and temples and many viewing spots in Meguro, but if you know the "new manners" for each place, you can enjoy the "Meguro Tour" even more.

For example, when you visit a shrine, you will first meet the Temizuya when you reach the precincts. It is a remnant of what used to be a waterfall or river to cleanse the body before worshipping. Now there seem to be many shrines in which ladles are not prepared. It is the reason for preventing the infection of the COVID-19 caused by them touched by many unspecified people. Such shrines may recommend cleaning your hands and mouth with running water, so it's a good idea to follow instructions.

After putting some money in the offertory box, let's ring the bell at the shrine. Currently, some of the shrines have removed bells as a measure to prevent infection from COVID-19. When visiting, it is noticeable to keep in mind not to be "densely populated."

This booklet introduces many excellent cultural properties in the shrines and temples of Meguro. Some of these cultural properties are secret Buddhas others are closed to the public, some are open to the public only from time to time. Some things are open to the public at special events once every few months to several years, so it may be fun to check the website and wait for the opening.

In addition, many places, such as temples and shrines and private residences with cultural properties are privately owned land. It is forbidden to damage cultural properties and to enter locations that are not open to the public without permission or on private premises. If you follow the etiquette and face them with a quiet heart when visiting them, you will surely hear the voices of the people of the old days.

Note: Please note there are various views about the origin and folklore not only introduced in this booklet.



## New outing manners

*In addition to basic etiquette, keep the following in mind when you go out.*



### Social Distancing

Don't stay long and keep a safe distancing.



### Health management

Please refrain from going out if you have a fever.



### Wearing a mask

Wear a mask firmly to prevent a droplet infection.



### Cough etiquette

Pay attention to your surrounding people when you cough or sneeze.



### Washing and disinfecting your hands

Wash your fingers and nails thoroughly.



### Do not touch the eyes, nose, and mouth directly.

Use a handkerchief and others not to touch the mucous membranes directly.

- DATA
- Address: 4-3-55, Komaba, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3468) 4181
  - Opening: 9:30 to 16:30 (last admission is until 16:00)
  - Closed: Sundays, Mondays, 4th Thursdays, New Year holidays, 3rd week of February and June (special arrangement period)
  - Transportation: Approximately 7 minutes on foot from "Komaba Todaimae Station" on the Keio Inokashira Line



▲ Osamu Dazai  
"No Longer Human" manuscript

## Exhibition materials and collections

It is a literary museum that received donations of materials from about 15,000 people. Manuscripts (including hand-written ones) of such authors representing modern Japanese literature such as Yasunari Kawabata, Osamu Dazai, Soseki Natsume, Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Toson Shimazaki, Takuboku Ishikawa, Ichiyo Higuchi, and Takeo Arishima preserved.

## Book cafe "BUNDAN."

BAKERU dealt with variable and creative works. And it opened a literary cafe in the cafeteria of The Museum of Modern Japanese Literature. There are about 20,000 books in the store. From rare books for which enthusiasts are thirsty to masterpieces that color the history of Japanese literature. You can browse any of them. There is a unique menu related to the artists; "AKUTAGAWA Coffee." "Osamu Dazai's Cider." and "Ango Sakaguchi's grilled salmon sandwich."



It opened in April 1967 (Showa 42) by the demand of Jun Takami \*<sup>1</sup> and Susumu Odagiri \*<sup>2</sup>, who were also novelists and poets, and volunteers from the literary world and academic societies. It is a literary museum created with tremendous support from various fields by collecting and gathering materials of modern literature that might be scattered and lost amid a fierce social transition toward economic growth.

A seemingly modern Azekurazukuri-style\*<sup>3</sup> white modern building currently houses approximately 1.2 million materials, including books and magazines and manuscripts of numerous masterpieces. They are open to the public, books and electronic media are in a reading room and an exhibition room. Some famous writers visited here.

In addition, there is a book and coffee shop "BUNDAN" in a calm atmosphere, you can freely browse from rare books to masterpieces, and you can enjoy dishes and soft drinks related to literary masters while reading relaxedly.

\* 1) Jun Takami (1907-1965): Novelist and poet. He also contributed to the establishment of the Museum of Modern Japanese Literature.

\* 2) Susumu Odagiri (1924-1992): A researcher of modern Japanese literature.

\* 3) Azekura-zukuri: A construction method in which wood is assembled into a beam to form an outer wall.

## Pay attention here!

A treasure trove of modern literature; preserves many raw manuscripts and valuable first edition books of many famous literary masters such as Yasunari Kawabata and Osamu Dazai.



## Kamimeguro Hikawa Shrine

A shrine known as "the parishioners are escaping from the plague."



DATA

- Address: 2-16-21 Ohashi, Meguro-ku
- Phone: 03 (3466) 2507
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 5 minutes on foot from "Ikejiri Ohashi Station" on the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line



From Ikejiri Ohashi Station, cross the Meguro River and head east on Tamagawa Dori. It is a shrine that stands on a hill that runs through the torii gate along the street and climbs the stone steps. When Mr. Kato, a vassal of Shingen Takeda, moved to Kamimeguro Village during the Tensho era (1573-), he enshrined the deity of origin of Uenohara (present-day Yamanashi Prefecture) in Kai Province. The enshrined deities are "Susanoo-no-Mikoto" or the deity who expels the plague, "Amaterasu Omikami" or the deity of the sun, and "Sugawara no Michizane." or the deity of learning.

As a guardian of Kamimeguro Village, he continued to watch over people's lives and protected parishioners from the repeated flooding of the Meguro River and plague. Accordingly, they say "The parishioners have been plague-free since ancient times." Even now, people revere it as a deity who expels plague wards off evils, and many worshipers visit it.

The sacred tree planted next to the office is camphor, and a neighbor planted it about 150 years ago. Mysteriously fast-growing, the small sapling in hands has grown to a large tree with a height of over 20 m.

There are two subordinate shrines in the precincts. Inari Shrine is on the west side of the precincts. The enshrined deity is "the deity of the soul of Ukanomitama" and is the deity of agriculture and industry in general. At the Hatsuma Festival, people dedicate a banner as a prayer for business prosperity and family safety.

And on the east side of the precincts across the main shrine, there is Meguro Fuji Sengen Shrine. The enshrined deity is the deity of fire extinguishing and easy delivery, "Konohanasakuya Hime no Mikoto". The stone shrine and stone monument of Meguro Motofuji, which is also famous for Hiroshige Utagawa's work, was moved to this precinct in 1878 (Meiji 11), and Sengen Shrine also was moved as the subordinate shrine. On the west side of the front stairs, a mountain trail for Fuji Asama Shrine made good use of a natural cliff. Every 1st-July is the day of the mountain opening ritual and the Sengen Shrine annual festival.

The stone steps on the front are Komatsu stone made in 1816 (Bunka 13). In 1905 (Meiji 38), the renovation of the stone steps expanded the Oyamado (currently Tamagawa-Dori) in front of the shrine. Now, the steps are steep and 54 from the sidewalk, but it seems that there used to be gentler stone steps up to the center of Tamagawa-Dori.

**Pay attention here!**

Here you can get three types of red-stamps: Hikawa Shrine, Asama Shrine, and Inari Shrine. Amulets of cute cherry blossoms.

"Folk art" that finds beauty in daily necessities has spread from here!

- DATA
- Address: 4-3-33, Komaba, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3467) 4527
  - Opening: 10:00 to 17:00 (last admission: 16:30)
  - Closed: On Mondays (but the next day if it falls on a national holiday), there is a temporary closure due to the year-end and New Year display changes, etc.
  - Transportation: Approximately 7 minutes on foot from "Komaba Todaimae Station" on the Keio Inokashira Line



In October 1936 (Showa 11), Muneyoshi Yanagi (1889-1961), Shoji Hamada, a ceramist, Bernard Leach, an English ceramist, and others enthusiastically collected and researched folk crafts. They established the Japan Folk Crafts Museum through their promotion and financial support of Magosaburo Ohara, a businessman. Muneyoshi Yanagi became the first director.

The building consists of the main building (two-story tiled roof wooden building), warehouse (two-story reinforced steel), and west building (tiled roof wooden gate \*1 and two-story tiled roof wooden main building). The nagayamon of the West Building was built in 1880 (Meiji 13) in Kunimoto Village, Tochigi Prefecture (currently a suburb of Utsunomiya City). It was relocated to its current location by Muneyoshi Yanagi in 1934 (Showa 9). In addition, the main building was built in 1936 (Showa 11), and it is a building where Oya stones are pasted on the tile-roof and plaster.

It has become the standard of modeling, and in 1999 (Heisei 11), it got a designation as a nationally registered tangible cultural property together with Nagayamon.

From a collection of more than 12,000 items, about 1,000 items such as ceramics, textiles, dyeing, woodwork, lacquer work, painting, metalwork, bamboo, paper, leather crafts, and sculptures are in the main building.

Various characteristic collections; crafts during the Joseon Li Dynasty, dyed and woven fabrics from Okinawa, Bampu cloth \*2 from the Takasago tribe of Taiwan, and the collection of potteries from the Middle Ages in the United Kingdom.

Next to the West Building, there is an about 150 cm board monument named the Amida-Shuji-Itabi (literally "Amida seed board monument"). And the upper part of the monument Sanskrit-characters is engraved reading Amida Nyorai. At the bottom, we can read the year 1262 (Kocho 2). Therefore, we can prove the board seems to be the oldest board monument in Meguro City. But it is not originally from Meguro but Sakado, Saitama Prefecture. This material moved from Sakado as a stone-cultural-property for exhibition.

This foundation works for exhibitions but research on folk art, training crafts persons, publications, lectures, and others.

\* 1) Nagayamon: a door attached to a part of "Nagaya," a tenement house where vassals live, built around a residence where their lord lives, to make it a gate.

\* 2) Bampu: Former name of plain weave coarse linen cloth made from wild ramie woven by the indigenous people of Taiwan

Pay attention here!

"Mingei" is an abbreviation for folk crafts, coined by Yanagi et al.





## Former Marquis Maeda Main Residence (Western / Japanese)

Mansion of descendants of Kaga Hyakumangoku Daimyo (Important Cultural Property Building)

DATA

- Address: 4-3-55, Komaba, Meguro-ku
- [Western-style building] ■ Phone: 03 (3466) 5150 ■ Opening: 9:00 to 15:30
- Closed: Mondays, Tuesdays (but open on public holidays), year-end and New Year holidays
- Transportation: Approximately 12 minutes on foot from "Komaba Todaimae Station" on the Keio Inokashira Line
- [Japanese-style building] ■ Phone: 03 (3460) 6725 ■ Opening: 9:00 to 16:00
- Closed: Mondays (but the next day if it is a national holiday), year-end and New Year holidays
- Transportation: Approximately 8 minutes on foot from "Komaba Todaimae Station" on the Keio Inokashira Line



The Main residence of Toshinari Maeda, the 16th owner of the former Kaga domain, has moved from Hongo, which had a Maeda clan's main mansion since the Edo period (1603-1868), to Komaba in connection with the reconstruction plan in the aftermath of the Great Kanto Earthquake. This Komaba Main residence built on a vast site that exchanged land equivalently with Tokyo Imperial University located in Hongo \* still retains its size and shape faithfully. It is one of the rare examples that a Western-style building and a Japanese-style building are both in existence, and the appearance of the modern upper-class mansion is visible to this day. In 2013 (Heisei 25), the eight buildings (Western-style building, Japanese-style building, Western-style building passageway, Japanese-style building passageway, tearoom waiting area, Japanese-style building gate and fence, gatehouse, main gate, and wall) and their premises as a whole got a national designation of an important cultural property under the name of "former Maeda family Main residence."

\* Equivalent exchange: to exchange items with equal value with each other.

### [Western-style building]

Completion of the building was in May 1929 (Showa 4). The designer was Yasushi Tsukamoto, a professor at the Tokyo Imperial University\*<sup>1</sup>, but the actual design was undertaken by Teitaro Takahashi \*<sup>2</sup>. The building has three floors above ground and one floor below ground, with a building area of 978.25m<sup>2</sup>. Reinforced concrete made building with scratch tiles on the outer wall and large Taika-Seki stones ( a kind of pumice tuff) as accents. The roof is with copper-sheet, the exterior of the building is luxuriously built based on the British Tudor style \*<sup>3</sup>. This Western-style building represents mansion architecture from the end of the Taisho era (1912-1926) to the beginning of the Showa era (1926-1989). It made full use of the latest technology at that time, such as installing an elevator for small luggage.

A private company acquired it in 1944 (Showa 19). After the war, the Allied Forces requisitioned and used it as the official residence of the commander of U.S. Forces in Japan. After its return, it maintained the buildings and land as a park. The Western-style building was the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Modern Literature from April 1967 (Showa 42) but closed in 2002 (Heisei 14). Management carried out the repairing and restoration work from 2014 (Heisei 26) to 2016 (Heisei 28). We can feel the atmosphere at the time of construction vividly. Currently, the inside of the building is showing.

### Pay attention here!

Designed with full use of the latest building technology from the end of the Taisho era to the beginning of the Showa era, it is a valuable cultural property reminiscent of the life of those in higher echelons.

- \* 1) Yasushi Tsukamoto (1869-1937) Architect who designed Keijo stop bookstore (former station building of Seoul Station), etc.
- \* 2) Teitaro Takahashi (1892-1970) Architect who designed Kamikochi Hotel, Kawana Hotel, etc.
- \* 3) British Tudor style: A British architectural style completed in the 15th and 17th centuries. It features a brick chimney.

**[Japanese-style building]**

Completion of the Japanese-style building was in 1930 (Showa 5).

A passageway connects the Japanese-style building and the adjacent Western-style building. The Japanese-style building is a two-story wooden building with a building area of 355.47 m<sup>2</sup> and features a tower-like treasure-shaped roof on the second floor. It was designed by Yasushi Tsukamoto and Iwajiro Sasaki \*<sup>1</sup> (Imperial Artist). The 3rd generation Seibee Kimura \*<sup>2</sup> designed the tea room as an annex. While the Western-style building was the residence of the Maeda family, the Japanese-style building was for a guesthouse.

The inside of the building is used mainly for the guest rooms. The main room named "Okyakuma" on the first floor is a shoin-zukuri with a tokonoma, a different shelf, and a tsuke-shoin \*<sup>3</sup>. Transom (Ranma) above the lintel(Kamoi) is the decoration of elaborate fret works. "Okyakuma" is a connecting room with "Otsugino-ma (or The next room)" A tatami corridor is around these rooms. The entrance side \*<sup>4</sup>, the porch, and the back (or Oku-no-ma) connect to the tea room. From the main room, you can see the elegant Japanese garden, and there used to be a Chinese-style garden and a green tea brewing room on the east side of the building. The "living room" on the 2nd floor is also Shoin-zukuri and has a slightly Sukiya-zukuri element such as round-shaped windows and a wooden case ceiling \*<sup>5</sup>.

- \* 1) Iwajiro Sasaki (1853-1936) Architect. Imperial artist. He participated in the construction of the Shiba Zojoji Temple.
- \* 2) 3rd generation Seibee Kimura (1871-1955) Sukiya carpenter. Yoshijiro (3rd generation) is known for his teahouse architecture.
- \* 3) Shoin-zukuri: A samurai residence with the Shoin as the center of the building.
- \* 4) Entrance side: A passage with a width of one ken (about 1.8m) between the tatami room and the porch.
- \* 5) Case ceiling: A ceiling made of wood and finished in a lattice shape.

**Exterior**

Komaba park Former Maeda family's Main residence was open to the public in 1967 (Showa 42). The overall layout of the site retains the exterior of what it was when the Maeda family moved.

The long approach from the main gate to the entrance of the Western-style building, the lawn garden in the south of the Western-style building, and the Japanese garden in the Japanese-style building were quite suitable landscaping plans for this mansion.



**Marquis furnishings**

The furniture of the Komaba head residence was made in London after Motokichi Yukino \* had a meeting with Toshinari Maeda, who was stationed as a military attaché at the embassy in England after Motokichi traveled to England. Hampton, a British luxury furniture company, made the main furniture of the Western-style building.

- \* Motokichi Yukino (1897-1945) Architect designed Higashifushimi Palace, Chichibu Palace, etc.



# Daienji Temple

A group of stone Buddhas comforting the victims of the Meguro Gyoninzaka fire



DATA

- Address: 1-8-5 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3491) 2793
- Opening: 8:00 to 17:00 ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 3 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, and Toei Subway Mita Line



This temple is in the middle of the steep Gyoninzaka that extends from the west exit of Meguro Station. During the Kanei era (1624-1645), the Shugendo monks of Mt. Yudono, one of the three mountains of Dewa (now Yamagata Prefecture), built a temple in the middle of the slope and worked hard to practice, calling them "goers" (or gyonin). Formerly many Edokkos (Tokyoites) came and went this slope as a pilgrimage route from Edo to Meguro Fudosen.

Daienji Temple began in the first half of the 17th century (Kanei era) when the Omihoin enshrined Dainichi Nyorai and made it a training hall.

A wooden statue of Shaka Nyorai (nationally designated important cultural property) is in the main hall. The statue's completion was in 1193 (Kenkyu 4), its height is more than 162 cm.

"Daienji stone Buddha group" (a tangible cultural property designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government) now standing in the precincts was built for the memorial service of the Meguro Gyoninzaka Great Fire in February 1772 (Meiwa 9) because this temple might be the source of the fire.

A large fire broke out at the main hall of Daienji Temple at that time, burning one-third of Edo and causing many deaths. It burned from Meguro to Kitasenju, and the fire spread distances lengthwise. It is called one of the three major fires in Edo parallel with Meireki (1657) and Hinoetora (1806). The state of the great fire is also described in "Half-day Quiet Story" by Ota Nampo (1749-1823), a novelist in the middle of the Edo period (1603-1868). Due to this fire, Daienji Temple did not get permission to rebuild for the following 76 years. The reason seems that even the tower of Edo Castle burned.

"Good luck charm Daikokuten" is enshrined in front of the main hall. Tenkai, who predominated the world as a tutor of Ieyasu Tokugawa, carved this as the motif of Ieyasu Tokugawa. It gathered faith as one of the seven deities of good fortune in Yamate, which prospered during the Edo period. On the other hand, "Daienji Daikokuten" is enshrined in Shakado as a secret Buddha. It is a three-faced Daikokuten with a face of Benzaiten and a face of Bishamonten on the left and right each, which is said to have been made by Denkyodaishi and enshrined by soliciting from Mt. Hiei to protect the back demon gate of Edo Castle.

**Pay attention here!**

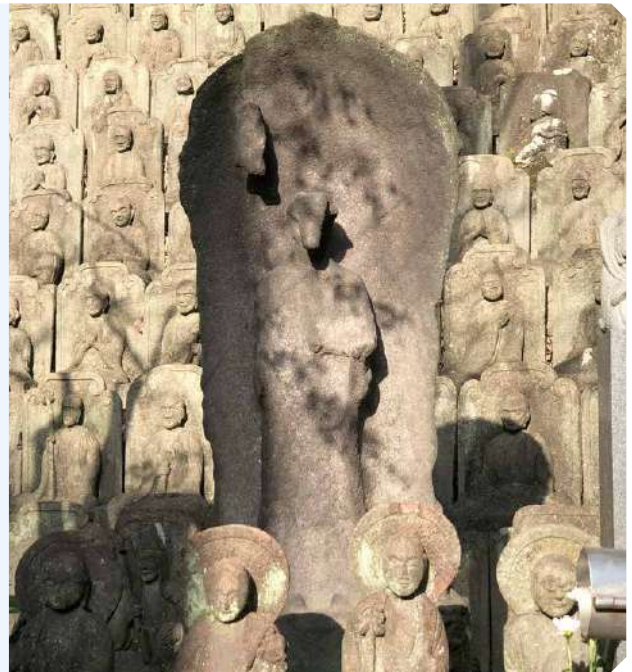
Traces of hidden Christians in the stone Buddha statues of Daienji Temple? Among the stone Buddhas, you can see a woman holding a baby reminiscent of the Virgin Mary and an image of Rakan having a wand with a cross. The point is to find the difference in stone color!



In addition, there are valuable materials for the renovation project during the Edo period in the precincts. Establishing of the "Gyoninzaka Stone Road Memorial" (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City) was in 1703 (Genroku 16). It commemorates that ascetics, who felt compassion for those who struggled to walk the steep hills, prayed for their safety at Meguro-Fudosen or Asakusa-Kannon and collected contributions from them to make a fund to maintain the paving stones of the slope. In addition, the "Meguro River Bridge Memorial Buddhist Bodhisattva Stone Statue" (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City) is a statue enshrined in the Seishido above Gyoninzaka, and the height from the pedestal is about 170 cm. We can read the letters on the pedestal that the worshipers built the Taiko Bridge on both banks of the Meguro River as the rewards of the Edo citizens. Completion was in 1704 (Hoei 1). Saiun, who chanted Nembutsu and solicited donations, repaired Gyoninzaka and carried out projects such as the construction of the Meguro River Bridge. He is said to be the monk formerly Kichiza, and his partner was Yaoya Oshichi, who was famous for their tragic love.

### *Melting Jizo*

People name this stone Buddha "Melting Jizo" because of its melted appearance. The consideration is that a large fire melted it or eroded itself in the sea before pulling up off the coast of Shinagawa by a fisherperson during the Edo period. People are gathering with faith as it will melt their worries.



### *Eleven-faced Kannon image*

This Kannon statue enshrined in the main hall is said to have been made during the Fujiwara period (894-1167) and is 167.5 cm high. The abandoned Meioin Temple had held it. It was on the official publication "Shimpen Musashi Fudoki Manuscript" of the Edo period as a temple treasure of the Meioin Temple.

# Jojuin Temple (Takoyakushi)

Unique Yakushi Nyorai supported by three octopuses



DATA

- Address: 3-11-11 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3712) 8942
- Opening: 9:00 to 16:30 ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 10 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyu Metro Namboku Line, Toei Subway Mita Line. And about 7 minutes on foot from "Fudo-Mae Station" on the Tokyu Meguro Line.



### Honzon Yakushi Nyorai

Yakushi Nyorai rides in the lotus position supported by three octopuses. It was created after the story of Jikaku Daishi when he returned to Japan and is not open to the public because it is a secret Buddha.



### Oshizujizo

A concubine of the second Shogun Hidetada Tokugawa, Oshizunokata, prayed for the prosperity of her child, Hoshina Masayuki, and dedicated it to thank him for the fulfillment of her great wish. Therefore, jizo is beneficial for the health and advancement of children.

In 858 (Tenan 2), Ennin (Jikaku Daishi) opened the mountain. The main image is a unique Yakushi Nyorai who rides in the lotus position supported by three octopuses. When Jikaku Daishi returned from studying abroad in Tang Dynasty in China, a storm hit the ship. When Jikaku Daishi offered his wearing the image of the Yakushi Nyorai to sea, the storm calmed down he returned home safely. After that, as he preached throughout Japan, he found a Buddha statue riding an octopus in the waves of Hizen Matsuura (an area that stretches over Nagasaki and Saga prefectures). It was exact Yakushi Nyorai that Jikaku Daishi threw into the sea on his return trip to Japan. From this legend, he gained the faith of people as a pharmacist.

Also, at this temple, there is a talisman of the secret method "Onadeishi" brought back from the Tang Dynasty by Jikaku Daishi, who says that stroking the affected area of a body while chanting the mantra is effective for all diseases.

### Pay attention here!

Yakushi Nyorai: the secret Buddha of the principal image of the temple, is opened only 8th-January, the first Yakushi fair, and is worshiped for the healing of intractable diseases such as cancer and atopy.



## Banryuji Temple

A temple enshrines Benzaiten, one of "Yamate Seven Lucky Deities."  
The Edo back demon gate.



DATA

- Address: 3-4-4 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3712) 6559
- Opening: 9:00 to 17:00 ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 10 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyu Metro Namboku Line, Toei Subway Mita Line.



### Oshiroi Jizo

Women and Kabuki actors worshiped this Oshiroi Jizo. If you put powder (or Oshiroi) on this jizo and put the remaining powder on your face, you will become a beautiful woman. It was moved from Gonjoji Temple in Asakusa in the early time of the Showa era (1926-1989).



### Iwaya Benten

A stone statue of Benzaiten enshrined in the rocky room beside the main hall. Benzaiten is one of the seven deities of good fortune in Yamate, which spread among people in Edo in prayer for disease-free breathing and prosperous business. It was on the annual "Toto Saijiki" in 1832 (Tenpo 3).

At the temple in the back of the approach from Yamate-Dori in Shimomeguro, the small garden where you can enjoy seasonal flowers is just another world away from the hustle and bustle. Foundation was in 1648 (Keian 1) in the early Edo period (1603-1868). Initially, its location was near Meguro Gyoninzaka. Benten was relocated and rebuilt in 1709 (Hoei 6) to the current site to protect the back demon gate of Edo. It was named "Reiunzan Shomyoin Banryuji Temple." The temple is a Jodo sect, and it was a Ritsuin that stipulates strict rules for practitioners. Because of it on a barrier stone found at the right side of the approach is engraved "Spicy foods, meat, or liquor are not allowed in the temple."

The main image is the "Wooden Amida Nyorai sitting statue" (a tangible cultural property designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government). It might be at the end of the Heian period (794-1185/1192). Benzaiten of "Yamate Seven Lucky Deities" is enshrined in the innermost part of the precincts. The enshrined stone statue is in the Iwaya, and the enshrined wooden Benzaiten statue is in the Benten hall. Benzaiten has a strong belief in arts and entertainment, and a music studio is in the precincts. It is rare in a temple in Japan.

### Pay attention here!

Be drawn on the "Edo Meisho Zue" (or Guide to famous spots of Edo) the gold-bronze Amida Nyorai statue in this precincts went to France in 1871 (Meiji 4) and is now in the Cherniski Museum in Paris.



## Ryusenji Temple (Meguro Fudosen)

"Original Urban Resort" that Edokko was crazy about



DATA

- Address: 3-20-26 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3712) 7549
- Opening: 9:00 to 17:00 ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: approximately 20 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, and Toei Subway Mita Line. And about 12 minutes on foot from "Fudo-mae Station" on the Tokyu Meguro Line.



Many ordinary people visited Meguro Fudosen during the Edo period(1603-1868). It was very lively in the New Year's "Seven Deities of Good Fortune Tour" because Ebisu, one of the seven Deities, was in the precincts of Meguro Fudosen.

"Toto-Saijiki (literary calendar of Edo)," published in 1832 (Tempo 3), says Daikokuten, another of the seven Deities, was also enshrined there. Even now, the temple festival is on the 28th of every month. Many stalls are lining that remind us of the hustle and bustle in old Edo.

Tokugawa shogunate put importance on the Meguro Fudosen.

Meguro fudo is one of the five colors of fudos. (Fudo is Acala that is one of five Wisdom Kings in Buddhism. Five color fudos are Meguro or black, Mejiro or white, Meaka or red, Meki or yellow, and Meao or blue). Moreover, it protected Edo in five directions of Edo Castle—toward the five highways starting from Edo.

Meguro Fudosen is also the oldest sacred place enshrining fudo in the Kanto region and is one of the three big fudos in Japan. Jikaku Daishi founded the temple in 808 (Daido 3) and it was named Ryusenji Temple from the reason of construction on the building that Jikaku Daishi himself wrote, "Daisho fudomyo-ou shinshin annyou jukan joju ryusen choukyu (Be pure at heart and pray great fudomyo king so that your wish will come true eternally just as this spiritual spring will never dry up)."

The first thing you see when you visit Meguro Fudo-son is Hiyokuzuka, placed in front of the Nio-mon Gate. A tragic love story like Romeo and Juliet of Japan is left here. During the Edo period, Gompachi Hirai, a samurai of the Tottori clan, killed a person and fled to Edo due to a conflict. There, he fell in love with Komurasaki, a prostitute of Yoshiwara (licensed quarters), and repeated "tsujigiri," or robbery, to earn money to meet her. They chased after Gompachi, then confessed. And he was executed. Knowing this, Komurasaki jumped out of her licensed quarters and killed herself to follow him in front of her Gompachi's grave. This mound was built by those who pity them and wish the couple happiness in their afterlives.

Next, after passing through the Nio-mon Gate, is "Takasue no Matsu (a pine tree where a hawk sits)" between Otoko-zaka and Onna-zaka. When Iemitsu or the third Shogun came to falconry, his precious hawk went missing, and when he asked the monk of Meguro Fudosen to pray for the hawk to return safely, she immediately returned to the pine tree in the precincts. Iemitsu was delighted with this and named it "Takasue-no-matsu (a pine tree where a hawk sits)" Accordingly, Iemitsu restored the burned-down building and made it reborn into a magnificent temple. The splendid state of the precincts at that time is depicted in "Meguro fudo-no-Zu" (1853, National Diet Library) by Kuniyoshi Utagawa, a painter at the end of the Edo period.

**Pay attention here!**

Meguro Fudo-son is one of the fudos of five colors in Edo: Meguro (Meguro City), Mejiro (Toshima City), Meaka (Bunkyo City), Meao (Setagaya City), and Meki (Taito City / Edogawa City).

There is a legend that “Tokko-no-taki,” spring water seen on the left side of Otoko-zaka, began to blow out when Jikaku Daishi built the temple in this area. When he thrust “tokko,” single-pronged vajra, a legal tool, to the ground to demonstrate the identification of the premise, spring sprang up. Until recently, some people used it to clean themselves by purifying themselves in the water of this waterfall.

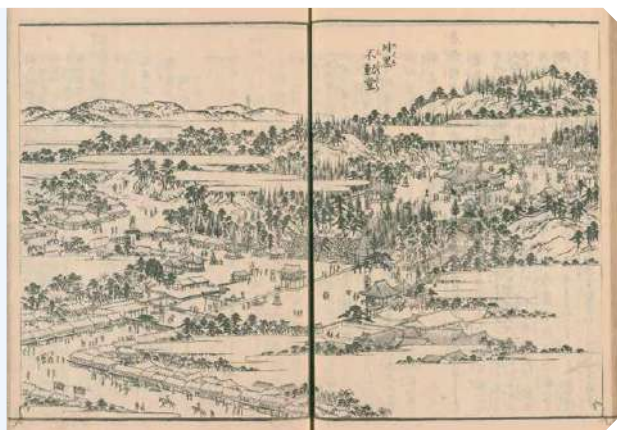
The Ryusenji-mae Fudo-do (a tangible cultural property designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government) is on the left side of Tokko-no-taki,” was used by ordinary people who could not visit the main hall for worship during that time when a shogun or daimyo came to visit. An enshrined wooden statue is standing in the main hall. It is fudomyo-ou, the principal image of Meguro Fudosen.

There are still many other things to see in the precincts. Aoki Konyō, who spread the cultivation of sweet potatoes nationwide and saved many people from food shortages during the Great Famine, loved the land of Meguro. In the precincts is his tomb (nationally designated historic site) marked with his self-engraved letters that read “Kansho-sensei (teacher of sweet potatoes) and a memorial monument to honor his achievements. Even now, people offer sweet potatoes in front of his grave. "Konyo-sensei ho-on kansha ho-yo (Buddhist service that commemorates thanks to Aoki Konyō; Sweet Potato Festival)" is held annually on October 28 and is packed with people.

*Ryusenji Temple drawn in "Edo Meisho Zue" (or Guide to famous spots of Edo) (1836 / Tempo 7)*

We could see the majesty of Ryusenji on "Edo Meisho Zue" (or Guide to famous spots of Edo) (1836 / Tempo 7) in the latter half of the Edo period.

It was a trailblazing guidebook for tourism of Edo in which many pagodas and buildings were standing around its main hall,



*Kuniyoshi Utagawa's "Meguro Fudono-Zu" (1853 / Kaei 6, National Diet Library)*

Kuniyoshi Utagawa, a painter who left many Ukiyo-e of Meguro at the end of the Edo period just as Hiroshige Utagawa did. The painting depicts the large red Nio-mon gate, the stone steps leading to the main hall, and people doing cold-water ablutions at the place that seems to be "Tokko-no-taki" on the left.

*Sannou Torii*

How come there is a torii (front guard frame) even though it is a temple? Remnants of the syncretistic fusion of Shintoism and Buddhism, there was only the cornerstone of a torii left as a remnant. Then the torii rebuilt.

Once, it was so crowded as one of the three devoted shrines in Meguro. The lyrics of a song which song at the time of striking and threshing wheat were "The first is Otori, the second is Fudo, and the third is Kompira."





# Meguro Parasitological Museum

To the unknown world of parasites that are familiar but unexpectedly unknown



DATA

- Address: 4-1-1, Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3716) 1264
- Opening: 10:00 to 17:00
- Closed: Mondays and Tuesdays (however, if it is a national holiday, the next day) · Year-end and New Year holidays
- Transportation: Approximately 12 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, and Toei Subway Mita Line. Or 1 minute on foot from "Otori Shrine Mae" on the Tokyu Bus.



It is a research museum specializing in parasitology, which is rare worldwide. Foundation was in 1953 (Showa 28), when the parasitic disease was still common in Japan, by Satoru Kamegai (1909-2002), a Doctor of Medicine, to research parasitology and enlighten the local community. It continued to develop while receiving materials donated by many parasite researchers, and completion of the current 6-story building was in 1993 (Heisei 5). Today, it is a well-known popular facility visited by people of all ages, including families, couples, school travelers, and foreign tourists.

The exhibition rooms are on the 1st and 2nd floors. We can see about 300 immersion specimens and related materials collected from home and abroad. It is a museum where you can learn about parasites from the beginning by panels, videos, and touch panels. It organizes special exhibitions and lectures in addition to the permanent one.

Despite the satisfactory contents of the exhibition, there is no admission fee, which is a continuation of Kamegai's strong will. However, the management depending only on the fundamental property of the museum is limited, so the museum is actively soliciting donations.

A public interest incorporated foundation under the same name manages The Meguro Parasitological Museum. Its activities are not undertaking exhibitions but also striving to develop parasitology through daily research activities. The collection includes about 60,000 specimens and around 16,000 books and documents. Many of the donated materials are closely related to Sachu Yamaguti (1894-1976), a Doctor of Medicine and a Doctor of Science who has achieved many studies in parasite taxonomy. These are suitably managed and used for research inside and outside this museum.

The museum also publishes guidebooks and periodicals, which you can purchase at the museum shop along with goods and books. Why don't you experience parasitology at home after the tour?

**Pay attention here!**

The specimen bottle illuminated by the LED is spectacular. You can carefully observe the shapes of various parasites.





- DATA
- Address: 3-1-2, Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku
  - Phone: 03 (3494) 0543
  - Open: Always ■ Closed: None
  - Transportation: Approximately 10 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, and Toei Subway Mita Line



### Kirishitan lantern

Engraved cross patterns and images are on the stone part, and they worship it as if it were Christ. It was in the lower mansion in Meguro. It is a Shimo Yashiki of Matsudaira Shuden-no-kami who was the feudal lord of Hizen Shimabara.

### Daidai Kagura "Rake Dance"

It is a dance that praises godliness when the fire made an attack Yamato Takeru in Yaizu. He used a rake to prevent the fire, had a narrow escape from death, and subdued rebels.



This shrine is on the corner of Yamate-Dori, west of Meguro-Dori from Meguro station. It was founded in 806 (Daido 1) in the early Heian period(794-1185/1192) and is the oldest shrine in Meguro City. Its enshrined deity is Yamato Takeru, and it also enshrines Kuninotokotachino-Mikoto and Ootachibanahimeno-Mikoto. Every November, it holds the Torino-Ichi festival from time to time featured by the media. Many worshipers come together. At that time, a "rake dance" is performed. It has a long history, and there is a kagura mound in the precincts to commemorate the dedication of kagura to Torino-Ichi in 1835 (Tempo 6).

The tall ginkgo tree in the precincts was donated to the shrine as a sacred tree by an enthusiastic townsman movement when it was about to be cut down during the river improvement of the Meguro River in the early Showa era(1926-1989). It is a miracle tree that survived the fire caused by air raids during wartime.

### Pay attention here!

The name of Otori Shrine comes from mythology.

When Yamato Takeru died, his soul became a giant swan or "Otori" and flew away.

DATA

- Address: 2-4-36 Meguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3714) 1201
- Opening: 10:00 to 18:00 (last admission is until 17:30)
- Closed: Mondays (however, the next day if it is a national holiday), year-end and New Year holidays (12/28 to 1/4), exhibition change period
- Transportation: Approximately 10 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, Toei Subway Mita Line, and approximately 20 minutes on foot from "Nakameguro Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line and Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line.



### Collection of works

Since the Meiji era(1868-1912), the collection has focused on works; Creation by Japanese artists studying abroad, Works born from the steps of self-exploration by artists, and Works by artists who have some relationship with Meguro. The iron object that reaches the ceiling is impressive, and the museum itself seems to be one work.



### Citizens Gallery

Here is a paid lending space for residents and non-residents in Meguro as a place to display their works. There are exhibition rooms on the A and B sides on the 1st basement floor, where you can display paintings, sculptures, books, crafts, 3D objects, images, and other art-related items.

This museum opened in 1987 (Showa 62) at the corner of the Meguro Kumin Center in a grove. It introduces "various works of art from a broad perspective" while emphasizing close relationships with local people. It actively holds special exhibitions that capture the trends of various arts both inside and outside Japan in addition to exhibiting works of art by modern and contemporary Japanese artists and works closely related to Meguro City,

Currently, the museum's collection extends to about 250 artists and more than 2,000 works. Workshops that focus on the beauty of life and the origins of works and materials/techniques are also popular and are catching attention as a new attempt to integrate exhibitions and hands-on activities. The museum shop at the entrance of the main building gets popular. You can purchase original goods, exhibition-related goods, miscellaneous goods, toys for children, and others. The theme of the collection of the Meguro Museum of Art presents in them.

### Pay attention here!

Several modern and contemporary art collections are in the center of a sophisticated space. Yayoi Kusama and Kaji Higashiyama are also in its collections.





- DATA
- Address: 3-20-11 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3792) 6751
  - Opening: 9:00 to 17:00 (last admission is until 16:30) ■ Closed: None
  - Transportation: Approximately 12 minutes on foot from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, and Toei Subway Mita Line. 8minutes on foot from "Fudo-mae Station" on the Tokyu Meguro Line.



## Appearances

## 500 Rakan sitting statues

It is a temple located in the northeast of Meguro Fudoson and is famous for more than 300 sitting statues of Gohyaku Rakan. A Rakan (arhat, achiever of Nirvana) might be a live person who is a disciple of Buddha. 500 Rakans seemed to copy the models of 500 disciples who gathered when Buddha died.

If you pass through an arched gate like a new museum, not a temple, the first glance, you reach the building built in 1981 (Showa 56). At Honjoitsutsume (currently Koto Ward), The establishment was in 1695 (Genroku 8). With the help of Tokugawa 5th Shogun Tsunayoshi and 8th Shogun Yoshimune, he became popular with the people of Edo as "Rakan-san of Honjo" and prospered. After that, it moved due to Haibutsu Kishaku (slogan of anti-Buddhist movement at the beginning of the Meiji era(1868-1912) and settled in Meguro in 1908 (Meiji 41). Although for a while the position of the master priest was vacant, a new master priest revived it and continued to days.

If you climb the stairs and pass in front of the temple office, there is an open space. The building on the right is the famous Rakando. Currently, 305 sitting statues of 500 Rakan statues are enshrined. Shouun Genkei (1648-1710), a Zen master from Kyoto, vowed to carve 500 Rakan statues by himself, inspired by a Rakan statue he saw at the current Rakanji Temple in Yabakei, Oita Prefecture when he traveled nationwide after obtaining priesthood. He started carving in Edo Asakusa and spent more than ten years with the donations of many people, and completed 536 Rakan statues, including the Shakyamuni statue, by myself. The main temple was built with the help of the Shogunate to enshrine them. Each Rakan statue has a different facial expression and each a word. Also, the "Bakuo statue" (Hakutaku), a sacred beast that dispels illness in the statue of Rakan, is a must-see. Like Amabie, it has the power to prevent disease, and many people have used Hakutaku's paintings as a talisman during epidemics.

"Shohoden" is inside the building on the left side of Rakando. Many historical materials from Edo, such as a donation record for the construction of the Rakan statues at the time of Genroku, and a large wooden fish plate used to signal the temple, are exhibited, showing the connection between Gohyaku Rakanji and the people. In particular, the past Gohyaku Rakanji Temple depicted in a Ukiyo-e is noteworthy. At the establishment time, there was a building where you could worship the Buddhas in the precincts climbing up spiral stairs.

It seemed to be popular. This building does not exist, but Katsushika Hokusai painted it in "Thirty-six Views of Mt. Fuji," and you can see the appearance of the temple at that time.

Location of The main hall is in the depth of the precincts. Enshrined Shaka Nyorai statue (or the main image) is with Rakan statues. We can see the scene where Shaka Nyorai is preaching.

### Pay attention here!

You can enjoy kaiseki cuisine (a simple meal served before a ceremonial tea) at Rakan-tei, inside the premises. And you can also enjoy lunch and coffee at Rakanchaya. It is perfect for a break! They are on the right after entering the mountain gate (San-mon).





# Hotel Gajoen Tokyo "Hundred Stages"

A gorgeous hall of art: It inherits the beauty of Japan to present



DATA

- Address: 1-8-1 Shimomeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (5434) 3140
- Opening: 12:30-18:00 (Last admission is until 17:30) \* Open only when the exhibition is open
- Transportation: Approximately a 3-minute walk from "Meguro Station" on the JR Yamanote Line, Tokyu Meguro Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, and Toei Subway Mita Line



Hotel Gajoen Tokyo is one of the most popular hotels & restaurants in Tokyo. It started as an authentic Japanese restaurant at Meguro in 1931(Showa 6), using the renovated Rikizo Hosokawa or its founder's home in Shibaura. So that you can freely enter so that you can eat without hesitation.

Visitors enjoy not only the food but also the views inside, the interior of the hall has decorations with murals, ceiling paintings, sculptures, and others that artists produced. It is one of the best art halls in the Orient.

People admire it as "Castel of Showa Ryugu."

Currently, the concept of "Museum Hotel of Japanese Beauty" has accumulated by its tradition and experiences such as gorgeous arts and crafts and cultural assets refined for long welcomes guests.

Among the facilities of Hotel Gajoen Tokyo, the most luxurious and elegant one is "Hundred Steps." "Hundred steps" are commonly known as Meguro Gajoen Building 3, the predecessor of Hotel Gajoen Tokyo. Its establishment was in 1935 (Showa 10), with only one existing wooden building in Hotel Gajoen Tokyo. The first thing you will notice in the hall is the 99-step long stairway corridor made of zelkova boards about 5 cm thick. This staircase, which increases in texture over time, changes the painting on the ceiling each time you climb, entertaining visitors. And connected to this stairway corridor are seven rooms with different tastes. Long ago, this room was for gorgeous parties. The beauty world was painted on the ceiling and columns by some of the most prominent painters at that time.

According to recent research, this gorgeous decoration belongs to the Edo culture found in the Momoyama style, affiliations of the Nikko Toshogu, and Kabuki. "Hundred steps" is considered to reach the highest point of traditional aesthetics from the viewpoint of the beauty in decoration. Designation as a tangible cultural property of Tokyo was in March 2009. Currently, it is open to the public at events such as exhibitions and limited tours.

**Pay attention here!**

They know it is the restaurant where weddings are held in the short story "Kajitsu" by Osamu Dazai \*.

\* Osamu Dazai (1909-1948) Novelist known for "No longer Human." etc.



A museum where you can enjoy cherry blossoms in full bloom all year round with large-screen Japanese paintings

DATA

- Address: 1-7-13 Kamimeguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3496) 1771 ■ Opening: 10:00 to 18:00 (last admission is 17:30)
- Closed: Mondays (however, the next day if it is a national holiday), year-end and New Year holidays, exhibition change period
- Transportation: Approximately 5 minutes on foot from "Nakameguro Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line and Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line



**Collection** ▲ Chinami Nakajima "Meguro River in Sakura Cloud" 2013

An art museum based on the concept of "enjoying cherry blossoms in full bloom with Japanese paintings throughout the year." There are four exhibition rooms. In addition to the permanent exhibition, special exhibitions and exhibitions are four or five times a year.

### Exterior

The museum exterior, which matches the natural scenery of the Meguro River, is impressive with its sophisticated design that values the flow of light and air through the perforated tiles. In 2012, it won the Good Design Award.

Open in March 2012 as the Tokyo Pavilion in Nakameguro as a museum specializing in contemporary Japanese painting on the banks of the Meguro River, which is crowded with many cherry blossom viewing visitors during the cherry blossom season. The collection is open to the public as a "collection exhibition" with a theme set for each exhibition. In particular, it tries to support active Japanese painters as a place where you can experience the charm of contemporary Japanese painting, especially the works of Japanese painters born in the Showa era(1926-1989) and after.

About 40 works are exhibited in the exhibition room each time, and delicate Japanese paintings are in an intimate space. In addition, based on the concept of "enjoying cherry blossoms in full bloom with Japanese paintings throughout the year," we have set up an exhibition room with more than ten works which are over 50-go large-scale, including folding screen works with cherry blossom motifs, on a large screen. You can enjoy the elegant and gorgeous cherry blossom space created by contemporary Japanese painting.

### Pay attention here!

You can buy original goods with a cherry blossom motif.



DATA

- Address: 5-2-53 Nakameguro, Meguro-ku
- Phone: 03 (3712) 0819
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 8 minutes on foot from "Yutenji Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line



Yutenji, the same as the station name of the Tokyu Toyoko Line, was founded by Saint Yuten's high-ranked younger brother Saint Yukai in 1718 (Kyoho 3). Saint Yuten died in the same year, his will "I want you to build a Nembutsu seminary."

When you enter the front gate, a nationally registered tangible cultural property from the lively Komazawa Dori, the precincts turn quiet. Takehime, the adopted daughter of the 5th Shogun Tsunayoshi, donated the front Niomon (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City) in 1735 (Kyoho 20). It conveys the original appearance of the building without such any change as detailed paintings. The sculpture is famous, and the zodiac signs that show the direction are on the Crotch or Kaerumata \*<sup>1</sup>. Engravings of two god creatures are inside its center: on the front Kirin \*<sup>2</sup>, on the back Kaiba.

The statues of Nio are on each side of the gate; one is A-shape the other is Un-shape. They are about 2.6m high, and the great sculptor of Buddhist images Takezaki Iwami might create them. He also worked on the wooden statue of Saint Yukai in the main hall (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City).

"Kasanezuka" on the right side of the Niomon is named after the Kabuki dance "Iro-moyo-chotto-karimame." In Shimousa (now Ibaraki Prefecture), there was a married peasant couple, and his wife had a boy with an ugly face called "Suke," whom she bore between her and her ex-husband. Her husband despised Suke for his ugly face. So she killed the boy by pushing him into the river. A girl named "Rui" was born between them. She was a living copy of "Suke," so the villagers felt the cause and effect and called "Kasane" (meaning "repeat" literally). Time passed, she married Yoemon, a drifter, but Yoemon killed her because she was ugly.

Women who became his wives also died one after another, and one day an incident occurred to "Kiku," born between Yoemon and his sixth wife. She told Yoemon that she had been "Rui(=Kasane)" and he had killed her.

Her previous life tortured her.

Villagers were in trouble and asked a monk at a nearby temple to expel the evil spirit. The priest gave the Nembutsu and the Dharma name to the Buddhahood of Rui (=Kasane). Then, Suke appeared and afflicted Kiku. So while listening to the story of the senior person, he gave her Nembutsu and the Dharma name to Suke, and Kiku finally regained her sanity. The legend says that the monk was Saint Yuten. This story became very popular and known to the world during the Edo period(1603-1868). It quite often becomes the subject of ghost stories and movies. The display of "Kasane Daiema" in the Buddhist hall in the precincts was since 1986 (Showa 61), the 60th anniversary of the construction of Kasanezuka.

The tomb of Saint Yuten (historic site of a cultural property designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government) is in the center of the graveyard on the left side of the main hall after passing through the Niomon gate. The pedestal contains his biography and the origin of the founding of Yutenji Temple.

A wooden enshrined statue of Saint Yuten (a tangible cultural property designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government) and a sitting enshrined statue of Saint Yukai both are in the main hall, a nationally registered tangible cultural property.

Let's pay attention to the offertory box in front of the main hall. This temple is known as a temple related to the fire extinguishing of the town of Edo. According to one theory, Saint Yuten established a fire extinguishing organization when he worked as a priest at Zojoji Temple.

This organization became the prototype of the fire extinguisher in the town of Edo. In addition, you can find a lot of matoi \*<sup>4</sup> around the temple, such as the case ceiling \*<sup>3</sup> inside the Jizo-do.

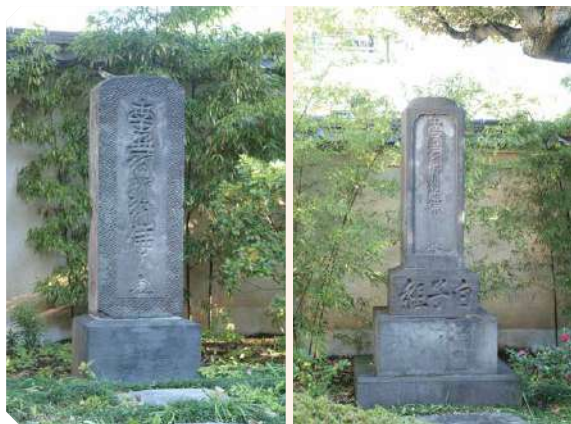
More this temple has a history of prospering as a temple related to the Shogun family, such as being used as a falconry dining place \*<sup>5</sup> for the Shogun along with Meguro Fudomon. After the main hall's fire in 1894 (Meiji 27), a building for a mausoleum of the Tokugawa Shogunate for generations was relocated and became a part of the new main hall instead of the old one in 1898 (Meiji 31). That is why the Tokugawa family's Aoi crests remained on Chinese-style gables in it.

- \* 1) Crotch or Kaerumata: A part of construction that is used for distribution and support the load by installing on the beam; the shape is like a frog's crotch, the lower side is widened.
- \* 2) Kirin: A legendary creature that appears in Chinese mythology and appears in the world of Taihei.
- \* 3) Case ceiling: A ceiling made of wood and finished in a lattice shape.
- \* 4) Matoi: A sign of a fire extinguisher (of a town) with a decoration on the tip of the sword.
- \* 5) Gozencho: A falconry place where the Shogun rests and eats.

### ***Kasanezuka***

The building of a memorial monument of "KASANE" was in 1926 (Taisho 15). Since the Edo period, many people widely knew Kabuki works called "Kasanemono" and the rakugo story "Shinkei Kasanegafuchi."

Kabuki actors and others visit before the performance for memorial services and prayers for safety.



### ***Yutenji Kainan Memorial Monument*** (Left: Nadame's memorial service monument, right: Shirako-gumi's memorial service monument)

They built a memorial monument to commemorate the victims of the "Nada-no-tarukaisen" and cargo vessels of the Edo cotton wholesaler "Shirakogumi," which often sank during the Edo period.

From the inscription, you know the fact of the repeated marine accidents at that time (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City).

### **Pay attention here!**

At Amida-do, a total of three building tags \* were left behind the hut in 1854 (Kaei 7) and 1932 (Showa 7), which reminds us of the original shape of the hall.

\* Building tag: A tag attached to a purlin or a beam in the high place.

It is a record or a memorial of the construction or the repair of a building such as a temple or a private house.



# Shogakuji Temple

A temple related to the Date clan in Sendai that conveys the feelings of a mother



DATA

- Address: 3-1-6 Nakameguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3712) 6797
- Open: Always
- Transportation: Approximately 5 minutes on foot from "Nakameguro Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line and Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line



写真：岡庭璃子（株式会社日本デザインセンター）

From Nakameguro station, head south on Yamate-Dori, find the temple on the corner that intersects Komazawa Street. The spacious precincts spread out when you pass through the dignified mountain gate. The first thing you will notice in the precincts is the beautiful statue of Hatsuko Mizawa, who is over 3m high in Japanese clothes, next to the bell.

Hatsuko is Asaoka-no-tubone, a concubine of the 3rd feudal lord Tsunamune of the Sendai feudal clan and the mother of the 4th feudal lord Tsunamura. Her husband, Tsunamune, was forced to retire from the Shogunate due to his bad behavior. Kamechiyo, a child between Tsunamune and her, succeeded Tsunamune. Kamechiyo became the 4th feudal lord Tsunamura at the age of only two. Hatsuko asked the statue of Kishimojin (Hariti, or goddess of childbirth and children) for her safety in favor of her child becoming a feudal lord at a young age.

Hatsuko's wish came true, and Tsunamura overcame the so-called "Date Sodo," or a power struggle, and grew up to the point where he was later called a great monarch. The statues of Hatsuko Misawa and Kishimojin that Hatsuko prayed in this temple passed the feeling down to us that a mother ever thinks of her child. After Hatsuko's death, her mansion in the Date family's mansion became a donation to the temple. We can see Date family's crest on those frameworks utilized to make the main hall and Kishimojin Temple.

On the left side of the main hall is the grave of Hatsuko (a historic site of a cultural property designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government) in the graveyard with an arched entrance. Shogakuji is a temple closely related to the Date clan of the Sendai domain. Shogakuji is a temple of the Nichiren sect that was opened in 1619 (Genna 5) by Saint Nichiren, and it celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2019 (Reiwa 1).

**Pay attention here!**

You can receive a prayer called Bokkenkaji. It is the prayer you cannot receive without the achievement of the hard training of the Nichiren sect recognized as one of the three austere practices in the world!





# Nakameguro Hachiman Shrine

The guardian of the former Nakameguro village where "Edo no Sato Kagura" is dedicated at the annual autumn festival



DATA

- Address: 3-10-5 Nakameguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3712) 5507
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 9 minutes on foot from "Nakameguro Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line and Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line



### Dedication of Kagura

They dedicate a child dance "Urayasu no Mai" at the evening palace on Saturday, at the annual festival held on the 4th Saturday and Sunday of September every year. The following Sunday, they dedicate "Edo no Sato Kagura" and carry a portable shrine around the area.



### Sazareishi

"Sazareishi" is on the left side of the stone steps on the approach. "Sazareishi" is the word of the lyric in the Japanese national anthem. The placement of it was in 1996 (Heisei 8) to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Showa era (1926-1989) construction of the main shrine. The priest of the Hodosan Shrine in the power spot of Chichibu wrote down the characters on the monument. Hodosan shrine has a historical connection with this shrine.

From Nakameguro Station, if you go south on Yamate Dori and turn right on Komazawa Dori, then turn left at the first traffic light, after a while, you can find the shrine on your right.

It is the shrine of the guardian in the former Nakameguro village. The main enshrined deity is Emperor Ojin (Houdawakeno-Mikoto), Amaterasu-O Mikami is also an enshrined deity. A famous dedication of this shrine is the kagura (sacred music and dance) at the annual festival in September. In Meguro City, there are other temples and shrines to which kagura is dedicated, such as Otori Shrine in Shimomeguro and Kumano Shrine in Jiyugaoka, just this one was once known for playing the twelve different tunes of kagura.

On the left side of the main shrine, there is a monument. The history of the shrine and others are on it; The establishment of the Hachiman Shrine was in 1926 (Taisho 15).

"Sazareishi" in the national anthem "Kimigayo" on the approach.

### Pay attention here!

Even in the middle of the city of Nakameguro, the precinct with abundant nature makes us forget the hustle and bustle. A wild raccoon may come to worship!



# Jiyugaoka Kumano Shrine



The shrine related to Kumanosanzan is also famous for the benefits of "encountering with your life partner."

DATA

- Address: 1-2-24 Jiyugaoka, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3717) 7720
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 3 minutes on foot from "Jiyugaoka Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line and Tokyu Oimachi Line



## Meguro Bayashi (intangible folk cultural property designed by Meguro City)

With a history of more than a hundred years, this musical accompaniment faithfully conveys the rhythm and melody of Kanda musical accompaniment. It is the mainstream of the Edo festival musical accompaniment. Meguro people striving for better techniques worked with originality and ingenuity and added a unique local color to the Kanda-Bayashi. It is a precious folk performing art. Currently, it is performed at the annual festivals of Kumano Shrine, Himonya Hachimangu Shrine, and Yakumo Hikawa Shrine by three certified preservation associations.

## Statue of Kyujiro Kuriyama, the ancestor of Jiyugaoka

In 1889 (Meiji 22), Himonya Village and Fusuma Village were merged under the municipal system to form Hibusuma Village. Kyujiro Kuriyama served as the mayor of Hibusuma Village for 20 years from the first year of the village. He is a person who can be said to be the ancestor of Jiyugaoka. His statue and his memorial monument still stand in the precincts.

It is the guardian of the Yabata area, which is the old place name of Jiyugaoka, and has been popular as "Yabata's Gongen-sama" with Izanamino-mikoto, Hayatamano-ono-mikoto, and Yomotsukotosakano-ono-mikoto as its deities of festivities. Since the Kumano faith \* prevailed from the Middle Ages to the early modern period, this shrine is believed to have received and therefore enshrined the spirit of the Kumano Hongu. It is unknown when constructed, but it is said to have been before the Kamakura period.

The current main shrine was renovated in 1909 (Meiji 42), the worship hall was in 1967 (Showa 42). The establishment of the red torii gate in the precincts was in 1823 (Bunsei 6). Since there is a hidden heart motif at the top of the main shrine, it has popularity as a "god of marriage." Also, on the right side of the shrine are Fushimi Inari Shrine, the god of agriculture, which enshrines the spirit of Ukanomitama-no-Mikoto, and the statue of Kyujiro Kuriyama, the ancestor of Jiyugaoka.

At the annual festival in September every year, "Meguro Bayashi," the intangible folk cultural property designated Meguro City, is dedicated at the Kaguraden.

\* Kumano faith: Faith in Kumanosanzan, Wakayama Prefecture. It has been popular from the Heian period to the Kamakura period.

### Pay attention here!

"Yabata Gongen-sama" has its origins in the world cultural heritage Kumano Hongu. It has popularity as a god of marriage.



## Yakumo Hikawa Shrine

"God of shaku (pain) relief," which has been worshiped by many people since ancient times



DATA

- Address: 2-4-16 Yakumo, Meguro-ku
- Phone: 03 (3717) 1601
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 5 minutes on foot from "Toritsudaigaku Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line



### Giant strain of Red Oak

Akagashi, or red oak, is a sacred tree. People believed it eases the "shaku (pain)." It died because many worshipers peeled its infuse as medicine. It has now withered still only enshrined large stock is behind the shrine.



### Guardian dog holding a child

In the precincts: A votive tablet hall (or Ema-do), a pair of guardian dogs holding children, and a water bowl sustained by antagonistic demons at four corners and others.

It is a guardian of Fusumamura village. It enshrines Susanoo-no-mikoto, Inadahime-no-mikoto, and Onamuchi-no-mikoto. The date of its construction is unknown, but there is a document that describes the building of the torii gate of "Hikawa Shrine" in 1757 (Horeki 7) and that of "Hikawa Shrine" in 1787 (Tenmei 7).

Worshippers have widely worshiped it as a "god of shaku (pain) relief" since ancient times they seemed to gather from afar. "Shaku" is a pain in the abdomen. They believed drinking decocted the skin of the sacred red oak was effective. Now only the dead tree stock exists. In addition, there is a votive tablet hall, a pair of guardian dogs holding children, and a water bowl at four corners of which are sustained by antagonistic demons in the precincts.

At the festival in September, an ancient-style "sword dance" is dedicated at the Kagura hall, which tells the story that Susanoo-no-mikoto expelled a giant eight-tailed snake named "Yamata-no-Orochi."

### Pay attention here!

It is the guardian of Yakumo. Many worshipers still visit there with faith for pain relief.



DATA

- Address: 4-12-18 Nakameguro, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3792) 5858
- Opening: 10:00 to 17:00 (last admission is until 16:30)
- Closed: Mondays (However, if it is a national holiday, the next day)
- Transportation: Approximately 16 minutes on foot from "Yutenji Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line



Exterior



Exhibition hall

This museum intends to record what kind of works Japanese sculptors have created since the latter half of the 20th century, and at the same time, to provide a place for young sculptors to exhibit their works. A museum opened specializing in sculpture as part of the educational project of Chosen-in Temple (a member of the Jodo sect) with an intention for visitors to feel the wonderfulness of sculptures and enjoy themselves. The site was adjacent to this temple planned as a site used for the museum. The first and the second outdoor exhibition halls opened in May 1978. Completion of the main building was in March 1982. Furthermore, the 3rd outdoor exhibition hall was in July 1987 (Showa 62). The 4th exhibition hall to the outdoor exhibition addition was in September 2003 (Heisei 15).

In a quiet residential area, four outdoor exhibition halls and the main building are surrounding. The main building looks like a combination of hexagons when viewed from the sky, and it is modern and impressive with gray and mahogany red-colored wall plates. You can appreciate the works by Japanese sculptors since the latter half of the 20th century.

On display in the main building and the outdoor exhibition halls are 200 and more unique works including 156 special exhibitions of works made mainly from 1960 to 2015 by such young and energetic artists as Yasutake Funakoshi \*1, Kyoko Asakura \*2, Katsura Funakoshi \*3, Mitsuaki Sora \*4, Tsuyoshi Tanaka \*5, Jiro Sugawara \*6, Taizo Horiguchi \*7, Toshiro Mineta \*8, Buemon Suzuki \*9, Hiroteru Kawasaki \*10, Toshiharu Miki \*11, etc.

Takameyama Chosen-in Temple was built in 1761 (Horeki 11) as a ritsuin \*12 for the renewal of the Jodo sect. At that time, it was called "Shindera," so the name "Shindera" remains. Daigen osho, the 45th generation priest of Zojoji Temple, opened the mountain with the cooperation of the wealthy merchant Yasushi Kitagawa and others in 1767 (Meiwa 4), the main hall, priest's quarter, and bell tower were newly built. After that, in 1789 (Kansei 1), the temple area was expanded and very much developed. From that time on, the precincts spread out on the plateau on the right bank of the Meguro River. Old trees and a temple tower set on the slope. "Edo Meisho Zue" (or Guide to famous spots of Edo) (1836 / Tempo 7) depicted this scene, which is suitable for the Tsuneyuki Nembutsu Dojo.

- \* 1) Yasutake Funakoshi (1912-2002) Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University of the Arts. "Tatsuko statue" (on the lakeside of Lake Tazawa), etc.
- \* 2) Kyoko Asakura (1925-2016) The second daughter of sculptor Fumio Asakura. "WOMAN" (Machida Station North Exit) etc.
- \* 3) Katsura Funakoshi (1951-) The half-body image with a mysterious and delicate expression is impressive.
- \* 4) Mitsuaki Sora (1933-) Stone Speakers, at the Olympic Village at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.
- \* 5) Tsuyoshi Tanaka (1951-) A pop and humorous work.
- \* 6) Jiro Sugawara (1941-) Professor Emeritus of Osaka University of Arts. Representative of the Nika Association Sculpture Department.
- \* 7) Taizo Horiguchi (1916-) Known for his image of prisoners from his detention experience.
- \* 8) Toshiro Mineta (1937-) Rodin Grand Prize Exhibition The Hakone Open-Air Museum Award and others.
- \* 9) Buemon Suzuki (1949-2014) Many excellent works reminiscent of ancient Greek marble sculptures.
- \* 10) Hiroteru Kawasaki (1931-) Received the Japan Art Academy Prize for "Earth" in 1998.
- \* 11) Toshiharu Miki (1945-) Known for wax-shaped sculptures with the motif of people in line.
- \* 12) Ritsuin: The name of the temple where people who obey the rules live

Pay attention here!

They use The photogenic outdoor exhibition halls as venues for fashion shows.

# Himonya Hachimangu Shrine

The origin of the place name of "Himonya" is here!



DATA

- Address: 3-7-3 Himonya, Meguro-ku
- Phone: 03 (3717) 6412
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 15 minutes on foot from "Gakugei University Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line



### Himon Stone, the origin of the place name of Himonya

The shrine's treasure "Himon Stone" is stored in a small storage room with its front made of glass. It is next to the shrine in a grove. It is said to be the origin of the place name of Himonya because it means a village (valley) with stones carved with inscriptions.

### Banner autographed by Katsu Kaishu altogether

There are three treasures at Himonya Hachimangu Shrine. The first one is "Himon Stone." The second one is "The origin of the place name of Himonya" The last is "a frame and a banner autographed by Katsu Kaishu."



It is the guardian of the old Himonya village, and its enshrined deity is Emperor Ojin. The guardian deity of Hatakeyama Shigetada (1164-1205), a senior vassal of Minamoto-no-Yoritomo during the Kamakura period, was enshrined here by Sakon Miyano of Himonya Village. The establishment of this shrine was in 1674 (Empo 2), then rebuilt in 1872 (Meiji 5), and rebuilt in 1887 (Meiji 20). On the right side of the shrine is the Inari Shrine, which enshrines Shigetada's vassal Rokuro Hanzawa, and the "Himon Stone" engraved in Sanskrit characters \*, which is the origin of the place name of Himonya, is preserved.

There are tall trees designated as the first preserved forest in Meguro City, surrounded by fences and lush trees.

In spring, Cherry blossoms on both sides of the approach, from the first torii gate to the second one. That is a stunning flower tunnel. The annual autumn festival is in September, where many stalls are standing and bustling.

\* Sanskrit: Letters for the ancient Indian language. They used them for writing Sanskrit.

### Pay attention here!

There are two theories about the origin of the place named "Himonya." Why not cherish the other theory that it derives from the fact that the area is rich in stone tablets?



# Enyuuji Temple

Architectural beauty inherited by timeless craftsman relays



DATA

- Address: 1-22-22 Himonya, Meguro-ku
- Phone: 03 (3712) 2098
- Open: Always ■ Closed: None
- Transportation: Approximately 15 minutes on foot from "Gakugei University Station" on the Tokyu Toyoko Line



It is a temple known for the beauty of the main hall (nationally designated important cultural property) and the oldest existing wooden building in the 23 wards of Tokyo. When you enter the imposing mountain-gate, the Niomon (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City) is in front of you. Bodhi trees that Buddha achieved enlightenment are in front of the Amitabha hall in the back of the main one.

In spring, cherry blossoms color the precincts. In 853 (Ennin 3), Jikaku Daishi established his temple. The main hall is a building from the Muromachi period and is a single-story hip-and-gable roof building that incorporates Japanese style into the Tang style architecture. The shape of the hip-and-gable roof has a beautiful curve: it is the craftsmanship.

This main hall has an episode that conveys the craftsman's chic spirit. Shortly after the war, the main hall (Shakado) of Enyuuji Temple was extensively restored and repaired over about ten years. They found some carved characters on the surface of pillars in the depths of the attic. That might be at the original construction time. There was only one phrase that goes, "My hand is good, see how its completion" and no inscription of a person's name or year. One day, about thirty years after the discovery, the master carpenter in charge of restoration and repair visited and told the chief priest, "Actually, another curved characters are on the attic of Shakado." The chief priest asked, "Did you make such a report?" and when the priest asked the master carpenter carefully, he confessed, "It's my work." The moment he saw the phrase "My hand is good, see how its completion," he thought he had an urge to respond to it. When the chief priest asked, "So, what did you inscribe?", He answered, "I inscribed, 'That's good, I see it.'"

A dialogue took place between an original builder of the main hall in the Muromachi period and another builder repaired over 600 years. This fact revealed took another 30 years after the restoration.

**Pay attention here!**

Black Nioh became an unprecedented boom in the Edo period(1603-1868). There are many literary works on this subject matter in the daily lives of ordinary people in Edo. They are in cartoons for adults called the "Kibyoshi."

## Miyano Old House Natural Garden

An old folk house garden with abundant greenery that retains a strong impression from the Edo period

DATA

- Address: 2-5-8 Haramachi, Meguro-ku ■ Phone: 03 (3712) 0100
- Opening: 10:00 to 16:00 (last admission is until 15:30)
- Closed: Mondays and Tuesdays (however, if the following day is a national holiday), Aug.8-17, Dec.26-Jan.16
- Transportation: Approximately 5 minutes on foot from Senzoku Station on the Tokyu Meguro Line



It is a natural garden that opened in May 1995 to preserve the main building of the Miyano family and the surrounding environment and contribute to the uplifting of local culture. The Miyano landlord (a tangible cultural property designated by Meguro City) that remains in the park has not been renovated or relocated about the main structural parts since its foundation and is said to be a valuable building that conveys the appearance of the time to this day.

There is a garden on the south side of the main building, and there are independent folk equipment exhibition rooms, Goemon baths, a kitchen stove, tea rooms, shrines, etc., centered on the main building with a hip-and-gable roof. The only thatched roof changed to a copper-sheet-roof. And at the time of replacing the addition were decorative corner blocks,\*<sup>1</sup> and decorative rafters.\*<sup>2</sup>

The floor plan of the main building consists of four-floor plans. By the trace of it, we understand the following. The eastern part of which is now composed of tatami mats and a wooden floor was initially a dirt floor. Completion of the main building might be before the Kansei period (1789-1801) in the middle and late Edo period(1603-1868). It is of the new design technology of the time, such as space of the living room and kitchen of 10-tatami mats and dividing the 2.5 ken (1.8m\*2.5=4.5m) into two in the ridge direction. On the other hand, the old-fashioned pillar arrangement in a flat hall remains. Such as three pillars like bulky central pillars in the direction of the beam. A wonderful mixture of old and new building techniques is its character.

The number of trees planted around the time the main building's completed in a mansion's site is about 200. There are about 30 trees in four directions of the mansion's grove. They are 5 to 10 m in width and over 15 m in height. Judging from the existing conditions, they have been surviving almost 200 years.

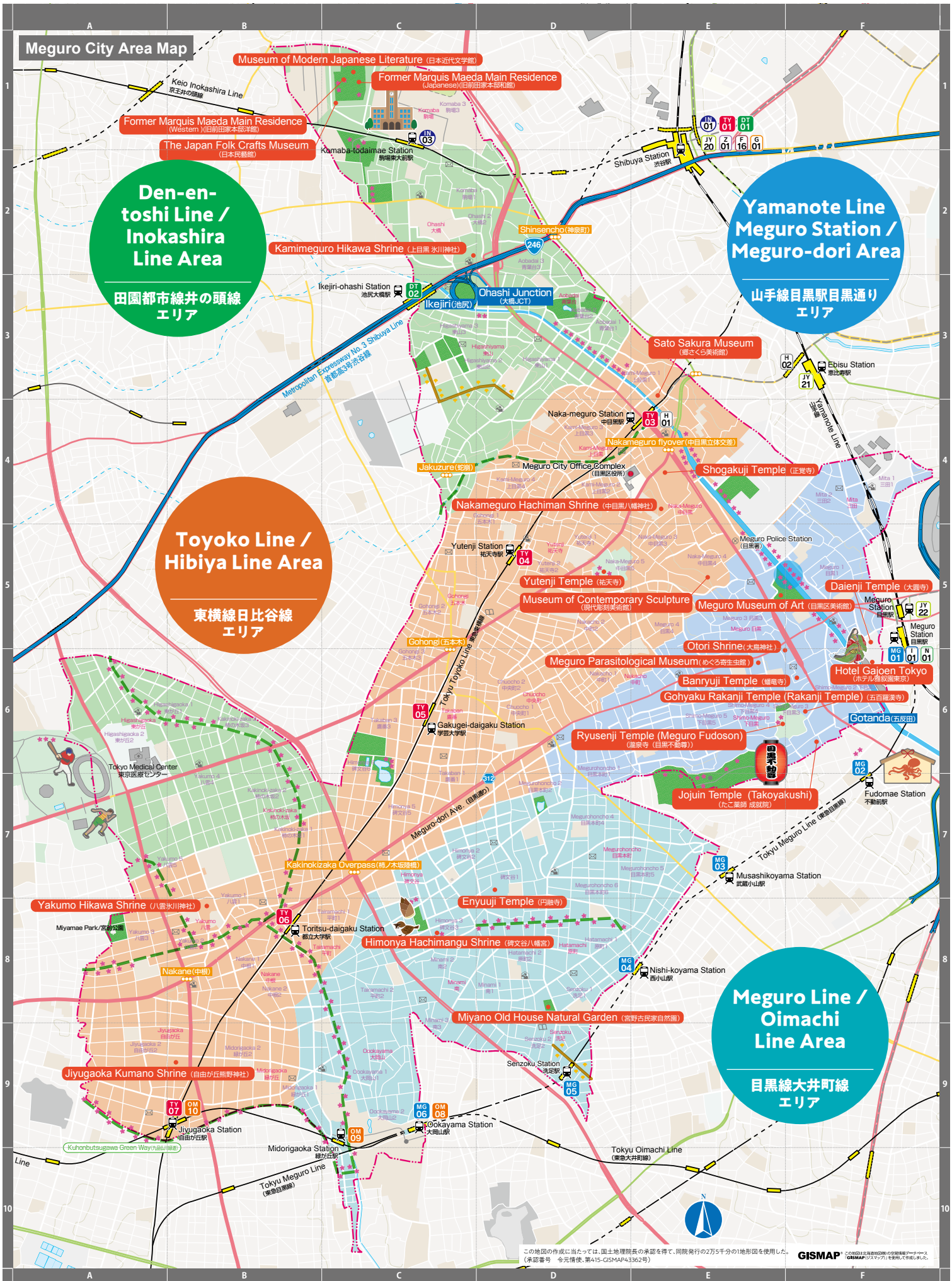
\* 1) decorative corner block: a member that looks diagonally in the corner when looking up at the eaves.

\* 2) decorative rafter: beautifully finished rafter used for eaves and attics.

**Pay attention here!**

It is a valuable residence of the Miyano family, which retains the original scenery of Musashino and retains the architectural techniques from the Edo period to the modern era.





Meguro City Area Map

**Den-en-toshi Line / Inokashira Line Area**  
田園都市線井の頭線エリア

**Yamanote Line Meguro Station / Meguro-dori Area**  
山手線目黒駅目黒通りエリア

**Toyoko Line / Hibiya Line Area**  
東横線日比谷線エリア

**Meguro Line / Oimachi Line Area**  
目黒線大井町線エリア

この地図の作成に当たっては、国土地理院長の承認を得て、同院発行の2万5千分の1地形図を使用した。(承認番号 令元情使\_第415-GSMAPA3362号)

GISMAP

A legend [凡例]

- ✿ Sakura [桜]
- 🍁 Ginkgo [イチョウ]
- 🏥 Hospital [病院]
- ✉ Post office [郵便局]
- 🚔 Police station [警察署]
- 👮 Police box [交番]
- 📖 library [図書館]
- 🌿 Green Way [緑道]
- 🚆 Railway Train station [鉄道/鉄道駅]





*Meguro Tourism  
Encyclopaedia*

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| The highlight of Meguro

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