

Opening Information

Place of ISHIKAWA Takuboku's Death

[Open] All Year
[Hours] All Day
[Fee] Free

Memorial to Ishikawa Takuboku Monument and Gallery

[Open] All Year (except the Year-End and New Year and the exceptional closing period)
[Hours] 9:00~17:00
[Fee] Free

Koishikawa Botanical Garden

[Open] All Year (except Mondays and the Year-End and New Year. If a holiday falls on Monday, closed on Tuesday. If there are consecutive holidays, the day after the last holiday will be closed)
[Hours] 9:00~16:30 (Enter by 16:00)
[Fee] General ¥ 400 (a group more than 20 pers ¥ 300), Elementary school & Jr High school student ¥ 130 (a group guided by teachers more than 20 pers High school, Jr College, University students ¥ 250, Elementary school & Jr High school students ¥ 100)

Main Building of the Former Tokyo Igakko (Koishikawa Annex, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo)

[Open] All Year (except Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays)
[Hours] 10:00~16:30
[Fee] Free
※ You cannot enter or re-enter the Koishikawa Botanical Garden from the Koishikawa Annex.

Front Gate of Ochanomizu University

[Open] All Year
[Hours] All Day
[Fee] Free



Main Hall of Gokoku-ji Temple

[Open] All Year (except special events or activities at the main hall)
※ The principal image is unveiled on the 18th of each month
[Hours] All Day
[Fee] Free

Former McCaleb Residence (Old Missionary House, Zoshigaya)

[Open] All Year (except Mondays, Sunday of the 3rd week and the Year-End and New Year. If a holiday falls on them, the following day)
[Hours] 9:00~16:30
[Fee] Free

Avenue of Zelkova Trees at Kishimojin Daimon

[Open] All Year
[Hours] All Day
[Fee] Free

Ginkgo of Zoshigaya Kishimojin

[Open] All Year
[Hours] 8:00~17:00
[Fee] Free

Kishimojin-do Hall, Zoshigaya

Image of OMORI Hikoshichi; color on wooden board

Image of San'nin Shizuka Shirabyoshi; color on wooden board

[Open] All Year
[Hours] 8:00~17:00
[Fee] Free

Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan

[Open] All Year (except Mondays, If a holiday falls on them, Tuesday)
[Hours] 10:00~16:00
[Fee] ¥ 400

Tokyo Heritage Week

Let's take a stroll around Koishikawa and Zoshigaya !

A rolling land of Koishikawa and Zoshigaya area is formed by midsize and small rivers pouring into Kanda-gawa River and plateau. Koishikawa area is known for temples associated with the Tokugawa Shogunate, and temple towns were developed around such temples, territories and roadside of "Kasuga-dori Street" and "Otowa-dori Street". Tokugawa Tsunayoshi, the fifth shogun, specially had a close connection to the area. Zoshigaya Kishimojin Temple was worshipped by a wide range of believers and thrived in the Edo period.

This route introduces the historic sites such as Gokoku-ji Temple and Zoshigaya Kishimojin Temple that allow us to experience the atmosphere of the Edo period, as well as the Former McCaleb Residence and Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan built in the Meiji and the Taisho era. While going up and down many slopes like Edoite, let's discover historic charm of Koishikawa and Zoshigaya area and experience the topography of Tokyo.



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Tokyo Metropolitan Office of Education
Nishi-Shinjuku 2-8-1, Shinjuku City Tokyo 163-8001
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Let's take a stroll around Koishikawa and Zoshigaya !

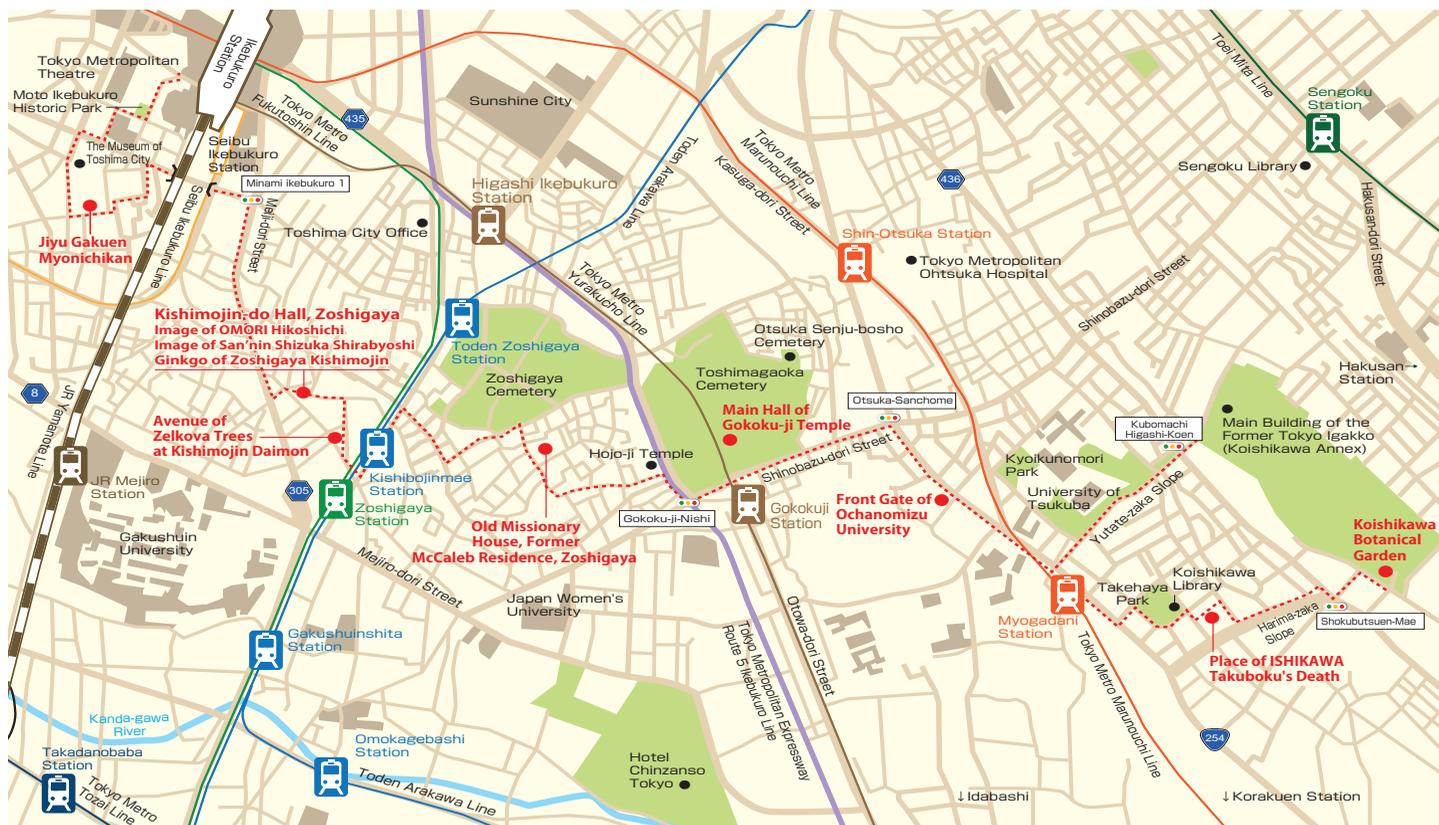
Koishikawa is on the north bank of Kanda-gawa River in Bunkyo City and covers the area from the around of Iidabashi to Myogadani. Its north-east area is called Hakusan and the west is on Kohinata Plateau. Koishikawa Botanical Garden is located on the site of Hakusan Palace where TOKUGAWA Tsunayoshi, the fifth shogun, spent his life before becoming a shogun, and is around the boundary of Hakusan area. Kanda-gawa River from Iida-bahi Bridge to Asakusa-bashi Bridge served a function as a part of Moat of Edo Castle. Although the main residence of Mito Tokugawa Family was settled on the north of the river, this area was basically rural where it was far from Oshu-dochu Road and Nakasen-do Road on the east and the territories of temple and the residences of samurai scattered. The temple town was formed around the temples connected to the shogunate and these territories such as Dentsu-in Temple and Gokoku-ji Temple, and along the streets to those temples, like "Kasuga-dori Street" and "Otowa-dori Street". Zoshigaya is the area covering the valley and plateau to the west of Gokoku-ji Temple.

The feature of this area is rolling land formed by midsize and small rivers pouring into Kanda-gawa River and the plateau. The central part of the

west of vast Musashino Plateau lying between Ara-kawa River (Iruma-gawa River) and Tama-gawa River was inconvenient for water and the grove of Musashino extended on most area before building Tamagawa-josui Water Supply. However, a lot of midsize and small rivers of which source are spring water, such as Inogashira-ike Pond, are seen on the east part of the plateau around from the edge of wards. The rivers scrape the plateau and form the topography with a lot of slopes, complicated plateau and lowland. Kanda-gawa River, of which source is Inogashira-ike Pond, is the largest river on the north of Edo Castle and flows southward from around Sekiguchi (Edogawa-bashi) to Iida-bashi, is forked east and west into the canals of the Edo Period, and finally flows into Tokyo Bay.

On this walking route, we are starting from Koishikawa Botanical Garden to Kasuga-dori Street, passing by Gokoku-ji Temple, and going toward Zoshigaya and Ikebukuro. We can access to Koishikawa Botanical Garden by Hakusan Station and Myogadani Station on the subway, a little far, by Kasuga Station and Korakuen Station. From the end of this route, Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan, we are going to leave for JR Mejiro Station or JR Ikebukuro Station. Of course, we can follow the opposite route.

This area is wholly urbanized at present, but you are going to go up and down frequently a lot of slopes on this route. How about experiencing directly the topography of Tokyo and the old days of Koishikawa and Zoshigaya!



Let's walk about Koishikawa!

Koishikawa Botanical Garden can be accessed from the three stations because of its extensive area. We recommend you to take the route from Myogadani Station to the front gate of Koishikawa Botanical Garden via Place of ISHIKAWA Takuboku's Death. It is difficult to find where Place of ISHIKAWA Takuboku's Death is located, but you should go south from Myogadani Station along Kasuga-dori Street, and head for Koishikawa Library from Takehaya Park. From the Place of ISHIKAWA Takuboku's Death, going to Harima-zaka Slope and down the slope to the east, and then you will find the Botanical Garden.

The main gate is the only way into the Garden, but you can go out from the main gate and the gate at Main Building of the Former Tokyo Igakko (Koishikawa Annex of the University Museum, the University of Tokyo). Moving around the Garden and going out from the gate at Koishikawa Annex, you just arrive at Yutate-zaka Slope. Going up the slope looking Akagane-goten Building on the left side, you arrive at Myogadani Station through Kasuga-dori Street. Turning right at the Kasuga-dori Street and passing the front of the Ochanomizu University, you go down to the left along Shinobazu-dori Street. Passing Otsuka Senju-bosho Cemetery on the right, via Toshimagaoka Cemetery, you arrive at Gokoku-ji Temple. The main hall of the temple is on the plateau, but this route is the easiest to walk, because you just need once to go up and down the slopes to Kasuga-dori Street.



Place of ISHIKAWA Takuboku's Death

Historic Place of Tokyo
Designated for Historic Site on November 3, 1952
Designated for Historic place on March 28, 1955

ISHIKAWA Takuboku, known as a poet and a critic, was born in 1886 in Hido, Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture. He came up to Tokyo, having a dream to establish himself in the literary world, and lived in Otowa, Bunkyo City, but soon he ruined his health and returned home. Later, he spent his time in Hokkaido for a year. He came up to Tokyo again for his creative activities, and lodged at Sekishin-kan House and Gaihei-kan Villa around Hongo. Afterwards, he moved to Kinotoko House and invited his family to live together. He suffered an illness again and moved to Hisakatacho (present 5-chome Koishi-

kawa, Bunkyo City) in 1911. He passed away here from tuberculosis at the young age of twenty-six in 1912. The single-storied house he lived in those days was burned down by the air raid in 1945. At present, an apartment building is built on its site and only the sign explaining the story as a historic place is set at that entrance. A monument inscribed with Takuboku's death poems and a gallery are built at the eastern border of that building. At the gallery, photographs, panels and a chronological table are exhibited, mainly composed of the relations between Takuboku and Bunkyo City. The autograph manuscript (copy) of Takuboku's two death poems and "Letter for YAMAMOTO Senzaburo and Tomiko" (copy) are also exhibited.



Memorial to ISHIKAWA Takuboku Monument and Gallery



Koishikawa Botanical Garden

National Place of Scenic Beauty and Historic Site
Designated on September 19, 2012

Koishikawa Botanical Garden is the institute of the Tokyo University for practical training of botany, which covers c. 10,000 square meters. Using the varied topographies from plateau to lowland, various plants adapted to each environment are cultivated for investigation and education.

The origin of this garden is a medical herb garden of Tokugawa shogunate moved into Hakusan-goten Palace in 1684, where Tsunayoshi, the fifth shogun, spent his childhood. The shogunate ordered the medical herb gardens to cultivate medical herbs and trees collected from not only all over Japan, but also China and Korea, which were main suppliers of medical herbs and trees in Japan. Koishikawa Yojosho Medical Facilities were also built here for relief of the poor. To indicate the long history of the botanical garden, the Medical Herb Cultivation was renovated with the historical plants, mainly Chinese quince trees and jujube trees, and also there are many ruins such as the well of the Medical Facilities and herbarium where the herb is dried. The garden is where AOKI Konyo succeeded in cultivating sweet potatoes and its monument was built in 1915.

In the Meiji period, here was under the control of the medical school at first, and later maintained as a botanical garden attached to the Tokyo University. The garden started to be open to the public at that time. In 1896, the botanist HIRASE Sakugoro discovered spermatozoa of ginkgo and IKENO Seiichiro did those of cycad here,

and received high evaluations even overseas.

In 1900, the huge greenhouse was built on the plateau, which was rare at that time, and the symmetrical and geometrical garden around the greenhouse was created, while a Japanese garden originated in Hakusan-goten Palace remains on the lowland. The present landscape of Koishikawa Botanical Garden might be formed at that time. Koishikawa Botanical Garden was designated as National Place of Scenic Beauty and Historic Site in 2012, evaluated in the following points; to be the important place on the history of medical and botanical science because of the modern botanical garden originated in the site of the medical herb garden in the Edo period, to be well-preserved allotment of land in those days, and to have the beauty of the forest of Japanese garden and botanical garden.

The main building of former Tokyo Medical School (National Important Cultural Property) built in 1876 was relocated and reconstructed in the garden and shows the beautiful scenery.



Koishikawa Botanical Garden Japanese garden and the main building of the former Tokyo Igakko



Front Gate of Ochanomizu University

National Tangible Cultural Properties (Buildings)
Registered on March 7, 2008

The history of Ochanomizu University, which became a university under the new system in 1949, dates back to the foundation of the Tokyo Women's Normal School in Yushima in 1875. After the school buildings were destroyed during the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, the school moved to the present location in Otsuka, together with affiliated kindergarten, elementary school and girls' high school.

The front gate was designed by the Ministry of Education architecture section and was built in 1936. It applied reinforced concrete construction and was finished with Mannari stone (a kind of granite) on the surface. It is done in a simple and geometrical design, but finished carefully in detail. The lighting equipment on the gateposts also applied geometrical designs.

As a central focus of the reconstruction of the school from 1931 to 1932, the main building, the lecture hall, and the affiliated kindergarten building were rebuilt to be of appropriate in scale and facilities benefitting a national institution of higher education. A royal suite for empress' visit was also equipped, which speaks to the importance of the school in the educational world of Japan. The kindergarten was found in 1876 as one of the first kindergartens in Japan.



Main Hall of Gokoku-ji Temple

National Important Cultural Properties (Buildings)
Designated on January 19, 1931
Change in structural form and style on February 19, 1957

Gokoku-ji Temple, a head temple of the buzan sect of Shingon Buddhism and also known as "Shinreizan Shicchi-in", was built in 1681 by the fifth shogun TOKUGAWA Tsunayoshi upon the request of his mother, Keishoin. The priest Ryoken was invited as a founder.

Kannon-do hall, now main hall of the temple, was completed in 1697. The main approach (current Otowa-dori Street) was also improved for the visit of Tsunayoshi and Keishoin on the day of the opening ceremony, and became bustling with many people.

The magnificent main hall, a width of 7 ken and a depth of 7 ken at the beam, designed in blending of Japanese and Chinese styles. Surprisingly it was completed less than one year after the shogunate's order.

In the Meiji era, numbers of important people in the political and business worlds raised their tomb at its cemetery. Moreover, TAKAHASHI Soan, a businessman and a master of tea ceremony, built and donated tea houses aiming to improve Gokoku-ji Temple as a capital of the tea ceremony in Tokyo. Many of them were designed and constructed by OGI Rodo.

Gekko-den hall was originally built as a guest hall of Nikko-in, a branch temple of Onjo-ji Temple in Otsu city, Shiga prefecture. It was first relocated to a residence of a business man HARA Rokuro and named "Keicho-kan," and donated to Gokoku-ji Temple in 1928 as a tea house thanks to Soan.

The hall has some characteristics such as karahafu (Chinese-style gable) and Chumon (middle gate) in the facade, and Chumon-ro (middle gateway corridor) which jut out to the south. The hall is designed in the Shoinzukuri-style and has almost the same appearance as Kyaku-den hall of Kojo-in Temple (designated as National Treasure), which is a branch temple of Onjo-ji Temple as well. It is important as a representative architecture of the Momoyama period (late 16th-early 17th century).



Main Hall of Gokoku-ji Temple

Let's walk about Zoshigaya!

Going from Gokoku-ji Temple to the west, crossing Otowa-dori Street at the signal (Gokoku-ji Nishi) under the speedway, you come into Toshima City. Going up the narrow slope paralleled to Shinobazu-dori Street, you walk toward Former Mansion of Missionary. It is difficult to know how to go, so please check the guide boards. It is not so far from Former McCaleb Residence to Zoshigaya Cemetery.

Zoshigaya Cemetery is one of the oldest public cemeteries, which was established in 1874 together with Aoyama Cemetery and Somei Cemetery. Although Historic Place of Tokyo is only 'Grave of Raphael von Koeber' in the cemetery, there are many graves of prominent figures, like NATSUME Soseki, KOIZUMI Yakumo, NAGAI Kafu and so on.

From Zoshigaya Cemetery, passing through Zoshigaya Station (metro and tram), via Avenue of Zelkova Trees at Kishimojin Daimon in Zoshigaya, you arrive at Kishimojin-do Hall. From Kishimojin-do Hall, walking through the street of stores to Ikebukuro, coming on Meiji-dori Street, you go toward Ikebukuro. Going to the west at the crossing (Minami Ikebukuro 1chome), passing under Ikebukuro Over-road Bridge, you walk toward Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan. This route is finished here, but on your way to go to Ikebukuro Station, we recommend stopping at the Museum of Toshima City in IKE-Biz and "Moto Ikebukuro Historic Park" where is the site that the place name of Ikebukuro is said to be derived from here and 'ike' pond was reconstructed.



Former McCaleb Residence (Old Missionary House, Zoshigaya)

Tangible Cultural Property (Buildings) of Tokyo
Designated on March 3, 1999

Former McCaleb Residence (Old Missionary House, Zoshigaya) was built for a Tennessee-born American missionary J.M. McCaleb (1861-1953), who came to Japan to preach Christianity in 1892, after he moved to Zoshigaya in 1907. McCaleb lived there for 34 years before returning to America in 1941.

While living in Zoshigaya, McCaleb established a school to educate future Japanese generations, and launched a journal "Michishirube". Included were the school and vegetable gardens for self-sufficiency, but only the propagator's residence survives today. Since 1989, "Old Missionary House, Zoshigaya" has opened to the public as an annex of the Toshima City Local Museum and is often used as a venue for holding lectures.

This two-story wooden building has a gabled roof with bargeboards on three sides, expansive terrace-formed entrance porch, and large bay windows. Its exterior wall is fashioned in the shitami-itabari style (wooden board siding with battens) and coated with paint. Also, simple but characteristic curved decorations are applied at the end of bargeboards and columns of the entrance porch. These features represent the Carpenter Gothic Style that was used for many American suburban houses in the late 19th century.

To create a bright and comfortable space, each floor was planned in a T-shape consisting of three rooms, with its circumference surrounded by sun parlors and a corridor from the stairwell. A central fireplace was installed for common use where the three rooms are adjoining. A dining room, a living room and a church office were located on the first floor, and the second floor was used for the bedrooms. The interior of the rooms also bear many attractive features such as the mantelpiece for the fireplaces which are gorgeously decorated with Art Nouveau Style tiles, and Japanese Style bamboo ceiling ribs for the second floor bedrooms.

This is important as one of few remaining missionary houses of the Meiji era in Tokyo.



Former McCaleb Residence (Old Missionary House, Zoshigaya)

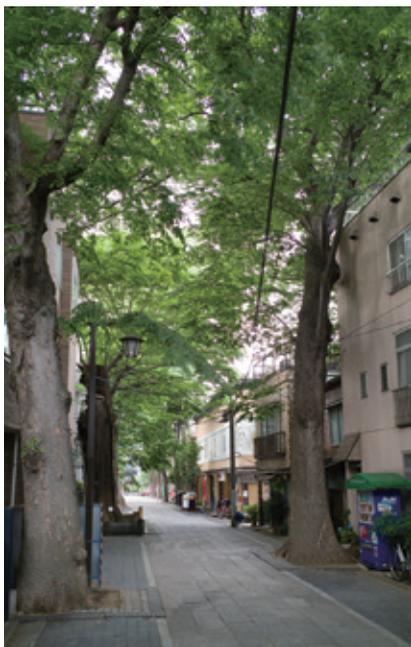


Avenue of Zelkova Trees at Kishimojin Daimon

Natural Monument of Tokyo
Designated on April 18, 1940

The approach from Kishibojinmae Station (Arakawa Line) to Kishimojin-do Hall is lined with Japanese zelkova trees in lengths of about 100 meters. The history of the trees is said that NAGASHIMA Takumi in Zoshigaya donated dozens of zelkova trees with land in the Tensho era (1573-1592). The number of the old trees estimated over 600 years old was confirmed as nineteen in 1935, but at present only the three on the east side of the approach and one on the west remain, because they were cut down while laying drainpipes and maintaining the approach. Local volunteers, Toshima City and Tokyo Metropolitan Government plant new zelkova trees on the places cut down, in order to renovate the landscape.

The Volunteer activities of ‘Avenue of Zelkova Trees at Kishimojin Daimon Preservation Society’ are indispensable on the conservation of this Natural Monument. That society was based on the Seiten Rinri-kai Society formed with AKITA Ujaku (playwright/critic), KABUTOGI Shoko (the chief priest of Hono-ji Temple) and so on and started in 1940. There is a stone monument at the left side of the entrance of the approach, inscribed “Natural Monument of Tokyo. Avenue of Zelkova Trees at Kishimojin Daimon”. This monument was built by the Preservation Society in May, 1955 and KABUTOGI Shoko (the first president of this society) wrote the letters. Local volunteers succeed to the Preservation Society up to now and take an ordinary care of the trees.



Avenue of Zelkova Trees at Kishimojin Daimon



Ginkgo of Zoshigaya Kishimojin

Natural Monument of Tokyo
Designated on August 21, 1956

A huge ginkgo on the left of Kishimojin-do Hall is said to be planted by Sojo Nichiyu in the Oei era (1394-1427). The ginkgo is estimated about 700 years old, 32.5 meters in height and 6.63 meters in tree trunk. The branches of the tree spread about 10 meters far and wide and its vitality is very fine.

Many breast-shaped knots are hung down from the branches. It has been believed that mothers who hugged the tree is blessed with children from the Edo period. The ginkgo was designated as National Natural Monument (second class) on July 8th, 1930, but canceled on January 13th, 1956 and designated as Natural Monument of Tokyo on August 21th, 1956. A stone monument in front of the tree inscribed “Natural Monument, Ginkgo of Kishimojin” was built by Nichiryu (46th chief priest of Homyo-ji Temple), commemorating the designation in 1930.

This tree was also designated as a first tree of Toshima City Important Trees for Landscape in March, 2017.



Ginkgo of Zoshigaya Kishimojin



Kishimojin-do Hall, Zoshigaya

National Important Cultural Properties (Buildings)
Designated on July 25, 2016

Kishimojin (skt. Hārītī) is worshiped as a goddess who bestows the blessings of childbirth and easy delivery. In 1561, a statue of Kishimojin was excavated from the farm field and a thatched hut was built by villagers to enshrine the statue in 1578. It is said that the main building was constructed in 1625. Zoshigaya Kishimojin was worshipped by a wide range of believers, with commoners and samurai lords and even the Shogun often visiting the temple in the Edo period. It belongs to Iko-zan Homyo-ji Temple today.

The present main building was built in 1664 as a contribution by Princess Man (Jishoin), who was the third daughter of the MAEDA Toshitsune, the lord of Kaga domain, and a wife of ASANO Mitsuakira, the lord of Hiroshima domain. An inscription on the roof truss bears the name of Princess Man. There is also an inscription that mentions a chief carpenter named TANAKA Shodayu Munetomo and 58 carpenters who were retained to engage in this construction by the Hiroshima clan.

The shrine was built in the gongen-zukuri style in which the main hall and worship hall are connected by an intermediate room. The main hall was built in the sangensha nagare-zukuri (three-bay wide structure with a gable roof) with black lacquered walls, and the ceiling cornice and fold-up lattice ceiling are covered with gold foil. The floor is tatami-matted and a small shrine on a shumidan platform which was donated in 1646 is placed at the innermost of the hall. Its eaves are constructed of futanoki-shigedaruki (dense double-rafters), and the gable ornaments are decorated with niju-koryo taiheizuka kako (double beams and large bottle-shape post), supported by large kaerumata (frog's-leg strut) with cloud motifs.

The worship hall and intermediate room were constructed in 1700. The front eaves of the worship hall is decorated with karahafu (cusped gable) and chidorihafu (plover gable) with curved demons, and the front corridor is splendidly ornamented with the curvings, such as dragons, lion-nose-shaped, elephant-nose-shaped and so on.



Kishimojin-do Hall, Zoshigaya

Additionally, the many donated objects dating back to the Genroku era (1688-1704) placed in the main building and precincts tell us that the temple received a variety of votive offerings.

The Myoken-gu Shrine built in 1788 is located behind the main building. It is important as a building with a particularly complex structure that combines together various construction forms from different time periods.



Image of OMORI Hikoshichi; color on wooden board

Tangible Cultural Properties of Tokyo (Paintings)
Designated on November 3, 1953

This hermitage shaped Ema (votive picture tablet) measuring 145cm in height and 182cm in width made with paulownia wood represents a warrior carrying a monstrous woman on his back. It depicts a scene from the mysterious story of OMORI Hikoshichi drawn from the “Taiheiki” (Japanese historical epic) vol.23, which was later dramatized for Joruri (recitative drama) and Kabuki.

The story is as follows: OMORI Hikoshichi was a brave warrior who drove KUSUNOKI Masashige into suicide at the battle of Minatogawa. He gained the Iyo domain as a reward. One night, on the way to the celebratory feast where his family performs, Hikoshichi meets a beautiful lady who is afraid of the dark streets and carries her on his back for help. However as they approach the dark path, the lady suddenly turns into a female demon and tries to wrest Hikoshichi's holy sword which has a power to overthrow the reins of regime. It turns out that the lady was an incarnation of KUSUNOKI Masashige's revengeful spirit.

This painting captures the exact moment when the demon stretches her hand for the holy sword with a eerie smile, and at the same time, Hikoshichi feels something unusual and looking into the watery surface of a puddle and realizes what she really is.

It was painted by TORIYAMA Sekien (1712-88), who is known as the master of KITAGAWA Utamaro (1753-1806). He was famous for his innovative illustrations of monsters and his encyclopedia of monsters such as “the Illustrated Demon Horde's Night Parade” (1776) earned popularity among the people. In this Ema painting, Sekien delicately depicts the contrast of the two in detail: the female demon with mixture of elegance and grotesqueness; and the muscular Hikoshichi with his courageous heart but slightly flinching in fear. Since few of Sekien's original paintings remain, it is an important example that shows Sekien's highly skilled brushwork.



Image of OMORI Hikoshichi © INOUE Kumiko



Image of San'nin Shizuka Shirabyoshi; color on wooden board

Tangible Cultural Properties of Tokyo (Paintings)
Designated on November 3, 1953

Three Kabuki actors dressed as Shirabyoshi (a female dancer in male attire) are painted on a huge Ema (votive picture tablet) measuring 227 cm in height and 145cm in width. Its frame is decorated with metal ornaments that bear the crest of Nakamura-za Kabuki theatre. By looking at the crests on each sleeve of actors' flamboyant costumes, which shows the family crest of the BANDO family on the left sleeve and the character of the actor's name on right sleeve, one can tell that the standing figure is BANDO Shuka I (1813-55), and the two sitting figures are his own son Kichiya I(1846-73) on the right and his adopted son Tamasaburo II(1830-72) on the left as one faces it. Shuka I was the most popular female-role actor around the 1850s. In April 1850, Shuka I joined in the Nakamura-za company and performed a celebratory dance named "Daisho no Mai" that was first performed by NAKAMURA Kanzaburo I (1598-1658) and handed down within the NAKAMURA family as a secret piece. In that particular performance, Shuka I performed with Tamasaburo II and ICHIKAWA Shinsha I(1821-78) , not with Kichiya because he did not make his debut in age 5 until the following year. Shuka I probably devoted this Ema to pray for his success at the Nakamura-za company as well as for the growth of his sons as actors, hoping to perform "Daisho no Mai" with them in the future.

This Ema was painted by TORII Kiyomitsu II (1788-1868), who initially identified himself as the Ukiyo-e painter Kiyomine. In 1815 he was renamed after succeeding the fifth generation of TORII family and concentrated mainly on the family business of painting billboards at the theater and pictures for play-bills.

Image of San'nin Shizuka Shirabyoshi © INOUE Kumiko



Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan

National Important Cultural Properties (Buildings)
Designated on may 29, 1997

Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan, a former girls' school building of Jiyu Gakuen School, was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), one of the most influential architects of the 20th century, and his pupil ENDO Arata (1889-1955) in 1921. The Jiyu Gakuen School was

founded by HANI Motoko (1873-1957) and her husband, Yoshikazu(1880-1955), who were journalists and launched a women's opinion magazine "Fujin no Tomo" after they got married and retired from the newspaper company. When their daughters came of age to go to school, they had doubts about the school education system of the time and decided to found a girls' school.

The couple first asked ENDO, an acquaintance at the church they attended, to design their school building. However, ENDO, who was working as an assistant for Wright's project constructing the Imperial Hotel at that time, introduced them to Wright without hesitation. Impressed by Motoko's educational philosophy, Wright accepted to undertake the design of their new school.

After the main campus was relocated to Higashikurume City in 1934, the former school building was renamed "Myonichikan" (House of Tomorrow) and used by school alumni as an institute of craft and for various activities. It was designated as an Important Cultural Property in 1997 and large-scale restoration work was conducted over the course of three years. Today, Myonichikan has open to the public and is often used as a venue for wedding ceremonies, concerts and lectures. It has become popular among the people and a striking example of "how to preserve cultural property while utilizing its cultural asset".

The school building represents Wright's iconic architectural style of what has been called "the Prairie Style", in which the height of the eaves was kept lower to emphasize the horizontal line. The interior was designed in the skip-floors elevator arrangement, one that leads us from room to room, then to the outside space through the change of the height. Moreover, one can find notable traits that represent Wright's cherished concept of "the organic architecture" everywhere, such as usage of Ohya stones, a design element that was frequently used for the Imperial Hotel, and the unique geometric design based on the hexagon applied to window frames and furnitures, and so forth.

The auditorium standing across the street was built by ENDO Arata in 1927. He presented many proposals for school buildings and here implemented various design advancements for the positioning of the entrance, sound system, and how to arrange a large space. After seismic reinforcing work was completed in July 2017, it reopened to the public.

Central part of school building: built in 1921
*According to diary
*Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, ENDO Arata
East classroom wing: built in 1925
*According to "Fujin-no-Tomo"
*Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, ENDO Arata
West classroom wing: built in 1925
*According to diary, et al
*Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, ENDO Arata
Lecture Hall: built in 1927
*Designed by ENDO Arata



Hall of Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan