

2021 Edition

Walking Tours to Learn about JAPAN

History, Culture & Life

Route No.1

From Ookayama Campus (South Gate) to Gotanda Station
(via Nakahara Kaido Road and National Route 1)

Revised September 2021

Preface

- This walking tour guidebook has been created for international students and researchers at the Tokyo Institute of Technology to be able to learn about the history, culture, and life of Japan by spotting things that they come across when walking around Tokyo Tech.
- Please utilize this information for interactive communication between Japanese students and international students to learn or explain the history, culture, and life of Japan.

Characteristics of this Route (1)

- This route was designed with the Ookayama Campus South gate or South Side Entrance as a starting point, walking “Nakahara Kaido Road” along “National Route 1” towards the end, finishing at Gotanda Station on the JR Yamanote Line, the Tokyu Ikegami Line, and the Tokyo Metro Asakusa Line.
- The length of the Route is about 6km (3.7miles) without stopping anywhere, so we estimate the time to complete the Route would be 1 and a half hours by foot. Since there are several spots to stop by introduced in the guidebook, if the weather is nice, you may enjoy walking for 2 to 4 hours.
- When walking using this guidebook, please always follow the traffic rules and make sure to respect other pedestrians.

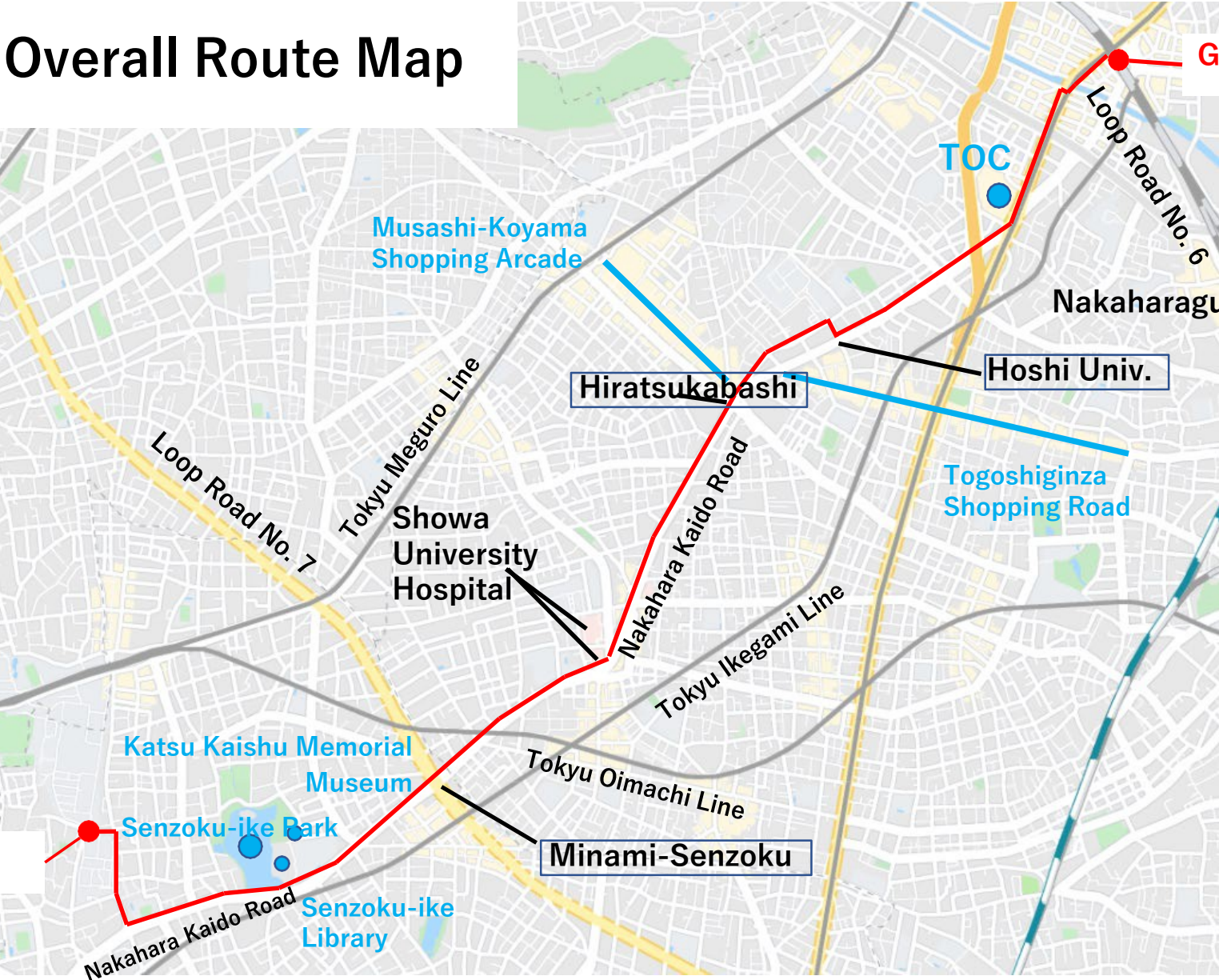
Characteristics of this Route (2)

- The explanation of checkpoints of the route contains detailed content for international students and researchers who have just arrived in Japan and are learning the Japanese language and culture, so please skip the parts that you are not interested in.
- Virtual walks using Google Maps are possible, but, if you can, try to walk and have experiences that are not in the explanation to deepen your understanding of Japan.
- This material is not intended to introduce shops or gourmet foods, so it doesn't include detailed information of shops and products, but there are many shops and restaurants along this route, so please try to have various experiences yourself.

Characteristics of this Route (3)

- The details of the shops and services (e.g., opening hours) in the guidebook are based on information as of August 2020. Please check their websites if you plan to visit them as information may have been changed due to Covid-19.

Overall Route Map



Goal: Gotanda Station

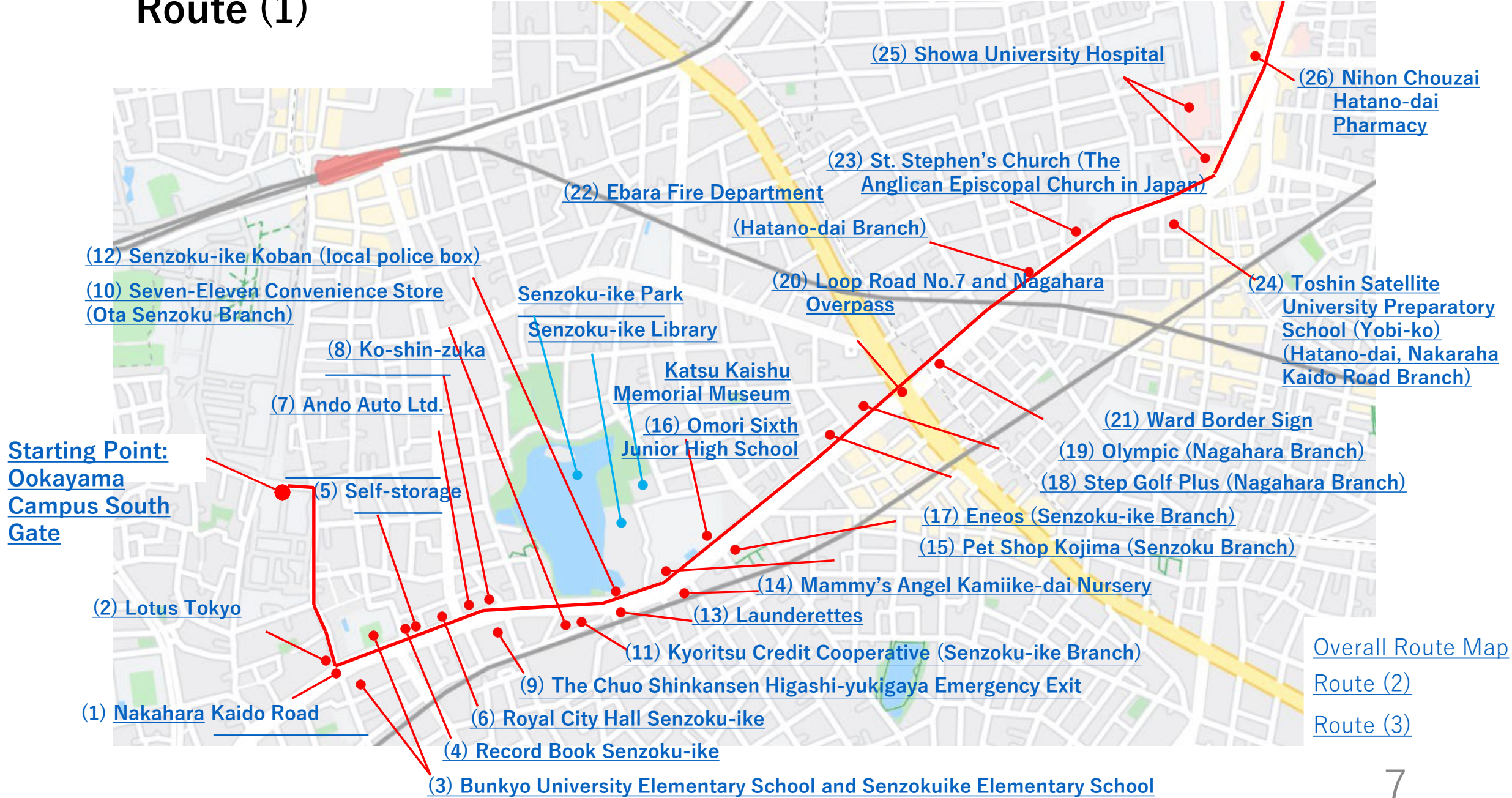
Starting Point: South Gate

- Main Route about 6km
- Routes to Spot to Stop by
- Spots to Stop by
- Names of Intersections

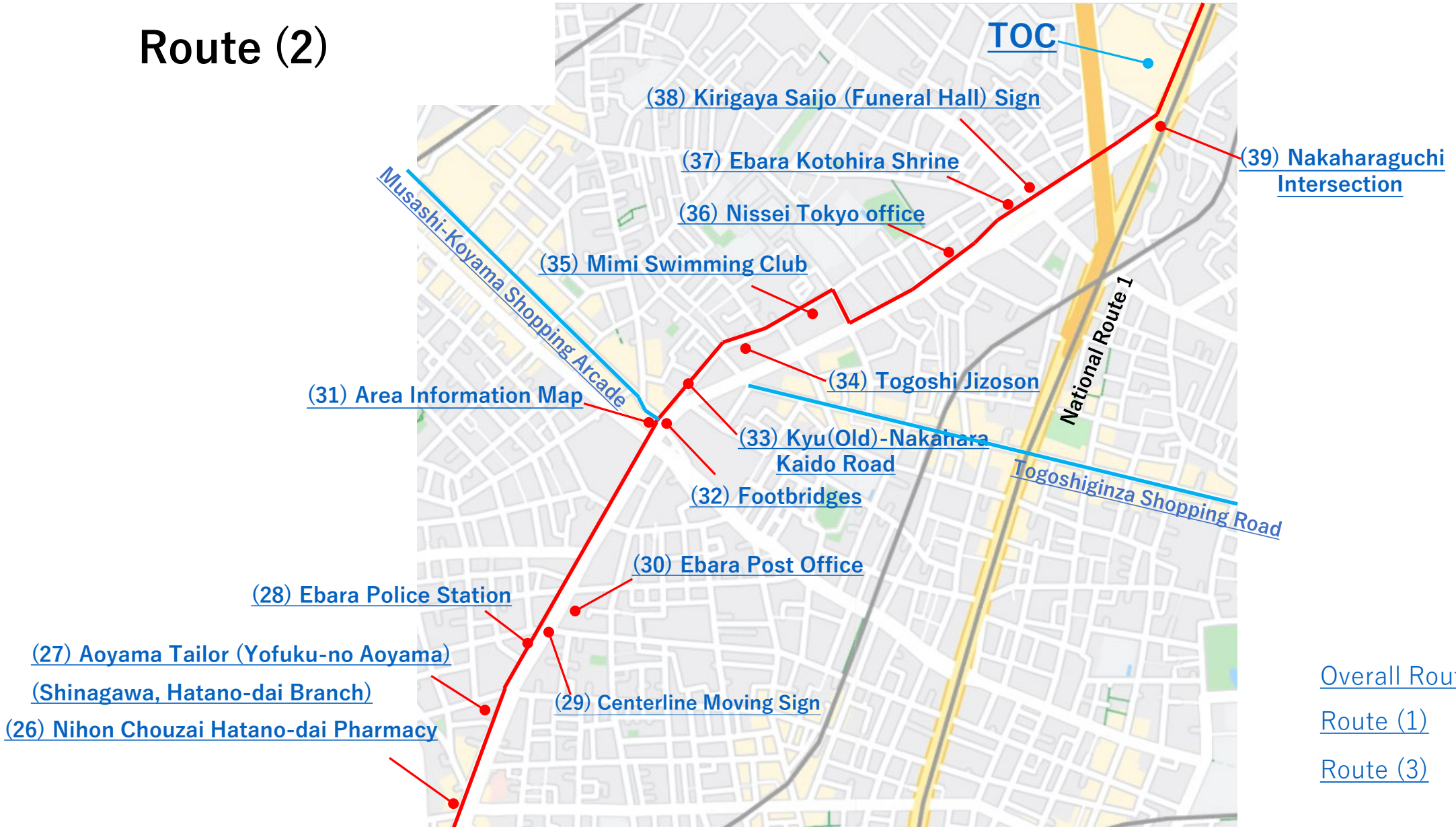
Divided Views of this Route

- [Route \(1\)](#)
- [Route \(2\)](#)
- [Route \(3\)](#)

Route (1)



Route (2)

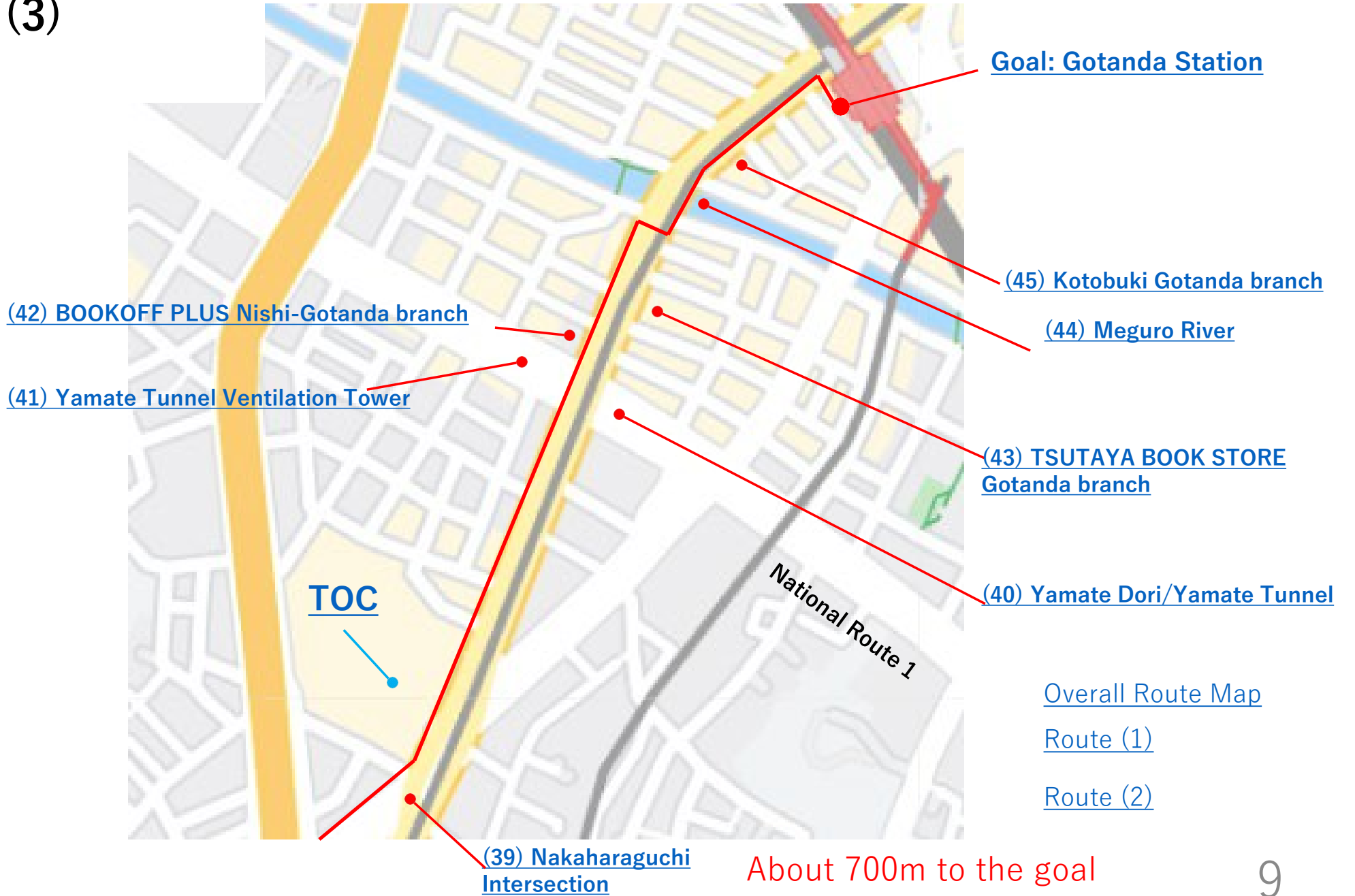


[Overall Route Map](#)

[Route \(1\)](#)

[Route \(3\)](#)

Route (3)



Starting Point: South Gate of Ookayama Campus

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)



South Gate
(Ishikawadai Area)

Let's start from the south gate (Ishikawadai area) or the south sideway in the southern part of the Ookayama campus and pass by the east side of the Ishikawadai area and walk toward Nakahara Kaido Road located on the south side of the campus.



South Sideway

Checkpoints and Explanations (1)

(1) Nakahara Kaido Road

Nakahara Kaido Road is a major part of this walking tour.

“Kaido” means intercity roads constructed during the Edo era. The “Five Kaidos” (Toh Kaido, Nakasen do, Nikko Kaido, Oshu Kaido, and Koshu Kaido) starting from Nihonbashi near Tokyo Station are particularly famous but many other Kaido Roads have been maintained and are still used today.

In the Edo era, Nakahara Kaido Road was a Kaido Road starting from Edo Toranomom (currently Toranomom, Minato Ward in Tokyo) and ending at Hiratsuka Nakahara (currently Goten, Hiratsuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture). The current Nakahara Kaido Road is known as the main road connecting Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture, which partially used the old Nakahara Kaido Road.

Checkpoints and Explanations (1) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(1) Nakahara Kaido Road

On the sign for Nakahara Kaido Road in this section, the number 2 is written inside a hexagon. This hexagon indicates that the road is managed by the prefectural and city governments, and the number represents the management serial number. In other words, the official name of Nakahara Kaido Road in this section is “Tokyo Metropolitan Road No. 2.”

National routes managed by the government have numbers drawn in the shape of an inverted rice ball. A list of road signs can be found in the pdf on the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism website.

<https://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sign/sign/douro/ichiran.pdf>



Checkpoints and Explanations (2)

(2) Lotus Tokyo (Car dealer)

At the corner on the right-hand side of the intersection that joins Nakahara Kaido Road, there is a dealer that sells Lotus (British sports car brand) cars.

Many car dealers are handling new cars (cars that have never been registered by users) and used cars (cars other than new cars) on the broad streets of commercial areas in Japan. Car dealers that handle Japanese cars rarely sell new and used cars at the same shop, but car dealers that handle foreign cars (cars of brands other than Japanese cars) often sell used cars as well as new cars at the same shop.

Checkpoints and Explanations (2) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(2) Lotus Tokyo (Car dealer)

Please find!

Other than this Lotus dealer, and the nearby Nissan and Mercedes-Benz dealers, there are several new car dealers and used car shops on this route, so if you are interested in cars, try to find them.

Checkpoints and Explanations (3)

(3) Bunkyo University Elementary School and Senzokuike Elementary School

There are two elementary schools on both sides of Nakahara Kaido Road. One is the private Bunkyo University Elementary School and the other is the Senzokuike Elementary School run by Ota Ward.

Japanese elementary schools are 6-year schools for children aged 6 to 11, starting from April 1st every year. The Constitution of Japan stipulates that all Japanese citizens have the right to general education in elementary schools and the following three-year junior high schools, and parents are obliged to educate their children.

Checkpoints and Explanations (3) Continued

(3) Bunkyo University Elementary School and Senzokuike Elementary School

The School Education Act of Japan stipulates that children attending school are called “Jido” in elementary schools, “Seito” in junior high and high schools, and “Gakusei” in universities and vocational schools.

Schools are classified according to three types; public schools established by local governments such as wards, cities and prefectures, national schools established by the national government, and private schools established by private companies. Elementary and junior high schools are compulsory education, so public schools are obliged to accept children or students in school districts. On the other hand, when children or students attend national or private elementary or junior high schools, it is necessary to submit an admission permit issued by the school to the local governments and show that the elementary school children or students will be receiving compulsory education outside of a public school.

Checkpoints and Explanations (3) Continued

(3) Bunkyo University Elementary School and Senzokuike Elementary School

In Japan, age is sometimes counted at Man-nenrei (age at last birthday). This counting method is to count the age where the child is 0 years old at birth and becomes 1 year old on their birthday one year later. According to Japanese law, a person's age increases by one year at 12:00 pm (24:00) the day before their birthday. Therefore, children born on April 1st will be the youngest elementary school students in their school year (the group that entered in the same year).

In Japan, elementary school students generally go to school by foot or on public transportation such as buses and trains. It is not common to go to school using school buses.

Checkpoints and Explanations (3) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(3) Bunkyo University Elementary School and Senzokuike Elementary School

(3) Please find!

There are several public and private schools beside this route. Please find what schools there are and try to classify them.

Checkpoints and Explanations (4)

(4) Record Book Senzoku-ike

This is a rehabilitation-type day care center.

In Japan, the aging of the population is progressing, and there are many elderly people with decreased motor function due to aging or illness. This is a center that aims to maintain and improve the motor function of elderly people through rehabilitation. The elderly people spend half a day (about 3 hours) or all day (about 7 hours) in exercising and recreation here. A day care center is a day-trip facility that doesn't provide accommodation treatment. In addition, cars are usually used to pick up and drop off elderly. This contrasts with the fact that there are no school buses for students to go to and from school.

Checkpoints and Explanations (4) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(4) Record Book Senzoku-ike

Along this route, there are many day care centers and nursing homes, and you may be able to feel the reality of Japan's aging society.

In Japan, nursing insurance is obligatory for people aged 40 and over (payment of nursing insurance premiums), but people who need nursing care due to illnesses associated with aging (including support for peoples aged 65 and over) can receive nursing care by paying 10% of the cost with the support of nursing insurance. However, depending on the rank of nursing care and support needed by the person, the maximum total charge for available services varies.

Checkpoints and Explanations (5)

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(5) Self-storage

This is a container-type self-storage facility.

In Japanese cities, the housing situation is not good, and many people live in small houses or apartments, so an increasing number of people have trouble storing seasonal clothes and leisure goods. Therefore, self-storage services have been launched to provide a place to temporarily store goods that are not being used. Aside from such uses, there are also apartment-type self-storage rooms, and as of 2020, the number of self-storage rooms is increasing in Tokyo.

Checkpoints and Explanations (6)

(6) Royal City Hall Senzoku-ike

This place is mainly for holding “wakes” and “funeral memorial service” and is called a “ceremony hall” in Japan.

Please note that the name of the facility includes “City Hall,” but this is not an official “City Office” public facility.

In Japan, when a person dies, normally, a Buddhist ceremony is held in two stages, a “wake” and a “funeral memorial service,” divided into two days, and the deceased is then sent out and cremated at another location (crematorium).

Checkpoints and Explanations (6) Continued

(6) Royal City Hall Senzoku-ike

“Wakes” are usually held in the evening and can be attended by anyone acquainted with the deceased or bereaved family (people living in the neighborhood, people from work, alumni, seniors and juniors from school, etc.).

The “funeral memorial service” is usually attended by family members, relatives, and people who are especially close to the deceased, and it is usually held in the morning. It is common to close the ceremony with a casket ritual that sends the deceased from the venue to the crematorium.

Checkpoints and Explanations (6) Continued

(6) Royal City Hall Senzoku-ike

In Japan, “wakes” and “funeral memorial service” have traditionally been held at homes and temples, but in cities, there are many people who live in housing complex such as apartments and they have come to Tokyo from rural areas and have no relationship with a local temple, so it is becoming more common to rent independent facilities such as this Royal City Hall to hold ceremonies.

Checkpoints and Explanations (6) Continued

(6) Royal City Hall Senzoku-ike

Japan is an aging society, and in Tokyo which has a large population, many people die, so the demand for such facilities is increasing, and the number of facilities is also increasing. By the way, there is a similar facility about 150m away on this route.

It is unlikely that you will participate in a “wake” or “funeral memorial service,” but if you participate, there are rules regarding the amount of “Kouden (sympathy money),” manners and clothing for participation, so please ask someone who is familiar with Japanese culture.

Checkpoints and Explanations (6) Continued

(6) Royal City Hall Senzoku-ike

One Japanese custom is that there is a day on which we avoid having “funeral memorial service.” It is believed that if a funeral is held on the days of “Tomobiki” in Rokuyo, which were introduced from China, “it is unlucky because it leads the friends who participated in the funeral and memorial service to unhappiness.” Therefore, it is common to not hold a funeral memorial service on the day of “Tomobiki.”

Rokuyo is a classification of the characteristics of one day in the calendar into six categories: “Sensho,” “Senbu,” “Tomobiki,” “Butsumetsu,” “Taian,” and “Shakko”, and some features such as recommending (good luck) or not recommending (bad luck) to hold the event on that day are explained.

Checkpoints and Explanations (6) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(6) Royal City Hall Senzoku-ike

Japanese people don't usually think about Rokuyo, but many people want to have a wedding ceremony on "Taian," which is said to be lucky, instead of "Butsumetsu," which is said to be unlucky. Therefore, this is used as one of the reasons for deciding the date of wedding ceremonies, funerals (funerals and memorial services) and related events. If the day of the event is not lucky based on Rokuyo, the day will be postponed (The schedule will be postponed to the next day or later.).

Checkpoints and Explanations (7)

(7) Ando Auto Ltd.

This is a shop that sells and repairs motorcycles. In Japan, two-wheeled vehicles with an engine are called “motorcycles” or “bikes.” These shops often use the abbreviation “auto” in their names to indicate that they handle motorcycles and automobiles.

A driver's license is required to ride a motorcycle in Japan.

Electric motorcycles (electric bikes) are not very popular in Japan. But in addition to ordinary bicycles where people pedal with their feet without an engine or electric motor, there are many electric-assisted bicycles that assist pedaling using an electric motor with a battery. These bicycles don't require a driver's license.

Checkpoints and Explanations (7) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(7) Ando Auto Ltd.

In Japan, there are many people who use bicycles and motorcycles, so you can find several shops selling bicycles and motorcycles, and their parts along this route.

Checkpoints and Explanations (8)

(8) Ko-shin-zuka (a signpost for travelers)

http://www.city.ota.tokyo.jp/shisetsu/rekishi/yukigaya_senzoku/koushintou_minamisenzoku.html

The above Ota Ward website shows the following description of Ko-shin-zuka which have a history of at least about 200 years.

“This was originally built in 1678, then rebuilt in 1814. This was built as a signpost at the fork of the road from Nakahara Kaido Road to Kuhombutsu. This is shaped as a square which represents the characteristics of design in the later Edo era. This was appointed as Cultural Heritage by Ota Ward.”

Checkpoints and Explanations (8) Continued

(8) Ko-shin-zuka (a signpost for travelers)

Ko-shin-zuka, also known as Ko-shin memorial towers, a stone pagoda that was derived from Chinese Taoism and was built based on the Ko-shin faith, which was a custom of the people of the Edo era under the guidance of Buddhist monks. Even now that the Ko-shin faith has become obsolete, it is preserved with respect for the customs and history of ancestors.

Also, this Ko-shin-zuka shows the road towards Kuhonbutsu-Jōshinji Temple. In the Edo era, cities prospered around temples and shrines, and roads were also maintained around temples and shrines. In some cases, this tendency has been passed down to the present day. For example, the Tokyu Ikegami Line was originally a railway for carrying worshipers at Ikegami Honmonji Temple.

Checkpoints and Explanations (8) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(8) Ko-shin-zuka (a signpost for travelers)

(8) Please find!

There is another Ko-shin-zuka on this route, so please try to find it.

Checkpoints and Explanations (9)

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(9) The Chuo Shinkansen Higashi-yukigaya Emergency Exit

The Shinkansen is famous as a high-speed rail transportation system in Japan, but a Chuo Shinkansen, which will be able to travel between Tokyo (Shinagawa) and Osaka in about an hour using the superconducting maglev that can travel at 500 km/h, is currently under construction. The Chuo Shinkansen is planned to pass through an underground tunnel that is already under development in urban area. Emergency exits (vertical shafts) are provided about every 20km to evacuate passengers to the ground in the event of an accident or car failure in the underground tunnel.

The Chuo Shinkansen runs from Shinagawa station, the first station, and passes underneath near Den-en-chofu station, and the Tamagawa River to Kanagawa prefecture. So, this Higashi-yukigaya emergency exit is the first one located about 20km from Shinagawa Station.

Checkpoints and Explanations (10)

(10) Seven-Eleven Convenience Store (Ota Senzoku Branch)

These stores are called “convenience stores” (abbreviated as *conveni*). Supermarkets generally used to be open from 10 am to 6 pm, but these are expected to be used by company workers before commuting in the morning and after work at night. Therefore, business hours are set from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, and these are called convenience stores because “convenience” is their strength. These days some supermarkets have extended their business hours, but many convenience stores are open 24 hours a day, making them more convenient than supermarkets.

Checkpoints and Explanations (10) Continued

(10) Seven-Eleven Convenience Store (Ota Senzoku Branch)

The types of items sold at convenience stores and supermarkets are almost the same (Fresh foods (meat, fish, vegetables, fruit), breads, rice, side dishes, rice balls and lunch boxes, beverages including alcoholic beverages and dairy products, sweets, cakes, ice creams, daily necessities, magazines, etc.). Convenience stores were devised so that they could operate even as small stores, such as limiting the items sold to one brand and one size, and many stores are open in residential areas other than the station front where supermarkets are mainly open. On the other hand, items sold at convenience stores tend to be more expensive than items sold at supermarkets, but they are favored by customers who value convenience.

Checkpoints and Explanations (10) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(10) Seven-Eleven Convenience Store (Ota Senszoku Branch)

Recently, there has been a new type of stores called “mini supermarket” that are close to convenience stores in terms of store size and location, which sell at a price close to that of supermarkets, and the number of these mini supermarkets is increasing. Customers are satisfied with more choices, but competition between stores has become fierce, making it difficult to secure part-time workers and operating profit, and an increasing number of convenience stores have been closing in 2020.

Checkpoints and Explanations (11)

(11) Kyoritsu Credit Cooperative (Senzoku-ike Branch)

Financial institutions in Japan are categorized depending on their scale and roles: Banks; Credit Unions; and Credit Cooperatives. Credit cooperatives are categorized as the smallest of these financial institutions.

The bank beside the main gate of the Ookayama campus is Mizuho Bank, is one of the three largest “mega banks,” but in recent years, even mega banks such as Mizuho Bank have been reducing the number of branches, making it difficult to find bank branches.

Checkpoints and Explanations (11) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(11) Kyoritsu Credit Cooperative (Senzoku-ike Branch)

On the other hand, “credit unions” and “credit cooperatives” in principle are financial institutions for members and union members, but they make small-scale deposits and loans that are closely related to the region, and the number of branches in cities has not decreased significantly. For example, there are three branches of credit unions and credit cooperatives within a 5-minute walk from Ookayama Station. You can also find some branches along this route.

(11) Please find!

Please find all the “bank,” “credit union” and “credit cooperative” branches along this route. If you pay attention to locations and scales, you may find something interesting.

Spot to Stop by: Senzoku-ike Park

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

This is a park that surrounds the Senzoku-ike Pond. It is about 1km if you walk around the pond. You will come across a variety of plants and wild birds in the park. You can also rent a boat for a small fee. This Park is a relaxing place for locals.

The origin of name “Senzoku (千束)” and the origin of renaming of part of the area of “Senzoku (千束)” as “Senzoku (洗足)” are very interesting subjects when examining the history. For example, Senzoku-ike Pond was widely known for its scenic beauty even in the Edo era and was featured in one of the Ukiyo-e paintings of Hiroshige Utagawa's famous One Hundred Views of Edo.

Checkpoints and Explanations (12)

(12) Senzoku-ike Koban (local police box)

This is a local police box called “Koban” under the jurisdiction of the Den-en-chofu Police Department of the Metropolitan Police Department, which covers the entire area of Tokyo.

In the police organization, this Koban system greatly contributes to the security of Japan, and some countries have adopted the Koban system. Police officers who work in Koban take turns 24 hours a day, as the name suggests “taking turns (**Koban**),” but there are cases where the police officers in Koban are away for a short time due to local patrols. Koban is a waiting place for police officers, and they also receive lost and found items and accept reports of incidents and accidents.

Checkpoints and Explanations (12) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(12) Senzoku-ike Koban (local police box)

Also, police officers in Koban always have a map of the area and are familiar with the local circumstances, so it is also the job of police officers working in Koban to provide directions for those who have lost their way. If you have any problems, please don't hesitate to talk to police officers in the Koban.

(12) Please find!

Find all “Koban” along this route.

Regardless of this walking tour, we recommend that you check the location of Koban where you are living.

Spot to Stop by: Senzoku-ike Library

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

This is the public library run by Ota-Ward. The 23 Wards of Tokyo operate public libraries. In many cases, those who are not registered residents of the Ward can enter the libraries. Also, many libraries use an open stack system, so you can pick up books you want to read from the bookshelves and read them, and you can also do research on the spot.

There are some libraries that loan CDs of music and reading as well as books, but usually, only those who are the registered residents of the ward or those who work in the ward can borrow books and CDs.

At libraries, conversations with loud voices are not allowed to maintain a quiet environment where users can concentrate on reading.

Spot to Stop by: Katsu Kaishu Memorial Museum

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

Katsu Kaishu (1823-1899), who was active as a vassal (Baku-shin) at the end of the Edo era, had a second house “Senzoku-ken” (burned down during World War II due to war damage) in Senzoku-ike Park, and the graves of Katsu Kaishu and his wife remain in the Park. Senzoku-ike Park is known as a place related to Katsu Kaishu.

You can learn about the great achievements of Katsu Kaishu at this memorial museum, which was opened in September 2019 by rebuilding the facility which had a different name. An admission fee (general 300 yen) is required to enter the museum.

Checkpoints and Explanations (13)

(13) Launderettes

A long time ago, most launderettes were installed as ancillary facilities of public baths (Sento) because the main users lived in apartments without a bath or a space for a washing machine. In recent years, commercial washers and dryers with higher functionalities than household ones have been installed in launderettes, and there are many washers and dryers with equipment that can wash and dry not only ordinary clothes but also “Futons,” “Sneakers,” “Carpets” and the like. Because of this, people who live in apartments or detached houses that have washers at home often also use launderettes.

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

(13) Launderettes

In recent years, the number of new launderettes has increased, including the “wash & fold” type described below, and you can find some launderettes along this route.

In Japan, there are generally three ways to wash clothes, other than washing by a washing machine in your home.

- (1) Washing in launderettes
- (2) Dry cleaners
- (3) Wash & fold type

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

(13) Laundrettes

At laundrettes mentioned in (1) above, normally, users bring clothes, etc., put them in an empty all-in-one washer-dryer, specify the required washing time, number of rinses, drying time, etc., put the displayed fee into it, and press the start button. This is all you need to do. The new washers can automatically wash the washing tub before use and automatically add detergent to wash the clothes. If the detergent is not self-filling, you will need to bring detergent from your home or buy it at a vending machine in the laundrettes and put a single dose of detergent in the washer. Also, if the washer and dryer are separate, you will need to move the laundry to the dryer yourself after washing, putting cash into the dryer and operate it.

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

(13) Launderettes

Launderettes are usually open without staff, so there may be security concerns such as theft of laundry. However, other than the installation of security cameras, in recent years, cafes are placed next to launderettes to make them easier to watch and allowing users to spend their waiting time effectively. The remaining time until the end of operation can be confirmed by smartphone, so users can go to other places temporarily with peace of mind.

From the user's point of view, launderettes can be said to be a business format that buys “places where washers and dryers are installed” and “functions that household washers don’t have, such as washing sneakers.”

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

(13) Launderettes

In English-speaking countries, “cleaning service” generally means house cleaning, but in Japan, cleaners mentioned in (2) above are shops that mainly perform “dry cleaning” to remove stains such as oil etc. from clothes and hats using organic solvents. Also, in Japan, cleaners are asked to clean items that require special skills, such as washing suits that lose their shape when washed in washing machines, stain removal and pressing to crease suit pants and skirts. Dress shirts and blouses will be as good as new by ironing after washing, so people who need to wear dress shirts and blouses for business often use cleaners.

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

(13) Launderettes

When using cleaners, it should be noted that it usually takes more than a day from request (bring-in) to finish (receipt). For clothes that need to be worn on a certain day, you should ask the finish date when requesting cleaning and make sure that it is in time before requesting.

Also, as posted inside and outside cleaners, the price varies depending on the content of work and sizes of each piece of clothing requested.

From the user's point of view, cleaners can be said to be a business format that buys “technology such as solvent cleaning that can’t be handled at home.”

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

(13) Launderettes

The wash & fold type shop mentioned in (3) above is a new business format that has been increasing in Japan in recent years. The shop staff keep clothes from customers, wash and dry them, and then fold them up and return them. In the area around the Ookayama campus, there is a shop near Okusawa Station. Laundries wash with water (or hot water), and washers and dryers like launderettes are used, but unlike launderettes, the shop staff manage the laundry, so you don't have to worry about the end time of the washing and drying. Also, the price is set for each laundry bag, not for the number or type of clothes. In other words, if the clothes are properly stored in the laundry bag, it will be charged at a fixed rate.

Checkpoints and Explanations (13) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(13) Launderettes

There are also shops that also act as agents for dry-cleaning laundry items.

At many shops, it is possible to use parcel delivery services to bring in and receive laundry. From the user's point of view, this can be said to be a business format to “buy time” in addition to the convenience of launderettes.

Checkpoints and Explanations (14)

(14) Mammy's Angel Kamiike-dai Nursery

This is a “nursery” which takes care of babies under 1 year old (called 0-year-olds, including children born on or after April 1) and infants aged 1 to 5 as of April 1 for 8 to 11 hours a day. The nursery is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and qualified nursery teachers take care of the children. Babies and infants attending nurseries must be dropped off and picked up by their parents.

In recent years, in Japan, it has become difficult to care for babies and infants at home due to various reasons such as a decrease in the working population, an increase in the advancement of women into society, a lack of contributions to childcare by fathers, the trend toward nuclear families, and the suppression of salary increases. An increasing number of families must rely on such facilities to care for their babies and infants during their working hours.

Checkpoints and Explanations (14) Continued

(14) Mammy's Angel Kamiike-dai Nursery

“Kindergartens,” which manage education (preschool education) before going to elementary school, accept infants aged 3 years old (4 years old depending on the kindergarten) to 5 years old for 4 to 5 hours a day, and it is possible to choose a kindergarten instead of a nursery if the age and conditions are met. Kindergartens are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the purpose of education, and licensed kindergarten teachers manage education.

Large private kindergartens operate school buses and often don't require parents to drop off and pick up their infants.

Checkpoints and Explanations (14) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(14) Mammy's Angel Kamiike-dai Nursery

In urban areas, not all applicants can enter nurseries and kindergartens, and children on waiting lists for nurseries and kindergartens who are waiting for admission have become a social problem.

Also, because it is unreasonable to choose either a nursery for the purpose of childcare or a kindergarten for the purpose of education, in recent years, it has become possible to establish and operate “certified child centers” that can provide both childcare and education, and the number of these is increasing little by little. This is one of the few examples of solving problems under the government's vertical administrative structure in Japan.

Checkpoints and Explanations (15)

(15) Pet Shop Kojima (Senzoku Branch)

In Japan, pets such as dogs or cats are allowed to be purchased at pet shops such as this. There are many pet shops like this that sell pets and consumables such as food.

The total pet-related market size in Japan in 2019 is estimated to be about 1,570 billion yen on a retail value basis. While Japan is aging and the birthrate is declining, the number of people who wish to possess their own pets is increasing. This is one of the few growth markets that is expected to grow at an annual rate of 1.7% or more in the future.

Reference: https://www.yano.co.jp/press-release/show/press_id/2364

Checkpoints and Explanations (15) Continued

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(15) Pet Shop Kojima (Senzoku Branch)

We didn't introduce this as a checkpoint, but some of you may have noticed that there was a veterinary clinic for pets along this route. With the increase in the number of pets raised, the number of veterinary clinics is also increasing.

Checkpoints and Explanations (16)

(16) Omori Sixth Junior High School

This is one of the answers to “(3) Please find out!”. This is an Ota Ward junior high school.

In Japan, junior high schools are three-year schools for children aged 12 to 14 years old as of April 1st. There are no entrance exams for public junior high schools. Most junior high school graduates go on to high school, but in that case, it is required to pass an entrance exam even for public high schools.

In the Tokyo 23 Wards, public elementary and junior high schools are run by wards. Public high schools are run by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government since there are no public high schools run by wards.

Checkpoints and Explanations (16) Continued

(16) Omori Sixth Junior High School

The name “Omori” of this junior high school means that the school exists in the “Omori district” of the past, and “**O**mori district” and “Kamata district” are part of “Ota Ward.” Currently, the area within the ward is subdivided, and this school belongs to the “Chofu area” including Den-en-chofu. JR Omori Station is also far away, so a lot of people may feel uncomfortable with the name, but the name reflects the history of the origin of Ota Ward.

Checkpoints and Explanations (16) Continued

(16) Omori Sixth Junior High School

In addition, this school was founded in 1947 after World War II and is one of 10 numbered junior high schools established in Ota Ward at almost the same time in the style of the “numbered schools” of the old-education-system high schools before the war.

The numbered schools of the old-education-system high schools in Japan were that the first higher middle schools, which were founded in 1886, and were renamed as the first higher schools in 1894. The numbered schools are recognized by people as special educational institutions because they were positioned as preparatory courses at Tokyo Imperial University and eight numbered schools established all over Japan have produced many excellent human resources.

Checkpoints and Explanations (16) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(16) Omori Sixth Junior High School

In private schools, there have been integrated junior high and high schools that manage both junior high school and high school from a long time ago. Recently, even in public schools, it has become possible to flexibly operate the school system of junior high school and high school, and a national and public 6-year integrated junior high and high schools have been established.

Among these, Chiyoda Ward Kudan Secondary School is known as the only integrated junior high and high school in the ward. Also, there are eight national and metropolitan integrated junior high and high schools in Tokyo.

Checkpoints and Explanations (17)

(17) Eneos (Senzoku-ike Branch)

This is a gas station (called “gasoline stand” in Japanese).

There are two types of gas stations; full-service and self-service ones. Full-service gas stations offer cleaning services like wiping car windows or collecting trash in the car in addition to refueling. Of course, the gas price (including tax per liter) tends to be higher compared to self-service ones if they are in the same area. There are both types of gas stations along this route, so please find and classify them.

Checkpoints and Explanations (17) Continued

(17) Eneos (Senzoku-ike Branch)

There are two types of gas in Japan, “premium” and “regular,” and it is recommended to refuel with premium for cars with high-power gas engines. Therefore, you should check which gas to use when renting a car.

Diesel-powered cars need to be refueled with diesel gasoline. Please be careful not to make a mistake. Also, Kei cars (small cars with a displacement of 660cc or less) need to be refueled with “regular.” From the impression of the Chinese characters (Kei-jidousha in Japanese), if Kei cars are refueled with “diesel (Kei-yu in Japanese),” the car will break down and the engine will need to be replaced, so please be very careful when refueling Kei cars.

Checkpoints and Explanations (17) Continued

(17) Eneos (Senzoku-ike Branch)

At full-service gas stations, you specify “**type of fuel**“, “**full tank**” or “**specified capacity**” and “**amount of money**” to staff, give the **payment method** and request refueling.

Examples: The following (type of fuel, capacity and amount of money) are just examples.

A full tank of **premium** please. I will pay in **cash**.

(**ハイオク満タン**、**支払いは現金**でお願いします。)

20 liters of **regular** please. I will pay by **card**.

(**レギュラー20リットル**、**カード**でお願いします。)

2,000 yen of **diesel** please. I will pay by **prepaid card**.

(**軽油2,000円分**、**プリペイドカード**でお願いします。)

Checkpoints and Explanations (17) Continued

(17) Eneos (Senzoku-ike Branch)

As in the second example above, the term “card” means “credit card.” If you use the same gas station many times, you may be able to refuel at a better price by using a prepaid card issued by the gas station.

Also, when refueling, it may be necessary to unlock the fuel filler cover by operating a lever inside the car, so when renting a car, you should check how to refuel before starting to drive.

Checkpoints and Explanations (17) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(17) Eneos (Senzoku-ike Branch)

“Diesel” used in diesel-powered cars and “kerosene” for kerosene heaters, which are sold by pouring into portable containers at gas stations, have almost the same properties as fuel, but due to the different tax classifications, the use of cheap “kerosene” as fuel in diesel-powered cars is prohibited by law. “Diesel” and “kerosene” can be easily distinguished by color and additives.

Checkpoints and Explanations (18)

(18) Step Golf Plus (Nagahara Branch)

This facility is an “indoor golf school.”

Golf was originally a sport played on a large outdoor golf course, but since golf courses are located only in the suburbs, facilities called “Uchippanashi (driving ranges),” where users can hit a golf ball as far as 100 meters, have been used as a daily practice field for people living in cities. However, even for “Uchippanashi,” large areas are required, and they can’t be built in a convenient location such as near train stations in cities. Also, due to the recent decrease in the number of golfers, the number of people who use “Uchippanashi” is decreasing.

Checkpoints and Explanations (18) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(18) Step Golf Plus (Nagahara Branch)

On the other hand, with the development of high-speed cameras and image processing computers in recent years, it is possible to measure the angle and direction and the number of revolutions of a ball when a golf ball is hit, and it has become possible to predict carry and direction even if a golf ball doesn't actually carry far away. Using this technology, it has become possible to play a kind of game called simulation golf and to have golf lessons even in rooms in small buildings. Because of this, the number of indoor golf schools like this checkpoint have been increasing in recent years. By the way, there is a similar facility near the Ookayama campus, so please find it if you are interested.

Checkpoints and Explanations (19)

(19) Olympic (Nagahara Branch)

Olympic is a supermarket which originally started business as a “discount shop” that sells clothes, shoes, sporting goods, cooking equipment, electrical appliances, bicycles, etc. at a lower price than others. Currently, as a result of focusing on fresh foods, Olympic is operated as a business format called a general merchandise store or a hypermarket.

Olympic is suitable for finding discount items (sold on the 2nd floor in this branch) not found in supermarkets in front of stations that handle fresh food and daily necessities.



Checkpoints and Explanations (19) Continued

(19) Olympic (Nagahara Branch)

We have introduced convenience stores and general merchandise stores found along this route. The Tokyu Store in front of Ookayama Station is a food supermarket that mainly sells fresh food and daily necessities, and there are fewer types of goods than general merchandise stores. For example, clothing and shoes are not handled.

As another general merchandise store near the Ookayama campus, “AEON STYLE Himonya” is about a 15-minute walk from the main gate and is a larger store which has many more types of products than the Olympic Nagahara Branch.

Checkpoints and Explanations (19) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(19) Olympic (Nagahara Branch)

Also, general merchandise stores introduced here handle a certain number of tools and gardening supplies, but home improvement stores are more suitable for doing DIY (do-it-yourself) to make furniture etc. or really planting a garden such as a home garden.

Although there are no home improvement stores along this route, please search if you are interested.

Checkpoints and Explanations (20)

(20) Loop Road No.7 and Nagahara Overpass

Main roads in Tokyo are classified as loop roads and radial ones. Nakahara Kaido Road (Tokyo Metropolitan Road Route No. 2) is a radial road, and Tokyo Metropolitan Road Route 318 Loop Road No. 7 (so called Kan-nana-Dori or Kan-nana), which intersects with Nakahara Kaido Road at an almost right angle, is one of the loop roads as the name suggests.

When walking in Tokyo, if you know which loop roads and radial ones you are near, you can understand your approximate position and the direction to go. Therefore, you should be aware of the positional relationship of your destination and main roads. Gotanda Station, the destination of this route, is near the intersection of Nakahara Kaido Road and Loop Road No.6, and the Ookayama Campus is located along Nakahara Kaido Road between Loop Road No.7 and Loop Road No.8.

Checkpoints and Explanations (20) Continued

(20) Loop Road No.7 and Nagahara Overpass

The Loop roads, general roads in Tokyo, are numbered from Loop Road No. 1 around the Imperial Palace to Loop Road No. 8, but it is not common to call them by the number except for Loop Road No. 7 (Kannana) and Loop Road No. 8 (Kanpachi). Loop Road No. 1 to Loop Road No. 6 are called by different names. If you are heading from the Ookayama campus to the center of Tokyo, you should remember the following names.

Loop Road No. 1: Uchibori-Dori, Loop Road No. 2: Sotobori-Dori, Loop Road No. 3: Gaien-Higashi-Dori, Loop Road No. 4: Gaien-Nishi-Dori, Loop Road No. 5: Meiji-Dori, Loop Road No. 6: Yamate-Dori..

Checkpoints and Explanations (20) Continued

(20) Loop Road No.7 and Nagahara Overpass

The intersections of major roads are often grade separations, and Nagahara overpass is one of them. Generally, when a “bridge” is used in Japanese, it means a bridge that crosses over rivers and waterways, so bridges that cross over roads and railroad tracks on land are called “overpasses.” It is also commonly called an overpass because it creates a road above the ground and intersects.

Some overpasses are for cars only and can't be passed by pedestrians or bicycles, so please be careful when passing.

Checkpoints and Explanations (20) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(20) Loop Road No.7 and Nagahara Overpass

In the case of a grade separation of two roads, one road may be created below the ground surface. In this case, it is generally called an underpass.

In recent years, torrential heavy rains, called guerrilla rainstorms in Japanese, are increasingly hitting cities, and at that time, rainwater flows beyond the drainage capacity of underpasses, forming deep puddles, and the number of accidents in which cars have become stuck in underpasses is increasing. Please be careful when using underpasses in the rain, even when moving by foot or by bicycle.

Checkpoints and Explanations (21)

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(21) Ward Border Sign

There is a sign showing the border between Ota Ward and Shinagawa Ward above Nakahara Kaido Road right after crossing Loop Road No. 7. Like this picture, there are signs above main roads, where administrative areas change, such as prefectural borders, city borders and ward borders.

We will go through Shinagawa Ward along this route from here.



Checkpoints and Explanations (22)

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(22) Ebara Fire Department (Hatano-dai Branch)

The fire department is a local agency of the Tokyo Fire Department that covers the entire area of Tokyo and is not an organization managed by the ward. This is because the fire department also needs to work beyond ward borders just like the police.

There are three fire departments in Shinagawa Ward: Shinagawa, Oi and Ebara. Each fire department has two or three branches to ensure quick arrival for emergency and fire extinguishing anywhere in Shinagawa Ward, where there is a lot of traffic congestion. Hatano-dai branch is one of the three branches under the jurisdiction of the Ebara Fire Department.

The fire department, including its branches, is active as an organization closely linked to the area that protects safety and security in Tokyo, just like the police station that has police boxes.

Checkpoints and Explanations (23)

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(23) St. Stephen's Church (The Anglican Episcopal Church in Japan)

It is said that Japan is a country of Shinto and has many Buddhists, but there are also many Christians, and churches like this can be found all over the town. There is another church tens of meters ahead along this route.

According to the website, St. Stephen's Church was founded in 1912 in Shiba Shirokane Sanko-cho and moved to this area in 1940. The building has been rebuilt, but it is said to be a church with a history of more than 100 years.

Checkpoints and Explanations (24)

(24) Toshin Satellite University Preparatory School (Yobi-ko) (Hatano-dai, Nakaraha Kaido Road Branch)

Many high school students who want to go on to university, or those who have already graduated from high school but have not passed the exams for a university they wish to enter, are called Ro-nin-sei (on the analogy of the masterless samurai) and go to private preparatory schools called “Yobi-ko.”

Toshin High School, the parent organization of this Toshin Satellite University Preparatory School, is famous for establishing a system in 1991 to deliver lectures by famous lecturers to students in a lot of remote classrooms using satellite lines. Currently, there are about 1,000 Toshin Satellite University Preparatory Schools nationwide for taking the satellite classes.

Checkpoints and Explanations (24) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(24) Toshin Satellite University Preparatory School (Yobi-ko) (Hatano-dai, Nakaraha Kaido Road Branch)

Along this route, there are also a lot of “juku (cram schools)” where elementary, junior high and high school students attend after school or when school is closed although those are not as big as private preparatory schools called “Yobi-ko.”

There are various reasons why children and students go to cram schools, such as supplementary lessons for studying at school (supplementary cram schools), preparation for entrance exams (advancement cram schools), and learning what can't be learned at school (English cram schools, gymnastics cram schools). Many children and students attend as one of the “after-school activities” to be introduced later.

Checkpoints and Explanations (25)

(25) Showa University Hospital

Showa University Hospital is the closest university hospital to the Tokyo Tech Ookayama campus. Besides walking from the campus, it is a few minutes' walk from Hatano-dai Station on the Toyku Oimachi-Line and Ikegami-Line.

This hospital is positioned as an advanced treatment hospital and responds to various illnesses with the latest medical technology, but please note that an additional fee (5,500 yen) as “Sentei-ryoyohi” will be charged at the first visit if there is no referral letter from a family doctor (your regular doctor). Therefore, if you are very sick and hospitals in your neighborhood can't handle you, you should get a referral letter and go to the university hospital.

Checkpoints and Explanations (25) Continued

(25) Showa University Hospital

Showa University Hospital consists of several buildings mainly in the Hatano-dai area, so the buildings are different for each medical department. Please note that the dentist is in the building near Senzoku Station on the Tokyu Meguro Line outside the Hatano-dai area.

In Japan, a universal health insurance system is adopted in which all citizens (including foreign citizens living in Japan for more than 3 months) are obliged to take out health insurance (obligation to pay health insurance premiums). In most cases, students become dependents of their parents and have health insurance covered by their parents, but international students must take out national health insurance. When income is low due to only having a part-time job etc., there is a reduction and exemption system for national health insurance premiums.

Checkpoints and Explanations (25) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

(25) Showa University Hospital

By taking out health insurance and paying premiums every month, the medical expenses paid when subscribers go to hospitals due to illnesses or injuries will be 30% of the total amount. The remaining 70% is covered by the national treasury, which is funded by insurance premiums, taxes and government bonds.

In addition, if a large amount of medical expenses is incurred due to hospitalization or surgery, there are refunds under the High-Cost Medical Expense Benefit, and generous support by medical insurance is one of the characteristics of Japan.

Checkpoints and Explanations (26)

(26) Nihon Chouzai Hatano-dai Pharmacy

There are a lot of dispensing pharmacies around the hospitals. Currently in Japan, the separation of dispensing and prescribing system is adopted; pharmacists from completely different organizations check the prescription of the medicines written by doctors who examined patients, count and weigh medicines, sell them to the patients, exercise medication history management, and give instructions on the use of medicines.

Medicines used according to the doctor's instructions are classified as prescription medicines, and medicines available at drugstores are classified as non-prescription medicines, and their effects are generally different.

Checkpoints and Explanations (26) Continued

[Back to Route \(1\)](#)

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(26) Nihon Chouzai Hatano-dai Pharmacy

In Japan, due to the aging society, an increasing number of people must continue to use medicine for a long period of time to treat chronic diseases and prevent getting worse, and the number of dispensing pharmacies, including drugstores that fill prescriptions, is also increasing. For example, there are about 10 drugstores near Ookayama Station, and many of them have opened in the last few years.

By the way, other than dispensing pharmacies, the number of stores that have been increasing in the Ookayama Kitaguchi shopping district in recent years for treatment and physical conditioning such as chiropractic and massage are also increasing. This also reflects changes associated with an aging society and high stress in modern Japanese society.

Checkpoints and Explanations (27)

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(27) Aoyama Tailor (Yofuku-no Aoyama) (Shinagawa, Hatano-dai Branch)

This is a major retailer which mainly deals in business suits and related merchandise (shirts, blouses, ties, socks and so on). Students attending universities, graduate schools, vocational schools etc. start job-hunting such as visiting companies and OBs, taking company tours and interviews to find jobs when approaching their graduation. At that time, it is common to wear business suits called “recruit-suits” in Japan.

There are several major retailers dealing in business suits including “recruit-suits” in downtown areas such as Jiyugaoka. Within walking distance of Tokyo Tech, there is Konaka in front of the exit of Okusawa Station on the Meguro Line.

Checkpoints and Explanations (28)

(28) Ebara Police Station

This is the Ebara Police Station of the Metropolitan Police Department, which covers the entire area of Tokyo. Police officers are assigned to police boxes under the jurisdiction of this police station.

At police stations, there is a window for receiving notifications such as “Notification of Lost Items” (sometimes accepted by police boxes) and “Change of Driver’s License Information” when changing address after obtaining a driver's license for cars or motorcycles.

There are several police stations in Tokyo, where residents of Tokyo can renew a driver's license. You can't renew at The Ebara Police Station, but you can renew at the Den-en-chofu Police Station near Ookayama if you are a resident of Tokyo.

Checkpoints and Explanations (28) Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(28) Ebara Police Station

Ebara Police Station is at Ebara 6-chome in Shinagawa Ward, but it is far from Ebara Nakanobu Station on the Ikegami Line and Ebaramachi Station on the Oimachi Line. The names of the places where these stations are located are not “Ebara.” In fact, this place name “Ebara” has been around for a long time, and it appeared in “Manyo-shu (a collection of ten-thousand leaves),” a collection of waka poems written in the 7th and 8th centuries, and it was a place name representing a wide area centered around this area.

When Tokyo City, which consisted of 15 wards only in the central part of the city, was established in the Meiji era, as one of the six counties surrounding Tokyo City, “Ebara County” was established to cover all or part of the current Shinagawa, Meguro, Ota, Setagaya Wards and Kawasaki City. From this, we can see that “Ebara” was an important place name.

Checkpoints and Explanations (29)

(29) Centerline Moving Sign

This section of Nakahara Kaido Road is a road with two lanes toward the city center (up) and two lanes toward Kanagawa (down), except for a right turn lane. However, one of the characteristics of the radial road is that a lot of cars head to the city center in the morning. Therefore, in the morning hours, the centerline that separates up and down traffic is moved, and it changes to 3 lanes up and 1 lane down.

Not only in Tokyo but also in local cities, such measures to reduce traffic congestion may be taken, so please be careful when driving a car.



Checkpoints and Explanations (29) Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(29) Centerline Moving Sign

By the way, in the case of radial roads, the direction toward the center of the town is referred to as "up", and the direction away from the center of the town is referred to as "down" in many cases in Japan.

Furthermore, the JR Yamanote Line is a looped railway, so the direction of travel is referred to as "inner loop" and "outer loop". Japanese railways also run on the left side. On the JR railway, Tokyo Station is designated as the terminal station, and the direction toward Tokyo Station is referred to as "up", and the direction away from Tokyo Station is referred to as "down".

Checkpoints and Explanations (30)

(30) Ebara Post Office

In Japan, Japan Post which had been engaged in the postal, savings and insurance business for a long time, was split and privatized into a few companies in 2007. However, it was inconvenient that the Japan Post Network Co., Ltd. which operates the post office and the Japan Post Service, Limited. which manages collection and delivery operations and out-of-hours window-service were separated. For this reason, these two companies were merged, and Japan Post Co., Ltd. was established in 2012.

The post office is the business facilities of Japan Post Co., Ltd. and is engaged in the postal business as well as the handling of savings and insurance as a consignment business. At the post office, you can send and receive mail including international mail, and also deposit and withdraw postal savings.

Checkpoints and Explanations (30) Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(30) Ebara Post Office

The business hours are set for each post office. Large post offices such as Ebara Post Office usually have longer business hours on weekdays than small post offices such as Ookayama Ekimae Post Office. If it is past 17:00 but you need a postmarks on that day, or you would like to send mail as soon as possible, please check the business hours and use a large post office.

Also, large post offices such as Shibuya Post Office and Meguro Post Office receive mail even on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, but please check those websites before using.

Checkpoints and Explanations (31)

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(31) Area Information Map

When walking in Tokyo, you can find this kind of area information map here and there. It is good idea to decide on a destination in advance when you take a walk, but if you find a spot you are interested in on the map that you see on the way, it may be also a good idea to stop by that spot.



Checkpoints and Explanations (32)

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(32) Footbridges

A footbridge is an overpass that allows pedestrians to cross to the other side of the road without crossing on the road. The purpose of installing footbridges is to ensure the safety of children and students going to and from school and to avoid installing traffic lights on heavy-traffic roads. However, this purpose is to prioritize car traffic over pedestrians and is contrary to the barrier-free concept, so they tend to be removed because of aging or as measures such as equipping elevators are taken if they are newly installed.

(32) Please remember!

You have already passed by some footbridges on this route. Can you remember where they were?

Spot to Stop by: Musashi-Koyama Shopping Arcade

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

This is an 800m-length shopping arcade that is the longest one (with a roof) in Japan. There are many shops, and you can get information on a walk-and-eat online, but please take a walk yourself and have various experiences.

This shopping arcade is connected to Musashi-Koyama Station on the Tokyu Meguro Line. We also recommend going by train and taking a walk.



Checkpoints and Explanations (33)

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(33) Kyu(Old)-Nakahara Kaido Road

Roads that still have the name Kaido are often used by widening the roads constructed during the Edo era to accommodate more car traffic, but in some cases, the old Kaido roads remain as side roads parallel to the main roads. This sign shows that this is an old Kaido Road.

The old Kaido Roads are narrow and carry our minds back to the old scenery in which pedestrians, horses and carts were passing.



Spot to Stop by: Togoshiginza Shopping Road

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There is no roof (or arcade) above this shopping road, but it is said to be “the longest in Tokyo,” covering 1.3km. This is a popular shopping road where not only locals but also people living far away come to enjoy shopping and a walk-and-eat experience.

In the middle of the shopping road, there are Togoshi-Ginza Station on the Tokyu Ikegami Line and Togoshi Station on the Toei Asakusa Line. We also recommend going by train and taking a walk.

Checkpoints and Explanations (34)

(34) Togoshi Jizoson

Shinagawa Ward Website

<https://www.city.shinagawa.tokyo.jp/PC/sangyo/sangyo-bunkazai/sangyo-bunkazai-shitebunkazai/hpg000006702.html>

There is the following description on the above Shinagawa Ward website. It seems that this place has been the focus of people's worship for more than 350 years.

“There are the Kasatoba-type Ko-shin memorial tower built in Kanbun 6 (1666), the Itabi-type one built in Eiho 1 (1673), the rectangular plate-type one built in Horeki 4 (1754), the Kasatoba-type memorial tower built after the middle of the Edo era, and the Jizo Bosatsu memorial tower and tombstone built in Kanbun 2 (1662).”

Checkpoints and Explanations (34) Continued

(34) Togoshi Jizoson

Jizo stands for Jizo-Bosatsu and is one of the objects of Buddhist faith. It is generally called “Ojizo-san” and “Ojizo-sama” and is known as the guardian deity of children.

Togoshi Jizo is especially famous as the “Jizo for child-raising,” and we can say that children’s healthy growth was one of the most important wishes people had in the Edo Era when the infant mortality rate was high.

Checkpoints and Explanations (34) Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(34) Togoshi Jizoson

The names of people who donated the money to maintain the temple are engraved on the Tamagaki (fences surrounding the place where God and Buddha are) of the temple.

(34) Please find!

The name of Mr. Shotaro Ikenami, a writer of period and historical novels representing the Showa era who lived nearby is engraved on the Tamagaki of Togoshi. Please find it.

We also recommend enjoying reading the novels written by Mr. Shotaro Ikenami. These novels are also available in public libraries.

Checkpoints and Explanations (35)

(35) Mimi Swimming Club

This is a private swimming school.

Swimming is one of the most popular after-school activities among children in Japan. They can get professional instruction from a young age because a lot of swimming schools offer classes for babies and for kids before school age. In the upper grades of elementary school, there are many children who can swim more than 50 meters by four swimming methods (freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly).

Checkpoints and Explanations (35) Continued

(35) Mimi Swimming Club

Children expected to be competitive swimmers may take the “athlete course” and individual lessons when they are in elementary school.

(35) Please find!

The youngest Japanese Olympic gold medalist was a swimmer before the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. How old was the swimmer? Please guess first and then check it online.

(At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, the new youngest Japanese gold medalist was born on the Women’s Streets of Skateboard.)

Checkpoints and Explanations (35) Continued

(35) Mimi Swimming Club

Like this club, swimming clubs and schools where children can receive professional guidance are privately owned. There are also private gyms with pools. Those gyms operate with a monthly payment system and are only available to members.

With the monthly payment system, users don't have to pay one charge each time, and there is no additional charge up to the maximum number of times in a month, but charges will not be refunded even if they are not used even once. In some gyms, there is no maximum number of times they can be used.

Checkpoints and Explanations (35) Continued

(35) Mimi Swimming Club

If you are a student or a faculty member of Tokyo Tech, you can use the heated pool on the Ookayama campus. In Tokyo, there are many public pools not operating on a monthly payment system, and the general public can use them to maintain health and improve strength. Within walking distance from the Ookayama campus, there are some pools at the western part of Meguro Ward (Midorigaoka Elementary School), the southern part of Meguro Ward (Ishibumi Elementary School) and Higashi-chofu Park in Ota Ward.

Please check opening hours, admission fees, and terms of use, etc. before using.

Checkpoints and Explanations (35) Continued

(35) Mimi Swimming Club

Swimming is one of the popular “after-school activities” for children, but aside from swimming, there are a lot of other after-school activities (that children want to do, and parents want their children to do.); Sports such as soccer, baseball, ballet, dance, figure skating, gymnastics, golf, table tennis, martial arts such as judo, kendo, karate, and aikido, Japanese calligraphy, abacus, English conversation, and playing musical instruments such as piano and violin.

Checkpoints and Explanations (35) Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(35) Mimi Swimming Club

The number of children who play rugby has been increasing since the Rugby World Cup in 2019, where the Japanese national team's performance was great. More recently, skateboarding and surfing are also popular because Japanese athletes won gold medals at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Moreover, Igo and Shogi are getting popular as after-school activities as young pro players' activities often appear in the media. This shows the Japanese tendency of getting interested in trendy things.

Checkpoints and Explanations (36)

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(36) Nissei Tokyo office

We can't introduce all the companies along this route, but we thought you might be a little interested in this one, so we choose this company as a checkpoint.

This company, Nissei, was the first company to introduce soft serve ice cream to Japan in 1951 and has the largest market share in the industry for soft serve ice cream related products (soft cream mixes, cones, freezers, etc.). You have eaten this company's products in Japan without noticing. In Tokyo, there are many companies that are in the number one position in their industry, so please search the names of companies you are interested in.

Checkpoints and Explanations (37)

Checkpoint 37: Ebara Kotohira Shrine

Tokyo Metropolitan Shrine Office Website

<http://www.tokyo-jinjacho.or.jp/shinagawa/3054/>

The above website explains that the deities are Omononushi-no-kami and Emperor Sutoku, and “this shrine received the spirit of Kotohira-gu Shrine in Shikoku and is popular as a god of success for business, safety of maritime traffic and safety of family, and is revered by many people.

Kotohira-gu Shrine in Shikoku is famous as a god of safety of maritime traffic, and is still the most popular in Shikoku, and is known as "Konpira-san".

Checkpoints and Explanations (37) Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(37) Ebara Kotohira Shrine

It is supposed that this shrine was built in Edo with the spirit in 1772 because people wanted to pray for the safety of maritime traffic and success for their businesses without going to Shikoku which felt very far at that time.

Recently, the number of young people who want to get a Goshuin (a red ink stamp) to commemorate the visit to a shrine is increasing, and this shrine also offers a Goshuin service.

Checkpoints and Explanations (38)

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

(38) Kirigaya Saijo (Funeral Hall) Sign

We introduced the ceremony hall at checkpoint (6), but in Tokyo, there are also several places called “Saijo” where large-scale funerals such as company-sponsored funerals instead of individual ones and cremations are held.

This Saijo was originally in a temple, and it seems to have been here since the early Edo era. This picture was taken from the side of Gotanda station.



Checkpoints and Explanations (39)

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(39) Nakaharaguchi Intersection

This is the start point of Tokyo Metropolitan Road Route No.2 (Current Nakahara Kaido Road), and from this point, Nakahara Kaido Road joins National Route 1. Right after joining, the road toward "Nihonbashi" (left side) on the Y-shaped road is National Route 1. In today's route, we choose the road on the left side. By the way, even if we choose the road toward "Shinagawa" (right side), we can reach the south side of Gotanda Station, which is the goal of this route.

When following this route in the opposite direction, please choose the road toward "Maruko Bridge" (right side) at this Nakaharaguchi intersection. If you choose the road toward "Yokohama" or "Magome" (left side), you will continue to walk along National Route 1.

Spot to Stop by: Tokyo Oroshiuri Center (TOC)

This building is called, “Tokyo Oroshiuri Center (TOC)”, and the abbreviation TOC is based on the Tokyo Oroshiuri Center, which is a mixture of English and Japanese. “Oroshiuri (卸売)” means wholesale to sell things to shops whereas “Kouri (小売)” means retailers for ordinary individual customers. Therefore, individual customers cannot buy at most shops in the TOC. In the TOC, there is also a "hall for rent" where department stores and clothing stores hold "invitational sales" for loyal customers for a limited time.

However, some shops located on the lower floors are also open to individual customers and you can find outlets and sale items. At UNIQLO near the entrance on the 1st floor, clothing is sold at a regular price, but if you go to the ABC-Mart outlet, other clothing stores on the far right of the 1st floor and the stores on the basement floor, you may find bargains.

Spot to Stop by: TOC Continued



Outlet shop of ABC-MART



Two T-shirts for only 1,500 Yen!

Spot to Stop by: TOC Continued



Bags are 70%OFF!!



Clothes and accessories for young women

Spot to Stop by: TOC Continued

[Back to Route \(2\)](#)

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

There are some cafes and restaurants at the TOC. They are usually open on weekdays for businesspeople – only some of them are open on weekends.

So please check the websites for more information. <https://www.toc.co.jp/index.html>



Checkpoints and Explanations (40)

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(40) Yamate Dori/Yamate Tunnel

This wide road is called Yamate Dori, which is also known as Tokyo Metropolitan Road Route No.317 Loop Road No.6. Yamanote Dori around here runs parallel to the outside of the JR Yamanote Line, and from here, there are Meguro, Ebisu and Shibuya in the clockwise direction and Osaki in the counter-clockwise direction. This is one of the main roads used as a reference when walking in Tokyo.

Also, underground of Yamate Dori, the recently opened Metropolitan Expressway Central Circular Route runs and it is the longest road tunnel in Japan with a total length of about 18.2 km. However, there are some entrances and exits in the middle of the tunnel. As part of the Metropolitan Expressway network, the Yamate Tunnel serves to reduce traffic congestion above-ground.

Checkpoints and Explanations (41)

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(41) Yamate Tunnel Ventilation Tower

This unique tower on the median strip of Yamate Dori is a ventilation tower that purifies and discharges air inside the Yamate Tunnel.

The tower is well designed in the points of shape, texture and color of the surface, in order to avoid the oppressive feeling caused by its height (45m).



Checkpoints and Explanations (42)

(42) BOOKOFF PLUS Nishi-Gotanda branch

This is a shop which buys and sells used clothing and brand-name goods (clothing, accessories, bags, cosmetics, etc.) as well as books including comics, CDs and DVDs. The number of large-scale shops handling used books and CDs has been increasing in suburbs for about 25 years. While increasing the number of items handled, including clothing and brand-name goods, those shops are open in downtown areas of Tokyo.

These kinds of shops are also popular among foreign tourists because they can buy comics (manga books) at a low price, .

Checkpoints and Explanations (42) Continued

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(42) BOOKOFF PLUS Nishi-Gotanda branch

At this shop, you can sell goods you don't need any more or buy used goods at a low price. It has been pointed out that the reasons why this kind of shop is getting popular are because it is difficult to keep many things as space is limited in Japanese housing, because hobbies of individuals have become more varied and because the Japanese consciousness is changing from "owning" to "using" things. Car sharing, which has been increasing in recent years, is also the trend.

It must be interesting to follow how this market goes having online auctions and flea markets as competitors in addition to other companies in the same industry. We also recommend this shop as the Spot to Stop by.

Checkpoints and Explanations (43)

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(43) TSUTAYA BOOK STORE Gotanda branch

TSUTAYA originally started its business as a rental video and CD service, and currently, in addition to “TSUTAYA,” which offers rental video services, there are some store brands such as “TSUTAYA BOOKS,” a bookstore that proposes high-quality lifestyles, and “TSUTAYA BOOKSTORE,” a bookstore that offers new styles of reading books.

This is a TSUTAYA BOOK STORE branch and is very popular as it opens until late, carrying a large selection of books, magazines and comic books. We also recommend this shop as the Spot to Stop by.

Checkpoints and Explanations (44)

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(44) Meguro River

Meguro River is one of the main rivers in Tokyo that flows into the Tokyo Bay through Setagaya Ward, Meguro Ward and Shinagawa Ward.

In the spring, the cherry blossoms bloom on both sides of the Meguro River and there are many “cherry blossom viewing spots” along the river. The spot near Naka-Meguro is especially famous and very crowded. I personally recommend the areas from here to the upstream (the left side), and from here to the downstream (the right side), which are rarely found in guidebooks but there are a lot of cherry blossom trees, and these areas are not very crowded.

Checkpoints and Explanations (45)

(45) Kotobuki Gotanda branch

This is an entertainment facility called a Pachinko and Pachinko-Slot parlor.

In Japan, gambling is prohibited by law except for public gambling such as public horse racing, and there are supposedly no gambling halls or casinos in cities. Pachinko and Pachinko-Slot parlors look like game centers, but they are a type of gambling hall because you can rarely get more money than you bet. A lot of Pachinko and Pachinko-Slot parlors can be found in front of stations in downtown areas. It is undesirable but can't be denied that Japan has gambling halls in the cities.

Checkpoints and Explanations (45) Continued

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

(45) Kotobuki Gotanda branch

Pachinko and Pachinko-Slot are businesses that consist of a kind of evasion of the law in order to operate gambling without violating the law. Therefore, it is not recommended for students to choose to work part-time here, aside from temporary use based on interest.

Goal: Gotanda Station

[Back to Route \(3\)](#)

Congrats!!! You have finished!!!

Gotanda Station has a merchandise building where you can find a lot of shops. It would be fun to explore around the station stopping by some of the shops.

Although this is the end of the Walking Tour Route No.1, there are some additional materials such as follows up quizzes and discussion for you to have some more fun. Please do try them to get to know this area more!

[To Follow Up Quizzes](#)

[To Discussion](#)

[To END](#)



Follow Up Quizzes

From the next page, you will see six pictures taken on and just off the route. Can you guess where these pictures were taken? The shooting spots were not included in the checkpoints.

If you don't remember the places in the pictures, it would be good to revisit the route again next time.

Where do you think the pictures were taken?(1)

A



Did you notice the toy shop on the route?

B



This place is a public bath.

Where do you think the pictures were taken?(2)

C



There is an old building behind the trees.

D



This doesn't seem to be an entrance to the apartment?

Where do you think the pictures were taken?(3)

E

ボート料金表		
サイクルボート	サイクル(スワン)ボート	ローボート
30分 600円	30分 800円	30分 400円
60分 1,000円	60分 1,300円	60分 600円

When speaking of boats...?

F



Kitsune Shrine?

Discussion

- 1-1 What is the most controversial or critical social issue in your country?
- 1-2 How does the government in your country try to resolve it?
- 1-3 What do you think is the best and most effective solution to the issue?
- 2-1 Could you share an example of traditional customs and modern common sense co-existing in your country?
- 2-2 What do you think about retaining traditional customs? Do you think it is plausible?
- 3-1 Which field would develop more in your country if the number of shops was increased or products were more exported to other countries?

END