

From temple town  
to arts district

# Uptown Ueno

Ueno & Yanaka walking map

Old Tokyo Walking Guide No.6 English



Trace the city's modern transformation  
from Edo to Tokyo

## Uncover one of Edo's famed landmarks, Kan'ei-ji Temple

In the Edo Period, present-day Ueno Park was entirely within the grounds of Kan'ei-ji Temple. Kan'ei-ji possessed an aura of grandeur as a family temple of the ruling Tokugawa Shogun, home to 36 smaller temples while also being loved by commoners as one of Edo's most beautiful spots. After most of the temple burned down in the Battle of Ueno in 1868, much of the grounds became the site of Ueno Park and its cluster of art and academic institutions. Traces of the old temple can still be found throughout the park.

## Enjoy temples, art, and local culture

Along with the founding of Kan'ei-ji, many temples began to locate to the north of Ueno Park in the neighborhood of Yanaka. In the Edo Period, the area became enlivened as a place to walk amid the commoners' temples and shrines and natural scenery. Yanaka was home to artists engaged in traditional crafts such as metalworking and carving, as well as calligraphers and performers. When museums and the Tokyo School of the Arts were opened atop Ueno Hill in the Meiji Period, it became home to industries supporting artistic culture, causing many artists and authors to move into the area. Explore the Yanaka area, many parts of which survived the city's destruction by earthquake and bombing, preserving the everyday culture of the mid-20th century and the neighborhood's strong connection to Ueno.

Cover image: "Famous Scenery of Edo: Tennōji." Yanaka was once home to one of the four great pagodas of Edo, which became the model for a novel by Koda Rohan. In 1957, the tower was destroyed in a sensational double-suicide arson incident, but its foundation can still be seen in the cemetery.



"Ukiyoe Tōeizan Chūdō no zu" In front of the Konpon Chūdō Main Hall of Kan'ei-ji during the Edo Period. People can be seen visiting the temple.

## Uptown Ueno route

## Walk through a town steeped in the history and culture of Edo and Tokyo

This route begins from Ueno Park and continues through Yanaka, exploring sites of history and culture from various eras. Now known as a "cultural park" filled with cultural facilities and academic institutions, Ueno Hill was once completely occupied by the sprawling Kan'ei-ji Temple. Taking note of the temple's remnants that can still be found inside Ueno Park, we will trace the history of Ueno Hill as it changed from Kan'ei-ji's stately grounds into a modern park. As you continue to the north past Kan'ei-ji's current location to Ueno Sakuragi and Yanaka, the park gives way to a well-preserved local neighborhood that retains much of the scale and layout of the Edo Period. This area is one of Tokyo's largest temple districts, and a peaceful corner of the city where you can appreciate Tokyo's everyday life.

## Uptown Ueno route

**Distance:** around 5 km  
**Time needed:** about 3 hours  
**Access to Ueno Park:**  
3 minute walk from Ueno Station on the JR Lines and Tokyo Metro Ginza and Hibiya Lines  
1 minute walk from Keisei Ueno Station on the Keisei Main Line  
**Access to Nezu Shrine:**  
Nezu Station and Sendagi Station on Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line  
Todaimae Station on Tokyo Metro Namboku Line



Kaisandō (Ryōdaishi)

## Major festivals

Please check the Internet for specific dates.

Late March~early April (depending on cherry blossom season) Ueno Park

## Ueno Cherry Blossom Festival

Ueno Hill has been a popular spot to see cherry blossoms ever since Kan'ei-ji was founded. Today there are more than 1,200 trees in the park, which attracts many revelers each year.

Early April~early May Nezu Shrine

## Bunkyo Azalea Festival

A variety of events are held at Nezu Shrine during the Azalea Festival, when some 3,000 azalea bushes of 100 different types are in bloom on the shrine grounds.

Early September Tokyo University of the Arts

## Geisai (Arts Festival)

The annual student-run festival at the Tokyo University of the Arts takes place on campus and in Ueno Park, where students parade and sell their artworks.

Early October Daien-ji Temple

## Yanaka Chrysanthemum Festival

Begun in 1984 by local residents, this festival pays homage to the chrysanthemum dolls that were made in nearby Dango-zaka until the late 19th century. Includes an exhibit of chrysanthemum dolls and sale of potted flowers.

October Yanaka, Nezu, Sendagi, Nippori, Ueno Sakuragi, Ikenohata

## Geikōten (Arts and Crafts Exhibition)

The Geikōten began in 1993 as a place to share the creative works of local residents and interact with the community. The local area is enlivened as craftsmen open their workshops and studios, and exhibitions are held in galleries, shops, street corners and homes. The exhibition period is a chance for visitors to discover the area's appeal and interact with others around artisan culture.



## Uptown Ueno map



## Locations introduced in this guide

## Ueno area

- Suribachiyama Tomb (5-20 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Shinobazu-no-ike Benten-dō (2-1 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Kiyomizu Kannon-dō (1-29 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Ueno Daibutsu (4-8 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Gojo-tenjin Shrine (4-17 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Hanazono Inari Shrine (4-17 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Tōshōgū (9-88 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Five-story Pagoda (9-83 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Old Ueno Zoo Main Gate (9-83 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Ueno Park Fountain Square (5-6 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Front gate of Kan'ei-ji residence (14 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Kaizando (Ryōdaishi) (14 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Former Museum & Zoo Station (13-23 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku)
- Ueno Sakuragi Atari (2-15-6 Ueno Sakuragi, Taito-ku)
- Kan'ei-ji Konpon Chūdō (1-14-11 Ueno Sakuragi, Taito-ku)

## Yanaka area

- Kayaba Coffee (6-1-29 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Kikutsuki (6-1-3 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Yanaka Okano Eisen (6-1-26 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- SCAI the Bathhouse (6-1-23 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Denzaemon Meshiya (6-1-27 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Yanaka Cemetery (7-5-24 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Tsukiji-bei Wall (5-8-28 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Asakura Museum of Sculpture (7-18-10 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Yanaka Ginza (3 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- HAGISO (3-10-25 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Okakura Tenshin Memorial Park (5-7-10 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Daimyo Clock Museum (2-1-27 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Heibimichi (Snake Street) (2-5-10 Yanaka, Taito-ku)
- Mori Ōgai Memorial Museum (1-23-4 Sendagi, Bunkyo-ku)
- Nezu Shrine (1-28-9 Nezu, Bunkyo-ku)

"Old Tokyo" Walking Guide #6: From temple town to arts district,  
Uptown Ueno: Ueno and Yanaka

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**The Tokyo Cultural Heritage Alliance**  
 The Tokyo Cultural Heritage Alliance (TCHA) brings together business, academic, and government bodies to promote the rich and varied cultural heritage located in north-central Tokyo (“Old Tokyo”) and bring new cultural vitality to the area (launched in April 2015). This pamphlet was produced as part of a series to introduce visitors to a unique route that ties together the area’s varied cultural heritage.

**“Old Tokyo” Walking Guide Series**

- #1: Yushima area walking map: Explore the spiritual culture of Old Tokyo**/Published 1 April 2017
- #2: Edo-Tokyo’s Information Crossroads: “Greater Akiba” Akihabara, Kanda, and Jimbocho**/Published July 25, 2018
- #3: Edo-Tokyo, City of water & culture: Ueno, Hongo and Korakuen**/Published August 25, 2018
- #4: Let’s play! How modern sports came to Tokyo: Kanda, Imperial Palace, & Korakuen**/Published September 25, 2018
- #5: Downtown Ueno: Shitaya & Okachimachi**/Published October 25, 2018

# The city’s evolution from Edo to Tokyo

Uncover the history of Ueno and Yanaka, home to culture from both Edo and Tokyo.

## 1 Kan’ei-ji Temple, Ueno Park’s first incarnation

► **Tenkai’s creation becomes one of Edo’s famous spots**  
 The temple of Kan’ei-ji played a key role in Ueno’s development during the Edo Period. Founded by the Buddhist monk Tenkai in 1625, Kan’ei-ji occupied the site of present-day Ueno Park, and was established to protect the Tokugawa Shogun’s new capital in the same manner as the temple at Hieizan protects Kyoto. Tenkai focused on creating pleasing scenery on Ueno Hill in order to make the temple a leisure spot to be enjoyed by Edo’s commoners. In addition to the grand temple buildings at the center of the site, the design made use of Ueno Hill’s varied topography and the waterfront of Shinobazu Pond. Here Tenkai re-created famous scenery from around Kyoto in the new

“Ueno Tōeizan Keidai.” Women visit Kan’ei-ji Temple during the cherry blossom season.

eastern capital, making the Kiyomizu-do Hall to resemble Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto, Benten-do at the center of Shinobazu Pond to resemble Chikubu Island in Lake Biwa, and planting cherry blossoms from Nara around the hill. Edo-era prints depict people visiting the temple on Ueno Hill and enjoying the scenery of Kiyomizu-do and the cherry blossoms. Looking from Kiyomizu-do toward Shinobazu Pond today, you can still enjoy the view largely unchanged since the Edo Period.

► **A grand temple of the Shogun and nobles also open to commoners**  
 Kan’ei-ji was strongly connected to the Shogun ever since its founding, but the Tokugawa family did not originally have any graves here, because there was already a family temple for the shogun at Zōjōji. Originally shaped by Tenkai’s personal touch, Kan’ei-ji began to change after he passed away in 1643, assuming a new character as an official temple of the Tokugawa family. A prince of the imperial court took charge of the temple as the third head priest, a position thereafter passed down among male members of the imperial family. Thanks to this connection to the imperial family, Kan’ei-ji achieved a higher status than other temples, and beginning with the fourth Shogun Ietsuna, it also began to host some of the graves of the Tokugawa family. As it achieved this more rarefied social status, the main hall of Konpon Chūdō and the two main gates of Monju-ro and Niōmon were constructed around 1700, some 70 years after the temple’s founding. Kan’ei-ji grew to house 36 smaller temples and cover nearly a square kilometer, making it one of the biggest temples in Edo. Its grounds included the entirety of present-day Ueno Park, and although most of the temple was lost in the fires caused by the Battle of Ueno in 1868, Kiyomizu-do and the temple’s pagoda, as well as the stone foundation of its gate can still be found inside the park.

“Tōto Meisho—Ueno Tōeizan Zenzu.” Depiction of the grand temple of Kan’ei-ji from the Sanmon Gate towards the Konpon Chūdō main hall. In springtime the grounds filled visitors enjoying the cherry blossoms.

“Edo kirie-zu—Shitaya ezu.” The buildings on the Kan’ei-ji grounds were written onto Edo-era maps, indicating its status as a landmark.

► **Establishment of a school and library where anyone could learn**  
 In 1665, a monk named Ryō-ō Dōkaku began selling medicine that he mastered during his training as at a shop along the shore of Shinobazu Pond. The medicine, sold under the name Kintaien, attracted positive reviews from across the city and became a popular gift from Edo. Dōkaku used his profits from that enterprise to purchase Buddhist sutras known as Issaikyō, which he stored in a building on Benten Island. Later, in 1682 he moved these teachings onto the hill and established an educational institution known as the Kangaku-ryō, an academy that included numerous Japanese and Chinese books in its library. That library was the first in Japan to have an open shelving system and could be used by anyone regardless of religious sect. Travelers from afar were also offered meals and lodging. The Kangaku-ryō was later expanded, eventually holding a library of more than 30,000 volumes in a large building and becoming a major educational institution where hundreds of monks studied at a time. Throughout his life, Dōkaku used the income from his medicine sales to help those stricken by disaster and raise abandoned children, as well as purchase and publish surtras, collect books, run an open library, and undertake civil construction projects, earning the great respect of people at the time.

## 2 Yanaka thrives as a temple district

► **A suburb of Edo favored for worship and walking**  
 Now that we have looked at the history of Kan’ei-ji and Ueno Hill, let us turn towards Yanaka. Located to the north of Ueno Hill, Yanaka spreads from the top of Tokyo’s easternmost hill west towards the valleys of Nezu and Sendagi. This neighborhood filled with temples and homes was a rural area of hillside forests and farmers until the early Edo Period. Yanaka ginger, a favorite local snack at Tokyo

“Edo kirie-zu,” depicts the vicinity of Yanaka and Negishi in the Edo Period. The places surrounded by red lines in the center of the image are temples, and it is clear that Yanaka was home to numerous temples, as well as many farms.

izakaya, got its name because it was once cultivated around Nishi-nippori and Yanaka. The area on the eastern slope of the hill was blessed with water and good drainage, and was protected from western sun and wind by the hill, making it ideal for ginger cultivation. Yanaka ginger was a popular midsummer gift until the mid-20th century, and although no farms remain in the area, local residents still grow it in family gardens and Tokyoites continue to ask for it by name.

► **The growth of Yanaka’s temple district**  
 After Kan’ei-ji was built on nearby Ueno Hill in 1625, many smaller temples located in Yanaka. Today there are some 70 temples in the neighborhood, but only four are known to have existed before Edo was founded in 1603. In the mid-17th century, the temple district grew as temples from Kanda relocated and the city expanded, particularly after a major fire destroyed the city in 1657. As temples were established, stone masons, flower shops and other related businesses and craftsmen also moved to the area, creating a rich local culture that owes its origins to this religious heritage.

► **Edo-era lottery brings crowds of visitors**  
 Around 1700, Yanaka’s Kannoji (present-day Tennoji) began to host an event known as *tomitsuki*, a predecessor to the modern-day *takara-kuji* lottery. This temple grew popular as one of the three spots to seek fortune in Edo, alongside Yushima Shrine and Meguro Fudō Ryusen-ji. Large crowds would assemble early in the morning when *tomitsuki* were put on sale, and spectators would gather to watch the

“Tōto saijiki.” The *tomitsuki* lottery at Yanaka’s Tennoji Temple attracted large and lively crowds.

drawing. With so many people coming to visit for worship and lottery, the area in front of the temple became filled with teahouses. *Tomitsuki* survived government regulation and continued until 1842.

## 3 Shock of the Meiji Restoration

► **Creation of Ueno Park**  
 The Battle of Ueno took place in 1868, between a band of samurai loyal to the Tokugawa Shogun and the new Imperial Army that had occupied the city. Kan’ei-ji’s major buildings were burned down in the fighting and its grounds completely devastated. Because Kan’ei-ji was seen as loyal to the old regime, the new government confiscated its lands and stripped it of its high status. In 1873, the former grounds were opened as one of Japan’s first parks, while another part of the grounds were given over to the Tokyo Fine Arts School and Tokyo Music School. The park became home to culture symbolic of Japan’s modernization, hosting numerous exhibitions and cultural facilities including museums, libraries, and the Ueno Zoo, creating the “cultural park” we know today.

► **Kan’ei-ji reduced while Yanaka’s temples survive**  
 Kan’ei-ji, which covered around a square kilometer at its height, had its lands seized by the Meiji government, and less than one tenth was later returned. Kan’ei-ji was one of many temples and shrines around the country that had their lands taken as a result of government policies. However, while some temples in Yanaka had their lands altered, the district largely survived the changes of the Meiji Era intact. Beliefs ran deeply among the commoners who worshiped and had graves at the temples, many of which were of the Nichirenshu sect and could not be easily relocated.

“Tokyo Taisho Exhibition” postcard, from the collection of Joji Hayashi. Shinobazu Pond and Ueno Hill were used to host the Tokyo Taisho Exhibition.

## 4 Ueno & Yanaka contend with modernity

► **Ueno becomes one of Japan’s premier centers of the arts**  
 In 1877, Ueno hosted Japan’s first industrial exhibition, and in 1882 the Ueno Museum (today’s Tokyo National Museum) was opened on the site of the main building of Kan’ei-ji. Moreover, in 1887 the Tokyo Fine Arts School and Tokyo Music School (later merged into the Tokyo University of the Arts) opened, and Ueno Hill was transformed into a center for modern artistic culture. The sprawling grounds of Kan’ei-ji thus gave way to a park filled with museums and cultural facilities, the Tokyo University of the Arts, and Ueno Station. Even so, the flocks of people who come to see cherry blossoms and the park’s attractions are not so different from what might have been seen amid the open atmosphere of Edo’s Kan’ei-ji.

► **“Yanesen” attracts artists and authors**  
 As museums and the Tokyo School of the Arts opened on Ueno Hill, many of the artists involved in these new institutions and art-related industries began to locate in the surrounding area. Located outside of central Edo, the quiet locales of Yanaka, Nezu, and Sendagi urbanized after the Meiji Period and became favored addresses for artists and craftsmen to live and work. The Yokoyama Taikan Memorial Hall in Ikenohata and the Asakura Museum of Sculpture in Yanaka are exhibition spaces located in the former homes and workshops of early-20th century artists. Additionally, this area was home to Koda Rohan, Mori Ogai, Natsume Soseki, and other authors who penned numerous works while living here. Koda Rohan’s “The Pagoda”, Natsume Soseki’s “Sanshiro” and Edogawa Rampo’s “Murder on D Street” are among the literary works set in the Yanaka area.

## 5 Diverse local culture emerges from historical change

► **An old-fashioned shopping street**  
 The flat land of western Yanaka became a residential district in the late 19th century, with shops lining the major roads. A small river once flowed down present-day Yomise Street, but was buried at the beginning of the Meiji Period because it often overflowed, and shops came to be located on the street. Near Nippori Station, the Yanaka Ginza shopping street is home to around 70 shops along its 175-meter length, where residents shop for dinner ingredients and tourists treat their tastebuds.

► **Efforts to preserve everyday culture**  
 Most of Yanaka, Nezu, and Sendagi survived destruction during the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Pacific War, so the narrow streets, greenery of the slopes and temples, and numerous wooden buildings still evoke the feeling of the 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1984 the local magazine *Yanaka, Nezu, Sendagi* was established. The authors’ fieldwork cast light on the rich local culture and made the magazine the gold standard of local community publications. The area’s nickname “Yanesen” was also created by this magazine, and is now known across Tokyo as one of the city’s most historic neighborhoods. Additionally, the non-profit Taito Cultural & Historical Society and other local organizations are active in protecting the neighborhood’s character and environment, and efforts to pass down the local community and lifestyle. The survival of such a rich traditional area amid Tokyo’s constant modernization and redevelopment is thanks to the hard work of people who have protected the priceless old appearance and culture of Yanesen.

Yanaka Ginza is always busy with local residents and tourists.



Home to symbols of transition from Edo to Tokyo

# Ueno area



In the Edo Period, Ueno Park was entirely within the grounds of Kan’ei-ji Temple. Some parts of the temple have survived earthquake and war and still remain today. More modern historical buildings are also scattered throughout the park, such as an old train station and original gate to the zoo.

## Ueno Park Suribachiyama Tomb

An ancient tomb can be found hidden in a corner of the park. A mound originally shaped like a keyhole, over



The top of Suribachiyama is now a small plaza for visitors.

many years the shape changed to resemble a mixing bowl (suribachi). Other ancient tombs were also located in the Ueno area, but were lost during construction of museums and other facilities.

## Ueno Park Shinobazu-no-ike Benten-dō

Shinobazu Benten-dō dates from 1625, when Tenkai established Kan’ei-ji and designed Shinobazu Pond to resemble Lake Biwa near Kyoto, including the island on which Benten-do stands. The landscape is also said to take inspiration from the famed West Lake in Hangzhou, China. Many ukiyo-e prints depict people enjoying the view of Shinobazu Pond from Kiyomizu Kannon-dō and visiting Bento-dō, scenery that remains much the same today.

## Ueno Park Kiyomizu Kannon-dō

Built atop Suribachiyama in 1631 by Tenkai and moved to the present location in 1700, Kiyomizu Kannon-dō is the oldest existing building from Kan’ei-ji, preserving its traditional architecture through multiple earthquakes, battle, and bombing.

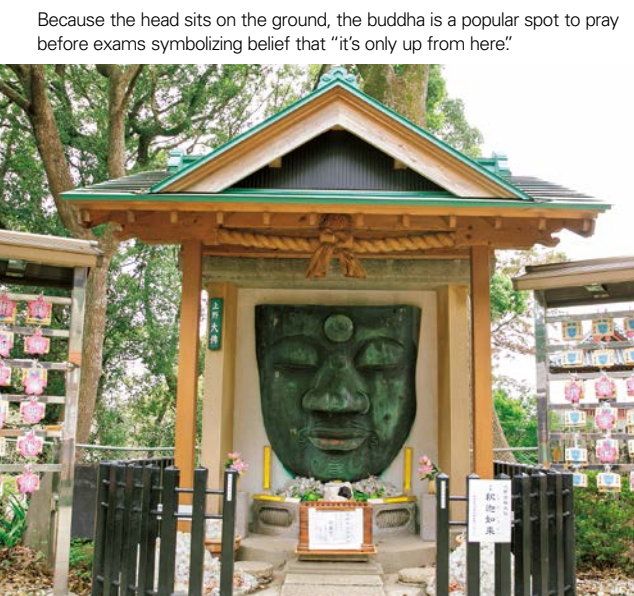
Benten-do is surrounded by cherry blossoms in spring, lotuses in summer, and boat riders year-round, and its entrance is often surrounded by food stalls. Photo/Toshiyuki Udagawa (KANKO LLP)

From Kiyomizu Kannon-dō, Shinobazu Pond and the path to Benten-dō can be seen just below.



## Ueno Park Ueno Daibutsu

An earthen buddha was first constructed in 1631, but the present bronze statue that remains until today was built in 1843. Repeatedly damaged or toppled by earthquake, during the Pacific War the body was melted down for the war effort, and today only the face remains.



Because the head sits on the ground, the buddha is a popular spot to pray before exams symbolizing belief that “it’s only up from here.”



The main hall of Gojo-tenjin Shrine.

## Ueno Park Gojo-tenjin Shrine

This shrine to Gojo-tenjin, a god of medicine, has a long history and was originally located on top of Suribachiyama. Relocated to make way for Kiyomizu Kannon-dō, it moved around the area before being rebuilt close to its original location in 1928.

## Ueno Park Hanazono Inari Shrine

Standing alongside Gojo-tenjin, Hanazono Inari Shrine is said to have existed here since long before Edo. The white feather arrows at Hanazono Inari are famed as amulets for matchmaking since the Edo Period. Ueno’s ancient past can be found on the grounds, which also contain an “Ana-inari” dedicated to the foxes and raccoons that lost their homes when Kan’ei-ji was built.



The main hall of Hanazono Inari Shrine.



Tōshōgū survived earthquake and war and retains its original majestic character.

## Ueno Park Tōshōgū

Tōshōgū was built as a shrine to Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1627. The building that survives today was reconstructed in 1651 by the third Tokugawa Shogun, Iemitsu. The more than 200 stone lanterns on the grounds were donated by various daimyo lords. Surviving the Battle of Ueno, the Great Kanto Earthquake and the bombing of Tokyo, the shrine still retains the magnificence of the Edo Period.

## Ueno Park Five-story Pagoda

The present pagoda was built in 1639. Part of Kan’ei-ji, today it is located on the grounds of the Ueno Zoo but can be seen from the approach to Tōshōgū.



Entry into the Ueno Zoo is necessary to see the pagoda up close.

## Ueno Park Old Ueno Zoo Main Gate

This main gate was built in 1911 and used as the entrance to Ueno Zoo until 1933. The ticket office and guard boxes remain on the left and right.



The old gate remains in a corner of the park.

## Ueno Park

### Ueno Park Fountain Square (site of Kan’ei-ji’s main hall)

The large Fountain Square in front of the Tokyo National Museum was the site of the sprawling Konpon Chūdō hall of Kan’ei-ji. An exhibition hall was built here around the turn of the 20th century. The spot later became a refuge for people fleeing earthquake and air raids. When it was an empty field it was used by a nearby elementary school to hold sports days and other events.

People often gather in the square, which is used not only to relax, but also to hold events.



## Ueno Park Front gate of Kan’ei-ji residence

The residence of Kan’ei-ji’s head priest stood on the location of today’s Tokyo National Museum. The only part to survive the Battle of Ueno in 1868 was the main gate.

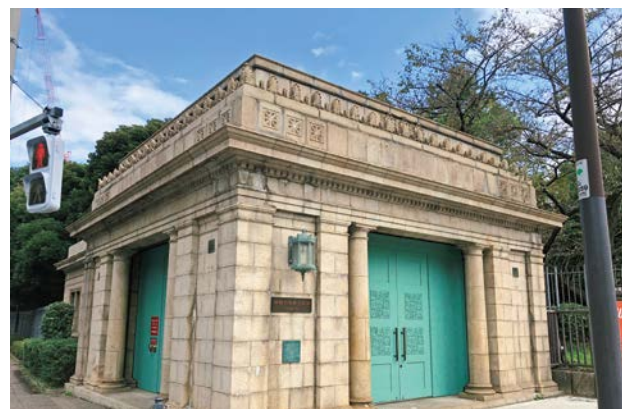
## Ueno Park Kaizando (Ryodaishi)

This hall is dedicated to Tenkai, the founder of Kan’ei-ji, and his revered teacher Ryōgen. It is known for its old cherry blossom tree.

## Ueno Park

### Former Museum & Zoo Station

The former Museum & Zoo Station on the Keisei Line opened at the southwest corner of the Tokyo National Museum in 1933, but closed in 1997 amid declining use. In the fall of 2018, a plan involving the Tokyo University of the Arts to renovate and open the space was announced.



The former Museum & Zoo Station stands at the corner of the Tokyo National Museum.

## Ueno Sakuragi

### Ueno Sakuragi Atari

This cultural facility located in several renovated 80-year-old Japanese buildings contains shops and a rental space connected by paths and gardens. The shops offer craft beer, olive oil, salt, bread and other options that please neighbors and visitors alike, as well as frequent pop-up markets that share regional food culture. Ueno Sakuragi Atari has taken root as a new creative hub preserving a space from the neighborhood’s past.

Visitors and pop-up markets are often seen in the lane that connects the buildings.



The main building of present-day Kan’ei-ji.

## Ueno Sakuragi Kan’ei-ji Konpon Chūdō

The Battle of Ueno caused the destruction of most of Kan’ei-ji’s buildings, and the monks were banished from the grounds until 1869. Most of the site was taken by the Meiji Government, but the temple was allowed to rebuild in 1875. The current temple dates to 1879, when the building was relocated from Kawagoe.







Outside Yanaka Okano Eisen. The appealing shop building was reconstructed soon after the war.

In Edo, Yanaka was beloved as a place to walk amid the area's charming temples and nature, and later became an area favored by the artists and authors who resided and worked in the neighborhood. Lucky to survive earthquake and war, the area still retains a mid-20th century charm.

#### **Yanaka** Kayaba Coffee

Kayaba Coffee first opened in 1938. After closing in 2006, it reopened in 2009 with a new operator and is now a popular gathering place for locals and tourists. The building and much of the furniture dates to the early 20th century, while some items on the original menu have also been recreated.



Customers often line up to enter Kayaba Coffee.

#### **Yanaka** Kikutsuki

This traditional Japanese sweets maker has been open since 1917, and was patronized by novelist Yasunari Kawabata, haiku poet Teijo Nakamura, and sculptor Fumio Asakura.



Kikutsuki's signature sweets "Aomi" and "Yuzumochi" were loved by Yasunari Kawabata.

The facade and interior have hardly changed since the shop was founded.

#### **Yanaka** Yanaka Okano Eisen

This distinctive shop has been selling Japanese sweets since 1900. It once provided sakura-mochi treats for 14 teahouses in Ueno Park. The bean daifuku and ginger-flavored ukigusa baked sweets are still made with the traditional methods.

#### **Yanaka** SCAI the Bathhouse

This modern art gallery opened in 1993 in the renovated building of 200-year-old bathhouse Kashiwa-yu (the original building was demolished during the war and the current building dates to the early 1950s). It preserves the local area's history and is also one of the city's most prominent galleries of cutting-edge art.



SCAI the Bathhouse retains the original facade of Kashiwa-yu.

#### **Yanaka** Denzaemon Meshiya

Denzaemon Meshiya is a Japanese restaurant located in an early 20th century home whose original character has been restored. Set meals are prepared using ingredients from Niigata, Yamagata, and other regions with ties to Yanaka. Opened in 2018, the business was supported by the Yanesen Machizukuri Fund that helps fund renovation projects in old buildings in the Yanesen area.



Outside of Denzaemon Meshiya.

#### **Yanaka** Yanaka Cemetery

Yanaka Cemetery contains some 7,000 graves, making it one of the four major cemeteries in central Tokyo, along with Aoyama, Zoshigaya, and Somei, and also a popular spot to see cherry blossoms. It was originally part of the grounds of Tennoji Temple, before being seized by the Meiji government. Those buried here include Meiji-era industrialist Eiichi Shibusawa, politician Ichiro Hatoyama, and artist Kiyokata Kaburaki. One of Edo's four great pagodas once stood along the cherry blossom-lined road, but was burned down in a sensational double-suicide arson incident in 1957. Only the foundation remains, but some members of the local community have called for its rebuilding.



The cherry tree-lined road through the cemetery is enjoyed by many visitors in spring.

#### **Yanaka**

#### **Tsukiji-bei Wall**

Kannon-ji Temple moved to Yanaka in 1680 from Kanda. Its "tsukiji-bei" wall, made from stacked tiles and clay, faces an alleyway that



The tsukiji-bei wall preserves the character of the Edo-era temple district.

preserves the appearance of the Edo Period.

#### **Yanaka**

#### **Asakura Museum of Sculpture**

The former home and workshop of sculpture Fumio Asakura. Asakura was a leading figure of modern sculpture in Japan. After graduating from nearby Tokyo School of the Arts in 1907, he established his workshop, home, and school in Yanaka, where he taught many students. The current building was built in 1935 based on Asakura's design. The large pond and rooftop garden are highlights.

#### **Yanaka** Yanaka Ginza

This shopping street home to some 70 shops is a symbol of the perseverance of Yanaka's mid-20th century lifestyle and community. Many shops sell everyday goods to residents, while recently more shops target tourists with sweets and gifts, some in renovated spaces. The "yuyake-dandan" steps at the east end of the street are a popular spot to watch the sunset.



The entrance to Yanaka Ginza.



The entrance to the Asakura Museum of Sculpture.



The exterior of HAGISO.

#### **Yanaka** HAGISO

Located in a renovated wooden apartment building, HAGISO's first floor is home to a popular cafe and event space, and the project has become a symbol of renovation of old houses in Yanaka since its opening in 2013. The second floor contains the reception area for Hanare, a nearby accommodation opened in 2015.

#### **Yanaka** Okakura Tenshin Memorial Park

Involved in the founding of the Tokyo School of the Arts and making major contributions to the development of philosophy and the arts in modern Japan, Okakura Tenshin (1863-1913) once lived in this spot, where he also founded the Nihon Bijutsuin art institute.



The hexagonal building in the Okakura Tenshin Memorial Park.

#### **Yanaka** Daimyo Clock Museum

This museum exhibits the Daimyo clocks collected by tailor and ceramicist Guro Kamiguchi during his lifetime. The collection includes various tower clocks, pendulum clocks, and other timepieces from Edo-era Japan. The museum sits on the site of a former Daimyo estate.

#### **Yanaka** Hebimichi (Snake Street)

The winding lane known as "Hebimichi" follows the path of the old Aisome River. The river, buried in the early 20th century, was named after indigo dyeing because many local craftsman washed their fabrics in its waters. Today it still



A winding section of Hebimichi.



The large ginkgo tree remains from Mori Ōgai's former home.

used as a local route connecting Yanaka and Nezu, and is home to scattered shops and restaurants.

#### **Sendagi** Mori Ōgai Memorial Museum

Meiji author Mori Ōgai (1862-1922) spent half his life in Sendagi. The memorial museum stands on the site of his home of thirty years and holds various special exhibitions and offers a window into Ōgai's varied activity and interactions.

#### **Nezu** Nezu Shrine

Nezu Shrine was moved to Nezu from its former location in Sendagi by the fifth Tokugawa Shogun Tsunayoshi in 1706. Nezu developed outside of the shrine's gate. A famous spot since the Edo Period, the buildings were damaged in the war but rebuilt and recognized as important cultural properties. The grounds are also famous for the hillside azalea garden.



Nezu Shrine's main hall.



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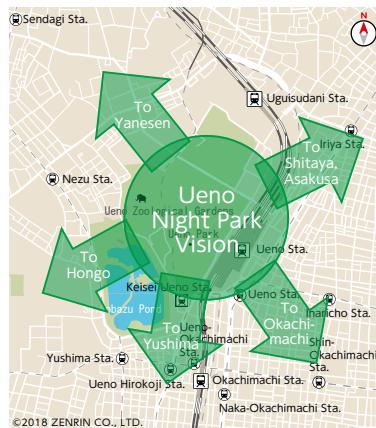
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#### **Ueno Night Park Vision**

As part of its efforts to promote the cultural heritage of the Ueno Park area, the Tokyo Cultural Heritage Alliance has established the Ueno Night Park Vision Council, which will make proposals to increase nighttime access to and utilization of Ueno Park's cultural heritage and facilities.



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