

Ito Guide Book

(English)

Ito Systematized Goodwill Guide
(ISGG)

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1) Center of Ito City

1- 1) ITO STATION



The Japanese National Railways (now JR) started its Ito Line in December, 1938 (13th year of Showa period). Ito station building still has what it used to be in those days of inauguration. The building creates a southern Spanish atmosphere with its white walls and roofs covered with orange-colored tiles.

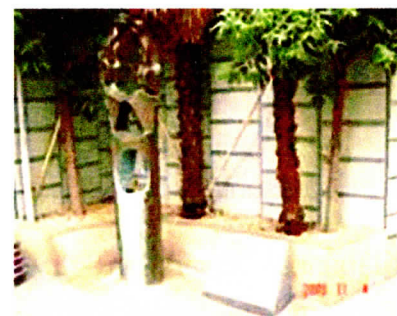
The Ito Line constructing plan started at the end of Meiji era and it was not till 1938 when the line had finally been inaugurated. Many hardships during the construction period had brought about lots of anecdotes which are succeedingly told till now. They recycle old rails, imported in 1886, as building materials.

The palm trees in front of the station are called "Canary Palm" or "His-and-Her Palm" and loved by people visiting there.

1-2) OUMANO YU (HORSE SPA) MONUMENT

Up until the beginning of Showa era , most of these areas were the fields. Lots of farmers together with their horses used to take a bath in spa washing away the day's sweat and dirt.

Horses rather liked lukewarm and shallow spa or pond and so, farmers chose such places especially for them.



These places were called "Oumano Yu" or "Horse Spa" and a poem, "Oumano Yu," was written by Hakushu Kitahara, a Japanese poet. The poem was then set to children's song "Oumano Yu."

So, this is a monument of "Oumano Yu."

1-3) TOKAI KAN (THE BUILDING)



“Tokai” means the east sea or facing the east sea and “Kan” means an inn.

Mr. Yasutaro Inaba, a timber dealer, established this inn alongside Matsukawa stream in the 3rd year of Showa era.

The inn has been closed in the 10th year of Heisei era and

has been designated as tangible as cultural properties two years later.

Tokai Kan reopened in the 13th year of Heisei era as one of the popular tourist visiting spots or Ito’s cultural institution “Tokai Kan.”

1-4) RIETI SQUARE, OLIVE AND STONE MILL

The monument at Rieti Square has been sent from Rieti in Italy, a friendly city of Ito, commemorating on an occasion of “Italy 2001 in Japan.”

Two events had led Rieti and Ito to conclude a treaty of friendship in 1985 (60th year of Showa era). The one is



“wine-barrel rowing race” down at Flume Velino (Velino river) and the other, “Matsukawa tub rowing race.”

A stone mill presented from Rieti is featuring the monument at Rieti Square.

There is Japanese Square in Rieti where the monuments of friendship and a sculpture of a folded paper crane is located.

1- 5) KANKOBAN



It's a composite word of "Kanko"(tourism) and "Koban"(a police box). An oldest police box used for 47 years had been handed over to Ito city in February, 2006. It is now being used as an institution for Ito Nature & History Guide, Ito Systematized Goodwill Guide and other NPO organizations. In 2009, it is resistered as the national cultural assets.

1- 6) OLD VILLA OF ADMIRAL HEIHACHIRO TOGO (1847~1934)

Admiral Heihachiro Togo who destroyed Russian Baltic fleet in 1905 loved to stay this villa. The villa is simply built as if to symbolize Togo's spirit of simplicity and fortitude; it was built in 1929. After Togo's death, it is presented as "Togo Monument" together with various articles he left. The villa remains untouched except



that the bathroom was reformed after Kanogawa typhoon hit the villa in the 33rd year of Showa era.

1- 7) MONUMENT OF HAKUSHU KITAHARA, A POET (1885~1942) AND
"ITO DANCE SONG"



Hakushu Kitahara, a poet, was born in 1885 and so was Mokutaro Kinoshita. They formed a friendship at their youth through several pieces of their literary work. Kitahara often visited Ito and the mayor Ota (Mokutaro's brother) at the time asked Kitahara a

favor of writing "Ito Dance Song (Ito Ondo)." The song was written in the 4th year of Showa era and that famous "Chakkiri Bushi" was also written by him in the 2nd year of Showa era.

1- 8) ANJIN MEMORIAL PARK

William Adams (1564~1620), British, was drifted ashore off the northern Kyushu in 1600 and hence started the ups and downs of his life in Japan. He was called Miura Anjin and contributed a lot to the Edo Shogunate particularly in the field of navigation art and ship building.



A bust of the seaman Adams in this Memorial Park has been carved by a sculptor Kenji Shigeoka under the request of Ito city on the occasion of its incorporation as a city. Also, the sculpture was carved to commemorate the birth of first Western style sailboat in Ito.

Unveiling ceremony of these sculptures were performed on August 10, 1987. Ever since, Anjin Festival is grandly held every year on August 10th matching with its incorporation as a city.

1- 9) TOJIN STREAM AND THE MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH OF FIRST WESTERN STYLE SAILBOAT BUILT BY WILLIAM ADAMS (MIURA ANJIN)



At the early period of Edo era, Miura Anjin is said to have built a Western style sailboat at Ito beach for the first time in Japan; the order was made by Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of Edo Shogunate. The

shipbuilding yard seems to have been located somewhere around the mouths of Matsukawa and Tojingawa.

The Anjin monument is located at this point. The mosaic floor on the sandbar illustrates the process of sailboat building.

1- 10) TOJINGAWA (TOJIN STREAM)

Used to be a clearly separated stream from Matsukawa stream , however , it isn't left as a clear stream like Matsukawa stream. Yet , it is worth remembering as historical stream that somewhere around the mouths of the two streams there had been built first and second Western style sail boats by William Adams ,“Miurea Anjin .”

The reason visitors and Itoite do not show any interests in Tojingawa may exist in current appearance of the stream , the vestiges of which will not be seen any more .

1- 11) STONE FOR BUILDING EDO CASTLE

In Ito, there are many quarries. At the beginning of Edo era, they quarried a number of big stones for building the walls of the Edo castle. Quarries are called “Ishikirichoba” or simply “Ishichoba” means a spot where stones are quarried. A lot of stones were found in the caves called



“yaana” and are carved with seals of Daimyo (Feudal lord) certifying the owner of the stones.

On the top of the mountain Nako in Usami, there left a marker stone saying “Quarries for Hashiba Ecchu no Kami, ” who was the feudal lord of Kokura province , Kyushu.

1- 12) MATSUKAWA PROMENADE

The promenade is about 1 kilometer starting from Nagisa Bridge (nagisa means a beach) at the mouth of Matsukawa stream (matu means pine) up to Oka Bridge (oka means a hill) in the city. Alongside the promenade, you can see many sets of artistic panel and monument by the artists



Alongside the promenade, you can see many sets of artistic panel and monument by the artists such as Kenji Shigeoka and others who are closely related to Ito; a relief of Mokutaro Kinoshita, Anjin Monument by Kenji Shigeoka and etc., etc.

A fine view of Tokaikan and Inaba Inn from Ideyu Bridge

(ideyu means spa) has been chosen as one of the fifty selected spots in Shizuoka Ken.

1- 13) SAISEIJI TEMPLE

Yaehime, Ito Sukechika's daughter, was blessed with a child between she and Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147~1199), the first Shogun of Kamakura Shogunate (1185~1333).

The incident had occurred while Yoritomo was staying in Izu. The child called Chizurumaru ,



however, died at an early age and Yaehime was also separated from Yoritomo to become a mistress for Kano Koshiro due to the political reason.

Koshiro is said to have permitted Yaehime to erect a temple to pray for the soul of her child, Chizurumaru. The graveyard of Ito family was originally located at Tokoji Temple, but after this temple was closed down at the age of Edo era, Saiseiji Temple succeeded the graveyard which is now designated as cultural assets by Ito City.

1- 14) OTONASHI SHRINE (SHRINE OF SILENCE)

The town around here is literally translated as the town of silence (Otonashi-Cho). The origin of this town name goes back to the days of Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147~1199), the first Shogun of



Kamakura Shogunate. While he stayed in Izu he used to meet his lover Yaehime (Ito Sukechika's daughter) at this shrine.

While talking they found the stream nearby sound so noisy, so, Yoritomo barked at it. The stream, then, all of a sudden,

became silent. This legend is said to have brought about the

word "silence" to this area. Hence, this shrine is called "Otonashi Shrine" and the town "Otonashi Cho".

Big camphor and pasania trees in the shrine are designated as a natural monument by Ito City.

The shrine is also said to be good for ladies to have an easy delivery.

"Higurashi Shrine is also located opposite to this shrine across the Matsukawa stream where Yoritomo is said to have been dating with Yaehime all day long until the sunset (higure or higurashi). The forests where these two shrines are located are respectively called "Otonashi no Mori (forest)" and "Higurashi no Mori".

1-15) KUZUMI SHRINE

A camphor tree in this shrine is one of the Big Three Izu Peninsula together with the one at Atami and the other at Kawazu. These three camphor trees are designated as National natural monument.

Building method of the shrine is based on an ancient style in the age of Engi (around the year 900).

The shrine was long worshipped as a guardian deity of the Ito family.



in

1-16) TORINJI TEMPLE

Torinji Temple was built by Ito Sukechika to pray for the soul of his son Kawazu Saburo Sukeyasu.

Saburo Sukeyasu and his sons' grave is on the hill behind the temple.

Sukeyasu's grandsons are called "Soga brothers" who

avenged the death of their father. 33 stone Kannon (the goddess of Mercy) are enshrined alongside an approach to the grave.

In the main hall of the temple, there is a section for the Ito family and the mortuary tablets of all the Ito family including Sukechika's are enshrined.



1-17) MONOMIGA OKA (Viewing Plateau)



This heroic bronze statue is the one of Ito Sukechika. He was descended from the Fujiwara clan and gave his real name as Kudo which came from the Kano clan. He moved to Izu from the Province of Suruga and lived in Kano manor as a vice-minister of the Province of Izu.

Then he started to build up the Province of Ito to govern the place as a minister. He demonstrated his ability in completing the Province of Ito and contributed to the elevation of its riparian work and cultural promotion.

The statue expresses a brave figure of general Ito Suketika with his glaring eyes.

Kawazu Saburo Sukeyasu is his son and Soga no Juro and Goro are his grandsons who are well known as "The brothers who took revenge on their father's enemy."

1- 18) WRITTEN OATH FROM LONG NOSED GOBLIN (TENGU)

Around the age of 1660 (the 3rd year of Manji era), Kashiwa Mountain pass was often haunted by a long-nosed goblin (Tengu) and he tormented many travelers passing by.

Nichian, the chief priest in Myoshoji Temple, therefore, offered 7 days continuous prayer to exorcise an evil spirit.

On the last day of prayer he made the huge tree on the pass cut down to find the written oath hung on the branch. Since then, there happened to occur no kinds of mischief around the pass.

They believed this oath must have been written by Tengu. The oath finds so many letters which are almost impossible to decipher even for modern linguists and yet people believe this is truly a written oath from Tengu telling that he would never torment the travelers passing by the Kashiwa Mountain pass. Moshioji Temple was located next door to existing Butsugenji Temple where the written oath is well preserved.



1- 19) MEMORIAL BIRTH HOUSE OF MOKUTARO WITH ITS PORTION (MUNICIPAL MEMORIAL BUILDING)

Mokutaro Kinoshita (1885~1945), M.D., poet, play writer and Professor of Tokyo University, a real name Masao Ota was born in this house in August 1st, 1885 as a youngest child of the family. They ran a shop here as shown in this old shop building on the front side.



The shop house on the front side was built in 1907 and also this birth house of him on the back side was built in 1835, an oldest private house in Ito. It is now designated as cultural assets of Ito City.