

Otamasa
At the corner of Kanamuro Intersection. A statue of Sarutahiko built in the Meiya period (1764-1772). It is said that to cure a child's cough, you can borrow this statue and have the child drink miso soup. When the cough is cured, return the statue, and leave a second statue as thanks.

Jouanji Temple
Dedicated to a statue of Amida Buddha. The temple gate is a wooden gate transferred from the nearby Iwatsuki Castle's Tanaka Gate. Known for an anecdote where the shogun, on a pilgrimage, commanded that the gate be destroyed so his spears could pass through. The master of the castle retorted, "Then knock down his spears and grant him passage." Thereafter also known as the Yarikaeshi Gate (a pun on the words 'retort' and 'crossing spears'). Houses many historical heritage objects, including Buddhist statues carved by the monk Enku.

Iwatsuki Castle Ruins Park
Iwatsuki Castle was built in 1457, the first year of the Chouroku period, by Doukan Oota's father Sukekiyo. One of the three famous castles of Saitama Prefecture, along with Kawagoe Castle and Oshi Castle. The castle ruins are now used as a park, which is well known as a cherry blossom spot as well.

The Lodgings of the Daimon Army
The side-yard lodgings and the thatched roof gate of the row house remain today. Constructed in 1694, the first year of the Genroku period. The gate is outfitted with a guardhouse. Its appearance is reminiscent of days long past.

Minuma Tsuusenbori Lock and Canal
Completed in 1731, this is the oldest lock-style canal in Japan. Ferry barges in the Minumadaiyousui Irrigation Canal would go upstream from the Arakawa River to the Shibakawa River within the city. It served as a major avenue of transport linking Edo and Kawaguchi, as well as points upstream.



See the front of the map for a full map of Kawaguchi City.

Gogendoutsutsumi
Picturesque scenery of cherry blossoms and rapeseed flowers in spring.

Satte Oiwake
About 300 meters from Satte Oiwake. A remaining guidepost ahead of the corner at the T intersection toward Kuki.

Post Town of Sutte
Merges with the Nikkou Highway (Kaidou) on the Satte Oiwake. Past the post town of Satte, it connects to the Ou Highway by way of Utsunomiya.

Suwa Shrine
You can still see the historical observation tower where a fire would be lit.

Toki no Kane Bell
Along with Nanka Kodama, Confucian, who served Ooka Family of Fuderal retainer of Iwatsuki Domain, Toki no Kane Bell could be one too good for Iwatsuki. It rang 12 times a day to the town.

Iwatsuki Castle
This area has a line of Japanese cedars along the highway that has managed to stand the test of time.

Ohashi
It's said that twelfth-generation Shogun Ieyoshi would walk to Ohashi even as a small child.

The post towns of Kawaguchi and Iwabuchi were on opposite sides of the Arakawa River. They alternated roles as training camps and post stations between the first and second half of the month.

Oji Inari
The general manager of Kanto Inari, famous in rakugo (traditional Japanese comic storytelling).

Asukayama Park
A famous cherry blossom spot since the reign of the eighth-generation Shogun Yoshimune.

Old Somei Village
A major production area of garden plants and seedlings during the Edo period.

Rikugien Garden
A pond garden built over the course of seven years by Yoshiyasu Yanagizawa, on land received from fifth-generation Shogun Tsunayoshi in 1695.

Meakafudou Nankokuji Temple
Originally named for the red-eyed (meaka) Iga in Douzaka, Meakafudou was transferred here by command of the third-generation Shogun Iemitsu. There is a famous story that Meakafudou is one of the five fudou deities that protect Edo.

Nishigahara Milestone Marker
The second milestone marker on the NIKKOU ONARIMICHI. The only two milestone markers remaining in the metropolitan area are the one at Shimura on the Nakasendo, and this one at Nishigahara.

Ferry-Crossing Station
Built downstream of what is now the New Arakawa Ohashi Bridge. Immortalized in Utagawa Hiroshige's painting "The Kawaguchi Ferry and Zenkoji Temple" in One Hundred Famous Views of Edo. It became a pontoon bridge in 1906 and was used until 1928, when a bridge spanning the river was constructed.

Otemon Gate, Edo Castle
The main gate of Edo Castle. The shogun pilgrimages would always leave via this gate.

Parent & Child Welfare Center
The secondary residence of castor and wholesaler Nabehei, built between the end of the Meiji period and 1941. The building is registered as a nationally designated tangible cultural property as a modern reminder of the past prosperity of Kawaguchi's casting industry.

Monument of Kamakura Bridge
Built in 1852, during the days of the Tokugawa Shogunate, by Yasujiro Masuda, a castor from Kawaguchi who received a request from the Tsugaru Domain. Built in cooperation with Shuhan Takashima, who later worked as the artillery technology magistrate for the Bakufu. A reconstruction is displayed here.

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Cautions for Pedestrians
Follow the rules of the road and stay safe as you enjoy your walk around the city.
Some of the roads on this route are high traffic. Try to stay on sidewalks or on the side of the road.
Bring a water bottle or other beverages and hydrate regularly.
If you feel any physical discomfort during your walk, don't push yourself. Stop and take a rest.

Enlarged Map of Post Town of Kawaguchi / Model Route
Total distance: 3.2 km / Walking time: ~45 min.

1 Kawaguchi Station East Exit
2 Naritasan Fudoin
3 Kanayama Shrine / Kawaguchi Shrine
4 Parent & Child Welfare Center
5 Pedestrian Overpass
6 Monument of Kamakura Bridge
7 18-Pound Cannonball
8 The Lodgings of the Kawaguchi Army (Front Gate)
9 Brick Lane
10 Kawaguchi Mini Park
11 Cultural Properties Center
12 Ruins of Gaisen Bridge
13 Shakujuji Temple
14 Kawaguchi-Motogo Station / Shibakawa Park

- 1 Kawaguchi Station East Exit: 500 m / 6 min.
- 2 Naritasan Fudoin: 300 m / 4 min.
- 3 Kanayama Shrine / Kawaguchi Shrine: 350 m / 4 min.
- 4 Parent & Child Welfare Center: 150 m / 2 min.
- 5 Pedestrian Overpass: 220 m / 3 min.
- 6 Monument of Kamakura Bridge: 210 m / 3 min.
- 7 18-Pound Cannonball: 140 m / 2 min.
- 8 The Lodgings of the Kawaguchi Army (Front Gate): 160 m / 3 min.
- 9 Brick Lane: 180 m / 3 min.
- 10 Kawaguchi Mini Park: 120 m / 2 min.
- 11 Cultural Properties Center: 250 m / 4 min.
- 12 Ruins of Gaisen Bridge: 50 m / 1 min.
- 13 Shakujuji Temple: 600 m / 8 min.
- 14 Kawaguchi-Motogo Station / Shibakawa Park: 850 m / 10 min.

Enlarged Map of Post Town of Hatogaya / Model Route
Total distance: ~3.0 km
Walking time: ~40 min.

- 1 Hatogaya Station East Exit: 350 m / 5 min.
- 2 Showa Bridge: 130 m / 2 min.
- 3 Fukiage Bridge & Ruins of Milestone Marker: 130 m / 2 min.
- 4 Onarizaka Park and Mechanical Clock: 50 m / 1 min.
- 5 Hatogaya Hikawa Shrine: 220 m / 3 min.
- 6 Hometown Materials Museum: 270 m / 4 min.
- 7 Ichigamisha Shrine: 140 m / 2 min.
- 8 Hosshouji Temple: 350 m / 5 min.
- 9 Wakimizu Park: 130 m / 2 min.
- 10 Guidepost in front of Jizoin Temple: 300 m / 4 min.
- 11 Jizouin (Minor Temple): 180 m / 2 min.
- 12 Araiuku Station: 850 m / 10 min.

1 Hatogaya Station East Exit
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4 Onarizaka Park and Mechanical Clock
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Festival Calendar
Edobukuro Lion Dance
Sunday in early April, the second Saturday/Sunday of October (Edobukuro Hikawa Shrine [Shingo])
Angyohara no Jatsukuri Ritual Serpent
May 24 (Near Angyohara [Angyo])
Angyotohachi Lion Dance
Sunday around June 25 (Near Angyotohachi [Angyo])
Ryoke Orchestra and Shinto Dancing
Saturday/Sunday in late September (Ryoke Inari Shrine [Nampeil])
Okame Market December 15 (Kawaguchi Shrine)
Okame Market December 19 (Izuka Hikawa Shrine)
Okame Market December 23 (Hatogaya Hikawa Shrine)

Post Town of Kawaguchi
Two post towns that flourished as relay stations for NIKKOU ONARIMICHI and also played important roles as delivery routes for traditional industries, such as Angyo garden plants and bamboo fishing poles.
During the Edo period, Kawaguchi and Iwabuchi both prospered as post-station towns serving as ferry crossings for the Arakawa River. Trade brokerages were even set up to handle postal service operations, including sending of packages and mail between post towns. Yureki Zakki, a guidebook of famous ruins of the late Edo period, states that the backstreets on the west side of the post town were home to several dozen foundries, which were also called kettle makers. This shows that Kawaguchi was also flourishing as a city of industry.

Post Town of Hatogaya
Mainly the central area of the troop lodgings of the post town, Hatogaya was also known as a commerce town, with rows of stores selling straw ash (used as fertilizer for grains and other crops, and as a material for indigo dye) as well as general goods and dried foods. The San-Pachi (Three-Eight) Market, which began in the middle of the Edo period, is said to have drawn crowds from nearby areas. Even thereafter, Hatogaya continued to develop as a place where commodities from the surrounding communities converged, and it came to be known as a business district.

Full Map of NIKKOU ONARIMICHI
NIKKOU ONARIMICHI is a road of 12 ri and 30 cho (about 48 km) stretching from Hongo Oiwake (in Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo) to where it merges with Nikkou Highway (Kaido) just before the post town of Satte (in Satte City, Saitama). Originally, it was a main thoroughfare to Oshu during the Kamakura period, known as the Kamakura Kaido Nakasendo. Time passed, and Jozean Tokuyama took this road north on his way to conquer Utsugi in 1600. In the post town of Oyama (Oyama City, Tochigi), he learned that Mitsuari Sekida was raising an army and he immediately turned back, won the Battle of Sekigahara, and soon after became commander-in-chief and shogun, establishing the Edo Bakufu. For his will and excitement, Shogun Jozean was enshrined at Nikko Toshogu Shrine. Thereafter, pilgrimages to Nikko became an important rite for the Bakufu for successive generations of shogun. Because NIKKOU ONARIMICHI was the road at the start of the battle to win control of all of Japan, it came to be seen as a road of good omen. We hope you will visit the post towns of Kawaguchi and Hatogaya and other sites as you walk along Onarimichi.